



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2022 Gubernatorial
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Sonia Chang-Díaz

Office Sought: Governor

Party: Democratic

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Email questions to elections@progressivemass.com.

OVERVIEW

We view our questionnaire as an educational resource, for both candidates and voters, on progressive approaches to the issues. It provides candidates the opportunity to address a number of important issues beyond the surface talking points and provides progressive voters an extremely valuable resource when making a decision.

Our Questionnaire starts with an “About You” section and ends with an opportunity for you to include additional remarks beyond what we asked.

The bulk of our questionnaire is focused on the issues outlined in our [Progressive Platform](#), which also inform our [Legislative Agenda](#). We are interested in your overall philosophy as well as your views on specific policy and legislation.

Each section features charts or graphs (with links to sources) that illustrate one or more facets of the issue under discussion.

*Each section contains open-ended questions and YES/NO questions. **If the question is a YES/NO question, please answer either YES or NO.** Feel free to expand your answers, but **please keep answers < 150 words.***

Issue Subsections:

- A. Revenue and Taxation
- B. Jobs and the Economy
- C. Education
- D. Health Care
- E. Housing
- F. Racial and Social Justice
- G. Good Government and Strong Democracy
- H. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

I. About You & Your Governing Approach

1. Why are you running for office? And what would be your top 3 priorities if elected?

I'm running for Governor because Beacon Hill has told working families in Massachusetts to wait for change for too long. Every day, it's getting harder for working families to live in our state. Child care, health care, and housing costs continue to get higher. Black and brown kids face yawning opportunity and achievement gaps in education, and we have among the largest wealth divides.

I'm running to ensure we meet the biggest challenges we face with urgency and with solutions to match — and make good on our promises to every family across the Commonwealth. In office, I would prioritize the biggest levers we have to fix our broken systems, grow our economy, and deliver real racial and economic justice:

- Universal, debt-free, quality education from birth into adulthood for every MA student. Including: universal and affordable early child care, debt-free public higher education (both tuition-free and additional costs covered for students on federal pell grants), and implementing the most progressive K-12 education funding system in the nation. The full plan here: <https://www.soniachangdiaz.com/plan/education-for-all>
- A Green New Deal for Massachusetts to win the fight against climate change and create tens of thousands of new, good-paying, family-sustaining jobs at the same time. Including 100% clean electricity by 2030, building a 21st-century transportation system, securing an equitable transition to green energy, and leading the fight for environmental justice. The full plan here: <https://www.soniachangdiaz.com/plan/ma-gnd>
- Economic opportunity, especially solving our statewide housing crisis and closing our cavernous racial wealth divide. More info: <https://www.soniachangdiaz.com/issues>

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

In 2008, I was elected Massachusetts's first Latina and first Asian-American State Senator — and I dedicated my career to fighting for, and winning, some of the state's biggest progressive reforms.

The only woman of color in the Massachusetts Senate, I designed and championed nation-leading education funding reforms passed in 2019 to provide \$1.5 billion in new, equitable aid annually to K-12 districts across the state. I also faced off with Republican Governor Charlie Baker and Beacon Hill leadership to negotiate and win police reform and accountability legislation in 2020; comprehensive criminal justice reform, including the repeal of racist mandatory minimum sentences in 2017; legislation to protect transgender rights in public accommodations passed in 2016; and more.

I also partnered with advocates to win increased assistance for small and local entrepreneurs, capped fare increases for public transportation, helped pass reforms to the state's CORI system, advanced environmental justice reforms, curtailed the misuse of special education dollars, expanded voting rights, and successfully defended millions of dollars in funding for youth development.

I bring a 13 year record of not only standing for progressive change, but taking on — and winning — some of the toughest policy fights in Massachusetts, not just when they're politically convenient. That is the same urgency, fire, and coalition-building experience I will bring to the Governor's office.

3. What do you view as the biggest obstacles to passing progressive policy at the state level?

We have too many people elected and appointed to office in our state who are more concerned with holding onto their power than making real change with it. It's not enough for a public official to self-identify as a progressive or a racial justice advocate, the true test is whether they back it up with action — and use the power they have, especially when times get hard and communities need them. Massachusetts needs more leaders in government who will use their power even when it's politically inconvenient, and the Governor has a critical role to play in setting the pace of change. I haven't been afraid to stand up to leaders of both parties on Beacon Hill in order to win progressive education funding, comprehensive criminal justice reform, police accountability, and LGBTQ rights.

4. What do you view as the role of the state government in supporting progressive policy at the local level?

First, I believe that state government should empower local leaders to design and implement progressive policies that best meet the needs of their own local communities, while advancing our shared goals as a Commonwealth. Whether that is by removing obstacles like the ban on rent stabilization or ensuring that new statewide reforms like the Student Opportunity Act can be deployed according to each district's needs, our state government should be giving local leaders the tools to make change in their own communities and meet the conditions they face on the ground.

Second, the state must also ensure that basic tenets of racial and economic equity are being preserved at the local level. For example, I've pushed for legislation to prohibit cities and towns from making discriminatory land-use decisions that often block the construction of affordable housing.

In all cases, I believe our next governor must consistently listen to and work collaboratively with a diverse range of local leaders to inform the development of statewide policy and anticipate growing issues before they become lasting problems.

5. What is one policy pioneered by another state that you would like to see Massachusetts adopt?

The high cost and shrinking availability of child care means it remains out of reach for too many families. The average annual cost of infant care in Massachusetts is a nation-leading \$20,000, more than some families will pay for a year of college. Even those who can afford it often struggle to find a provider. Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, over half of all people in Massachusetts lived in child care “deserts,” defined as a community with more than three children for each available child care slot.

Florida, Vermont, and Washington DC all offer universal pre-K, and more states have policies in place to make preschool affordable and accessible to all families. As Governor, I will lead the push to establish a universal system of high-quality, accessible, and affordable early education and child care for all young children from birth until K-12 enrollment.

6. Legislative inertia and inter-chamber rivalry remain a dominant force in the Massachusetts Legislature. What would be your strategy for passing your aforementioned priority proposals?

During my time as a legislator, I've fought for and won major reforms repeatedly across two different Governor's administrations, several Senate Presidents, and two House Speakers.

Of these reforms, multiple laws were passed in spite of initial opposition from legislative leadership and the Governor's office — across education, criminal justice reform and police accountability, and LGBTQ rights. I won these measures through collaboration across traditional legislative and party barriers inside the State House and through deep organizing to build grassroots coalitions to push for bold, progressive change.

For example, this strategy was crucial to winning our five-year fight to rewrite Massachusetts' education funding formula and passing the Student Opportunity Act, which committed \$1.5 billion annually in new funding to provide every child a quality education regardless of race or zip code.

Even though a bipartisan commission that I co-chaired unanimously found the funding was critical in 2015, Beacon Hill insiders repeatedly said our bill was too big, too fast, dead on arrival. But I steered the reforms to unanimous, bipartisan passage in the Senate five separate times, forcing the House of Representatives and Governor Baker to take it up. But when they did, they repeatedly filed alternative bills that cut out funding for poor students and students of color, applying band-aids and half-measures to the problems our schools faced.

But I refused to give in and leave low-income students and students of color behind – even when legislative leadership removed me from the Education Committee chairmanship for my vocal advocacy. When legislative leaders tried to go small, I drew together a broad coalition of parent groups, educators, municipal leaders, Democrats, Republicans, progressive advocates, racial justice organizations, business leaders,

researchers, student organizers, and even NFL Players outside the State House to pressure the legislature to act. I also quietly organized a coalition of nearly a dozen progressive legislators from both chambers to build consensus and put the pressure on for the reforms.

For four years, we had to drag leaders of both parties to the altar. And in 2019, Governor Baker gritted his teeth and signed every single one of the reforms I wrote into law — and he did it at one of the most under-resourced schools in my district, surrounded by our coalition of educators, students, and parents.

It was through this same strategy that we [won repeals of mandatory minimum sentences in the 2018 criminal justice reform bill](#) over opposition from the Governor and some legislative leaders. It was also how we won reform to the CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) system in 2010; transgender equal rights in housing, employment, education, and public accommodations in 2011 & 2016; reforms to Massachusetts' English-only instruction statute in 2017; and key accountability victories in the 2019 police reform bill.

The Governor has significant power to set the pace and scope of change on Beacon Hill and overcome the Legislature's inertia. I will continue to work collaboratively inside the State House and in coalition with people across the Commonwealth to deliver the change our families and communities need.

7. What do you view the role of the office in advancing a progressive agenda (and fighting a conservative one) on the national level?

States are the laboratories of democracy — and Massachusetts has exerted significant influence on national policy in previous decades, including LGBTQ+ rights and healthcare. We can and we should be a leader and a proof point when it comes to progressive change across the country. The Governor's office is a critical piece of that puzzle, since successfully modeling progressive policy to the rest of the nation will take not only passing it, but implementing it effectively and demonstrating its benefits.

The Governor can also leverage their uniquely powerful voice on the national stage, to draw attention to the local impacts and consequences of national policy (both good and bad) and bring additional pressure and stakes to national conversations. As the office most likely to have to implement federal policy, the Governor has a bully pulpit that can be leveraged with media and the public at the federal level.

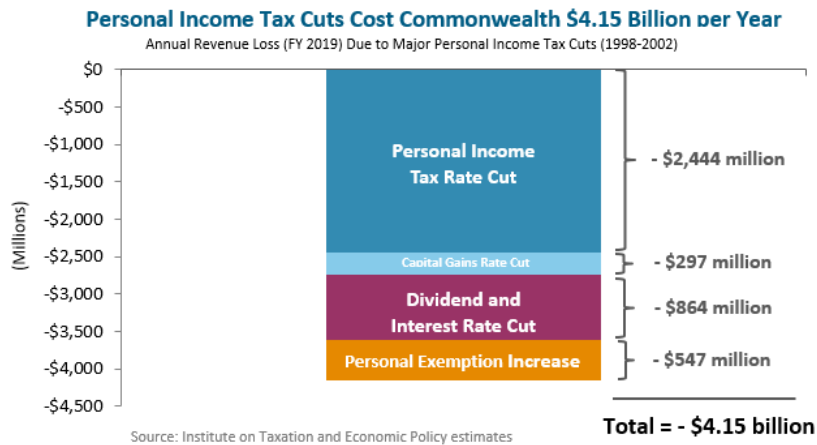
As Governor I would also work to ensure the national Democratic Party stays both accountable to and relevant to communities of color — raising key issues that are happening on the ground and urging party leadership to prioritize racial justice.

II. The Issues

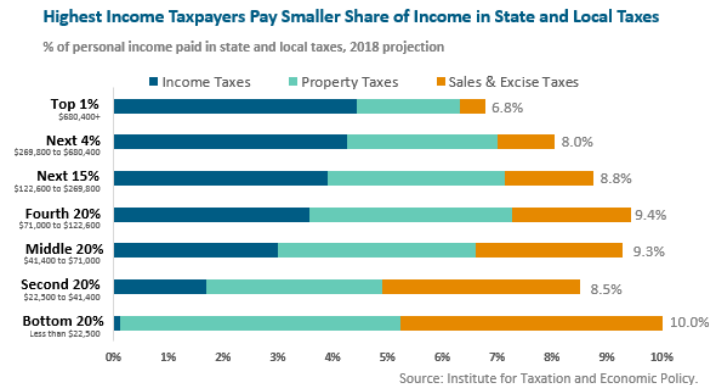
A. Revenue and Taxation

Between 1977 and 2016, Massachusetts [reduced state taxes](#) by more than all but two other states. Because of income tax cuts enacted between 1998 and 2002, Massachusetts loses over \$4 billion in tax revenue *each year*--\$4 billion that is not invested in our roads, bridges, schools, parks, and services, all of which have historically been part of why MA is a great place to live. Such cuts to the state income tax, combined with [low corporate income taxes compared to other states](#), have meant increasing reliance on fees, as well as sales, gas, and property taxes, exacerbating the overall regressivity of the system. Regressive taxation strains low- and middle-income families, and reduced revenue collection curtails our ability to invest in vital infrastructure. It also restricts legislators' ability—and willingness—to pass new and visionary legislation, as there is a continual shortage of funds for existing priorities.

Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.



Massachusetts state and local taxes are regressive.



1. **Please explain your principles and proposals relative to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).**

Our state's revenue policies determine whether we can do good and great things. From my earliest days as a State Senator, I prioritized revenue advocacy and policy. When advocates and lobbyists would visit my office to seek support for their priorities, I would ask them if they would also go on the record in support of progressive revenue solutions to fund those priorities. Through a district road show, I worked to build more knowledge and transparency around how our state budget gets divided up and the tough spending choices that we as a state were having to make because of the limits of the budget pie. In each of my seven terms as a legislator, I have both filed and co-sponsored legislation to make our tax laws more fair and alleviate the disproportionate burden on lower income residents. Backed by a large coalition of advocacy, labor, and other groups, I sponsored An Act to Invest in Our Communities, which would have increased the income tax rate while raising the personal exemption to hold down any increases on low and middle income earners. This progressive revenue bill was similar to the later-filed legislation pushed by then Governor Deval Patrick. As detailed further below, my advocacy on revenue issues continues through to this day. Revenue that is progressive and asks every resident to pay their fair share is crucial to ensuring that all of our state's residents can thrive and that our systems - economic, education, transit, health, and more - are robust enough to help.

2. **Corporate Tax Breaks. Corporate tax breaks cost Massachusetts [more than \\$1 billion in foregone revenue](#) each year. Companies can secure access to such tax breaks due to political connections whether or not the promised benefits ever materialize. Which of the following accountability steps would you support?**

- a. **Collecting and publicly disclosing information about the benefits to the state from any tax break? (Y/N)**

YES.

- b. **Repealing any tax break that does not provide the intended benefits in a cost-effective manner? (Y/N)**

YES.

- c. **Establishing sunset dates for all tax breaks so that they must come up for periodic review? (Y/N)**

YES. I am the lead sponsor of this bill in the Senate.

3. **Fair Share. Do you support the proposed constitutional amendment to increase the tax on income over \$1 million by 4%, with the resulting revenue devoted to education and transportation needs (Fair Share Amendment)? (Y/N)**

YES. I've co-sponsored and campaigned for the Fair Share Amendment consistently since its first introduction.

4. **Progressive Revenue. The Fair Share Amendment ballot initiative will raise**

much-needed revenue for our commonwealth, but we will require more resources to meet current needs. Do you support the following measures to make a more progressive tax code?

- a. Raising the corporate minimum tax for larger companies? (The corporate minimum tax is currently only \$456.) (Y/N)**

YES.

- b. Imposing a tax on the portion of corporations' US profits that are shifted to offshore tax havens? (Y/N)**

YES.

- c. Raising the corporate tax rate from 8% to 9.5% (where it stood in 2009)? (Y/N)**

YES.

- d. Raising the tax on long-term capital gains from 5% to 8.95%, in line with states like New York and Vermont? (Y/N)**

YES.

- e. Levying a modest tax on university endowments greater than \$1 billion? (Y/N)**

YES. Specifically to fund debt-free public higher education for Massachusetts students.

5. **PILOT Reform. Massachusetts is home to some of the world's most prestigious cultural, educational, and medical institutions, but many of them are exempt from property taxes.**

- a. Do you support enabling cities and towns to require large tax-exempt not-for-profit institutions (i.e., with property valued at or above \$15 million) to make payments in lieu of taxes to the municipality equal to 25 percent of the amount that would be paid if they were not exempt? (Y/N)**

[Candidate chose neither YES nor NO.]

I need to learn more about this proposal.

- b. Would you direct the Department of Revenue to regularly collect the data for the financial impact of lost tax revenue from tax-exempt institutions? (Y/N)**

YES. However I would prefer to collect data specifically about the difference between what PILOTs currently pay and what those institutions would pay if they weren't tax exempt.

6. **Divestment. Do you support divesting public investments from private prisons, fossil fuel companies, and weapons manufacturers? (Y/N) If so, how would you reinvest these divested funds?**

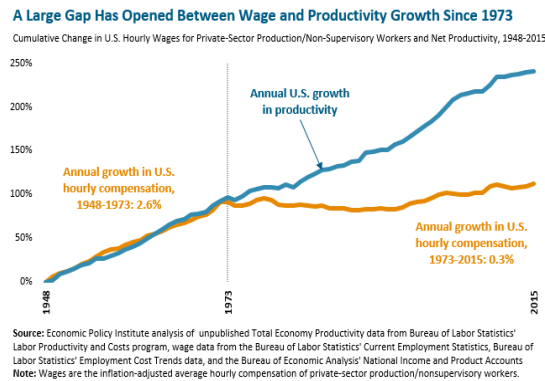
YES. I support divesting from private prisons, fossil fuel companies, and weapons manufacturers. I rely on the expertise of the Pension Reserve Investment Management (PRIM) board to work within basic requirements of social responsibility to achieve the best return on investment for our pension fund in order to meet our state's obligations to its workers. I would also make investments in the transition to a green energy economy, in communities of color, and in gun-violence prevention directly through our state budget.

B. Jobs and the Economy

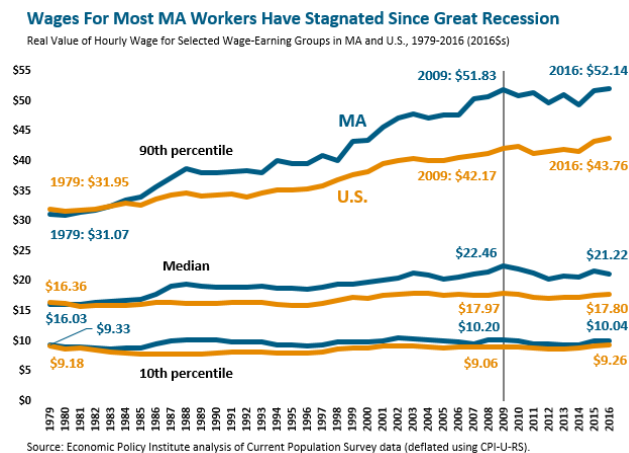
Massachusetts ranks as one of the top ten [most unequal states](#), as the gains from economic growth have disproportionately benefited the already well-off. Compounding this, we are one of the most expensive states in the country for [health care](#), [housing](#), and [child care](#), all of which strain wages. A strong economy depends on strong wages, as workers spend and help local economies thrive. Although the recently passed minimum wage increase will eventually lift the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, this is [still not a living wage](#) for many.

In recent decades, unions have been under attack. However, unions played—and continue to play—a pivotal role in creating a strong middle class. With weaker unions (or no unions at all) come weaker social and economic rights and an imbalanced economy.

Productivity has grown significantly since the 1970s, but it is not being reflected in higher wages.



Wages for most MA workers have remained stagnant since the Great Recession.



1. Please explain your principles and proposals relative to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.)

Ensuring economic prosperity and security for all Bay Staters isn't just about creating more jobs and attracting new businesses to Massachusetts — it's about creating an economy that works for everyone. We need to make sure our jobs pay good, family-sustaining wages, close the racial wealth divide, and invest in equitable economic development to support local businesses.

During my time in the Senate, I've been a leading advocate for policies to ensure all jobs are good jobs and that no one in Massachusetts is trapped in poverty. I supported raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour and indexing it to inflation, as well as a nation-leading paid family and medical leave law. In addition, I have been proud to co-sponsor legislation to combat wage theft in Massachusetts.

I've also worked with legislative colleagues, the executive branch, and local developers to ensure that rigorous goals are set—and evaluated—for minority- and local-resident job creation and wealth-building when public dollars are spent in our state. In 2017, I also helped ensure that our new recreational-marijuana law included strong provisions to ensure minority-community participation in both the regulation of the new industry and the wealth that it is creating.

As Governor, I will prioritize [creating tens of thousands of new, good-paying jobs in Massachusetts](#) through the state's green energy transition, while creating workforce development opportunities for women, people of color, and workers without college degrees.

I'll also require strong equity standards for state contracts, to ensure that projects funded by taxpayer dollars — from construction to catering — are creating local jobs and promoting workforce and contracting diversity.

2. Economic Development—Part I. In recent years, we have seen a race to the bottom between cities and states to offer special perks for large corporations considering new development or relocation. What would be your approach to such bids or proposals from cities in Massachusetts?

When public dollars are used to provide special perks and write-offs to corporations — whether in state law or offered by particular municipalities — it's critical to ensure that those investments are delivering the promised benefits to our families and communities. I continue to fight for legislation requiring more transparency and more accountability for state dollars spent on corporate tax credits, and require “clawbacks” of tax credit dollars when large corporations fail to live up to their local job creation commitments.

3. Economic Development—Part II. What industries do you see as growth opportunities for the Commonwealth, and how will you ensure the strong labor standards and diverse hiring practices that are essential for shared prosperity?

The rapidly-expanding green energy industry offers an unprecedented chance for our state — to grow our economy, expand economic opportunity, and make sure the benefits of this new industry are shared equitably by all Bay Staters. In addition

to helping us curb climate change and improve the quality of the air we breathe, the burgeoning green energy and energy efficiency industry is already creating new opportunities for workers, businesses, and entrepreneurs across the country. Massachusetts has the opportunity to create tens of thousands of new jobs — from installing solar panels, building wind turbines, and retrofitting buildings, to the sales, planning, finance, and numerous other jobs that ensure green projects are designed, funded, implemented, and paid for.

Developing this industry and building our green energy future in Massachusetts will require active investment in workforce development — especially in communities that have and will bear the brunt of climate change — and providing a just transition for workers shifting from the oil and gas industry. It will also require ensuring projects hire local residents at family-sustaining wages. You get what you pay for — and it's critical that we don't miss out on the opportunity of a lifetime to ensure that vibrant businesses and good jobs of the future are located here in Massachusetts.

The recreational cannabis industry is continuing to rapidly expand throughout Massachusetts. I fought successfully to get social equity provisions written into our state's cannabis law in 2017. And since then I've fought for further reforms to spur the cannabis industry to build wealth and opportunity for communities that have been harmed for decades by the War on Drugs.

Our economic development efforts must have a specific focus on equity: we must require that diversity and inclusion be a factor in contract award decisions to ensure the green economy is also driving our economic development goals. Closing the racial wealth divide must be at the core of economic development efforts, which means that it must be a factor in all state contracting decisions.

In the Legislature, I've also led efforts to create statewide goals and accountability measures for state agencies in contracting with minority-owned businesses — an area where Massachusetts has performed poorly for years — including pushing for legislation that is a model for how a Chang-Díaz Administration would prioritize equity in contracting and investments. We will also provide technical assistance and greater access to capital to help women- and minority-owned businesses, worker-owned cooperatives, tribes, Indigenous organizations, and businesses with a diverse workforce grow and succeed.

