



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2024 Legislative
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Samuel Pierce

Office Sought: State Representative, 6th Suffolk

Party: Democratic

Website: n/a

Instagram: [@sampierce2020](https://www.instagram.com/sampierce2020)

Email questions to elections@progressivemass.com.

OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

*Each section contains open-ended questions and YES/NO questions. **If the question is a YES/NO question, please answer either YES or NO.** If you leave a question blank, your answer will be recorded as a NO. Feel free to expand your answers, but **please keep answers < 150 words** and use your own words (we want human-generated answers, not AI-generated).*

Issue Subsections:

- A. Revenue and Taxation
- B. Jobs and the Economy
- C. Education
- D. Health Care
- E. Housing
- F. Police Accountability and Decarceration
- G. A Welcoming Society
- H. Good Government and Strong Democracy
- I. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

I. About You & Your Governing Approach

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

I'm running for office because people are dying, Post COVID-19, schools are closing, there is a generational wealth gap causing a major eviction tsunami in Boston, and I'm tired of seeing evidence of entire minority communities being pushed out of the City of Boston. I've personally witnessed Boston become more like the Charles Dickens book, "A Tale of Two Cities," so we must be more intentionally inclusive towards outsiders, migrants, and immigrants looking to make Boston their home.

My top (3) three priorities if elected would be:

- Rent Control + Rent to Own low income Housing via new BPL + BHA Partnerships
- (NDE) New Dual Education K-8 BPS Schools + (AVE) Afterschool Vocational Education 9-12
- Union jobs planting trees, fixing potholes, repairing speed bumps, and installing new HVAC in BPS facilities

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

From working for US Senator John Kerry 2004 on his US Presidential Election, to working for Maura Healey 2014, to working for US Congressman Seth Moulton 2014, as well as working for the Sierra Club 2014 to help pass legislation that would add a \$0.05 five cents deposit on ALL plastic bottles in Massachusetts, which we are still fighting to make happen. I learned the importance of how meeting people at the dinner table to talk about their personal concerns, ultimately turns into a form of establishing trust. From working for US Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley 2018, to working for Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia 2019, and then working for MA Senator Becca Rausch in 2022. I have learned the importance of how excellent constituent service, consistency, and due diligence ultimately become new laws that we all can celebrate.

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?

The five (5) biggest obstacles to passing progressive policy at the state level are:

- I. New legislation to allow Boston, MA the ability to have an Elected School Committee
- II. Passing Rent Control via Home Rule Petition + BHA facility management policy
- III. Providing enough Rent to Own Housing via Section 8 vouchers + BPL + BHA facilities
- IV. Providing Public School Teachers + Teachers Assistants with an increase in salary
- V. Providing FREE Early Education + FREE Community College to ALL Boston Residents

I plan to overcome these obstacles objectively, by filing legislation once I'm elected that

would restore and finally recreate a new Suffolk County Commissioner's Office who would be responsible for guaranteeing all residents in Suffolk County have equal access to the \$100 Billion Dollars specifically allocated to Suffolk County for ARPA + COVID-19 relief funding 2020-2025. As well as guarantee greater oversight over future federal and state funding in low income, minority communities due to increased health disparities, and alarming environmental justice effects from intentional, gross neglect inside Asian, Black, and Brown communities within Suffolk County. The objective of the new Suffolk County Commissioner's Office would be to restore faith in local government within Suffolk County, after I would file official legislation that created an elected Boston Parks Commission, an elected Boston Health Commission, an elected Boston Public Library Board of Trustees, an elected Boston Historical Preservation Commission, an elected Boston Public Housing Commission, and an elected Boston Public School Committee.

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

One policy I would like to see Massachusetts adopt from another state would be the State of California's carbon emissions policies, as well as California's increased water conservation practices.

One policy pioneered locally at the municipal level is Community Choice Energy. All that is missing at the state level is connecting wind energy in Salem, MA to the ability to turn ocean current into GREEN Energy in Massachusetts at a larger scale. Green Energy is the future of US Housing as well as US Transportation. I'd like to see Massachusetts as a whole adopt some of the local municipal policies in Cambridge, Newton, and Boston related to Green Energy. Once elected I would raise the cap on the number of municipalities able to regulate energy fees, in partnership with local utility companies, by creating the first of its kind, MA Community Choice Energy Database.

One policy I would like to see Massachusetts adopt from New York is the intergovernmental partnership between the city and state to turn Hudson Yards into the Highline, outdoor, walking greenway. I would like to see Dorchester, Roxbury, JP, Mattapan, Roslindale, and Hyde Park have more walking trails by turning Columbia Road, Cummins Highway, Blue Hill Avenue, and Washington Street into increased open green space, modeled after the Jewish War Veterans Memorial Drive in Franklin Park.

By making ALL major roadways in Boston similar to the Riverway and the Arborway modeled after Mission Hill and JP. As well as incorporating trees to reduce car exhaust modeled after the Truman Parkway in Hyde Park, and the West Roxbury Parkway in West Roxbury, we can be more intentional with the City of Boston administration leaders to lower respiratory disease cases, specifically in Environmental Justice Communities, Post COVID-19.

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

After founding the Boston Saving Lives Project Inc. the numbers now speak for themselves.

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 see myself different than any other candidate in the race, including the incumbent, due to the raw numbers, undeniable facts, and the quantitative data. The Housing reservation Act + Raising the Minimum Wage + Participatory Budgeting all happened through a movement we built overtime. However the desired outcome of raising the minimum wage from \$8 to \$15 came at the cost/sacrifice of losing time and (1/2) a half on holidays and weekends. This in turn led to housing displacement and the US Federal Reserve reporting the net worth of a Black family in Boston being only \$8, compared to a White family having over \$247,000 due to government investment in local real estate. I am the only candidate, and the first in Massachusetts to say that we must restore the Massachusetts Blue Laws, time and (1/2) a half, "premium pay" on Sundays and holidays 2024-2026.

