



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2024 Legislative
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Evan MacKay

Office Sought: State Representative, 25th Middlesex

Party: Democratic

Website: www.evanforcambridge.com

Facebook: [Evan for Cambridge](#)

Twitter: [@evanforcambridg](#)

Instagram: [@evanforcambridge](#)

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?

Our Massachusetts State House is unfortunately much more conservative than many voters realize. It is dominated by a small group of insiders who oppose policies which would help everyday people in Massachusetts. My district, one of the most progressive in all of our state, needs a reliable progressive representative who consistently fight for our progressive values, even if that means going up against leadership. Our top three priorities are housing, climate, and taxing the rich. In 2022, our district voted overwhelmingly to use progressive tax revenue to fund public transportation, infrastructure, and education. Unfortunately, less than a year later, our state rep voted to give a billion dollars in tax cuts to the ultrawealthy. We're now seeing these tax cuts lead directly to a state budget deficit of over \$1 billion dollars, which our governor is choosing to make up by slashing budgets for social services. Meanwhile, the percentage of people experiencing housing insecurity is increasing rapidly, and we are no closer to building social housing or passing rent control and needed tenant protections. It's also long past time for us to get serious about protecting our climate and ensuring our planet's longevity. I will fight for a moratorium on fossil fuel infrastructure and rapidly moving towards a renewable economy that lifts up working class people under the framework of a Green New Deal.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

I am a union leader and pro-democracy advocate with years of activism and public service under my belt. I have been organizing in Cambridge around issues of social, racial, economic, and environmental justice for a decade. My approach to public service comes from the labor movement and the union reform movement. My union, the United Auto Workers, and my reform caucus, Unite All Workers for Democracy, taught me how to fight inequality and challenge hierarchies. As a reform unionist, I recognize that in the labor movement our power should come from the broad base of engaged rank-and-file members. Similarly, I believe that our progressive movement in Massachusetts should draw power from everyday people in every district, and I want to support this work.

I am the former president of the Harvard Graduate Students Union, the union that represents the most in the district; I stepped down from this position because I feel that it is so essential for us to have more representatives in our state house who can challenge the Democratic establishment and deliver on Cambridge residents' shared values.

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?

Three interconnected obstacles are the centralization of power within state house

leadership, a profound lack of transparency, and a mistaken insider-only orientation of change from too many politicians.

Massachusetts is supposed to be a role model state, and yet we have the least transparent, least efficient government of any state. In order for us to be able to hold our representatives accountable, we must institute legislative reforms such as S1963, which would promote transparency by removing the Governor's exemption from public records law and requiring committee votes and legislative testimony to be made public. Beyond simple legislative reforms, we must overcome the prevailing "insider-only" culture in the State House and seek to establish a truly democratic method of governance. We need to have elected officials who are more committed to bold progressive change rather than acquiescing to state house leadership at every turn.

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

I would love to see Massachusetts adopt our own version of the Build Public Renewables Act from New York! We need to make the transition to renewable energy whether it is profit maximizing in the short term, because in the grand scheme we cannot afford to delay the transition to renewables. Additionally, we should make sure we are bringing workers alongside us in this transition and that we are attentive to the needs of ratepayers and consumers. Done right, a just transition to renewable energy can create thousands of good-paying union jobs and better the lives of everyone in our communities.

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

In 2018, my coworkers and I came together to form a union in an historic win for worker's rights. HGSU-UAW was the largest private sector unionization win in the country from 2014-2021 and the biggest union win in MA, public or private sector, since 2008. Following this win, organizers from our unit approached me and drafted me to run for the HGSU bargaining committee, which I did and won. I joined alongside reform activists to reform corruption and consolidation of power within the UAW from within our rank and file caucus Unite All Workers for Democracy (UAWD). We went back home to our workplaces and developed captains for our campaigns in each unit, in each local, in each workplace. In the end, we won every single election we contested due to our organized campaign that empowered volunteers to organize in their workplace, in their unit, and in their local union. I'm proud of the work the UAW is doing today to organize the South, lead in climate justice by organizing electric vehicle and battery production, and empowering rank and file members and training leaders from the bottom up.

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 view everyday people as an instrumental part of our coalition in the progressive movement. The state house establishment right now thrives on keeping everyday people shut out.

My opponent refuses to co-sponsor a host of progressive legislation, including bills spotlighted by Progressive Mass. Her record has been much more conservative than our district. Now, as she tries to win re-election, she is trying to catch up to our progressive district. Since I challenged her, she has now finally co-sponsored \$20/hr minimum wage, rent control, banning the sale of location data, provisions for hiring more diverse educators, and ending mandatory minimum sentencing for life without parole—these are all things that she shouldn't have needed a challenger in order to support!

This is the most progressive district in all of MA, and our state rep should be a reliable progressive voice who will work with activists and progressives outside of the state house.

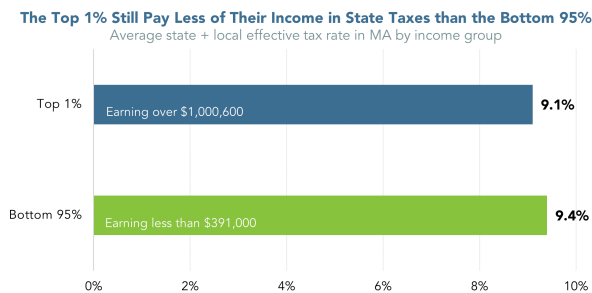
II. The Issues

A. Revenue and Taxation

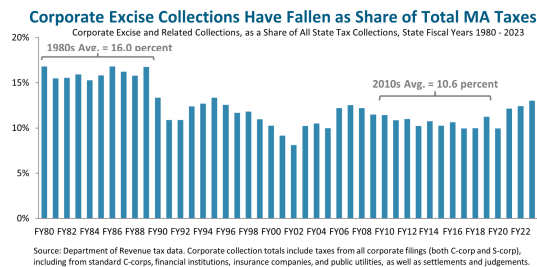
Although Massachusetts has developed the moniker of “Taxachusetts,” our history shows the opposite. Between 1977 and 2016, Massachusetts [reduced state taxes](#) by more than all but two other states. Because of income tax cuts enacted between 1998 and 2002, Massachusetts lost over \$4 billion in tax 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?

