



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2024 Legislative
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Sean Diamond

Office Sought: State Representative, 9th Middlesex

Party: Forward

Website: <https://www.sean.diamonds>

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.** 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 for office, because I believe that Waltham deserves better. I am running to help preserve democracy in Massachusetts, to introduce a viable and reasonable alternative to single-party rule in the state house, and to ensure that residents in Waltham are listened to, considered, and receive proactive attention from their elected officials regardless of whether they have lived in the city for a year, a decade, or a lifetime. Ultimately, I am hoping to demonstrate that by respecting everyone's time and attention in government, business, and society that we can make the world a little bit better every day. I don't have a specific top 3. Please see my platform page: <https://www.sean.diamonds/platform>

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

In addition to more than 20 years of academic and professional work in physics, climate change science, and renewable energies (including managing large change initiatives and teams of people), I have documented my civic resume on my campaign website: <https://www.sean.diamonds/resume>.

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?

Unchallenged single party rule of the state legislature by the Democratic Party leadership for many decades, which has led to political stagnation and a lack of transparency. Without a vibrant, competitive, and reasonable 2nd-party option in Massachusetts to champion truly progressive options (meaning those that will consider the nuances of a given situation and advocate to enact improvements that actually make a difference rather than simply looking good in a social media post).

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

I'm not sure this is what you are looking for, but I'm advocating for public transit for all of Waltham (not just the areas adjacent to the Commuter Rail). Please see more details on my website: <https://www.sean.diamonds/platform-details/73t-public-transit-for-north-waltham>

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

I do this as a regular part of my job in a professional environment. However, I will be transparent that this is my first major attempt to organize a broad coalition in a civic

endeavor. I am running for Waltham State Rep to ensure resident's interests are more proactively represented but also as a MA state lead of the Forward Party to demonstrate what a non-Republican, non-Democratic candidacy and platform could look like.

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 don't double dip. I am endeavoring to run an ethical campaign, and I would carry that into office. The incumbent currently serves both as a City Councillor and also as a State Rep, collecting 2 salaries and 2 pensions. Since home rule petitions and other state legislation often requires municipalities to obtain approvals from the state legislature, this inherently creates an insurmountable conflict of interest that prevents the incumbent from performing either role as residents deserve.

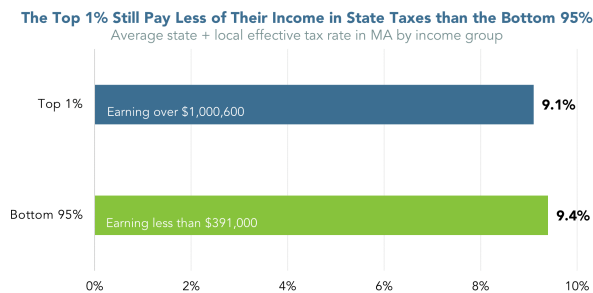
II. The Issues

A. Revenue and Taxation

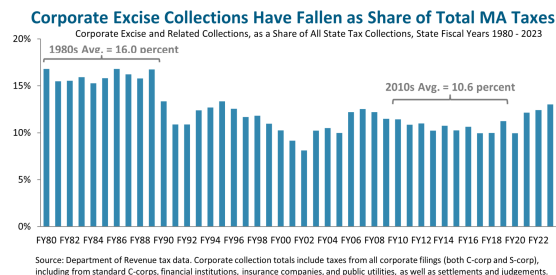
Although Massachusetts has developed the moniker of “Taxachusetts,” our history shows the opposite. Between 1977 and 2016, Massachusetts [reduced state taxes](#) by more than all but two other states. Because of income tax cuts enacted between 1998 and 2002, Massachusetts lost over \$4 billion in tax 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 have a proposal to reduce regressive sales taxes without reducing the total state revenue collected, which will provide relief to those who can least afford it. See more details here:

<https://www.sean.diamonds/platform-details/digital-dignity-amp-reducing-the-regressive-sales-tax>. I'm also open to other suggestions.

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.).

