



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2024 County Office
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Stephanie Everett

Office Sought: Suffolk County Register of Probate & Family Court

Party: Democratic

Website: www.StephanieEverett.com

Instagram: [@Stephanie4Suffolk](https://www.instagram.com/Stephanie4Suffolk)

About Your Candidacy

1. Why are you running for this office? What are your top three priorities if elected?

I have been proud to serve as Register since being appointed by Governor Healey last year, since that time I have worked to leverage my professional and lived experience to ensure my office operates at its highest capacity. If elected, three of my top priorities will be to:

Strengthening Support Services: Developing comprehensive support and guidance for families dealing with emotionally charged legal matters, ensuring the court provides not just legal resolutions but also empathetic and practical Assistance.

Language Access Services: Expanding language translation and interpretation services to ensure non-English-speaking families can fully understand and participate in their legal proceedings.

Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution: Enhancing mediation services to offer families alternative ways to resolve disputes outside the courtroom, potentially leading to faster and more amicable outcomes.

2. What prepares you to serve in this office?

My preparation to serve as Register of Probate and Family Court is rooted in both my professional and personal experiences. Raised in Mattapan, I personally navigated family court challenges, caring for my siblings during my mother's mental health struggles and my father's incarceration. Despite experiencing homelessness at 19, I pursued higher education, graduating from Northeastern University and earning a Juris Doctorate from Suffolk University Law School. My career in public service, including roles such as Deputy Chief of Staff to State Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz and Chief of Staff to the Department of Transitional Assistance, has honed my ability to address complex legal and family issues. As the Executive Director for the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency, I implemented reforms and investigated misconduct, demonstrating my

commitment to justice and community. These experiences have uniquely prepared me to lead the Probate and Family Court with empathy, efficiency, and a deep understanding of the challenges faced by the families we serve.

3. What do you think are the most significant challenges facing the office, and how do you intend to address those challenges?

The most significant challenges facing the Register of Probate and Family Court office include accessibility to justice, inefficiencies in case processing, and a lack of comprehensive support services for families.

4. What progressive policies or programs will you implement if elected?

In continuation of my answer above regarding the biggest issues facing the office, working to address these things, I will enhance digital tools and online services to streamline processes and reduce wait times, expand language access services to ensure all families can fully participate in their legal proceedings, and develop robust support and resource centers to provide holistic assistance. Additionally, I will implement ongoing staff training on cultural competency and trauma-informed care to better serve diverse populations and foster community partnerships to integrate broader social services with court operations. My goal is to create a more efficient, equitable, and supportive court system for all families.

5. How do you see yourself as similar to or different from the current holder of the office you are running for?

I think the biggest difference would be that I bring to the office not only legal experience as a practicing attorney but also lived experience navigating the complexities of our family court system.

6. Why should people care about this election and this office?

People should care about this election and the Register of Probate and Family Court office because it directly impacts families during some of their most challenging times, handling matters like custody, divorce, and estates. The efficiency, empathy, and fairness of this office can significantly influence the outcomes and experiences of those navigating the court system. Electing a qualified and compassionate leader ensures that all individuals receive the support and justice they deserve. This office plays a crucial role in upholding the

integrity and accessibility of our legal system for families. Therefore, it affects the well-being and stability of our communities.

7. If a voter asked you what this office does, how would you answer (in no more than 3 sentences)?

The Registry of Probate and Family Court oversees some of our county's most challenging and sensitive legal cases—those involving families and children. The office provides administrative support to the court, ensuring that documents are filed correctly and accessible to the public and legal professionals. It also offers assistance and information to individuals navigating the probate and family court system.

8. (As Relevant) What do you view as the role of county government in Massachusetts? To what extent would you like to see it expanded or limited?

The role of county government in Massachusetts is to provide essential services such as judicial administration and ensuring local needs are met efficiently and effectively. County government should focus on improving these core services through enhanced coordination and resource allocation. I believe its role should be expanded to include more robust social services and community outreach programs to better support vulnerable populations. However, it should avoid overreach by maintaining clear boundaries and collaborating with state and municipal governments. This balance ensures it remains responsive to local needs while avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy.