



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2026 Legislative
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Marjorie Decker

Office Sought: State Representative, 25th 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 was born and raised in Cambridge public housing and my public service is rooted and shaped by my lived experience. I'm a mother of two, with an aging mother who continues to live in Cambridge public housing. I am honored to serve Cambridge as the Representative for the 25th Middlesex District and I work tirelessly to support my community and legislate to the benefit of communities throughout the Commonwealth. Through hard work, intentional investment from our community, and the support of dedicated teachers and mentors, I was able to do what my parents and grandparents raised in Cambridge could not: graduate from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, UMass Amherst, and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. This work is personal, because I see the opportunities our community provides, and the challenges it still faces, every day in my own family.

The choices that our community made shaped my life and it drives my work. I've committed myself to turning our community's values – fairness, dignity, and opportunity – into action. These aren't just words; they're lived every day through relationships, accountability, and results. This work doesn't just happen. It relies on trust, judgment, and experience; on relationships that aren't built overnight, but cultivated over years. Relationships that are collaborative, deep, and rooted not in campaigns, but in a lifetime of commitment to the communities I know and care about.

I fight for those whose voices are too often ignored and marginalized: people without privilege, resources, or connections. That's why I led on gender-affirming care for adolescents outside hospitals, fought policies that trap people in poverty, expanded tax credits, and removed barriers to opportunity. None of this happens by chance. It takes experience, trust, and sustained effort. It takes transparent, accountable, community-rooted leadership. My legislative priorities have centered on people living in poverty, supporting organized labor, children's mental health, maternal health and racial equity, immigrants, reproductive justice, the LGBTQ+ community. This is to name who I center in my legislative and budget advocacy which can also be seen in the leadership I have brought successfully to the passage of legislation impacting said communities.

As the State Representative, I am still focused on getting current priorities over the finish line. At a time when there is substantial uncertainty surrounding federal actions and attacks on the rights and civil liberties of vulnerable populations, these are my current priorities. My priorities for next session will be informed by what gets over the finish line in the next few months

- An Act promoting rule of law, oversight, trust, and equal constitutional treatment ("The PROTECT Act"): This bill, drafted and offered by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, takes a comprehensive

approach to addressing federal attacks of civil liberties. It bans new 287(g) agreements, bans the presence of ICE in courthouses without a warrant, expands visa certifying entities to protect survivors of domestic violence or trafficking who aid law enforcement, and requires law enforcement applicants to disclose previous ICE or CBP employment, among the many important provisions.

- An Act protecting Labor and Abolishing Barriers to Organizing Rights (The Protect LABOR Act): Project 2025 has made it clear that the Trump Administration wants to destroy all unions. This bill would safeguard organized labor from federal actions by establishing state-level private sector organizing rights, banning captive audience meetings, allowing for electronic card signing, and more. This legislation, which I filed alongside the Massachusetts AFL-CIO and is their top priority, has trigger language so it would go into effect should federal law no longer apply.
- An Act to lift kids out of deep poverty: Cash assistance grants in Massachusetts currently fall below 50% of the federal poverty line, leaving families, the elderly, and the disabled living in deep poverty. This legislation provides a vital lifeline to the Commonwealth's most vulnerable residents by mandating annual, incremental increases to Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) and Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC) until grants reach 50% of the federal poverty level and are indexed to inflation. By strengthening these core cash assistance programs, the bill aims to eliminate "deep poverty" and ensure that every resident can meet their most basic needs with dignity.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

I continue to be prepared to serve as State Representative as a result of my lived experience – which is too often not represented in politics and in decision making bodies – and my long record of successfully translating progressive values into law and budget appropriations. Growing up in public housing and experiencing poverty firsthand gave me an intimate understanding of the systemic barriers our residents face. Seeing our family's life transformed when my mother joined SEIU taught me that economic justice is not an accident. It is the result of organized labor and intentional policy. This perspective ensures that every vote I cast and every bill I file is centered on the people often left behind by the political process.

