



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2022 Legislative
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Jennifer WB Armini

Office Sought: State Representative

District: 11th Suffolk

Party: Democratic Party

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OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

Issue Subsections:

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

I. About You & Your Governing Approach

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

I am running for state representative from the 8th Essex District for two reasons: 1) I love the communities that make this a beautiful, livable, historic part of the world in which to raise a family; and 2) I have a passion for making change, and I see this seat and my skills as an excellent match. From my first days as a legislative aide on Capitol Hill in the early 90s, I knew I had the mindset, abilities, and instincts for the legislative process. These qualities have only grown over time, with experience at the state level, both in and out of government.

My top three priorities if elected are:

1. Strengthening our education system to meet the realities and demands of a post-COVID student population: The challenges of children not learning at grade level; lacking self-regulation skills; failing to sustain their academic and extra-curricular interests—to name a few—need to be met with intentional policymaking at the state level and resources to match ambitious goals. And it requires looking beyond standardized test scores to understand what inspires students to learn, in addition to the content we believe they should master in the process.
2. Combatting climate change with a focus on developing renewable energy sources: This requires aggressive implementation of our state's net zero greenhouse gas emission goals by 1) Cleaning our electric grid; 2) allowing more communities to implement all-electric building codes for new construction, and retrofitting older buildings; 3) electrifying public transportation; 4) incentivizing the purchase of electric vehicles; 5) exploring carbon pricing; and 6) sequestering carbon through natural solutions like tree planting.
3. Reducing the cost of prescription drugs: The state can utilize its position as a purchaser of prescription drugs and health care to pressure companies to reduce prices. Transparency is key. Third-party analysis from organizations like the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) offer credible data with which to negotiate.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

The job of legislator combines the ability to understand and develop legislation AND create the coalitions that enable bills to be passed into law. It also calls for going wide—using the bully pulpit to advance broader goals and values, for example—and going deep, as in helping constituents solve individual problems.

My long professional career, my recent work in grassroots politics, and my education have given me the skills to be effective at every aspect of the job. I have deep experience developing legislation and creating coalitions to support it.

I started my career on Capitol Hill, working as a legislative aide for two Members of Congress, one in a senior capacity. I worked with key stakeholders to bring legislation to the House floor, including other Members and their staffs, special interests, and constituents. After moving to Boston, I took on a similar role with the Department of Revenue's child support enforcement division (I worked on the child support section of the 1996 federal welfare reform bill). I also helped develop a successful Ford Foundation grant proposal that pulled together community-based anti-poverty programs and state agencies. During grad school, I completed an internship in the public affairs office of Planned Parenthood (PPLM), which involved creating strategies for fighting abstinence-only sex ed proposals. Later, as the communications director for MassINC, I promoted research and legislation on a range of issues impacting the state's middle class—education, the economy, housing, immigration. Even my many years as a speechwriter have given me the ability to analyze complex ideas and distill them into a form that would attract support for certain policies.

Beyond direct legislative experience, creating ElectBlue in January of 2017 afforded me a two-year grassroots bootcamp that honed my community organizing skills and reinforced my ability to bring people together to accomplish goals. ElectBlue was formed to raise money for US House and Senate Democratic candidates and to educate and engage our members in political action. My friend, Maureen Kay, and I did not expect to create a political organization; originally, we envisioned a small investment club model with US House and Senate candidates as the beneficiaries of our contributions. Then, seventy people showed up to our first meeting and more followed. Seeing the need, we organized a consistent menu of activities: monthly political briefings with voting on candidates to support, postcard nights, and celebrations and fundraisers. A FaceBook page and database helped us communicate and stay organized. To this day, people thank us for providing an outlet for their fears and frustrations, and many members are supporting my campaign.

Finally, I am extremely fortunate to have benefited from a remarkable undergraduate education in the University of Virginia's Department of Politics. I recently found my application for admissions, which included a short answer on my goal of dedicating my life to government service. I wrote a similar essay in my application to Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, which awarded me a Public Service Fellowship in recognition of my career and my commitment.

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?

Sure, it would be easy to say that the biggest obstacle to passing progressive legislation is the structure of the House—its rules and mores. There is certainly truth to that. But we have to work with what we've got for now, not what we wish we had. Within that context, how do you get to yes? The first task is to broaden the appeal of the issues generally and legislation specifically. Progressives are really great at talking to each other, but less effective at attracting the attention of the average voter.

Lasting legislative change takes place when individuals voice their concerns to their own elected officials—but they can only do that if they have the information and encouragement at the very local level. Tailoring issues and data could help. For example, you provide amazing statewide data in this questionnaire. It would be terrific to have that for individual communities or even regions and then share it broadly through legislators, letters to the editor in community newspapers (where they still exist), FaceBook posts on community pages (not just organizational pages), and other social media outlets. How much did the 1998 to 2002 tax cuts cost the 8th Essex District? How many workers (and which workers) would benefit from cracking down on wage theft in the 8th? I recently talked to a carpenter while knocking on doors. He was ripped at the practices of the larger contractors on the North Shore. His experience inspired me. His story needs to be told within his community to attract support.

My approach to communicating with people is transparent and straightforward: I am going to do my part with a very grassroots approach to legislating: direct engagement with as much information and data as I have available. I will tell that carpenter's story—reinforcing that he is a member of our community, our neighbor, our friend. I am skilled at bringing people together, especially people who may be surprised that they have values and views in common. I will communicate those stories and data with House leadership and underscore that our concerns are shared broadly—not just held by professional activists.