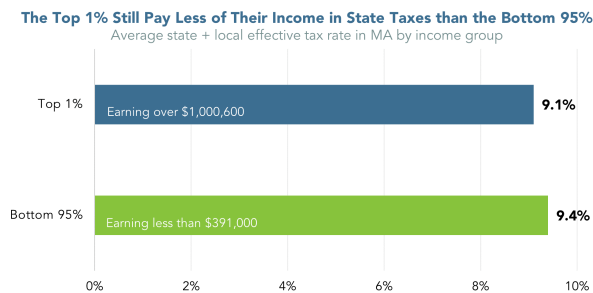
II. The Issues

A. Revenue and Taxation

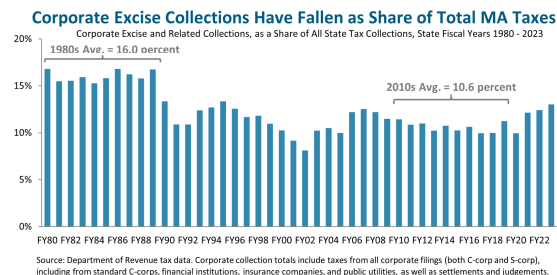
Although Massachusetts has developed the moniker of “Taxachusetts,” our history shows the opposite. Between 1977 and 2016, Massachusetts [reduced state taxes](#) by more than all but two other states. Because of income tax cuts enacted between 1998 and 2002, Massachusetts lost over \$4 billion in tax revenue *each year*—\$4 billion not invested in our roads, bridges, schools, parks, and services. Such cuts to the state income tax, combined with [low corporate income taxes compared to other states](#), have meant increasing reliance on regressive taxes and fees and curtailing our ability to invest in vital infrastructure. It also restricts legislators’ ability—and willingness—to pass new and visionary legislation, as there is a continual shortage of funds for existing priorities.

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

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



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



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

I use a common sense, fiscally conservative approach, to implementing progressive policies like for the first time, creating a Green New Deal for Massachusetts, so as to guarantee we become self sustainable by the year 2030. The wealth gap analysis done by the US Federal Reserve Bank in Boston that said that the average Black family only has \$8 as a net worth in Massachusetts due to discrimination from the US Homestead Act, the US GI BILL, redlining, and urban renewal. Since the economic disparities in Boston are simply due to the lack of home ownership, once I'm elected my newly proposed legislation of Rent to Own low income housing would automatically generate more property tax income, while also increasing generational wealth. Rent to Own property taxes would be waived until the property is offloaded from the BHA real estate portfolio, so as to eliminate any unintended financial burden during the transition from a rental agreement into a mortgage agreement with the City of Boston. Planning for future generations in order to increase tax revenue, we need to divest from fossil fuels, invest in local Massachusetts vocational schools, as well as build low income Rent to Own, federal, state, and municipal subsidized housing. Once elected I would create a public bank at the state level that would be directly responsible for regulating the public banks I would establish at the municipal level to process legalized marijuana revenue deposits from state accredited dispensaries.

I would create municipal bonds that leverage community benefit payment requirements from local construction projects into a City of Boston municipal database maintained by the newly created public bank, so as to directly invest into the community. I have written the plan. State and municipal housing would be transferred at a percentage into Rent to Own housing, so as to offload previously neglected properties within the public housing portfolio. ALL rental income from HUD Section 8 Vouchers would automatically be used to eliminate systemic poverty in minority communities by building sustainable, generational wealth, and directly investing into local communities through the 1st time home buyer's program infrastructure. The municipal bonds that I design would act as guaranteed banking promissory notes payable by each real estate developer directly to the state public bank, which would then issue municipal bonds to the appropriate vendor within my proposed, soon to be newly created, municipal public banking system in each of the 351 municipalities in the location where the demolition, renovation, or construction surveying is being proposed, prior to the groundbreaking, prior to the start of any demolition, construction surveying, and prior to the start of any building permits being issued by the state and city government.

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 started the Boston Saving Lives Project Inc. to help teach the importance of becoming a 1st time homebuyer. I helped fight for the historic investment in the Community Preservation Act. I am a spoken word poet, songwriter, and member

of the Massachusetts Archives for Economics in Hip Hop Music. I come from a family of bankers, entrepreneurs, as well as medical professionals who have taught me the value of art and anthropology as it relates to modern day financial habits. Not that much has changed in 3,000 years other than the way we describe, interpret the truth, and spend our money. Home is where the heart is, so we must begin to love every block, every street corner, and every neighborhood in Boston.

We have started a monthly book club regarding fiscal responsibility, and we are reading US Senator Warren's book entitled "A Fragile Middle Class" for the month of July 2024, and we will be reading William A. Darity's book entitled "From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans" for the month of June 2024.

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.

I am proud to have helped organize and pass the Massachusetts Fair Share Amendment.

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.

We must stop greedy corporations like check cashing facilities and banks from engaging in tax evasion.

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.

We must begin to leverage municipal and state government pension funds, so as to divest from building new, excess fossil fuel infrastructure.

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.

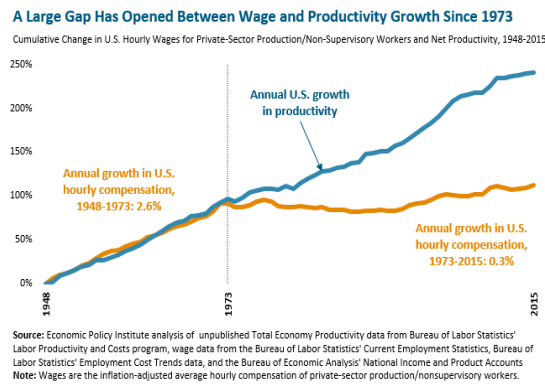
Maintaining a private college, university, religious institution, or medical facility should not become a burden for state and municipal government, because nonprofit, tax exempt organizations still use public roads, public infrastructure, and first responder services. We must stop private institutions from removing municipal and state property tax revenue by limiting the purchase and retention of residential property, as part of a new statewide overhaul of all recognized NGO, nonprofit, tax exempt real estate portfolios. While the current commercial real estate carbon footprint of each tax exempt organization would be allowed to remain the same. The residential real estate portfolio would become available for state and municipal taxation under my new PILOT Reform Plan 2024.

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.

Climate resiliency, pharmaceuticals, nursing, construction, and training new vocational education teachers in local community colleges, in partnership with local trade unions, is the blueprint to a GREEN New Deal for Boston 2024. My principles are not to try to reinvent the wheel, but instead to help make it turn more efficiently so that it can move faster for everybody. My proposals regarding creating good-paying jobs for all and reducing inequality in Massachusetts are simple to read, as well as guaranteed to work. Once elected I will extend the MBTA Orange Line from Forest Hills into West Roxbury, and begin to intentionally improve rapid transportation in Boston, MA modeled after the MBTA Commuter Rail reliability standard, that currently already exists.

