



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2026 Legislative
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Jennifer Heck

Office Sought: State Representative, 18th Worcester

Party: Democrat

Website: www.votejenheck.com

Social Media Handles: Coming June 1

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?

Education. Education is national security. Our local schools are in crisis and the MAGA agenda is using disinformation to siphon money from education to fund its own priorities.

AI. AI is a labor emergency. It can be a powerful tool for workers and communities, but only if we set clear ethical guardrails and ensure it strengthens, not replaces, human judgment and livelihoods.

Affordable housing. Housing and affordability are major issues in the district. For me, it's closely tied to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

I'm a storyteller--I listen by trade. With degrees from NYU Tisch and Columbia, and policy training through Harvard's Public Leadership Credential, I've spent 25 years producing documentary and television work from Texas to Palestine, building a career on going to difficult places and telling stories that connect people across impossible divides. That same skill for seeing the overlooked drives my civic work--work I always knew I'd find my way to. I spent 20 years in New York, learning about people, conflict, problems, and solutions around the world. Mid-Covid, I came home. As Chair of the Sutton Democratic Town Committee and a 2025 & 2026 state convention delegate, I've built the kind of ground-level organizing infrastructure that turns listening into action in a way that's not altogether different from making a film. My successful campaign to bring Sutton into MBTA Communities Act compliance--turning anticipated opposition into near-unanimous support--demonstrated that complex policy can be made accessible when you lead with honesty, meet people where they are, and treat constituents as partners rather than obstacles.

3. Do you consider yourself progressive, and if so, how would you define "progressive"?

I do consider myself progressive, and I define it with strict etymology: I think action should lead to progress. I also see progressivism as big-picture thinking, empathy-driven insights, and an embracing of science, data, and truth--even when it's not what I want to hear. It's a word that many might shy away from because it's been weaponized, but I don't want to be defined by an opponent's manipulation. That said, even within a political bubble, it's a word that not everyone defines in the same way--thus your question. There are self-declared progressives I don't always agree with, but that doesn't mean they don't have important concerns or ideas. I think progress is listening, even when it's hard, and finding a real way to move forward, even if it's only a step. I haven't always defined it this way, but I've seen so much turmoil and noise in the past decade, and now I am truly focused on getting unstuck--on progressing.

4. What do you view as the biggest obstacles to passing progressive policy at the state level, and how do you plan to overcome these obstacles?

The biggest obstacles are years of poor messaging, a diminishing Democratic brand, and disinformation — and as a result, too many people are voting against their own interests. It's a deliberate trick by the right: smother an idea by pre-labeling it in ridiculous but tweetable terms, then feed on the fear you've created to steer people away from seeing their own interests clearly. We can't accept that anymore. There's an opportunity now, as Trump's policies meet reality — gas prices and other absurdities infiltrate our security, real and perceived, increasingly every day. The rhetoric has finally met the road, and people want results, not just huzzah. As a storyteller, my job has always been to listen to people and tell their story. I also have a genuine desire for progress in its most direct meaning: I want things to get better. That's how I plan to make the case for the common good.

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

California's permanent free school meals, PFAS exposure and remediation, and drug pricing transparency laws are a few examples.

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

Last fall, Sutton faced a vote on MBTA Communities Act compliance. Most residents wanted to vote no — partly due to confusion about what the vote actually meant, and partly from deep distrust of a government that had labeled Sutton an MBTA community despite being 30 minutes from the nearest train. When elected leaders approached me in a panic as the vote date approached, my instinct was to say it was impossible. But I decided to start with the confusion itself. Once I understood that Sutton was really choosing between two imperfect options, the mission became: choose wisely. With dedicated volunteers from the Housing Production Plan Working Group and a handful of well-prepared elected officials, we held a forum and hashed it out publicly. The vote passed with fewer than 20 nos. To his credit, Rep. McKenna attended and, when directly asked, conceded that yes was the right vote for Sutton. It was a rare moment of coalition to avoid mutual destruction—and to me, a sign of what is possible.

