



**PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS**  
**2026 CONGRESSIONAL**  
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate:** Jamie Zahlaway Belsito

**Office Sought:** U.S. Representative, Massachusetts 6th Congressional District

**Party:** Democrat

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## **I. About You**

### **1. Why are you running for office? And what will be your top 3 priority pieces of legislation if elected?**

I am running for office because our country needs leaders who hold ALL elected officials, including members of their own party, accountable for abandoning the working class through means testing, for the corporatization of our healthcare system, and for bankrolling interventionist wars abroad. I am also a mother of two daughters, raising them in a society that does not value them, as made clear by gendered pay disparities, lack of access to healthcare, and the lack of accountability across multiple presidential administrations and the FBI which have allowed sexual predators like Jefferey Epstein to roam free and influence our institutions at the highest level. We are at an inflection point as a country and as a party, and we are in dire need of principled leaders who stick to their values and their word. If elected, my top three priorities are to move our country from a for-profit insurance system to a Medicare For All system, to enact comprehensive campaign finance reform to get corporate money out of politics, and to protect vulnerable communities at home and abroad by standing against foreign intervention and forever wars and ensuring we live in a robust and fair democracy. Thanks to my experience as a State Representative, I have strong connections with local leadership in MA 06. Through my work at MMHLA, I've developed long standing relationships with members in Congress, creating nationwide programs that address mental health and substance use disorders for pregnant and postpartum women since 2016. I will continue to deepen these relationships and honor my vows to this district as Representative. My more than 15 year background of working on immigration policy will also be centered over my term in Congress, as we need a complete reboot of our broken and fascist immigration "system." There are over 3.1M immigration cases pending in this country, and their treatment at the hands of the Trump administration is inexcusable. Public education from K-12 to higher ed are another clear priority to me. I am messaging this to voters via my active social media accounts, through email blasts to hundreds of ActBlue donors across the country, and through a robust canvassing and door-knocking campaign in my district.

### **2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?**

I am prepared to do the job on day 1 based on my almost 30 years of experience working with Congress across different administrations, working with the Massachusetts Statehouse, and working as an elected official in town government. I have had federal legislative and budgetary success, culminating

in over \$106.5M and three nationwide maternal health programs passed from 2016 to 2026. I am in the halls of Congress working on health and human service programs, on the front lines, every day. I am a proud product of this district's public schools and a first-generation college graduate who financially supported myself through Salem State University. I have two children in the public school system, and I was a former trustee for Salem State University. I am also a former Commissioner to the Ellen Story Postpartum Depression Taskforce. As State Representative for the 4th Essex District, I advanced legislation focused on maternal health, nursing workforce development, and coastal resiliency. I previously worked with the US Congress advocating for streamlined immigration work processes at U.S. companies and clear pathways to permanent residency. I have been outspoken in my support of Medicare for All, disbanding ICE, banning assault weapons, protecting our trans community, codifying the right to abortion care and supporting a legislative audit. I have worked on universal childcare at the Statehouse and am part of a working group in Washington with the P-5 Coalition. I support federal funding for public and social housing because this issue is personal to me. I have a parent in senior housing and a sibling on disability with SMI/SUD who needs access to public housing. I believe that the government's job is to house its citizens. I also support increasing the national minimum wage and believe that Massachusetts is a successful model to these ends that can still be updated. As previously stated, I have signed a People's Pledge to keep corporate and special interest money out of this race. This means my campaign cannot and will not be bought by corporate or special interest groups, and that my decisions in office will be determined by my principles and that of my constituents.

3. **What do you view as the biggest barriers to progressive policy on the federal level?**

The biggest barriers to progressive policy are structural and intentional. Campaign finance allows unlimited outside money to shape who runs and what gets prioritized. Members of Congress can still trade individual stocks, creating conflicts of interest that erode public trust. The filibuster has become a permanent minority veto, blocking legislation supported by majorities of Americans. And an increasingly politicized judiciary, with weak ethics standards and lifetime appointments, can override the will of voters.

Internal gatekeeping is also rampant. When party leadership discourages competitive primaries or clears the field for well-connected, well-funded candidates, it limits grassroots challengers and protects the status quo.

There are also clear cultural barriers. Candidates who come from non-Ivy League and/or private schools, who speak plainly, challenge leadership, and refuse corporate or PAC pressure are often treated as disruptive rather than viable. Non-traditional, independent-minded candidates face higher hurdles than establishment favorites.

**4. Do you consider yourself progressive, and if so, how would you define “progressive”?**

I am not 100% sure exactly what “progressive” means, however in common vernacular, it appears to mean supporting the health and wellness of people; treating communities with compassion and value. I have always supported taking care of and standing up for the most vulnerable and underrepresented. I support: Medicare for All, rent stabilization, union jobs, the Green New Deal, environmental protections and diversity, equity, and inclusion. I don’t just talk about what I’ll do, I do it. I have done it as a Mom, as a regular everyday citizen, as a legislator, an advocate, a connector and a member of my community.

**5. Whom do you view as a role model for how you would operate in the office you are running for?**

1. Congressman Joe Moakley, whom I was a congressional intern for, modeled independent, community-rooted leadership. He was unafraid to challenge power and stood firmly for human rights and his constituents, even when it wasn’t politically convenient.