4. **Closing the Racial Wealth Gap. What opportunities do you see for leveraging public procurement dollars to close persistent racial/ethnic wealth gaps in the Commonwealth?**

No single policy solution will close our state's yawning racial wealth divide — we must take a comprehensive approach, tackling it across multiple policy areas.

In terms of public procurement, I will implement rigorous goal-setting, tracking, and targeting of resources in the billions of dollars' worth of spending the state will undertake to deploy federal recovery and infrastructure funding — similar to the [Racial Equity Scorecard](#) that I helped design for the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act spending package. Massachusetts has the chance to make significant leaps toward equity with the jobs, contracts, and programming these funds will create.

Additionally, we will institute strong and transparent diversity metrics for all state contracts, and prioritize contracts with minority- and women-owned businesses. I will also continue to fight for legislation I've filed for years to [ensure equity in public contracting](#) to build wealth, promote workforce diversity, and lower unemployment rates in communities of color.

I will also prioritize increasing pay for childcare workers, who are largely women of color and currently make on average about \$30,000 per year — wages that in many cases qualify them for poverty assistance programs.

5. **One Fair Wage**. Do you support eliminating the subminimum wage for tipped workers? (Y/N)

YES.

6. **Wage Theft**. Do you support holding businesses responsible for the wage violations of their subcontractors when the work they do is substantially connected to the company's operations? (Y/N)

YES.

7. **Wage Transparency**. Would you support requiring the submission of wage data to a public database maintained by the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and broken down by gender and race? (Y/N)

YES.

8. **Fair Scheduling**. Many workers in the service sector face irregular working hours, making it difficult to plan for other life events. Do you support providing workers the right to 14 days advance notice of hours and the right to request specific hours without retaliation from the employer? (Y/N)

YES.

9. **Mandatory Arbitration**. Would you support legislation to prohibit the use of mandatory arbitration provisions in employment contracts, i.e., requirements that an employee forfeit the right to sue the employer for discrimination, nonpayment of wages, or other illegal conduct? (Y/N)

Lean YES. I would need to see the specifics of the legislation.

10. **Paid Vacation Time**. The US is the only advanced industrial country to not guarantee workers paid vacation time to use as they wish. Would you support making Massachusetts the first state to require employers to provide paid vacation time to their workers? (Y/N)

YES.

11. **Paid Leave for Municipal Workers**. In 2018, MA passed the strongest paid family and medical leave law in the country. However, the law did not include municipal workers. Would you support extending the law to make sure that municipal workers have access to these vital benefits? (Y/N)

YES.

12. **Gig Economy.** More than 200,000 workers in Massachusetts now work in the “gig economy,” with the rise of app-based platforms. However, their employers often seek to evade labor law in order to avoid treating them as employees and provide decent pay and benefits.

- a. Do you oppose the November 2022 ballot initiative backed by Uber and Lyft to rewrite current state labor law to exclude hundreds of thousands of workers from fundamental rights and protections? (Y/N)

YES.

- b. How would your administration work to expand the rights of such gig workers?

My administration will use all the tools available to us to protect gig workers' rights to unionize and ensure gig workers are eligible for key government programs like pandemic unemployment assistance. I will also meet and work closely with gig workers' representatives and coalitions to develop my approach to these rapidly evolving and unregulated sectors.

13. **Worker Ownership.** Do you support allocating state funding (grants, loan guarantees, technical assistance funds) to support worker-owned and governed businesses and cooperatives in Massachusetts? (Y/N)

YES.

14. **Worker Governance.** Would you support incentives and/or requirements for large MA corporations to allow workers to elect at least some members of the board? (Y/N)

YES.

C. Education

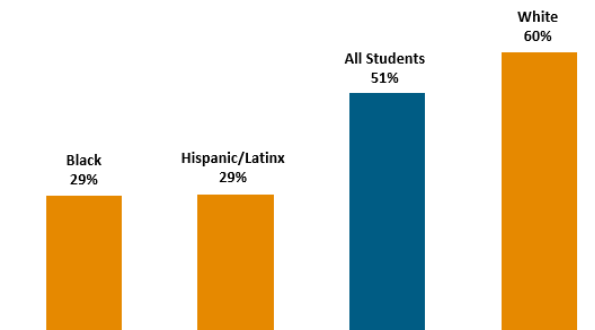
The promise of public education has always been as a gateway to opportunity and mobility for all, regardless of economic circumstances, a cornerstone of the American dream for all residents. Although our public education system gets high marks overall, it remains one of the [most unequal](#) in the country. Powerful corporate interests are promoting false solutions and working to undermine public schools, teachers, and unions. These groups invest millions of dollars to promote the expansion of privately run charter schools, which siphon money from our public K-12 districts while largely excluding students with the greatest needs. Costly, mandated standardized test results are used to label schools as “failing” and justify these privatization schemes. State receiverships in struggling school districts advance a privatization agenda by disenfranchising voters through stripping those they elect of their power to represent them.

Most of the [fastest-growing occupations](#) require education beyond a high school diploma, but Massachusetts has been disinvesting from public higher education for the past two decades. This has led to higher tuition costs, putting students at risk of long-term debt or making higher education out of reach for them entirely.

Massachusetts has significant achievement gaps reflective of resource gaps.

Massachusetts Has Significant Achievement Gaps for Youth of Color in 4th Grade Reading

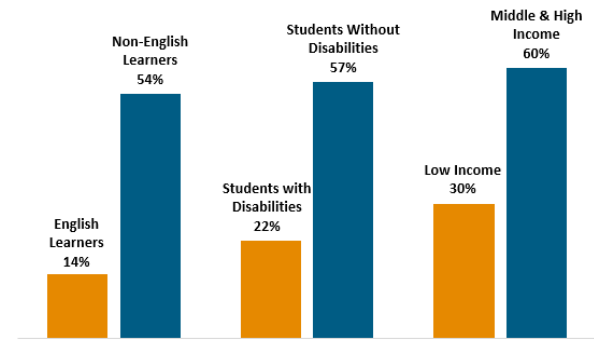
Share of MA 4th Graders Proficient on the 2017 NAEP Reading Exam, by Student Race, all students



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2017

Massachusetts Has Significant Achievement Gaps for Disadvantaged Youth in 4th Grade Reading

Share of Mass. 4th Graders Proficient on the 2017 NAEP Reading Exam, by Student Category

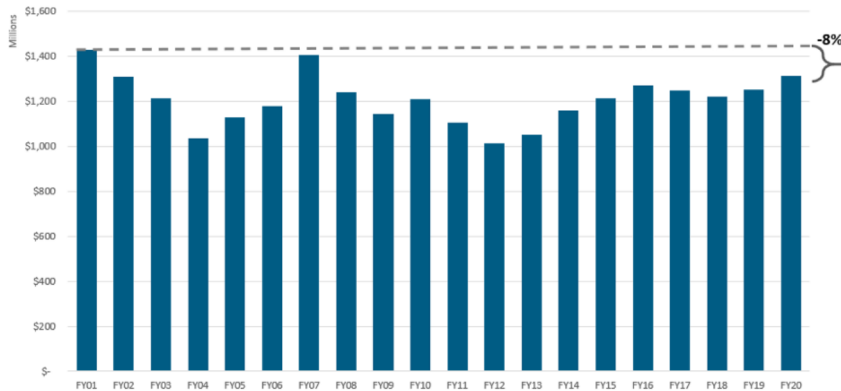


Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2017

Massachusetts has been disinvesting from higher education and shifting the cost burden onto students.

Massachusetts Has Cut Spending on Higher Ed. by 8 Percent Since FY 2001

State spending on higher education, FY 2001-2020 adjusted to inflation (2020 \$)



Note: FY 2007 total is adjusted downwards to account for the fact that significant funding during this year was for capital investments that supported activity during other fiscal years.

1. Please explain your principles and proposals relative to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).

My Republican grandfather used to say, 'education doesn't cost, it pays' — and we've all seen that's true for our kids, our families, and our economy in Massachusetts.

We are known for our education system. But beneath the surface, it's clear that the quality and quantity of education our kids get still depends on what you look like, where you live, and what's in your wallet. Poor kids and kids of color continue to face underfunded classrooms and yawning opportunity and achievement gaps due to long-standing inequalities. At the same time, too many working families can't afford early child care when they need it, and students are saddled with decades of debt after they work hard to earn their degree.

It is my personal mission to make sure our state provides a quality, debt-free, public education to every student from birth into adulthood, and I've already released a comprehensive plan to do just that by:

- Establishing universal early education as an affordable option for all families.
- Fully implementing the Student Opportunity Act, expanding behavioral health services, and dismantling the school to prison pipeline.
- Providing debt-free public college for all Massachusetts students by covering all tuition and mandatory fees, as well as additional costs (such as room and board and books) for students who are eligible for Federal Pell Grants.

It's also why as Co-Chair of the Education Committee from 2010-2018, I've led the fight for increased school funding and critical reforms for high-need students, including:

- Writing and championing the Education PROMISE Act, which served as the basis for the Student Opportunity Act of 2019, winning \$1.5 billion in new progressive aid annually to K-12 districts across the state — the most significant update of our state education funding system since 1993. I also held the line during years of negotiations to ensure the bill would prioritize funding to close the achievement gap for low-income students, students of color and English language learners.
- Co-chairing the bi-partisan Foundation Budget Review Commission, which concluded in 2015 that Massachusetts was underestimating the cost of K-12 education by \$1-2 billion every year and was drastically underfunding school districts with high proportions of students of color and low-income students. The commission’s recommendations were implemented with the Student Opportunity Act of 2019.
- Negotiating key reforms to statewide education policy to allow public schools to provide bilingual education to English Learners, reform the state’s school discipline laws, and expand civics education in Massachusetts.
- Designing and championing the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership to expand access to high quality early education and childcare for families across the Commonwealth, and securing a new line item in the budget to fund the pilot version of this expansion.
- Consistently prioritizing increased funding for early educator salaries and subsidies to reduce waitlists for children in need of care.

2. **Early Education and Child Care. Do you support the Common Start Coalition’s proposal to establish a robust system of high-quality, affordable early education and care for children from birth through age 5, as well as after- and out-of-school time for children ages 5-12, and for children with special needs through age 15?**

YES.

3. **Equitable Funding. In 2019, Massachusetts updated its 25-year-old education funding formula and committed to \$1.5 billion more in annual investment in public schools. However, the legislation to do so—the Student Opportunity Act—did not include funding for this promise, and the state is already behind on its commitment. How would you make sure that the state keeps its promise to teachers, students, and parents?**

I will propose full funding to phase in the Student Opportunity Act on schedule in my budget each year. I will also veto any budget proposal from the Legislature that fails to fully fund the phase-in.

4. **Standardized Testing. Massachusetts is now one of just 10 states for which an assessment like the MCAS is a condition for graduation. Would you support ending this requirement and allow students, especially students with disabilities, to have several pathways to demonstrate that they have met required competency standards? (Y/N)**

[Candidate chose neither YES nor NO.]

