



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2026 Legislative
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Carey McDonald

Office Sought: State Senator, Fifth Middlesex

Party: Democrat

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OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

*Each section contains open-ended questions and YES/NO questions. **If the question is a YES/NO question, please answer either YES or NO.** 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. Community Safety
- G. A Humane Immigration System
- H. A Welcoming Society
- I. Good Government and Strong Democracy
- J. 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 because our communities deserve a state senator who will fight for the opportunities our families need — and the courage to take on the problems on Beacon Hill holding us back.

My top three priorities are:

- **Affordability** - We have to tackle the affordability crisis for our families. That means working on affordable housing, pushing back on utility companies to lower our bills, and lowering the cost of child care. We also need to support working people by ensuring there are good jobs with good benefits under good contracts, and to support local businesses that invest in their communities.
- **Local Schools & Services** - Our local governments need help to protect our schools, parks, libraries and public services, sources of good local jobs. Beacon Hill has to fix the broken system of school funding and local taxes, and I'll use my experience to focus on these long-term issues.
- **Fighting Fascism** - We need to push back on the authoritarianism from Washington DC, trying to strip us of our rights. I'll protect our immigrant neighbors, our LGBTQ community, our climate and clean energy commitments, our bargaining rights and our democracy.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

As a three-term Malden city councillor at large, a nonprofit executive, and a working parent, I understand our challenges and I'm committed to getting things done. As City Council Finance chair, I also see that we need more urgency from Beacon Hill to help protect our local public services.

My day job is as Executive Vice President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, a national progressive faith-based organization. I oversee an organization of about 240 staff, and a \$50 million operating budget. I previously worked for the legislature and the Department of Education in Ohio where I grew up, and specialized in school funding issues.

I grew up in a family that didn't have much money, I started out working minimum wage jobs, and used a first-time homebuyer program. The pathways that helped my family get to the middle class are disappearing for our kids, and we have to make sure those opportunities are there for the next generation.

3. How do you define “progressive”?

At the heart of what it means to me to be progressive is to see injustice and suffering in the world, and be moved to do something about it. Progressives hold an imagination of the world as it could be, and are moved by their values to create a world where everyone has the opportunity for a good life and a welcoming community.

4. What do you view as the biggest obstacles to passing progressive policy at the state level? How do you plan to shepherd legislation?

To get policies passed in a democracy, it's essential to create coalitions to build power and get things done. I am committed to taking on the structural issues that prevent our communities from being places where everyone can thrive. I was a local supporter of the Fair Share amendment, and personally knocked on hundreds of doors. That was a great model of how a broad coalition with support from unions, issue groups, and a diverse array of leaders can accomplish something statewide that many thought impossible. It's been a huge boost for public education and economic justice. I support continuing to explore ballot approaches for future big structural issues, not only the kind of specific issues that have prompted so many ballot initiatives this year.

5. Is there a policy pioneered by another state (or at the municipal level) that you want Massachusetts to adopt?

I'd like to scale up and expand community land trusts focused on affordable and mid-level housing. Some cities and towns in Massachusetts have created these locally, but they can require significant capacity to sustain. Creating state or regional land trusts would allow every community to utilize this model to create more housing, whose benefits and value accrue back to the community over time. The Chaplain Housing Trust in Vermont has become a cornerstone of preserving affordability in the Burlington housing market, using innovative financing where the land is owned in trust to reduce the cost to new buyers.

6. Do you have an example of building a coalition to work on an issue? How did you work with stakeholders that may not have shared all your values?

When I started as a city councillor, many of my colleagues were wary of municipal electrical aggregation programs, though they had been discussed and proposed for years. I worked with volunteers to learn from the experience of other communities, and saw what they had learned through their roll-out process. Then we met with the Mayor and key Councillors to discuss their concerns, and brought on experienced consultants to help manage the process. We spent careful time on the consumer protection questions, to ensure there were no hidden costs or problems. Ultimately, we got a unanimous vote of support to move forward.

To actually get the program implemented required also going to testify before the Department of Public Utilities, as part of a coalition pushing the DPU to change its rules to make it easier to approve new aggregation programs. The DPU ultimately did so, and we were able to create Malden Community Electricity.

Now in its second year, with a nearly 90% participation rate, MCE has saved residents millions of dollars and helped keep millions of tons of CO2 out of the atmosphere by increasing the default amount of renewable energy. Our community leaders and elected officials are now big supporters, having seen the program's impact.

7. How do you see yourself in comparison with your opponent(s)?

I am running on my values and my platform, rather than focusing on running against my opponents. My personal leadership style, honed by working in large bureaucracies and political institutions, is to uphold both courage and collaboration. In a body where you are 1 of 40, you can't simply go along with the herd and expect to be effective, nor can you demand it's "my way or the highway." You have to pick the fights that matter, be true to your word, and have a good strategy for how to move the key decision makers and build your allies. I have used this approach as a City Councillor where, despite being the most progressive Councillor, I've built the trust of my colleagues to be the Finance Chair and become a respected voice.

8. How would you compare yourself to the previous office holder? Are there any bills or issues you would champion that the previous office holder has worked on in past sessions?

I share many positions with outgoing Sen. Jason Lewis, despite us being from very different communities. and support his progressive positions on support for organized labor, raising the minimum wage, and increasing child care access. Sen. Lewis has been a leading voice on the Chapter 70 school funding formula, as current chair of the Education Committee. As a City Councillor, I worked with Sen. Lewis and his staff for years to address concerns about the local share portion of the formula. If elected, I would continue that focus on school funding to ensure our local schools have the resources they need. Right now, a broken local-share part of the formula is creating budget crises for many communities; we need a strong and stable school funding system to create the educational opportunities our kids need.

