



**PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS**  
**2024 Legislative**  
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate:** Michelle Badger

**Office Sought:** State Representative, 1st Plymouth

**Party:** Democratic

**Website:** <https://badgerforplymouth.com>

**Facebook:** [Committee to Elect Michelle Badger for State Representative](#)

**Instagram:** [@badgerforplymouth](#)

Email questions to [elections@progressivemass.com](mailto: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.** If you leave a question blank, your answer will be recorded as a NO. Feel free to expand your answers, but **please keep answers < 150 words** and use your own words (we want human-generated answers, not AI-generated).*

### **Issue Subsections:**

- A. Revenue and Taxation
- B. Jobs and the Economy
- C. Education
- D. Health Care
- E. Housing
- F. Police Accountability and Decarceration
- G. A Welcoming Society
- H. Good Government and Strong Democracy
- I. 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 to be the next State Representative for the First Plymouth District after almost 13 years of service on the Plymouth School Committee. I am currently the Chair of the Committee and during my time on the Committee have been working in partnership with our State Representatives to advocate for more funding regarding Transportation for the Plymouth Public Schools. This process has taught me a lot about the way the State Legislature functions and different avenues to explore when trying to create real and sustainable change that can help not just Plymouth but other districts across the State.

I also made the decision to run because as someone who grew up in Plymouth and loves her community, we need to do all that we can to make it a community that everyone can afford to live in, stay in, and thrive in.

My top three priorities are:

1. Fight to create more affordable housing opportunities. We need to be creative when focusing on this because as our population continues to shift, we need to think about solutions for our working families and individuals to be able to live, work, and play in our community,
2. Advocating for the needed resources for our community when it comes to education, mental health, public safety, seniors, veterans and so many other community needs.
3. Collaborate to help support sustainable economic development opportunities for Plymouth. We need to continue to look at ways that we can grow our tax base away from the homeowners and residents of Plymouth and get more industry and business. I have had conversations about the blue economy and life sciences being brought into Plymouth. These seem like two great ideas that need to be vetted more and make sure that as a legislator I can help in any way I can to bring these industries to Plymouth to continue to grow but to do it in a smart way that makes sense for Plymouth.

### **2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?**

I am prepared to serve in this capacity after 13 years of service on the Plymouth School Committee. I am currently the Chair of the Committee and during my time on the Committee have been working in partnership with our State Representatives to advocate for more funding regarding Transportation for the Plymouth Public Schools. This process has taught me a lot about the way the State Legislature functions and different avenues to explore when trying to create real and sustainable change that can help not just Plymouth but other districts across the State.

I am also the current vice-chair of the Pilgrim Area Collaborative and a Board member for the Plymouth Fragment Society, an associate member of Plymouth No Place For Hate

(after 13 years of being a Board member), and have many other areas of current and past involvement in the district helping our Plymouth families. Through these other committees I have seen first-hand the real struggles that confront our Plymouth families and how I can be a better advocate for them.

**3. What do you view as the biggest obstacles to passing progressive policy at the state level, and how do you plan to overcome these obstacles?**

I think the biggest obstacle is conflicting agendas and priorities. I would do my best to help create coalitions and work with others to push forward important pieces of legislation.

**4. What is one policy pioneered by another state (or at the municipal level) that you would like to see Massachusetts adopt?**

I would like to see Massachusetts adopt legislation to allow for up to 5 mental health days with no questions asked. They are considered an excused absence. Given our current mental health crisis within our country it seems like a logical thing to adopt. The current states that have something like this are Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Virginia.

**5. Provide an example of a time that you built a broad coalition to achieve a desired outcome.**

A number of years ago the Plymouth School District decided that we wanted to have full day kindergarten. When you first get full day Kindergarten the community has to cover the additional cost and then the next year you get the funding. We were not sure how Town Meeting would react. We received push back but through conversations with Town Meeting members, attending caucuses, and building our group of supporters through conversation we were able to create a strong group of supporters. We were able to get it passed with the help of a lot of active and passionate residents and Town Meeting members.

**6. (For incumbents only)** Each year, Progressive Massachusetts compiles a scorecard of key roll call votes, available at <https://scorecard.progressivemass.com>. Please use this space to explain any discrepancies between your votes and the progressive position.

**7. (For challengers or candidates in open races only) How do you see yourself as similar to or different from the current holder of the office you are running for?**

I believe that Rep. Muratore and I are different in political beliefs on most things as he is a Republican. I do believe that we have some of the same ways of leadership in that I have a policy of connecting with people if they need something and I like to think as a School Committee member I have always been responsive to the needs of those who have reached out. I have also talked to people on all sides of an issue before making a decision.

I would believe we would be very similar in that respect as I believe in talking and listening to people to understand all sides of an issue.

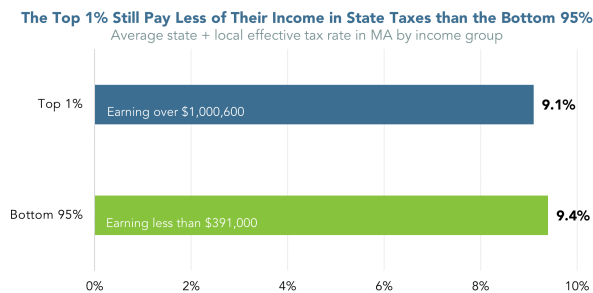
## II. The Issues

### A. Revenue and Taxation

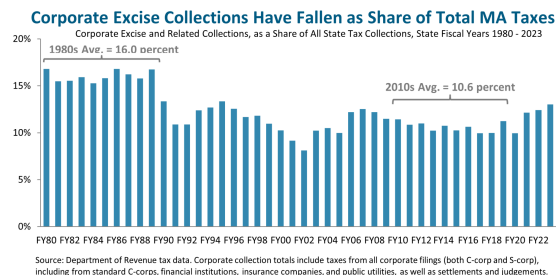
Although Massachusetts has developed the moniker of “Taxachusetts,” our history shows the opposite. Between 1977 and 2016, Massachusetts [reduced state taxes](#) by more than all but two other states. Because of income tax cuts enacted between 1998 and 2002, Massachusetts lost over \$4 billion in tax revenue *each year*—\$4 billion not invested in our roads, bridges, schools, parks, and services. Such cuts to the state income tax, combined with [low corporate income taxes compared to other states](#), have meant increasing reliance on regressive taxes and fees and curtailing 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.

Although we saw a welcome shift when MA voters passed the Fair Share Amendment and added more progressivity to our tax code, the Legislature in 2023 voted to give tax cuts to multi-million-dollar estates, large corporations, and day traders, blunting the full impact of the win. We cannot tax-cut our way into competitiveness; MA strengthens our competitiveness when we invest in our people and infrastructure.

#### Even with the recently passed Fair Share Amendment, the top 1% still pay a lower effective tax rate than the bottom 95%.