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

The impending reversal of Roe is on my mind, so I would like Massachusetts to (quickly) follow California's lead by funding greater access to abortion services and passing laws to protect providers and expand their numbers. The Golden State recently passed legislation blocking other states' laws from imposing criminal or civil penalties on those who provide or aid abortions, and the state has eliminated co-pays and deductibles for abortion services. In addition, there are bills pending that would authorize more medical providers to perform abortions and create scholarships for reproductive care doctors.

Massachusetts is rightly held up as a "safe" state, but our ability to deliver access to abortion services is hindered by the number of providers available. Hospitals won't perform abortions unless the life of the mother is at risk; the reimbursement rate is too low, and the politics can be a hassle. The providers we do have work for very low reimbursement rates. We need to expand their numbers with more funding..

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

It's an old one, but I remain incredibly proud of getting one particular amendment passed through the US House of Representatives in 1996 (the height of Newt Gingrich's Contract

with America). I was working for a progressive Republican at the time (they used to exist).

Parents who owed child support could evade liens when they purchased property in other states. Children were being denied their rightful resources because of it. A constituent drew our attention to this issue, and I worked with her, other advocates, and legislative counsel to craft a bill that would close this loophole. I lobbied staff from both sides of the aisle and House leadership to attract a long and diverse list of cosponsors. Some were motivated by the rights of the child and child poverty; others were more focused on keeping families off public assistance.

Still, some conservatives opposed the idea based on states' rights. I saw an opportunity to get this passed as part of the child support section of the larger welfare reform bill, but this concern threatened to derail the amendment. Working with leadership, we appealed to the individual members' core goal of keeping families off public assistance. That outweighed their other concerns. It took finding the right pressure point and the right messenger. I identified close colleagues of those opposing and had them advocate on the amendment's behalf. It was a nail biter, but in the end, states were given another arrow in their quiver for tracking down much-needed resources for kids.

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.

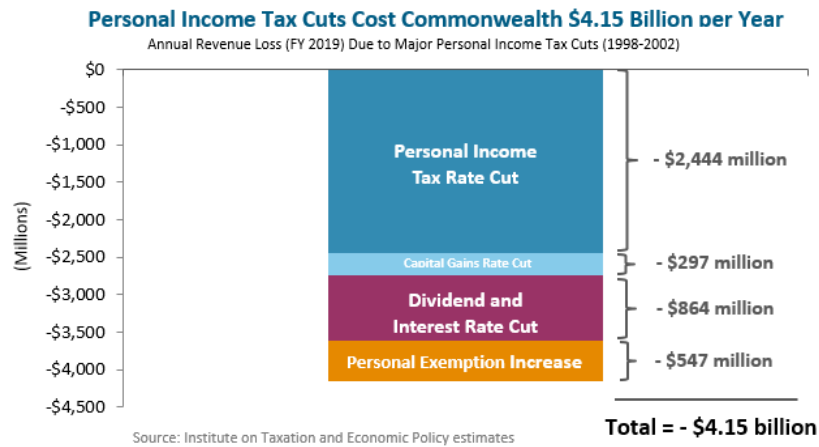
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II. The Issues

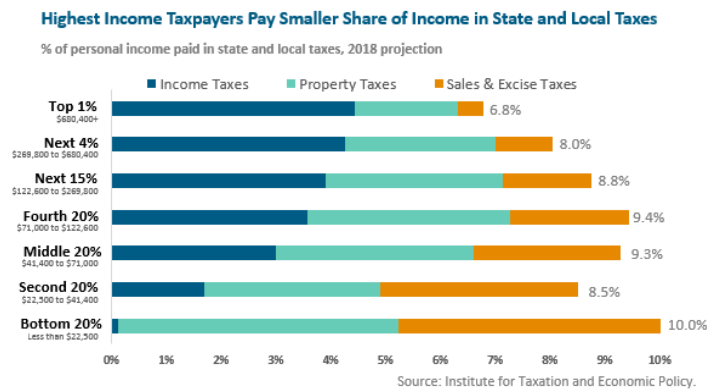
A. Revenue and Taxation

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

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



Massachusetts state and local taxes are regressive.



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

To quote Gene Sperling, wealth inequality in our nation is a national scandal. As you well know, wages and incomes have stagnated for ordinary American households, while a greater share of the country's wealth is concentrated in its upper echelons. In 1971, 61 percent of American households were middle income earners; today, that number is 51 percent and dropping (Pew). To deal with this issue, I believe we have to shift our focus from income to wealth, perhaps taxing it on an annual basis (i.e., taxing the accrual of wealth year over year). We also have to raise corporate taxes and make sure any tax breaks given are worth the cost over time to the state's coffers. You cover many of the ideas in your questions.

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

- a. **Collecting and publicly disclosing information about the benefits to the state from any tax break?**

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

4. **Progressive Revenue.** The Fair Share Amendment ballot initiative will raise much-needed revenue for our commonwealth, but we will require more resources to meet current needs. Do you support the following measures to make a more progressive tax code?

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

YES.

- b. **Imposing a tax on the portion of corporations' US profits that are shifted to**

offshore tax havens?

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

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

YES. I support PILOTS, but I am very concerned that \$15 million is too low for K-12 parochial schools and religious organizations that own significant amounts of real estate.

- b. **Would you support requiring the Department of Revenue to regularly collect the data on the financial impact of lost tax revenue from tax-exempt institutions?**

YES.