We live in abundance in MA – but we are one of the least equal states.

I am a Stone Fellow in Wealth Inequality at Harvard. I spend a lot of time thinking about how a commitment to bettering existing inequalities can translate to data-driven policy. Everybody says they care about the racial wealth gap. But even though we know how impactful the intergenerational transfer of wealth is to the racial wealth gap, politicians voted to expand the racial wealth gap by cutting the estate tax. Politicians trot out the same old talking points about wealth-based migration as reasons we cannot tax the rich; their rhetoric is refuted by concrete data from Crystobal Young and many others which identify the richest people in society as “embedded elites” who are rich because of their place-based connections. Tragically, it is poor and working class people who are leaving MA at higher rates because they can’t afford to live here, yet politicians seem to be much more concerned about the rich.

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

I have knocked on numerous doors for the passage of the Fair Share amendment, attended scores of rallies, and worked to spread political education and awareness within my union. I go into much more detail below on my support of PILOT reform.

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

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

My opponent does not co-sponsor the legislation to repeal this tax break.

4. Corporate Disclosure. Would you support legislation to make publicly accessible the reports that are already filed annually by publicly traded corporations, detailing their

sales, profits, taxable income, and taxes paid?

YES.

5. **Progressive Revenue.** In order to accomplish many of the items in a progressive agenda, we will need more revenue. Do you support the following measures to make a more progressive tax code?

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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?

YES.

I am proud to support PILOT reform, something my opponent does not co-sponsor. This is something that I am actively organizing around in my community, including through my union, the Harvard Graduate Students Union HGSU-UAW Local 5118. This is an issue that we have made so important to our campaign that we even include it in our door knocking script in some neighborhoods that have been pushed around by Harvard. We must tax Harvard and invest in our communities! In fact, Harvard's PILOT status is up for negotiation this year for the first time in two decades. Last time around, when my opponent was a city councilor, the Harvard administration got away with a sweet deal; this time, I hope to help ensure that Harvard ends up paying its fair share to the community.

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.

It is essential that we have an economy that works for the benefit of all people. Poor and working class people are sometimes the most hard working but struggling under poverty wages. We need to tax the rich, raise the minimum wage, address the cost of living, and robustly build and support the labor movement and labor unions.

I think that our state should be doing a great deal more to promote strong jobs in renewable energy and climate mitigation.

I have followed the efforts of the Biden administration regarding non-compete agreements and think we should do more on this at the state level.

Right now we have too many Democrats who support unions only when it is politically convenient. We see their true colors when it comes to busting the state house employees union, a union which was organized in part due to horrific harassment and discrimination including by elected state representatives and state senators.

I come from the labor movement. I know what it's like to encounter fierce union-busting and the power of solidarity. My support for labor includes moments when corporate Democrats are nowhere to be seen.

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.).

In 2018, my coworkers and I came together to form a union. We were motivated by the need for a strong contract and our desire to stop workers from being exploited. We initially encountered a great deal of union-busting from our university, and we relied on solidarity to win our union and fight for a strong contract. I was eventually elected by my coworkers to be on our bargaining committee. We knew that we had to continue our fight in the workplace but also in our communities. Eventually, my coworkers chose me to be our union's president, a great honor and responsibility. During my time as president we won mid-contract raises and set the path for more organizing campaigns, including by organizing non-academic labor done by students and residential workers. Earlier this month I helped vote for a new union of postdocs, non-tenure track faculty, adjuncts, and research associates in a victory for over 3,000 new unionized workers.

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

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

YES.

b. Eliminating subminimum wages?

YES.

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

YES.

d. Indexing the minimum wage to inflation?

YES.

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.

This issue is outrageous. We get enough public support for it every year but it mysteriously fails. This is the problem when establishment and corporate Democrats are pro-union and pro-worker only when it is politically advantageous.

5. **Mandatory Arbitration.** Would you support legislation to prohibit the use of mandatory arbitration provisions in employment contracts, i.e., requirements that an employee forfeit the right to sue the employer for discrimination, nonpayment of wages, or other illegal conduct?

YES.

6. **Paid Leave for Municipal Workers.** In 2018, MA passed the strongest paid family and medical leave law in the country. However, the law did not include municipal workers. Would you support extending the law to make sure that municipal workers have access to these vital benefits?

YES.

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.

I have organized in favor of the right to strike and provided political education on this topic within my union.

I have actually shown up with striking workers in the public sector, whereas my opponent and other establishment politicians refuse to show solidarity.

8. **Gig Economy.** More than 200,000 workers in Massachusetts now work in the "gig economy," with the rise of app-based platforms. However, their employers often seek

to evade labor law in order to avoid treating them as employees and provide decent pay and benefits.

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

YES.

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

YES.

- 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.

Yes! My opponent does not co-sponsor this legislation. I am proud to be endorsed by IBEW 2222, the local union representing the MA State House Employees Union. My opponent has voted the wrong way on their legislation and refuses to co-sponsor legislation that the workers need.