We owe it to our students to ensure that they are receiving the high-quality education we promise them, and in order to hold ourselves accountable, we need a measurement tool. MCAS is that tool at the moment, but I do not believe that MCAS is perfect or even preferred. As early as my first term as Senator, during the debate over sweeping education legislation, I fought to ensure that the state's determinations over accountability "levels" were based on MCAS growth over time, not raw scores, in recognition of the fact that many factors determine school and district performance, including rates of poverty and community violence. I support the development of alternative assessments, and I am particularly excited about the work of the Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment (MCIEA), a partnership of teachers and district leaders already operating in eight districts. In the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, I fought for and won an amendment to support the ongoing work of developing an alternative assessment, bringing together my colleagues in the Senate to support it and saving the line item from being zeroed out.

5. **Charter Schools. In 2016, MA voters overwhelmingly rejected a ballot initiative to lift the cap on charter schools given the millions of dollars it would have siphoned away from public school districts.**

a. Do you support keeping the cap on charter schools? (Y/N)

YES. This was decided handily by voters in 2016. However, in specific cases where high-need populations such as homeless students or students returning from having dropped out of school might benefit from alternative schooling models, individual communities should be able to make the case to state leaders that particular exceptions to the cap are warranted.

b. Would you support legislation to bring greater accountability to charter schools by requiring them to adhere to the same disclosure and disciplinary standards as public school districts? (Y/N)

YES. And I have written legislation to do so.

6. **School Governance. What would be your priorities in selecting candidates to appoint to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education?**

I will appoint board members who will prioritize equitable outcomes in our K-12 school systems. I will also look to appoint candidates who represent the geographic and socio-economic diversity of our state and represent the wide array of stakeholders affected by the state's K-12 policies, including educators, parents, and students.

7. **Receivership. The Lawrence Public Schools, Holyoke Public Schools, and Southbridge Public Schools are currently under state receivership, with a state-appointed receiver assuming the powers of a superintendent or democratically elected school committee. What is your evaluation of the impact of state receivership on these districts, and what reforms, if any, would you advocate for in the state receivership law?**

I've heard serious concerns from parents, teachers, and school committee members in districts currently under receivership, both about the lack of improvement brought by receivership status and the undemocratic nature of being in receivership. As Governor, I would work to reform the receivership system to ensure the state has to live up to the same concept of accountability that we require of districts, and that there are clear parameters for exiting receivership.

While receivership was developed as a tactic to combat our state's yawning opportunity gaps between districts, it's not clear that receivership has delivered improvement in these areas — despite being in place in at least one district for over a decade. As Governor, I would also require DESE to perform a thorough and publicly-available review of district data to fairly evaluate the impact of receivership on students, including adjustments for recent events like the pandemic and the beneficial effects of funding from the Student Opportunity Act. I would also seek assistance from an independent third party to perform an analysis and make public findings to the department on the effectiveness of receivership.

If receivership has failed to produce significantly better results for students, districts should be returned to local control and the state should work in partnership with the district to identify what else their students and educators need to succeed.

8. **Comprehensive Sex Education. Do you support requiring public schools that teach sexual health education to provide age-appropriate, medically accurate information that is inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities and includes the effective use of contraception? (Y/N)**

YES. I am a cosponsor of legislation to do this.

9. **Anti-Racist Education. Do you support the creation of a Commission for Anti-Racism and Equity in Education, which would ensure that ethnic studies, racial justice, decolonizing history, and unlearning racism are taught at all grade levels using a critical approach and pedagogy that is age-appropriate? (Y/N)**

NO. In my 13 years in the Legislature, I have seen firsthand how commissions too often end up slowing the pace of change, rather than being a catalyst for it. (A notable exception to this rule was the 2014-2015 Foundation Budget Review Commission, which produced a high-impact report [only with significant inside-outside organizing.](#))

Many of these critical issues are incorporated into Massachusetts's [current curriculum framework for history and social sciences](#) (eg, p18 and p13). A commission would be unlikely to have the power or capacity to do the work to ensure these curriculum standards are actually being implemented and addressed in classrooms across the Commonwealth.

Instead of passing, developing, and implementing a new commission, which would then require significant time from state employees and unpaid members of the public, my administration will work closely with districts to support and provide backup to local school officials and educators who are bringing these

curricula topics to life. My administration will also seek out feedback from BIPOC advocates, teachers, students, and parents through existing structures to more nimbly identify and implement changes to the curriculum framework where it needs improvement.

10. **Mental Health in Schools. The pandemic has heightened the need for dedicated, sustained funding for mental health services in schools. How would you use your position to make sure that all students are receiving the mental health services they need in a timely fashion?**

Students are significantly more likely to access behavioral health services if they are provided at school, and yet too many schools do not have the resources and capacity to offer them adequately. While the Student Opportunity Act will ensure schools have more funding to hire behavioral health staff, many will need help with effective implementation. As Governor, I'll establish an Inter-Agency Council on School-Based Behavioral Health, pulling in resources and expertise from across state agencies, school districts, and our state university system, among others, to coordinate state services, identify mechanisms for expanding funding streams (such as streamlining billing through MassHealth and private insurance for some services and redirecting those funds back to school systems to pay for behavioral health staff), support workforce development, and provide schools with the guidance and technical assistance to expand these services.

11. **Higher Education Access. Do you support granting in-state tuition and financial aid to undocumented students? (Y/N)**

YES. I am the lead sponsor of legislation to do this.

12. **Debt-Free College. Do you support making tuition (and mandatory curriculum fees) free at public colleges and universities? (Y/N)**

YES. I am a co-sponsor of this legislation and I have outlined a plan to provide debt-free public higher education to all Massachusetts students, expand access to undocumented students, and slow the increases in costs of public higher education that students face on a year-to-year basis.

D. Health Care

Massachusetts has led the way in providing near universal health insurance coverage, with [97% of the state](#) having health insurance. But until that is 100%, we haven't reached truly universal coverage or tackled critical barriers to accessing care. Disparities in insurance coverage and health care access continue to exist along income, racial, and education lines. Premiums continue to rise, and high deductibles mean that many do not get the health care they need—or suffer from long-lasting debt if they do. We still spend an oversized portion of public and private money on health care, but without necessarily achieving better health outcomes. The pandemic has put a spotlight on these health care inequities and the need to invest in a stronger public health infrastructure and be more resilient for the pandemics and challenges of the future.

Massachusetts health insurance premiums have skyrocketed over the past two decades.

Massachusetts health insurance premiums have tripled in 19 years and consume an ever-larger portion of earnings for middle class families.

Average total cost for Massachusetts family health insurance premiums and national cost of a new compact car



The share of middle-class commercially-insured Massachusetts families with more than ¼ of total earnings going to health care rose from **28%** in 2013-2015 to **33%** in 2016-2018.

Notes. Data are in normal dollars of the year shown.

Sources: Family Health Insurance premiums are for Massachusetts from the Agency for Health Care Quality – Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, Insurance Component. Car cost information is based on car-specific inflation from the BLS and the compact car price index from Kelly Blue Book.

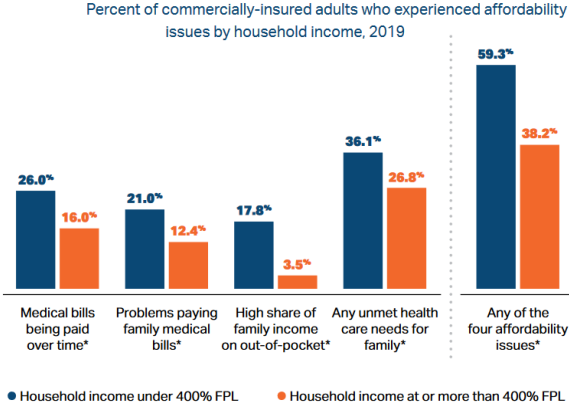
<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/average-new-car-prices-up-nearly-4-percent-year-over-year-for-may-2019-according-to-kelley-blue-book-300860710.html>

Earnings calculation includes employer premium contribution in both health care payments and in earnings total. See Massachusetts HPC 2019 Annual Cost Trends Report (p. 15)



Image41i

Many MA residents face difficulty paying health care bills.



1. Please explain your principles and proposals relative to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).

No one should be forced to choose between their health care and the financial security of their family. But that's what happens to people every day in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts has the highest rates of insurance coverage in the country. But costs are rising for families across the state and access to quality care continues to be determined too often by zip code, income, and the color of your skin. We need to end the ever-increasing premiums, high deductibles and copays, and skyrocketing prescription drug prices that put health care out of reach for too many.

That's why I've long supported legislation to establish a single-payer "Medicare for All" system, following the lead of many countries around the world that have better health outcomes at a fraction of the cost.

I've also championed legislation to improve access to reproductive health services for individuals on MassHealth and supported efforts to ensure mental health services are covered by insurance to the same extent physical health care services are covered.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic I have consistently pushed for a proactive, equity-focused response from the state. I fought to increase multilingual outreach and mobile vaccination efforts in the hardest-hit communities and helped win \$200 million in funding to update our crumbling public health infrastructure to reduce inequities and ensure these systems can meet large scale public health challenges.

2. Single Payer. Do you support legislation to enact a single payer health care system in Massachusetts, which would guarantee health insurance as a right? (Y/N)

YES.

3. Reproductive Justice—I. Do you support requiring health insurance plans to cover all pregnancy care, including abortion care, prenatal care, childbirth, and postpartum care, without any kind of cost-sharing? (Y/N)

YES.

4. Reproductive Justice—II. Would you support the creation of an uncompensated care program to reimburse abortion providers for services they provide to individuals without other means of paying for care, including those individuals traveling from out of state who would have qualified for MassHealth if they lived in the state? (Y/N)

[Candidate chose neither YES nor NO.]

I strongly believe we must ensure every Massachusetts resident can access and

afford healthcare, including for abortions as individuals and their medical providers deem best. Before making a commitment to establishing this specific program, especially for individuals coming from out of state, I would need to learn more about the costs of establishing such a system, as we try to close the gap on so many other unmet healthcare needs (dental, mental/behavioral, preventive care for low-income families) at the same time.

5. Menstrual Equity. Would you support providing access to free menstrual products in schools, shelters, and prisons? (Y/N)

YES.

6. Harm Reduction. An essential part of addressing the opioid crisis, safe consumption sites allow medical professionals to respond to overdoses and engage participants in medical and behavioral health services. Would you support the legalization of SCSs? (Y/N)

LEAN YES. Before committing I need to do a more thorough review of outcomes in places that have implemented safe consumption sites and learn what the best practices and pitfalls of implementation have been.

7. Pandemic Response. How would you evaluate the state's response to the Covid-19 pandemic? What would you have done differently to ensure more equitable distribution of PPE, testing, and vaccination to underserved populations?

The Baker-Polito Administration has taken an inconsistent, path-of-least-resistance approach to pandemic safety that seems to be based more in politics than in science — and puts the health of Bay Staters in jeopardy as a result.

The state has repeatedly waited until things reach a crisis level to take action. But by then, it's too late. We're left with people waiting in hours-long lines to access time-sensitive testing; inequitable access to masks, tests, and vaccines; and chaos with work and school safety protocols and requirements.

