



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2022 Lt. Gubernatorial
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Tami Gouveia

Office Sought: Lieutenant Governor

Party: Democratic

Website: www.tamigouveia.com

Twitter: [@TamiGouveiaMA](https://twitter.com/TamiGouveiaMA)

Facebook: [TamiGouveiaMA](https://www.facebook.com/TamiGouveiaMA)

Instagram: [@TamiGouveiaMA](https://www.instagram.com/TamiGouveiaMA)

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 am running for Lieutenant Governor to put the health, well-being, and dignity of all residents at the heart of decision-making. I believe that in a state that is as rich in resources, history, culture, and connectedness as Massachusetts is, we should not be leaving any region or any resident in the Commonwealth behind. While growing up in the city of Lowell, my community and government had my back. But that wasn't the case for so many of my neighbors and classmates. As a young person I saw too many families suffering from the impacts of domestic violence, substance use disorder, intergenerational poverty, systemic racism, misogyny, xenophobia, assaults on unions, and the erosion of a strong social safety net. These observations both frightened me and instilled in me a deep sense of empathy that motivated me to want to work with other community members to understand the root causes of some of our most pressing problems and to implement cost-effective solutions to prevent suffering, disease, and premature death. I have spent the last 25 years of my public health social work career doing just that.

As Lieutenant Governor, I will leverage my experience as a single mother, a policymaker, a social worker and organizer, and a doctor of public health to lead collaborative problem-solving efforts to address our state's most complex problems, including:

- An equitable response to and just recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic
- Humane and affordable housing for every resident in the Commonwealth
- A mental health and behavioral health system that adequately supports our residents and that meets the intervention and treatment needs of our diverse population
- Bold climate policies to meet the ambition the crisis warrants

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

While growing up in the city of Lowell, I committed myself to being of service to my community. As a young person, I witnessed the impacts that systemic racism, income inequality and intergenerational poverty, and other social injustices had on my neighbors, classmates, and their families. Several traumatic childhood experiences instilled in me a deep sense of empathy and a desire to prevent human suffering, shame and isolation, illness, and premature death. Because I don't come from a family that is politically-connected, wealthy, or influential, I put off my desire to go into elected office. Instead, I became a public health social worker and became deeply engaged in collaborative problem-solving efforts at several Massachusetts-based non-profit organizations. I have led environmental health policy research projects, programs to foster positive youth development and to prevent youth substance use, on strategic interventions to end the opioid epidemic, and capacity building processes for equitable health and well-being. Within the span of 13 years, I went from being an unemployed single parent to getting

elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives and finishing a doctorate in public health.

As a single parent, I experienced first-hand how our policies and systems do not use a human-centered approach that prioritizes our health, well-being, and dignity. Far too often the programs that are supposed to help working families get through an economic or personal hardship fall far short of meeting their mission because program design elements prioritize bureaucratic efficiencies and have chosen privatized approaches that center shareholder returns and corporate greed over principles of equity and accessibility. After the 2008 recession, I was laid off and experienced the economic hardship of surviving on unemployment benefits for nine months. For several years I could only afford a grocery budget of \$60 per week for my two children and me. The struggles that so many of our low-income families and families of color have been experiencing for decades I have also experienced. But I was able to get back on my feet with little government support. I also have immense privilege because I am a white, educated woman who was born in this country.

Throughout my career I have managed non-profit programs that identified new funding streams to diversify our staff, portfolio, and expand operations. I learned that when young people are supported to make healthy decisions, they make positive choices that benefit themselves, their families, and our communities. I believe that we must constantly invest in our young people. That is why I initiated several public health efforts to prevent youth substance use and to increase access to addiction treatment.

In 2007, I founded the Lowell Roundtable on Substance Abuse Prevention in partnership with the Lowell City Manager, Superintendent of Police and health and public health agencies. This was so early in the opioid crisis when police, public health experts, social and racial justice advocates, and non-profit leaders espoused different (and oftentimes stigmatizing) perspectives about people with substance use disorder. We worked through some of those differences when I was the chair in the first year, and we leveraged our collective efforts to secure \$1million in federal and state funding. We implemented policies and programs to support our young people and increased access to treatment. The coalition exists to this day under the Greater Lowell Health Alliance.

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

I believe that the general Massachusetts population ([not unlike national voters](#)) supports progressive policies, such a Medicare for All, universal childcare, debt-free higher education, but that there are several dynamic factors interacting in the system that protect how power is concentrated. This has led to an unchallenged status quo in House and Senate leadership. The general population is not able to easily engage in the legislative process, while special interests have direct access and more influence. It appears that the outsized influence that money plays in our elections have turned many voters off from elections and politics altogether. Candidates, campaigns, and elected officials focus more on building their war chests and talking to super voters than they do

to engaging new, young, and disheartened voters and voters of color. This means that if residents are not engaged in elections, then they are less likely to engage in trying to pass public policy. It also means that legislators are less likely to pay attention to the issues that matter most to those who are not able to engage in the process. Over the past several decades, as voter turnout has declined our state has experienced growing income inequality, rising costs in healthcare, education, transportation, and housing, putting more pressure on residents to earn enough money to keep up with basic expenses. Massachusetts residents are working harder and longer hours just to get by, leaving little time for them to learn about policy proposals and to navigate our oft opaque legislative process on policies that they support but don't have time to weigh in on. This, tied with the perception that Massachusetts is a liberal state and "everything is fine here" means that many citizens do not feel a sense of urgency to engage and become involved in elections and in advocating for progressive policies that could lead to their passage.

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

I believe that there are tremendous opportunities in climate, transportation, housing, and other areas of public health for municipalities to lead and innovate. Unfortunately, state law pre-empts local-level authority in some areas of policy; therefore, I support taking action at the state level to eliminate barriers that prevent progressive policy from being enacted at the local level. That is why I filed legislation to enable municipalities to [lower the voting age](#) for municipal elections and town meeting. Similarly, I filed [legislation](#) to lower greenhouse gas emissions by allowing municipalities the option to pass all-electric buildings and homes ordinances.

I also believe that state leaders can better support our municipal leaders with technical assistance and investments in infrastructure, housing, healthcare, climate mitigation, social services, and education. Many of our smaller towns are often left to their own devices without adequate financial and technical support. State government could offer support for smaller towns to allow them to hire grant writers, public health staff, and planners to augment the myriad ways they support their residents locally.

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

I would like Massachusetts to adopt a model for universal pre-K similar to what has been implemented in [Alabama](#). Alabama ranks among the highest in the nation for quality of pre-K programming and meets all 10 benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research.

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?