It is important to our democracy that people from any financial background be able to serve the public by working in the state house. Right now, many low income people and young people not from familial wealth face financial barriers preventing them from taking these roles.

- 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.

Harassment and discrimination are heartbreakingly common at the state house. As a labor leader, I know how important unions are to safe and equitable workplaces. It is essential that we investigate and respond properly to complaints of workplace and sexual harassment in the legislature so that the State House can be a safe workplace for all. I was so disappointed that my opponent did not co-sponsor legislation creating an independent commission to investigate and report on complaints of workplace and sexual harassment in the Massachusetts Legislature. This is part of the reason that workers there came together to form a union, which my opponent also opposes.

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.

I am very much in favor of the creation of a Massachusetts public bank! This is a great way to support workers and worker-owned co-ops in addition to other small businesses, land trusts, and climate change-remediation projects. This is another issue that distinguishes me from my opponent.

C. Education

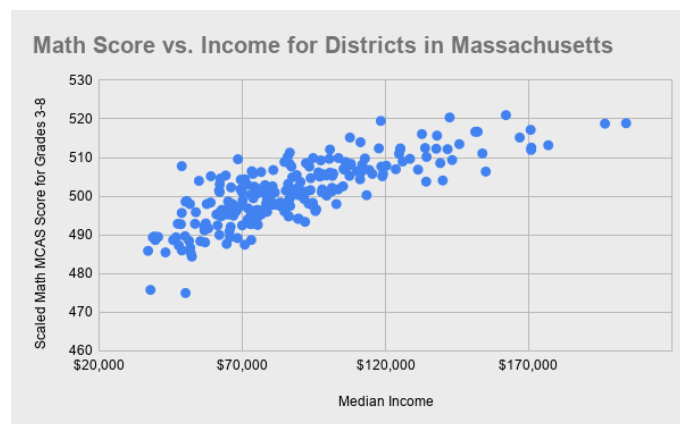
Massachusetts parents and caregivers face the [highest child care and early education costs of any state in the US](#). The average annual cost of infant care in Massachusetts is more than half of what a full-time minimum wage worker earns in a year. These costs are prohibitively expensive for low- and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

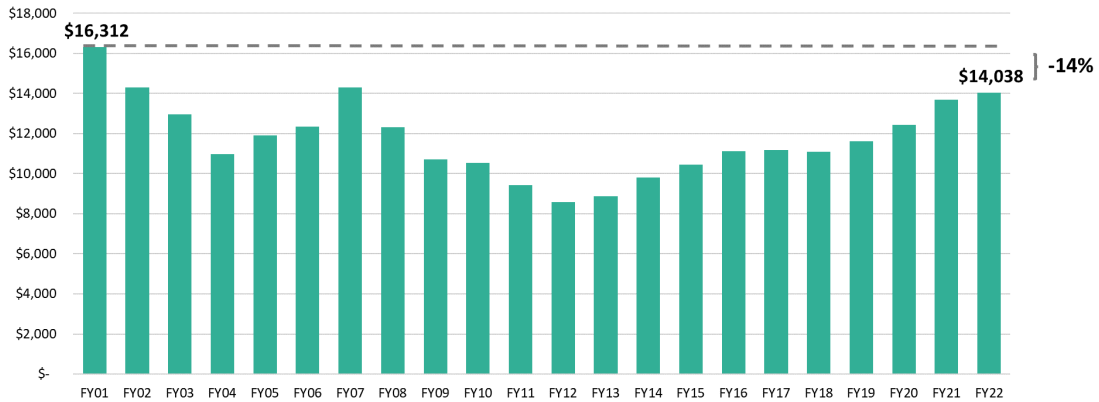
Standardized test scores have a very strong correlation with the income of the school district. ([Source](#))



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.

I support more progressive funding of our school system and the prioritization of existing public schools over new charter schools. I proudly supported raising taxes on income beyond \$1 million to fund education in our state. In addition to using progressive taxation to raise revenue for teachers' salaries and the positive changes we want to see in our schools, we must defend a culturally diverse curriculum and teach about structural racism and slavery. We need to make sure that our workforce is reflective of the diversity of our students. We need to continue to build on efforts to protect and uplift students from diverse backgrounds, including LGBTQ+ students.

My heart is in education, and I come from a long line of educators on my mom's side. I know the passion that educators put into teaching and truly knowing their students, and I have listened to so many educators and families on the ways they need more support from our state. My teaching is to college and graduate students in sociology, statistics, and computer science, and I am always eager to connect over shared values and the joys of helping young people develop confidence and grow as students.

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

As a member of the executive board of the Greater Boston Labor Council, I have shown up again and again for public educators. I have given public comments numerous times at the request of the Cambridge Education Association. I not only publicly supported Newton Teachers Association during their strike

earlier this year, I went in person to support the teachers. Unlike my opponent, I publicly showed solidarity to the brave educators who deserve strong paid family and medical leave and a living wage.

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)

YES.

Yes, I wholeheartedly support this legislation. Paying for childcare is a huge financial burden on families, particularly low-income families, and it is a huge obstacle specifically to mothers working outside of the home.

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

YES.

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

YES.

I was glad to attend the More Teaching Less Testing session put on by Massachusetts Peace Action a month or so ago. It was terrific to get to hear from so many educators and advocates around the state regarding the harms of high-stakes testing. I was then glad to attend the breakout session on “Books Not Bombs: Securing the Budgets Our Schools Need” on what it will take to get the funding our educators, students, and communities deserve. Rather than put our students through endless rounds of high-stakes standardized testing, which usually only serves to highlight which communities have been historically marginalized, now is the time to invest in our educators and work on empowering disadvantaged communities.