As Governor, I would have pursued a consistent, proactive, and evidence-based action to protect public health and put Massachusetts on a secure path to recovery, including:

- Instituting a statewide vaccination requirement for indoor social and recreational venues.
- Prioritizing the development and deployment of a statewide vaccine credential system on schedule early in Fall 2021, to help mitigate against widespread outbreaks, save municipalities and businesses the time and expense of developing credentialing systems on their own, and better protect patients' health data.
- Ensuring equitable access to vaccines, masks, and tests by working with community leaders and service organizations to ensure resources are reaching disproportionately affected populations.
- Launching and sustaining robust, multi-lingual, community-based, and creative

engagement and persuasion campaigns for vaccinations and booster shots. I also would have complied with legal requirements for data-tracking for all COVID-19 cases statewide, including key demographic and occupational data. The Baker/Polito Administration has never been in compliance with this law, even though Governor Baker signed it himself.

- Rapidly implementing and enforcing mask requirements in alignment with CDC guidance.
- Working together with public health experts, municipal officials, and advocacy groups to think around the corner and predict and address system-wide failure points before they arise. For example, following the December 2021 holiday season, we knew the omicron variant was going to surge, in-person schooling would be at risk, and residents would be in search of tests and supplies. Instead of haphazardly rolling out responses to these issues after they flare up, we could have procured tests and hired the staff earlier to meet the demand and contingencies with school officials in the case of likely rolling “blackouts” in staffing.
- Listening to and working with school officials, local leaders, and parents to develop an appropriate, flexible game plan that meets the educational and public health needs of our districts and communities.

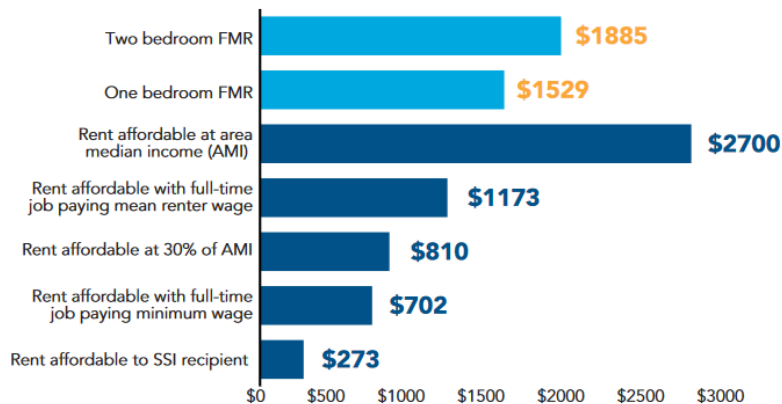
8. **Public Health. What are the main lessons you would take from the state’s experience with the COVID-19 pandemic in order to put our state on a stronger public health footing for future crises, especially as relates to protecting the state’s most at-risk populations?**

Massachusetts must prepare (and then use!) shovel-ready plans and infrastructure to better meet the possibility of a future public health disaster. When it comes to an equitable response for our state’s most at-risk populations, what we have seen is that low-income communities and communities of color have been disproportionately affected by not only the health impacts of the pandemic, but the economic impacts as well. We must not only significantly expand access and affordability of public health services, but also win structural changes to make our housing, economic, environmental, and education systems more equitable to start with.

E. Housing

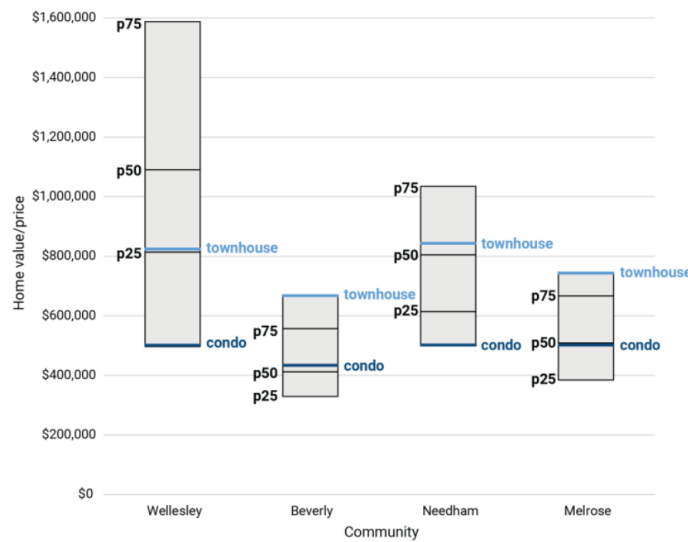
Massachusetts has a lot to offer, but that does little if people can't afford to live here. The [US News & World Report's annual state rankings](#) put Massachusetts at #40 in housing affordability (and #47 in cost of living). A worker earning minimum wage in Massachusetts would have to work [87 hours a week](#) to afford a modest one-bedroom rental home at market rate (and 107 hours for a modest two-bedroom). Over the last ten years, the need for affordable housing has increased, while funds for affordable housing have decreased at both federal and state levels. This is unsustainable. It has led to expanding economic inequality, increased homelessness, and damage to our economy, as talented workers often leave the state for less expensive regions.

With rental increases far outpacing wage increases, many are left with housing instability.



The overreliance of single-family housing in suburban development, as opposed to denser or multi-family housing, makes communities unaffordable.

Small multifamily condos expand affordability in the wealthiest communities
 Comparing prices of new townhouses and condos to existing homes



Source: Existing home values taken from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2014-2018. Prices for new townhouses and condos from Crump, Mattos, Schuetz and Schuster (2020). Metropolitan Policy Program at BROOKINGS

1. Please explain your principles and proposals relative to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).

We are facing a housing crisis all across Massachusetts. From our biggest cities to rural towns, retirees are being forced out of the communities they've lived in for decades, young people and immigrants can't find apartments they can afford to rent, municipal workers can't afford to live in the communities they serve, and too many families are now facing eviction and foreclosure. We must solve this crisis to ensure all Bay Staters can afford to live here and raise their families here.

We must tackle our housing crisis head-on by stabilizing the housing market, expanding tools to limit runaway rent increases, and putting the dream of home ownership within reach for working families.

As Governor, I will fight to increase housing production, particularly higher-density, multifamily developments near public transit options across the state. I'll also fight to significantly increase funding to support the expansion of affordable housing by passing the HERO Act.

My administration will also help stabilize neighborhoods and prevent displacement by increasing rental and legal assistance programs; encouraging the creation of land trusts; and giving local cities and towns the option of establishing reasonable caps on annual rent increases if it makes sense for their communities, such as tying annual increases to the Cost of Living index. We will also prioritize creating opportunities for lower- and middle-income families to build generational wealth through homeownership.

2. Reducing Homelessness. What steps would you take to reduce the number of individuals experiencing homelessness and address the daily indignities and systemic problems unhoused individuals face?

My administration will make investments aimed at ending homelessness, including in more transitional housing support and longer-term housing paired with supportive services for individuals struggling with substance use disorder and/or mental illness. I will also work closely with advocates to identify key areas for reform in the Department of Transitional Assistance and the Department of Children and Families, in addition to [continuing the fight for legislation I've filed to combat youth homelessness](#). I will also work up-stream from homelessness, to address the poverty that is at the root of homelessness for some families and individuals: fighting to strengthen our social safety net, ensure fair wages in our state, reduce the costs of childcare and healthcare, and increase access to education.

3. Affordable Housing Funding—I. Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to impose a fee on real estate transfers to generate revenue for affordable housing, with the ability to create local exemptions as appropriate? (Y/N)

YES.

4. Affordable Housing Funding—II. Would you support doubling the current Deeds Excise Tax (from \$4.56 per \$1,000 to \$9.12 per \$1,000), upon the sale of real property in Massachusetts, to create a new funding stream to be split evenly between affordable housing and climate resiliency? (Y/N)

YES. I'm a co-sponsor of this legislation.

5. Public Housing. Massachusetts has underfunded state-assisted public housing for years and has sought to reduce the overall quantity of state public housing units. Will you protect and expand Massachusetts' operating investment in public housing? (Y/N) What would be your priorities in doing so?

YES. I support expansion of funding to ensure the long-term preservation of Massachusetts's existing stock of public housing. This may include increases to the budget to ensure public housing facilities can perform desperately needed maintenance, as well as capital infusions where appropriate to support more significant redevelopment.

Massachusetts is one of only a handful of states that dedicates funding to the development and operation of public housing units, over and above federal public housing. But years of both federal and state disinvestment and age have taken a toll, impacting tens of thousands of units of public housing across the state. To protect our existing stock of affordable housing, the state must step in to help our local housing authorities fund basic and deferred capital maintenance, planning, and investment that is decades overdue. We will also increase technical assistance for housing authorities seeking to implement cost- and energy-saving renovations, and for smaller local housing authorities in need of support with financial and project planning and implementation for larger capital projects.

Where public housing unit repair is unfeasible or unrealistic, we will partner with local communities to support redevelopment, using recent creative public-private partnerships. Projects like these rebuild public housing and protect all affordable units by creating larger, denser mixed income developments, using the profits from the sale or rental of market rate units to subsidize the costs of rebuilding the deeply affordable units.

6. **Tenant Protections. Would you support providing municipalities with the authority to implement rent-stabilizing regulations, just cause eviction protections, stronger condominium conversion and foreclosure protections, anti-displacement zones, and options to help tenants manage the upfront costs of leasing an apartment? (Y/N)**

YES.

7. **Tenant Opportunity to Purchase. Would you support providing tenants of small, medium, and large multifamily properties with right of first refusal when the owner plans to put a building on the market, provided that they can make a bona fide offer to match the asking price in a reasonable period of time? (Y/N)**

YES.

8. **Right to Counsel. Would you support legislation to provide legal representation for low-income tenants in eviction proceedings? (Y/N)**

YES.

9. **Zoning Reform—Part I. Throughout Massachusetts, restrictive and exclusionary zoning laws make communities unaffordable and exacerbate residential segregation. Would you support the following steps....?**

- a. **Prohibiting municipal and state zoning bylaws, ordinances, and land use decisions that discriminate based on race, socioeconomic status, or familial status? (Y/N)**

YES. I am the lead filer of this legislation.

- b. **Enabling municipalities to pass inclusionary zoning ordinances by a simple majority vote? (Y/N)**

YES.

- c. **Enabling municipalities to pass zoning ordinances to eliminate parking requirements for multifamily residential development by a simple majority vote? (Y/N)**

YES.

10. **Zoning Reform—Part II. The Department of Housing & Community Development recently released guidelines for the 175 MBTA communities to have a zoning ordinance or bylaw that provides for at least one district of reasonable size near**

public transit in which multifamily housing is permitted as of right.

- a. The new requirement is an important step toward addressing our affordable housing crisis, but it lacks an enforcement mechanism. How would you enforce this new requirement?**

This new requirement is an important step toward addressing our affordable housing crisis, in part because it recognizes the scope of our affordable housing shortage and the need for communities around Greater Boston to be part of the solution. I would enforce it with the law's current enforcement mechanisms including withholding funds from the Housing Choice Initiative, the Local Capital Projects Fund, and the MassWorks infrastructure program, and I would be open to looking at other measures, including withholding additional funding streams, depending on the impact (or lack thereof) of the current mechanisms.

- b. Would you support extending this requirement to include *all* municipalities that have public transit available, as opposed to only MBTA communities? (Y/N)**

YES. I would be in favor of expanding this requirement to all public transit that receives state funding.

- 11. Eviction Sealing. Eviction records create lasting stigma, are prone to error and impair access to stable housing. Would you support legislation to seal eviction records so that both tenants and landlords can move on with their lives? (Y/N)**

YES.