I would approach passing universal pre-K as I would many policy priorities – by building

the political will through organizing, building on work that has already been underway, and by expanding multi-sector networks and working groups to ensure the inclusion of more diverse perspectives and the expertise of experts and families with lived experience. Charrettes, narratives about “we” and “us”, other human-centered design exercises can help to identify innovative approaches and solutions to some of the most complex problems we are facing, including the need for high-quality, affordable, accessible child care and universal pre-K. To get Massachusetts to adopt universal pre-K, I would engage leaders and members of the Common Start Coalition and the other social service, racial justice, economic justice, and other advocacy organizations that have been working on this issue for years. I would engage the various types of pre-K programs (i.e., private, non-profit/for-profit, home-based, and publicly-funded childcare and pre-K centers) to leverage their expertise. I would also engage business owners, pre-K teachers, parents, social workers, pediatricians, and other professionals to help make the case for universal pre-K. I would engage economists and other experts to help make the case for total cost savings and benefits of closing educational opportunity gaps between Black, brown, immigrant and low-income students with their White, wealthier counterparts. I believe that when we create opportunities for businesses to lead the way in being a part of social solutions, we can dislodge the places where power is “stuck” and held tightly in the legislature. We know that more women being engaged in the workplace they build stronger economic factors for everyone. We need to make it easier for women and single parents to be in the workforce. Working with the federal delegation can help us secure federal funding to support a strong childcare and preK infrastructure. In addition, it will be important to explore how revenues from Fair Share can be used to support early childhood and universal pre-K. This next generation of children, perhaps more than any other before it, deserves and may even require our investment.

7. What do you view as the primary role of the office of Lt. Governor, and how would you seek to communicate that to voters?

Under the state Constitution, the Lt. Governor stands in for the Governor when they are out of state and serves as an ex-officio member of the Governor’s Council. In this capacity, I will work with the Governor and the Council to ensure that we hold ourselves accountable to standards of equity and justice in selecting judges, parole board members, and other appointees that come under the purview of the Council. This includes expanding the criteria of qualifications for judges and parole board members to include understanding of the role that systemic racism, intergenerational poverty, and childhood trauma play in crime.

I believe there is tremendous opportunity and a pivotal role for the Lt. Governor to play in helping lead our state in addressing our most pressing and complex problems. In my first 100 days I will create five working groups:

1. A COVID response that centers health equity, economic development, and a just Economic recovery
2. Humane and affordable housing for all residents

3. Early childhood education, childcare, and lifelong learning
4. Accessible, respectful, and affordable mental health and behavioral health treatment
5. Environmental health and climate justice

These working groups will be comprised of people across the state with lived experience and subject matter expertise. A mix of methods will be used to seek meaningful community input into these critical issues. Through a series of charrettes and human-centered design exercises we will identify areas of agreement and discordance, explore the root causes of problems, and create shared agreement on solutions that put our people, families, and small businesses at the center of interventions, programs, and policies.

I will work with the Governor to ensure that all secretariats have a written plan for how they will foster health equity and climate justice in their programs, plans, and funding priorities.

I would also like to lead engagement with the other New England states that are represented in ISO New England. This is an opportunity to ensure collaboration on climate solutions that are urgently needed.

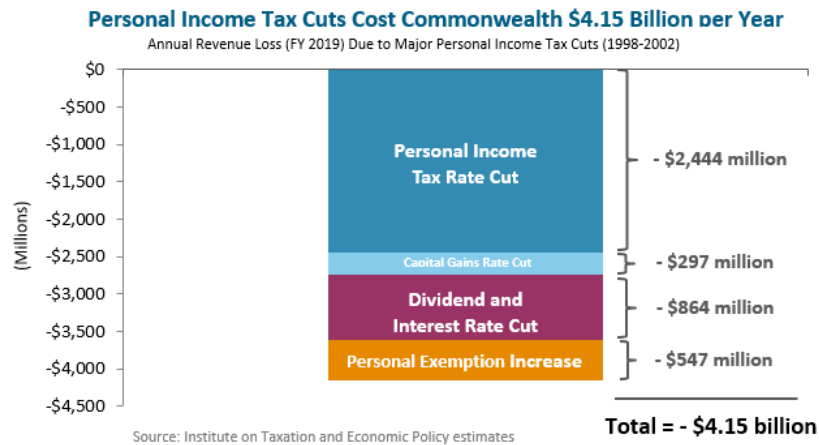
Every day, I am asked about the role of the Lieutenant Governor. I have incorporated educating voters about the position in each of these conversations and I will continue to offer a clear understanding and vision of the role and the opportunities it offers to serve the people of the Commonwealth.

II. The Issues

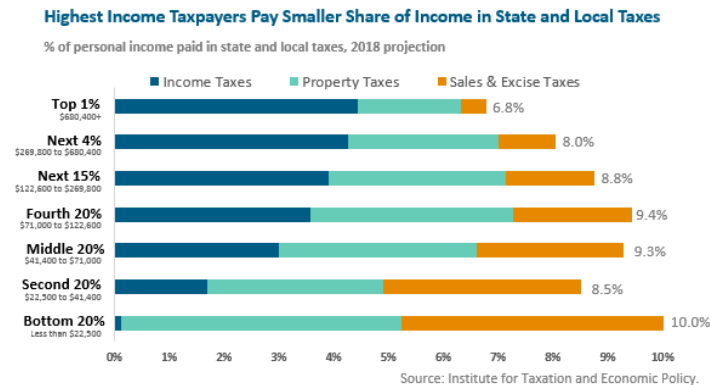
A. Revenue and Taxation

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.).

I believe that our state can and should be doing more to address income inequality and to make investments in humane housing, a clean and healthy natural environment, safe and thriving neighborhoods, healthcare for all, opportunities for lifelong learning, safe recreation, opportunities to volunteer and engage in organizations that provide meaningful connections, and jobs that provide fulfilling work, a living wage, and to build wealth. Investments in our Gateway cities, small cities, and rural areas, especially outside the 495 Beltway, are critical to ensuring the longer-term viability and sustainability of the state. I believe that everyone must pay their fair share to support the conditions that support a healthy and sustainable Commonwealth for families here now and future generations.

I have taken this perspective and my responsibility to create change seriously and am a sponsor of all of Progressive Mass' priority legislation to address fair taxation and income inequality.

In addition, in the Fall 2019 to Winter 2020 of the 191st Session, I chaired a sub-committee of the Progressive Caucus to prepare our members for the transportation revenue and bond bills we would be voting on in the House in late Winter of 2020. Through a series of member surveys, meetings, and prioritization exercises, we came to agreement on several policies to create shared responsibility for transformative investments in mass transit and all modes of transportation. Through our collective work, we prioritized progressive options, such as **GILTI, increasing and tiering the corporate minimum tax, creating a corporate excise tax, and increasing the capital gains tax**, while advocating for moving away from regressive, user-fee based models of revenue. Specifically, I, and others, advocated with chairs of the Revenue, Ways and Means, and Transportation Committees (through letters and Caucus meetings) for adjusting and tiering the corporate minimum tax. The House bill ([H.4530](#)) which we passed on March 9, 2020 included this recommended provision. In addition, I filed two amendments to the bill. [Amendment 70](#) would have maintained the sales and use tax on rolling stock and [Amendment 72](#) would have closed a loophole to address transportation equity.