2. Senator Bernie Sanders has shown what consistent, values-driven leadership looks like. The Senator has centered working people and refused to bend to corporate influence, helping shift the national conversation on economic justice and universal healthcare. Like Bernie Sanders, I come from a working-class background as the daughter of a union floor-layer, and as a State Elected I flipped a long-held Republican seat by appealing to every-day people with legislation that supports working families.

3. Congresswoman Sarah McBride represents disciplined, forward-looking leadership grounded in lived experience. She demonstrates that representation and serious policy work can go hand in hand. Her existence itself is a resistance against Trump, much like mine would be as a proud, Arab-American woman.

My approach to this office would be principled, accountable, and focused on delivering results for everyday people.

## **II. Shared Leadership**

**1. If elected, how will you remain accountable to the communities and organizations that supported your campaign?**

My family and I will remain a part of this district. Both offices (DC and in-district) will be participatory and ingrained in the communities that I would proudly serve. I would be involved in local events, meetings and maintain face-to-face availability with my constituents. My plan is to organize a monthly call with state reps, town administrators/managers/selectboard, mayors/city councilors, and quarterly check-ins with community organizations i.e. Open Door, NAGLY, Chambers of Commerce, etc.

**2. What specific mechanisms will you use to maintain transparency with constituents (e.g., town halls, public votes explanations, advisory councils)?**

What I have used before are social media postings on votes, video interviews, and frequent press releases to independent news groups. I would use Open Town Halls, Advisory Councils, and taskforces, especially on local issues regarding LGBTQIA+ interests, elderly care, public education, transportation, housing, clamming, fishing, AI, and big tech.

**3. Which communities do you believe will have the least access to you once you are in office, and what steps will you take to change that?**

Communities that don't have access to robust electoral information, public transportation, elderly communities, and non-english-speaking communities. I would set up consistent set office hours at local community locations around the district, over Town Hall hours or in collaboration with Councils on Aging or the public library. I did this when I was State Representative, and utilized churches and social clubs as well. I would consult with local community leaders to cover any gaps.

**4. How will you ensure that people most impacted by federal policy, particularly communities of color, immigrants, disabled people, LGBTQ+**

**people, and low-income communities, have real influence over your legislative priorities, not just symbolic inclusion?**

“All politics is Local,” and that includes vulnerable communities most reliant on social welfare funding and therefore most impacted by federal policy, like the groups cited above. This is where who I hire to work in my office in D.C. and in-district, as well as advisory groups and taskforces will be crucial to keep community voices centered and represented. There will be consistent communication and involvement from my office and I. I would also bring a transition team onboard that best represents the district from the onset of my term.

5. **What does “sharing power” look like in practice in a Congressional office? Please give at least two examples (e.g., staffing, agenda-setting, constituent engagement).**

Sharing power means operating from the mindset of “our office,” not “my office.” My focus would be on staff. Staff development and real internal empowerment means hiring talented, diverse professionals and giving them meaningful responsibility to shape policy, strategy, and constituent work in line with progressive principles. I strongly believe in mentoring young staff, creating pathways for first-generation and public school students, and building a team culture where ideas are shared “up and down.” Regular town halls, open office hours, advisory councils, and issue-based working groups ensure policy priorities reflect lived experience in the district. Constituents should have a loud and clear voice. Thus, my office would work hard to be transparent and collaborative by clearly communicating votes and priorities, reporting back on our results, and building coalitions with local leaders, advocates, small businesses, labor, and community organizations. Again, “our office” means the community helps shape the agenda, our staff help drive the strategy, and I remain accountable to both groups.

### **III. The Issues**

*Our questionnaire is based on our [Progressive Platform](#): Shared Prosperity, All Means All/Racial and Social Justice, Good Government and Strong Democracy, and Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection. Most questions refer to specific pieces of legislation filed in recent years in Congress.*

## **A. An Equitable Tax System**

1. **What does a fair tax system look like to you? Which specific proposals would you advocate for?**

We MUST rebalance the tax system so everyday households are not carrying a disproportionate share of the federal tax base. Congress can ensure large multinational corporations and the ultra-wealthy pay taxes that are closer to what middle-class families already pay and prevent profits from being shifted offshore to avoid U.S. taxes. Congress does not need to be beholden to big corporations in fear that there will be job losses if we make our tax system equal and ethical. Congress can close loopholes that allow corporations to move profits or even their headquarters on paper to low-tax jurisdictions. Congress can also file, hear in committee, and PASS the federal equivalent of the Fair Share Act or the Ultra-Millionaire Tax Act, that did not see the light of day although it was filed bi-camerally. This act would apply an annual tax on extreme wealth above \$50 million, with higher rates for billionaires, raising significant federal revenue from the very top tier of households. It is clear that a fair tax system is one which includes a progressive wealth tax, one in which capital gains are set at the same level as wage taxation, and one without a carried interest loophole which acts as a private equity tax break. In Congress I would also champion legislation which combats offshore tax avoidance and punishes corporations who conceal profits in offshore tax havens.

2. **Taxing Excessive CEO Pay. Would you support legislation to raise taxes on corporations that pay their executives more than 50 times the wages of their workers? (Y/N)**

YES.

3. **Taxing Extreme Wealth. The top 10 US billionaires saw their collective wealth increase by [\\$698 billion](#) just over the past year.**

- a. **Would you support requiring the ultra-wealthy to pay taxes on wealth gains as they occur, rather than allowing them to indefinitely defer or avoid taxation, by requiring annual taxation of non-tradable assets like stocks, regardless of sale? (Y/N)**

YES.