6. **Charter Schools.** Charter schools siphon millions of dollars for public education away from public schools and create a two-track system of public schools described by the national NAACP as “separate and unequal.” In 2016, MA voters overwhelmingly rejected a ballot initiative to lift the cap on charter schools given the millions of dollars it would have siphoned away from public school districts. Do you support keeping the cap on charter schools? (Y/N)

YES.

In 2017 people around Massachusetts were outraged to learn about policies at Mystic Valley Regional Charter School targeting Black girls and the way they wore their hair. I am glad that the CROWN Act passed, but we do need greater oversight and accountability which is not there right now with so many charter

schools.

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

YES.

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

YES.

I strongly support the Healthy Youth Act. Years ago I used to help teach sex ed in Boston public schools through Peer Health Exchange. This legislation is vital and I am proud to organize for it.

I spent the first eighteen years of my life as a closeted LGBTQ+ person in a school system that taught abstinence-only sex education without attention to consent. This education would have been life changing for me as a young person.

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.

Absolutely yes! I went to K-12 school in Florida in Indian River County, the origin of Moms for Liberty. I have witnessed with horror the growth of Moms For Liberty and their increased platform for hate, but this is not new to me. I know what it takes to defend a curriculum recognizing the diversity of students, educators, and life experiences.

I used to work as a Diversity Peer Educator within my district, helping my campus become more supportive for students from all backgrounds.

- 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.

So many LGBTQ+ people are struggling in Massachusetts. In a recent survey 43% of gender non-conforming young people at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School reported considering suicide. We have a long way to go, and this is part of the solution.

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.

So many students, particularly students of color and those who come from historically marginalized backgrounds and communities, are struggling with completely unmanageable and historic levels of debt. Getting an education should not be financially debilitating. Making public colleges and trade schools free ensures that students can go into all sorts of careers we need and will help close the racial wealth gap.

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

YES.

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

YES.

This is one of many problems with the growing adjunctification of higher education. I am in solidarity with these educators and am proud that my union represents many adjunct faculty.

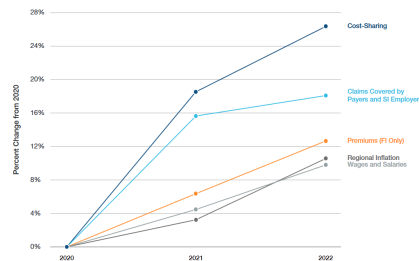
Earlier this year I helped unionize my workplace with the Harvard Academic Workers. Our unit is made up of people from various job titles including non-tenure-track research and teaching employees, postdocs, research associates, lecturers, preceptors, and others. I have listened to my coworkers and strongly support the issues above.

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

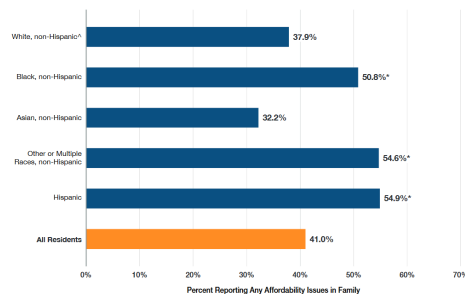


Member cost-sharing and premiums increased at a faster rate than regional inflation and wages and salaries from 2020 to 2022, driven in part by fluctuations in utilization during this time period.

Source: From reported data to CIVIL, Bureau 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 to account for health care costs, which may vary by plan. Claims members' contributions from 2020 to 2022, and 2023 were also listed as 2022. See our 2023 Annual Report (Issue 2023) issue. Rates not below the benchmark threshold for reporting and did not submit data for 2022. Data for labor is included in C70000 and C70001. See website for more details.

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

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



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

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

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

Healthcare justice is an integral part of the future we are fighting for, and this includes disability justice and an end to the healthcare-for-profit status quo. Some of my first activism experiences were with the Student Global AIDS Campaign in which we supported funding for healthcare and medicines and worked to address inequalities and injustices in the social determinants of health.

It's not enough to just "care" about healthcare – we have to actually fund it. Healthcare is a human right that everyone should be able to access, regardless of their immigration status, income, education level, class, race, or any other factor.

Although we voted to tax the rich in 2022, politicians gave rich people and corporations more money in 2023, and then in 2024 cut funding for healthcare and essential programs because there isn't enough money.

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

On my union's bargaining committee we were able to advance healthcare and disability justice. We successfully fought for the creation of benefit funds for healthcare and dental care expenses of workers. We are able to disburse these funds to workers to help make sure people don't go into medical debt.

A profoundly meaningful experience for me was working as a camp counselor in college at Camp Boggy Creek, a summer camp for children with serious injuries and chronic and terminal illnesses. We worked to create a safe and healthy environment where children could thrive, and the entire summer I had my eyes opened to injustices in the status quo of how our society approaches healthcare and health.

I also care about the ways that health impacts families and communities. I was proud to train volunteer counselors in the first two years of Harvard Camp Kesem, a summer camp for children in Greater Boston whose parents have or had cancer.

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.

My district had the highest level of support of any district where Mass-Care has asked the ballot question. You'd think that would mean the state rep would become a champion on this issue. Unfortunately, she still had to be lobbied until she finally co-sponsored.

I am proud to have the support of healthcare justice organizers in the district who helped organize to get the non-binding ballot question on the ballot in 2022 and then got my opponent to co-sponsor in 2023.

Unlike my opponent, I do not take money from Cross and Shield Political Action Committee which structurally benefits from the status quo of healthcare for profit.

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.

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

YES.