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.

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.

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.

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)**

YES.

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

YES.

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 would re-invest these funds in socially responsible entities that foster equity for women businesses and businesses owned by immigrants and people of color and that help us achieve our climate goals.

B. Jobs and the Economy

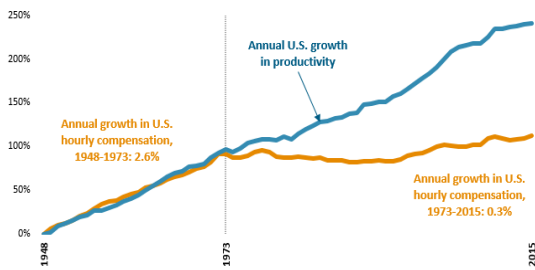
Massachusetts ranks as one of the top ten [most unequal states](#), as the gains from economic growth have disproportionately benefited the already well-off. Compounding this, we are one of the most expensive states in the country for [health care](#), [housing](#), and [child care](#), all of which 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.

A Large Gap Has Opened Between Wage and Productivity Growth Since 1973

Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015

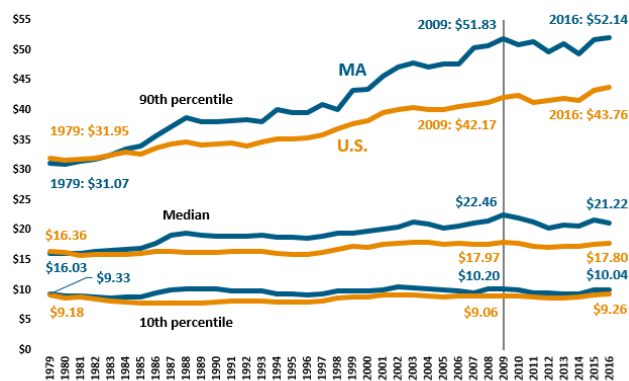


Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of unpublished Total Economy Productivity data from Bureau of Labor Statistics' Labor Productivity and Costs program, wage data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Cost Trends data, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis' National Income and Product Accounts
Note: Wages are the inflation-adjusted average hourly compensation of private-sector production/nonsupervisory workers.

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

Wages For Most MA Workers Have Stagnated Since Great Recession

Real Value of Hourly Wage for Selected Wage-Earning Groups in MA and U.S., 1979-2016 (2016\$)



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey data (deflated using CPI-U-RS).

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.)

I believe in creating opportunities for meaningful work that provides a living wage and opportunities to build wealth. For far too long our residents of color have been left behind and out of wealth-building opportunities. I believe that home ownership is an important pathway to building intergenerational wealth, but that we also must invest in other ways to support wealth-building for historically marginalized populations. This includes investing in women, immigrant, and minority-owned businesses with technical assistance, grant programs, preference in contracting, and other incentives. I am a co-sponsor and strong advocate for wage theft legislation, one fair wage policies, Medicare for All, universal pre-K, the Common Start legislation, and other policies to support our working families, especially low- and moderate-income families, and to re-establish opportunities for upward mobility.

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?

I believe that corporations wishing to develop or relocate to Massachusetts must be committed to protecting the health, environment, and safety needs of our residents and families. Impacts on public safety, municipal and state roads, traffic congestion, environmental justice, housing and transportation, and considerations of impacts on overall quality of life of abutters must be taken into account when considering any major projects and contract negotiations.

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?

I believe we can create incentives and other opportunities to re-develop mill buildings across the Commonwealth, especially outside the 495 Beltway. These buildings can be repurposed to offer intergenerational, mixed use, and mixed income housing with different designs to meet the diverse living, business, recreational, shopping, and healthcare needs of community members. Mill space and other abandoned properties can be rehabilitated to meet emerging business and technology development needs, for example for light manufacturing, advanced manufacturing, mechatronics, R&D for clean energy and storage technologies, and other fields that incorporate STEAM learning.

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?

I believe in supporting our small business associations that serve women, LGBTQ+ business owners, and business owners of color. Incorporating enhancements to SOWMBA is one mechanism I support to close the racial and ethnic wealth gap that persists in our state, in addition to providing additional technical assistance, no-interest loans, and other financial supports to support wealth building of

communities of color through small business support.

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)

YES.

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?

As the Lieutenant Governor I will have the opportunity speak publicly about worker protections, my support for the labor movement and fair work practices. In addition, I will advocate for Medicare for All, unemployment, paid time off, and other financial benefits to support our working families, especially in the middle of an economic, public health, and mental health crisis.

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

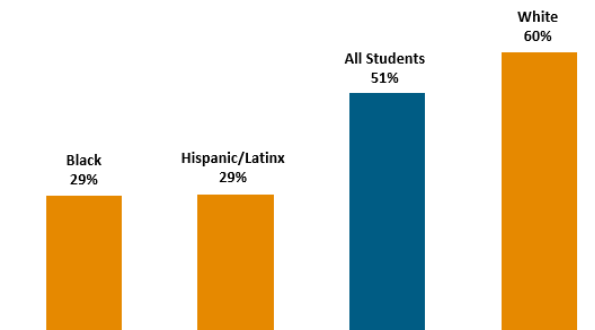
The promise of public education has always been as a gateway to opportunity and mobility for all, regardless of economic circumstances, a cornerstone of the American dream for all residents. Although our public education system gets high marks overall, it remains one of the [most unequal](#) in the country. 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

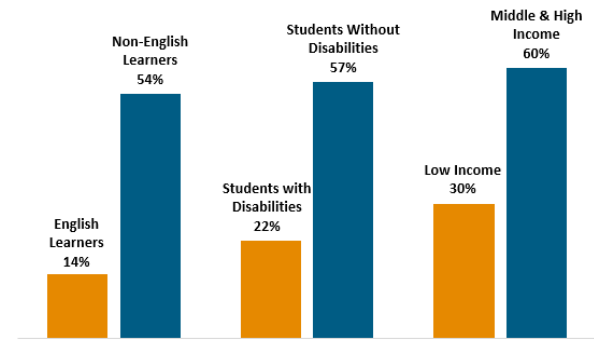
Share of MA 4th Graders Proficient on the 2017 NAEP Reading Exam, by Student Race, all students