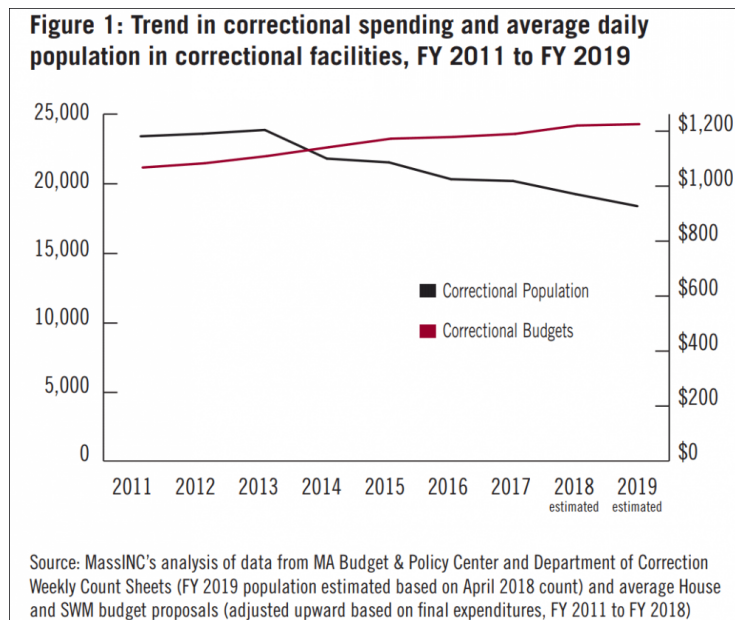
F. Racial and Social Justice

Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds, especially on the systemic and institutional level.

Mass incarceration in Massachusetts has proven socially and economically destructive, breaking apart communities across the state. From 2011 to 2016, [spending on prisons](#) grew faster than any other part of the Massachusetts budget, while funding for necessary services languished. The average cost per year to house an inmate in the Massachusetts Department of Corrections is [more than \\$60,000](#), money that could be better reinvested into the communities that have suffered from decades of misguided and racially discriminatory “tough on crime” policies. To achieve “justice for all,” we need a judicial system that does not disproportionately target communities of color and the poor and that does not criminalize public health issues such as addiction.

Immigrants make up 16% of Massachusetts’s population; however, demagoguery against, or indifference to, immigrant populations has historically been a mainstay of Massachusetts politics. Even though the administration in Washington has changed, we have seen a deportation agenda from both Democratic and Republican presidents, and it is important for states like Massachusetts to take leadership in protecting and advancing the rights of our immigrant communities and making clear that all are welcome.

The correctional population in Massachusetts has declined, yet the state continues to increase the Department of Corrections budget.



Significant racial disparities exist in incarceration in Massachusetts.

Imprisonment by Race/Ethnicity (2019)	
White imprisonment rate (per 100,000)	63
Black imprisonment rate (per 100,000)	466
Hispanic imprisonment rate (per 100,000)	260
Racial/Ethnic Disparity in Imprisonment (2019)	
Black : white ratio	7.4
Hispanic : white ratio	4.1
Juveniles in Custody (2015)	
Total juveniles in custody	309
Committed	168
Detained	135
Diverted	0
Juvenile custody rate (per 100,000)	0
White custody rate (per 100,000)	18
Black custody rate (per 100,000)	166
Latino custody rate (per 100,000)	117
American Indian custody rate (per 100,000)	0
Asian custody rate	0

1. Please explain your principles and proposals relative to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).

Our state and our country are faced with a racial reckoning today — one that spans all the way from education to criminal justice to health, economic development, transportation, and climate policy. People of color still face systemic discrimination and a yawning racial wealth divide. This is one of the most pressing issues of our time, and we need to meet it with much more than reassuring words.

It’s also never been more clear that our policing and criminal legal systems are broken in Massachusetts and across our country. Decades of shortsighted criminal justice policies produced a costly, ineffective, and racist mess — targeting and incarcerating people of color while failing to provide real public safety.

As the first Latina and first person of Asian descent elected to the Massachusetts State Senate — and often the only person of color serving in that body during my tenure — I’ve dedicated my career in the Legislature to racial equity and immigrant justice, including:

- Nation-leading police reforms passed in 2020, including critical measures that increased accountability and civilian oversight. The law established a system for

investigating and decertifying officers and set boundaries on police use of force — including banning chokeholds, limiting no-knock warrants, creating affirmative duties to intervene and de-escalate, banning racial profiling, and giving civilians and civil rights reformers real power on the police oversight board. The law also prohibited sharing of personal information about students and their families between schools and police departments, which for years had netted young immigrants into police databases. And it repealed the legal requirement of police officers in public schools.

- Fighting for, and winning, criminal justice reform legislation passed in 2018, which included repeals of racist mandatory minimum sentencing laws for nonviolent drug offenses.
- Achieving a statutory ban on racial profiling by police, as well as demographic data tracking on traffic stops, so we can identify and combat racial disparities in law enforcement.
- Championing legislation to provide equal access to higher education and financial assistance for Massachusetts DREAMers that have been accepted to a public college or university.
- Co-sponsoring the Safe Communities Act, which ensures that state law enforcement officials do not act as federal immigration agents at state taxpayers' expense. I've also used my legal prerogative as a state legislator to enter carceral institutions at will in Massachusetts, to shine a light on abusive practices at an immigrant detention center here that has now been decommissioned by the federal government.
- Fighting for the Work & Family Mobility Act, which would ensure that undocumented immigrants are able to earn a driver's license.
- Filing the Justice Reinvestment Act (described below) and winning the creation of the \$15 million Justice Reinvestment Fund in the state budget, to reinvest in over-policed and over-incarcerated communities. This fund is governed by a board whose members must come entirely from the communities the fund is designed to benefit.
- Filing the ACES bill in 2021 to promote the development of alternatives to police response in emergency and non-emergency situations that don't require the presence of law enforcement.
- Fighting for and winning the creation of an independent Ombudsperson's office to monitor the Department of Corrections and ensure the state's prisons are complying with health and safety best practices during the pandemic. I also publicly fought back when EOPSS/DOC flouted the law by appointing their own choice to this role and when they hired someone totally inappropriate for it.

At the same time, it's important to recognize that issues of racial justice are not limited to our criminal legal system and policing — but touch nearly every aspect of our economy and public institutions. That's why I've also fought for and won measures to promote racial justice in our education, economic, environmental, and health sectors, including closing opportunity gaps in our schools for children of

color through the Student Opportunity Act and passing laws to prohibit the overuse of school expulsion and suspension, and to reform Massachusetts' system for English language education; equity provisions in the 2017 cannabis legalization statute; first-time home buyer programming and funding; vaccine equity during the pandemic; environmental justice provisions in our climate legislation; small business technical assistance funding; and the Equity & Accountability Review Panel in the ARPA bill.

As Governor, I will continue championing these reforms — and I will make promoting racial justice and equity a critical piece of every government policy. We'll close the racial wealth divide and increase access to both affordable housing and transportation, so Bay Staters of color can spend more time with their families and advancing their careers, and less on the road. I will also support legislation to prevent discriminatory land use decisions that can be used to block the development of affordable housing. My Administration will work with the Legislature to pass universal early education and debt-free college for all Massachusetts students, and we'll set family-sustaining wages for early educators, who are disproportionately women of color.

I will also prioritize passing the Justice Reinvestment Act, which calculates the savings from sentencing reforms and reinvests those funds into community education and workforce development programs, to help address underlying causes of crime and promote long-term community safety. I'll also continue to champion tens of millions of dollars in the state budget for community reinvestments, youth violence prevention programming, and supports for community members returning from incarceration.

Finally, I will ensure that when state policy decisions are made, leaders of color are at decision-making tables, not just "advisory" tables.

2. **Police Accountability. The 2020 police accountability legislation passed by the Massachusetts Legislature contained a number of steps forward, but important measures were left out. Would you support legislation to do the following?**

a. **Eliminating qualified immunity for state and local police and correctional officers so that individuals whose constitutional rights are violated can have their fair day in court? (Y/N)**

YES.

b. **Supporting strict regulations on government use of face surveillance like those initially enacted by the House and Senate in 2020, before Governor Baker rejected them? (Y/N)**

YES.

c. **Requiring a vote by a local legislative body (city council, town meeting) before a municipality can acquire military or surveillance equipment? (Y/N)**

YES.

- d. **Directing an independent investigation of the Massachusetts State Police Commonwealth Fusion Center, to determine whether it has engaged in investigations of protected First Amendment activity or otherwise improperly collected, accessed, or shared information about people not suspected of engaging in criminal activity? (Y/N)**

YES.

- e. **Reforming the law regarding the Civil Service Commission so it no longer has power over the hiring or firing of police officers in Massachusetts? (Y/N)**

[Candidate chose neither YES nor NO.]

I strongly support reforming civil service rules. I am not yet decided about removing police entirely from its jurisdiction, and plan to study the recommendations of the commission established by the 2020 Police Reform Law and the debate around those recommendations.

3. **Alternative Crisis Response. Do you support creating a grant program through the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to increase funding for non-law-enforcement, unarmed community-based response personnel to respond to emergency calls? (Y/N)**

YES. I'm a lead sponsor of such legislation.

4. **Sentencing Reform. The 2018 criminal justice reform bill was an important first step in reducing mass incarceration. However, in our "liberal" state, incarceration rates remain much higher than they are in other countries, and sentencing laws can be even more punitive than those in states viewed as conservative. Do you support the following reforms?**

- a. **Eliminating mandatory minimums for all drug offenses? (Y/N)**

YES. For all nonviolent drug offenses.

- b. **Raising the age of criminal majority from 18 to 21, in line with research that shows that young offenders served by a juvenile system are much less likely to reoffend and more likely to successfully transition to adulthood? (Y/N)**

YES.

- c. **Decriminalizing consensual sexual activity between adolescents, by creating an exception to the statutory rape law for youth close in age? (Y/N)**

YES.

- d. **Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which is costly and has been shown to be racist in its application? (Y/N)**

YES.

5. **Solitary Confinement.** In Massachusetts, prisoners can be sentenced to 10 years of solitary confinement—per infraction. The UN defines holding someone in solitary confinement for more than 15 days as torture. Do you support banning the use of long-term solitary confinement? (Y/N)

YES.

6. **Prison Visitation.** Maintaining connections with friends and family outside prisons is one of the most important factors in ensuring successful reentry. In March 2018, the DOC severely limited the ability of prisoners to receive visits and the rights of family and friends to visit their loved ones in prison. ([Read more on this here.](#)) Would you end these restrictions? (Y/N)

YES.

7. **Prison Profiteering—Part I.** While Massachusetts does not have private prisons, the DOC invites private companies to profit off of the families of prisoners by price gouging inmates who have no alternatives but to buy from the sole providers of goods in prisons. Would you end the price gouging of inmates by the DOC for necessary items and requiring DOC to adequately supply inmates with the basic requirements necessary for life and maintain good health and hygiene? (Y/N)

YES.

8. **Prison Profiteering—Part II.** The cost of phone calls can be as high as \$4-\$5 (or more) for 15 minutes of phone time for incarcerated individuals in some parts of Massachusetts. Do you support making phone calls free for incarcerated individuals? (Y/N)

YES.

9. **Prison Moratorium.** Would you impose a moratorium on the construction of new prisons and jails in the Commonwealth? (Y/N)

YES.