See above. I have also written extensively different forms of universal basic income. I'm in the process of compiling my writings into a book, which I intend to publish later this year.

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?

NO.

For 3a, I would not want to damage the credibility and faith in the credit of the state. Instead, we should be more thoughtful about how any tax break legislation is crafted in the future. That said, I would suggest that any existing clauses of tax break legislation or contracts that are not being honored by the recipients should be pursued aggressively by the State Auditor and/or the Attorney General.

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.

For 3c, respectfully, in the grand scheme of things, \$30 million per year is not that much for aircraft construction relative to the overall Sales & Use Tax collected by MA each year (<https://www.mass.gov/lists/massachusetts-dor-blue-book-reports>). I would need to understand more about this concern to make an informed decision.

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.

In theory, I would support this. However, I would need to understand the nuances of what is being suggested here.

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.)**

NO.

- 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?**

NO.

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

NO.

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

NO.

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

YES.

For 5a/b/c/d, I am not opposed to these concepts, but I would need to see some economic analysis about the overall effectiveness of this proposal and understand any unintended consequences that would result in corporations simply shifting to other more tax-friendly states. For 5d, I don't know that how effective this would be at raising revenues for the state; however, I would be open to putting guide rails in place that encourage the equitable and responsible use of large endowments for the benefit of the Commonwealth and the country as a whole.

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 agree with the concept for truly large non-profits that require government services, but I would need to understand why you have chosen \$15 million as a threshold. For example, there are many single family homes in Waltham valued over \$1 million, and commercial property values are significantly higher. However, that doesn't mean the homeowners and non-profits have immediate access to that value in cash. Often individuals and organizations only have limited access to the equity and are making mortgage payments that offset the perceived value of a property.

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
Living Wage	\$27.89	\$52.46	\$67.41	\$18.33	\$28.38	\$36.20
Poverty Wage	\$7.24	\$9.83	\$12.41	\$4.91	\$6.21	\$7.50
Minimum Wage	\$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.

Aside from attempting to ensure we have respect for everyone's time and attention in government, business, and society. I have not identified specific proposals for "good-paying jobs for all". I would be open to a discussion or suggestions about how you (or any constituents) suggest to achieve this. With regard to reducing inequality, I'm primarily focused on understanding the specific needs of individuals, families, and communities and developing practical solutions that meet their needs. This will not always translate into obvious social media and PR opportunities, but it will put the people that are impacted inequality at the center of the decision-making process.

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.).

Please refer to <https://www.sean.diamonds/resume>

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?

NO.

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 believe in dignity and respect for everyone, and in turn paying them appropriately for their time, attention, and experience while they are on the job. However, I'm not sure that the minimum wage (while necessary) is the most effective way to achieve this. This is particularly important for teenagers and those looking to enter the workforce and develop the skills that will lead to professional success later in life. If the minimum wage is raised too high, it may bias employers away from hiring younger, less experienced part time employees. Also, since raising the minimum wage can lead to increased inflation, I would be hesitant to make a direct tie to inflation without any other considerations. It is especially important to consider that this would also mean that the minimum wage would go down when deflation occurs, which may lead to other unintended

consequences.

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?

NO.

I am not opposed to the overall concept, but there are a lot of scenarios where mandatory arbitration can be to the benefit of employees as well as employers - particularly where there is a strong union presence. Therefore, I would need to understand the nuances of a particular proposal.

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?

NO.

I am not opposed to this concept. However, many municipal workers are already receiving significant pension and medical benefits as part of their employment. If you were to provide me with an analysis of the impact and effectiveness of a particular proposal, I would be happy to comment.

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.

It is important to allow for balanced negotiations between employers and employees, and for employees of governments and large corporations there can be a distinct power imbalance, which may require collective bargaining and an opportunity to strike to the extent to which it does not negatively impact public safety. That said, for public employees (such as teachers), it is also important to recognize that the result of a strike can significantly impact entire communities, including those who can least afford to miss work or pay for additional childcare. Therefore, any legislation that would support a right to strike by public employees should also include provisions for the state, municipalities, and the unions engaged in collective bargaining to each contribute funding, bonds, or insurance policies prior to any strike action or contract expiration to mitigate the impact of the strike on the community members that depend on the services that would otherwise be provided. The

incentive structure for both employer and union should be to avoid disruptions to public services whenever possible.

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.

For 8a, I do need to clarify that I won't support “all legislation” — I would need to review the legislation and understand that it is written properly with effective enforcement mechanisms. I wouldn't want a well intended proposal to backfire on workers.

- 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.

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.

I'm also supportive of the State Auditor's ballot initiative to clarify that non-legislative functions of the State Legislature are open to the same audit practices as any other part of the government.

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?

YES.

C. Education

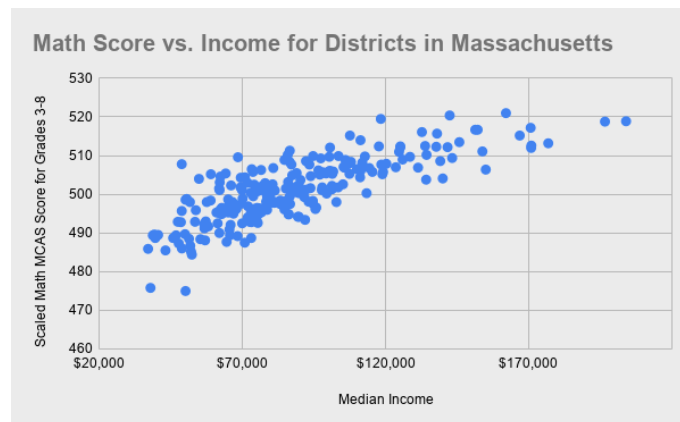
Massachusetts parents and caregivers face the [highest child care and early education costs of any state in the US](#). The average annual cost of infant care in Massachusetts is more than half of what a full-time minimum wage worker earns in a year. These costs are prohibitively expensive for low- and 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.

As I started campaigning, I was surprised to learn that more than half of Waltham students do not have English as a primary language. While I support and applaud the efforts of the Waltham Family School and the Dual Language School, I question whether this is enough for a city with such a diverse student population. I believe that we need to prioritize meeting students where they are developmentally and foster an educational environment where all students can grow and thrive. More broadly in Massachusetts, we need to address the concerns about failing to teach children to read as captured in this podcast series: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/sold-a-story/id1649580473>.

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

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 support this concept, but I would need to understand why 7% is the most appropriate threshold. Also, I dislike legislation that targets “low-income” in a way that families can fall off a fiscal cliff by slightly exceeding an income threshold — where in effect a minor pay raise can end up costing a family more money. We need to have a serious conversation in Massachusetts about how to

comprehensively address the cost of 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.

This needs to be part of the larger conversation about child care affordability and education.

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 don't have an opinion about MCAS specifically, but I do think we need to focus more on outcome based learning objectives rather than test scores. I believe it would be appropriate to form an independent commission to study the current system and suggest alternative best practices for Massachusetts to adopt in education.

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)

NO.

I neither support nor oppose this proposal. I believe there is a role for private and charter schools to play in the education system, and the evidence is mixed with regard to effectiveness of public vs charter schools with regard to learning outcomes for students.

7. **Receivership.** The Lawrence Public Schools, Holyoke Public Schools, and Southbridge Public Schools are currently under state receivership, with a state-appointed receiver assuming the powers of a superintendent or democratically elected school committee. 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)

NO.

I would not generically support ending this practice without a clearly defined alternative to replace it. While the receivership model may not be ideal, the schools that ended up in that scenario in the first place were not under ideal

management to begin with.

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.

I believe that all educational curricula need to be aligned appropriately to the age and developmental maturity of the students. I fully support a full and accurate history to be taught as an important part of student civic engagement. However, any legislation would need to be crafted in a way that acknowledges that all "history" is inherently subjective and open to interpretation thru the lens of the current society, and the curricula should be geared towards encouraging student curiosity, creative problem solving, and critical analysis of data sources, evidence, and potential biases in first hand accounts.

- 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 would support 2 years of free enrollment in community colleges, trade schools, and public colleges for MA residents. However, beyond that I'm not entirely sure that "completely free of student loan debt" is realistic or even desirable. As students mature into adults, it is important that they have a financial stake in their own education and growth. Also, it is important to pair this sort of proposal with putting appropriate controls in place to avoid fraud and wasteful spending by higher education administrators.

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)

NO.

I am not opposed to appropriate funding for public higher education, but I think this would require a more comprehensive approach than simply mandating a minimum level.

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)

NO.

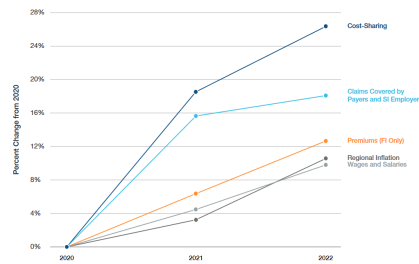
I believe controls should be put in place to protect from the abuse and overuse of “adjunct” positions as a form of exclusion from full time employment in public higher education. However, I don’t agree that the proposal above reflects the most effective way to ensure respect and dignity for higher education employees.

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

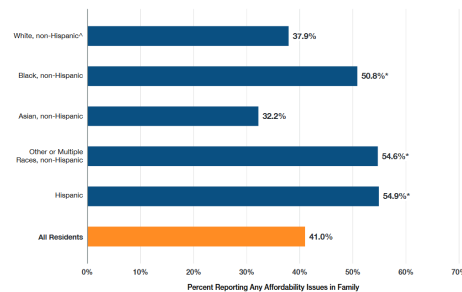


Member cost-sharing and premiums increased at a faster rate than regional inflation and wages and salaries from 2020 to 2022, driven in part by fluctuations in utilization during this time period.

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 amount to have not been adjusted for health care costs, which may vary by plan. Claim members' contributions from 2020 to 2022, and 2023, were also listed as 2022, but in 2023, they were 2023. Data for 2023 is not available for reporting and did not submit data for 2023. Data for 2023 is included in 2023 and 2022. See website for more.

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 issues is defined as reporting any of the following issues: couldn't access family medical care in past 12 months; family medical cost at the time of survey, spending a high share of family income in past 12 months; or out-of-pocket health care expenses, and/or total family health care needs due to the cost of care in past 12 months.
**Reference group.
***Difference from reference group is statistically significant at the 5% level.

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

The following platform detail is specific to reproductive agency in healthcare, but it is also indicative to my general approach to healthcare access:

<https://www.sean.diamonds/platform-details/universal-reproductive-agency-amp-access-to-life-saving-care>

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.

This support would be highly dependent on the specifics of the legislation and evidence that the particulars of the approach would be likely to provide better and more affordable healthcare outcomes for individuals, families, and communities. It would also need to be setup in a framework that is scalable and sustainable for generations to come.

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.

This seems like a reasonable first step, but it should be paired with addressing the root causes of medical debt in the first place while also acknowledging that as a society we should value and compensate medical professionals appropriately for the crucial services they provide.

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)

NO.

I would support requiring health insurance plans to cover all pregnancy care (including prenatal care, childbirth, and postpartum care); however, I'm not sure if I agree with the proposal of "without any kind of cost-sharing". I would be concerned that this might result in patients requesting or hospitals providing more medical treatment (or more expensive medical treatment) than is actually appropriate in order to collect more money. If a "no cost-sharing" model were implemented, there would need to be some sort of bureaucratic controls in place to avoid padding or further inflating the cost of medical care. Please also see:

[https://www.sean.diamonds/platform-details/universal-reproductive-agency-a
mp-access-to-life-saving-care](https://www.sean.diamonds/platform-details/universal-reproductive-agency-a
mp-access-to-life-saving-care)

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)

NO.

I would support identifying solutions to address this concern. However, a simple repeal could put medical professionals in a very vulnerable position of being expected to perform medical procedures on a minor without adult consent, which could result in unnecessary tort liability. Similar to the concept that minors cannot legally provide consent to sexual acts (i.e. the basis for statutory rape or sexual assault), minors are also unable to legally provide consent for medical procedures (or many other important life decisions). Therefore, we need a solution that both provides a path to safe medical care for minors in a compromised household but also allows for clear and legally defensible consent to be provided to medical professionals.