II. The Issues

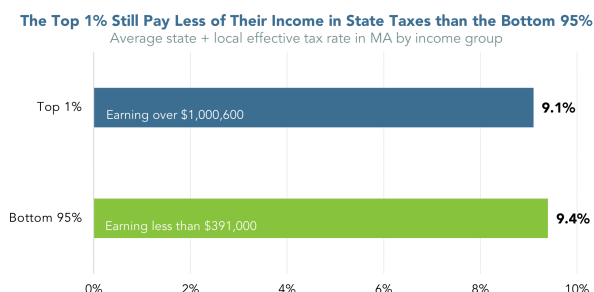
A. Revenue and Taxation

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.

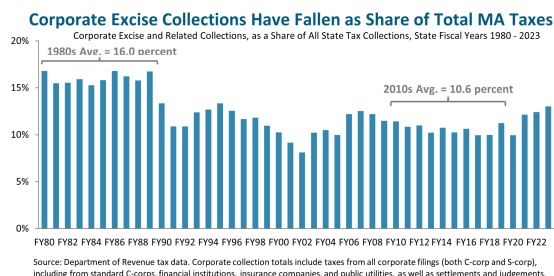
Although we saw a welcome shift when MA voters passed the Fair Share Amendment and added more progressivity to our tax code, the Legislature in 2023 voted to give tax cuts to multi-million-dollar estates, large corporations, and day traders, blunting the full impact of the win. We cannot tax-cut our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

Moreover, Massachusetts faces the threat of steep federal budget cuts, but given that we have the same GDP as the country of Sweden, we have the ability to raise the revenue to meet needs if we have the will to do so.

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? Please list any personal work you've done to create revenue streams or support legislation.

Everyone deserves housing, an education, clean air and water, and decent healthcare. Progressive priorities require investment in services and public goods, and the government capacity to carry those out. With a background in economics and in government finance, and over four years as chair of the Council's Finance Committee, I am always paying attention to how we sustain those commitments. I support equitable tax policies that ask the extremely wealthy and large corporations to pay their fair share. I also support innovative revenue streams dedicated to specific priorities like the Make Polluters Pay climate superfund bill (I testified in support of this). We also need to save costs where we can, such as by using shared purchasing power to bargain with utilities or insurance companies for better rates.

We also have to pay attention to the local budget crisis sweeping the state, which pushes our communities to disinvest in schools, parks, libraries, sidewalks and public health. In the past year, I worked hard to try to pass an override in my community to avoid local layoffs, which sadly narrowly failed. Nearly every community in this district will have been forced to consider an override by this fall. In addition to revising our school funding formula which makes up the bulk of most city/town budgets, we should consider reforms to our rigid local Prop 2.5 property tax system and state aid so we can keep up with inflation.

2. **Corporate Tax Breaks.** Corporate tax breaks cost Massachusetts [more than \\$1 billion in foregone revenue](#) each year. Which of the following 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 to require periodic review? **YES**
3. **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**
4. **Corporate Fair Share.** Large multinational corporations like Amazon and Walmart hide significant profits offshore in order to avoid paying taxes here in Massachusetts and in other states. Would you support legislation to increase the amount of offshored corporate income subject to MA's corporate income tax to 50%, the maximum allowable amount and the amount taxed by most of our neighboring states? **YES**
5. **Digital Ads Tax.** Would you support imposing new tax targeted at large companies that amass our personal data, either through a data-mining excise tax or a tax on digital advertising, as introduced or passed in states like New York and Washington State? **YES**

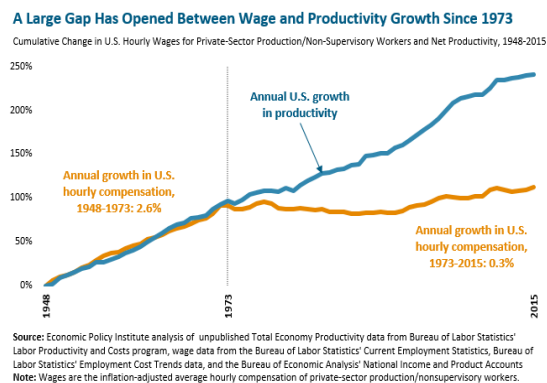
6. **Preventing Regressive Tax Cuts.** MA stands to lose hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue each year due to corporate tax cuts in Trump's Big Ugly Bill that will automatically enter the MA tax code. Do you support permanently decoupling the state tax code from these federal changes? **YES**
7. **Rainy Day Fund.** Massachusetts will see significant budget cuts next year due to Trump's Big Ugly Bill. Would you support using 15% of the rainy day fund in order to prevent cuts? **YES. I specifically support this for one-time or capital uses, like school construction, or to back up withdrawn federal funds. I want to avoid creating fiscal cliffs.**
8. **PILOT Reform.** Do you support enabling cities and towns to require large tax-exempt not-for-profit institutions (i.e., with property valued at or above \$15M) to make payments in lieu of taxes to the municipality equal to 25 percent of the amount that would be paid if they were not exempt? **YES**
- I support this kind of local option, but want to carefully consider the thresholds involved. Many small and midsize nonprofits could hit a threshold like this if they own property, and are often the backbone of local human services like health clinics and homeless shelters, that we would want to avoid taxing.**
9. **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 climate adaptation/remediation projects? **YES**

B. Jobs and the Economy

Massachusetts ranks as one of the top ten [most unequal states](#), as the gains from economic growth have disproportionately benefited the already well-off. Compounding this, we are one of the most expensive states in the country for [health care](#), [housing](#), and [child care](#), all of which strain wages. A strong economy depends on strong wages, as workers spend and help local economies thrive. Although 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	\$30.58	\$58.26	\$76.55	\$19.63	\$31.61	\$39.61
Poverty Wage	\$7.67	\$10.40	\$13.13	\$5.20	\$6.57	\$7.93
Minimum Wage	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00

1. Share your proposals and beliefs on keeping our work force vibrant and growing. How would you promote creating good paying jobs to keep up with the cost of living in Massachusetts? 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.).