7. (For incumbents only) Each year, Progressive Massachusetts compiles a scorecard of key roll call votes, available at <https://scorecard.progressivemass.com>. Please use this space to explain any discrepancies between your votes and the progressive position.

8. (For challengers or candidates in open races only) How do you see yourself as similar to or different from the current holder of the office you are running for?

Joe McKenna and I actually have something in common--we both work in real estate. He's a licensed agent; I make House Hunters International. That's where the similarity ends. Rep. McKenna has scored an F from Progressive Massachusetts and hasn't faced a serious challenger since 2014. I'm a progressive queer mom with a 25-year career as a storyteller and documentary filmmaker. I have spent my life going to the places and communities others overlook. I have made political films. I have stood up for what I think is right, even in the face of conflict. He is a career politician who has had a decade of uncontested elections. I believe that this district deserves—and will respond to--a real choice.

II. The Issues

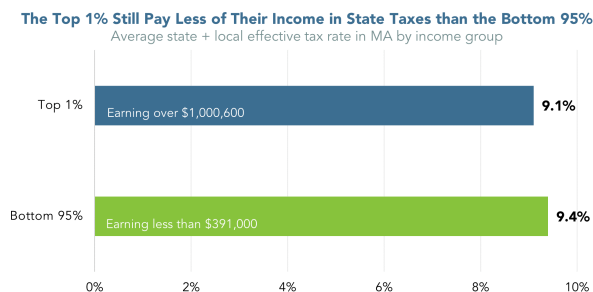
A. Revenue and Taxation

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.

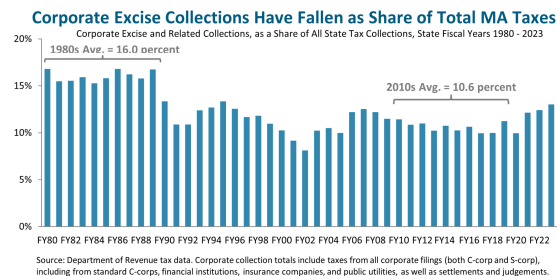
Although we saw a welcome shift when MA voters passed the Fair Share Amendment and added more progressivity to our tax code, the Legislature in 2023 voted to give tax cuts to multi-million-dollar estates, large corporations, and day traders, blunting the full impact of the win. We cannot tax-cut our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

In 2011, I documented the Occupy movement in Manhattan, and made a film about its precursor in Tel Aviv, the so-called "Tent Protest." I agree that the wealthiest among us need to pay their fair share, and that doing so is part of the solution to our continuous budget shortfalls. On the specifics of tax policy, I look to leaders like Elizabeth Warren, whose work on corporate accountability and wealth taxation I find both principled and politically translatable.

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

Here is a link to my film, "[At the End of the World, Turn Left.](#)" It's 10 minutes long and incorporated the Tent Protest, Occupy, and one perspective on the impact that the occupation has on both Palestinians and Israelis.

3. **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**
 - c. Ending the current sales tax exemptions for aircraft and aircraft parts, which costs the Commonwealth approximately [\\$30 million](#) each year? **YES**
4. **Corporate Disclosure.** Would you support legislation to make publicly accessible the reports that are already filed annually by publicly traded corporations, detailing their sales, profits, taxable income, and taxes paid? **YES**
5. **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**
6. **Taxing Extreme Wealth.** Would you support the establishment of a Massachusetts wealth tax, which applies only to extremely rich taxpayers (with a threshold of at least \$100 million) and taxes them on a percentage (e.g., 1% annually) of their wealth above the threshold? **YES**
7. **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**
8. **Preventing Regressive Tax Cuts.** Massachusetts needs to raise new revenue to

advance a progressive agenda. At the same time, we also need to fight regressive tax cuts that weaken our public services.

- a. 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**
 - b. Will you oppose the corporate lobby's ballot question to reduce the state income tax, a measure which would cost the state \$5 billion a year? **YES**
 - c. Will you oppose the corporate lobby's ballot question to reform the state tax collection cap law (62F) in order to make the state more frequently hit the cap and lose out on critical investments? **YES**
9. **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**
10. **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**
11. **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 principles and proposals regarding creating good-paying jobs for all and reducing inequality in the Commonwealth.