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.

I would strongly prefer legislation targeted at avoiding opioid addiction in the first place. However, I am open to reasonable medical practices with appropriate controls in place to avoid fraud, abuse, and misallocation of controlled substances.

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 fully support the use of vaccinations with proven efficacy, and I would support educational and informational efforts to encourage all residents to get vaccinated on a regular basis. I also fully support the role of the government in ensuring a ready supply of medical supplies. However, I believe that ultimately parents (and people generally) should have a choice in whether to have any medication, medical procedures, and immunizations administered on themselves and their children.

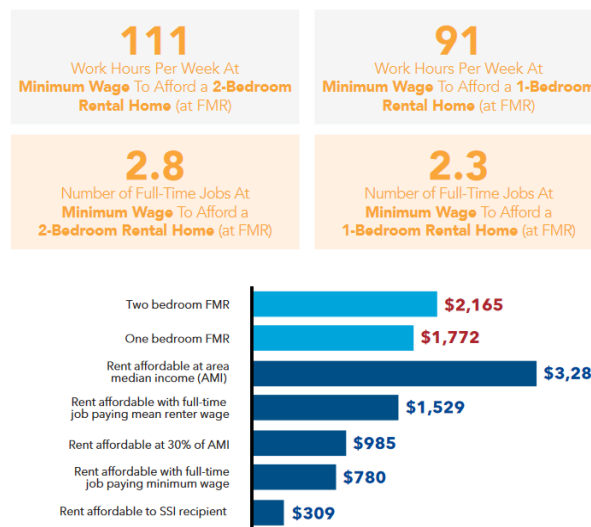
E. Housing

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.

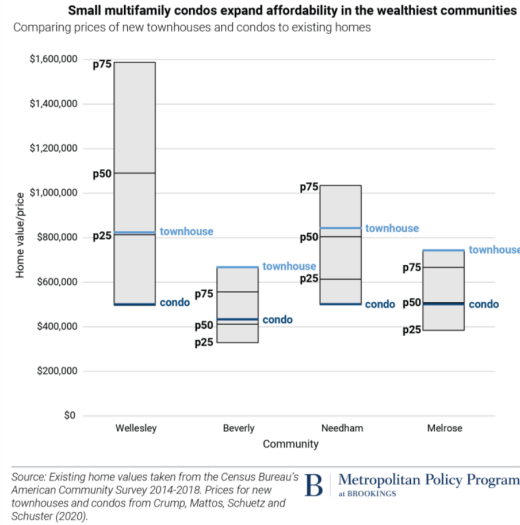
Home ownership has become increasingly out of reach, as the state's median home price is [approximately \\$600,000](#). In more than 20 communities, the median home price recently [passed \\$1 million](#). Meanwhile, we have some of the [most restrictive zoning laws](#) in the country, making it difficult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

Please see:

<https://www.sean.diamonds/platform-details/constituent-question-what-is-your-position-on-affordable-housing>

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)

NO.

I cannot say that I would oppose “any effort” because it would depend largely on the specifics of the proposal. Ultimately, as a society, we should be working to make shelter affordable and available to everyone who needs it as a basic necessity for human dignity. We also need to recognize that maintaining shelters and housing more generally is not without significant financial cost, which needs to be borne by someone (whenever the individuals seeking shelter are unable to pay for it themselves)..

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

YES.

This would need to be incorporated into Waltham’s master plan (which currently doesn’t exist), and there would need to be clear funding sources and defined

outcomes for scalability, sustainability, and a pathway for enabling folks to live with respect and dignity.

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)

NO.

I would like to see further evidence of the effectiveness of these programs in the municipalities where they have already been enacted. Are they actual delivering the desired outcomes and what shortcomings do they encounter?