As a State Representative and Chair of the Committee on Public Health, I have proven that I can move the needle on complex, intersectional issues. My preparation is defined by my record of turning progressive values into laws:

- **Health Justice:** I Co-Chaired the [Special Commission on Racial Inequities in Maternal Health](#), and translated our final report into a landmark maternal health omnibus bill that passed last session, which centers racial equity in birthing outcomes. This session, I spearheaded the creation of the

first-in-the-nation Affirming Care Trust Fund with my colleague Representative Sam Montaña to ensure that trans individuals in our Commonwealth can access gender affirming care amidst federal attacks.

- **Worker Power:** I am a leading voice for labor, last session passing legislation that codified Project Labor Agreements on public projects into law, and this session partnering closely with the MA AFL-CIO to file the Protect LABOR Act which protects the rights of private sector workers to organize and labor in general from federal attacks on the NLRB and NLRA.
- **Economic Justice:** Throughout my time in office, I have been a leading voice for anti-poverty initiatives. In 2019, I worked in coalition with many advocacy groups to Lift the Cap on Kids, ending the punitive cap on how many children a family could receive TAFDC for. After that victory, we transitioned our coalition to focus on increasing cash assistance grants (TAFDC & EAEDC) to lift our kids, elderly, and disabled community members out of deep poverty. We have successfully secured increases in those grants through the budget for the past 5 years. After Co-Chairing the [Poverty Commission](#) this session, I filed an omnibus poverty bill that offers a roadmap to significantly reducing poverty in the Commonwealth over the next 10 years, in line with the report of the Commission that was created after listening sessions across the state.

My experience and the deep relationships I have formed throughout my time in office position me to continue to lead on important progressive issues; build coalitions with nonprofits, labor, and grassroots advocates; and translate our visions into laws and budgets that make a difference in people's lives. These relationships are rooted in trust built over many years, and in my expertise and skills in legislating. In fact, the [Center for Effective Lawmaking at Vanderbilt University](#) recently ranked me as one of the most effective Democratic Representatives in the last legislative session, and also as a Representative in their "Above Expectations" category, which recognizes long-standing patterns of effective lawmaking. In 2026, as we face unprecedented federal attacks on reproductive freedom, LGBTQ+ rights, immigrant rights, and more, my experience and track record of successful legislating is more important than ever.

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

I am progressive. To me, being a progressive means more than just supporting a specific set of policies; it is a deep commitment to identifying and dismantling the systemic inequities – racial, economic, and social – that prevent all residents in our Commonwealth from thriving.

My progressivism is rooted in my own lived experience growing up in poverty. This history provides the lens through which I view every piece of legislation. I know firsthand the barriers that families face, and that perspective drives my belief that the government must be a proactive force for justice. We must ensure that basic human rights like healthcare, housing, and a dignified workplace are guaranteed to all, not just those who

can afford them. There are not many legislators that lead with this lived experience, even if it is a part of their background. Not only is this experience important in helping me be an effective legislator, but it also is what helps me build trusting relationships with grassroots advocates who live in poverty and in general for people that live in poverty that someone who experienced similar circumstances is in a position of leadership and is listening to them.

Being progressive also means valuing the diverse lenses that people bring to the table. I do not believe in top-down legislating. Instead, I actively build and develop trusting relationships with people with lived experiences, relying on them as the true experts when I am drafting legislation. Finally, being progressive means never being satisfied with the status quo as long as even just one person is denied their dignity. It is a constant, evolving commitment to building a Commonwealth that lives up to its highest ideals of justice and equity.

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 path to passing bold, progressive policy in a complex legislative body requires navigating several significant challenges. The primary challenge is building consensus among 160 members with diverse district priorities. It can take deep and sustained education and coalition building in communities across the state to move from a bold idea to a legislative reality. I am committed to continue to build and work with coalitions pushing for these progressive policies, and have a record – including my work on maternal health, economic justice, and labor policy – that demonstrates I have successfully done this before. I remain committed to the work that addresses this barrier. Another obstacle to passing progressive policy, right now, is that we are in crisis-response mode due to the hostile federal administration, which can crowd out the space needed for long-term structural reform.

Despite these systemic challenges, I have proven that a progressive leader **can** deliver significant results. My role as a progressive in House leadership is to constantly push the envelope, bringing the urgency of our grassroots movements into the room where the agenda is set. I am often the voice in the room pushing for us to do more – whether that means more aggressive climate standards, fighting to maintain the Right to Shelter and a robust EA shelter system, deeper investments in low-income populations, or stronger protections for our LGBTQ+ and immigrant neighbors. My ability to navigate these obstacles is demonstrated by my record. In the last few years, I have successfully passed children's mental health legislation, a maternal health omnibus, and created the Affirming Care Trust Fund – all of which serve as national models.