As a first-time candidate, I won't pretend to have a fully-formed economic platform--but I'm a creative thinker unafraid to lead with ideas or disrupt the status quo. I look to proven leaders I trust like Elizabeth Warren and Ayanna Pressley for models that work, and I'm deepening my policy foundation through Harvard's Public Leadership Credential. We live in the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution, and the Blackstone Valley deserves a renaissance of small business, innovation, and culture. We can get there, because there's real untapped talent here--including people like me who left big cities and came home in the post-Covid era--and I want to help build an economy that harnesses that energy to create opportunity.

2. Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on creating good-paying jobs for all and reducing inequality (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).
3. **Livable Wages.** Although Massachusetts now has a \$15 minimum wage, that is still not a living wage in much of Massachusetts, and \$15 has lost a lot of value due to high inflation. Do you support the following steps...?
 - a. Raising the minimum wage to \$20 per hour? **YES**
 - b. Eliminating subminimum wages? **YES**
 - c. Ensuring that the minimum wage law applies to municipal workers? **YES**
 - d. Indexing the minimum wage to inflation? **YES**
4. **Wage Theft.** Do you support holding businesses responsible for the wage violations of their subcontractors when the work they do is substantially connected to the company's operations? **YES**
5. **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**
6. **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**
7. **Right to Strike.** Would you support legislation to legalize the right to strike for public employees (with the exception of public safety personnel) after six months of failed negotiations with their employer? **YES**
8. **State House Unionization.** Would you support legislation to extend collective bargaining rights to State House staff? **YES**

C. Education

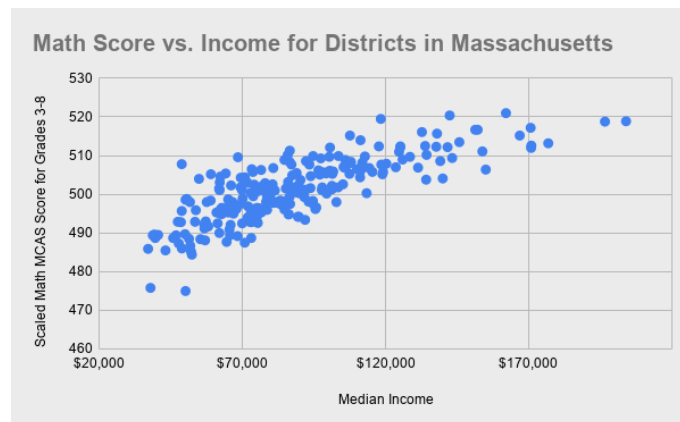
Massachusetts parents and caregivers face the [highest child care and early education costs of any state in the US](#). The average annual cost of infant care in Massachusetts is more than half of what a full-time minimum wage worker earns in a year. These costs are prohibitively expensive for low- and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

I believe education is national security, and if we valued it as such, the money would be there. In an era of AI and algorithm-driven information, a strong public education system is our best defense--and our best offense. The money exists; what's missing is political will, as Trump's federal reprioritization makes clear. Much of my work as a storyteller has been about listening to people, breaking down problems to their root, and making them understandable. Just tonight I was at Sutton Town Meeting, where disinformation and deliberate confusion were used not to defeat a Prop 2½ override --which isn't even on the ballot yet--but to prevent the town from even having the conversation. I spoke up to name what was happening. The applause told me everything: people are hungry for someone who will tell them the truth. I will fight for fully funded public schools, and just as hard against the bad-faith tactics designed to keep communities from asking the right questions.

2. Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on public education.
3. **Affordable Child Care.** Would you support legislation to make child care free for low-income families and ensure that no family has to pay more than 7% of their income on child care? **YES**
4. **Universal Pre-K.** Would you support creating universal, free Pre-K, accessible to any resident of Massachusetts, integrated into the public school system? **YES**

5. **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**
6. **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**
7. **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**
8. **Guaranteed Education for Incarcerated Youth.** Would you support legislation to mandate that at least 6 hours of credited daily education is available for all incarcerated, school-aged youth, including those with IEPs? **YES**
9. **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**
10. **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**
11. **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**
12. **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**
13. **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

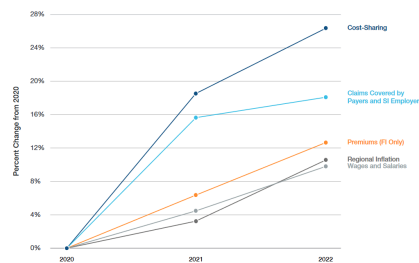
14. **Student Protest & Academic Freedom.** Will you support the unequivocal rights of students and faculty to peaceful protest and freedom of expression in Massachusetts' public and private institutions of higher education? **YES**

D. Health Care

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

Cost-sharing has risen faster than claims paid by employers, and premiums are rising faster than inflation.

Private Commercial Insurance Affordability in Context, 2020-2022

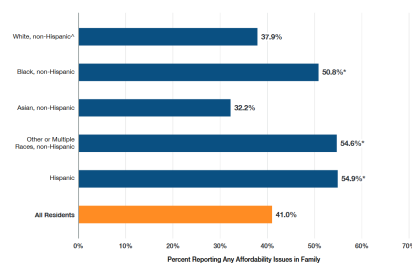


Member cost-sharing and premiums increased at a faster rate than regional inflation and wages and salaries from 2020 to 2022, driven in part by fluctuations in utilization during this time period.

Source: Payer reported data to CNA, Bureau of Labor Statistics data.
 Note: Based on Massachusetts reported membership, which may include non-Massachusetts residents. Claims amounts were adjusted for pharmacy-related reported by payers. Reported cost-sharing, premiums, and claims amounts have not been adjusted to account for benefit carve-outs, which may vary by plan. Claims amounts are published monthly from 2021 to 2022, with 2020 annual totals published in Q3 2021. Year 2020 annual 2020 annual. Data for wages and salaries are based on the BLS report for 2020 and 2021. See technical appendix.

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

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



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

Source: 2021 Massachusetts Health Insurance Survey.
 Note: Only individuals listed as either an reporting any of the following issues: problems paying family medical bills in past 12 months, family medical bills at the time of survey, spending a high share of family income in past 12 months on out-of-pocket health care expenses, and unmet family health care needs due to the cost of care in past 12 months.
 *Reference group.
 **Difference from reference group is statistically significant at the 5% level.

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

Healthcare isn't a privilege--it's the floor, not the ceiling. I've lived this personally. I watched my mother battle cancer, and my wife and I were fortunate enough to bring my parents into our home for direct support. Not everyone can do that. Being a sandwich generation family is exhausting and expensive, and the system makes it harder than it needs to be. I also watched my grandparents--people who did everything right--face potential financial ruin when my grandmother needed long-term care. And across the commonwealth, I see people face fear, loss, and ruin in the face of health care obstacles. That's a moral failure, not an inevitability. As Dr. King said, we need a "revolution of values." Healthcare access and equity means making sure nobody has to choose between care and bankruptcy, that caregivers aren't penalized for showing up, and that long-term care doesn't wipe out a lifetime of work. I'll fight for policies that are aligned with these ideals.

2. Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on health care (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).
3. **Single Payer.** Would you support legislation to enact a single payer health care system in Massachusetts, which would guarantee health insurance as a right? **YES**
4. **Medical Debt.** States like Connecticut and Arizona have taken action, in partnership with RIP Medical Debt, to eliminate medical debt for hundreds of thousands of working-class residents. Would you advocate for similar action in Massachusetts? **YES**
5. **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**
6. **Abortion Access - 1.** 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**

This is a deeply misunderstood issue, and I think the major barrier to acceptance is a lack of understanding about the consequences of inaction--teens who can't access safe care don't stop seeking it, they just seek it unsafely, and that can cost them their lives. We're several decades removed from a time when that was a broader reality, and people have forgotten why this care was implemented in the first place--young women were dying, and it could happen again if we step backwards.