We need an equitable economy that ensures full access to employment. This starts with my strong support for unions, who have historically been the best protection for a good paying job. I have joined picket lines for strikes in my jurisdiction as a City Councillor, and consistently run as a proudly pro-labor candidate. I also support our local businesses, who are generators of wealth and jobs in our communities. I worked with the Malden Chamber of Commerce to support an ARPA grant that provided outreach to women, minority and immigrant-owned businesses.

A number of policy issues are essential for an equitable economy, outside of direct workforce and business questions. That includes access to housing, health care/long-term care, and public transportation, as well as child care so that parents can get to work. All of these right now are too expensive for most workers, and we need to lower costs and increase access for our economic vitality.

2. **Livable Wages.** Although Massachusetts now has a \$15 minimum wage, that is still not a living wage in much of Massachusetts, and \$15 has lost a lot of value due to high inflation. Do you support the following steps...?
 - a. Raising the minimum wage to \$20 per hour? **YES**
 - b. Eliminating subminimum wages? **YES**
 - c. Ensuring that the minimum wage law applies to municipal workers? **YES**
 - d. Indexing the minimum wage to inflation? **YES**
3. **Wage Theft.** Do you support holding businesses responsible for the wage violations of their subcontractors when the work they do is substantially connected to the company's operations? **YES**
4. **Paid Leave for All Workers.** In 2018, MA passed the strongest paid family and medical leave law in the country. However, the law did not include municipal workers or graduate student workers. Would you support extending the law to make sure that all workers have access to these vital benefits? **YES**
5. **Paid Time Off.** The US is the only advanced industrial country where workers are not guaranteed paid time off. Would you support legislation to require employers to offer full-time employees at least two weeks of paid time off each year, which they can use for any reason with no loss of pay? **YES**
6. **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**
7. **State House Unionization.** Would you support legislation to extend collective bargaining rights to State House staff? **YES**

C. Education

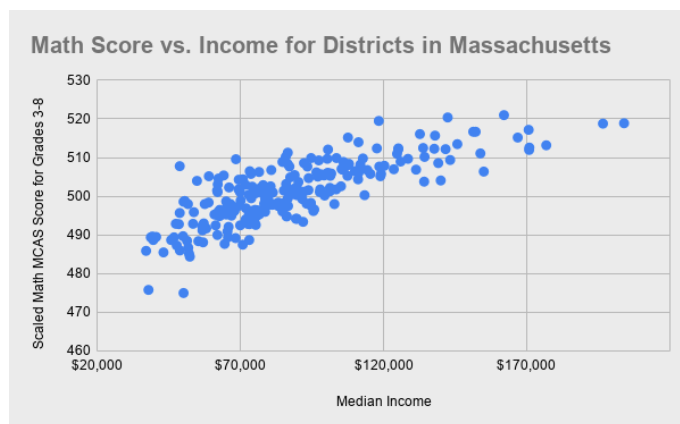
Massachusetts parents and caregivers face the [highest child care and early education costs of any state in the US](#). The average annual cost of infant care in Massachusetts is more than half of what a full-time minimum wage worker earns in a year. These costs are prohibitively expensive for low- and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

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. Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on public education.

I'm running because our communities deserve a state senator who will fight for the schools and opportunities our families need. As a Malden city councillor at large, an experienced nonprofit executive, and a working parent, I understand the challenges we face and I'm committed to getting things done for our students and teachers. I believe in public education as a cornerstone of a democratic society, and that all children have the right to a great education. I support a collaborative approach to school improvement, working with educators and focused on quality learning environments, rather than a high stakes "teach to the test" approach.

For education, my top priority is to ensure our schools have the resources they need. I've focused on changes to the Chapter 70 school funding formula as a city councillor, and am the only candidate in my race with a professional background in school funding (previously served as the coordinator of a state school funding advisory council). With Sen. Jason Lewis leaving the legislature, we will need more strong voices for school funding changes, and I want to help fill that gap.

I also want to make sure we are protecting our schools from federal assault, ensuring equitable and accessible curricula, keeping instruction grounded in

human interaction rather than AI, and supporting our educators and creating wraparound supports for our students.

2. **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? **YES. I would also support making child care a tax-exempt use, especially if it is a locally owned business.**
3. **Universal Pre-K.** Would you support creating universal, free Pre-K, accessible to any resident of Massachusetts, integrated into the public school system? **YES**
4. **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.” Do you support keeping the cap on charter schools? **YES**

A specific and important issue for our community is the Mystic Valley Regional Charter School, whose right-wing school administration has been buying up tens of millions of dollars worth of property through a loophole in the Dover amendment. The charter school has destroyed an entire neighborhood square and multiple businesses, and evicted residents when they bought their homes. This has to change, and I'm committed to fighting to change this law.

5. **K-12 Education Funding.** Our public schools are losing out on the full benefits of increased funding due to a glitch in how the Chapter 70 formula treats inflation. The combination of several years of high inflation and an inflation cap in education funding calculations has locked in lower levels of aid to districts. Do you support fixing this gap and ensuring that our school districts get the funding they deserve? **YES**

Now that the Student Opportunities Act is entering its final year of implementation, we need to revisit the aspects of the formula that have not been working - the special education circuit breaker, transportation costs, and most importantly, the local share calculation. I submitted testimony last fall as part of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's task force, and will be focused on these changes as an essential priority for me as a state senator.