6. **Public Bank.** Do you support the creation of a Massachusetts [public bank](#) that would make loans to small businesses, local farmers, cooperatives, community development financial institutions, community development corporations, and municipalities?

YES.

7. **Divestment.** Do you support divesting public investments from private prisons, fossil fuel companies, and weapons manufacturers?

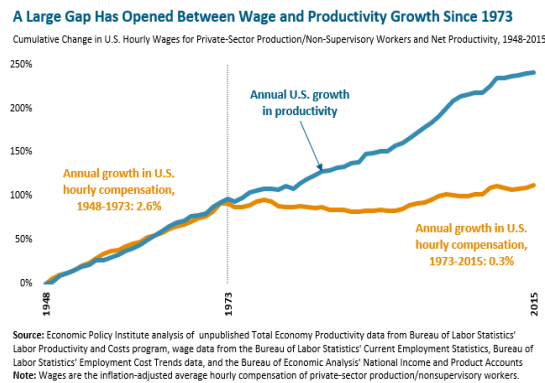
YES.

B. Jobs and the Economy

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

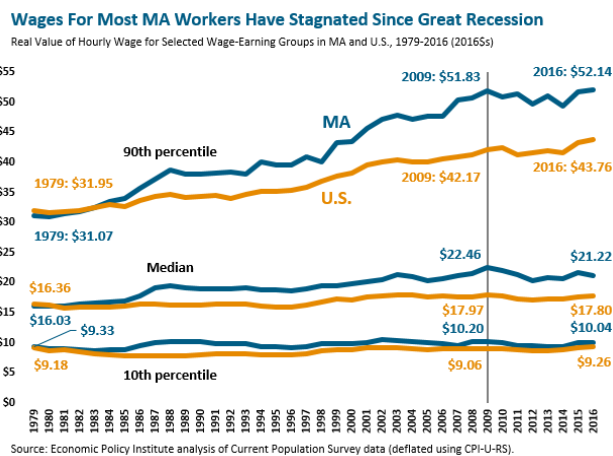
In recent decades, unions have been under attack. However, unions played—and continue to play—a pivotal role in creating a strong middle class. With weaker unions (or no unions at all) come weaker social and economic rights and an imbalanced economy.

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



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

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



<https://archive.massbudget.org/reports/swma/wages-income.php>

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

One of my favorite anecdotes is about General Electric. In their pre-1980 annual reports, they highlighted the amount of taxes they paid and the wages and benefits they offered their workers. Both were points of pride. But then the company went from making lightbulbs to making profits—a shift spearheaded by the much-admired CEO Jack Welch and aided by the Reagan Administration's successful deregulation efforts.

I offer this as an example of what workers are up against in an economy that is so clearly stacked against them. It's extremely tough to negotiate with organizations that are driven only by shareholder return. That's why expanding union membership is critical. Amazon and Starbucks unionization efforts are high-profile examples. While that is occurring, we need to push for the type of policies that enable families to work in the first place: Child care and early education are at the top of my list, along with other work-adjacent issues like public transportation, affordable health care, and housing prices that won't sap a family's budget.

Two education-related issues are inextricably entwined with jobs and the economy in Massachusetts, so I raise them here: early college programs and community college. A 2021 MassINC study showed that attending—just attending—community college increases employment rates, while actually finishing a certificate or degree increases employment and earnings. For the state, a completed community college degree yields \$25,000 in fiscal benefits per person over their lifetime, according to this year's follow-up study.

Early college programs have a similar impact, in that they prepare students to take on postsecondary work, which increases the likelihood that they will actually pursue it. This is especially the case with students for whom affordability is a big concern.

2. One Fair Wage. Do you support eliminating the subminimum wage for tipped workers?

YES.

3. 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.

4. Wage Transparency. Would you support requiring the submission of wage data to a public database maintained by the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and broken down by gender and race?

YES.

5. Fair Scheduling. Many workers in the service sector face irregular working hours,

making it difficult to plan for other life events. Do you support providing workers the right to 14 days advance notice of hours and the right to request specific hours without retaliation from the employer?

YES.

6. **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.

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

YES.

8. **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.

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

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

YES.

- b. **Will you oppose all legislation that weakens Massachusetts’s labor law protecting employees from being misclassified as “independent contractors”?**

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

12. **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. **Do you support the unionization effort of the Massachusetts State House Employee Union?**

YES.

- b. **If elected, are you committed to creating a safe work environment for all of your employees in which harassment, especially sexual harassment, is not tolerated?**

YES.

- c. **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.

C. Education

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.

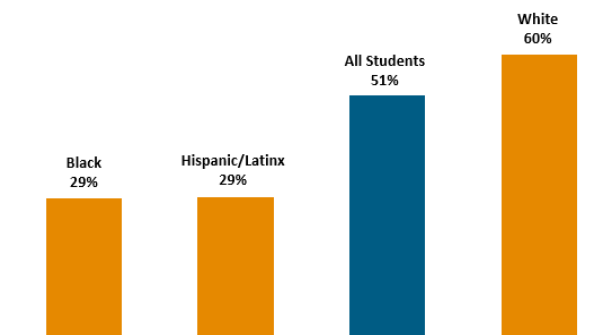
Public education has also been under attack by powerful corporate interests seeking to undermine public schools, teachers, and unions. These groups invest millions of dollars to promote the expansion of privately run charter schools, which siphon money from our public K-12 districts while largely excluding 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.

Massachusetts has significant achievement gaps reflective of resource gaps.

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

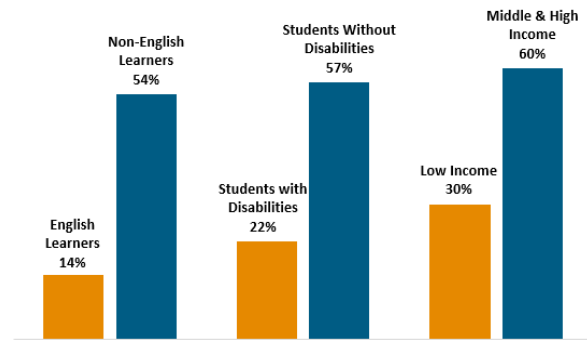
Share of MA 4th Graders Proficient on the 2017 NAEP Reading Exam, by Student Race, all students



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2017

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

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



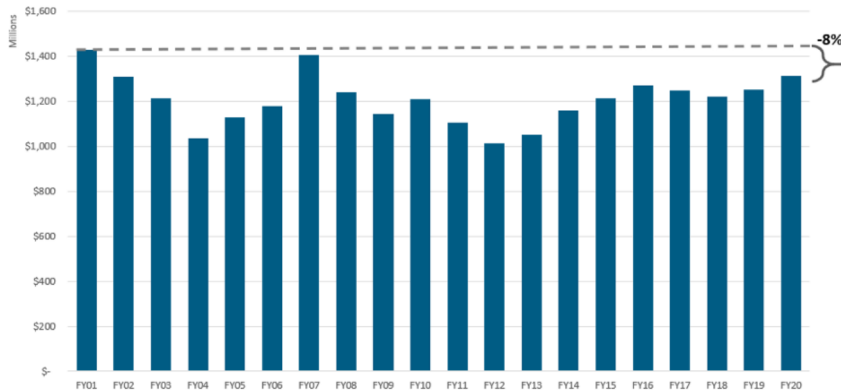
Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2017

https://archive.massbudget.org/report_window.php?loc=Towards-Equity-School-Funding-Reform-in-Massachusetts.html

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

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

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



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

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

It's almost quaint to recall the usual political answer to the question of education policy: "We need excellent schools!" What does that mean after a pandemic changed the way children learn and relate to one another? I have lived these changes in my own family, but we are far from the exception.

As I mentioned earlier, the answer has to involve a very intentional approach that recognizes the academic and mental/emotional challenges facing the state's children. For many reasons, the towns in the 8th Essex, along with the City of Lynn, continue to struggle with school funding—even with ESSER dollars. This will be a multi-year effort that extends beyond the life of COVID relief (which has to be committed by 2024 and spent by 2026). The state will need to continue supplementing budgets to help districts deal with the impact of learning loss and emotional and behavioral challenges that are wreaking havoc in the classroom and at home.

Policy and funding proposals could be coordinated through a Child and Youth Readiness Cabinet like the one created by Governor Patrick. The cabinet could also help municipal leaders understand and access different state resources.

We also need to recognize that our approach to assessments is outdated. High-stakes testing is at best useless and at worst discriminatory. The state can hold districts accountable without placing a student's high school graduation at risk. We need a more flexible form of assessment—flexible in what is covered and flexible in timing.

Jumping back to the early years, I very much support the Common Start Coalition's effort to create a glidepath to a birth through five system of

high-quality, affordable care and education. It is no secret that inequality starts long before kids enter school. Giving every child an equal shot at success from birth should be viewed as a basic requirement for civil society.

My personal experience in education ranges from working on education legislation as a Congressional aide; consulting for former education Secretary Paul Reville on Governor Deval Patrick's education policy proposals early in his administration; to organizing parents around local education issues in my community, including a petition initiative related to technology funding during COVID shutdowns.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

- a. **Do you support keeping the cap on charter schools?**

YES.

- b. **Would you support legislation to bring greater accountability to charter schools by requiring them to adhere to the same disclosure and disciplinary standards and offer the same support for English Language Learners and students with disabilities as public school districts?**

NO. I look at this issue from a very practical perspective. Charter schools are not going away; therefore, attempting to change the model - a model that works well for some students in some districts - would only do a disservice to those kids.

5. **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?

YES. I am torn about this. I am not convinced that returning the district to a structure that brought them into receivership in the first place is the answer, but I recognize that receivership hasn't yielded greater gains over time. Is there a hybrid approach?

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

YES.

7. **Anti-Racist Education**. Curricula that reflects students' lived experiences and actively engages them in antiracism is crucial for students today. Would you support legislation that incentivizes districts to develop Ethnic Studies programs?

YES.

8. **Higher Education Access**. Do you support granting in-state tuition and financial aid to undocumented students?

YES.

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

YES. To be clear: This would be for families of limited means. We also need to infuse state colleges and universities (and community colleges) with greater resources so that we are not sending more students into an already under-resourced system. That would only result in a sub-par educational experience.

D. Health Care

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

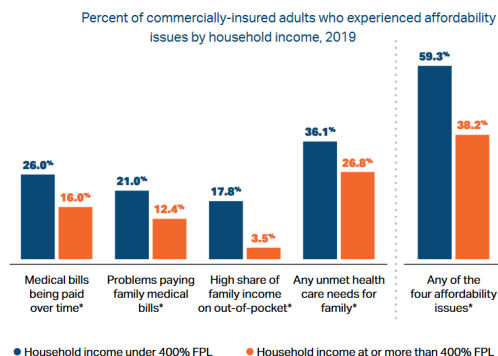
<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/average-new-car-prices-up-nearly-4-percent-year-over-year-for-may-2019-according-to-kelley-blue-book-300860710.html>

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



Image411

Many MA residents face difficulty paying health care bills.



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

It is time to peel back the onion on our state's health care system. Yes, we have an incredible coverage rate, but the coverage itself is a serious problem. Cost-sharing is bankrupting people, especially those facing serious or chronic illnesses.

Single-payer health care would help solve this problem, but as we have seen in California and Vermont (with Democratic Governors), it is difficult to amass the funding and the political will to get it done. In addition, ERISA prevents the state from intervening in the self-insured policies of large employers (that cover approximately two-thirds of the state).

Here is what we can do: The state can lead the fight against high prescription drug costs by using our leverage as a purchaser of health care for MassHealth and the Connector. Medicine is an enormous financial burden for families. Organizations like the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) offer the independent data we need to negotiate effectively. Hospitals, insurers, businesses, providers, consumers have all played a role in expanding coverage and bringing down costs. It's time for pharmaceutical companies to do their part. In addition, the state can attack costs by being vigilant when it comes to health care monopolies, which drive up the cost of care.

Reproductive health, especially access to abortion, has been a policy priority my entire adult life. In fact, I wrote about it as far back as 1988 in an application for the Truman Scholars Program, with an essay entitled "The Reagan Administration's Assault on Abortion." As Justice Ginsburg wrote in *Gonzales v. Carhart*, challenges to undue restrictions on abortion are not merely about privacy, but "center on a woman's autonomy to determine her life's course, and thus to enjoy equal citizenship stature."

Professionally, I advocated for abortion rights as a congressional aide on Capitol Hill. Every single day of the 104th Congress was a battle against an insidious amendment looking to strip women of their rights and health care. Later, in

graduate school, I interned with Planned Parenthood's (PPLM) Public Affairs and Information Department, led at the time by Pam Nourse. I also served for several years on both the PAC board and the board of directors of the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus.

In addition to abortion rights, I am very focused on maternal health. The United States has the highest maternal mortality rate among developed countries. We can address this appalling reality at the state level by passing legislation ensuring access to a full spectrum of pregnancy care (H. 1196), which eliminates cost sharing for prenatal care, delivery, miscarriage management, abortion, and postpartum care. Another bill would expand maternal health coverage for those on MassHealth from the current 60 days to 12 months.

2. **Single Payer.** Would you support legislation to enact a single payer health care system in Massachusetts, which would guarantee health insurance as a right?

YES.

3. **Whole-Person Health.** Would you support legislation adding oral health and dental services as a requirement of state standards for MassHealth and commercial Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and other value-based care models?

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

6. **Reproductive Justice—III.** 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?

YES.

7. **Menstrual Equity.** Would you support providing access to free menstrual products in schools, shelters, and prisons?

YES.

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

YES.

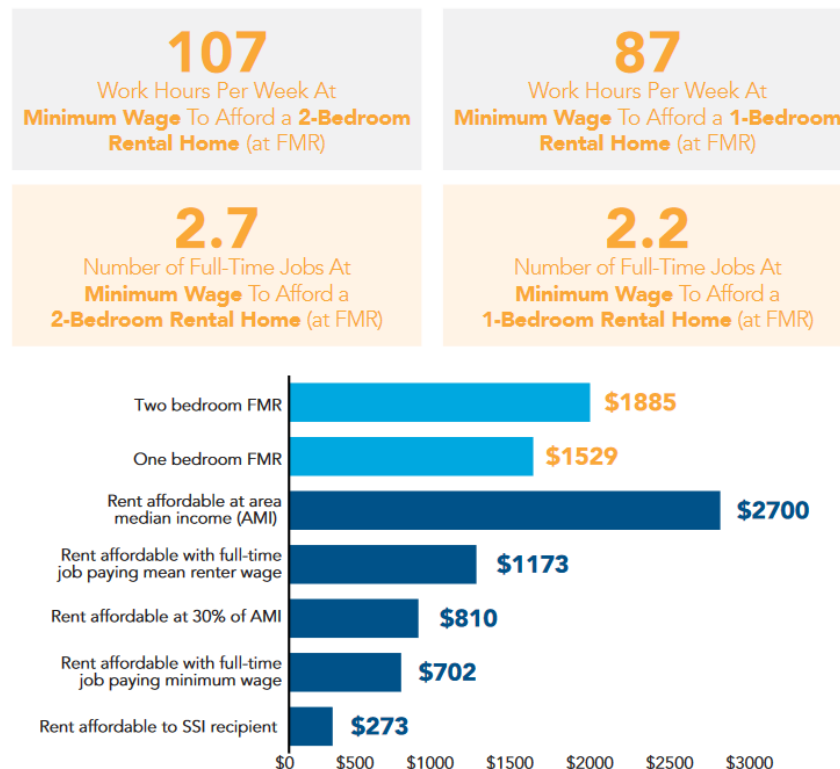
9. **Community Immunity Act**. Would you support strengthening the Commonwealth's immunization policies by standardizing the immunization requirements for all schools, daycare centers, and other covered programs and centralizing within the Department of Public Health (DPH) the processes for obtaining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

YES.