- b. **Would you support imposing a 2% annual tax on the net worth of households and trusts between \$50 million and \$1 billion, along with 1% additional surtax on the net worth of households and trusts above \$1 billion? (Y/N)**

YES.

4. **Corporate Tax Breaks. Would you support repealing the corporate tax breaks in the “Big Ugly Bill”? (Y/N) Are there pre-existing corporate tax breaks that you would also advocate to repeal?**

YES.

I would end the carried-interest loophole which acts as a tax break for private equity.

## **B. Jobs That Pay a Living Wage**

1. **Minimum Wage. The gap between productivity and wages has grown dramatically since 1973. Moreover, the federal minimum wage remains stuck at \$7.25—what it was in 2009. Would you support legislation to...**

- a. **Raise the federal minimum wage to \$17 per hour? (Y/N)**

YES.

- b. **Eliminate all subminimum wages (i.e., for tipped workers, for student workers, and for workers with disabilities)? (Y/N)**

YES.

- c. **Index the minimum wage to inflation? (Y/N)**

YES.

2. **Living Wages. Although the current federal push is to raise the minimum wage to \$17, this is still far from a living wage. Indeed, according to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, \$17 is [below a living wage in all 50 states](#). What steps would you take to close the gap between the minimum wage and a living wage?**

I would write and file legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$21.35, in tandem with working to pass legislation in support of universal childcare and universal school lunches given \$21.35 is only sufficient for a single adult with no

children. Currently, there is one piece of legislation that would scale up minimum wage, only to \$17 per hour by 2030. State legislatures, like Massachusetts, have addressed minimum wage in lieu of federal law, but these measures do not go far enough. I would also assure a provision within the minimum wage legislation which calls for re-evaluations of this wage to assure rises with inflation each successive year from passage.

3. **Retirement Security. With the decline of pensions and other defined-benefit retirement plans in the workplace, retirement is becoming more insecure, and seniors are having to work longer just to stay afloat. Would you support legislation to....**

- a. **Raise the cap on earnings that are taxed for Social Security? (Currently, only earnings up to \$176,100 are subject to the payroll tax.) (Y/N)**

YES.

- b. **Increase the benefits provided by Social Security? (Y/N)**

YES.

4. **Paid Family and Medical Leave. The US is the only industrial nation without paid family leave, but 13 states and the District of Columbia have established comprehensive, mandatory paid family leave systems at the state level. Would you support passing federal legislation to create a nationwide paid family and medical leave system at least as strong as that in MA? (Y/N)**

YES.

5. **Union Rights. The Trump administration has waged an all-out assault on labor unions in the US, and this is on top of the [multi-decade fall in unionization rates](#) due to hostile policy and weak enforcement of existing protections. Unions built the middle-class, and stronger unions are essential to achieving a vision of shared prosperity. Do you commit to voting and advocating for the passage of the [Protecting the Right to Organize \(PRO\) Act](#)? (Y/N)**

YES.

6. **Congressional Staff Unionization. If your staff members elected to form a union, would you commit to recognizing and supporting such unionization?** (Y/N)

YES.

7. **Affordability. Better pay and benefits can only go so far in ensuring economic security amidst rising prices. What would be your top priorities in addressing the high cost of living?**

We MUST address tariffs, CEO and corporate welfare, PBM reform, and how our elected officials have continued to allow medical insurers to bankrupt American families. Healthcare is a right, and we need to update the ACA and make Medicare for All a priority. Housing access, production, and affordability are essential to reducing housing costs, as well as placing caps on 'over-asking' pricing. There must be federal partnership with State and Local zoning to allow for 'rent to buy' by amending HUD regulations that make this unattainable. Further, comprehensive rent control measures, the expansion of public housing development, and punishing corporations which collude monopolistically to price gouge essential goods.

There are many levers to 'pull' and pieces of legislation that have been filed to do this. LEADERSHIP must drive these goals for the American public to achieve financial stability.

*Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.*

In addition to increasing the benefits provided by Social Security, I would also file legislation to supplement stay at home parents who left their career and/or stayed at home to raise their children, which primarily affects women. I would further guarantee an automatic \$50K per year into their social security for those years without traditional pay. I support paid family and medical leave and have been working on this issue with the P-5 group in D.C. I have working specifically to pass paid family leave in Congress with maternal health working groups like National Partnerships and AMCHP Congress for years. I strongly support union rights – my dad was a member of the floor-layers union (North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters) and we relied on his healthcare coverage and workplace protections to survive and thrive as a family.

### **C. Reining in Corporate Power**

1. **Antitrust Policy.** The Biden administration ushered in a [paradigm shift](#) in the federal government’s approach to antitrust, including strengthened enforcement against corporate monopolies through landmark lawsuits, rulemaking, and a “whole-of-government” competition strategy. The Trump administration has since gutted this approach. Do you support a return to anti-monopoly, pro-competition policies, such as those advocated by former FTC chair Lina Khan? (Y/N)

YES.

2. **Cryptocurrency Regulation.** The rise of the cryptocurrency industry is weakening financial stability and opening new [floodgates of dark money into elections](#). Do you support [Senator Elizabeth Warren’s principles for cryptocurrency regulation](#) (i.e., “upholding securities laws for non-crypto assets, ensuring investor protections, maintaining financial stability, requiring anti-money laundering compliance and closing sanctions loopholes, and preventing public officials – like President Trump – from profiting off of crypto tokens”)? (Y/N)

YES.

