# 2023-2024 Progressive Mass Legislative Agenda

## Our Shared Prosperity Agenda

### Protecting the Fair Share Victory

*We had a big win last November with the Fair Share Amendment, and for the Fair Share Amendment to deliver on its full potential, we need to prevent tax evasion and ensure any proposed tax reform package is progressive.*

### Statutory Protections for FSA Revenue
- S.1865 (Lewis) / HD.2908 (O'Day): An Act to protect the intent of the Fair Share Amendment
- Prevents Fair Share revenue from being diverted to tax giveaways or reserves, so it is available for spending on transportation and education as voters intended

### Preventing FSA Tax Avoidance
- S.1866 (Lewis) / H.2909 (O'Day): An Act preventing high-income tax avoidance
- Prevents tax avoidance of the Fair Share Amendment by requiring, as many other states do, couples who file jointly at the federal level to file jointly at the state level as well

### Fiscally Responsible Estate Tax Reform
- S.1784 (Cyr) & S.1845 (Jehlen) / H.2960 (Uyterhoeven): An Act relative to estate tax reform
- Preserves most of the revenue-generation, inequality-reduction, and fairness benefits of the estate tax, while eliminating the current cliff effect

### A Targeted Charitable Deduction
- S.1801 (Eldridge) / H.2964 (Uyterhoeven): An Act to reform the charitable deduction
- Makes the charitable deduction more targeted by limiting it to individuals who are not already getting such a deduction on their federal taxes

### Corporate Tax Disclosure
- S.1875 (Miranda) / H.2725 (Capano): An Act to require public disclosures by publicly-traded corporate taxpayers
- Makes publicly accessible reports that are already filed annually by publicly-traded corporations, detailing their sales, profits, taxable income, and taxes paid

### Taxing offshored "GILTI" income
- S.1925 (Rausch) / H.2708 (Barber / Uyterhoeven): An Act to close corporate tax loopholes and create progressive revenue

- Taxes, as other states and the federal government do, a portion of the profits that multinational corporations who do business in MA shift to offshore tax havens

### Increasing the Corporate Tax Rate
- S.1788 (DiDomenico) / H.2856 (Keefe): An Act relative to restoring corporate tax rates
- Restores the tax on corporate profits to 9.5%, where it was before 2009, from the existing 8.0% rate

### Tiered Corporate Minimum Tax
- S.1835 (Gomez) / H.2743 (Connolly): An Act establishing a tiered corporate minimum tax
- Ensures that larger corporations pay a minimum corporate tax bill in proportion to the size of their business in MA, while small businesses continue paying the current corporate minimum tax of just $456 per year

## Ensuring Livable Wages for All
*We won a $15 minimum wage, but that has already been eroded due to inflation, and too many people are forced to work multiple jobs to make ends meet.*

### Living Wage
- S.1200 (Lewis): An Act relative to raise the minimum wage closer to a living wage in the Commonwealth / H.1925 (Nguyen / Donahue): An Act relative to the minimum wage
- Raises the minimum wage to $20 per hour over four years and indexes it to inflation to better align the minimum age with a living wage

## A High-Quality Education for All
*Everyone deserves access to a high-quality education, from pre-K to higher ed, and our state has the resources to make that happen.*

### Common Start
- S.301 (Lewis/Moran) / H.489 (Gordon/Madaro): An Act providing affordable and accessible high-quality early education and care to promote child development and well-being and support the economy in the Commonwealth
- Establishes a framework for delivering increased access to affordable, high-quality early education and child care with greater investment in providers, better pay for workers, and a cap on costs for families

### Thrive Act
- S.246 (Comerford/Miranda/Gomez) / H.495 (Hawkins/Montaño): An act empowering students and schools to thrive
- Creates a better system of assessment, support, accountability, and improvement that considers the whole child, and focuses on giving students and educators the tools and resources they need to succeed and thrive, replacing the harmful and failed state takeover policy

**CHERISH Act**
- S.816 (Comerford) / H.1260 (Garballey/Duffy): An Act committing to higher education the resources to insure a strong and healthy public higher education system
- Creates a framework for adequate funding levels for public higher education, including increased student support and better pay and benefits for faculty and staff; implements a debt-free college plan; and creates a plan for green and healthy buildings on campus

## Housing for All

*Massachusetts offers a great quality of life, but only if you can afford to live here. We need to embrace a diverse set of tools to address our state's housing crisis.*