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 am not familiar enough with this specific proposal at this time to declare my support. If a similar bill were presented once I took office, I would consider and balance the amount of funding obtained, the scale of the issue being addressed, and increased friction added to the real estate market in Massachusetts that might unintentionally decrease housing affordability even further.

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)

NO.

Rent control has too many unintended side effects. For a summary on why rent control doesn't work, I'll refer you to this podcast episode:
<https://freakonomics.com/podcast/why-rent-control-doesnt-work/>

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)

YES.

This seems reasonable, but I'm not clear on how much practical impact it will have for families in Massachusetts. Also, I believe there would be a minimum number of units (e.g. 4 or more) in a property, it shouldn't apply to properties that include any owner-occupied units, and there would need to be a minimum length of tenancy before the right of first refusal applies (e.g. at least 3 years). However, I want to be clear that any proposal like this would almost certainly have a variety of unintended consequences that might induce landlords and corporate property owners to guard against losing their own property rights. Therefore, I would not

intend to propose legislation like this if elected, but I would support such legislation if well written and clearly defined.

- 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'm not clear on why this proposal is specific to low-income tenants. Either tenants should have a right to counsel or they shouldn't. I would support a right to counsel without means testing.

- 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)

YES.

Depending on the details. I would want to see more comprehensive information about how this proposal would interact with all the other affordable housing legislation and funding sources available.

- 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)

NO.

I support mixed housing development, but I would need an explanation of why it is beneficial for such development to be state financed and owned by a housing authority.

- 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)**

YES.

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)

NO.

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)

NO.

Overall zoning laws should err on the side of permissiveness. However, each community and neighborhood has unique environmental, historical, and cultural attributes that should be taken into consideration. The environment should be protected, history should be acknowledged, and culture should be allowed to evolve. That said, we need to balance the competing needs for economic certainty and economic opportunity in order to enable human dignity when it comes to housing, livability, and environmental sustainability. For 13a/b/c, these proposals seem to provide obvious opportunities to increase flexibility with few drawbacks. For 13d, I would need to understand “prioritizing” compared to what other alternatives. For 13e, I’m in favor of adopting inclusionary zoning ordinances, but I’m concerned that a simple majority vote could lead to unpredictable changes to zoning ordinances from year to year as competing interests propose zoning changes that may or may not be considered inclusionary for different perspectives.

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.

This law has not yet been fully implemented or sufficiently worked its way thru the courts yet. It would be premature for the legislature to start implementing more severe consequences when it isn’t even clear that this legislation will achieve the desired outcomes even in the communities that are following the law.

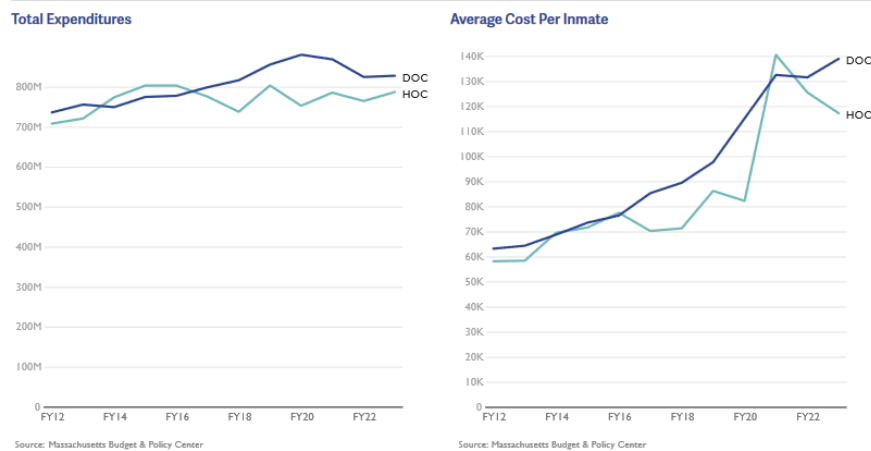
F. Police Accountability and Decarceration

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.

Please see:

<https://www.sean.diamonds/platform-details/constituent-question-criminal-justice-reform>

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)

YES.

- 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.