3. **Big Tech.** Would you oppose Big Tech’s efforts to preempt states from enforcing laws regulating consumer privacy and artificial intelligence? (Y/N)

YES.

*Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.*

Regulating Big Tech is an issue that has long been punted-on, and Congress has not done their job protecting the American public from predatory scraping and data privacy breaches or from the encroaching threat AI proliferation wields against workforce development and protections.

### **D. Quality, Affordable Health Care**

1. **Medicare for All.** Would you support the creation of a single payer/“Medicare for All” health insurance system in the country that

would guarantee health care as a right? (Y/N)

YES.

2. **Expanding Medicare.** Would you support expanding Medicare to cover comprehensive dental, vision, and hearing care? (Y/N)

YES.

3. **Medicare Advantage.** Medicare Advantage overbills the federal government by **\$140 billion a year**. Would you support legislation to require Medicare Advantage companies to charge the government at a rate per beneficiary equal to or less than traditional Medicare in order to reduce unnecessary and wasteful spending? (Y/N)

YES.

4. **Prescription Drug Prices.** Prescription drug prices in the US are consistently higher than in other countries. Would you support...

- a. **Allowing patients, pharmacists, and wholesalers to buy low-cost prescription drugs from Canada and other industrialized countries?** (Y/N)

YES.

- b. **Allowing the federal government to manufacture lower-cost generic versions of prescription drugs when the market does not offer them?** (Y/N)

YES.

5. **Reproductive Rights.** Would you support repealing the Hyde Amendment, which bars the use of federal funds to pay for abortion in most cases? (Y/N)

YES.

6. **Gender-Affirming Health Care.** Would you support legislation to train more providers in gender-affirming care, improve medical education curricula for gender affirming care, and expand capacity of Community Health Centers to provide this care? (Y/N)

YES.

- 7. Combating False Advertising. Would you support legislation to direct the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to prescribe rules prohibiting disinformation in the advertising of abortion services and give the Federal Trade Commission authority to enforce these rules and collect penalties from organizations that violate these rules? (Y/N)**

YES.

- 8. Health Care for All. Would you support legislation to restore Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility to immigrants with status; remove discriminatory Medicare restrictions based on length of US residency for green card holders; and end the exclusion of undocumented immigrants from Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces? (Y/N)**

YES.

- 9. Opioid Crisis. 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 and champion steps to encourage the building of such centers (see, as an example, [Project Weber/Renew Overdose Prevention Center](#) in Providence)? (Y/N)**

YES.

- 10. Data Privacy. Would you support legislation to limit the personal reproductive and sexual health data that can be collected, retained, used, or disclosed to only what is needed to deliver a product or service? (Y/N)**

YES.

*Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.*

Yes to expanding medicare and while we're at it, let's have mental health parity! I support repealing the Hyde Amendment and Congress must codify abortion care. In the 117th Congressional session, the Democrats had the White House, the House of Representatives, and the Senate, and did NOT codify access to abortion care. FAIL. I support gender-affirming health care and supported these measures as a State

Legislator in July of 2022. We know, especially in MA as the first state to decriminalize SUD, that peer support, early intervention, mental health treatment, and housing are necessary to support those facing substance use disorder.

### **E. Quality, Free, Publicly Funded Education**

1. **Education Funding. Do you commit to only voting for a budget that includes clear language ensuring that education funding goes out to states as passed? (Y/N)**

YES.

2. **Education Equity. More than seven decades out from the *Brown vs. Board* Supreme Court ruling, our public education systems remain highly segregated and unequal. Please name three policies you would advocate for in order to address this.**

Federal support for public education has declined since the Reagan era, shifting increasing responsibility onto states and local property taxpayers. Communities across the country, especially those with limited property wealth, cannot carry this burden alone.

I would advocate for significantly strengthening Title I so federal funding is more heavily weighted toward students with the greatest needs. Increased Title I investment would not replace state formulas like Massachusetts's Chapter 70 program, it would reinforce them. Chapter 70 establishes the foundation budget and guarantees minimum state aid, while stronger Title I funding would provide additional resources to districts serving high concentrations of low-income students. That means more reading specialists, math intervention, school-based mental health services, and extended learning time, without further straining local taxpayers and relying on further Prop 2 ½ overrides. I would further advocate for tuition-free and fee-free education for students at public colleges and universities and the elimination of charter schools and other privatization efforts against our public education system.

This must also include expanded universal pre-K and community school models. True equity means supporting children from early childhood forward and recognizing that academic success is closely tied to family stability and strong community support. A restoration and expansion of the critical Head Start program are crucial.

3. **Education Privatization.** Do you **oppose** strategies to privatize our public education system such as

a. **Expanding the use of vouchers?** (Y/N)

YES.

b. **Increasing the number of charter schools?** (Y/N)

YES.

4. **Special Education.** Do you support, and will you advocate for, the restoration of the Office of Civil Rights in the Education Department and full funding for IDEA? (Y/N)

YES.

5. **Universal School Meals.** Do you support guaranteeing free breakfast, lunch, and dinner to all students, regardless of income? (Y/N)

YES.

6. **Charter School Accountability.** Do you support requiring that charter schools comply with the same transparency and accountability requirements as public schools? (Y/N)

YES.

