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**New poll: Boston renters and homeowners overwhelmingly back policies that address housing shortage and build more homes.**

*Super majority of city residents say city should take bold action to tackle housing shortage*

**BOSTON** – A new poll of residents across Boston show that large majorities of both renters and homeowners support a number of bold measures to build new homes and address the city’s severe housing shortage – and most say not enough has been done to help.

According to the survey, conducted by the MassINC Polling Group on behalf of Abundant Housing Massachusetts and based on 550 Boston residents, 81% of residents surveyed support a goal of building 30,000 new homes in the city and agreed that city officials need to take more action in order to address the housing shortage citywide. These results are strong across neighborhoods and include both renters and those who own their home.

“The results of this poll show just how much residents agree that Boston has become far too expensive for everyone who lives in the city. In our political environment, it is almost impossible to find this much strong agreement on any given issue, but more than 8 out of 10 residents say city officials need to act now to address this crisis,” said **Jesse Kanson-Benanav**, executive director of Abundant Housing Massachusetts. “The same majority wants Boston to join the rest of the state in allowing accessory dwelling units by-right, and to take bold actions to change current laws that allow for more homes of all shapes and sizes that people can afford. These measures will make our cities and towns more affordable for local workers by shortening commutes, helping local businesses hire locally, and supporting a thriving community for everyone.”

Boston residents also agree with common-sense, proven housing solutions that cities locally and nationwide have implemented to help reach higher housing production goals within the city. 80% support allowing accessory dwelling units by right in Boston (as the rest of the state now allows), 78% support comprehensive updates to the city’s outdated zoning code, and 70% want more flexibility around parking regulations – all of which are a part of Abundant Housing MA’s recent citywide policy agenda, [Housing Abundance Amendment](#). Most residents do not consider the city’s response to be sufficient, with 74% rating the city government’s efforts to keep housing affordable as fair or poor.

“This is the second poll we have done this year with Abundant Housing that has shown residents statewide, and now in Boston, are deeply concerned about housing and support bold action on the issue,” said **Richard Parr, Vice President of The MassINC Polling Group**. “Like in the statewide poll, we’re seeing Boston residents prioritize building more housing over neighborhood concerns that often hold up new housing projects. This poll shows that the folks who show up to oppose new housing projects are not representative of all residents.”

### **Key Findings:**

- An overwhelming majority of residents say city officials need to take action in order to address this crisis – 81% overall, with 78% of owners and 84% of renters agreeing.
- 81% of residents also say they support the goal of building 30,000 more homes in Boston – broken down, it's supported by 86% of those who rent and 77% of those who own.
- Three-quarters of residents say city government is doing only a fair (31%) or poor (43%) job on housing affordability.
- 78% of residents support a comprehensive update of the city's outdated zoning code. [A 2023 report](#) by nationally recognized zoning expert Sara C. Bronin found that Boston's zoning code is "bloated, outdated, inconsistent, and inequitable," and laid out a roadmap to reforming the code.
- 66% of residents prioritize building more housing over addressing the concerns of neighborhood associations, with 55% of owners and 78% of renters agreeing.
- 80% of residents want to join the rest of the state in allowing ADUs by right, after the Affordable Homes Act legalized ADUs in every other municipality in Massachusetts except Boston.
- 77% of city residents support allowing six-story residential buildings throughout the city, and 71% support going up to 12 stories near MBTA stops.
- 70% of residents support more flexibility in parking requirements to facilitate more housing.

Surveyed policies that reduce the cost of market rate housing are popular across the city and its neighborhoods. Residents across Boston agree that housing for young people, families, and seniors –from triple deckers and small apartments to larger, transit-oriented apartments – are all needed to help moderate the high cost of housing. Policies like those included in the survey have already been implemented in cities including Austin, TX, and Minneapolis, MN, and have helped to reduce housing costs for families.

For the full results, including topline data, a highlight memo, and full crosstabs, [visit the AHMA website here](#).

### **About Abundant Housing Massachusetts**

Abundant Housing Massachusetts is a non-profit organization founded in 2020 to advocate for the creation of abundant housing for all and to develop and support a network of grassroots, pro-housing groups and activists across Massachusetts. AHMA is committed to fostering a movement that includes diverse voices, geography, and people with different lived experiences to help shape an inclusive statewide pro-housing network.

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