BEACON
RESEARCH

TO	Interested parties
FROM	Beacon Research
DATE	May 28, 2021
SUBJECT	Key findings from Massachusetts app-based drivers poll

This memorandum reports the key findings of a survey of 446 Massachusetts app-based drivers conducted online May 14 – 20, 2021.
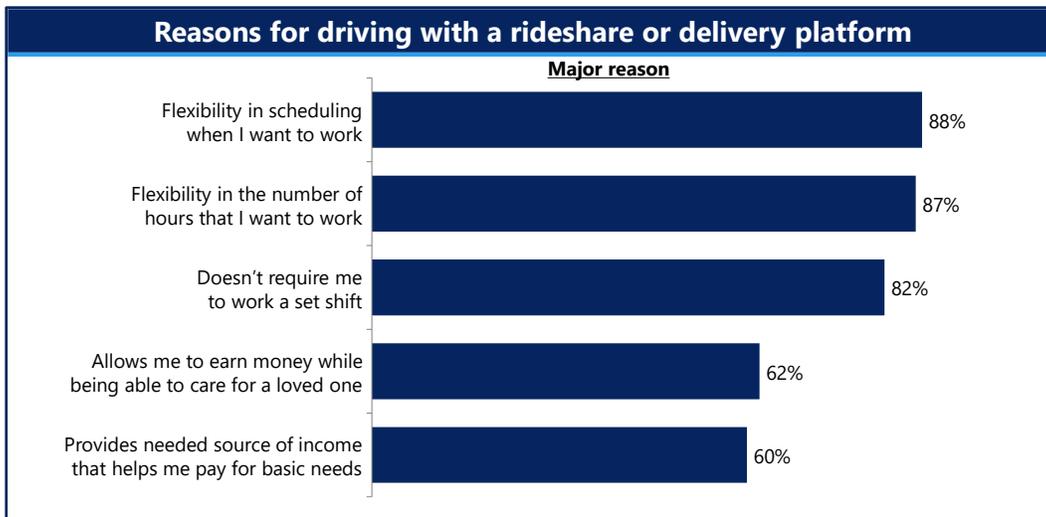
INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR STATUS

By a two-to-one margin, Massachusetts app-based rideshare and delivery drivers would rather be independent contractors than employees.

Do you prefer to be an independent contractor or an employee?

- Employee: 29%
- Independent Contractor: 64%
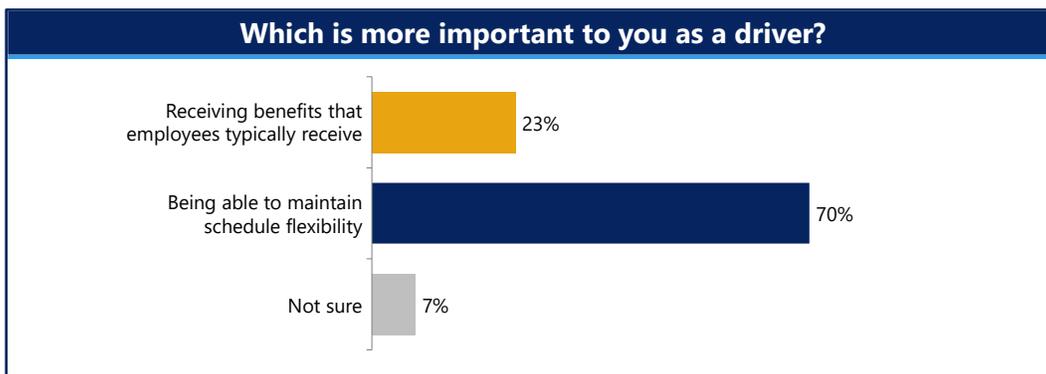- Not sure: 7%
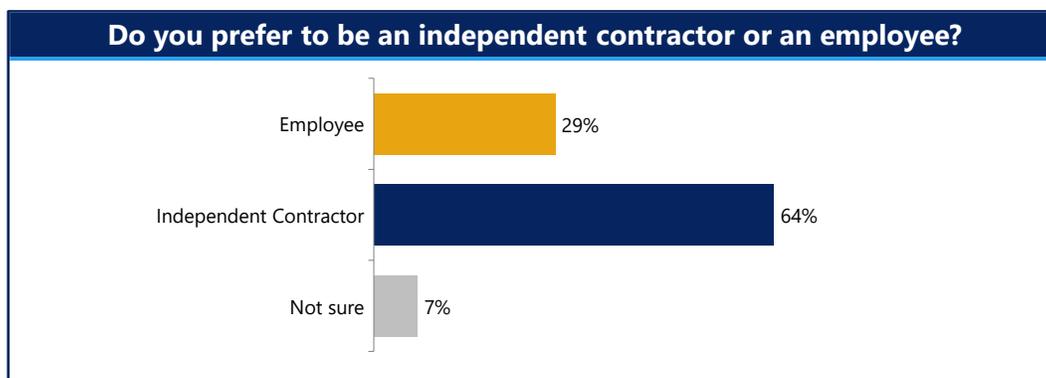
FLEXIBILITY