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

The record on this policy is mixed, at best. I support changing this law to require evidence-based interventions that have led to improving student outcomes.

7. **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? **YES**

In my day job, I support publishing of highly-respected lifespan sexuality educational curriculum series called Our Whole Lives. It provides age appropriate, medically accurate and values-driven information on sexuality, identity and relationships to empower positive decision-making. I would be proud to support increasing access to high quality and comprehensive sexuality education.

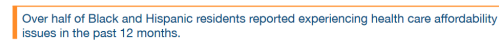
8. **Inclusive Curricula.** Our educational curricula must speak to students' lived experiences and recognize and celebrate the diversity of our Commonwealth.
 - a. **Racially Inclusive Curricula.** Would you support legislation to ensure that instruction in K-12 education shall include the teaching of accurate histories, writings, and contributions of racial and ethnic groups that have been historically underrepresented or marginalized? **YES**
 - 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? **YES**
9. **Redistributing Institutional Wealth.** Would you support legislation that would levy a small excise tax on private college and university endowments above \$1B to fund free public higher education for all in-state students? **YES. I do support exploring this, and want to be careful about where the thresholds land to avoid reducing scholarships at existing schools.**
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? **YES**
11. **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? **YES**

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.

Private Commercial Insurance Affordability in Context, 2020-2022



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



Source: 2021 Massachusetts Health Insurance Survey

1. Please share your values, principles, and proposals regarding health care access and equity. Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on health care (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).

Health care is a human right. Yet our current health care system is broken and dehumanizing. The only true solution is a “Medicare for all” single payer system to give us the power to negotiate with hospitals, providers and insurance companies. In the near term, I would support creation of a public health insurance option, and invest in primary care access and with diverse pathways to licensure for providers. I want Massachusetts to push harder to tackle health inequities, and protect reproductive and gender affirming care, especially for youth. We also need more transparency and regulations to; limit the worst abuses in the health insurance industry, including, protections from AI-driven health coverage decisions.

2. **Single Payer.** Would you support legislation to enact a single payer health care system in Massachusetts, which would guarantee health insurance as a right? **YES**
3. **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? **YES**
4. **Full Spectrum Pregnancy Care.** 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? **YES**
5. **Abortion Access for Young People .** Young people under sixteen seeking an abortion must obtain parental consent or judicial authorization. While most young people involve their parents, many cannot, causing delays to timely medical care and counseling. Scared teens may also turn to dangerous measures: going out of state or risking their lives and health with illegal or self-induced abortion. Would you support repealing this restriction on young people’s access to abortion? **YES**
6. **Extending Windows of Access.** Despite recent overdue updates to abortion care protections in Massachusetts, dozens of patients have to travel out of state every year for necessary care. Would you support expanding abortion access after 24 weeks of pregnancy when in the best professional judgement of a licensed physician? **YES**
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? **YES**

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? **YES**
9. **Vaccination.** Would you support legislation to eliminate non-medical exemptions to the routine vaccines for children required for school entry, as our neighbors in Maine, Connecticut, and New York have already done? **YES**

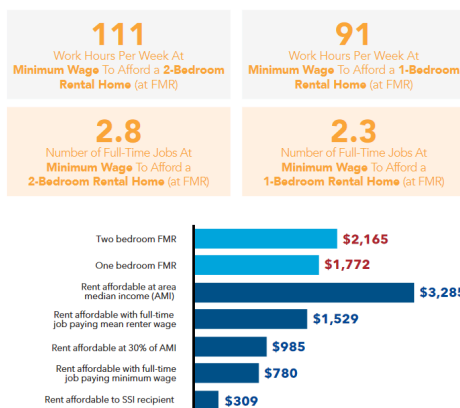
E. Housing

Massachusetts has a lot to offer, but that does little if people can't afford to live here. The [US News & World Report's annual state rankings](#) put Massachusetts at #40 in housing affordability (and #47 in cost of living). To rent the average 2-bedroom apartment in Massachusetts requires an income equal to [\\$41.64 per hour](#), more than twice the minimum wage. A minimum-wage worker in Massachusetts would need to [work 91 hours each week](#) to afford a modest 1-bedroom rental home at fair market rent.

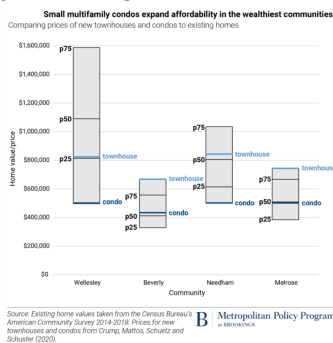
Home ownership has become increasingly out of reach, as the state's median home price is [approximately \\$600,000](#). In more than 20 communities, the median home price recently [passed \\$1 million](#). Meanwhile, we have some of the [most restrictive zoning laws](#) in the country, making it difficult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

The high cost of housing has led to displacement, and in a growing number of municipalities, the local workforce can no longer afford to live there.

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



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



1. **Please share your principles and proposals regarding affordable housing and housing affordability in the Commonwealth. Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on housing (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).**

The high cost of housing is making it impossible to get ahead in Massachusetts. The state needs to work more effectively with local leaders to ensure more housing is built, that critical income-restricted housing gets prioritized, and that renters get a fair deal and responsible landlords are supported.

As a City Councillor, I have supported affordable housing, housing production, renter protection, and shelters/transitional housing. That has included sponsoring an ordinance to expand the authority of Malden's Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and supporting the use of Community Preservation funds by the AHTF. I also sponsored creation of a new rental registry last December so that the city has a local contact for all landlords, to ensure they are complying with inspections and providing lead-free units. I am currently working on policy in Malden to eliminate costly, unfair restrictions on new housing and to streamline permitting for affordable housing projects.