7. **Abortion Access - 2.** 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**

I personally know women who were facing devastating medical complications, including having to carry a deceased fetus, and their torment was amplified by the cruelty of denial of care. This is another issue where a failure of empathy and imagination has created a deep misunderstanding of what this policy actually means in practice.

8. **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**
9. **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**
10. **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**

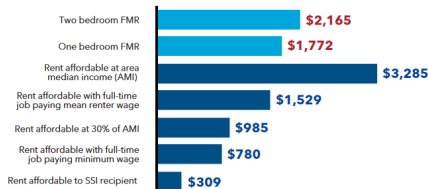
E. Housing

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.

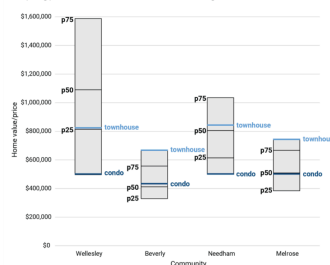
The high cost of housing has led to displacement, and in a growing number of municipalities, the local workforce can no longer afford to live there.

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.

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



Source: Existing home values taken from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2014-2018. Prices for new townhouses and condos from Crump, Mattos, Schatz and Schuster (2020).

1. Please share your principles and proposals regarding affordable housing and housing affordability in the Commonwealth.

Housing affordability is an affordability crisis, but it's also a transparency crisis. In my work helping residents sort through Sutton's various affordable housing controversies, I saw firsthand how Massachusetts' outdated housing laws (like 40B) get manipulated by developers who've mastered the loopholes and procedural advantages, producing housing that's neither truly affordable nor built-to-last. The system is being gamed, and the people who pay the price are working families and first-time buyers. I'll look to innovative models for solutions—I know there's no shortage of good ideas, and we need some new ones as well as to amend many of the existing laws. What I bring is a track record of turning complicated, contentious policy conversations (whether through documentaries like my film “The Promised Band,” or locally with the DTC) into community consensus, and a willingness to name when the process itself has been captured by the wrong interests. Housing should once again be built for people, not profit margins. And when we say it's for the people...we need to mean it.

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

I volunteer at a local emergency shelter.

3. **Emergency Shelter.** How would you evaluate Governor Healey's response to the emergency shelter crisis?

Governor Healey inherited a system that wasn't built for (or ready for) what hit it, and she made hard calls under real pressure. I don't discount that--it was an incredibly difficult task on an unrelenting timeline. But some families were moved before they had stability, leaving empty shelter beds while families were still being turned away. Something wasn't working. I believe that the root problem wasn't the shelter system, but probably the housing market—and any time one is solving for the wrong problem, the answer will be wrong, too. How to refine or rework policy to solve a problem this huge is something I am still studying.

4. **Welcoming New Neighbors.** Would you support efforts to locate both long-term housing and short-term shelter in your district? **YES**
5. **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**
6. **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**
7. **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**

8. **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**
9. **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**
10. **Right to Counsel.** Would you support legislation to provide legal representation for low-income tenants in eviction proceedings? **YES**
11. **HDIP Reform.** The Housing Development Incentive Program (HDIP) is a multimillion-dollar annual state tax credit program subsidizing market-rate housing in Gateway Cities. Would you support reforming this program to support both market-rate and affordable housing development? **YES**
12. **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**
13. **Zoning Reform.** Would you support zoning reforms to increase housing production and create more affordable and environmentally sustainable communities such as...
 - a. Requiring multi-family zoning and removing costly parking mandates around public transportation and city/town centers statewide? **YES, as long as it was well thought out and not a one-size-fits-all solution**
 - 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**
14. **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--and I say that having led Sutton's compliance effort firsthand. I'd also advocate for refining how communities are classified, so that the law builds trust rather than eroding it in places where Democratic policies already face an uphill battle.**