I also intentionally bring advocates into the legislative process, inviting them to the drafting phase to ensure our final products are as bold as possible. I used this strategy throughout my maternal health legislation, as well as in legislation in my Committee that takes a comprehensive approach to limiting PFAS in consumer products.

Despite the challenges, I remain committed to using my seat at the table to ensure Massachusetts continues to lead the nation in progressive, structural reform.

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

One policy I would like to see Massachusetts adopt at the state level is a framework to support and scale Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) programs, modeled after the success of the Rise Up program in Cambridge. As a founding member of Legislators for Guaranteed Income, I believe deeply in the power of GBI to provide a solid foundation of economic stability. It moves past the paternalism of traditional social safety net programs and offers even our most vulnerable neighbors a baseline level of dignity and autonomy that they are too often denied.

Through the Rise Up program in Cambridge – which offered non-conditional cash assistance to a sample of residents living below the poverty line – as well as other municipal models nationwide, we know that recurring cash payments are one of the most effective tools to dismantle systemic poverty and provide families with the agency they deserve. During listening sessions for the [Poverty Commission](#), we heard clearly from residents across the Commonwealth: they want a GBI.

That is why my Co-Chair Senator Sal DiDomenico and I incorporated a pilot GBI program for youth aging out of foster care into the anti-poverty omnibus we filed at the conclusion of the commission. To be sure, this policy would require significant investments for the state. That is why I am a strong supporter of the Corporate Fair Share bill (An Act combatting offshore tax avoidance). Closing these loopholes provides the necessary revenue to power this investment in our people.

Ultimately, by adopting a GBI model, Massachusetts could lead the nation in moving toward a floor of dignity, proving that when we trust people with the resources they need, our entire economy and community become more resilient.

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

A defining example of my approach to coalition building was the passage of the Maternal Health Omnibus last session. This legislation was born out of a stark, unacceptable reality: Massachusetts has some of the best hospitals in the world, yet Black birthing people are still nearly three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white birthing people. After Co-Chairing the [Special Commission](#) and both meeting advocates fighting for more equitable birth outcomes and people with lived experience, I started to build a coalition that would translate the recommendations from our report into legislation that would change lives.

My work started by centering lived experience. I partnered closely with grassroots organizations like the Neighborhood Birth Center and Bay State Birth Coalition, as well as independent doulas, midwives, and individuals with lived experience. It was imperative that the drafting phase of the bills included the voices of those most impacted by birthing inequities, as well as those on the front lines providing health care and support. Passing the bill, once drafted, required bringing together stakeholders who are often at odds – community-based midwives and doulas and hospital-based obstetricians. As Chair of Public Health, I convened these groups to build a shared language and understanding of the full spectrum of care, creating pathways for certified professional midwives and framing them as essential partners to traditional medicine in closing the racial equity gap. Finally, we grew our diverse coalition to meet with legislators, hold rallies and information sessions, and build momentum to the point where we were able to pass the bill into law.

The result was a landmark law that serves as a national model for reproductive justice. This victory proved that when we build a broad coalition rooted in equity, we can pass structural reforms that save lives.

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.

My voting record on the Progressive Massachusetts scorecard of key roll call votes is 100%. I am proud that many of my bills have been identified as priorities for Progressive Massachusetts this session, including my Visitation Bill which eliminates arbitrary, unnecessary restrictions on visitation rights in prisons and jails and is on the scorecard.

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?

II. The Issues

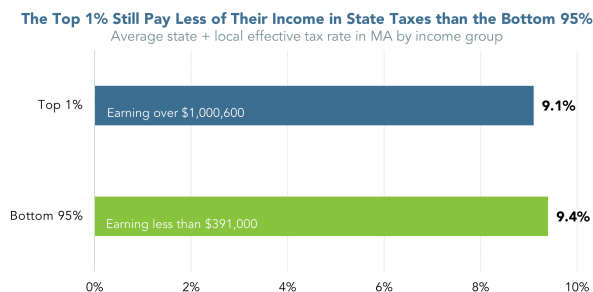
A. Revenue and Taxation

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.