If elected as a Senator I am committed to::

- Putting more resources towards affordable housing projects, from innovative funding sources (e.g. deed transfers)
- Streamlining affordable housing permitting, since permitting delays raise the cost of construction
- Allowing cities and towns to opt into affordable housing tax exemptions
- Stabilizing the rental voucher program
- Allowing cities and towns to opt into rent stabilization (e.g. begin approving home rule petitions, or allow for local option)
- Allowing tenants to purchase buildings if owner is planning to sell
- Allowing 2-3 family construction in every community
- Exploring regional housing trusts and land banks
- Protecting in-home care options for seniors

2. **Welcoming New Neighbors.** Would you support efforts to locate both long-term housing and short-term shelter in your district? **YES**

Personally, I donate and volunteer regularly with the Malden Warming Center. In my day job, in 2024 I led our organization to offer vacant commercial space in downtown Boston to the state for use as a temporary shelter under the SafetyNet program. We housed 25 families (80 people) for nearly five months who had previously been sleeping at Logan Airport, until they could secure ongoing housing.

3. **Everyone Needs ID.** Would you support easing access to Mass IDs for people experiencing homelessness by waiving the \$25 fee for IDs and easing the verification

requirements for youth and adults who are unhoused and seeking IDs? **YES**

4. **Local Option Real Estate Transfer Fee.** 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? **YES**
5. **Green and Affordable Communities.** Would you support doubling the current Deeds Excise Tax (from \$4.56 per \$1,000 to \$9.12 per \$1,000), upon the sale of real property in Massachusetts, to create a new funding stream to be split evenly between affordable housing and climate resiliency? **YES**
6. **Rent Control.** Massachusetts residents face some of the highest and fastest-growing rents in the country.
 - a. Would you support lifting the statewide ban on rent control and enabling cities and towns to pass rent stabilization ordinances to limit annual rent increases? **YES**
 - b. Do you support the proposed 2026 statewide ballot initiative to limit annual rent increases? **YES**

I also recognize we have a major housing supply issue, especially for affordable and income-qualified housing. The extreme housing shortage also drives up rents. I want to help streamline local zoning for more affordable and workforce housing starts, especially for 100% affordable projects.

7. **Tenant Opportunity to Purchase.** Would you support providing tenants of small, medium, and large multifamily properties with the right of first refusal when the owner plans to put a building on the market? **YES**
8. **Right to Counsel.** Would you support legislation to provide legal representation for low-income tenants in eviction proceedings? **YES**
9. **HDIP Reform.** The Housing Development Incentive Program (HDIP) is a multimillion-dollar annual state tax credit program subsidizing market-rate housing in Gateway Cities. Would you support reforming this program to support both market-rate and affordable housing development? **YES**
10. **Social Housing.** Social housing is publicly financed, mixed-income housing, owned by a local or regional housing authority. Would you support efforts to increase state funding for social housing initiatives? **YES**
11. **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? **YES**
 - b. 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? **YES**

12. **MBTA Communities Law Enforcement.** Would you support measures to strengthen

the law with stricter consequences for municipalities that refuse to comply, including voiding non-compliant zoning? **YES**

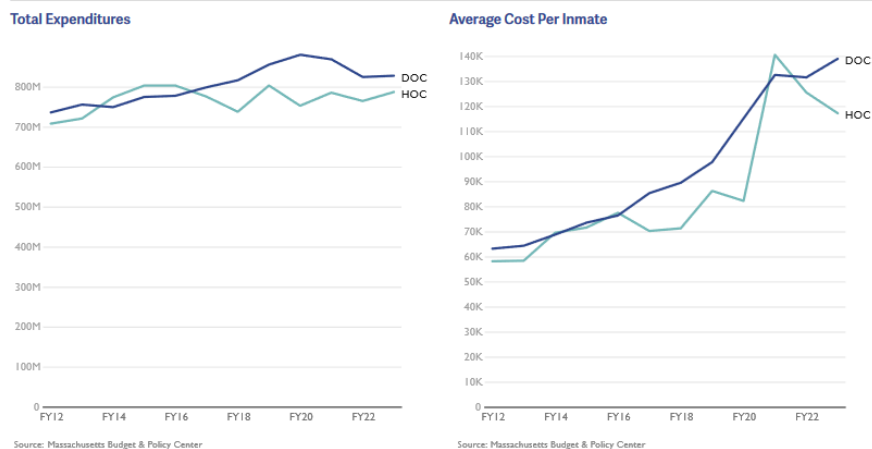
F. Community Safety

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 community safety, police accountability, and criminal legal reform. Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on community safety, police accountability, and criminal legal reform (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).

Everyone deserves to be safe. Safety is grounded in our partnerships for mental health, addiction services, public safety and public health resources. As a City Councillor I:

- Spearheaded creation of the Police/Community Advisory Council, an independent voice on public safety conversations. The PCAC reaches out across our diverse community to hear residents experiences, reviews data from the Malden Police Department, and makes recommendations
- Worked with our police department to issue public statement about non-cooperation with ICE/federal immigration agents, and sponsored a Council resolution against any coordination with ICE from any department.