**Real Estate Transfer Fee**
- S.1771 (Comerford) / H.2747 (Connolly): An Act granting a local option for a real estate transfer fee to fund affordable housing
- Enables cities and towns to assess a fee of 0.5-2% on residential and commercial real estate transactions, with the funds allocated to affordable housing trust funds

**HERO Bill**
- S.1799 (Eldridge) / H.2894 (Montaño): An Act providing for climate change adaptation infrastructure and affordable housing investments in the commonwealth
- Increases the deeds excise tax on home sales to provide a funding stream for the Global Warming Solutions Fund, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and the Housing Preservation and Stabilization Fund

**Zoning Reform**
- S.858 (Crighton) / H.1379 (Vargas/Honan): An Act to promote yes in my back yard
- Sets a statewide housing production goal, allows multi-family housing to be built near public transportation, makes it easier for municipalities to pass inclusionary zoning ordinances, allows accessory dwelling units to be built as-of-right, and promotes the use of vacant commercial properties and empty state-owned properties for housing

## Our Racial and Social Justice Agenda

*We need to move past a punitive model of mass incarceration and toward rehabilitation and community stability; recognize the full diversity and potential of our immigrant populations; and ground education in inclusion and respect.*

**No Cost Calls**
- S.1494 (Creem): An Act to keep families connected / H.1796 (Tyler): An Act relative to telephone service for inmates in all correctional and other penal institutions in the Commonwealth
- Prevents prisons and jails from charging individuals who are incarcerated for phone calls to loved ones

### Prison Moratorium
- [S.1979](#) (Comerford) / [H.1795](#) (Tyler): An Act establishing a jail and prison construction moratorium
- Enacts a five-year pause on new prison and jail construction in order to provide time to develop more effective, community-based approaches to public safety

### Raising the Age
- [S.942](#) (Crighton) / [H.1710](#) (O'Day / Cruz): An Act to promote public safety and better outcomes for young adults
- Raises the age of criminal majority to 21, allowing youth to have better access to treatment and educational services and thereby reducing recidivism

### Language Access & Inclusion
- [S.1990](#) (DiDomenico) / [H.3084](#) (Madaro/González): An Act relative to language access and inclusion
- Builds the capacity of key public-facing state agencies to meet the language access needs of an increasingly diverse population by standardizing and enforcing language access protocols and practices

### Healthy Youth Act
- [S.268](#) (DiDomenico) / [H.544](#) (O'Day / Howard): An Act relative to healthy youth
- Requires school districts that provide sex education to ensure that it is comprehensive, age-appropriate, and LGBTQ-inclusive, with an emphasis on consent

## Our Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection Agenda
*Massachusetts has ambitious climate goals, but we won't meet them without aggressive steps to transition to renewable energy and invest in a green and just economy.*

### Polluters Pay
- [S.481](#) (Eldridge) / [H.872](#) (Owens): An Act establishing a climate change superfund and promoting polluter responsibility
- Requires fossil-fuel producers to fund the state's climate adaptation programs based on past emissions, a proposal that would extend the long-standing "polluter pays" principle for toxic waste cleanups to addressing climate change

### Zero-Carbon Renovation Fund
- [S.2365](#) (Gomez) / [H.3232](#) (Vargas): An Act establishing a zero carbon renovation fund
- Creates a fund for green and healthy home retrofits, with a prioritization of affordable housing, low-to-moderate-income homes, gateway cities, and environmental justice communities

**Gas Moratorium**
- S.2135 (Gomez) / H.3237 (Williams / A. Ramos): An Act to establishing a moratorium on new gas system expansion
- Pauses the approval for any new or expanded gas infrastructure through 2026

## Our Good Government and Strong Democracy Agenda

*Our democracy is strongest when all are able to participate, and we need to remove the barriers that remain.*

**Voting Rights Restoration**
- S.8 & S.428 (Miranda) / H.26 & H.724 (Uyterhoeven): An Act relative to voting rights restoration &  Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to voting rights
- Ensures that incarceration no longer leads to a loss of voting rights at any stage

**Modern Open Meeting Access for All**
- S.2024 (Lewis) / H.3040 (Garlick): An Act to modernize participation in public meetings
- Requires that all public bodies have options for hybrid participation and creates a trust fund and competitive grants to help municipalities with the technology needed to do so

**Public Records & Transparency**
- S.1963 (Eldridge): An Act to provide sunlight to state government
- Promotes transparency in state government by removing the Governor's exemption from public records law and requiring committee votes and legislative testimony (with appropriate redactions) to be public