E. Housing

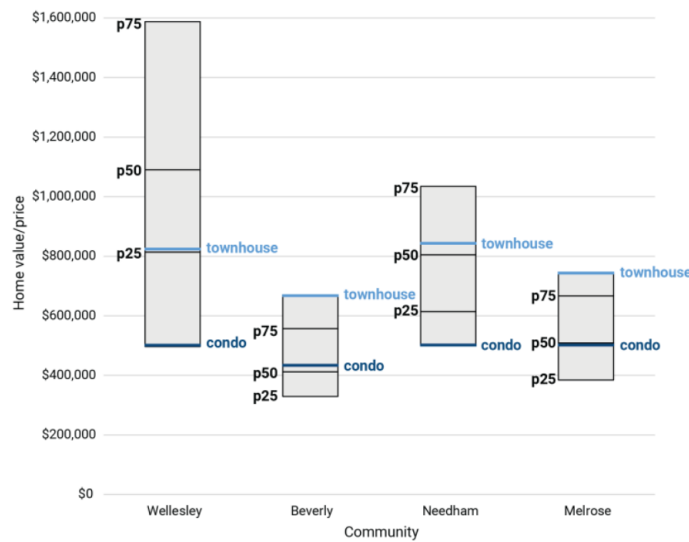
Massachusetts has a lot to offer, but that does little if people can't afford to live here. The [US News & World Report's annual state rankings](#) put Massachusetts at #40 in housing affordability (and #47 in cost of living). A worker earning minimum wage in Massachusetts would have to work [87 hours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

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



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

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



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

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

The pandemic exacerbated an already very tough housing situation in Massachusetts. For starters, housing prices in Greater Boston skyrocketed 53 percent from 2009 to 2020 and rents along with it (CHAPA). Job losses, thanks to COVID, led to greater housing instability for those who could scarcely afford these rising prices.

The state's housing crisis is one of supply. In many cities and towns, land use restrictions encourage the development of single-family housing on large lots—which perpetuates racial segregation. Through tools like 40B, 40R, and transit-oriented housing policy (especially in MBTA communities), the state can encourage denser development, but local zoning boards have to be given more carrots and a few sticks to ensure these tools are utilized in a timely and effective way.

Gateway cities provide a potential bright spot: These 26 communities have the infrastructure and housing stock to help alleviate the crisis, but attracting residents requires more than just housing policy; it requires economic development and strong, entrepreneurial local government and business. I am incredibly proud of the work being done in Lynn (a slice of which is in the 8th Essex). There is a deep respect for long-established neighborhoods and communities, but there is also a responsible enthusiasm for new business and new ideas.

2. **Homeless Bill of Rights**. Would you support the creation of a Homeless Bill of Rights that extends anti-discrimination protections to persons experiencing homelessness, including protections when seeking employment, housing, voter registration, and access to public spaces and places of public accommodation; and secures the right of persons experiencing homelessness to rest, seek shelter from the elements, occupy a legally parked car, pray, eat, and avoid needless harassment in public spaces?

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

5. **Social Housing**. Would you support the creation of a state social housing authority to produce and preserve mixed-income homes that are union-built, sustainable, collectively owned, affordable for all income levels, and financially self-sustaining?

YES. This sounds like an interesting idea, but I would need to know more to fully support it.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

a. Prohibiting municipal and state zoning bylaws, ordinances, and land use decisions that discriminate based on race, socioeconomic status, or familial status?

YES.

b. Enabling municipalities to pass inclusionary zoning ordinances by a simple majority vote?

YES.

c. Enabling municipalities to pass zoning ordinances to eliminate parking requirements for multifamily residential development by a simple majority vote?

NO. Parking is a big issue for communities that are not walkable.

11. **Zoning Reform—Part II.** The Department of Housing & Community Development recently released guidelines for the 175 MBTA communities to have a zoning ordinance or bylaw that provides for at least one district of reasonable size near public transit in which multifamily housing is permitted as of right. Would you support extending this requirement to include *all* municipalities that have public transit available, as opposed to only MBTA communities?

YES.

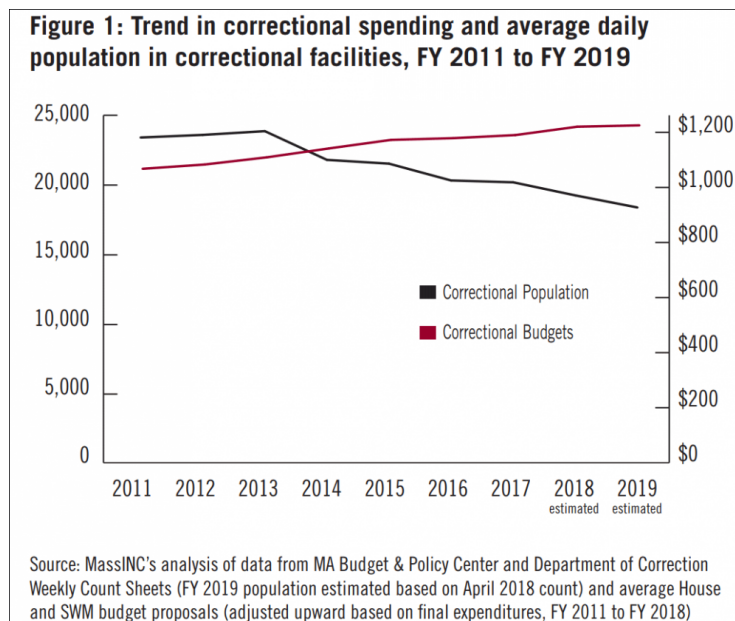
F. Racial and Social Justice

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

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

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

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



Significant racial disparities exist in incarceration in Massachusetts.