#### Even as corporations are securing an increasing share of total income, their share of taxes has been falling.



**1. What principles do you bring to considerations of state revenue and tax policy? How should we raise more revenue to adequately fund our communities for the future?**

I believe that we need to look at the richest among us and corporations to raise revenues to fund our communities to make sure that the tax burden does not fall on our working families. I also believe we can look at some capping of costs for service providers to local municipalities. For example, I would like to see a cap on the vans that provide out of district transportation for school Districts. This would not cost the State any money, it would create a formula that would be created to determine how much a van could charge based on a route.

**2. Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on revenue and taxation (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).**

I have been working with Dr. Campbell for years to try and get some control on transportation cost for the District but it has not come to fruition yet but we are hopeful as we have had two rounds of discussions with DESE.

**3. 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. Repealing any tax break that does not provide the intended benefits in a cost-effective manner?**

YES.

**b. Establishing sunset dates for all tax breaks so that they must come up for periodic review?**

YES.

**c. Ending the current sales tax exemptions for aircraft and aircraft parts, which costs the Commonwealth approximately [\\$30 million](#) each year?**

NO.

I would not want to have MA lose revenue to surrounding states if they are also not charging tax for aircraft. I would be interested in learning more about the reasoning behind this decision to give the tax exemption.

**4. Corporate Disclosure.** Would you support legislation to make publicly accessible the reports that are already filed annually by publicly traded corporations, detailing their sales, profits, taxable income, and taxes paid?

YES.

**5. Progressive Revenue.** In order to accomplish many of the items in a progressive

agenda, we will need more revenue. 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.)**

YES.

- b. Increasing the tax on the portion of corporations' US profits that are shifted to offshore tax havens, in order to restore Massachusetts's conformity with federal tax-avoidance rules?**

YES.

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

YES.

- d. Creating a graduated surtax on corporations who are paying their CEOs more than 50 times the amount of the median employee compensation?**

YES.

- e. Levying a modest tax on university endowments greater than \$1 billion?**

YES.

I agree with this sentiment but as a higher education fundraiser we need to make sure we are careful with how we treat endowment.

6. **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. 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?

NO.

I think we need to be careful where the not for profit is located. Some of our smaller schools or not-for-profits might have large property values but they may not have the endowments needed to pay and sustain. I would want us to be very careful on how we did this.



## 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 Massachusetts now has a \$15 minimum wage, a living wage for a single adult without children is now [\\$27.89 per hour](#).

In recent decades, unions have been under attack nationally. 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. Strengthening the rights and power of labor is essential to an economy that works for all.

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



<https://archive.massbudget.org/reports/swma/>

### The minimum wage in Massachusetts is well below a living wage. ([Source](#))

	1 Adult			2 adults (both working)		
	0 children	1 child	2 children	0 children	1 child	2 children
<b>Living Wage</b>	\$27.89	\$52.46	\$67.41	\$18.33	\$28.38	\$36.20
<b>Poverty Wage</b>	\$7.24	\$9.83	\$12.41	\$4.91	\$6.21	\$7.50
<b>Minimum Wage</b>	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00

**1. Share your principles and proposals regarding creating good-paying jobs for all and reducing inequality in the Commonwealth.**

I think it is important that we work to create jobs that pay well. We can look to Union jobs, increasing minimum wage, investing in work force development (ETF Grant), increasing vocational high school opportunities, and continue to fund MassReconnect to name a few initiatives.

**2. Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on creating good-paying jobs for all and reducing inequality (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).**

I have always been a supporter of Unions and the work that they do.

**3. Livable Wages.** Although Massachusetts now has a \$15 minimum wage, that is still not a living wage in much of Massachusetts, and \$15 has lost a lot of value due to high inflation. Do you support the following steps...?

**a. Raising the minimum wage to \$20 per hour?**

YES.

**b. Eliminating subminimum wages?**

YES.

**c. Ensuring that the minimum wage law applies to municipal workers?**

YES.

**d. Indexing the minimum wage to inflation?**

NO.

I think with all of the above we need to make sure that we change our culture and mindset for employees and businesses. I am concerned about small businesses being able to afford to pay \$20 an hour but know it is necessary to allow people to be able to afford to live in Massachusetts. We would need to determine how this would work and how it could work and not cripple small businesses.

**4. 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?

YES.

**5. 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?

YES.

6. **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?

YES.

I do think if this is something that is done (which is important) we need to work with municipalities on how this can be funded given the already stretched budgets. This might require additional money from the state to towns.

7. **Right to Strike.** Would you support legislation to legalize the right to strike for public employees (with the exception of public safety personnel) after six months of failed negotiations with their employer?

YES.

8. **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. **Will you oppose all legislation that weakens MA labor law protecting employees from being misclassified as “independent contractors”?**

YES.

- b. **Would you support legislation to ensure drivers and delivery workers receive the same protections, wages, rights, and benefits that all Massachusetts workers are entitled to under law?**

YES.

I am assuming this comes with a minimum number of hours that they take part in the gig.

9. **State House as a Workplace.** Although the Legislature voted in 2017 to increase legislators’ pay, the Legislature has not taken necessary steps to ensure staff are being properly compensated. Staff are often overworked and underpaid, leading to burnout and making it difficult for the State House to retain diverse talent.

- a. **Would you support legislation to extend collective bargaining rights to State House staff?**

YES.

**b. Do you support the creation of an independent commission to investigate and report on complaints of workplace and sexual harassment in the Massachusetts Legislature?**

YES.

10. **Public Bank.** Would you support the creation of a Massachusetts public bank chartered to provide cost-effective financing for small businesses and municipalities, land trusts and cooperatives, and projects for climate change adaptation and remediation?

NO.

I am not sure we need a public bank when we already have financial vehicles that already exist. This might be a lot of additional work and money to be able to set up properly.

## C. Education

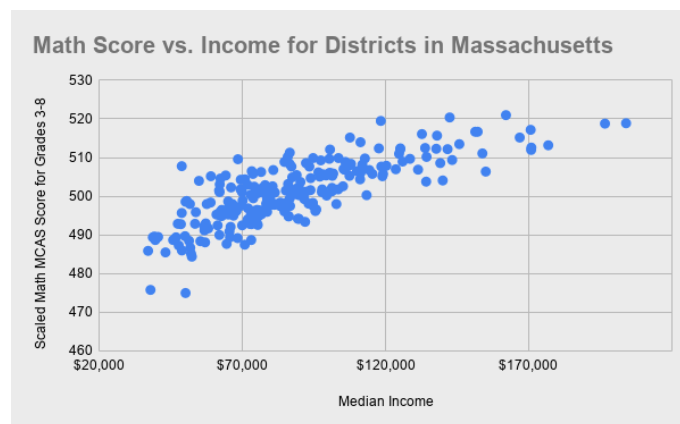
Massachusetts parents and caregivers face the [highest child care and early education costs of any state in the US](#). The average annual cost of infant care in Massachusetts is more than half of what a full-time minimum wage worker earns in a year. These costs are prohibitively expensive for low- and middle-income families, who are forced to choose between making ends meet and saving for the future on one hand, or affording child care on the other.