7. **Affordable Child Care.** Would you support investing in universal child care infrastructure and affordability, guaranteeing that no families pay more than 7% of their income in fees and that lower-income families receive fully subsidized child care? (Y/N)

YES.

8. **Early Educators.** Would you support legislation to ensure that child care workers are paid a living wage and achieve parity with elementary school teachers who have similar credentials and experience? (Y/N)

YES.

9. **Educator Diversity.** The TEACH program (Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education) provides up to a maximum of \$3,772 per year to students who are completing or who plan to complete coursework that is required to begin a career in teaching and agree to serve as a full-time, highly-qualified teacher in a high-need subject area in a designated low-income school for at least four years. Would you support legislation to invest in a diverse educator workforce by increasing the maximum TEACH Grant award to \$8,000 per year to align with the cost of college and ensuring that the program covers the full cost of attendance? (Y/N)

YES.

10. **Student Loan Debt.** Student loan debt is holding back the economy, as graduates are unable to make important long-term investments in their future.

- a. **Would you oppose any plans to sell or transfer the federal student loan portfolio to the private market?** (Y/N)

YES.

- b. **Would you support the cancellation of student loan debt?** (Y/N)

YES.

11. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** More and more jobs are requiring a college degree, but the cost of higher education has been growing faster than wages, contributing to a ballooning student debt burden. Would you support legislation to guarantee free tuition at public colleges and universities? (Y/N)

YES.

*Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.*

## **F. Affordable, Decent Housing**

1. **What do you view the role of the federal government in addressing the housing crisis?**

I believe it is our government's job to protect the people of the United States from harm, which includes granting us freedom from poverty, homelessness, and hunger. I would enact legislation which curtails the buyout of housing developments and buildings by institutional investors like Blackstone, and would support the development of more public housing infrastructure in our district and across the U.S.

2. **Just Cause Eviction. Would you support legislation to establish a national just cause eviction standard, which would limit the grounds upon which a landlord may evict a tenant? (Y/N)**

YES.

3. **Inclusive Communities. Federal funding can be a major source of leverage in shaping state and municipal policy. Would you support legislation to tie transportation or housing funding to...**

- a. **End exclusionary zoning practices? (Y/N)**

YES.

- b. **Repeal state prohibitions on rent stabilization policies? (Y/N)**

YES.

4. **Public Housing. Would you support the repeal of the Faircloth Amendment, which bans HUD from funding the construction or operation of new public housing units beyond the total that existed in 1999? (Y/N)**

YES.

5. **Tenant Opportunity to Purchase. Would you support legislation to provide tenants with opportunities to come together to purchase their buildings prior to large, for-profit developers buying them? (Y/N)**

YES.

6. **Ending the Criminalization of Homelessness. Would you support legislation to prevent the criminalization of homelessness by ensuring that unhoused people cannot be arrested or ticketed by federal police**

**when living on federal lands when there are no other options without blocking traffic, asking for help or donations in public places, practicing religion in public spaces, or living in a vehicle without blocking traffic?**  
(Y/N)

YES.

7. **Access to Counsel.** There is currently no federal right to a lawyer in housing court. Do you support expanding the right to representation to housing court? (Y/N)

YES.

8. **Housing for Formerly Incarcerated Persons.** In 2024, Former HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge released a [draft rule](#) enacting protections for formerly incarcerated people in housing, such as shortening the “lookback period” to 3 years. Would you support legislation to enact such protections? (Y/N)

YES.

*Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.*

### **G. A Fair and Efficient Criminal Justice System**

1. **Ending the War on Drugs.** The War on Drugs has been destructive to so many communities, making them less safe while failing to address the root causes of substance use or the drug trade. Would you support...

- a. **Legalizing recreational marijuana?** (Y/N)

YES.

- b. **Expunging criminal records for conduct that has been legalized or decriminalized?** (Y/N)

YES.

- c. **Investing some of the tax revenue that would come from a federally legal cannabis industry into the communities most harmed by the failed War on Drugs?** (Y/N)

YES.

2. **Ending Mass Incarceration.** Do you support the following policies:

- a. **Repealing mandatory minimums for nonviolent drug offenses?** (Y/N)

YES.

- b. **Eliminating cash bail, so that no one is held in jail solely for an inability to pay, and conditioning federal grants on states' elimination of cash bail?** (Y/N)

YES.

- c. **Abolishing the death penalty?** (Y/N)

YES.

- d. **Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which has been proven to have significant racial disparities?** (Y/N)

YES.

3. **Private Prisons.** Do you support barring the federal government and state and local jurisdictions from contracting with private corporations to run prisons and detention facilities? (Y/N)

YES.

4. **Prison Conditions.** In addition to having incarceration rates that far [outpace](#) those of other countries, the US is known for violating both domestic and international law in the conditions of its prisons. Do you support the following steps to emphasize the rehabilitative, as opposed to punitive, nature of the system and protect basic rights?

- a. **Preventing companies from charging prisoners unreasonable fees for banking and telecommunications services?** (Y/N)

YES.

- b. **Requiring that incarcerated individuals be paid for their work at a rate no lower than the federal minimum wage?** (Y/N)

YES.

- c. **Limiting the use of solitary confinement to no more than 15 consecutive days, beyond which it is defined as torture by the United Nations? (Y/N)**

YES.

