

THE MRA ENCOURAGES VOTERS TO VOTE NO ON 1 AND VOTE YES ON 3

While there are three ballot questions that will appear at the end of the ballot, the Massachusetts Restaurant Association has determined that two questions will have an impact on the restaurant industry in Massachusetts. The MRA is encouraging voters to **Vote No on 1 and Yes on 3.**

Question 1 would mandate nurse staffing ratios throughout Massachusetts. The MRA does not believe that the government should mandate staffing for any industry, especially for one as costly as the Healthcare industry.

Here are the reasons to consider voting **NO on question 1:**

- If passed, rigid government mandated nurse staffing ratios will be enforced at all hospitals, on all units, at all times with no exceptions.
- If implemented, the cost to the Commonwealth will approach \$1.31 billion annually. Healthcare costs for everyone will rise in Massachusetts.
- Out of all 50 states only one other state (California) has mandated nurse staffing ratios and there is no evidence that it contributes to quality care. In a 2018 patient safety data assessment Massachusetts ranks 4th in the nation for percentage of hospitals with the top patient safety rating, while California ranks 25th.
- Question 1 would result in longer wait times in the Emergency Room and the reduction of 1,000 behavioral health beds throughout the state (38% of the total supply) impacting the state's ability to combat the opioid crisis.
- **Vote no on question 1 to defeat this costly proposal.**

Question 3 if defeated would repeal full equal rights for the transgender community. **Voting Yes on 3** is to protect our existing transgender nondiscrimination law from repeal:

- The MRA's board of directors was proud to support this anti-discrimination law when it was signed into law in the summer of 2016.
- Restaurants serve all patrons and discrimination policies are bad for business and bad for the Massachusetts economy. North Carolina is projected to lose \$3.76 billion over the next 12 years as a result of their adoption of anti-transgender legislation.
- **Vote Yes on 3 to ensure protections for all customers that patronize our establishments.**