Public education plays a fundamental role in democracy, cultivating informed, well-rounded community members and providing the knowledge and skills needed for economic mobility and opportunity. Although our public education system gets high marks overall, it remains one of the [most unequal](#) in the country, with significant opportunity and resource divides based on income and race. In 2019, Massachusetts passed the Student Opportunity Act to update the formula for state aid to public school districts and correct these inequities, but schools have faced added strains due to pandemic.

Public education has also been under attack by powerful corporate interests seeking 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 take power away from communities and often facilitate privatization schemes that could never achieve democratic support.

At the same time, our understanding of education has also broadened. No longer do we only talk about K-12 education; rather, most of the [fastest-growing occupations](#) require education beyond a high school diploma. Massachusetts has been disinvesting from public higher education for the past two decades, leading to higher tuition costs and putting students at risk of long-term debt (if they are even still able to attend). Our public colleges and opportunities are an economic engine for local economies as well as a pathway to economic opportunity, and when that opportunity is cut off for students, we all lose out.

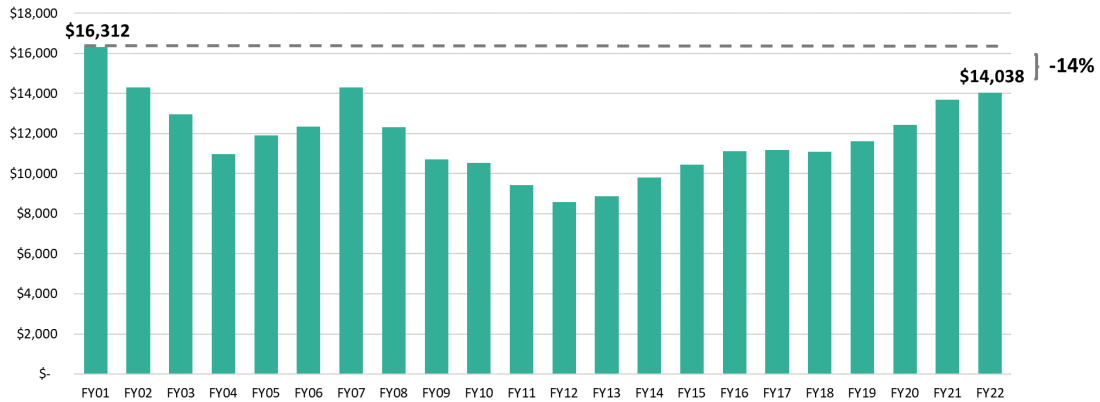
**Standardized test scores have a very strong correlation with the income of the school district. ([Source](#))**



**Massachusetts has been disinvesting from higher education and shifting the cost burden onto students. ([Source](#))**

**Higher Education Funding Per Student Cut by 14 Percent Since FY 2001**

Massachusetts higher education spending, per resident student, FY 2001-FY2022 adjusted for inflation (2024\$)



**1. Please share your principles and proposals regarding public education.**

Public Education is a passion of mine in both my volunteer and professional life. I believe strongly that we have a great system but need to work on a number of things:

- properly funding our schools. Given the current situation across the State where districts are having to cut millions from their budget after losing ESSER and CARES Act money.
- Cap on the cost of out of district transportation vans. In Plymouth it can cost us between \$250-850 a day for a van for one child.
- Circuit Breaker for Yellow Bus transportation for districts that spend over 125% of the average cost for transportation across the state (this is something we have worked on for years and feel confident would make a lasting impact on school budgets)
- universal pre-k
- Remove high stakes testing
- Pay our school staff better. I know this is not a State thing but I would like to see what could be done.
- Continue MassReconnect but maybe make it a bit easier to follow
- Increase Dual enrollment understanding"

**2. Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on public education.**

I am on the Plymouth School Committee and in my professional life I am the Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Massasoit Community College . I work day in and day out to ensure that students have access to what they need at all

levels. We are also currently working hard to make sure that our teachers and staff get the increases they need to remain competitive as best as we can within our current budget and hopeful for an additional allocation in the fall from Town Meeting. I have also been working to advocate for relief for transportation cost since I got on the School Committee. This year the School Committee is submitting at least one resolution to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to hopefully adopt regarding transportation. We continue to advocate as best as we can.

3. **Affordable Child Care.** Would you support legislation to make child care free for low-income families and ensure that no family has to pay more than 7% of their income on child care? (Y/N)

NO.

I would need to learn more about this proposal. I think that low-income families should get free child care but setting all families at 7% does not seem equitable. I think developing a sliding scale would be more beneficial to the State and the child care.

4. **Universal Pre-K.** Would you support creating universal, free Pre-K, accessible to any resident of Massachusetts, integrated into the public school system? (Y/N)

YES.

5. **High-Stakes Testing.** Massachusetts is now one of just 8 states for which an assessment like the MCAS is a condition for graduation. Would you support ending the MCAS graduation requirement and replacing it with one based on completion of coursework showing mastery of the skills, competencies, and knowledge required by the state standards? (Y/N)

YES.

I also think we could even use some of the MCAS testing working that has been developed to create an exam that takes less time but utilizes all the resources and funding that went into the MCAS creation.

6. **Charter Schools.** Charter schools siphon millions of dollars for public education away from public schools and create a two-track system of public schools described by the national NAACP as "separate and unequal." 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. Do you support keeping the cap on charter schools? (Y/N)

YES.

7. **Receivership.** The Lawrence Public Schools, Holyoke Public Schools, and Southbridge Public Schools are currently under state receivership, with a state-appointed receiver assuming the powers of a superintendent or democratically elected school committee. The state takeover has not produced sustainable gains and has at times been characterized by [chronic mismanagement](#). Would you support ending the

practice of state receivership and returning power to democratically elected school committees? (Y/N)

YES.

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

YES.

9. **Inclusive Curricula**. Our educational curricula must speak to students' lived experiences and recognize and celebrate the diversity of our Commonwealth.

- a. **Racially Inclusive Curricula**. Would you support legislation to ensure that instruction in K-12 education shall include the teaching of accurate histories, writings, and contributions of racial and ethnic groups that have been historically underrepresented or marginalized? (Y/N)

YES.

- b. **LGBTQ-Inclusive Curricula**. Would you support legislation to ensure that Massachusetts public schools include sufficient instruction on the histories, roles, and contributions of LGBTQ individuals in the history of this country and the Commonwealth? (Y/N)

YES.

10. **Debt-Free Higher Ed**. Would you support legislation to guarantee Massachusetts residents can graduate Massachusetts' public colleges and trade schools completely free of student loan debt? (Y/N)

YES.

I fully support this idea but would need to still know more how we would be able to fully fund this idea. I know we have so many areas of need in the state and so I just want to be able to ensure we can fund everything that is needed.

11. **Public Higher Ed Funding**. Although per-student funding for public higher education has recovered from a nadir in FY 2012, it still remains below what it was at the turn of the century. Would you support legislation to establish a fair and adequate minimum funding level for public higher education at no less than the fiscal 2001 per-student funding level, adjusted for inflation? (Y/N)

YES.