5. **Police Accountability. Lax or nonexistent systems of accountability and perverse incentives at the federal, state, and local level, combined with a legacy of systemic racism, too often lead to law enforcement neither enforcing the law nor keeping the public safe. Would you support....?**

- a. **Prohibiting the transfer of military weapons from the federal government to state and local law enforcement? (Y/N)**

YES.

- b. **Reforming qualified immunity doctrine to ensure that it does NOT provide law enforcement officers that brutalize or otherwise violate civil rights with defense or immunity from civil liability for their actions? (Y/N)**

YES.

- c. **Restricting the use of civil asset forfeiture by police departments and prosecutors' offices? (Y/N)**

YES.

- d. **Prohibiting no-knock warrants for federal law enforcement and for state and local departments that receive federal funding, requiring them to provide notice of their authority and purpose before executing a warrant? (Y/N)**

YES.

6. **Gun Violence Prevention. The US has the largest number of guns per capita in the world—and consequently one of the highest rates of gun**

**deaths. For too long, the federal government has refused to play a constructive role in preventing gun violence. Would you support....?**

- a. **Reinstating the federal assault weapons ban? (Y/N)**

YES.

- b. **Banning high-capacity magazine ammunition? (Y/N)**

YES.

- c. **Requiring a license to purchase a gun? (Y/N)**

YES.

- d. **Limiting the number of guns an individual can buy to one per month? (Y/N)**

YES.

- e. **Repealing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, which shields the gun industry from lawsuits? (Y/N)**

YES.

- f. **Repealing the Dickey Amendment, which limits the CDC's ability to conduct research on gun violence? (Y/N)**

YES.

7. **Community-Based Response. Would you support legislation to create a Division on Community Safety within HHS to fund, conduct, and coordinate research, technical assistance, and grant programs related to non-carceral, health-centered investments in public safety? (Y/N)\**

YES.

8. **Diversion. Would you support legislation to allow federal judges to divert parents and caregivers from incarceration into comprehensive programs that would better serve them, their families, and society by offering resources, services, and training to meet their unique needs? (Y/N)**

YES.

9. **Ending Permanent Punishments.** Currently there is no standard process for sealing federal records. Would you support [legislation](#) to allow individuals to petition the United States Courts to seal records for nonviolent offenses that are not automatically sealed? (Y/N)

YES.

*Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.*

### **H. A Humane Immigration System**

1. **Comprehensive Immigration Reform.** The approximately 14 million undocumented immigrants in the US are important contributors to strong economies and strong communities. Due to political and economic instability abroad, as well as a labyrinthine and discriminatory immigration bureaucracy at home, this number could very well continue to grow. However, comprehensive immigration reform legislation has remained elusive in Washington. Would you support the following policies?

- a. **The DREAM Act, which would allow certain US-raised immigrant youth to earn lawful permanent residence and American citizenship?** (Y/N)

YES.

- b. **A path for undocumented immigrants to gain US citizenship?** (Y/N)

YES.

- c. **Repealing the [three-year, ten-year, and permanent bars of reentry](#) for undocumented immigrants?** (Y/N)

YES.

2. **Reining in the Expansion of Deportation and Detention Machine.** Every day, we hear new unconscionable stories about how the US is treating immigrants at the border, fueled by both bad laws and lawlessness at the

**federal level. Our immigration system should reflect our values. Which of the following policies would you support?**

- a. **Ending ICE's daily bed quota? (Y/N)**

YES.

- b. **Imposing a moratorium on the construction of new detention facilities? (Y/N)**

YES.

- c. **Repealing the increased funding for ICE from the "Big Ugly Bill"? (Y/N)**

YES.

3. **Ending Family Detention. Would you support repealing mandatory detention, prohibiting the detention of families and children in family detention, eliminating the use of private detention facilities and jails, and requiring DHS to establish civil detention standards? (Y/N)**

YES.

4. **Immigration Court Reform. The US immigration court system lacks appropriate safeguards from political influence. Would you support legislation to turn the nation's immigration court system into an independent judiciary and ensure that immigration courts are administered by qualified, impartial judges; have adequate court resources and support services; are defined by transparency and integrity; and are financially independent? (Y/N)**

YES.

5. **Abolishing ICE. Would you support legislation to sunset the US Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) and establish a commission to develop a more humane immigration enforcement system and to transfer functions like organized crime, drug smuggling, and human trafficking to other government agencies that are well-equipped to handle them and have proven track records of transparency, accountability and compliance with the law? (Y/N)**

YES.

6. **ICE Oversight and Accountability.** ICE agents have been terrorizing immigrant communities here in Massachusetts and across the country. Would you support requiring DHS officers and agents engaged in immigration enforcement to clearly identify themselves by wearing visible insignia and specifying the agency they work for (e.g., ICE, CBP) during detentions and arrests banning the use of face coverings or non-tactical masks that conceal officers' identities? (Y/N)

YES.

7. **National Guard.** Would you support legislation to prevent the National Guard from being used for immigration enforcement purposes and functioning as an extension of ICE? (Y/N)

YES.

*Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.*

I support the abolition of ICE and the indictment and impeachment of Kristi Noem.

### **I. A Diverse and Welcoming Society**

1. **LGBTQ Rights.** The Trump administration has been waging an all-assault on the LGBTQ community, especially the right of trans individuals to exist in public space.
- a. **Would you commit to vote against and speak out against any rollback of LGBTQ rights?** (Y/N)

YES.

- b. **This year and last year, the National Defense Authorization Act included harmful anti-trans policy riders. Would you commit to vote against any omnibus bill, defense authorization, or spending bill that includes a rollback of LGBTQ rights?** (Y/N)

YES.