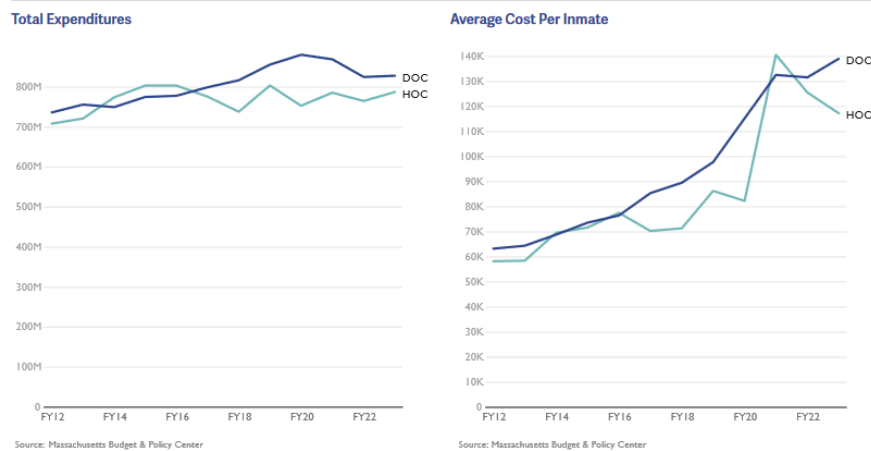
F. Community Safety

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.

This is a new issue for me as a policy maker, but I am actively learning: I'm currently (informally) consulting on a documentary about mass incarceration and maverick solutions called "A Different Kind of Justice." I am still developing my legislative approach.

2. Optional/As Applicable: 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.).

I was also a rape crisis counsellor in Manhattan, a volunteer position that gave me incredible training on many aspects of advocacy including community safety and police accountability.

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

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

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

- a. Eliminating mandatory minimums for all drug offenses? **YES**
- b. Raising the age of criminal majority from 18 to 21, in line with research that shows that young offenders served by a juvenile system are much less likely to reoffend and more likely to successfully transition to adulthood? **YES**
- c. Decriminalizing consensual sexual activity between adolescents, by creating an exception to the statutory rape law for youth close in age? 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**

5. **DOC Oversight -- I.** Would you support legislation to establish an inspector general for the Department of Correction? **YES**
6. **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**
7. **Solitary Confinement.** 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.** Will you vote YES to protect the 2024 gun safety bill on the ballot in November 2026? **YES**

G. A Humane Immigration System

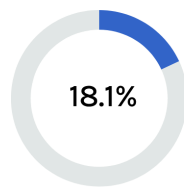
Immigrants make up [18%](#) of Massachusetts's population; however, demagoguery against, or indifference to, immigrant populations has historically been a mainstay of Massachusetts politics. We too often see both Democrats and Republicans fear-monger about immigration and the border, championing policies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



Immigrant share of population

1,270,500

Number of immigrant residents

\$51.8B

Immigrant spending power

\$20.4B

Immigrant tax contributions

2023

Data year

1. Please share your principles and proposals regarding welcoming and protecting our immigrant communities.

I am married to an immigrant and stand strongly with our immigrant communities. I also come from a family of WWII veterans, including relatives who fought at Omaha Beach--some of whom I was fortunate to know personally. For me, pondering how quickly Germany descended into nationalized amorality--and what it cost--makes this moment in America sit heavily. I took my family to Omaha Beach earlier this year. The air is heavy there. I've been blessed to never know catastrophic injustice firsthand, but I know that history asks ordinary people to decide what they stand for--and that the recent strife around ICE has raised exactly those questions for many of us. I hope I am someone with the courage to storm the beach.

I support humane, lawful immigration enforcement that respects constitutional rights and human dignity. I oppose policies rooted in fear, family separation, indiscriminate raids, or the targeting of people who are contributing members of our communities. Massachusetts should continue protecting due process,

supporting immigrant families, and ensuring that people can safely access schools, hospitals, courts, and local services without fear.

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

Last year I did a film with my Minneapolis colleagues that was textually about Reconstruction, but that directly spoke to the 14 and 15th amendments and our current moment. You can view that film here: [Reconstruction Destructed](#).