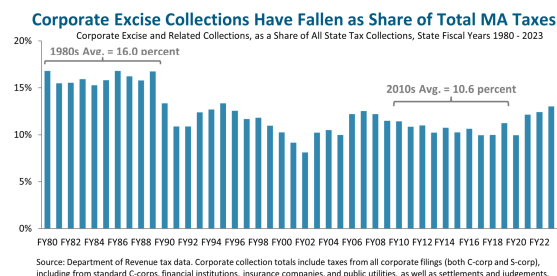
Although we saw a welcome shift when MA voters passed the Fair Share Amendment and added more progressivity to our tax code, the Legislature in 2023 voted to give tax cuts to multi-million-dollar estates, large corporations, and day traders, blunting the full impact of the win. We cannot tax-cut our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

My approach to revenue and tax policy is guided by equity and stability. Our tax code should be a tool for economic justice, not a driver of inequality. I believe in a progressive tax approach where the burden is shifted away from low- and middle-income families – who spend the highest percentage of their earnings on basic necessities – and towards those with the greatest ability to pay. In terms of stability, Massachusetts needs diverse and recurring revenue streams that can withstand economic fluctuations and continue to fund budgets that protect our most vulnerable residents during downturns.

To adequately fund our communities for the future, we must be willing to pursue bold, progressive revenue pathways. I am a strong supporter of the Corporate Fair Share bill, which closes loopholes that allow multinational corporations to shift income offshore – in line with peer states in New England – so we can recover hundreds of millions of dollars that should be invested in Massachusetts. I remain committed to protecting the Fair Share Amendment and revenue generated through it to continue investing in high-quality education and a safe, reliable transportation system. I am also interested in exploring a new wealth tax, taxing residents with a net worth exceeding \$100 million.

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.).

My legislative record on creating a more equitable tax system is extensive. When I entered the legislature, the state match to the EITC was 15%. Over the past 12 years, I led the efforts to increase the match to 23%, 30%, and finally 40% in the tax reform package passed last session. I also passed a provision that made Massachusetts the first state in the country to allow survivors of domestic violence to file for EITC without their batterers. My work on the Child and Family Tax Credit is equally extensive. I led efforts again in the tax reform package last session to create a new, streamlined tax credit that is worth \$440 per dependent, universal (no income minimum), inclusive of immigrants who file taxes using an ITIN, and does not have a cap on the number of dependents who can be claimed.

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.

My principles surrounding good-paying jobs for all are rooted in supporting worker agency and the right to collectively bargain. We cannot have a healthy economy if workers are treated as disposable; families will struggle to survive, let alone thrive, if workers aren't paid their true value. I saw the difference a union makes firsthand. I grew up in poverty, despite my mother working time-and-a-half as a nurse's aide. We still had to rely on subsidized child care, food pantries, and public housing. When my mother's workplace was organized by SEIU, our lives improved. Conversely, I saw our financial stability evaporate when her workplace was later union-busted.

This lived experience informs my fight to reduce inequality. Economic growth is meaningless if it leaves behind Black and brown communities, women, and immigrant workers. I believe that every job must provide a living wage, comprehensive benefits, and a safe workplace.

My legislative agenda reflects a commitment to both immediate worker protections and long-term structural equity:

- Labor-oriented proposals include the Protect LABOR Act, which protects the rights of private sector workers to organize as well as bills that would increase apprenticeship requirements on public projects, require prevailing wages be paid on covered excavation projects, and mandate worker protections and standards on clean energy projects. I am a leading voice, in coalition with environmental advocates and labor advocates, for a just transition – recognizing the urgency of a transition to clean energy **and** that workers must not be left behind.
- The anti-poverty omnibus package that I filed is rooted in reducing inequality in the Commonwealth, both through creating a more robust social safety net and including provisions from other bills that my colleagues lead on to prevent wage theft, establish Baby Bonds so children can start to generate wealth from birth, and clean slate legislation which would automatically seal criminal and juvenile records after the applicable waiting periods.

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.).

My work to advance worker power and reduce inequality is seen through my legislation, budget amendments, and advocacy work.