The state would create a public bank to create manual labor and GREEN Construction jobs building new housing and transportation based on the Massachusetts MBTA Communities Act. Municipalities would then invest their current bonds and employee pensions with the state publically owned bank, which would use the deposits and cash reserves from the 351 MA Municipalities to generate loans to local contractors, trade unions, and developers looking to rebuild the MBTA, BPS, public libraries, and BHA public housing facilities to de-carbonize the City of Boston by 2030.

Similar to the way the BIG DIG used the tunnel boring excess construction materials to build Deer Island in the Boston Harbor, Boston has a unique opportunity to build a system of new rapid transportation facilities, by connecting the Redline with the Blue Line at Charles MGH/Bowdoin Street, and using the tunnel boring excess debris from renovating the MBTA Better Bus Project into making sure Dorchester, MA is not flooded by 2030. With construction scheduled to soon begin along Columbia Road, Cummins Highway, Seaver Street, and Blue Hill Avenue. There is now a unique opportunity to create a rapid transportation connection between Mattapan Square and Nubian Square, so as to create a one (1) seat ride from Mattapan Square to the Airport via Nubian Square and Downtown Boston. Building such a project would create good-paying union jobs, and close the wealth and inequality gap intentionally created through redlining housing mortgages. My plan also focuses on addressing generational wealth gaps through improved rapid public transportation that is both punctual, and reliable, dismantling systemic racism by fixing the Redline on the MBTA to reduce respiratory diseases caused by bus and motor vehicle exhaust. By further extending the MBTA Blue Line from Revere, MA to Lynn, MA and creating a one (1) seat ride from Mattapan to the Airport, my new plan in 2024 would transform the job opportunities for people along the Blue Hill Ave. Corridor almost instantly 2024-2026.

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

I am the first, and only candidate who said we need to raise the minimum wage to \$20 Dollars per hour, and restore "premium pay" time and (1/2) on Sundays and holidays in Massachusetts. I am the only candidate who has publicly supported

vocational education programs like The People's Academy, whose work is currently being showcased at the Massachusetts Convention Center, as well as at the Paul Revere Museum in Canon, MA. I am the only candidate in Massachusetts who has strongly advocated for creating a new, state of the art, intergovernmental partnership between Roxbury Community College, UMass Boston, Madison Park High School, The People's Academy, Benjamin Franklin, The North Bennet School, and The Eliot School to specifically teach existing Boston Residents vocational education.

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.

Trade Unions were established to provide a livable wage for blue collar workers looking to enter into the middle class. It is time that we create a livable wage across Massachusetts by increasing the minimum wage from \$15 to \$20, and restoring "premium pay" to all Massachusetts workers on Sundays and holidays.

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.

Nobody should be allowed to steal someone else's money. Period.

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.

Workers must be able to hold their employer legally and financially

accountable for nonpayment of wages, discrimination, and illegal conduct. Stashes Pizza off Blue Hill Ave. is a prime example where an employer illegally mistreated their employees in Dorchester, MA.

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.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts and City of Boston employees deserve to have paid vacations, paid sick time, paid family, and paid medical leave. Once elected I would fight to introduce new legislation that would provide a minimum (1) one year, paid family leave per newborn child, for ALL state and municipal government employees who have recently become new parents, modeled after the Country of Sweden.

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.

This issue was most recently brought to light after the City of Newton teachers strike.

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.

Once elected, I will introduce new legislation that simply states if you have previously worked as a contractor or as a subcontractor, but do not control how you recruit and retain your clients. You would now be classified as an employee entitled to a minimum (1) one year annual contract that can be renewed on a rolling basis. The new law I plan to introduce would be modeled after the standard housing and apartment lease agreement between a landlord and a tenant. However, instead of housing, the same model would be used to further strengthen job and employment protections for all Massachusetts Gig workers.

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

YES.

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

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

YES.

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

YES.

The Massachusetts State House should be a safe place to work, visit, and travel. Period.

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.

The US Post Office used to provide public banking in the form of check cashing, and deposits into personal accounts. Once elected, I would create new legislation to provide public banking at the state and municipal level specifically for all Massachusetts Residents.

C. Education

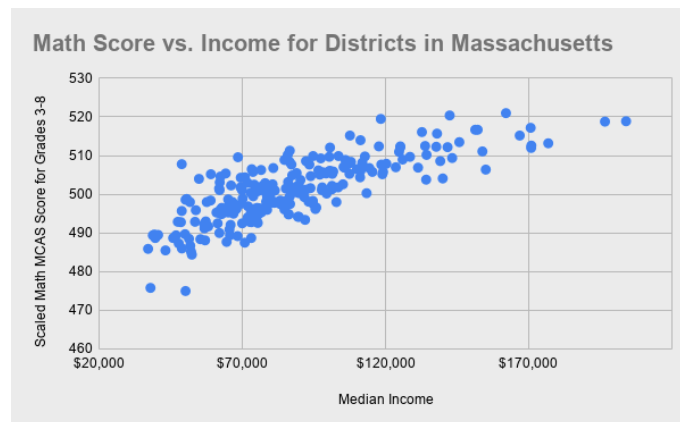
Massachusetts parents and caregivers face the [highest child care and early education costs of any state in the US](#). The average annual cost of infant care in Massachusetts is more than half of what a full-time minimum wage worker earns in a year. These costs are prohibitively expensive for low- and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

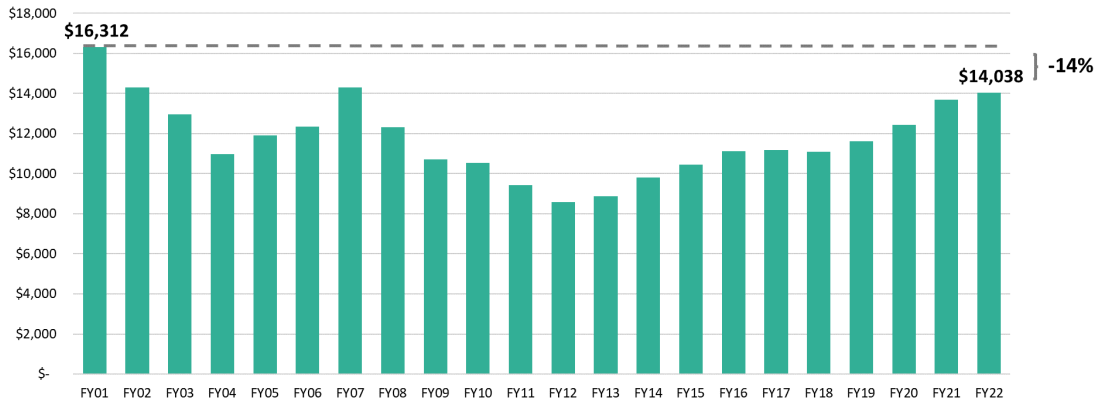
Standardized test scores have a very strong correlation with the income of the school district. ([Source](#))



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 have worked for AmeriCorps, and have seen firsthand why education is so important. Once elected I will build a new Massachusetts state and community college partnership with the US Climate Corps and the US Peace Corps as a way to encourage moderate and low income students to travel the country learning hands on mechanical engineering, environmental science, and life skills. By creating the Boston Green Project back in 2018 we have already begun fixing the issues regarding building more affordable housing in Massachusetts, in partnership with the City of Boston 2023.