2. **Right to Read.** Would you support legislation to classify discriminatory book bans as violations of federal civil rights laws? (Y/N)

YES.

3. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.** Would you support legislation to codify executive orders from the Biden administration that required federal agencies to identify and address barriers to serving underserved communities and established agency equity teams and annual equity action plans to embed equity in federal planning? (Y/N)

YES.

*Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.*

## **J. Good Government and Strong Democracy**

1. **Comprehensive Democracy Reform.** Do you support the voting rights reforms from the former HR 1, the For The People Act? Among other things, HRI (“For the People Act”) contained automatic voter registration, Election Day Registration, the expansion of early voting, the prohibition of partisan gerrymandering, and other vital reforms. (Y/N)

YES.

2. **Ending Incarceration-Based Disenfranchisement.** Currently, Maine and Vermont are the only states that provide full suffrage to the incarcerated. Do you support ending the disenfranchisement for those currently incarcerated? (Y/N)

YES.

3. **Public Financing.** Do you support public financing of Congressional elections? (Y/N)

YES.

4. **Citizens United.** Would you support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United decision and allow limits on corporate political spending? (Y/N)

YES.

5. **Reining in Corporate Spending. Would you support requiring that any corporate political spending must be approved by at least 75% of a corporation's shareholders and 75% of its Board of Directors? (Y/N)**

YES.

6. **DC Autonomy. In recent years, Congress has repeatedly meddled in DC's ability to self-govern.**

- a. **Do you support DC statehood? (Y/N)**

YES.

- b. **Do you commit to voting against any piece of legislation to override democratically passed legislation by the DC City Council? (Y/N)**

YES.

7. **Supreme Court Reform. The 6-vote reactionary Supreme Court majority has repeatedly violated precedent and the rule of law in order to embolden the Trump administration and hobbled the ability of the Biden administration to take action. What reforms, if any, to the Supreme Court would you support and advocate for?**

I would support the elimination of life-long terms in the Supreme Court, I would champion the additional appointments of new judges to overturn Citizens United, and I would work to turn this branch back into a judiciary rather than a reactionary legislative branch as it is being used by the Trump administration.

8. **Anti-Corruption — Congress. Would you support a ban on Congressional stock trading of any kind? (Y/N)**

YES.

9. **Conflicts of Interest. Would you support legislation to require the President and Vice President to disclose and divest any potential financial conflicts of interest and require presidential appointees to recuse**

**themselves from any matters involving the president's financial conflicts of interest that come before their agencies? (Y/N)**

YES.

10. **Anti-Corruption — President. Scholars have described the Trump administration as the most corrupt in modern history, with every week bringing new scandals, conflicts of interest, and corruption. What steps would you take to increase oversight and better hold officials to account for corruption and law-breaking?**

I would support the impeachment and indictments of key members of this administration and politically-appointed department heads, in addition to advocating for the appointment of a special prosecutor to hold the architects of DOGE accountable and halt the corrupt contract awarding system of this administration.

11. **If you make one change to the US Constitution, what amendment would you adopt, and why?**

I would adopt an amendment that advocates for the same Economic Bill of Rights conceived of by FDR and championed by MLK in his “Poor People’s Campaign” before his death, including the right to a job with a fair wage, universal single-payer healthcare coverage, and services that support economic mobility including funding for public education and other social services.

*Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.*

## **K. Sustainable Infrastructure & Environmental Protection**

1. **Green New Deal. Do you support the concept of a Green New Deal? If so, what should it look like?**

Yes, and it should look like the continued creation of union jobs and fair wages in green energy, the blue economy, updating our transportation infrastructure, green housing construction, and reducing carbon emission by addressing critical infrastructure upgrades.

Green initiatives must also include wastewater treatment infrastructure, addressing the wastewater overflow in the Merrimack River, and the degradation and almost failing sewerage treatment plant off of the coast of Cape Ann.

Green New Deal initiatives include coastal resiliency, filtration of pollutants, and rising ocean levels. The Green New Deal also intersects with the health and wellness of pregnant and new mothers and their babies; extreme heat, worsening air quality, and weather events are likely to lead to adverse maternal and infant health outcomes.

2. **Energy Transition. In 2024, global temperatures were recorded at 1.5 degrees celsius above pre-industrial levels for the first time. We need to rapidly decarbonize our economy if we are to begin to reverse global warming. Which of the following policies would you support to accelerate that transition?**

- a. **Setting a goal of 100 percent clean energy generation and use by 2035? (Y/N)**

YES.

- b. **Prohibiting new leases for coal, oil, and gas on all federal lands and waters? (Y/N)**

YES.

- c. **Opposing any legislation that authorizes, or expedites the permitting or approval of, new fossil fuel pipelines? (Y/N)**

YES.

3. **Clean Energy. What steps would you take to promote renewable energy development in Massachusetts?**

I would lean back into the offshore wind development in Salem Harbor that was defunded by the Trump administration, although paid for via the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act). This project is slated to create 400 jobs and help offset reliance on the electrical grid. I would work closely with the Gulf of Maine taskforce working on this issue, as well as with the New England-Quebec working group as it relates to hydro-power.

We need to continue to support solar buses and public transportation, like CATA and MEVA, who have some vehicles and future slated ferries that will use solar-powered batteries.