12. **Supporting Public Higher Ed Faculty**. Would you support ensuring that adjunct faculty and part-time staff are eligible for state health care and retirement benefits? (Y/N)



YES.

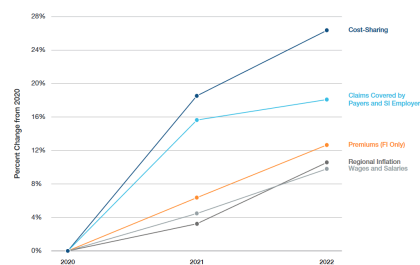
Yes, I think we need to establish some kind of threshold but many of these faculty members work at a number of schools. It is worth trying to figure out how to help these critical employees within Colleges and Universities.

## 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.

### Cost-sharing has risen faster than claims paid by employers, and premiums are rising faster than inflation.

Private Commercial Insurance Affordability in Context, 2020-2022

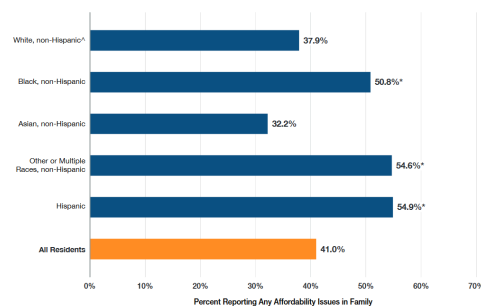


Member cost-sharing and premiums increased at a faster rate than regional inflation and wages and salaries from 2020 to 2022, driven in part by fluctuations in utilization during this time period.

Source: From reported data to Civil Service of Labor Statistics data.  
Notes: Based on Massachusetts contract membership, which may include non-Massachusetts residents. Claims amounts were adjusted for pharmacy-related reported by payers. Reported cost-sharing amounts and claims amounts have not been adjusted for health care costs, which may vary by plan. Claims membership counts include data from 2020 to 2022, with 2020 counts also listed as 2021 due to 2020 data issues. Rates for below the benchmark threshold for reporting and did not submit data for 2020. Data for labor is included in C70000 and C70001. See website for more details.

### Almost half of Massachusetts residents are facing affordability issues with accessing health care.

Any Affordability Issues Among Residents and their Families, Overall and by Race/Ethnicity, 2021



Over half of Black and Hispanic residents reported experiencing health care affordability issues in the past 12 months.

Source: 2021 Massachusetts Health Insurance Survey  
Notes: "Any affordability issue" is defined as reporting any of the following issues: problems paying family medical bills in case 12 months; family medical debt at the time of survey; spending a high share of family income on case 12 months on out-of-pocket health care expenses; and unmet family health care needs due to the cost of care in case 12 months.  
<sup>a</sup> Reference group.  
\* Difference from estimate for reference group is statistically significant at the 5% level.

**1. Please share your values, principles, and proposals regarding health care access and equity.**

I am very lucky to have had the opportunity to be a John Joseph Moakley Fellow in 2009 for Senator Edward Kennedy as part of his staff on the Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee. I was able to learn first hand from some of the smartest and most knowledgeable people in healthcare policy about different forms of healthcare, health equity, and prevention. I believe that everyone should be covered and that an illness should not be something that can bankrupt or lead to someone being unhoused. We need to cover everyone and make sure that we are looking at preventative treatment and care to make sure everyone lives their best lives and can get treatment as early as possible. In terms of changes I would like to work to see how we can lower the cost for those whose companies do not offer Health Insurance due to size. This can have consequences in terms of vision and dental care, as costs can be astronomical.

**2. Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on health care (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).**

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

YES.

4. **Medical Debt.** States like [Connecticut](#) and [Arizona](#) have taken action, in partnership with RIP Medical Debt, to eliminate medical debt for hundreds of thousands of working-class residents. Would you advocate for similar action in Massachusetts? (Y/N)

YES.

I love the idea of this and think it is really important for us to invest in as a State. I like the idea that it is done through crowd funding but would be curious to see what the cost to the State would be and how this would impact other parts of the budget. This would probably help people rely less on other assistance within the state. To really understand more and be sure I would vote yes, I would like to know more about this cost to the commonwealth .

5. **Reproductive Justice—I.** Would you support requiring health insurance plans to cover all pregnancy care (including prenatal care, childbirth, and postpartum care), without any kind of cost-sharing, building on the recent mandate to require coverage for abortion and abortion-related care? (Y/N)

YES.

6. **Reproductive Justice—II.** Young people under sixteen seeking an abortion must obtain parental consent or judicial authorization. While most young people involve their parents, many cannot, causing delays to timely medical care and counseling. Scared teens may also turn to dangerous measures: going out of state or risking their lives and health with illegal or self-induced abortion. Would you support repealing this restriction on young people's access to abortion? (Y/N)

YES.

7. **Anti-Abortion Centers.** In Massachusetts, anti-abortion centers (also known as crisis pregnancy centers), which have a politically-motivated agenda to dissuade and delay patients from accessing abortion care, outnumber abortion clinics by more than 2 to 1. These centers scare and shame pregnant people considering abortion care and often oppose birth control and emergency contraception. Would you commit to opposing any Massachusetts government support and funding for such centers? (Y/N)

YES.

8. **Overdose Prevention Centers.** An essential part of addressing the opioid crisis, overdose prevention centers allow medical professionals to respond to overdoses and engage participants in medical and behavioral health services. Would you support the legalization of overdose prevention centers? (Y/N)

YES.

Yes, I think these are important we just need to make sure the program is outlined properly.

9. **Community Immunity Act.** Would you support strengthening the Commonwealth's immunization policies by standardizing the immunization requirements for all schools, daycare centers, and other covered programs and centralizing within the Department of Public Health (DPH) the processes for obtaining an exemption from those requirements? (Y/N)

NO.

I would like to know what this means for additional unfunded mandates on reporting for districts. We have a lot of unfunded mandates and something like this could create that unintended consequences. I know I have spoken to a couple of Nurses and they shared with me a number of reasons that it makes more sense for it to be on the school side at this time.

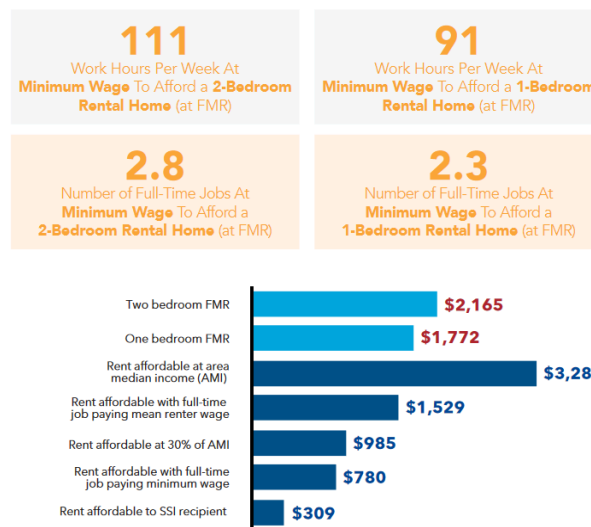
## E. Housing

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). To rent the average 2-bedroom apartment in Massachusetts requires an income equal to [\\$41.64 per hour](#), more than twice the minimum wage. A minimum-wage worker in Massachusetts would need to [work 91 hours each week](#) to afford a modest 1-bedroom rental home at fair market rent.