- As outlined above, my legislative record reflects a deep commitment to empowering workers and ensuring fair compensation. That is just a short outline of the many bills I filed this session in partnership with the AFL-CIO and

local unions. Last session, I was able to pass a bill into law codifying the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) on public projects, ensuring that they pay prevailing wages and have strong worker protections. This session, I led efforts in the House to pass the apprenticeship bill that would expand the use of state-certified apprentices on public projects, and I look forward to Senate action on it.

- In the FY26 budget, I worked closely with SEIU Local 509 when we realized that the Governor had proposed cutting half of the mental health case manager workforce in DMH. Through coordinated advocacy, we were able to restore the funding and protect 170 union jobs.
 - I continue to be active in supporting unions in their negotiations. I have joined picket lines, written letters in support of worker negotiations, and spoke at rallies. Just recently, I supported workers organized by SEIU 32BJ at Harvard in their negotiations for a new contract, and spoke and stood with UAW workers at Harvard and SEIU 509 workers at Lesley, all in my district. Those are just a few examples.
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

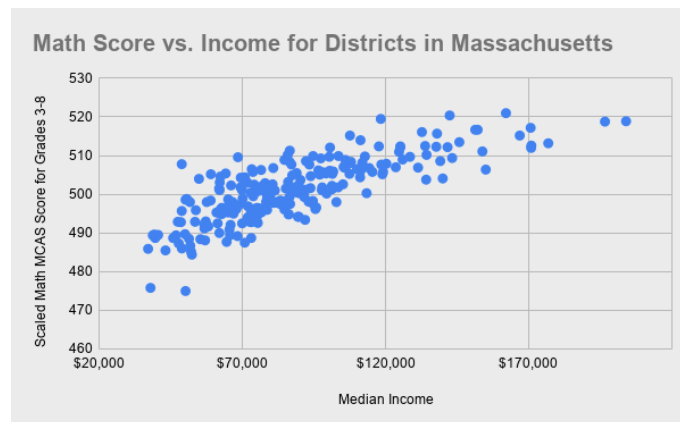
Massachusetts parents and caregivers face the [highest child care and early education costs of any state in the US](#). The average annual cost of infant care in Massachusetts is more than half of what a full-time minimum wage worker earns in a year. These costs are prohibitively expensive for low- and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

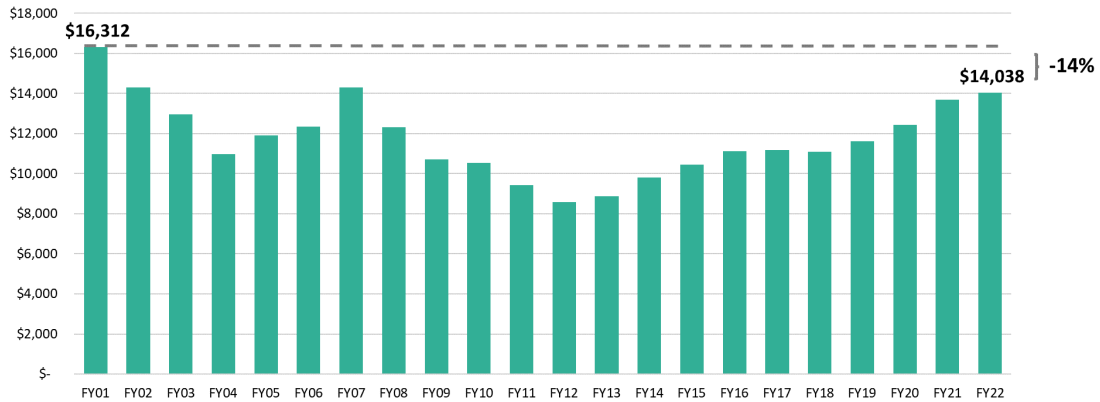
Standardized test scores have a very strong correlation with the income of the school district. ([Source](#))



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 was the first member of my family to graduate from high school. I then went on to graduate from UMass Amherst and get a master’s at the Kennedy School. I am the first adult member of my family to not live in poverty since my great-grandparents immigrated from Ireland, and that is largely a result of the high-quality education system in Massachusetts and the teachers that invested in me. This informs my principles regarding education:

- **Equity:** Providing the same resources to every school is not enough. We must provide more to the districts that have historically been denied investment, and account for the social determinants of health that follow a child into the classroom. We must also ensure that our curriculum is anti-racist, gender expansive, and rooted in science, standing against efforts to rewrite history and ban books. Finally, equity means ensuring that all children, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, and ability, are given the opportunities and resources needed to succeed.
- **Whole-Child:** A child cannot learn if they are hungry, unhoused, or experiencing trauma. Public education must be integrated with public health and social services.
- **Respect for the Educator Workforce:** Our schools are only as strong as the people who run them.