I support free and fully supported abortion on demand. It is not enough for abortion to simply be legal – it must be available and people must be supported in all of their healthcare decisions. I also support expanded policies of sick leave and medical leave enabling more people to actually be able to afford to not work in order to get an abortion.

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

YES.

This issue is very important to me. I was politicized by the foster care system. My family was a foster family to over 100 children in our community. We had young women living with us while they were pregnant and later on we cared for their babies who were separated from their mothers. This is reproductive injustice.

Multiply marginalized people of all backgrounds face particular challenges accessing abortion care and comprehensive reproductive health. I would fight for reproductive justice for currently and formerly incarcerated people who are overlooked and underserved by the status quo.

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.

I interned with Planned Parenthood in a red state ahead of the Trump administration. We saw firsthand the impact of anti-abortion extremists and the harm of crisis pregnancy centers.

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.

Opioid addiction has devastated many families and communities in Massachusetts. We need to treat the opioid epidemic as precisely what it is: a public health crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the existing addiction epidemic in our state, and we are still very much dealing with the economic and health consequences.

I have been organizing on this issue for years, formerly under the name of Safe Injection Facilities (SIF) through SIFMA NOW. Aubri Esters was a friend and I fight in her memory.

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)

YES.

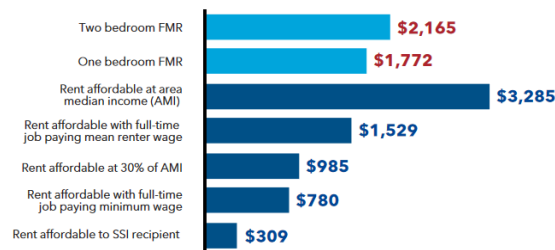
E. Housing

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). 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.

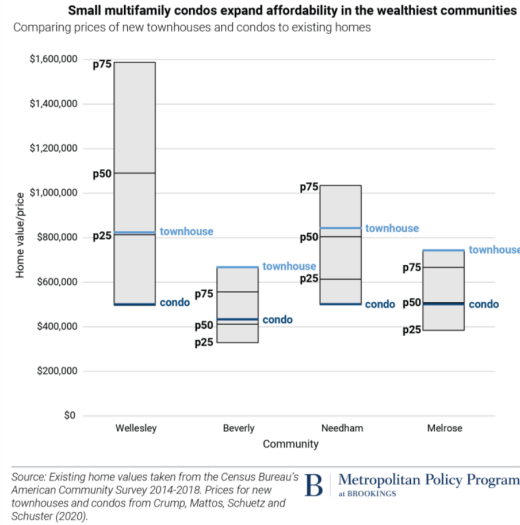
Home ownership has become increasingly out of reach, as the state's median home price is [approximately \\$600,000](#). In more than 20 communities, the median home price recently [passed \\$1 million](#). Meanwhile, we have some of the [most restrictive zoning laws](#) in the country, making it difficult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

We should live in a society without the threat of evictions and displacement. Housing precarity has become all too common throughout Massachusetts. Homeownership is increasingly unattainable for working class people in MA. People used to be able to rent, but the rising cost of rent leaves many people rent burdened and struggling to get by. Under the status quo, there are no barriers to a landlord exorbitantly increasing the rent of a long term tenant simply because they could make more money.

This campaign will boldly name and fight for the housing justice future we deserve. We will push forward important housing policies while also recognizing the need to more deeply politicize housing and especially bring working class people and renters into a political landscape where they are leading the fight for housing justice.

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

Through my union's housing working group we have tabled and organized around affordability and availability of housing including housing from our employer and the unfortunate company-town status quo that many people live in.

I am proud to support the efforts of the Massachusetts Homes for All coalition, which is a state-wide coalition of housing justice groups working to win housing justice, increase community control of land, and fight back against displacement.

I helped collect signatures for the rent control ballot question and have advocated for rent control through conversations and discussions within my union.

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

YES.

My opponent unfortunately voted to roll back the right to shelter harming homeless families and pregnant women. My district has seen growing levels of housing precarity including unsheltered homelessness.

I wholly reject the right-wing framing pitting migrants against unhoused people. We live in abundance in MA, yet we are one of the most unequal states. It is unconscionable that we gave tax cuts to the rich and the very next year rolled back the Right to Shelter.

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

YES.

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

YES.

I support the transfer fee and think that this is a fantastic way to reduce systemic inequality, including the racial wealth gap, while simultaneously providing much-needed funds for affordable housing. My opponent does not co-sponsor H.2747.

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)

YES.

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

YES.

I strongly support rent control. My opponent did not even co-sponsor H2103 until she had a challenger.

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.

I'm alarmed that in MA, one in every five homes sold to an investor from 2004 to 2018. Tenants coming together with a right of first refusal can help confront this.
<https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/homes-for-profit/>

- 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.

We recognize the importance of legal representation in other matters with strong implications for an individual's life and future. Eviction proceedings are of similar importance and merit the appointment of publicly-funded and appointed legal counsel.

- 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.

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

YES.

I am in strong support of social housing! [I have seen how well this has worked in other cities and countries.](#) Mixed-income housing supports social integration and avoids some of the pitfalls traditionally associated with public housing, such as inadequate funds coming in for upkeep once the project is established.

- 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)

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

We simply have not built enough housing in MA, especially since the Great Recession. The MBTA Communities Law is an important first step on housing production, and we need to do so much more.