Support the Malden Cares partnership for addiction recovery outreach coaches
Prior to being elected as a City Councillor, I helped found Malden Police Alternatives and Accountability, a group formed after the murder of George Floyd which ran the city's first People's Budget. If elected as a state senator, I am committed to supporting:

- More mental health providers responding to 911 calls
- Developing restorative justice approaches
- restricting the usage of license plate readers and data brokers selling personal info to law enforcement

2. 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? **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? **YES**

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

- a. Eliminating mandatory minimums for all drug offenses? **YES**
- b. Raising the age of criminal majority from 18 to 21, in line with research that shows that young offenders served by a juvenile system are much less likely to

reoffend and more likely to successfully transition to adulthood? **YES**

- c. Decriminalizing consensual sexual activity between adolescents, by creating an exception to the statutory rape law for youth close in age? Massachusetts is one of only three states that criminalizes consensual sexual activity between two adolescents. **YES**
 - d. Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which is costly and has been shown to be racist in its application? **YES**
 - e. Restructuring joint venture sentencing such that accomplices to murder are sentenced proportionally to their level of responsibility for a death rather than a minimum sentence of life without parole? **YES**
4. **DOC Oversight -- I.** Would you support legislation to establish an inspector general for the Department of Correction? **YES**
5. **DOC Oversight -- II.** Massachusetts legislators have the statutory right to make unannounced visits to correctional facilities run by the state. Would you commit to visiting, whether announced or scheduled, Department of Corrections facilities as a state legislator? **YES**
6. **Solitary Confinement.** Do you think solitary confinement is effective? **NO**
7. **Access to Programming.** Would you support legislation to create universal access to productive out of cell time with programming, education, and vocational training for all incarcerated people? **YES**
8. **Prison Moratorium.** Would you support a moratorium on the construction of new prisons and jails in the Commonwealth? **YES**
9. **Keeping Families Connected.** Would you support eliminating the arbitrary, unnecessary restrictions on visitation rights in prisons and jails? **YES**
10. **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? **YES**
 - b. Requiring the immediate sealing of a criminal offense if the charge did not end in a conviction? **YES**
11. **Reentry.** The Department of Correction's stated mission is to "prepare [individuals in custody] for safe and successful reentry into the community," but regularly fails to live up to that. Do you support the following measures to strengthen reentry efforts...

- a. Mandating that correctional facilities in Massachusetts assist incarcerated individuals in acquiring valid Massachusetts identification cards before their release? **YES**
 - b. Increasing funding for reentry-related programming? **YES**
12. **Gun Violence Prevention.** How will you vote on the Massachusetts Firearm Regulations Referendum on the ballot in November 2026? **YES**

G. A Humane Immigration System

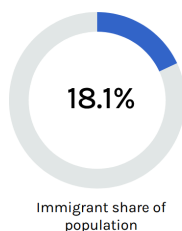
Immigrants make up [18%](#) of Massachusetts's population; however, demagoguery against, or indifference to, immigrant populations has historically been a mainstay of Massachusetts politics. We too often see both Democrats and Republicans fear-monger about immigration and the border, championing policies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

Since Trump took office in January, ICE has escalated its activities in Massachusetts, terrorizing immigrant communities. ICE arrests have gone up by more than [250%](#) since last year, driven by their targeting of individuals without criminal records. ICE has brutalized children, torn families apart, and engaged in rampant racial profiling.

Our immigrant communities are helping to keep our communities healthy, they are innovating and educating, and they are helping us build a better future for all of us.

Immigrants are a major part of MA's economic prosperity. ([Source](#))

OVERVIEW



1,270,500

Number of immigrant residents

\$20.4B

Immigrant tax contributions

\$51.8B

Immigrant spending power

2023

Data year

1. The entanglement of state and local law enforcement with ICE's federal immigration enforcement has created chaos. How would you approach this crisis?

Immigrants are essential and valued members of our communities. I'm also running to stand against the daily assault on our immigrant neighbors from an authoritarian government in DC.

As a City Councillor, I've worked with my local chapter of LUCE to advocate for one of our residents who was snatched by ICE off the street after they rammed his car. His support from Greater Boston Legal Services was essential to getting him released, and I helped organize a letter of support signed by other local elected officials. That's the kind of support I'd like to make sure every member of our community who gets taken by ICE has access to.

2. **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?
YES
 - b. Prohibiting any new 287(g) agreements, i.e., agreements in which state and

local law enforcement are deputized to act as ICE agents? **YES**

- c. Calling on Gov. Healey to end the Department of Correction's 287(g) agreement with ICE, the only such contract in New England and the only such contract in a state with a Democratic governing trifecta? **YES**
 - d. Prohibiting local law enforcement from assisting ICE such as by allowing ICE to use facilities, properties, and equipment or providing information to ICE such as relating to upcoming court appearances? **YES**
- 3. **Language Access.** Would you support building 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? **YES**
 - 4. **Immigrant Legal Aid.** In 2025, the MA Legislature created a new fund to provide cost-free legal services to immigrants at risk of deportation. Would you support increasing the funding for the program and codifying the fund into law? **YES**
 - 5. **Community Trust and Accountability.** Would you support legislation to ban former ICE or Border Patrol agents from serving as police officers, teachers, or other public employees in Massachusetts? **YES, especially for any agents hired by ICE/CBP since January 2025.**

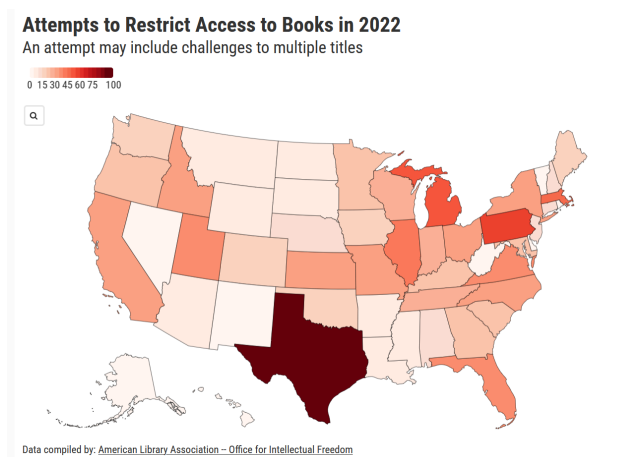
H. A Welcoming Society

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, efforts to ban LGBTQ-friendly books are not just a "red state" problem but unfortunately far too common here at home.