I am generally in favor of privacy especially in the digital age. Before fully committing to any particular legislation I would need to review and understand the intentions, practicality and limitations of any particular proposal.

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.

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.

For 5a, yes, assuming that violent offenses (regardless of drug involvement) would still be sentenced appropriately.

- 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)

NO.

For 5b, I would be open to a discussion about this; however, I would be concerned that this line of reasoning could also be used to make the case that we should raise the voting age (or other privileges for 18-21 year olds) should be curtailed as well.

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

NO.

For 5c, your link is broken, so I cannot see what you are asking me to commit to, and this is a very sensitive and important topic that requires careful consideration

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

NO.

For 5d, I am in favor of attempts to reform the criminal justice system and limit the application of life without parole sentences; however, I believe that there may still be some circumstances where it might be appropriate for extreme cases such as terrorism, mass murder, and other terrible offenses

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.

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)

NO.

I'm not clear why this would be necessary, and it could potentially hamper attempts to improve prison conditions.

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)

NO.

I would need to understand how this would impact the appeals process or scenarios where there are civil litigation cases associated with criminal cases.

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)

NO..

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

NO.

- 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)

NO..

- 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.

For 10a/c, I'm not sure a blanket prohibition is appropriate. For 10b, I'm not clear on "from whom" and "about what" are you suggesting that ICE obtain written and informed consent prior to interrogations.

G. A Welcoming Society

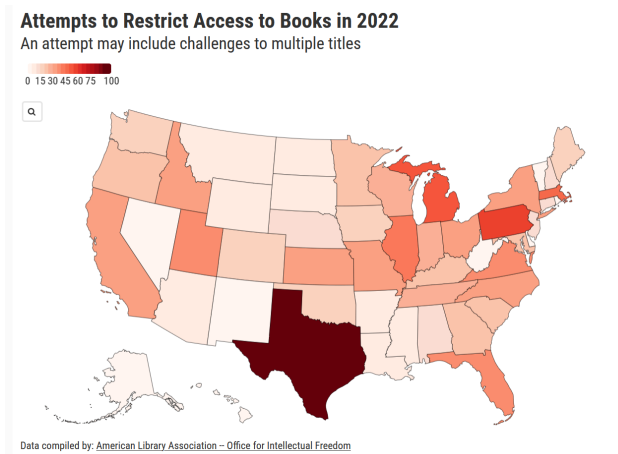
Our commonwealth is at its strongest when we recognize and celebrate the diversity of our population.

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.

Respect for everyone's time and attention is at the heart of my personal principles as well as my campaign.

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

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.

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)

NO.

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.

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.

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.**

[See attachment] .

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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)

NO.

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.

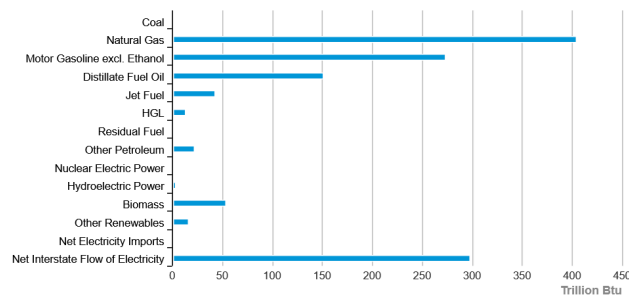
I. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

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.

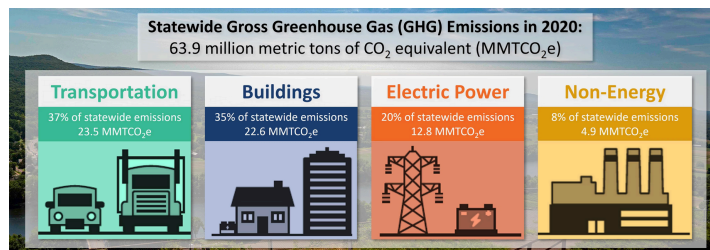
Despite recent progress, Massachusetts is still overwhelmingly dependent on fossil fuels.

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.**

[See attachment]

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.

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.

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)

NO.

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.

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)

YES.

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

NO.

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.