By investing in local vocational education programs like The People’s Academy in Dorchester, MA we can not only teach American History by studying Paul Revere, but we can also ensure Boston Residents are able to purchase local real estate property now that the median value of a house in Boston has jumped to over \$600,000.

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

I have previously worked with organizations like Black Teachers Matter, Education Through Music, the NAACP, Schools Instead of Prison, Year Up, City Year, the Urban League, 12 th Baptist Church Early Education School, Jumpstart, The Leadership Forum, Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts, Inspiring Today’s Youth (ITY) 2023, and I have begun a new youth summer program for 2024 with some of our local community partners. I am also working tirelessly to help teach English as a second language, so as to welcome some of our newest residents into Boston.

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.

Affordable childcare would create jobs, and help provide FREE tutoring services for low income BPS students, state community college students, and state university students.

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.

Every Boston, Massachusetts resident who is in compliance with the age requirement, deserves access to FREE universal Pre-K, and a guaranteed seat in their local public school kindergarten class.

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.

We need to begin teaching math, science, and STEM related curriculum through proven, alternative teaching methods. The lecture style, where one public school teacher does a monologue in front of their class for (3) three to (5) five hours each day, is an outdated education model that would be fixed within the 1st 100 days of my new administration.

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.

Interestingly enough, you do not find charter schools in affluent public school districts. Charter Schools are a new, and recent phenomenon that has become highly concentrated in low income communities. Once elected, I would expand the METCO Program to all 351 municipalities in Massachusetts, so as to keep the cap on charter schools from siphoning off additional state and federal money from local public school teacher salaries.

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.

Once elected, I would activate private colleges and universities to reduce the burden of failing public schools like Brockton, Lawrence, and Boston, Massachusetts from returning into receivership, Post COVID-19.

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 think sex education should begin freshman year in high school, to allow kindergarten, elementary, and middle school students the ability to focus on their studies free from outside distractions. That being said, I believe having conversations about public safety, and the topic of consent versus assault, being the unwanted touching of another person on your body, should be conducted in partnership with local law enforcement community service office professionals. Parental supervision and parental consent for minors must be upheld in accordance to the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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.

We have started a national book ban tour 2023-2024, so as to promote the importance of reading and literacy. I can't believe Toni Morrison's Book "The Bluest Eye" appeared on the national list of banned books. We are honored to have the MA Governor, members of the Massachusetts Constitutional Delegation, as well as our local 1st responders help continue to support the importance of reading to our local youth.

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

YES.

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

YES.

I am a proud graduate of the Massachusetts state and community college system. I think every Bostonian should take advantage of the fact that community college is now FREE for every Boston Resident.

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.

As long as students graduate from their state community college with a 3.0 or above, ALL Massachusetts Residents are now able to attend state colleges and universities for FREE. It's important for Boston Residents to be educated that as long as they have graduated, and transferred from an accredited Commonwealth of MA community college with a 3.0 GPA, they will be able to enjoy a debt free college education in Massachusetts, Post COVID-19.

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.

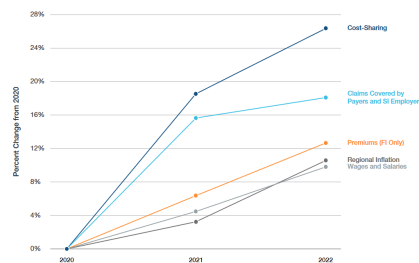
All state and municipal employees should have equal access to state healthcare and retirement benefits. The word ALL must also include adjunct faculty and part time staff working at any state owned institution or state owned education facility.

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

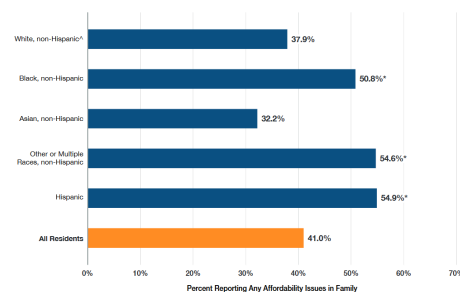


Member cost-sharing and premiums increased at a faster rate than regional inflation and wages and salaries from 2020 to 2022, driven in part by fluctuations in utilization during this time period.

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 in compliance from 2020 to 2022, and 2023 claims data as of 10/31/23. See our 2023 Annual Report (2023) data. Data not below the threshold for reporting and did not submit data for 12/2022. Data for 2023 is included in CIVIL and CIVIL2023. See website for more.

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

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



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

Source: 2021 Massachusetts Health Insurance Survey.
Notes: "Any affordability issue" 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 white/non-Hispanic reference group is statistically significant at the 5% level.

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

I plan to work tirelessly to pass Mass Health for All. I believe upgrading our public schools with HVAC, free public school breakfast and lunch for every student, free MBTA 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 bus lines, free MBTA passes for all public school students, free MBTA passes for all state community college and state university students, free healthcare for all public school and state college students, as well as providing a public option for universal healthcare for all who call Massachusetts their permanent residence. This will increase the life expectancy in the 6th Suffolk State Representative District by an additional 30 Years by the year 2030. I believe reliable public transportation improves healthcare, so I plan to make public transportation a priority once I'm elected on Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

I strongly believe affordable housing contributes to good health, as does building new GREEN BPS public schools, and extending the Orange Line from Forest Hills to stop in Roslindale and West Roxbury. Which is why part of my proposal 2024 regarding healthcare access includes public housing, public transportation, connecting the Red and Blue Line at Charles MGH and Bowdoin, building a new MBTA Silver Line rapid transit route to connect Mattapan Square with the Airport via Nubian Square, and supporting new dual language education to replace all ESL + ELL segregated Boston public school classrooms in BPS grades K-8.