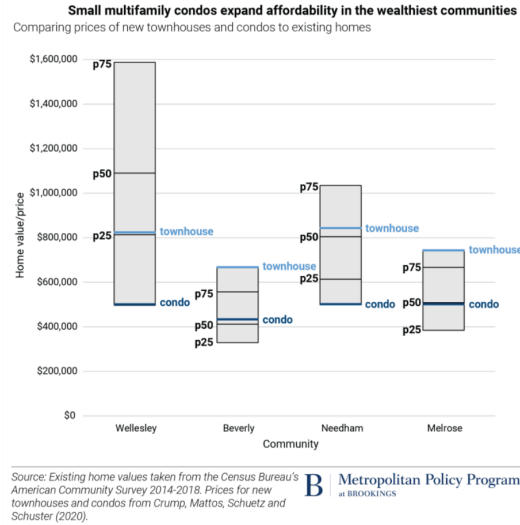
Home ownership has become increasingly out of reach, as the state's median home price is [approximately \\$600,000](#). In more than 20 communities, the median home price recently [passed \\$1 million](#). Meanwhile, we have some of the [most restrictive zoning laws](#) in the country, making it difficult to build more housing to meet the needs of a growing population.

The high cost of housing has led to displacement, and in a growing number of municipalities, the local workforce can no longer afford to live there.

**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.**



**1. Please share your principles and proposals regarding affordable housing and housing affordability in the Commonwealth.**

Making Plymouth affordable and the rest of the Commonwealth is important. We need people who grow up here to be able to live, work, and play in our community. I will work for and advocate for legislation that creates more housing opportunities in our neighborhoods to allow people who grew up in this community to stay and thrive, attract new people to Plymouth, and allows retirees to be able to stay in their homes. Thinking creatively to solve our problems is imperative! We need to look at things like mobile homes as opportunities for our 40Bs and other things. We need to look at how we can be creative with housing opportunities in different areas of the State. It is not a one size fits all approach and cannot be approached that way. What works in a city will not always work in a rural part of the state. We need to take into consideration caps on rent, increasing available housing of varying size and cost.

**2. Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on housing (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).**

**3. Right to Shelter.** Massachusetts is the only state with a right to shelter—that is, all families experiencing homelessness are guaranteed shelter. Would you oppose any effort to roll back the right to shelter? (Y/N)

YES.

**4. Welcoming New Neighbors.** Would you support efforts to locate both long-term housing and short-term shelter in your district? (Y/N)

YES.

We need more of these in Plymouth. As part of Plymouth's most recent Town

Meeting, in my role as School Committee Chair I was able to share information that answered questions and supported the creation of a family shelter. It is important that we have spaces for our neighbors new and old to get back on their feet.

5. **Affordable Housing Funding—I.** Would you support enabling all cities and towns the flexibility to design and pass real estate transfer fees that will be effective in their municipalities to raise money for affordable housing production? (Y/N)

YES.

6. **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)

NO.

I fully support the HEROS Act. It is essential that we support our veterans with behavioral health, tax credits, and modernizing Veteran Services. They sacrifice so much for all of us and deserve to have additional help to be able to live their best lives.

7. **Rent Control.** Would you support lifting the statewide ban on rent control and enabling cities and towns to craft and pass laws to stabilize rents in ways best attuned to the local housing situation? (Y/N)

YES.

We need this in our communities to help keep cost lower and allow all of our citizens to be able to stay in Plymouth.

8. **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)

NO.

I think this would need to be case by case because I know some people who have sold homes to their family members to allow them to be able to afford to live in the community. I would want to make sure we have loopholes.

9. **Eviction Sealing.** Every case in eviction court creates a record that stays with a renter forever, making it difficult to obtain future housing. Would you support legislation to automatically seal records for dismissals, cases in which tenants win, and no-fault evictions and to create a process for sealing all other records after a set amount of time with minimal administrative burden? (Y/N)

YES.

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

YES.

I think this is important but to fully understand this and to make the decision I would need to understand what the overall cost of this could be for the Commonwealth and how it would be funded.

**11. HDIP Reform.** The Housing Development Incentive Program (HDIP) is a multimillion-dollar annual state tax credit program subsidizing market-rate housing in Gateway Cities. The administration could award more than \$100 million in HDIP developer tax credits over the next two years. Would you support reforming this program to support both market-rate and affordable housing development? (Y/N)

NO.

I would like to see this expanded to not just gateway cities.

**12. Social Housing.** Social housing is state financed, mixed-income housing, owned by a local or regional housing authority. Typical projects may set aside 1/3rd of the new units for low-income residents, 1/3rd for middle-income residents, and 1/3rd for higher-income residents. Would you support the establishment of a mixed-income social housing production program? (Y/N)

YES.

**13. Zoning Reform.** Would you support zoning reforms to increase housing production and create more affordable and environmentally sustainable communities such as...

**a. Requiring multi-family zoning and removing costly parking mandates around public transportation and city/town centers statewide? (Y/N)**

NO.

I believe in helping with housing and that we need zoning reform. I believe we need help in zoning but I would need to understand more about the ramifications for Plymouth and other communities like it.

**b. Legalizing accessory dwelling units (ADUs) as of right statewide? (Y/N)**

YES.

**c. Creating a streamlined process for turning vacant land and commercial properties into multi-family housing? (Y/N)**

YES.

**d. Prioritizing the disposition of state-owned land for affordable housing? (Y/N)**



YES.

- e. **Enabling communities to adopt inclusionary zoning ordinances (i.e., requirements that a certain percentage of new units in a development be affordable) by simple majority vote? (Y/N)**

YES.

**14. MBTA Communities Law Enforcement.** Towns like Milton, Holden, and Wretham (and possibly others to come) have sought to maintain that compliance with the MBTA Communities Law is “optional.” Would you support measures to strengthen the law with stricter consequences for municipalities that refuse to comply, including voiding non-compliant zoning? (Y/N)

NO.

Communities are struggling at the moment and some like Plymouth are able to comply easily and others it might be harder to do so. I think additional measures might make it more difficult for communities.