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

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

For policymakers, leaders in every sector, and all citizens, the challenge moving forward is reframing issues and decision points around equity, making it part of the process, as well as a stated, achievable goal.

More specifically, criminal justice reform is a top priority because of the damage done to generations caught up in a racist, discriminatory system. Sentencing reform, especially eliminating mandatory minimums for drug offenses, is critical. These sentences have driven up our incarceration rates with little or no benefit to society—and life-long damage to individuals. Also, while “defund the police” is an unfortunate phrase, the goals of better training, alternative crisis response, ending qualified immunity, and stronger protections against data and surveillance abuse are all necessary to making law enforcement more accountable—and frankly, people of color safe in their own communities.

As the granddaughter of immigrants, I am acutely aware of and sensitive to how today’s immigrants are treated. I was hoping for a much more aggressive roll back of Trump-era policies, including more skilled and unskilled work visas and greater numbers of refugee slots. Further, police-community relations are better served

when local officers stay out of federal immigration enforcement.

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

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

- a. **Eliminating mandatory minimums for all drug offenses?**

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

NO. .

5. **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?

YES.

6. **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](#). Would you support legislation to address this discrepancy by taking [measures](#) such as (but not limited to) providing all incarcerated people with access to at least 1 hour of structured programming each day for 5 days a week, and offering a minimum of 50 minutes of therapy per week to everyone in segregated confinement by qualified clinical mental health providers; and requiring that all people held in solitary confinement be given a minimum of 4 hours out of cell time?

YES.

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

YES.

8. **Prison Profiteering—Part I.** While Massachusetts does not have private prisons, the DOC invites private companies to profit off the families of incarcerated individuals by price gouging, as incarcerated individuals have no alternatives but to buy from the sole providers of goods in prisons. Would you support ending such price gouging by the DOC for necessary items and requiring DOC to adequately supply incarcerated individuals with the basic requirements necessary for life and maintain good health and hygiene?

YES.

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

NO. Can we reduce the cost significantly?

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

YES. ...as long as it doesn't result in overcrowding and unsafe conditions in existing prisons.

11. **Expungement.** Would you support legislation to automatically expunge marijuana offenses with state-level coordination, firm deadlines, and a study on the impact of the expungements?

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

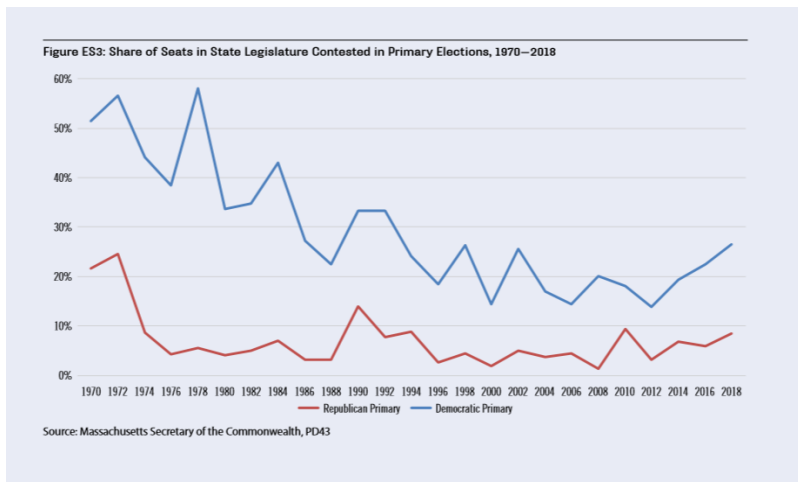
YES.

G. Good Government and Strong Democracy

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

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

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



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 2020)</u>
Springfield	52.67%
Lawrence	52.72%
New Bedford	55.27%
Chelsea	56.94%
Holyoke	58.89%
Lowell	59.71%
Fall River	60.04%
Southbridge	60.44%
Brockton	63.86%
Lynn	64.07%

Bottom 10 municipalities in terms of 2020 voter turnout

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

There is no question that Washington is broken—but I have to say, the United States Congress is far more transparent than the Massachusetts State House. In the former, all votes are public, hearings are televised, and there is a nonpartisan research arm that scores and analyzes legislation.

We need a similar approach in Boston. If I am fortunate enough to be elected, I will certainly provide any and all information to my constituents, and I will work with my colleagues and House leadership to move the entire body in this direction.

- 2. 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...?
 - 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.
 - c. Reader-friendly summaries of bills currently in or reported out of committee?**
YES.
- 3. 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 doing the following...?

- a. **Standing for a recorded vote when a colleague asks for one on any amendment which you have co-sponsored?**

YES.

- b. **Making your committee votes available online on your website?**

YES.

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

YES.

5. **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).

- a. **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?**

YES.

- b. **Would you advocate for continuing the practice of allowing people to testify virtually at legislative hearings?**

YES.

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

YES.

7. **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?

YES.

8. **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?**

NO.

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

NO.

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

YES.

10. **Redistricting**. Would you support legislation to codify the goal of creating [influence districts, crossover districts, and coalition districts](#) in order to expand opportunities for representation and voice for communities of color?

YES. The goal is excellent, but I need to learn and think more about these options.