Healthcare treatment at the Boston Medical Center and Carney Hospital should not be all that different from healthcare treatment at Beth Israel Deaconess and Mass General Hospital. That is exactly why we need more BPS Graduates transferring into Tufts, UMass, Harvard, BU, and Morehouse Medical School Post COVID-19.

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

Allowing a select group of people to profit off the substance abuse and mental health disorders to manipulate real estate sales in Boston has made parts of Mattapan, Dorchester, Roslindale, Hyde Park, JP, and Roxbury unsafe for children to travel afterschool without an adult. Depression and mental health in Boston, Massachusetts is compounded by extreme poverty. I've begun to reach out to the immigrant community, and I've reached out to the homeless community to see how we can continue to improve public health in Massachusetts. I'm currently the only candidate in the race who has frequently visited our state-owned temporary emergency housing facilities, and taken direct legal action to address the corruption that has existed at both the city and the state levels of local government from 2018 through 2022.

I have worked with the Black Boston COVID-19 Coalition, ACE, as well as the Boston NAACP Health Committee to begin monitoring air pollution in Asian, Black, and Brown communities. We saw the highest number of deaths in Massachusetts 2020-2024 primarily in minority communities that have MBTA diesel bus access,

but lack proper access to rapid speed transportation. Thus, the MBTA Community Housing Act will be the perfect solution, so as to ensure there is a more diverse healthcare professional training core, across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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.

I have been publicly advocating for Mass Health for ALL, and a state wide single payer healthcare system since 2004, when Massachusetts began to implement the first public healthcare coverage in American History. Twenty years later, 2024 the movement we started has grown even stronger.

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.

Families should not become burdened with medical debt once a loved one passes away. That is why I strongly recommend everyone get whole life insurance starting from birth.

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 believe women should be encouraged to follow the advice of their doctor, and be able to have their health insurance pay for any medication or medical procedure recommended by their primary care, licensed medical professional.

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.

Family incest and rape have been a growing concern in rural America, Post COVID-19. I think it is very important to protect sexual violence victims, so as to directly connect survivors of violence and trauma to life saving medical coverage.

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.

As the son of one of the most successful internal medicine experts in the National Medical Association, I strongly believe in protecting the privileges between patients and their doctors.

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.

Overdose Centers and medical staff should become part of the solution to stopping drug abuse and addiction. More resources need to be created to educate the public on how to properly administer CPR, and save American Lives Post COVID-19.

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.

I believe religious exemption and a public safety are a symbiotic relationship that overlap. ALL schools, daycare centers, and religious institutions were required to provide masks to the public during COVID-19. I think we can support common sense solutions, while still protecting religious exemptions, practices, privileges in Massachusetts.

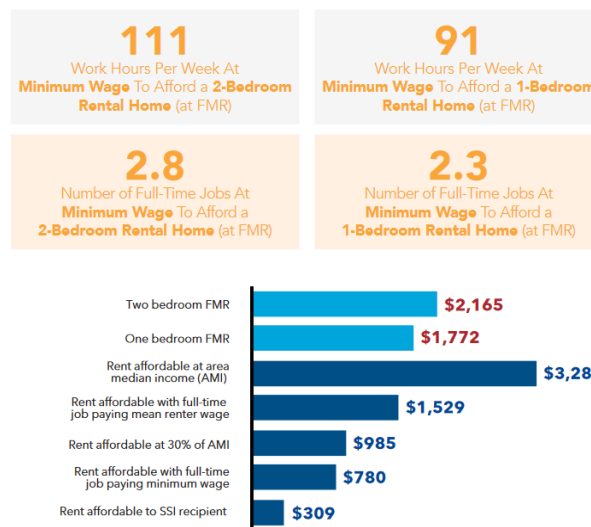
E. Housing

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.

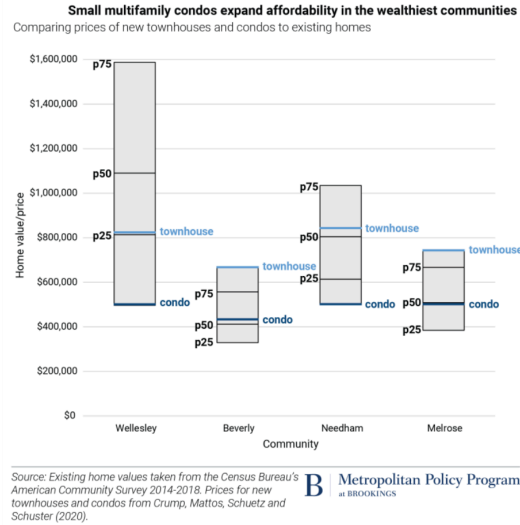
Home ownership has become increasingly out of reach, as the state's median home price is [approximately \\$600,000](#). In more than 20 communities, the median home price recently [passed \\$1 million](#). Meanwhile, we have some of the [most restrictive zoning laws](#) in the country, making it difficult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

I believe state community college should be FREE for all Boston Residents, and we should provide BHA housing facilities for ALL low income, two (2) to (3) three year community college students, modeled after UMass and private college dormitories. The best way to build affordable housing is to first build low income housing to offset all of the new luxury housing built after the year 2004. By studying the last (20) twenty years, we can better plan what future housing will look like in Boston, Massachusetts.

I would build Rent to Own Housing for state and municipal workers modeled after the GI Bill and affordable housing for US Military Veterans, because no US Veteran should be homeless in MA after serving our country. My comprehensive low income housing plan would offset state and municipal housing facilities being sold to developers, and instead use the municipal housing portfolio to become a financial mobility vehicle for ALL Boston Residents, looking to become municipal or state employees, by incentivizing Boston Residency through my new Rent to Own housing program 2024.

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

I helped organize and pass the Community Preservation Act. I am the author of the new MA GREEN Housing Plan 2024.

I plan to build a welcoming environment that is open to everyone in the community. I have actively scheduled a series of monthly meetings with religious leaders, local influencers, and community activists. I now need to follow up, and create a specific (3) three month calendar schedule for this coming Spring/Summer June 2024 through August 2024.

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.

All people deserve access to food, clothing, and shelter as a basic human right. Once elected I would pass legislation to further educate the public that Boston, MA has officially become a Human Rights City that has agreed to comply with all (30) thirty Human Rights established by the United Nations.

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

YES.

We must invest in people over profits. Once I'm elected, Public Education Facilities would be the primary way that I would locate (2) two to (3) three year, long term, and temporary housing for ALL Boston Residents looking to give back to the local community.