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

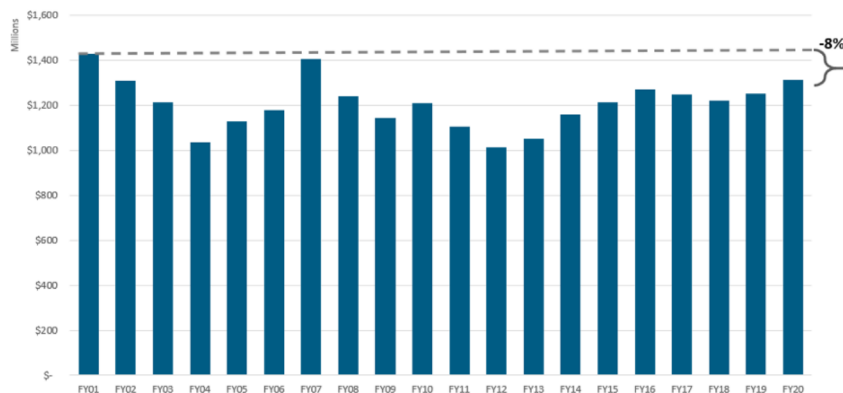


Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2017

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.).**

I believe that human beings are wired for lifelong learning and that every resident has the right to a high quality, affordable education across their lifetime. This includes state and local investments in early education/universal pre-K, K-12 education, technology and innovation learning, debt-free higher education, and opportunities for adult education and community programming. I grew up in Lowell and have seen firsthand how the suburb I currently reside offers a myriad of community-based learning experiences compared to what is offered in many of our Gateway, rural, and small cities.

- 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? (Y/N)**

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 was proud to vote for the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) last session and to bring together colleagues during the early days of the pandemic to advocate collectively for adequate funding and other support for our teachers, students, and staff. This

included advocating for fully funding the first year of the SOA as was the intention before the pandemic hit. As Lieutenant Governor I will work with the Governor to accelerate annual payments to our school districts in order to meet the funding goals laid out in the legislation.

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)**

YES.

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.

- 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.

6. **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 believe it is important to look at each community's experience with receivership individually because each community has different needs, strengths, and impacts. As Lieutenant Governor I would want to know how receivership affects students, teachers, parents, and community members and how each stakeholder group is engaged in the process. Many of the school districts that have been in receivership or that are at-risk of going into receivership are diverse cities and have been impacted by the flight of manufacturing jobs and a tax base beyond residential taxes that employers provide. I believe that in looking at school funding it is also critical to ensure that we are making investments in housing, transportation, jobs, and the broader community to help schools and students succeed.

7. **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.

8. **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)**

YES.

9. **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?**

As a public health social worker, I am increasingly concerned about the mental health workforce shortage and our slow response to support the mental health needs of our population, especially those of our students. As Lieutenant Governor I will work with the Governor and thought partners to devise a set of strategies, funding plans, and programs to achieve mental health parity for our social workers and clinicians, to shore up our workforce, and to increase student access to mental health support in schools. I co-sponsored legislation to require mental health education along with physical education and I filed legislation to allow students to take mental health days. Both these bills will decrease stigma by normalizing the need for all students to take care of their mental health needs and will therefore, encourage students to seek help for anxiety, depression, and stress.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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.

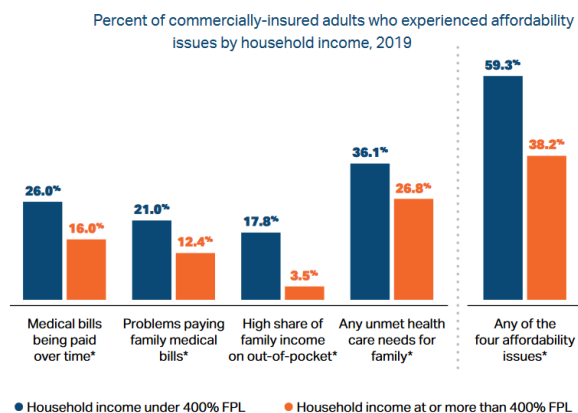
<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/average-new-car-prices-up-nearly-4-percent-year-over-year-for-may-2019-according-to-kelley-blue-book-300860710.html>

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.).**

When I was just 13 years old my 19-year old cousin got into a car accident in Canada that left her a quadriplegic. She was in a coma for a year and required extensive surgeries and medical care. Had the accident occurred in the United States, my aunt and uncle would undoubtedly have had to claim medical bankruptcy. But, because the accident happened in Canada, they could focus on taking care of my cousin and her medical needs because they have a universal system for healthcare. This experience left such an impression on me that I have been a proponent of single payer healthcare ever since. It is why I co-sponsored the Medicare for All legislation, co-chaired the Caucus last session, and have advocated for the bill with colleagues and constituents. I believe that single payer healthcare will reduce the burden of medical debt, lead to better health outcomes at reduced costs, and help our small businesses better compete with large corporations. Countries that have a single payer system also have better reproductive care, behavioral health and mental health care, dental and eye care, and support for families and individuals needing assistive devices.

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)

YES.

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)**

YES.

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?**

I would rate the state leadership's overall response to the pandemic as a C-. Our vaccination rates are in spite of government action, not because of it and far too many of our families of color, immigrant residents, low-income families, and people with disabilities and elders were left scrambling to access life-saving tools and resources to protect themselves. Our state leadership's inaction, our lack of planning for an equitable roll-out of vaccines and tests, the pre-existing overcrowded housing and neighborhood conditions, and the lack of worker protections contributed to COVID-19 surges, especially in our Gateway and small cities, leading to thousands of infections and more than 20,000 preventable deaths.

As Lieutenant Governor I would have advised the Governor to utilize our local health departments and public health experts across the state in our pandemic response rather than mass vaccination sites. I would have called for investments in staff and other resources to support local access to PPEs, testing, and vaccinations to better serve our low-income, immigrant, and families of color, as well as seniors and essential workers. Throughout the pandemic, I would have consulted with trusted local leaders and trusted messengers, such as community health workers, faith-based leaders, local housing authority personnel, local bodegas and small businesses, and other trusted community members of color to conduct outreach to our most marginalized residents. I also would have engaged our nursing home and home health aide staff early and throughout the pandemic to advise them on how to protect themselves, guests, and visitors. Engaging the most vulnerable and marginalized populations early on and throughout the pandemic in multiple languages and through in-person, radio, and other media could have helped establish the level of trust needed for individuals of color to accept the vaccine and booster shots given our history of medical racism and harm.

As a doctor of public health, I was among the first to call on state leadership to restrict school and business operations, while also advocating for cash assistance

to our families so that they would be able to pay for their housing, food, transportation, and energy bills. I would have ensured that our local health departments were supported and had the financial and personnel resources and vaccines they needed to give the vaccine at local public health clinics and at school locations rather than the mass vaccination sites, which posed too many health risks and financial, time, and transportation barriers to our seniors, low-income families, and families without family or transportation.

I started to consult with infectious disease experts and testing experts in December of 2020. I drafted legislation in early 2021 and sought input from parents, teachers, social service agencies, hospitals, restaurant owners, and small business owners, including Black-owned businesses. I refined the legislation based on their input and filed [H3780](#) in May 2021. I met with the Baker Administration in May to advocate for the use of rapid tests in schools and community settings and then penned a [letter that was signed by 200+ residents advocating for a rapid testing plan](#), including the purchasing of rapid tests, roll-out of educational programming in multiple languages to teach residents about the purpose and value of the tests, how to use the tests, and how to interpret results. I filed an [amendment to the ARPA bill](#) advocating again for investments in rapid tests and then to the Supplemental budget the House voted on this month to include outreach and [language justice and the purchase of rapid tests for our small businesses](#).

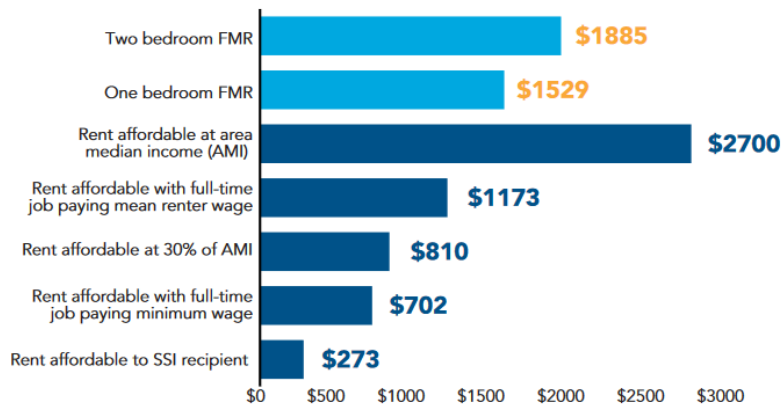
8. **Public Health. What are the main lessons you would take from the state's experience with the COVID-19 pandemic in order to put our state on a stronger public health footing for future crises, especially as relates to protecting the state's most at-risk populations?**

I am grateful that we are investing in our local public health infrastructure with passage of SAPHE legislation [Statewide Accelerated Public Health for Every Community Act]. However, there is much more we can do to support the health, well-being, and dignity of our residents in the face of a global public health crisis. Maintaining a commitment and action plan to ensure equitable access to information, resources, and tools to protect one's health and the health of their families and communities is central to protecting the state's most at-risk populations. Ensuring worker protections, financial support for working families in the face of job losses and underemployment is also critical. Information must be disseminated through trusted organizations and utilizing a variety of media, languages, and other outreach strategies (i.e., street fairs, housing authorities, faith leaders). Finally, we must invest in our social service agencies who know how to build and maintain trust. Communities that had trusted community leaders providing information and access to vaccine and test kits saw better outcomes, vaccine uptake, and reduced risk of infection. We have known for decades that investing in trusted social service agencies would pay dividends. We need to create and invest in this infrastructure to address the housing, mental health, and climate crisis that we will undoubtedly face in the near future.

E. Housing

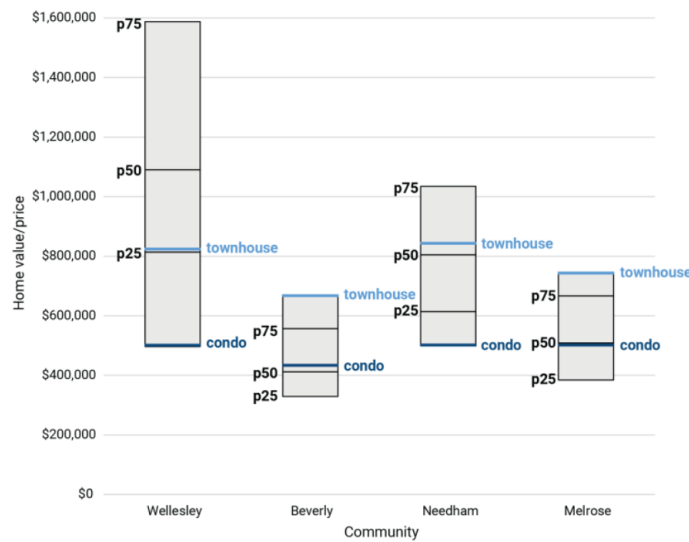
Massachusetts has a lot to offer, but that does little if people can't afford to live here. The [US News & World Report's annual state rankings](#) put Massachusetts at #40 in housing affordability (and #47 in cost of living). A worker earning minimum wage in Massachusetts would have to work [87 hours 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). **B** 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.).

I believe that housing is a human right and that every resident in the Commonwealth deserves to live in safe, humane, and affordable housing. In 1995, I conducted a research study on the housing stock in Lowell and found that female-headed households were much more likely to live in unsafe and expensive housing that put their children at risk for asthma, lead poisoning and falls. As an employee of the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center for 10 years I witnessed even worse housing conditions. And, as I travel the state I can see the regions and Gateway and small cities across the state where we have not kept up our investments. As Lieutenant Governor I will convene a working group to address the urgent need to house every resident in our state and to address the longer-term issue of our housing shortage. This includes bringing in experts who can inform legislation around the use of private and public data to boost sales prices that are making it impossible for our seniors to stay in their homes, young families to purchase their first home, and renters to stay in affordable and safe housing units. In addition, I believe it is important to provide social and other services to prevent homelessness with additional financial and other supports vulnerable families need, including those experiencing domestic violence, who have a disability, have a substance use or behavioral health diagnosis, who are under- or unemployed, or previously incarcerated.

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?

I believe that everyone deserves to lay their head down at night in a safe, warm, and stable home. Complex problems, such as is the case with housing and homelessness, require us to address the urgent need to alleviate human suffering, despair, and negative impacts on health and well-being of residents NOW and to engage in long-range planning to prevent suffering and negative health outcomes in the FUTURE. I believe that we must first recognize that homelessness and encampments are a statewide problem that require state-level action in partnership with municipalities and local and state agencies. Homelessness is more dire than we realize because it goes unseen; many families are couch-surfing or doubling and tripling up because they can't afford rents. As Lieutenant Governor, I will form a working group/council to identify the housing and homelessness needs of residents across the state to quickly implement universal and targeted solutions to secure supportive housing for those needing it. This must be done quickly to ensure that our veterans, single parents, those with mental health and substance use disorder, and those experiencing joblessness are treated with dignity and respect and supported in getting back on their feet. I believe that the use of jail or prison spaces are not appropriate for substance use treatment or for housing. I would extend the eviction moratorium, provide financial relief for small and owner-occupied landlords, and increase budget line items for programs such as RAFT, MLAC, and other social service agencies that work with residents to prevent eviction and homelessness. The rising cost of healthcare, food, and other goods impact one's ability to afford rent or a mortgage. Therefore, I would increase the budget for caseworkers to help eligible families apply for SNAP and other benefits, as well as increase the financial support for our food pantries and food banks. Realizing that diapers and menstrual products are expensive and cause a strain on the budgets of residents with limited incomes, I would increase financial support for these and other toiletry products so that they are reliably made available at food pantries and other social service agencies.