3. **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--with the current construct of ICE, I fully support this. My broader belief is that we need a lawful, humane immigration agency that can operate with community trust rather than fear. Until we have that, local law enforcement should not be entangled with federal immigration enforcement.**
4. **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**
5. **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**
6. **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--though I believe any such policy should include provisions for case-by-case exceptions, as I'm not an absolutist on any issue that involves individual circumstance.**

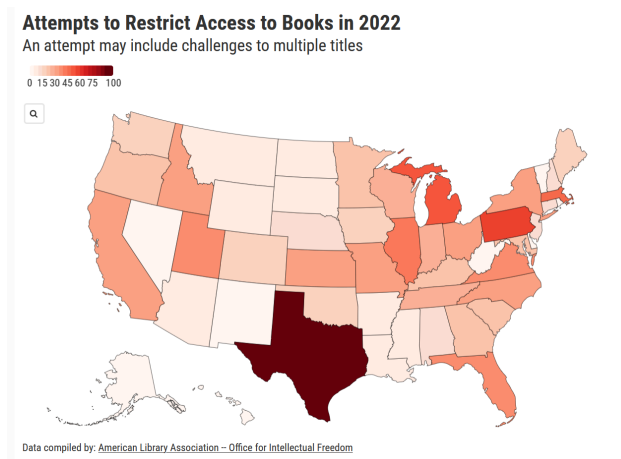
H. A Welcoming Society

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.

We are an LGBTQ family. I have experienced firsthand the cruelty this can bring--sometimes aimed at children. I have also seen the power of community and acceptance in unexpected places, including our Catholic community. When viewed as a binary--welcome or shun--the moral path is clear, and part of my job is to take that path and encourage others to do the same.

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

As Chair of the Sutton Democratic Town Committee, I worked to connect concerned residents and build fellowship, with the goal of supporting immigrants in crisis and establishing a response network in case of a local emergency--which thankfully we didn't need. We also met with the Chief of Police to discuss the department's position on ICE and to ask for transparency. Our Chief engaged with

us respectfully, and that conversation--even in a limited way--served as a signal to residents who were concerned but unsure how to step up. It's a small example of how welcoming can strengthen a community, even across difference—something crucial in this difficult moment.

3. **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**
4. **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**
5. **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**
6. **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.

I recognize all the issues outlined above. As Chair of the Sutton Democratic Town Committee, I've put these principles into practice. I created what is now a second-year candidate forum to increase voter participation, despite significant backlash from people who had held power through years of uncontested elections. I recruited candidates in a town that leans red, and we won 4 out of 5 seats. Turnout remains an ongoing fight--we have another heated town election in just a few weeks. More broadly, I'm aligned with the ideas noted above--reforming centralized power structures, a skewed campaign finance system, and voting laws that suppress rather than expand participation.

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

See above

3. **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**

4. **Public Records Law.** Massachusetts is the only state where the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the Judiciary claim full exemptions from the public records laws. Do you support the ballot initiative to eliminate these exemptions? **YES**

5. **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--with the caveat that legislative pay needs to be enough to actually support a family in Massachusetts. If elected, this will create real financial complexity for my family, and I say that not to complain but because it's exactly the barrier that keeps non-wealthy candidates out of public service. Reform should mean accountability and transparency--not a race to the bottom on compensation that further limits who can afford to serve. We need fewer wealthy people in politics, not more.**

6. **Legislative Research Bureau.** The Massachusetts legislature is the only legislature in the nation without a professional, non-partisan research bureau. Would you support the creation of such an office? **YES**