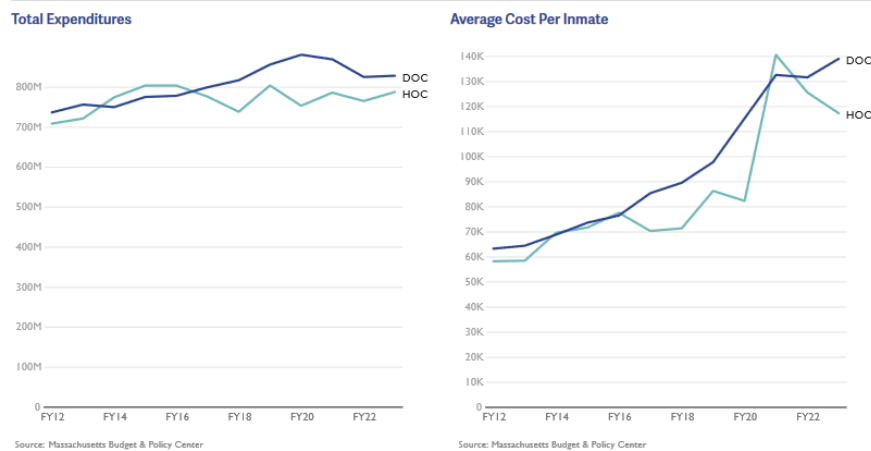
F. Police Accountability and Decarceration

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.

We should live in a society where people are safe and where the law is applied without prejudice and discrimination. Under the status quo, too many people experience precarity through lack of access to housing, jobs, and education.

Instead of allocating more and more money to police and creating a new prison to incarcerate women and girls in Massachusetts, we should fund universal childcare, youth jobs for every child, unionized careers in green energy, violence interrupters, restorative justice and healing circles, housing for every survivor of domestic violence, treatment not trauma, and so much more.

End all mandatory minimums. It is a travesty that in 2020 while people were out marching in the streets our state legislature [created a new mandatory minimum](#), a Blue Lives Matter style policy that gave more power to unaccountable police – and they hid behind a secret vote to do it.

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.).

I have been grateful to learn from so many organizers at the intersection of climate justice, Indigenous sovereignty, and police accountability. I helped organize public comment for a Cambridge resolution against Cop City in Atlanta and then co-authored a letter to the local paper on this issue.

<https://www.cambridgeday.com/2023/09/28/cambridge-has-voted-but-the-battle-over-cop-city-must-be-business-of-city-government-around-u-s/>

Like so many others, I marched in the streets in 2020, attended many Black Lives Matter rallies, and listened to the calls from the Movement for Black Lives. As a state rep, I will be well poised to influence the bloated state police budget which has been full of corruption scandals. The overtime scandal has been in the news for years and there are regularly new scandals. I oppose the lies from politicians that the problem is either a few bad apples and that police need more and more money to implement reforms that will “fix” the problem. Thread on more scandals here.

<https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/six-arrested-including-current-and-former-massachusetts-state-police-troopers-as-part-of-bribery-conspiracy-scheme/3262738>
<https://x.com/fara1/status/1752457528057675819>

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.

We need to end qualified immunity. Nobody should be above the law.

- 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.

In addition to ending mass incarceration, I also want to end e-carceration, mass surveillance, and mass supervision. Get people out of jail and prison, and also do not widen the net by expanding perpetual parole and probation.

I support the ACLU's Location Shield Act (H357) which is an important part of disrupting mass surveillance.

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.

We must fund non-police emergency response. I also support expanding civilian details to avoid overtime police spending and employ people from the community.

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.

I support treatment and rehabilitation instead of incarceration and I strongly oppose the war on drugs. Opposition to mass incarceration is how I came to my politics. The status quo of criminalization of drug use is highly inequitable and serves as a pretext for police surveillance and discriminatory enforcement and policing.

I want to promote decarceration of people incarcerated for marijuana-related offenses without uplifting a dichotomy that some people are "deserving" or "undeserving" of incarceration. My opposition to incarceration extends far beyond people incarcerated for marijuana-related offenses. We have a long way to go towards marijuana justice in MA. I am

concerned that some people, who are from more advantaged backgrounds, are now profiting from legal marijuana while others continue to suffer.

I support reparations for the war on drugs.

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

YES.

It's great that the Supreme Judicial Court ended life without parole for people under 21, but we need to go further and increase the age young people are considered adults by the court from 18 to 21. We should be doing everything we can to ensure that youth who interact with the carceral system are able to successfully transition into an adulthood that does not involve going back to prison.

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

YES.

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

YES.

End all life without parole – everybody needs to be eligible for parole, and then we need to actually use parole. We also need to end re-incarceration for technical violations of parole which make up a large chunk of parole violations. Specifically, I support H1821 to allow all people serving life sentences the opportunity for a parole hearing after serving 25 years and ensure access to restorative justice programming.

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.

Yes, absolutely! I think this is a widely overlooked and underutilized way for Massachusetts legislators to keep tabs on conditions within correctional facilities. More people with power checking in on prisons means more accountability.

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.

We don't want to just rename solitary confinement, we want to curtail it and we want humane conditions. This is just an example of a concern I see in politics where politicians pack up and move on to the next thing after claiming a victory and passing a law – we must have attention to implementation in order to actually help the people we say we are helping.

<https://boltsmag.org/massachusetts-solitary-confinement/>

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

YES.

Absolutely! I have supported and organized around this for years. Massachusetts already has more than enough prisons. My opponent does not co-sponsor this legislation. I have marched alongside the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls to #FreeHer and I will strongly support the moratorium.

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

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

My district overwhelmingly supports immigrant rights. In 2017 and 2018 I was part of a multi-faith effort to support an undocumented family seeking sanctuary in a church in my district. As volunteer allies we would take turns sleeping at the church in case there were overnight visits from agents of the carceral state. In this example, sanctuary was built on the values of solidarity and direct action.