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 would however provide a real estate transfer fee exemption for minority communities who have experienced redlining of housing mortgages, and system racism to build generational wealth. I do not, and never will support rewarding municipalities who have demonstrated gross neglect towards people of color. Thus, I would have to look more closely into the details of the proposed real estate transfer fees, so as to also protect seniors on a fixed income looking to follow the Rose Kennedy + Edward Kennedy real estate transfer model. Community Land Trusts, Family Real Estate Trusts, and historically neglected communities would be exempt from any and all real estate transfer fees under my new plan, as a way to make up for the systemic racism that occurred in Boston, MA 1960 through 2006 by modeling the FREE real estate transfer fee waiver currently given by the City of Boston to low income housing developers in Dorchester, Roxbury, JP, Roslindale, and Hyde Park.

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.

I would have to be careful though, to ensure we protect seniors on a fixed income,

and marginalized communities from being overburdened with new taxes. The devil is in the details of any bill, or legislation that would require my signature to pass, once I'm elected. (Regarding the HERO bill).

- 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 would look for new, creative ways to keep people in their homes, and offer more subsidized rental options provided by the city and state government.

- 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 strongly support the ability for residents to be able to Rent to Own their new home.

- 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.

If a person wins their housing court case, any subsequent housing record should be sealed.

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

YES.

This would help provide new local jobs in Boston, and help reduce the housing shortage.

- 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.

Boston, Massachusetts needs to build more affordable housing across the board.

Period.

- 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.

Once elected, I would file legislation modeled after Lasell University in Newton, MA to allow seniors to age in place, and further their college education in return for interacting with local college students. Boston is an intergenerational city, so I strongly support social housing.

- 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.

I strongly support updating the current zoning codes, so that local residents can build community land trusts with eminent domain powers, modeled after DSNI. We must be intentionally responsible as we begin to rebuild Massachusetts, Post COVID-19.

- 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.

I don't think any of the 351 municipalities should be exempt from the new MBTA Community Housing Legislation. Once I'm elected, I plan to author a comprehensive low income housing plan within the first 100 days of my new administration.

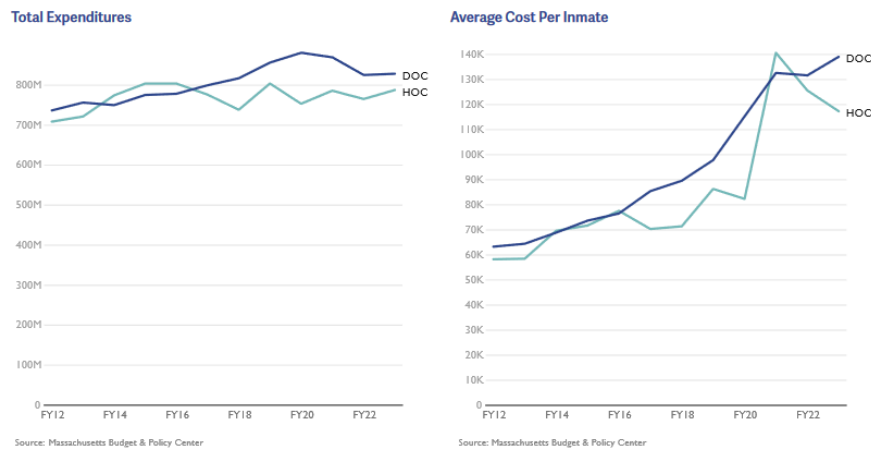
F. Police Accountability and Decarceration

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

Although incarceration rates in Massachusetts have gone down over the past few years as a result of policies from the 2018 criminal justice reform omnibus bills, spending on the Department of Correction has [risen](#). The average cost per year to house an individual in the Massachusetts Department of Corrections is [more than](#) \$100,000, money that could be better reinvested into the communities that have suffered from decades of misguided and racially discriminatory “tough on crime” policies. To achieve “justice for all,” we need a judicial system that does not disproportionately target communities of color and the poor and that does not criminalize public health issues such as addiction.

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

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



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

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

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

I plan to support allocating \$50,000,000 million dollars to build The People's Academy Vocational Training School, Trades Not Triggers Program. The People's Academy (TPA) will include low income housing for vocational students attending the program, so that people in the 6th Suffolk State Representative District can learn historic preservation, welding, metal work, and be in position to get OSHA 30 training which is required to be on local union work sites. I plan to fight to continue to make sure the Shattuck Hospital becomes part of Roxbury Community College's Campus since it is a state hospital, and the previous state hospital was turned into housing at Harvard Street and Morton Street. Under my plan RCC nursing students would gain exclusive one (1) year internship employment at the Boston Public Health Commission, the MA State Bio Lab, the Shattuck Hospital, and help to alleviate the substance abuse on Mass & Cass.

I plan to build opposition to incentivizing prisoners to donate their organs and bone marrow, build opposition to new women's prison construction, build opposition to new fossil fuel construction, and support low income housing. I specifically say low income housing instead of affordable housing, because affordable housing is nothing more than a political talking point. Unless and until the local AMI reflects the everyday, financial hardships that have compounded for centuries in minority and low income communities due to multiple decades of intentional, gross neglect in Boston, MA. There is no such thing anymore as affordable housing in America unless you are either a liquid millionaire or an asset millionaire, respectfully.

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.).**

All of my campaign literature will be in English for the month of June 2024. I will then have my campaign literature translated into different languages now that I am officially on the ballot. I will have my campaign literature translated into Cape Verdean, Haitian Creole, and French for the month of July 2024. I plan to have my campaign literature translated into Spanish by August 2024. I then plan to have my literature translated into Hebrew, Arabic, and Vietnamese by September 2024.

The Cradle to Prison Pipeline revolves around Black and Brown youth not being able to read in 4th and 5th grade. Thus, once elected, I plan to embrace the Haitian Creole, French, Latino, Spanish, Cabo Verde, Portuguese, Arabic, Hebrew, Vietnamese, English, and Ebonix speaking population that comprises the majority of the 6th Suffolk district. The most common languages spoken in the 6th Suffolk are Haitian Creole, French, Vietnamese, Cape Verdean, Spanish, Arabic, Hebrew, English, and Ebonix. By helping to increase reading literacy in Boston, and increasing Boston Police walking and biking patrols, we will subsequent

ly be able to reduce crime. I also support the new Trades Not Triggers program. I am the only candidate with a plan to replace all ESL + ELL segregated public school BPS classrooms with a new, state of the art, dual language K-8 learning curriculum. Instead of segregating the classroom, all K-8 BPS students

would be placed in BPS classrooms where both their native language and English would be taught simultaneously. BPS students would be able to learn STEAM curriculum both from the teacher and from each other. My new, state of the art, STEM curriculum dual language program would also incorporate art to ensure all BPS students living or studying in the 6 th Suffolk, are able to fluently speak at least two languages by the time they leave the 8th grade.