10. **DOC Reform.** Numerous reports (such as the recent *Falcon* and DOJ reports) have highlighted a culture of unchecked institutional violence in the Massachusetts Department of Corrections. How would you change the culture and policies of the DOC?

I will install new leadership at the DOC, committed to an overhaul of the department's culture and transparency — to ensure the legal, civil, and human rights of incarcerated individuals and their families are respected. I will also push to establish strong independent oversight of the corrections system, to last past my governorship.

11. **Judicial and Parole Board Nominees.** The Governor has the ability to appoint judges and members of the Parole Board. What would be your priorities when evaluating candidates for vacancies?

I will make new appointments to the parole board who have a background in re-entry best practices and who, in particular, recognize the harms and disparities wrought by the War on Drugs.

12. **Clemency**. The Governor also has the ability to issue pardons. Would you be willing to pardon all individuals convicted of non-violent cannabis offenses, whether formerly or currently incarcerated, as Senators Warren and Markey have called on President Biden to do? (Y/N) How else would you choose to use this power?

YES. I would be willing to pardon individuals convicted of cannabis offenses that are no longer crimes.

13. **Safe Communities Act**. Do you support the Safe Communities Act, which limits local and state police collaboration with federal immigration agents, bars law enforcement and court personnel from inquiring about immigration status, and ensures due process protections? (Y/N)

YES. I'm a co-sponsor of this legislation.

14. **Work and Family Mobility Act**. Do you support removing immigration status as a barrier to applying for a license or learner's permit? (Y/N)

YES. I'm a co-sponsor of this legislation.

15. **Data Equity**. Do you support allowing state agencies to collect, organize, and assemble public data on major ethnic subgroups for all racial groups to create more visibility for the diverse experiences within communities and enable policymakers and community organizations to be more responsive to community needs? (Y/N)

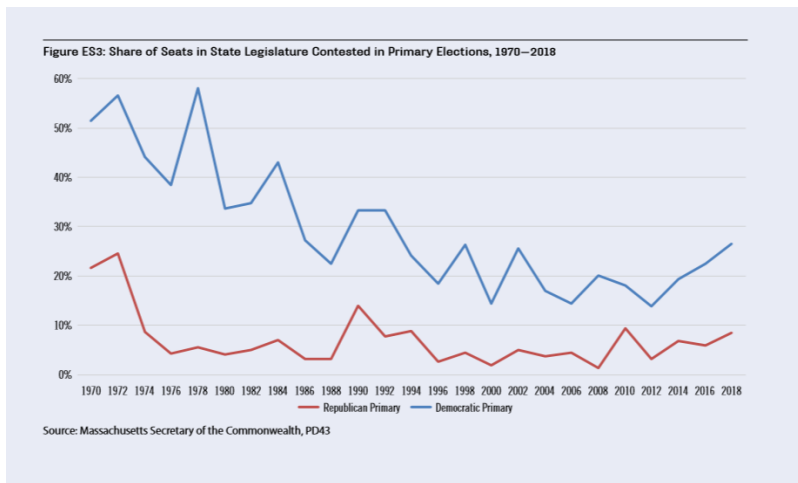
YES.

G. Good Government and Strong Democracy

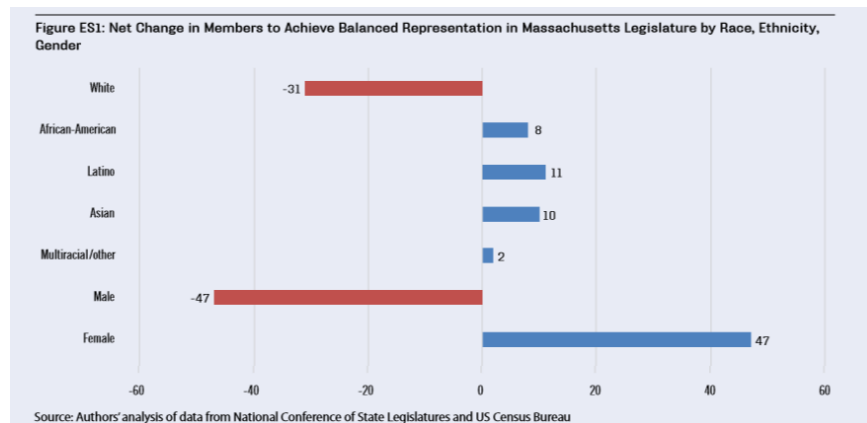
A strong democracy depends on a transparent and representative government and an engaged public. Too often, however, we see centralized, unaccountable power and barriers to participation. An undemocratic, centralized power structure on Beacon Hill makes it easier for lobbyists to target the top and undermine the system. Despite recent reforms, a weak public records system stymies government accountability: MA is one of only two states where all three branches of state government claim to be exempt. A strong democracy requires an engaged electorate, but voter turnout in midterm elections, and especially local elections, remains low. Although election modernization legislation in 2014 and 2018 helped bring much-needed reforms, we still lag behind states in New England and around the country in making voting accessible (Maine, for instance, has allowed for Election Day Registration since the 1970s).

A centralized power system, a skewed campaign finance system, and restrictive voting laws together help create a situation in which our elections are the [least competitive in the country](#).

Our elections have grown less competitive over the past four decades.



Our legislature is not reflective of the population as a whole.



1. Please explain your principles and proposals relative to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).

We know our government works best when it is open, transparent, and accountable to the people. That starts by securing the sacred right to vote for everyone. We must preserve and expand access to the ballot box to ensure communities of color, low-income communities, and other historically underrepresented groups have an equal voice in our government.

In the Legislature, I have prioritized transparency and responsive governance — starting by setting high standards for the responsiveness of my own office with constituents and transparency and inclusion in the committees I chair. I have also pushed for clear disclosure and evaluation of corporate tax incentives and grants, maintaining strong campaign finance laws, and making our annual state budget more transparent and understandable to the average citizen. As a board member of MassVote and as a state legislator, I also helped win legislation creating automatic voter registration and early voting processes.

As Governor, I will continue championing transparency, accessibility, and accountability in state government and ensuring underrepresented communities have an equal seat at the table. That starts by instituting permanent vote-by-mail, same day voter registration, and increasing ballot access in jails and prisons and for returning citizens, all of which I've fought for in the Legislature.

I will also establish systems to ensure that the voices and interests of historically underrepresented groups are more equitably represented in state government through appointments, hiring, and commission structures. I've made this a priority throughout my work, dating back to 2011 when I served as Vice Chair of the MA Senate's Redistricting Committee and successfully advocated to increase the number of legislative districts in which the majority of the population was comprised of people of color.

I will also implement through the executive branch a wide variety of good government reforms, including maintaining our strong campaign finance laws, reducing the process and paperwork barriers to obtaining assistance (for example, leveraging technology to close our "SNAP gap"), and promoting more transparency and accessibility in state government.

2. Public Records Law. Massachusetts is the only state where the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the Judiciary claim full exemptions from the public records laws. Would you support eliminating these exemptions? (Y/N)

YES. In principle I support eliminating some of these exemptions. I will, however, want to study this issue further to determine the likely ramifications of such rule changes on each branch and identify any reasonable limits that should be retained to ensure business can be conducted functionally.

I have long supported expanding transparency, including supporting the 2016 public records reform law and consistently advocating to change the Legislature's rules to make committee votes a matter of public record. I have also made publicly-available committee votes the standard practice of every

committee I've ever chaired, even when the legislature's rules have remained silent on the issue and the public records law has shielded other committees from this requirement.

3. **Diversity in Public Boards and Commissions. What steps would you take to increase the diversity on public boards and commissions?**

In addition to making sure my administration's staff and cabinet is representative of the real racial, gender, and economic make-up of our Commonwealth, I will issue directives to ensure that all of my administration's appointees to public boards and commissions are equally representative. I will also support requirements for public boards and commissions to meet baseline metrics for representation.

4. **Removing Barriers to Running. The cost of child care can prove prohibitive to parents seeking to run for office. Would you support legislation to explicitly allow parents running for office to use campaign funds to pay for child care? (Y/N)**

YES. I'm a longtime supporter of this legislation.

5. **Voting Access. Massachusetts lags behind other states in making voting accessible for all. Do you support the following policies to increase voter participation?**

a. **Election Day Registration, i.e., eliminating the 20-day voter registration cutoff? (Y/N)**

YES. I'm a longtime supporter of this legislation.

b. **The expansion of early voting to municipal elections and primaries? (Y/N)**

YES.

c. **The expansion of opportunities to vote-by-mail (namely, mailing every eligible voter a ballot)? (Y/N)**

YES.

6. **Jail-Based Voting. Individuals incarcerated with non-felony convictions maintain the right to vote, but that right often does not exist in practice. As Governor, would you commit to requiring DOC and HOC officials to provide all eligible voters with mail ballot applications, materials on candidates, and access to private voting; appoint a staff person to ensure timely transmission and return of all voting materials, ballot applications and ballots, and make public reports on voting in prisons/jails, including numbers of eligible incarcerated people and rates of participation? (Y/N)**

YES. I'm lead sponsor of the VOICE Act, which makes jails and prisons automatic voter registration sites, similar to the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

7. **Voting Rights Restoration. Would you support restoring the franchise to**

incarcerated individuals serving time for felony convictions (Their right to vote was taken away by ballot twenty years ago)? (Y/N)

YES.

8. **Reining in Big Tech. Tech companies have outsized power, threatening both individual rights and our democratic process. What would you do to rein in the power of big tech and to empower ordinary users of modern technologies to assert control over their privacy and personal information?**

Issues surrounding the use of personal information and internet privacy become increasing concerns for users across the globe. I support expanding regulations surrounding tech companies' use of personal information, and I will want to gather more information and guidance from open-source tech experts, good government and privacy advocates, and legal experts to learn about what measures Massachusetts could pursue at the state level.

At the same time, I believe that government can become the new standard bearer for privacy and responsible data use. I believe in building government information and data systems that are private and trustworthy in ways we all want but don't know how to ask for. My administration will start by pursuing data systems that provide residents:

- Access to view the information the state government has about them.
- Notifications when that personal information is shared with other parties or government agencies, including details about when that information is shared, with whom it's shared, and for what purpose it is shared.
- Control of data sharing permissions where sharing personal information is discretionary, including the ability to grant and revoke consent to share personal information with other parties or agencies. In laying out my policy agenda to strengthen our democracy, I've been very clear: big social media companies are breaking our democracy. By enabling misinformation to spread like wildfire, these companies are eroding our information ecosystem and voters' access to the tools they need for decision-making. In our Democracy Agenda we propose to tax the targeted advertising revenue earned by social media companies and to use that to fund local journalism. I also will work with our Congressional delegation to achieve national policies to strengthen privacy protection. In addition, I would support data dignity initiatives at the state-level. To this end, I would support MA legislation that would establish public interest standards and duties of care around various kinds of harm and privacy violations in the use of data by any technology company; (ii) hold executives accountable for whether their companies meet those standards through standard Attorney General structures; and (iii) bring citizens into participatory panels in both helping to set the standards tech companies should be held to and in evaluating whether those standards have been adequately respected..