G. A Welcoming Society

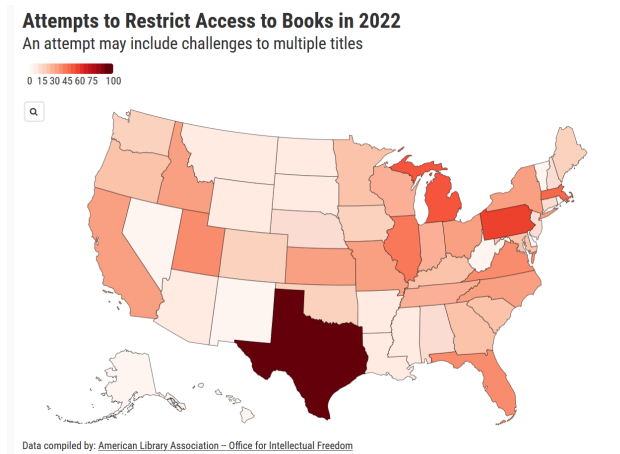
Our commonwealth is at its strongest when we recognize and celebrate the diversity of our population.

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.

We must work together to eradicate bigotry and discrimination in all of its forms. Our society is riddled with prejudices of so many types, and we have to be steadfastly committed to learning from one another and reconsidering our structures and institutions and the ways they might perpetuate injustice.

I support reparations from our state for the state-sponsored expansion and deepening of systemic racism. People of color are disproportionately likely to be uninsured, experience housing insecurity, or struggle with impossible levels of

student debt. We must institute legislative reforms such as the CHERISH Act to address these systemic injustices and build towards a better future for all.

I support the legislative efforts from the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition. I will push for our state to be a haven where immigrants can thrive.

Our state needs a great deal of progress to be truly accessible. I would work to strengthen and enforce anti-discrimination laws to protect people with disabilities from discrimination in employment, education, housing, and public accommodations.

I am an unapologetic queer and genderqueer person and will draw from my life experience to advocate for and alongside LGBTQ people.

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

Throughout my career as a union leader and community organizer, I have worked intentionally to make MA a more welcoming and inclusive place. I knocked doors and gave public comments in support of immigrant rights, disability justice, reparations for systemic racism, the Fair Share amendment, and more.

I have advocated for inclusive definitions of “member” within my workplace union contract, uplifted the voices of trans workers and our healthcare needs, and worked to build union power as we seek protections from harassment and discrimination in the workplace. I have worked closely with Pride at Work Eastern Massachusetts within the Greater Boston Labor Council and at a number of community events. Through my campaign, I have already uplifted YDSA’s Trans Rights and Abortion - Never Surrender campaign and the Trans Rights and Bodily Autonomy organizing.

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.

I support reading banned books!

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.

I already have an “X” marker on my own driver’s license and would love to expand its scope to include my other identity documents! I think this is one of the easiest and most logical next steps for gender inclusivity in legal documentation.

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

YES.

I fully support and am prepared to cosponsor this legislation. My opponent did not cosponsor this bill until she had an LGBTQ+ challenger.

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.

Absolutely! I am a big supporter of the Massachusetts Indigenous Legislative Agenda, which includes, among other bills, a bill to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples’ Day. I hope to see all of these bills passed, if not in this session, then as soon as I enter office and am able to agitate in their favor. My opponent did not co-sponsor a single piece of this legislation until she had a challenger. She still does not co-sponsor the entire package.

I will also continue to uplift the voices and stories of the Massachusetts people and other tribes and to look for legislative means by which to ensure the autonomy of tribal nations.

I support #LandBack but don’t claim to have the answers on what this would look like or how to implement it within the MA state house.

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

YES.

Yes, absolutely. I went to a high school with a racist Native American mascot and saw firsthand the harm and confusion it sowed among the students. There should be no question of using a caricature of a human being as a school mascot in 2024.

H. Good Government and Strong Democracy

A strong democracy depends on a transparent and representative government and an engaged public. Too often, however, we see centralized, unaccountable power and barriers to participation. An undemocratic, centralized power structure on Beacon Hill makes it easier for lobbyists to target the top and undermine the system. Despite recent reforms, a weak public records system stymies government accountability: MA is one of only two states where all three branches of state government claim to be exempt. A strong democracy requires an engaged electorate, but voter turnout in midterm elections, and especially local elections, remains low. Although election modernization legislation in 2014, 2018, and 2022 helped bring much-needed reforms, we still lag behind states in New England and around the country in making voting accessible (Maine, for instance, has allowed for Election Day Registration since the 1970s).

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

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

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

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

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

[Source: MassLive](#)

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

I believe in government by the people, for the people. We must be able to, at the very least, see what our politicians are doing behind closed doors. I am running for office as a strong pro-transparency candidate. I believe that government transparency is absolutely essential to a functioning democracy. MA currently has the least transparent and least effective state legislature out of all fifty states. This lack of accountability from our representatives prevents us from passing necessary legislation and materially harms working people.

I frequently bring up the issues of anti-corruption and democracy while canvassing and encourage others working on my campaign to do the same. I have been very disappointed in my opponent for her refusal to champion legislative reforms intended to improve transparency and strengthen democracy in our state. I will push for the passage of S1963, which would promote transparency by removing the Governor's exemption from public records law and requiring committee votes and legislative testimony to be public.

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

For years I have been organizing for universal suffrage by ridding society of felony disenfranchisement. We know that our legal system is riddled with systemic racism and systemic injustice, yet we continue to refuse suffrage to so many people due to criminal justice involvement.

In 2022 I organized my neighbors to support the ballot question on public committee votes. We successfully passed this ballot question overwhelmingly, yet my opponent refuses to listen to the people and support transparency in government.