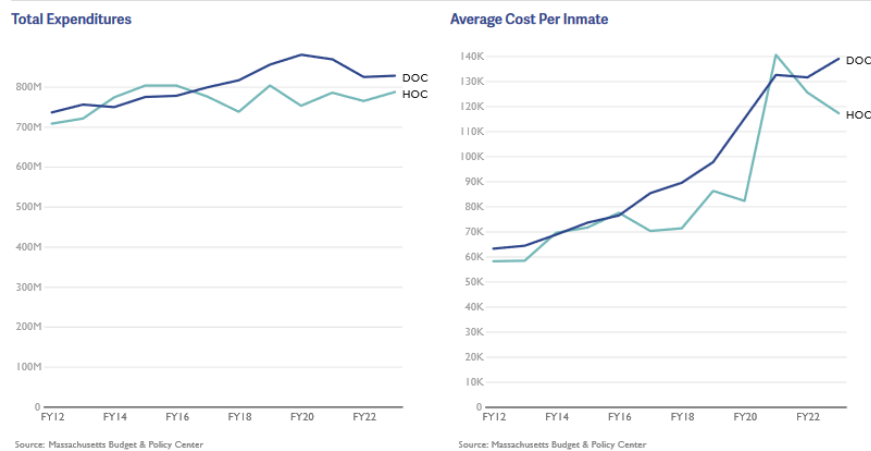
## F. Police Accountability and Decarceration

Mass incarceration in Massachusetts has proven socially and economically destructive, breaking apart communities across the state. Even though Massachusetts has one of the lowest incarceration rates of the United States, we have some of the [starkest racial disparities in incarceration](#), a result of overpolicing and systemic biases.

Although incarceration rates in Massachusetts have gone down over the past few years as a result of policies from the 2018 criminal justice reform omnibus bills, spending on the Department of Correction has [risen](#). The average cost per year to house an individual in the Massachusetts Department of Corrections is [more than](#) \$100,000, 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.

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

**Figure 14: Total expenditures for correctional institutions and average cost per inmate, inflation-adjusted to 2023 dollars**



**Although MA's incarceration rate is lower than the national rate, racial disparities are even more stark. ([Source](#))**

Statistics (2022)	MA	US Total
Imprisonment rate (per 100K residents)	94	355
Black : White Disparity	7 : 1	4.8 : 1
Latinx : White Disparity	4 : 1	1.3 : 1

**1. Please share your principles and proposals regarding police accountability and decarceration.**

I believe that we need some reform in our police system to make sure our police officers are properly trained, know how to interact with a variety of constituencies, trained to deal with those in crisis, and for all the regular day-to-day activities. I also believe that we need to look at how we approach incarceration. We need to think about how we can invest in focusing on the whole person while those who are incarcerated are behind bars to ensure we lower the recidivism rate. We also need to make sure that the bad police officers are removed from the force and dealt with appropriately.

**2. Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on police accountability and criminal legal reform (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).**

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

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

NO.

I struggle with eliminating qualified immunity for state and local police and correctional officers because I worry about if the officers will still be able to do their job with out fear. When they do illegal things they should be held accountable but I would be fearful that removing this could put good officers in jeopardy or make someone think twice before helping someone. I am an as with anything open to have a conversation.

**b. Enacting the recommendations from the special legislative commission on facial recognition, to implement privacy, civil rights, and due process protections to govern police use of the technology? (Y/N)**

YES.

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

YES.

I think this is an interesting idea but I think I would need to know more about the purpose of the unarmed community-based response and how that would be executed. I do believe whole heartedly in our ride along mental health clinician program we have in Plymouth and would like to see that expanded.

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

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

NO.

I would like to say that I fully support not making kids criminals and that is very important. I am concerned that it is saying that two 13 year olds understand and are emotionally prepared for what they are involved in. Some might be but not all are.

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

YES.

I agree that life without parole should be eliminated but this needs to be part of a deeper prison reform where we look at the whole person a work to reform them.

6. **Prison Accountability.** Massachusetts legislators have the statutory right to make unannounced visits to correctional facilities run by the state. Would you commit to exercising this right in order to improve accountability for the Department of Corrections? (Y/N)

YES.

We need to really look at the programming within the prisons to make sure that they are working for the whole person and with an eye to what will happen when they get out.

7. **Solitary Confinement.** Although the 2018 Criminal Justice Reform Act contained provisions to reduce the excessive and harmful use of solitary confinement, the Department of Corrections has established policies and practices to [evade implementation of the spirit of these reforms](#), by essentially turning Souza-Baranowski into de facto solitary confinement by limiting out of cell time to three hours per day,

which exceeds the definition established in the 2018 Act by one hour. Would you support legislation to address this discrepancy by establishing universal conditions of confinement standards applicable to all people in Massachusetts state prisons, county jails and houses of correction, regardless of housing or security status? (Y/N)

YES.

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

YES.

I think we do need to make sure they are in good condition as part of the guidelines.

9. **Clean Slate.** The Massachusetts court system maintains a database of name-based court arraignment records, referred to as Massachusetts Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI). Many people are trapped in poverty and shut out of jobs and housing because of the difficult process to expunge their records, even for cases that did not end in a conviction or occurred when they were teenagers. Would you support...

- a. **Requiring the Commissioner of Probation to automatically seal criminal and juvenile records after the applicable waiting periods without requiring individuals to file a petition to do so?** (Y/N)

YES.

- b. **Requiring the immediate sealing of a criminal offense if the charge did not end in a conviction?** (Y/N)

YES.

10. **Protecting Our Immigrant Neighbors.** The entanglement of state and local law enforcement with ICE's federal immigration enforcement makes everyone less safe. To end such entanglement, would you support the following measures...?

- a. **Preventing police and court officials from inquiring about immigration status?** (Y/N)

YES.

- b. **Requiring written, informed consent before any ICE interrogation?** (Y/N)

YES.

- c. **Prohibiting all Massachusetts entities from donating state employee time to ICE via 287(g) agreements, i.e., agreements in which state and local law enforcement are deputized to act as ICE agents?** (Y/N)

YES.

- d. **Protecting access to justice by prohibiting police and court officials from initiating contact with ICE about a person's pending release from police or court custody, except at the end of a sentence of incarceration? (Y/N)**

YES.

I think many of these have a bit of nuance. We need to know what the person is charged with because it depends on the extreme charge that is being charged. I think in the case of murder (only once convicted) ICE agents should be charged.

## G. A Welcoming Society

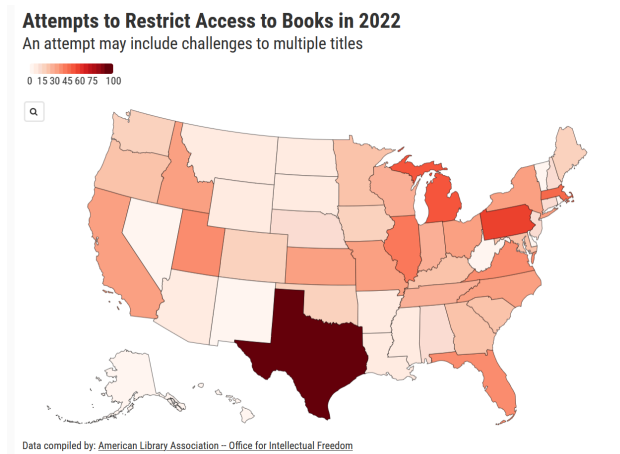
Our commonwealth is at its strongest when we recognize and celebrate the diversity of our population.

Massachusetts has often been a leader on LGBTQ rights, being the first state to legalize same-sex marriage and having passed a strong trans anti-discrimination law (with additional protections for health care passed more recently). However, archaic laws and regulations remain, and efforts to ban LGBTQ-friendly books are not just a "red state" problem but unfortunately far too common here at home.