For long term problem-solving and homelessness prevention, it is important that we examine the role that private, for-profit developers, the real estate industry, and real estate investors play in rising housing prices and ballooning rents. The council I form in partnership with the Governor will examine the use of private data, the role and extent of investor-owned housing and retail spaces, and the impact of short-term rentals on housing costs and neighborhoods that leave many units vacant and mom and pop shops pushed out of our downtown retail spaces. Exploring the expansion of workforce housing and overall affordable housing is key. The council will explore the barriers to repurposing abandoned properties for mixed-use purposes, especially in small towns, small cities, and Gateway cities.

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.

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? What would be your priorities in doing so? (Y/N)

YES.

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.

- 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?**

It appears that an enforcement mechanism [exists](#), but I would ensure that there are ample resources and systems in place to track projects to meet the legislative requirements set out in the law.

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

[Candidate chose neither YES nor NO.]

I am likely to support it, but I need more information to account for potential unintended consequences (such as environmental impact or transportation/jobs gaps).

- 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?**

YES.

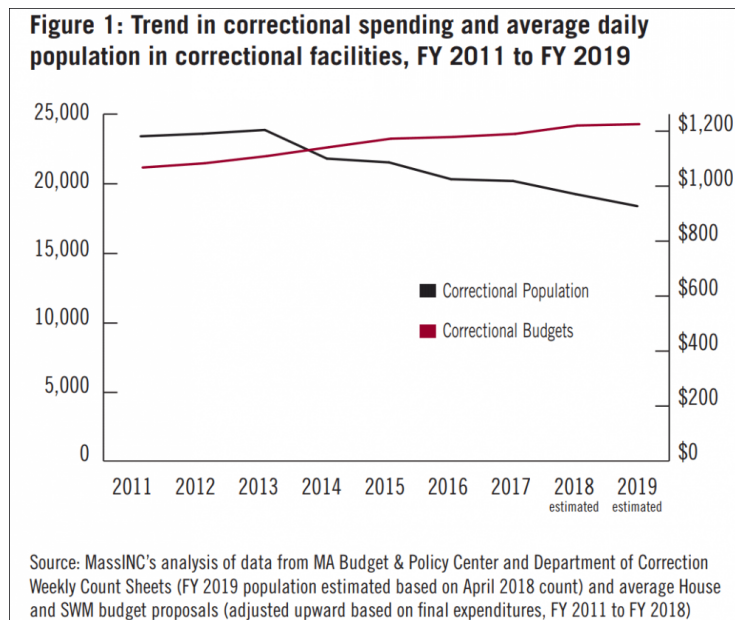
F. Racial and Social Justice

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.).

I have been an advocate for racial justice since I was a student growing up in Lowell. As a student at Lowell Catholic High School, I advocated for equity and inclusion in school activities, the classroom, in my relationships with friends and family, and through writing and high school activities. I wrote several academic pieces on the intersectional impact of racism and sexism on single mothers' access to safe and healthy housing, as well as academic papers and legislation to address the disproportionate impact of drug laws on men of color, the impact of climate change and health inequities on persons of color and low-income families, and the dangerous impacts of pandemic-related policies and programs on families of color.

Four days after the election of Donald Trump, I founded the Massachusetts chapter of the Women's March, leading 10,000 people to march on our nation's capital. Recognizing the harms previous feminist movements have inflicted on women of color and LGBTQ+ people as a result of bias and exclusionary tactics, I led the Chapter's leadership team in developing an intersectional statement of purpose to guide our movement in creating an inclusive and safe protest environment for diverse women, transgender persons, and allies.

As a State Representative, I was proud to have voted in support of banning conversion therapy and I co-filed legislation to support community healing and access to mental health services for low-income communities and families of color.

Recognizing that all policies impact our health and well-being, I also filed legislation to require all secretariats to create a program and funding plan to advance health equity and climate justice. Throughout the pandemic I have advocated for equitable access to vaccines and filed legislation in May of 2021 to ensure that low-income families and families of color have equitable, easy access to rapid antigen tests. As Lieutenant Governor I will continue to work on these issues and to advocate for passage of wage theft and one fair wage legislation to support the rights of workers of color in receiving fair and adequate pay. I also will continue to support the VOTES Act and the Healthy Youth Act.

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?**

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?

YES.

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

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?**

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?**

YES.

- 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?**

YES.

- 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?**

YES.

- 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?**

YES.

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

YES.

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

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?

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?

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?

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?

YES.

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

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 believe that the culture of the Department of Corrections comes from the leadership. Therefore, I would advocate with the Governor to hire a leadership team that is committed to addressing the cultural issues at institutions across the DOC. When I visited Framingham, one of the Corrections Officers told me that on average officers die within 2 years of retiring. This is an indication that the work environment is stressful and that the mental health needs of staff and those who are incarcerated are not being adequately addressed. I would suggest hiring more social workers and mental health clinicians to meet the needs, particularly of those

who are incarcerated, and ensure that they can see a counselor or a healthcare when requested and without charge.

11. **Governor's Council. The Lt. Governor serves as an ex officio member of the Governor's Council, which oversees judicial appointments, Parole Board appointments, pardons, and commutations.**

- a. **What would be your priorities when evaluating and/or advocating for candidates for judicial and Parole Board vacancies?**

As Lt. Governor I would look for judges and parole board nominees who appreciate and demonstrate a commitment to applying an equity lens to the ways that they adjudicate certain cases, taking into account systemic racism, intergenerational poverty, and childhood trauma in crime.

- b. **Would you support pardoning 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? How else would you recommend that the Governor use clemency power?**

YES. As Lt. Governor with a role on the Governor's Council, I would help to ensure that the parole board members are the right fit and are committed to granting clemency when warranted. (The Parole Board has an intermediary role in determining who gets clemency).

12. **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?**

YES.

13. **Work and Family Mobility Act. Do you support removing immigration status as a barrier to applying for a license or learner's permit?**

YES.

