

To: Interested Parties
From: John McLaughlin
Re: ONLY Minogue Can Beat Healey
Date: February 18, 2026

West Point graduate, Operation Desert Storm combat veteran, and job-creating CEO Mike Minogue is the only Republican who can beat incumbent Democratic Governor Maura Healey.

Minogue's rivals cannot compete with his financial firepower.

According to the latest public data released by the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF), Minogue has raised over \$8.5 million since entering the governor's race on October 1, 2025, including \$7.5 million of his own funds – **raising twice as much as his two Republican rivals combined**. Moreover, Minogue's \$5.63 million cash-on-hand is nearly \$1 million more than Governor Healey and **approaching three times as much as the two other Republicans in the race**.

Minogue's unique profile as the only true Beacon Hill outsider in the race, coupled with his significant and growing financial advantage over both his primary rivals clearly position him as the lone Republican who can break the Democrats' one-party grip on Massachusetts.

Healey is very weak for a Democratic incumbent in a blue state.

Governor Maura Healey misses every critical benchmark a safe incumbent should meet – especially for a Democratic incumbent in a blue state – and is extremely vulnerable.

Healey's vulnerabilities are driven by what voters see as a cost-of-living crisis, coupled with the perception that Healey and her administration are a mix of incompetent, dishonest, and lacking transparency. Those findings are being driven, in part, by the fact that a plurality blames Healey for blocking the state audit that voters passed overwhelmingly in 2024, with an overwhelming majority blaming a combination of Healey, Democratic legislative leaders, and AG Campbell.

Governor Healey is under the 50% benchmark on her favorable rating (48% favorable, 47% unfavorable), with those numbers sinking to 28% favorable, 52% unfavorable with Undecided voters; 32% favorable to 59% unfavorable with independent men; and 41% favorable to 53% unfavorable with independent women.

Majority of Massachusetts likely voters say the state is on the wrong track.

The majority (51%) of likely Massachusetts voters say the state is heading down the wrong track, while just 42% say right direction – with fully 72% of voters who are undecided on the Minogue/Healey ballot saying that the state is heading down the wrong track, as well as 65% of independent men and 57% of independent women.

Combat Veteran and Job Creator Mike Minogue is already in striking distance.

On the initial head-to-head ballot, Healey only leads Minogue by single digits and is under 50%, despite the incumbent having universal name ID. Strikingly, however, among the 56% of likely voters who say they have “Heard of Both” Minogue and Healey, Minogue leads 52-40%. Minogue also leads Healey among all likely voters once they learn more about his background as a job creator and combat veteran. Those findings reflect both Healey’s extremely soft numbers for an incumbent, as well as Minogue’s significant potential for growth, the more he gets his message out.

Despite only being in the race since October 2025 (compared to April & May 2025, respectively for his opponents), Minogue has the strongest image rating among Republican candidates, with an exceptionally strong 50% favorable to 5% unfavorable (a 10-1 favorability ratio). Fully 94% of Republicans say they would be more likely to vote Minogue once they learn that he *“has a detailed blueprint for Massachusetts that will audit state government, improve transparency, lower taxes, and energy costs; and make all of our communities safer and more affordable.”*

Massachusetts voters want a check and balance on total Democratic control.

When reminded that *“Democrats have complete control of state government on Beacon Hill, with large majorities in both the State House and State Senate, and that they control every congressional seat in Massachusetts,”* 49% of voters say they would prefer *“A Republican Governor who would be a check and balance against complete Democratic control of Massachusetts”* versus only 40% who chose *“A Democratic Governor who would solidify total Democratic control of the state.”* Even more encouraging for Minogue is that 59% of Undecided voters prefer the Republican check-and-balance, as do 67% of independent men, 52% of independent women, and even 13% of Democrats.

Massachusetts voters also want lower taxes, another problem for Healey.

When presented balanced arguments in support of and opposition to a potential ballot question to cut Massachusetts’ personal income tax from 5% to 4% over three years, voters overwhelmingly say they would vote “YES” on an income tax cut by a 53-27% margin. The findings present additional headwinds for Healey, as the tax cut proposal is favored by 58% of undecided voters, 66% of independent men, 56% of independent women, and even 31% of Healey’s own voters.

McLaughlin & Associates conducted a survey of 600 likely general election voters in the state of Massachusetts from February 3, 2026, through February 7, 2026 with an accuracy of +/- 4.0% at a 95% confidence interval. Totals may not add up to exactly 100% due to rounding and refusals.