Most app-based drivers are not looking for traditional 9-to-5 jobs that have rigid schedules, and more than two-thirds of drivers report that their work on app-based platforms is either *part-time* (34%) or *occasional* (33%).

Flexibility is by far the top reason for driving with app-based platforms. Almost nine-in-ten drivers say that *flexibility in scheduling* (88%) and *flexibility in the number of hours worked* (87%) are major reasons for why they drive with a rideshare or delivery platform.

Reasons for driving with a rideshare or delivery platform

Major reason

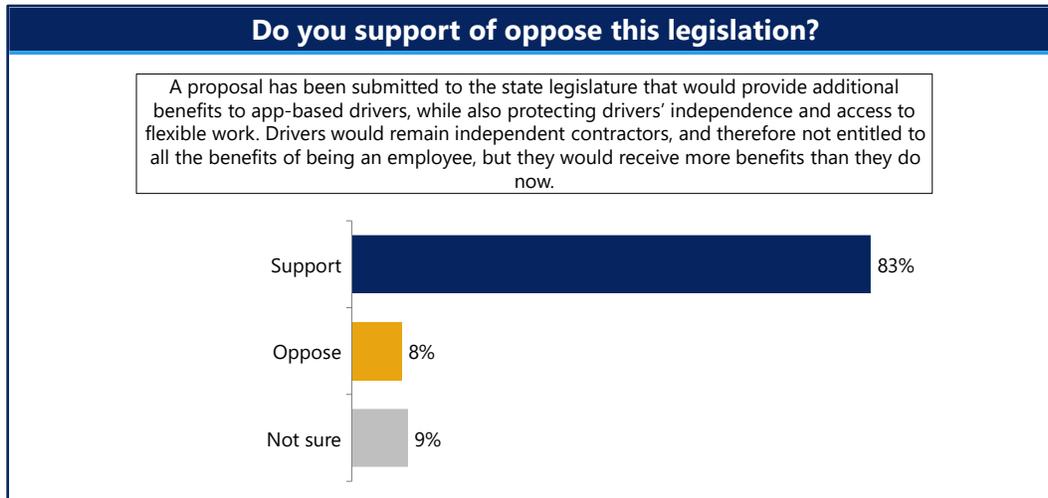|	
Flexibility in scheduling when I want to work	88%
Flexibility in the number of hours that I want to work	87%
Doesn't require me to work a set shift	82%
Allows me to earn money while being able to care for a loved one	62%
Provides needed source of income that helps me pay for basic needs	60%

Seven-in-ten (70%) drivers say that having a flexible schedule is more important than receiving typical employee benefits; just a quarter (23%) say the opposite. In fact, if drivers had to have a set schedule, report to a boss, were only able to drive with one platform, and had a flat hourly rate, six-in-ten (57%) drivers say that they would not continue driving with app-based platforms, even if they received other employee benefits.

Which is more important to you as a driver?

Receiving benefits that employees typically receive	23%
Being able to maintain schedule flexibility	70%
Not sure	7%

PORTABLE BENEFITS FOR APP-BASED WORKERS ACT

Massachusetts app-based drivers overwhelmingly support legislation that offers more benefits while maintaining independent contractor status.

Do you support of oppose this legislation?

A proposal has been submitted to the state legislature that would provide additional benefits to app-based drivers, while also protecting drivers' independence and access to flexible work. Drivers would remain independent contractors, and therefore not entitled to all the benefits of being an employee, but they would receive more benefits than they do now.

Support	83%
Oppose	8%
Not sure	9%

Large majorities of every subgroup of drivers support this legislation, with highest support coming from women (88% support), particularly women under age 45 (92%), and Black drivers (93%).

About the Survey

A total of 446 Massachusetts app-based drivers were interviewed online, between the dates of May 14 – 20, 2021. App-based drivers were contacted via email with a personalized link to complete the survey. The final data is representative of Massachusetts app-based drivers statewide on the known and estimated characteristics of region, age, gender, race, and education.