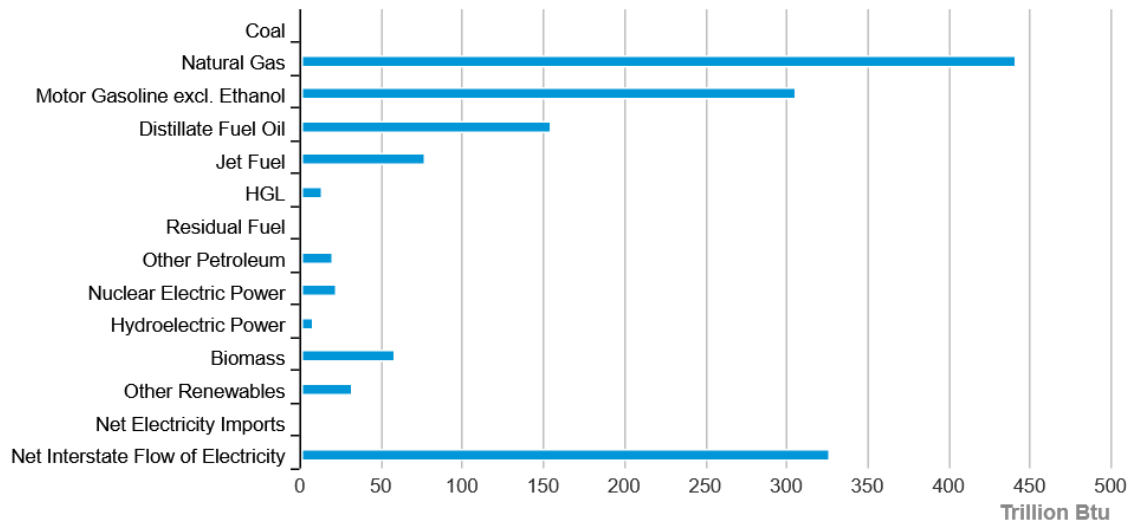
H. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

As a coastal state, Massachusetts will be hit particularly hard by climate change, but we are not responding with the necessary urgency. In order to avoid catastrophic climate change, global carbon emissions need to be [halved by 2030](#) and brought to net zero by 2050, and affluent countries and states must go further. In 2016, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the state has failed to meet its legal obligation to set and enforce annual limits on greenhouse gas emissions as outlined in the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act. Setting and reaching these goals will require the decarbonization of our state economy and a transition away from fossil fuels toward clean, renewable sources of energy. In light of congressional gridlock at the federal level, state government must take a role in incentivizing reduced carbon usage and assisting in coordination between agencies and moving forward local government understanding of looming climate threats.

Public transit must play a role in decarbonizing our transportation system, as well as advancing complementary goals of equity and inclusion. However, Massachusetts politicians have lost their understanding of public transit as a public good that benefits all residents and businesses in Massachusetts, not just those who use it in their daily lives. The greatest evidence of this is their neglect of the MBTA: its debt has grown to nearly [\\$5 billion](#), and it would need [more than \\$10 billion](#) to bring infrastructure and equipment up to a state of good repair. Regional Transit Authorities that serve communities, including Gateway Cities across the state, face enormous capital needs as well.

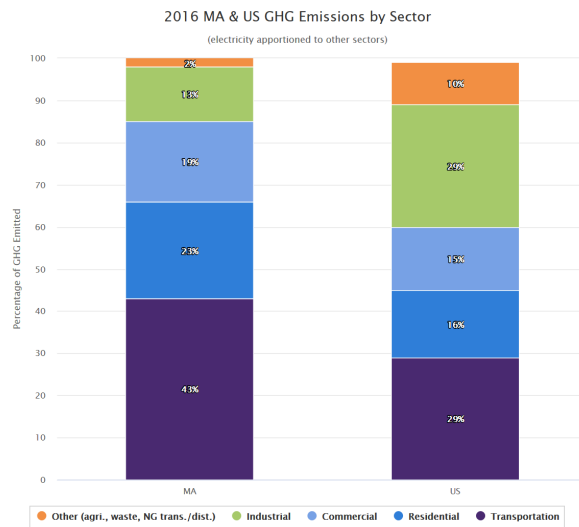
Despite recent progress, Massachusetts is still overwhelmingly dependent on fossil fuels.

Massachusetts Energy Consumption Estimates, 2019



Source: Energy Information Administration, State Energy Data System

Transportation is currently the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in MA.



(Source: <http://www.mass.gov>)

1. Please explain your principles and proposals relative to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).

Climate change is an existential threat to our state, our country, and our world — and it's not just coming, it's already here. Climate change touches nearly every problem we face today and threatens the future of our families and communities.

Massachusetts should meet this moment and lead the nation in protecting our planet, greening our infrastructure and creating good jobs with a Green New Deal for our state, and standing with communities of color to fight the disproportionate impacts of climate change and build generational wealth in the green economy.

When it comes to winning the fight against climate change, the reality is that we aren't limited by natural resources, technology or public opinion in Massachusetts. Our biggest obstacle? A lack of urgency from elected and appointed leaders to take action when it's uncomfortable, including bucking the interests of the fossil fuel industry, in order to forge a new future for our state.

During my time in the Legislature, I've stood up to the fossil fuel industry and led the charge for environmental justice. I was proud to support key legislation to commit the state to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and write environmental justice into Massachusetts law. This session, I also organized 28 legislators to call for ending state incentives for new fossil fuel infrastructure. I've also fought for legislation to create equitable access to solar energy and protect communities that have been disproportionately impacted by pollution.

As Governor, I will continue the fight for urgent action on climate change, including:

- Passing a [Massachusetts Green New Deal](#) to build our new green energy economy, electrify our infrastructure across the state, and create good jobs with family-sustaining wages.
- Meeting Massachusetts' electricity needs with 100% renewable, carbon-free energy by 2030.
- Eliminating all carbon emissions from new buildings by 2030 and transition existing buildings to become zero-carbon by 2045.
- Decarbonizing, expanding, and making fare-free public transit to reduce fossil fuel emissions and build a 21st century transit system to connect communities across our state.
- Vetoing all tax credits and government support for new fossil fuel infrastructure.
- Eliminating barriers to renewable energy faced by low-income communities and communities of color.

2. **Next Generation Roadmap. At the start of this legislative session, the Legislature passed a bill that requires gross emissions reductions of 50% from 1990 levels by 2030, 75% by 2040, and at least 85% by 2050. How do you plan to achieve—or exceed—these targets?**

To protect the health of our communities and build a sustainable, prosperous future, as Governor, I will establish a 100% clean electricity standard for all suppliers in the Commonwealth by 2030. My administration will also work closely with the New England grid operator and other New England states to transition our grid, while investing in the development of clean energy sources through the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center.

A combination of onshore and offshore wind and large- and small-scale solar, together with energy storage, is capable of meeting all of our energy needs in the Commonwealth and then some: indeed, estimates suggest that offshore wind alone could generate more than 19 times as much electricity as Massachusetts currently consumes on an annual basis. Massachusetts has all the natural resources it needs to power our future with clean, renewable power, and as Governor, I'll put our skilled workers, innovative companies and entrepreneurs, as well as the full power of the state, behind building that better future.

3. **100% Renewable Energy. Scientists have argued that, with existing technologies, the US could supply 100% of energy needs with renewable sources. What would you set as a target year for achieving 100% renewable-sourced electricity in Massachusetts, and how would you achieve this goal?**

See above.

4. **Rooftop Solar. Would you support requiring that all new construction be built to accommodate solar energy installations? (Y/N)**

YES. My administration will push to amend our state building codes to require rooftop solar panels be installed on all new buildings where feasible at the time of

construction, as California did in 2018. We will also eliminate all carbon emissions from new buildings by 2030 and transition existing buildings to become zero-carbon by 2045.

5. **Fossil Fuel Infrastructure. Do you oppose the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure in the state? (Y/N) If so, what steps would you take to do so?**

YES. As governor, I will aggressively use the regulatory vehicles available to state government — including new tools to protect environmental justice populations written into recent legislation — to block fossil fuel infrastructure. I will also reform the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to prioritize and expedite our transition to clean energy while protecting low-income consumers and environmental justice populations.

I also will support reforming the Energy Facilities Siting Board to better protect the health of families in environmental justice populations and to expedite the development of responsibly-sited clean energy projects that reduce air pollution and mitigate climate impacts, while ensuring that any burdens from the new, necessary, electrical infrastructure are shared equitably and do not perpetuate environmental injustice across the Commonwealth. Finally, I will prioritize environmental justice populations as the state invests in new safer, affordable, clean energy technologies, to ensure that those who paid the greatest price for our fossil fuel economy reap the benefits of the new clean energy economy first.

6. **Just Transition. Do you support the creation of a Just Transition Office to assist workers that are displaced in the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy? (Y/N)**

YES.

7. **Electrifying Public Transit. In Massachusetts, 43 percent of GHG emissions in 2016 came from transportation infrastructure and vehicles. Tackling this will require a shift away from cars and toward public transit, as well as electrification of both. What would be your target dates for the full electrification of...?**

- a. **the MBTA bus fleet?** 2030
- b. **the MBTA rail system?** 2040
- c. **the Regional Transit Authority bus fleets?** 2040

8. **Free Public Transit. Do you support making public transit in the Commonwealth fare-free? (Y/N) If so, how would you do so?**

YES. My first budget proposal as Governor will include funding to remove fares from MBTA and RTA buses immediately. I will also lead the charge to identify additional sources of funding — such as repealing tax breaks for corporations that shift their income to off-shore accounts — to transition to a completely fare-free MBTA.

9. **Regional Transportation Funding. The unavailability of state funds for infrastructure spending has meant the deterioration of regional transportation systems. Do you support allowing municipalities to place a question on the ballot**

to raise revenue for local and regional transportation projects? (Y/N)

YES.

10. Reducing Congestion & Emissions. Boston was recently ranked the fourth most congested city in the US. What is your plan to reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled in the Commonwealth?

My administration will stabilize and expand our public transit systems statewide to reduce traffic congestion and fossil fuel emissions — including developing East-West Rail to knit the whole state together and a robust Regional Rail system. We can accomplish the latter by revamping our Commuter Rail system into a frequent, electrified regional rail, providing all-day 15-minute to 30-minute train service. We also must increase operating budgets at the RTAs and MBTA to ensure they have the staffing necessary to plan for and execute both electrification and service expansion. These interventions will make trains a substantially more viable option for thousands of commuters. I will also work with local and community leaders to address displacement concerns, and ensure that transit expansion and associated development benefit existing residents while also attracting sustainable growth and development.

We will also incentivize use of public transit by moving to a fare-free system. To avert climate impacts for residents in every region and cut down on traffic, our state must do all it can to encourage use of public transit.

In addition to expanding public transit options, I will support strong investment in shared streets programs that promote walking and biking infrastructure and ensure equitable access to that infrastructure. I will work with cities and towns to think creatively about street improvements like bus/bike lanes and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) that can cut down commuting times. I'll also support local leaders in the public and private sectors working toward transit-oriented development that prevents sprawl, promotes walking and biking, and creates vibrant, connected communities..

III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Limit answer to 150 words or fewer.

Use this space to add any other issues important to your vision for Massachusetts or any other matter you think progressive voters should know about your candidacy.

We need leaders who are ready to take on tough fights when it matters, not just when it's politically convenient. We need leaders who don't just call themselves progressive or a racial justice advocate, but who'll back it up with action. I didn't get into this race because I thought it was going to be easy or because I saw a good career opportunity. I got into it because I've stood on the front lines with families across this state for my whole career, I know the urgency of the moment we're living in, and I know the future we can build together. I look forward to partnering with you in this campaign and in the Governor's office to win bold, transformational change together.