7. **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**

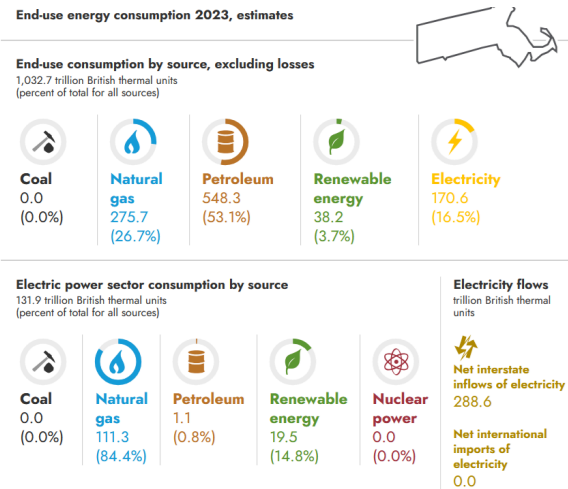
8. **Same Day Registration.** Massachusetts lags behind other states in making voting accessible for all. Do you support eliminating Massachusetts's arbitrary and exclusionary 10-day voter registration cutoff and allowing voters to register or update their registration at the polls on Election Day and during the early voting period? **YES**
9. **Inactive Voter Lists.** Massachusetts is the *only* state in the country where voters are placed on the Inactive Voter List—one step before being removed from the voter rolls—if they fail to return our annual municipal census. Do you support removing this barrier to participation? **YES**
10. **Ranked Choice Voting.** Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to adopt ranked choice voting in local elections? **YES**
11. **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

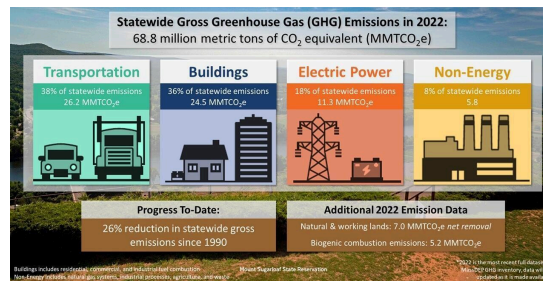
As a coastal state, Massachusetts will be hit particularly hard by climate change, but we are not responding with the necessary urgency. Massachusetts has ambitious and necessary greenhouse gas reduction goals, but we are [not on track](#) to meet them. Our state remains overly dependent on fossil fuels 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 protection.

I am very dedicated to sustainability, and I think it's a key factor in the affordability crisis. I believe environmental protection is an existential and moral imperative--and probably one of the most urgent issues for me personally. It's also one of the most misrepresented and politically manipulated topics, because environmental policy can impact the short-term bottom line of powerful corporate interests. Change is hard, but it's inevitable, and I think people can be open to the urgency of this issue as they come to understand that not responding to the impending environmental crisis will ultimately be the far more expensive route--literally and figuratively.

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

One of my core policies is municipally funded PFAS testing as a precursor to policy development (to illustrate the breadth of the problem and generate public political will).

3. **Fossil Fuel Infrastructure.** Do you oppose the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure in the state? **YES**
4. **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**
5. **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**
6. **Banning Predatory Industry Practices.** Third-party electricity suppliers notoriously give confusing or misleading offers and often target low-income and older adults. Would you support banning third-party electricity suppliers that sell directly to residents? **YES**
7. **Utility Accountability.** Would you support legislation that restricts investor-owned utilities' profits, including but not limited their ability to recover lobbying, advertisement, trade association dues, and investor relations expenses on utility bills? **YES**
8. **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**
9. **Plastic Bag Ban.**: Would you support a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags?
YES
10. **Electrifying Public Transit.** In Massachusetts, 43 percent of GHG emissions in 2016 came from transportation infrastructure and vehicles. Tackling this will require a shift away from cars and toward public transit, as well as electrification of both. Would you support requiring the MBTA to operate an all-electric system by 2035? **YES**
11. **Free Public Transit.** Do you support making public transit in the Commonwealth fare-free? **YES--if there is a fiscally responsible path to get there. I believe in the goal; I want to make sure the numbers work for taxpayers.**

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.

I added commentary to some of the yes/no questions, against directions. I apologize for not following instructions exactly--but a handful of these questions are not simple yes/no answers for me. Some of these issues are deeply complex, and I believe that progress requires nuance and understanding, not only a yes or a no. I would ask that you publish my comments in their entirety, in the interest of accuracy and honesty.

I think my documentary work reveals a lot about who I am, both in terms of ideology and character. I have gone to great lengths to find justice through storytelling. I am happy to provide a selected filmography with links as needed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.