Immigrants make up [18%](#) of Massachusetts's population; however, demagoguery against, or indifference to, immigrant populations has historically been a mainstay of Massachusetts politics. We too often see both Democrats and Republicans fear-monger about immigration and the border, championing policies that criminalize rather than welcome.

Although Massachusetts likes to view itself as a leader in social progress, racial discrimination has been prevalent in our history and in our present, and a legacy of oppression and expropriation of indigenous communities remains unaddressed in policy and iconography.

**In 2022, there were 45 attempts to restrict access to books in MA, with 57 titles challenged. ([Source](#))**



### 1. Please explain your principles and proposals relative to building a welcoming society.

I believe we need to create a welcoming society that all people feel comfortable regardless of their backgrounds, abilities, where they come from, sexual orientation, race, and so much more. We need to make sure that resources are accessible to all. We need to educate our population and help people learn about differences in a way that is accessible with continued Diversity training. People are people and should be respected as such in all that we do, incorporated and thought about with any new piece of legislation to ensure it does not have any unintended consequences.

**2. Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to make MA a more welcoming place for all.**

I have been a member of Plymouth No Place for Hate for many years (13 as a Board member and 1 as an associate member at this point). I have help coordinate, plan and host countless events to educate the community about a variety of topics. I served as treasurer and parliamentarian several times during my tenure.

As the School Committee Chair this year I spearheaded the effort to write and pass a resolution committing the district to the work of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We also pushed for a Diversity Coordinator who has been with the district for almost 2 years.

DEIBJ wok is at the core of who I am as a person. We need to make sure that people are educated about all people and understand that we have much in common than we do differences.

3. **Right to Learn.** Right-wing efforts to ban books from school or public libraries disproportionately target books about LGBTQ people and communities of color. Would you support legislation to prevent book removal due to personal or political views in public and school libraries, require public libraries to adopt the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, and protect librarians from retaliation?

YES.

It is important that we have access to all information. Book banning is not something that should ever be done.

4. **Location Shield Act.** Would you support legislation to ban the sale of cell phone location information, which can be used for surveillance and targeted harassment of any population, including abortion patients and providers, LGBTQIA+ individuals, religious faiths, and other marginalized groups? (Y/N)

YES.

5. **Gender X Bill.** Would you support codifying into law the RMV's recent regulatory decision to offer an "X" marker on licenses and expanding its scope to cover more documents, including birth certificates, other ID options, and state forms? (Y/N)

YES.

6. **Massachusetts Parentage Act.** Although marriage equality has been the law of the land in Massachusetts for more than two decades, we have outdated parentage laws that disadvantage same-sex couples. Would you support legislation to ensure that every child has the same rights and protections under law as any other child without regard to the marital status, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation of the parent or parents? (Y/N)

YES.



7. **Language Access.** Would you support legislation to build the capacity of key public-facing state agencies to meet the language access needs of an increasingly diverse population by standardizing and enforcing language access protocols and practices? (Y/N)

YES.

Language Access: I believe that this is the right thing to do because we do need to make sure that we have documents and other things translated and accessible but my only concern is what the cost would be and how it would be paid for. We do need the federal government to help with this and other needs for our MLL.

8. **Indigenous People's Day.** Would you support legislation to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples in state statute as the recognized holiday on the second Monday of October? (Y/N)

YES.

9. **School Mascots.** Would you support legislation to prohibit the use of Native American mascots in Massachusetts public schools? (Y/N)

YES.

I was behind the change of one of the logos for one of our Elementary Schools getting changed. I reached out to our local Chairwoman and we discussed her feelings and she went back and talked it over with others. Then we worked with the Elementary School regarding the logo. I also have a problem with one of the names of one of our Elementary Schools but have asked and it is not a problem or at this time is not seen as a problem.

## H. 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, 2018, and 2022 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](#).

### MA has the least competitive elections in the country. ([Source](#))

State Legislative Competitiveness Index in Massachusetts, 2010-2022					
Year	Open seats	Incs. in contested primaries	Major party competition	Competitiveness Index	Rank
2010	17.0%	8.4%	48.0%	24.5	41 / 46
2012	5.0%	10.0%	33.0%	16.0	44 / 44
2014	11.0%	9.6%	38.5%	19.7	41 / 46
2016	6.5%	10.7%	23.0%	13.4	44 / 44
2018	12.0%	11.4%	30.0%	17.8	46 / 46
2020	7.5%	12.4%	21.0%	13.6	44 / 44
2022	12.0%	11.9%	30.0%	18.0	46 / 46

**Lower-income, ethnically diverse municipalities have lower voter turnout than whiter, more affluent communities, leading to reduced voice in state politics.**

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Turnout (Nov 2022)</u>
Lawrence	22.8%
Springfield	24.9%
Lowell	29.7%
Chelsea	31.7%
New Bedford	33.0%
Fall River	33.0%
Brockton	33.1%
Southbridge	34.3%
Holyoke	34.4%
Lynn	35.0%

[Source: MassLive](#)

1. **Please explain your principles and proposals relative to good government and strong democracy.**

I believe that as a government we need to work to be as Transparent as possible and to include all the voices in conversations to make sure that we understand the results both good, bad, and unintended consequences. We need to make sure that everyone has a voice and understand the importance of voting and can vote.

2. **Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to promote transparency, campaign finance reform, legislative rules reform, and access to voting.**

As a member of the School Committee and this year as chair we have tried to provide all the information we could regarding our budget and look to include even more information next year. We also continue to answer questions as we can and share all the information we can to allow the residents of Plymouth to know what is happening within the school district.

As someone who has her Masters in Political Science, I have had the opportunity to be part of some access to voting when I was in grad school. We did some polling and other outreach for some classes. I also did a research paper about the public funding of elections that Massachusetts had for a short time.

3. **Legislative Transparency—Part I.** The Massachusetts Legislature lacks many basic transparency measures found in other state legislatures around the country. Would you vote in favor of making the following items available online...? (Y/N)

**a. All committee votes, whether taken by electronic poll or formal roll call?**

YES.

**b. All written testimony submitted for or against bills (with appropriate redactions)?**

YES.

4. **Legislative Transparency—Part II.** Legislators only vote to change the rules at the start of the legislative session, but all legislators can model transparency on their own throughout the session. Would you commit to making your committee votes available online on your website, with reader-friendly language about the bills voted on? (Y/N)

YES.

Yes, I would totally do this if I am able to and can figure out how to do it. Voters understanding how people vote is important for them to understand how to advocate and/or support.

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

YES.

I believe that everything should be a part of the public record (minus what an official does on their own phone). As long as one is conducting themselves and working hard and doing the right things that should not be a problem to share everything.

6. **Expanding Access to Public Meetings.** During the pandemic, the ability to attend and participate in public meetings virtually has expanded the number of people who are able to participate, removing barriers faced by people with disabilities, people with small children, people with mobility issues, or people with scheduling conflicts (among many others). Would you support updating Open Meeting Law so that people can choose to participate remotely in public meetings on a permanent basis, even after the pandemic emergency ends, and providing the necessary funds to municipalities to implement this? (Y/N)

YES.