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. Please indicate work you personally have done to make MA a more welcoming place for all.

Inclusion is a personal issue for me, as someone who is multi-racial and is out as nonbinary transgender. This is one of the reasons representation matters, so that leaders understand the challenges our communities face. While I am so thankful that Massachusetts has been a leader in many civil rights areas, sadly there is still a long way to go, e.g. it still remains all too common to be harassed on the street or in the workplace. As LGBTQ people are attacked across the country, Massachusetts is welcoming more and more queer transplants seeking supportive communities.. It's important to support local community groups and organizations to build up power and support, and to allow our most vulnerable communities to lead the way on the issues that impact them. As a Unitarian Universalist, it is an article of faith to me to work for justice and liberation in the world. Racial and gender equity

have been at the heart of my leadership as an elected official, and that would continue as a state senator.

As a City Councillor, I have used my power to support and advocate for equity. I was a member of the City's Racial Equity Commission from 2022-24, and served on the city's cross-department Racial Equity Advancement and Collaboration Hub team, which worked with peer municipalities over a year to support racial equity initiatives. I proposed the addition of a land acknowledgement in the Council's opening, which is now a standard practice. I have supported our community Pride organization, and sponsored resolutions on Pride Month and Transgender Day of Visibility.

We need leaders with the backbone to fight for our people every day, in every way we can.

2. **Right to Read.** 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**
3. **Data Privacy.** In recent years, we have seen the dangers of unregulated data markets: right-wing groups tracking women seeking abortion care, domestic abusers tracking partners/exes, ICE agents tracking immigrants, and much more.
 - a. Do you support passing legislation to ban companies from selling our sensitive data, such as biometric and location information? **YES**
 - b. Do you support applying a private right of action to privacy laws, to ensure consumers have access to the civil court system when companies violate the law? **YES**
4. **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? **YES**
5. **School Mascots.** Would you support legislation to prohibit the use of Native American mascots in Massachusetts public schools? **YES**

I. 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, 2010-2024					
Year	Open seats	Incs. in contested primaries	Major party competition	Competitiveness Index	Rank
2010	17.0%	8.4%	48.0%	24.5	39 / 44
2012	5.0%	10.0%	33.0%	16.0	44 / 44
2014	11.0%	9.6%	38.5%	19.7	39 / 44
2016	6.5%	10.7%	23.0%	13.4	44 / 44
2018	12.0%	11.4%	30.0%	17.8	44 / 44
2020	7.5%	12.4%	21.0%	13.6	44 / 44
2022	12.0%	11.9%	30.0%	18.0	44 / 44
2024	9.5%	9.9%	20.0%	13.1	44 / 44

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. Please indicate work you personally have done to promote transparency, campaign finance reform, legislative rules reform, and access to voting.

I strongly believe the legislature needs to be more transparent to build trust, hold leaders accountable for their actions, and get more people engaged in the political process and the decisions that impact their lives. Massachusetts is one of the least transparent and productive legislatures. I support making the legislature subject to public records and open meetings laws, making all votes documented and public, creating a nonpartisan legislative research bureau, and reforming internal leadership and stipend systems. I also think the state should move to a biennial budget (like most states) so there is more time to focus on policy issues.

I started my career working in another state's legislature, who has all of these requirements, and have seen that it can be easily done. There are of course appropriate protections for constituent casework privacy, and some limited opportunities for legislative caucusing, but I know these changes are very doable. Massachusetts is truly the outlier here.

As a local elected official, I make every effort to be available to constituents in multiple ways, participating in town halls, and supporting the use of technology to make meetings easier for people to attend remotely. I believe in ensuring accurate and clear information is readily available to constituents, accessible in multiple languages, and that constituents can participate in discussions on municipal priorities and budgets. For example, I hosted our city's first Chinese-language town hall in 2022.

Campaign finance transparency is important and my campaign has always included comprehensive reporting of all donations, even those below the threshold to require full disclosure on contributors. I run grassroots campaigns, with most donations being small dollar amounts. I do not accept donations from the fossil fuel industry, utilities, tobacco or weapons manufacturers (including vapes), private prisons, law enforcement unions, charter schools, health insurance companies, or pharmaceutical industry money.

Prior to being an elected official, I led a local group in running a "people's budget" - this led to the city providing more transparency on the budgeting process in Malden.

2. **Accessibility.** Central to good government is accessibility and responsiveness. Would you commit to the following?
 - a. Sending out a newsletter that includes explanations of recent votes at least once per month? **YES**
 - b. Holding office hours on weeknights or weekends at least once per month?

YES

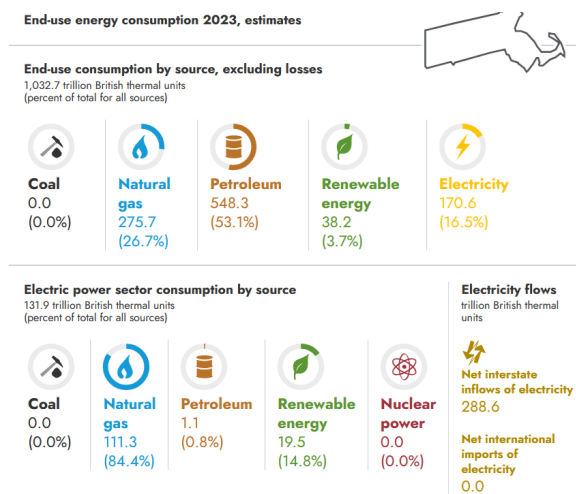
- c. Holding town halls in your district at least twice per year? **YES**
- 3. **Public Records Law.** Massachusetts is the only state where the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the Judiciary claim full exemptions from the public records laws. Do you support the ballot initiative to eliminate these exemptions? **YES**
- 4. **Legislative Accountability.** Massachusetts's system of 'leadership stipends' is an outlier among the 50 states. Do you support the ballot initiative to reform this system to create a fairer pay structure and hold committees to higher standards of transparency and productivity? **YES**
- 5. **Expanding Access to Public Meetings.** Would you support updating Open Meeting Law so that people can choose to participate remotely in public meetings on a permanent basis and providing the necessary funds to municipalities to implement this? **YES**
- 6. **Same Day Registration.** Massachusetts lags behind other states in making voting accessible for all. Do you support eliminating Massachusetts's arbitrary and exclusionary 10-day voter registration cutoff and allowing voters to register or update their registration at the polls on Election Day and during the early voting period? **YES**
- 7. **Ranked Choice Voting.** Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to adopt ranked choice voting in local elections? **YES**
- 8. **Universal Voting Rights.** Would you support restoring the franchise to incarcerated individuals serving time for felony convictions (Their right to vote was taken away by ballot twenty years ago)? **YES**

J. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

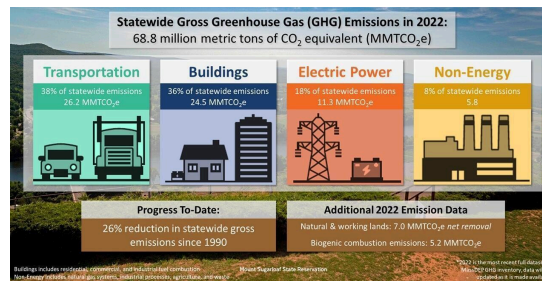
As a coastal state, Massachusetts will be hit particularly hard by climate change, but we are not responding with the necessary urgency. Massachusetts has ambitious and necessary greenhouse gas reduction goals, but we are [not on track](#) to meet them. Our state remains overly dependent on fossil fuels like oil and gas despite the pollution and myriad public health harms they produce and the ample [data](#) showing that we must leave fossil fuels in the ground. As we now face a federal government hostile to renewable and climate action, the responsibility lies with state government to take leadership in accelerating a green energy 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: it would need [more than \\$24 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.



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 protections. Please indicate work you personally have done to protect the environment and expand access to public transportation.

The climate crisis is already here - we feel the extreme temperatures, worsening storms, and flooding risk. We feel the squeeze in our utility bills and insurance premiums. A future of clean energy for all is possible, where we generate electricity locally and are not dependent on importing fossil fuels. We can work together to transition our communities and our economies away from fossil fuels, and protect those most vulnerable.

Climate action and environmental justice have been a passion and top priority for me, and that would continue as a state senator. I helped sponsor Malden's first, community-driven Climate Action Plan, focused on both lowering emissions and boosting climate resilience, and created our new Climate Action and Sustainability Commission. Malden is a 100% environmental justice community, so we approach every piece of our CAP with a commitment to climate equity. That includes focusing on the lowest-income neighborhoods where heat island effects are the strongest, and engaging our diverse schools community in climate education. I'm working with the CASC to create a new clean energy coaches program with a special focus on non-English speakers, and renters, since 2/3 of our emissions come from buildings.

As we have been building up the industry to support clean energy projects and home energy efficiency and electrification projects, that industry is being threatened by cuts to the Mass Save program that were supported by the MA House. I would protect Mass Save, so the green jobs industry can continue to grow and know what to expect. I'd like to see more workforce training, apprenticeships and pathways for these kinds of green jobs in the future.

If elected, my commitments at the state level include:

Lower utility bills & clean energy

- Protect the MassSave program from cuts, and ensure it is more user-friendly and prioritizes equitable electrification; the MA House has voted to cut this program, which directly puts money into the pockets of our residents to help them access affordable, clean energy
- Utility companies are highly regulated by the state - push utility companies to avoid profiteering; restrict expensive capital recovery on gas pipelines, and oppose the GSEP program
- Streamline solar panel and other renewable permitting for more local power generation which creates less need for costly, large electricity infrastructure
- Explore multi-city cooperatives for buying electricity in bulk (e.g. scale up the impact of municipal aggregation)

Protecting climate and environment goals

- Oppose any attempt to roll back state 2050 climate commitments
- Find new funding sources for climate resilience projects, such as the Make Polluters Pay bill to create a climate superfund
- Support the MBTA, shared use paths, and better bus service to create good alternatives for driving
- Promote public data on building decarbonization and community-level emissions
- Restrict use of PFAS chemicals
- Monitor ultrafine air particle pollution
- Support swift removal of all lead service lines for lead-free drinking water

2. **Fossil Fuel Infrastructure.** Do you oppose the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure in the state? **YES**
3. **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? **YES. I testified in support of this bill.**
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? **YES**
5. **Data Centers.** Data centers across Massachusetts and the country have been driving heavier energy and water usage, leading to higher costs for everyday customers. Would you support the following measures...?
 - a. Requiring primary-use data centers to pay for the cost of utility infrastructure upgrades, procure renewable back-up energy sources, and provide quarterly water and energy usage data? **YES**
 - b. Imposing a moratorium on new large-load data centers while a commission is convened to define appropriate community and environmental regulations? **YES**
 - c. Repealing tax exemptions for data centers? **YES**
6. **Plastic Bag Ban.:** Would you support a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags? **YES**
7. **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 MBTA to operate an all-electric system by 2035? **YES**
8. **Free Public Transit.** Do you support making public transit in the Commonwealth fare-free? **YES**

Making all public transit free is a good long-term goal. However, I would start with

places where cost is actually a barrier, so we are being as equitable as possible. That would likely include free bus fares in our lowest-income, highest-need communities, as Boston has done in a pilot program.

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.