My proposals are in line with these principles. Rooted in equity, I file legislation

that would ban suspensions and expulsions for children pre-K through 5th grade for non-violent, non-drug related offenses. We know that in order for students to learn they need to be in the classroom, and that racist biases lead to disproportionate school discipline levied on Black students. I also file legislation that would mandate 30 minutes of recess every day – recognizing the social, academic, emotional, and physical benefits – and that would establish a Whole Child Grant Program which, when funded, would help districts hire social workers, school psychologists, and other staff to support children in their school journey.

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

I was extremely proud to vote alongside my colleagues to fund universal school meals, recognizing that hunger disproportionately impacts children from families with low-incomes and is correlated with lower school attainment. We have fully funded that every year since it passed.

Personally, I led the charge on a children's mental health omnibus package that, among its many provisions, created the 988 suicide hotline, mandated school emergency response plans that prioritize care over criminalization, and supported the Behavioral health Integrated Resources for Children (BIRCh) Center at UMass Boston to create the School-Based Behavioral Health Technical Assistance (SBBH TA) Center. The SBBH TA Center seeks to strengthen school districts' capacity to promote wellness, including behavioral health, and I continue to secure funding in the state budget to ensure that they do so.

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**

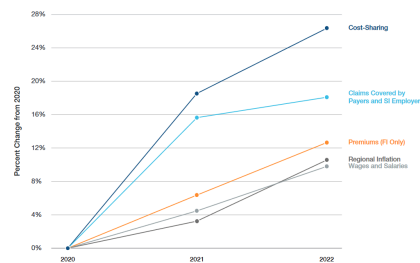
8. **Guaranteed Education for Incarcerated Youth.** Would you support legislation to mandate that at least 6 hours of credited daily education is available for all incarcerated, school-aged youth, including those with IEPs? **YES**
9. **Comprehensive Sex Education.** Do you support requiring public schools 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, I filed a bill for many sessions that would mandate comprehensive sex education curriculum (age appropriate, medically accurate, and inclusive) and advocated in support of Governor Healey's promulgation of a statewide curricular framework that established a comprehensive sex education.**
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

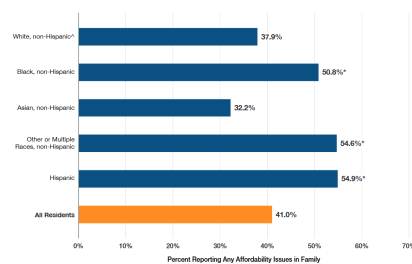


Member cost-sharing and premiums increased at a faster rate than regional inflation and wages and salaries from 2020 to 2022, driven in part by fluctuations in utilization during this time period.

Source: Data from the Massachusetts Health Insurance Survey. Claims amounts were adjusted for pharmacy-related reported by payers. Reported cost-sharing, premiums, and claims amounts have not been adjusted to account for health care costs, which may vary by plan. Claims amounts are published from 2020 to 2022, with 2020 data available as of 2021, 2021 data as of 2022, and 2022 data as of 2023. Data for wages and salaries is from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) 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 included in analyses as 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.

My approach to health care is rooted in the belief that every resident deserves the freedom to make decisions about their own body and must be able to access the resources necessary to thrive. As Chair of Public Health, my work is dedicated to ensuring that our system serves patients and workers, not corporate interests or political agendas.

- **Equity:** To achieve true health equity, we must proactively dismantle the systemic racism, classism, and other forms of discrimination that determine health outcomes.
- **Access:** Health care access means that you can afford care, find it in your community, and navigate the insurance and health care bureaucracy to receive it.
- **Autonomy:** Patients, and patients alone, should decide what care is right for them. True autonomy means the patient – not an insurance company or a politician – controls their medical decisions.