3. **Police Accountability.** The 2020 police accountability law passed by the Massachusetts Legislature contained a number of steps forward, but important measures were left out. Would you support legislation to do the following?
 - a. **Eliminating qualified immunity for state and local police and correctional officers so that individuals whose constitutional rights are violated can have their fair day in court?** (Y/N)

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

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

YES.
5. **Sentencing Reform.** The 2018 criminal justice reform bill was an important first step in reducing mass incarceration. However, in our “liberal” state, incarceration rates remain much higher than they are in other countries, and sentencing laws can be even more punitive than those in states viewed as conservative. Do you support the following reforms?
 - a. **Eliminating mandatory minimums for all drug offenses?** (Y/N)

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

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

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.

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

YES.

7. **Solitary Confinement.** Although the 2018 Criminal Justice Reform Act contained provisions to reduce the excessive and harmful use of solitary confinement, the Department of Corrections has established policies and practices to [evade implementation of the spirit of these reforms](#), by essentially turning Souza-Baranowski into de facto solitary confinement by limiting out of cell time to three hours per day, which exceeds the definition established in the 2018 Act by one hour. Would you support legislation to address this discrepancy by establishing universal conditions of confinement standards applicable to all people in Massachusetts state prisons, county jails and houses of correction, regardless of housing or security status? (Y/N)

YES.

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

YES.

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.

G. A Welcoming Society

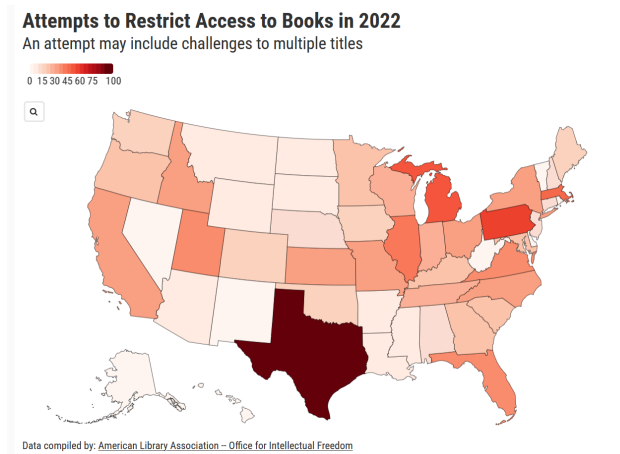
Our commonwealth is at its strongest when we recognize and celebrate the diversity of our population.

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

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

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

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



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

I think anyone who supports universal healthcare, free public schools, free wi-fi, free internet in all public buildings, free food for those in need, free public housing for the un-housed, transitional assistance, Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, and social security would be considered a community leader. To me building a welcoming society simply means that you care about your local community so much so that you fundamentally believe there should be same day voter registration for every election at Boston City Hall, Leadership to me also means that we must collectively build a solid foundation that is welcoming to every

Boston resident, and design an unbreakable social safety net for everyone who lives in the 6 th Suffolk State Representative District, to ensure nobody gets left behind Post COVID-19.

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

I plan to create weekly phone banking, and a weekly canvassing schedule for the months of June-Aug. 2024, to specifically ensure I can help build a more welcoming City of Boston. I am a proud member of the Democratic Party, and I hope to use my campaign to help recruit more progressive voters in Mattapan, Hyde Park, Roslindale, JP, and Dorchester 2024.

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.

Yes. The Democratic Party has lost direction, and Progressive Massachusetts is one of the only organizations in 2024 that can help become the Jimmy Cricket Model, or the conscious of the New Democratic Party. We need BOLD new leadership both at the local municipal, as well as at the state and county level. I believe anyone who supports having local EMTS, Police, Fire, National Guard, US Coast Guard, US Military, IRS, CDC, NIH, social security, Medicare, Medicaid, and Massachusetts Healthcare for All is a Strong Democrat. Public Libraries must be a protected space for learning. That is why I am strongly against the book banning initiative of the current political climate led by the Republican controlled US House of Representatives. As of last year, I have helped build a new, national reading and literacy program 2023-2024.

I would help pass legislation to build dormitories on all state community colleges, and ensure people of color, women survivors of domestic violence, US Veterans, and LGBTQ young adults are able to get affordable housing at any community college of their choice once I'm elected into office on September 3, 2024. ALL Boston Public Libraries should begin to include BHA housing options, once they have finished being completely renovated.

I would establish freedom schools by desegregating BPS classrooms that punish ESL + ELL students for not speaking the imperialist English language, and I would be unapologetic in making sure the US Federal Judge Garitty Decision is finally upheld to hire more minority BPS teachers. I would also work tirelessly to close the economic wealth gap in Boston, MA by officially asking the BHA to annually designate and offload 25% of their real estate portfolio as Rent to Own Housing. I would then strengthen the BPL + BHA partnership to build more low income housing at public libraries.

4. Location Shield Act. Would you support legislation to ban the sale of cell phone location information, which can be used for surveillance and targeted harassment of

any population, including abortion patients and providers, LGBTQIA+ individuals, religious faiths, and other marginalized groups? (Y/N)

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

H. Good Government and Strong Democracy

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Source: MassLive](#)

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

We must show compassion for people less fortunate than ourselves, and restore the American Dream Post COVID-19. We definitely need BOLD new leadership to save our country. The question is how do we create new Progressive Leadership through digital media content on BNN, CTV, and ScaTV? We must recruit more US Veterans to run for US Congress as Democrats in 2024, and we also need to build a new manmade harbor off the coast of Gaza to transport food and medical supplies from sea onto land. As humble as I try to always be, I will definitely need a lot of help to finally organize Boston 2024 to prevent a new world war overseas. We need intergenerational support to teach the next generation of Boston Residents the importance of making US History 2024-2026. Good government starts with civic engagement, and a solid public school education. We must invest in vocational training programs like the People's Academy and the North Bennet School, so that we can rebuild our public transportation Post COVID-19.