I have followed and support the work of the [Coalition to Reform Our Legislature](#). My campaign is actively working alongside Act On Mass and other legislative reform organizations to raise public awareness of corruption and promote government transparency, campaign finance reform, legislative rules reform, and voting access.

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.

Voters in my district care deeply about issues of government transparency. In 2022, my district had the highest level of support for this ballot question

of any district in Massachusetts. My opponent has been a vocal opponent of these reforms. By contrast, I support the entirety of the Sunlight Agenda.

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.

I support H.3121. My opponent does not co-sponsor this legislation.

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.

I fully support making voting as democratic and accessible as possible. People must be able to register or fix registration problems on Election Day. By contrast, my opponent voted against Election Day Registration in 2020.

We know that Election Day Registration is an evidence based policy to improve civic engagement and in past states that have already implemented this it has had a disproportionate benefit to the civic participation of racial minorities, low-income people, renters, and young people.

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.

There are many municipalities who are blocked by the state house from expanding and deepening local democracy and civic culture. We need to unleash the progressive potential of our municipalities and pass more home rule petitions.

- 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)

YES.

I am proud to have organized alongside the Emancipation Initiative and Ballots Over Bars. We must have universal suffrage.

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 support this. My opponent does not co-sponsor H.669.

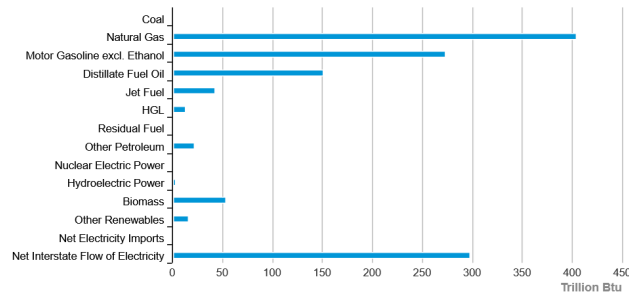
I. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

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.

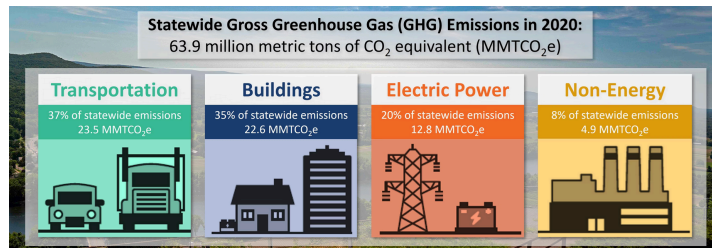
Despite recent progress, Massachusetts is still overwhelmingly dependent on fossil fuels.

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.**

This is a crucial time for climate action in Massachusetts. We are far past the point at which drastic action needs to be taken in order to prevent an environmental catastrophe. The state representative in my district will have a great deal of influence on upcoming climate decisions that affect not only the city of Cambridge, but the entire state.

As an elected official, I pledge to advance a number of bold climate policy solutions. These include, but are not limited to: an immediate halt to all fossil fuel projects and a commitment on the part of the legislature to outlaw extraction and combustion of fossil fuels in Massachusetts; an immediate transition to 100% publicly owned renewable energy via an interconnected, diverse system of microgridding; commitment to just transition for energy sector workers; and developing world-class, free, multi-modal transportation powered by electricity.

To me, the entire world needs to change if we are to respond to the climate crisis, especially if we are to do so in a manner that is not on the backs of poor communities, communities of color, and people in the Global South. Additionally, it is my perspective that any approach to climate and environmental protection is incomplete if it does not include attention to Indigenous sovereignty and Native rights.

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

I proudly supported the Cambridge Green New Deal, which included job training components and particular attention to environmental justice communities. I have canvassed for many candidates supporting a Green New Deal. I have helped testify for climate amendments in city hall as the president of the largest union in Cambridge where my employer, Harvard University, is one of the largest polluters.

I helped organize a climate coalition to call for the governor to reject an expansion of Hanscom Field that caters specifically to private jet owners. We successfully passed this resolution through the Cambridge City Council without a single vote opposed.

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)

YES.

I support this legislation. My opponent sponsors this bill but we couldn't get her to actually vote for it in 2020. We don't need empty promises - we need climate action.

I also support the stronger version of this bill to do so by 2030, H3231.

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.

We need a moratorium on fossil fuel infrastructure now. My opponent does not co-sponsor the moratorium on fossil fuel infrastructure, even though there are plans for a new fossil fuel pipeline through an environmental justice community in Springfield.

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)

YES.

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.

It is disappointing that our state is so reliant on automobiles, which have such an

impact on GHG emissions. Part of this is because we do not have a functioning and reliable MBTA. Although voters wanted to tax the rich in 2022 to invest in education, infrastructure, and transportation, politicians the very next year gave tax cuts to the rich instead of investing in and electrifying the T and investing in our next generation. We need people-first, multimodal, sustainable transportation.

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

YES.

We need 100% electric-powered, free, reliable public transportation as soon as possible. The current status quo, in which the MBTA regularly breaks down, derails, or fails to arrive on time, is not acceptable.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to complete this questionnaire. Unlike my opponent, I am proud to be in alignment supporting each of these progressive positions. My district is one where we can and should have a reliable progressive champion, not just intermittently and conditionally on some of the issues.

In addition to the substantive and policy distinctions between me and my opponent, I want to underscore that I come with an organizing approach and attention to mass politics. In order to win transformative demands we need to build our power within the progressive movement, and that includes growing diverse coalitions and committing to collaboratively working alongside one another.

If you have any questions, please reach out!