I believe this is important but I think it also might need to come with Funding. I know making our School Committee meetings hybrid is really difficult for our media staff. I believe we need an update to ensure this is something we can do but we have priorities classroom technology.

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

YES.

I think we would need to be careful with this and to be inclusive may have to include elder care as well, or day program care for those with intellectual disability.

8. **Same Day Registration.** Massachusetts lags behind other states in making voting accessible for all. Do you support eliminating Massachusetts's arbitrary and exclusionary 20-day voter registration cutoff and allowing voters to register or update their registration at the polls on Election Day and during the early voting period? (Y/N)

YES.

9. **Local Elections.** Municipalities across Massachusetts have sought to expand the franchise for local elections, but remain hamstrung by the home rule process.

- a. **Would you support legislation to enable municipalities to expand the franchise to 16- and 17-year-olds for local elections?** (Y/N)

YES.

- b. **Would you support legislation to enable municipalities to expand the franchise to legal non-citizens (e.g., Green Card holders) for local elections?** (Y/N)

YES.

I think it would be important to consult with the municipalities and follow their desire.

10. **Voting Rights Restoration.** Would you support restoring the franchise to incarcerated individuals serving time for felony convictions (Their right to vote was taken away by ballot twenty years ago)? (Y/N)

YES.

11. **Campaign Public Financing.** Would you support the extension of the limited public financing system to include campaigns for state representative and state senate? (Y/N)

YES.

I have long believed this should be done as it opens access to more people.

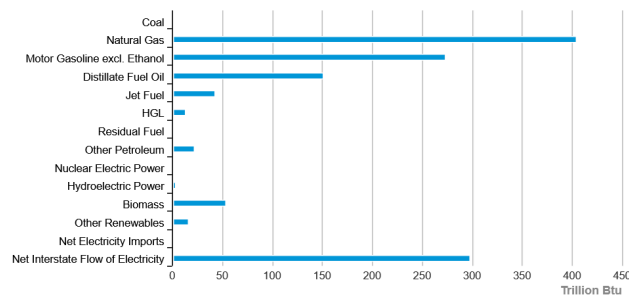
# I. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

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, as well as the goals of the 2021 Next Generation Roadmap law, 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, the state government must take a role in accelerating this transition and ensuring that equity is at the forefront.

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.

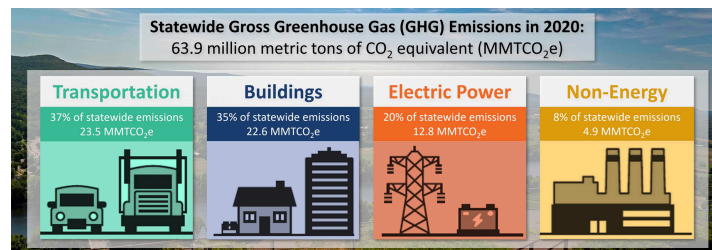
**Despite recent progress, Massachusetts is still overwhelmingly dependent on fossil fuels.**

Massachusetts Energy Consumption Estimates, 2021



Source: Energy Information Administration, State Energy Data System

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



1. **Please explain your principles and proposals relative to sustainable infrastructure and environmental protection.**

It is so important that as we grow and look to make changes to our community that we are paying attention to environmental impact that is happening both in the location of the change and as a direct result to the surrounding area. We need to make sure that we know how it impacts the animals, vegetation, and our water supply. It is important that any growth that we look at is both smart and sustainable.

2. **Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to protect the environment and expand access to public transportation.**

3. **100% Renewable Energy.** Scientists have argued that, with existing technologies, the US could supply 100% of energy needs with renewable sources. Would you support requiring that Massachusetts adopt a target of sourcing electricity from 100% renewable energy sources by 2035? (Y/N)

NO.

I support the idea but I am not sure it is practical to be done in only 11 years. I believe it should be the goal but I am not sure we are able to do it.

4. **Expanding Solar Coverage.** Would you support legislation to create permanent incentives for siting solar projects where they have the least environmental impact, i.e., on buildings and disturbed land? (Y/N)

YES.

5. **Fossil Fuel Infrastructure.** Do you oppose the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure in the state? (Y/N)

YES.

6. **Make Polluters Pay.** Do you support holding the corporations who are most responsible for causing global climate change financially accountable to pay for damages caused by climate driven extreme weather and the infrastructure improvements needed for resilience? (Y/N)

YES.

I do think we need to be careful and determine intent.

7. **Zero-Carbon Renovation Fund.** Would you support creating a fund to jumpstart zero-carbon renovations in existing buildings like affordable housing and public schools, and in environmental justice communities? (Y/N)

YES.

I think this is a great idea but when starting this we need to first make sure we have MSBA funded and maybe we can add to that existing fund to help with some of this.

8. **Environmental Justice.** Would you support requiring the Energy Facilities Siting Board to consider environmental justice, public health, and climate impacts in decision-making on siting projects? (Y/N)

YES.

9. **Plastic Bag Ban.** Would you support a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags? (Y/N)

YES.

I believe this would be something that would need to be phased in overtime to give small businesses a way to find an alternative.

10. **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. Would you support requiring the electrification of the MBTA bus fleet by 2030, RTA fleets by 2035, and the MBTA rail system by 2035? (Y/N)

NO.

I love the idea behind this but I am not sure that we can make this happen in that short window of time. The cost and infrastructure issues that we already have could be exacerbated if we do something too quickly.

11. **Free Public Transit.** Do you support making public transit in the Commonwealth fare-free? (Y/N)

YES.

I would be interested in learning more about how that would impact the Commonwealth budget and what might have to change.



### **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.

The why you are running would not let me add the following:

As a school committee member we often get asked to read in classrooms. It is always a great opportunity to hear from the youngest members of our community. Recently I was reading at an event at West Elementary and did what I always do. I tell them who I am and what the school committee is to help them understand my role. I read the book and after ask them what they would like to see changed or improved in their schools. I typically get more recess time or sports equipment or better lunch choices but one student raised his hand and looked at me and said, "I wish more people could come to my school so they could have the great teachers I have and I could get to know them and they could get to know my friends."

I am running for this student and all the other residents who believe in the importance of community and what we have here in plymouth. This little boy loves Plymouth and I want to make sure that together we build a Plymouth that when he grows up he can stay in. I am running to be the voice for all of Plymouth now and in the future. We have so many great things happening in Plymouth but we have areas that need improvement, like all communities.

I am currently the Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Massasoit Community College and prior to that worked as the Director of Advancement at Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

I have the passion for my community and a work ethic instilled in me by my Mom and Dad who were both Teamsters for 25 plus years and my Mom who is currently a Postal Union member. I understand the hard worker that it will take to win and to be the most effective State Representative I can be. I also believe in the importance of listening to people, and doing research to make sure that unintended consequences are avoided.

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