

# Coalition for a **RESILIENT & INCLUSIVE** Waterfront

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**NEW POLL SHOWS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT AMONG BOSTON VOTERS FOR ACTION  
ON WATERFRONT ISSUES IN CITY HALL**

*Post-election survey finds open space on the waterfront to address public health and climate concerns top priority*

BOSTON, MA – Today, [The Coalition for a Resilient and Inclusive waterfront](#) — an alliance of nearly 50 organizations from across Boston focused on the important challenges and opportunities facing Boston’s harbor, islands, and rivers — released the results of a second poll gauging Boston voters’ sentiments on pressing topics related to the waterfront following the November 2nd Municipal Election.

The poll builds upon findings of a June 2021 pre-election poll and reflects Boston voters’ strong support for the development and execution of a bold vision for the future of the city’s waterfront that prioritizes accessibility, inclusivity, resilience, and economic vitality.

Notably, the poll found significant support for the creation of a cabinet-level position in the new Wu Administration to oversee the advancement of waterfront issues — an opportunity that could lead to a more integrated and holistic approach to planning by creating opportunities for better collaboration across the many city agencies that touch the waterfront in different ways, from transportation to climate, housing, public works, arts and culture.

The poll also found continued support for the creation and preservation of open spaces on the waterfront and the essential public health role they play for the city, as well as broad support for increased accessibility on the waterfront, and neighborhood efforts to address and prepare for the challenges brought by climate change.

The poll, conducted by the MassINC Polling Group, surveyed 622 registered voters in Boston from November 8 to November 15.

## Key findings include:

- The poll showed significant support for the mayor to appoint a cabinet-level official to focus on waterfront issues, with **69% of voters supporting** the creation of the new position.
- **75% of voters support** additional city funding for creating a set of community benefit standards for developers.
- **70% of voters** call it “very important” that the waterfront “improves the public health of the City by providing open spaces for exercise and enjoyment.”
- Climate change continues to stand out as a leading issue of concern for voters:
  - **34% of open-ended comments** name flooding, sea level rise, and climate change as the top issue facing the waterfront, and two-thirds of voters say it is “very important” that the waterfront protects the city from the impacts of climate change and sea level rise.
  - **At least two-thirds of voters** call each of the climate change proposals for the waterfront a “major priority”, and three-quarters call building energy standards, training and jobs in green industries, building coastal barriers, and creating a comprehensive plan to reduce carbon pollution a “major priority.”
  - In terms of funding, **roughly two-thirds of voters say it’s a major priority** to reinforce existing structures against sea level rise, restore shoreline to control sea level rise, and develop renewable energy sources like offshore wind, and 78% of voters support additional city funding for climate change protections in certain neighborhoods.
- The waterfront is also understood to be an important economic driver for the City — **two-thirds of voters** say it is “very important” the waterfront provides economic opportunities for local businesses and residents, **while 55% each say it’s “very important”** the waterfront promotes tourism and serves as a working port.
- Voters are also supportive of promoting greater accessibility on the waterfront — **two-thirds (65%) call it a “major priority”** to create more affordable activities for families.
- At the same time, the poll, which oversampled voters of color, found some differences in terms of how different communities view the accessibility of the waterfront. White voters **are more likely to say it is “very easy”** to access the waterfront (45% vs. 36% Asian, 34% Black, 30% Latino).

Additional details and results from the poll can be viewed [here](#).

**About the Coalition for a Resilient and Inclusive waterfront.**

The Coalition for a Resilient and Inclusive waterfront is an alliance of diverse non-profit organizations focused on bringing the pressing issues facing Boston’s harbor and rivers to the forefront of the public conversation. Through voter and candidate education and engagement, the Coalition is focused on advancing a bold vision for the future of the City’s waterfront that prioritizes resilience, inclusivity, access, and economic vitality.

**The current list of community partner organizations for the Coalition for a Resilient and Inclusive waterfront includes:**

- Alliance for Business Leadership
- A Better City
- Becoming A Man (BAM)
- Black Economic Council of Massachusetts
- Boston Children’s Museum
- Boston Harbor Now
- Boston Shipping Association
- Boston Society for Architecture
- Boston Society of Landscape Architects
- Boston While Black
- Camp Harborview
- Charles River Conservancy
- Chinatown Main Streets
- Conservation Law Foundation
- East Boston Main Streets
- East Boston Social Centers
- Eastie Farm
- Esplanade Association
- Fields Corner Main Streets
- Fort Point Neighborhood Association (FPNA)
- Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands
- Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard
- Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau
- GreenRoots
- GrubStreet
- Harborfront Neighborhood Alliance
- Harborkeepers
- Historic Boston Inc.
- Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association
- Museum of Science
- Mystic River Watershed Association
- NAACP Boston Branch

Navy Yard Garden Association  
Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH)  
Neponset River Watershed Association  
New England Aquarium  
North End waterfront Residents Association (NEWRA)  
North End/waterfront Neighborhood Council  
Piers Park Sailing Center  
Port Norfolk Civic Association  
Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy  
Save the Harbor/Save the Bay  
South Boston Neighborhood House  
The American City Coalition (TACC)  
The Trustees of Reservations Boston Waterfront Initiative  
West Fairmount Hill Community Group  
Wharf District Council  
World Ocean School  
YMCA of Greater Boston

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