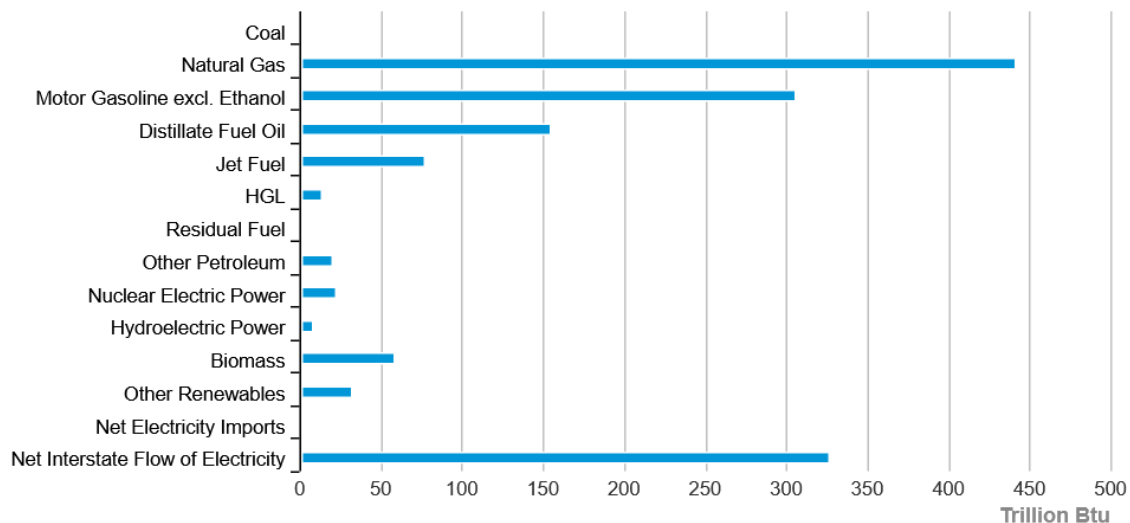
H. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

As a coastal state, Massachusetts will be hit particularly hard by climate change, but we are not responding with the necessary urgency. In order to avoid catastrophic climate change, global carbon emissions need to be [halved by 2030](#) and brought to net zero by 2050, and affluent countries and states must go further. In 2016, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the state has failed to meet its legal obligation to set and enforce annual limits on greenhouse gas emissions as outlined in the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act. Setting and reaching these goals, 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, 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.

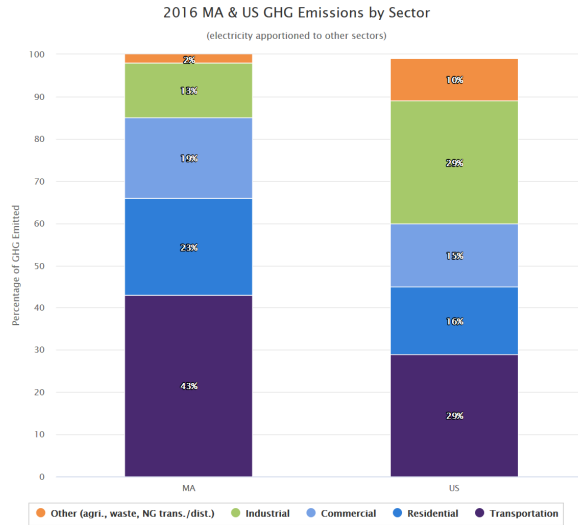
Despite recent progress, Massachusetts is still overwhelmingly dependent on fossil fuels.

Massachusetts Energy Consumption Estimates, 2019



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 this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).

Climate change is the existential crisis of our time. Combatting it requires first, tackling the damage that has already been done, shoring up coastal structures that are badly in need of repair. New waterfront development needs to be thoughtfully considered, perhaps avoided where possible, and existing infrastructure needs to be protected or repositioned. Next, we MUST focus on developing renewable energy sources: This requires aggressive implementation of our state’s net zero greenhouse gas emission goals by 1) cleaning the electric grid; 2) allowing more communities to implement all-electric building codes for new construction, and retrofitting older buildings; 3) electrifying public transportation; 4) incentivizing the purchase of electric vehicles; 5) exploring carbon pricing; and 6) sequestering carbon through natural solutions like tree planting..

2. Next Generation Roadmap. At the start of this legislative session, the Legislature passed a bill that requires emissions reductions of 50% from 1990 levels by 2030, 75% by 2040, and at least 85% by 2050. How can the Commonwealth exceed these targets, and what will your priorities be in advocating for that?

See Above

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 2030?

YES.

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

YES.

5. **Fossil-Fuel-Free Construction**. Would you support legislation to enable municipalities to ban oil and gas heating pipes in new construction?

YES.

6. **Fossil Fuel Infrastructure**. Do you oppose the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure in the state?

YES.

7. **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?

YES.

8. **Just Transition**. Do you support the creation of a Just Transition Office to assist workers that are displaced in the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy?

YES.

9. **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 the electrification of the MBTA bus fleet by 2030, RTA fleets by 2035, and the MBTA rail system by 2035?

YES.

10. **Free Public Transit**. Do you support making public transit in the Commonwealth fare-free?

YES.

11. **Regional Transportation Funding**. The unavailability of state funds for infrastructure spending has meant the deterioration of regional transportation systems. Do you support allowing municipalities to place a question on the ballot to raise revenue for local and regional transportation projects?

NO. It's a worthy goal but not a fiscally realistic one at the moment.

III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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.