14. **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?**

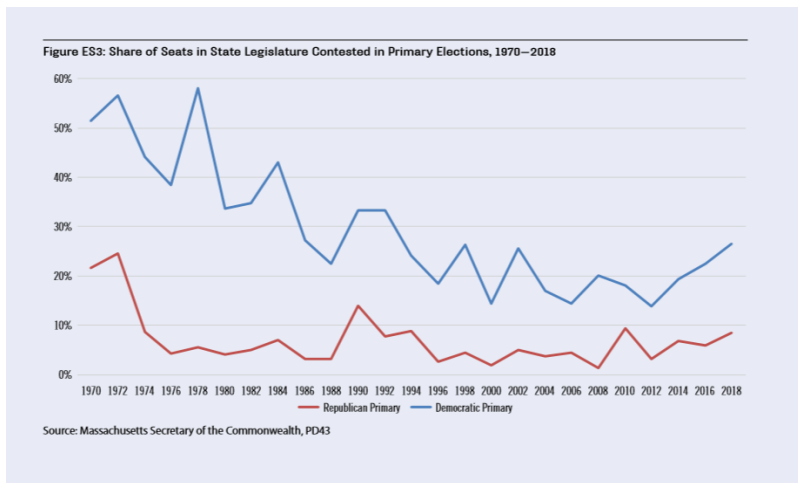
YES.

G. Good Government and Strong Democracy

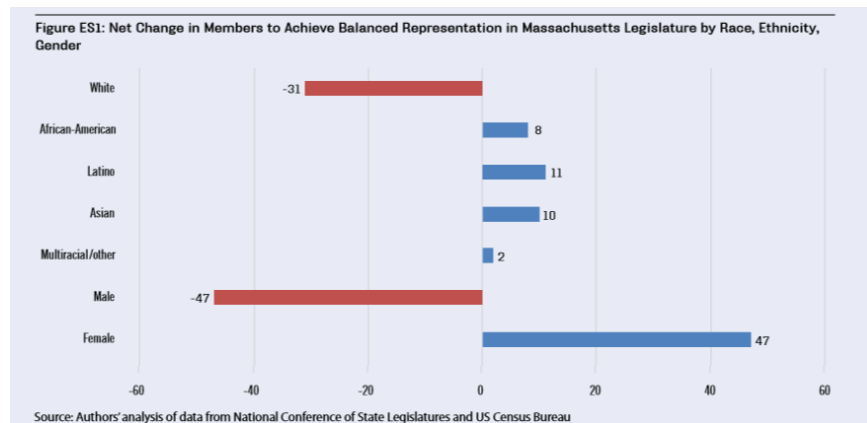
A strong democracy depends on a transparent and representative government and an engaged public. Too often, however, we see centralized, unaccountable power and barriers to participation. An undemocratic, centralized power structure on Beacon Hill makes it easier for lobbyists to target the top and undermine 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.).**

I care deeply about protecting our democracy, ensuring that government is accessible and transparent, and creating conditions for residents to be included in democratic institutions. I have seen both as a non-profit lobbyist and as a State Representative how the status quo remains unchallenged and that because of the opacity of the legislative process, the general population is not able to easily engage, while special interests have direct access and more influence. It appears that the outsized influence that money plays in our elections have turned many voters off from elections and politics altogether. Candidates, campaigns, and elected officials do not spend enough time engaging new, young, and disheartened voters and voters of color. This means that if residents are not engaged in elections, then they are less likely to engage in trying to pass public policy and feeling included in government decision-making. It also means that legislators are less likely to pay attention to the issues that matter most to those who are not able to be involved in the process. I believe in increasing access to our legislative and administrative processes and removing barriers to diversifying those who are serving in elected office.

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?**

YES. But we have to be careful to protect confidentiality.

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

As Lieutenant Governor I would ensure that we are seeking nominations and making appointments that reflect the true diversity of the Commonwealth. I would lean into my own personal and professional networks as well as those of trusted organizations, community, and other leaders in regions all across the state.

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?**

YES.

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?**

YES.

- b. **The expansion of early voting to municipal elections and primaries?**

YES.

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

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 Lt. Governor, would you advocate for 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?**

YES.

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)?**

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?**

Last year I hosted a briefing on disinformation and how colleagues can protect themselves from tech giants that sell our information and do little to protect elected officials, especially women, people of color, LGBTQ+ elected officials, and immigrant representatives. As Lieutenant Governor will continue to talk publicly about the role of disinformation in our elections and ballot questions, and the lack of trust in government, science, institutions of higher learning, and the media engendered by allowing disinformation to spread online.

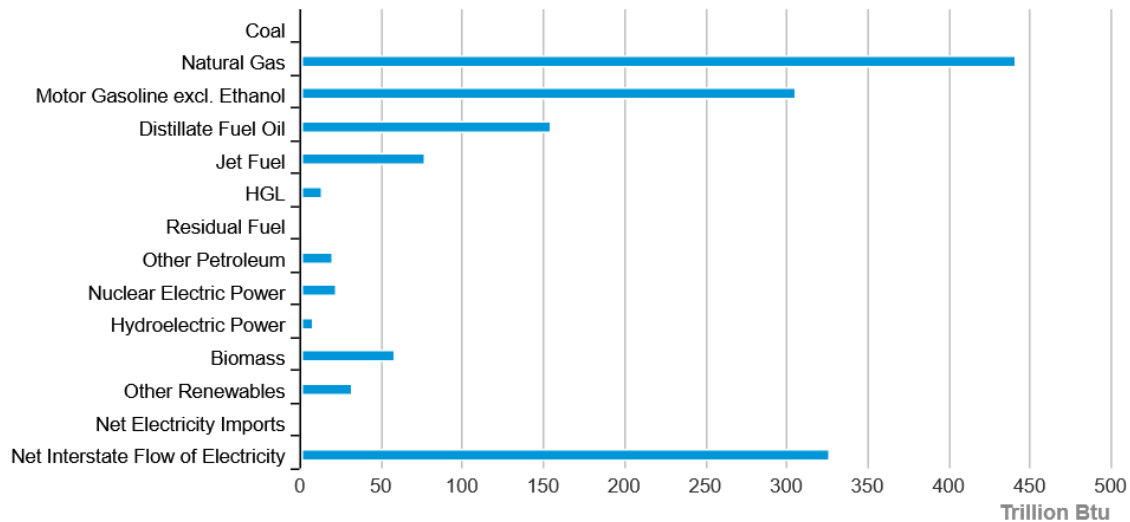
H. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

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.

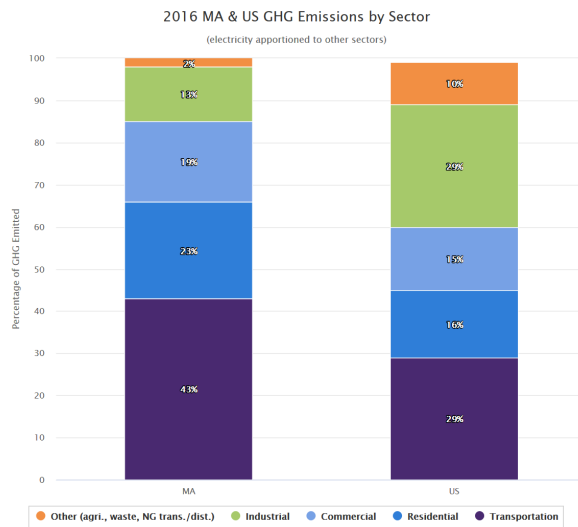
Despite recent progress, Massachusetts is still overwhelmingly dependent on fossil fuels.

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.).

The [Boston Globe](#) recently reported that New England is warming faster than any other place on the planet, and that Massachusetts has warmed faster than any other state. In other words, our state is the fastest warming place on the globe. I include this information because it is a frame for my work and leadership. The urgency of climate change is literally on our doorsteps.

I believe that public transportation is a public good and that it should be safe, reliable, affordable, and accessible to residents throughout the Commonwealth. As a key pillar of thriving communities and economic development, and a mechanism for helping our state achieve its climate goals [1], I believe that our state should make consistent and robust investments in all modes of public transportation to meet our residents' transit needs. [2]

In addition to ensuring a reliable commuter and subway system for those who live and work within the 495 Beltway, I am committed to supporting our Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs), ferries, buses, the Ride, and micro-transit. It is critical that we accelerate our commitment to solving connectivity and last mile issues to support a fully functioning transportation system. Working with state and federal partners to secure funding and support for projects such as, East-West Rail, South Coast Rail, and the North-South Rail Link as well as subway line extensions and expanded bus routes will help foster greater economic development opportunities for regions across the state that have been historically ignored and de-prioritized. I believe that the revenue required to make these investments should be shouldered equitably across business, government, residents, and/or users.

In the Summer of 2019, I hosted a *Town Hall on Transportation* in my district to explore the problems and solutions to address access to the commuter rail and other modes of transportation. I also interviewed commuters at various commuter rail stations to learn about their first-hand experience with parking constraints at commuter rail lots, their experience with taking the commuter rail and subway, including reliability, safety, cleanliness, and other challenges and ideas to improve the system and their experience with public transit. This informed subsequent work I completed during the transportation revenue and bond bill discussions. In Fall 2019 to Winter 2020 of the 191st Session, I chaired a working group of Representatives and Senators who represent communities along the Route 2 corridor from Littleton to Cambridge. We collectively advocated with the Transportation Committee and through the legislative process for investments in **satellite parking and shuttle buses to address transit connectivity and last mile problems, a pilot for bus rapid transit along Route 2, and improvements to the Alewife Parking Garage** to support safe travel and inter-modal access.

In Fall 2019 to Winter 2020 of the 191st Session, I chaired a sub-committee of the Progressive Caucus to prepare our members for the transportation revenue and bond bills we would be voting on in the House in late Winter of 2020. Through a series of member surveys, meetings, and prioritization exercises, we came to agreement on several policies to create shared responsibility for transformative investments in mass transit and all modes of transportation. Through our collective work, we prioritized investments to foster equitable access to affordable and reliable transportation and strategic actions to de-carbonize our transit infrastructure and stock. We advocated for investments in **electric MBTA and RTA infrastructure, regional shuttle buses, electrification of commuter rail and regional rail, free/means-tested public transit, strategies to improve connectivity across the system, complete streets**, among others.

As Lieutenant Governor I will continue to support efforts to improve our state's transportation systems by addressing last mile challenges, de-carbonization of our stock, and ensuring that people with disabilities and who are low-income have fare-free options.

[1] I believe that a more connected, greener, affordable, and accessible transportation system will help us achieve our state's climate goals by getting people out of their cars and onto public transit and by converting our diesel- and gas-based bus and transit fleets to all-electric.

[2] I believe that a fully functioning and reliable transportation system will reduce traffic congestion. This will help our residents get from point to point more quickly and efficiently, reducing stress and leaving more time for our families to cook a healthy meal, volunteer in their community, read to their children, or enjoy a walk or bike ride.

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?**

I believe that we should have greater ambition in meeting our stated climate goals and move faster toward achieving net zero carbon emissions. I believe that

through building broad-based partnerships across government, residential, and the private and non-profit sectors and by tapping into emerging technologies, we can achieve net zero emissions much earlier than 2050. To achieve these goals we must appoint experts to the Board of Building Regulations and Standards as set out in the Roadmap legislation and move quickly to implement all the key components laid out in the bill.

Through the working group that I will establish in my first 100 days, I will bring together experts and thought partners who can help advise the Administration on ways to increase the personal, business, and governmental use of technologies that generate and store electricity without creating emissions, to accelerate adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles, and to expand the number and locations of electric vehicle charging stations. Thought partners and technologies to capture CO₂, especially through the planting of trees and land management practices will also be engaged through this work.

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?**

2035. The clock is ticking for us to take action needed to reverse climate change and its impacts on weather, agricultural and fishing industries, the sustainability of our food systems, and the long-term health and well-being of people, animals, and plants. Scientists suggest that New England is among the regions most vulnerable to climate change. Beaches are eroding along the Cape, coastal and inland communities experience life-threatening floods and the expense that comes with clean-up, and low-income families living in homes with drafty windows or without air conditioning in the summer suffer from weather and other climate extremes.

Achieving 100% renewable energy will require significant personal, business, and governmental investments in modernizing the electrical grid, retrofitting existing buildings, and converting diesel-polluting stock to electric fleets. Through legislative and regulatory actions we can create incentives and requirements for the building and transportation sectors to switch to renewable energy sources and storage solutions. Tied to this, it is important that we require all communities in the state to adopt the net zero code as the base code by 2028 so that no community or resident is left behind when it comes to climate and energy justice.

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

YES.

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

YES. (see [H2167](#))

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?**

YES. (cosponsor of the bill)

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?** 2035
 - c. **the Regional Transit Authority bus fleets?** 2030

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

YES. I believe that public transit is a public good and that it is difficult for far too many of our families to be able to afford a commuter rail, T, or bus pass. Fare collection slows down movement through turnstiles and during the boarding process. Making our transit system free, especially buses, will help address these issues and will increase public transit utilization. This will reduce the number of cars on the road and help us achieve our state's climate goals by reducing roads on cars and greenhouse gas emissions. As Lieutenant Governor, I will work with the Governor to support free buses for residents in our state. I will also work with the Governor to implement reduced fare and fare-free pilots for subway, regional and commuter rail. These efforts and pilots can be supported with revenue from the Fair Share Amendment.

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?**

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?**

In addition to ensuring a reliable commuter and subway system for those who live and work within the 495 Beltway, I am committed to supporting our Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs), ferries, buses, the Ride, and micro-transit. It is critical that we accelerate our commitment to solving connectivity and last mile issues to support a fully functioning transportation system. Working with state and federal partners to secure funding and support for projects such as, East-West Rail, South Coast Rail, and the North-South Rail Link will help foster housing, educational, and economic development opportunities for regions across the state that have been historically ignored and de-prioritized. I believe that the revenue required to make these investments should be shouldered equitably across business, government, and residents.

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.