4. **Clean Water. Would you support legislation to require natural gas drillers to disclose the chemicals that go into the ground during the hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) process and to close the so-called “Halliburton loophole,” which prevents the EPA from conducting rigorous oversight?** (Y/N)

YES.

5. **Environmental Justice. Would you support legislation to codify environmental justice into law; require federal agencies to address environmental justice through agency actions and permitting decisions; and strengthen legal protections against environmental injustice for communities of color, low-income communities, and indigenous communities?** (Y/N)

YES.

6. **Making Polluters Pay. Would you support legislation to impose a fee on the largest US-based fossil fuel extractors and oil refiners and foreign-owned companies doing business in the US based on their percentage of global emissions, with the funds raised used to finance a wide range of efforts to tackle the impacts of climate change?** (Y/N)

YES.

7. **Data Centers. The rapid growth of data centers has been pushing up utility bills and consuming large amounts of energy and water. Would you support legislation to require data centers to publish their energy usage and provide additional clean energy supply to cover their extra usage (B.Y.O.N.C.E., "bring your own clean energy")?** (Y/N)

YES.

8. **Electric Vehicles. Would you support legislation to phase out the sale of gasoline- or diesel-powered vehicles by 2035?** (Y/N)

YES.

9. **Fare-Free Transit. Would you support investing in fare-free public transit?**  
(Y/N)

YES.

10. **Public Transportation. What would be your top priorities for federal investment in transportation and infrastructure if elected?**

My top priorities would be federal investment in a Light Rail along the 128/Route 3 corridor, a Light Rail electrification from Boston, through Chelsea, up the Lynnway, all the way through the coastline to the NH border, and Public buses in rural communities to connect them with the subway, medical hubs, grocery stores and train stations.

*Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.*

Legislation that requires data centers to publish their energy usage needs to be done equitably. We cannot allow META to roll into a poor or blighted community boasting about how a new AI data center will employ people while sucking all of their resources and water supply away. I would support legislation to phase out the sale of gasoline or diesel-powered vehicles by 2035 as long as there is support for individuals and families who cannot afford existing models, and their voices are brought into the conversation.

## **L. National Security and the US's Role in the World**

1. **What principles and priorities govern your approach to foreign policy?**

My approach to foreign policy is governed by non-interventionism and ending forever wars, closing the vast majority of U.S. foreign military bases to bring our troops home, and respect for international law. I believe in the United National, the International Criminal Court, the need for strong diplomacy, and in upholding international human rights.

2. **If elected, would you support Section 702 reforms requiring federal law enforcement agencies to obtain a warrant before searching data collected by the NSA? (Y/N)**

YES.

3. **Would you commit to voting against the annual National Defense Authorization Act until the Pentagon is able to [successfully pass an audit](#)? (Y/N)**

YES.

I would commit to voting against the annual National Defense Authorization Act: MMHLA has a mental health program for pregnant and new Mothers who serve or the spouses of those who serve that has yet to be implemented by the “Department of War.” DOD/DOW was required by law in the FY25 NDAA to submit a report to Congress on its implementation by December 31, 2025 and nothing has been received.

4. **The so-called “Leahy Law” prohibits the US government from using funds for assistance to units of foreign security forces where there is credible information implicating that unit in the commission of gross violations of human rights; however, current and past presidents have evaded this law. Would you vote to block weapons sales or transfers to any country credibly accused of human rights abuses, such as Israel, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates? (Y/N)**

YES.

5. **In 2002, George W. Bush notified the United Nations that the US would not ratify the Rome Statute, which created the International Criminal Court. Further, Donald Trump has been undermining the ICC’s work by sanctioning ICC officials and their families for investigating acts of genocide committed by the State of Israel. Would you commit to (a) opposing any such attacks on the ICC and (b) supporting the ratification of the Rome Statute and the US’s participation in the International Criminal Court? (Y/N)**

YES.

**6. The Trump administration has engaged in an illegal campaign of bombing fishing boats in the Caribbean and an illegal campaign of bombing Venezuela. In both cases, the US military has killed civilians, and in the latter, the US has kidnapped the head of state, committing to an unpopular regime change policy.**

- a. **Do you support using Congressional authority to ban military strikes on fishing boats in the Caribbean? (Y/N)**

YES.

- b. **Do you support using Congressional authority to withdraw US military forces from Venezuela and prevent further military escalation? (Y/N)**

YES.

- c. **Do you support using Congressional authority to prevent further military escalation in Latin America, such as proposed attacks on Cuba, Mexico, or Colombia? (Y/N)**

YES.

**7. Do you oppose Trump's military escalations against Iran? (Y/N)**

YES.

**8. Would you support ending the unilateral US trade embargo on Cuba that prevents Cuban purchases of US exports but does not affect Cuban trade with the rest of the world, thereby hurting both economies and populations while achieving nothing? (Y/N)**

YES.

**9. Do you support the United States rejoining global organizations that the Trump administration has left, such as UNESCO or WHO? (Y/N)**

YES.

*Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.*

### III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

I am running to take care of people, make a better future for my children and my neighbors, and to stand on the right side of humanity. To me, progressivism is something I have always stood for, as a young child, an adult, a parent, and a citizen: someone who looks out for and stands up for those who need the most help, someone who stands up against injustice and inequity. I will use my three-decade-long legislative work, from immigration reform to mental health policy, and my strength as a Mother of this district to take care of hard working Americans and all those who need support and care.