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

My values of equity, access, and autonomy are reflected in my record of legislative leadership and budget advocacy.

- **Equity:** I authored and led the passage of a landmark maternal health omnibus that serves as a national model for closing racial gaps in birthing outcomes. This was achieved by expanding insurance coverage for doulas and midwives, supporting the creation of birth centers, and increasing access to postpartum care. I also led the creation of the Affirming Care Trust and was a champion for Shield laws, ensuring that Massachusetts remains a beacon for gender affirming and reproductive equity. I partner closely with the Mass League of Community Health Centers and the Health Equity Compact to ensure that diverse, community-centered perspectives are integrated into every bill we draft.
- **Access:** Two sessions ago, I successfully partnered with my colleague Representative Jeff Roy to ban step therapy, ending “fail first” protocols that prioritize insurance profits over patient health. In the children’s mental health omnibus, I included provisions to expand behavioral health access, ensuring a child in crisis is met with a responsive care plan rather than an ER boarding room. Furthermore, I am championing menstrual equity legislation to make menstrual products free in all public schools, recognizing that access to basic hygiene is a matter of public health and human dignity.
- **Autonomy:** Autonomy is a common thread throughout my legislation. The maternal health omnibus ensures birthing people can choose the care model that is most appropriate for them. The Affirming Care Trust provides state-funded support to ensure that transgender and gender-diverse

individuals can access the care that is right for them, even amidst federal attacks. My commitment to reproductive autonomy is unwavering; in the FY27 House Budget, I secured a \$500,000 increase in the Reproductive Health Access, Infrastructure, and Security line item to support local abortion funds and abortion clinics across the Commonwealth.

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**
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**
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, I have sponsored the House bill to legalize overdose prevention centers and continue to be a leading voice in support in the House.**
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. As Chair of Public Health, I led efforts earlier this session to decouple Massachusetts vaccine schedules from the CDC to ensure that our healthcare is guided by science, not politics. I have reported out legislation that would eliminate non-medical exemptions to childhood vaccinations for the last three sessions, and strongly support it.**

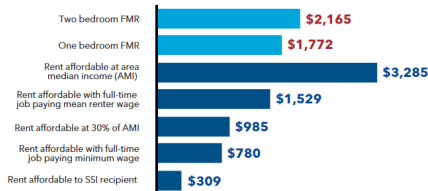
E. Housing

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.

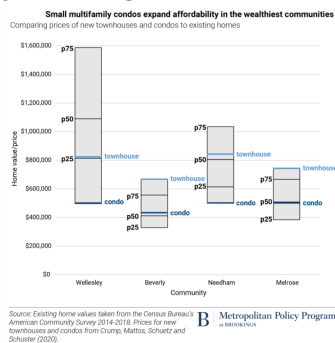
Home ownership has become increasingly out of reach, as the state's median home price is [approximately \\$600,000](#). In more than 20 communities, the median home price recently [passed \\$1 million](#). Meanwhile, we have some of the [most restrictive zoning laws](#) in the country, making it difficult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

My approach to housing is rooted in the principle that every resident deserves a safe, permanent, and affordable place to call home. I am proud to live in the only state that has a Right to Shelter, and I will do everything I can to protect that right, knowing the boon it has been for the most vulnerable members of our community. In one of the most expensive states in the nation, housing policy must be an intervention against displacement, protect our most vulnerable, and lead to the creation of more housing.

I am the leading voice in the House in support of the Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter system. When the Patrick administration promulgated regulations that mandated that families must spend one night in a place not meant for human habitation and document it in order to access EA, I fought back. I filed legislation to undo that inhumane and punitive regulation, and eventually successfully partnered with the Baker administration to promulgate new regulations undoing it. I then passed language in a supplemental budget to prevent it from happening again. Recently, when the Healey administration proposed rolling back the Right to Shelter, I was on the State House steps and in the media fighting to protect our most vulnerable. I successfully filed amendments to secure extensions and maintain categorical eligibility for families with young children and survivors of domestic violence. I will always fight for an EA system that serves as a safety net and treats every participant with dignity and respect.

Furthermore, I continue to file legislation to codify the RAFT program and increase grant amounts. The most effective way to address the shelter crisis is to prevent families from losing their homes in the first place.