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

I have been community organizing for over (20) twenty years. I plan to organize monthly community meetings at local union halls, so we can identify annual projects that will create local jobs for people in the 6th Suffolk, as well as across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In order to have a national Green New Deal, we can't wait for US Congress to finally approve US Senator Ed Markey's bill that he co-authored with US Congresswoman AOC in 2019. We must create a national conversation with US Congressional Members Ayanna Pressley, Seth Moulton, and Adam Schiff. We must create a list of annual events where the Massachusetts US Congressional Delegation and the Boston, MA State Legislative Delegation both agree to pass a Green New Deal for Massachusetts, in partnership with our climate allies in Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina, Michigan, Georgia, California, as well as nationally.

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

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

YES.

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

YES.

4. **Legislative Transparency—Part II.** Legislators only vote to change the rules at the start of the legislative session, but all legislators can model transparency on their own throughout the session. Would you commit to making your committee votes available

online on your website, with reader-friendly language about the bills voted on? (Y/N)

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

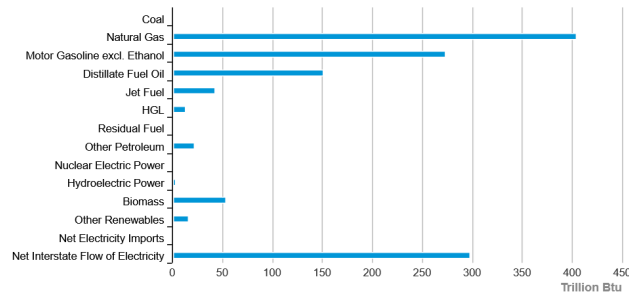
I. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

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.

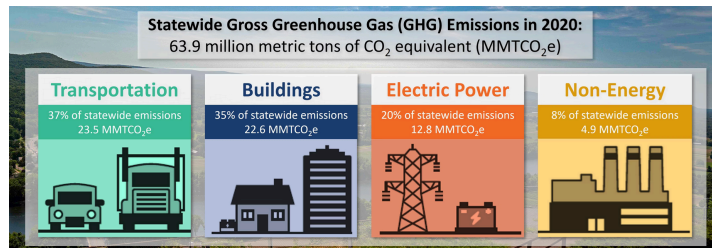
Despite recent progress, Massachusetts is still overwhelmingly dependent on fossil fuels.

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.**

We must all live together as part of the same natural, global environment. If insects, plants, and animals can coexist and live together, why can't humans?

I am a proud supporter of women's rights. I am pro-choice. I also believe in equal pay for equal work. I would make sure all sidewalks, schools, and voting facilities are both ADA accessible, and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. I'd also work with the disabled community to ask that their voices remain at the table to help lead future community conversations. The people living in low income communities should be doing the work required to make Boston more environmentally sustainable according to the Boston Jobs Residency Act. We must all take part in keeping our city safe by protecting the environment.

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

Throughout my career I have continued to shed light as to why the current system is rigged to work against the people, so as to only benefit wealthy people, millionaires, billionaires, and corporations who maintain close proximity to power. Legislative committee meeting notes, emails, receipts, calendars, copies of the annual state budget, as well as campaign donation records of individual legislators would begin to paint a clearer picture as to why people vote the way they do. Currently Massachusetts Legislators are allowed to cast the majority of their votes in secret. The people in committees therefore determine which bills will ultimately die once they have been "sent to study", versus which bills are reported favorably out of committee. The alternative is to use the bills "sent to study" by recycling them as brand new, reincarnated legislation, in the next cycle.

That being said, now that (<https://legiscan.com/MA/bill/S1963/2023>) S.1963 Sunlight Bill has been favorably approved out of the committee, we need to begin to educate the public why it is important to make committee hearings more accessible. That is why I have been fighting to stop H.2333 which is a bill that incentivizes organ donations for incarcerated individuals. Instead we need to pass laws that are uplifting to our community.

We must make cleaning the Neponset River, as well as planting more Apple, Pear, Peach, Cherry, Dogwood, Magnolia, and RED Japanese Maple Trees a priority in the City of Boston. That is partly why the Boston Green Project was founded back in 2018 as an offshoot of US Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley's historic campaign.

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.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

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.

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

YES.

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.

elected, I will update the current law to ensure the new \$0.10 ten cents to \$0.50 fifty cents “plastic bag sales tax” no longer burdens low income people with disabilities, or seniors with a fixed income, currently on food stamps, SNAP, MassHealth, Medicare, or Medicaid. We can re-imagine Massachusetts by building a new, state of the art community college in Mattapan, as well as building a new People’s Academy vocational school in Dorchester, by reallocating the \$50,000,000 million dollars I have publically come out in opposition 2024 for a new women’s prison. I am also in opposition to incentivizing prison organ donation in my opponent’s bill (H.2333). Massachusetts House Bill H.2333 went from being a bill authored to stop marketing sugary drinks to children in public schools (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H2333>) to supporting an incentivized prison bone marrow and organ donation program (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H2333>). My opponent’s plan to incentivize prisoners in Massachusetts to barter the opportunity for them to reduce the time on their sentence, in exchange for giving up their body organs and bone marrow, is something I fundamentally could never support.

Most incumbents generate large war chests in an attempt to scare off any challengers. Greedy corporations then send their lobbyists to donate to incumbent politicians, so that they can pass legislation that will generate more money for the greedy corporations. Most incumbent politicians practice a “pay to play” unspoken rule that connects Massachusetts politics with the various books written about the countless Massachusetts House Speakers who have been arrested by the FBI, and gone to prison. The last three of five most recent Speakers of the House of Representatives in Massachusetts, Salvatore DiMasi, Thomas Finneran, and Charles Flaherty, have all been convicted of felonies. To my knowledge the majority, if not all of their former staff, still work in state government, and have been elevated into positions of leadership across all levels of Massachusetts Government. For the record the past two of the last five Speakers of the House of Representatives in Massachusetts have never been convicted. S.1963 The Sunlight Bill would help change the fact that Massachusetts is the only state in the country that allows the Governor, the Judiciary, and the Legislature to remain exempt from any and all public record requests. That would set the record straight, and clear any doubts of the misappropriation of ARPA funding 2020-2024, so that Massachusetts can begin to rebuild, Post COVID-19.

Charter Schools are designed to be a limited, stop gap measure to ensure our public schools continue to be the best in the country. Boston invented public school education, so we must get back to the 12:1 ratio of one public school teacher for every twelve students. Once elected, I would become a champion for climate change and environmental justice by building new, GREEN energy powered, sustainable, outdoor public school classrooms, using the Norman Rockwell Method.