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

In addition to the accomplishments outlined above, during the recent EA shelter crisis, I was in constant communication with the Governor's team, the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, as well as municipal officials in Cambridge to ensure that any shelters opened in the city would serve our residents with dignity and respect, and that the Right to Shelter was maintained.

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

The Governor's response to the emergency shelter crisis had both positive and negative aspects. I appreciate the administration's intensive work to secure work authorization and rehousing efforts, which helped thousands of families transition out of the system. However, I have been deeply concerned by the move toward more restrictive eligibility and the implementation of strict time limits. I vocalized my opposition when the administration proposed rolling back the Right to Shelter,

recognizing that it would mean more children, survivors of domestic violence, and vulnerable members of our communities spending nights in spaces not meant for human habitation. The state's response, overall, felt very reactive. I would have preferred a strategy that tied in more upstream solutions, such as codifying RAFT, and stayed away from the cap and limiting the Right to Shelter.

4. **Welcoming New Neighbors.** Would you support efforts to locate both long-term housing and short-term shelter in your district? **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, I file Cambridge's home rule petition to create a real estate transfer fee, and support legislation affording municipalities the flexibility to institute them statewide.**
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**
 - 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**

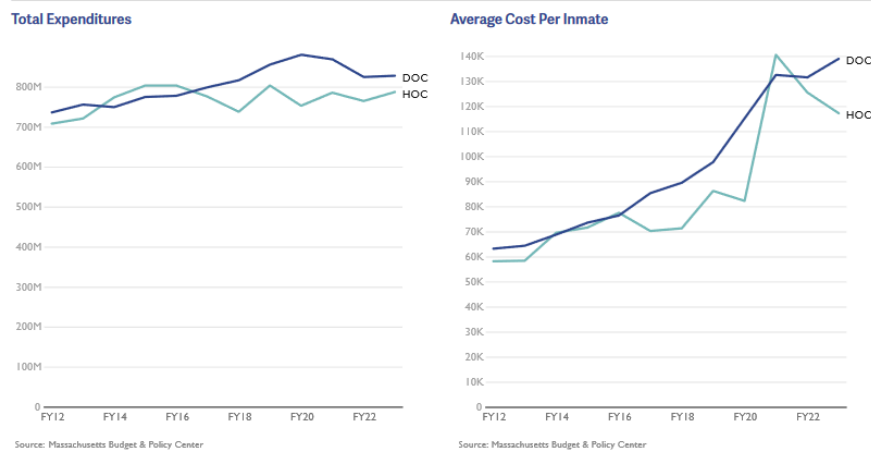
F. Community Safety

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.

The criminal justice system in the United States is rooted in systemic racism. As such, it requires systemic solutions and institutional reforms to address the myriad challenges that arise. My approach is defined by prioritizing connection and human dignity. Incarceration should not mean that individuals lose contact with their loved ones, which is a key factor in successful reentry and community stability. I was proud to support the No Cost Calls legislation, and I am working to build on that progress with the Keeping Families Connected bill. My work in this space is rooted in collaboration with people with lived experiences. I value their insight as I draft legislation and advocate for reform, ensuring that policy is informed by the reality of those most impacted by the system. That partnership also led me to file legislation that would transition mental health services in correctional facilities from the DOC and DMH, and that would transfer Bridgewater State Hospital from the DOC to DMH.

I also partner with Citizens for Juvenile Justice on many bills, including those that would limit the use of GPS trackers on juvenile offenders; limit juvenile offenses that cannot be expunged; eliminate the use of fines, fees, and restitution in the juvenile justice system. I was proud that language from my expungement bill was included in the 2020 police accountability law, and now continue to push to expand our law to achieve more equitable outcomes for those charged with juvenile offenses. In addition to the proposals I lead on, I support Clean Slate legislation, raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction, and ending life without parole.

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.).

In addition to my many proposals and the deep work and relationships I have in the justice-involved space, I am a very close partner of MOVA, and partner with them to ensure that survivors can access the resources they need to be supported. In 2021, after Congress failed to appropriate \$60 million to restore funds necessary for VOCA programming in Massachusetts, I led the efforts to restore the full \$60 million over three years. The VOCA Bridge has been a significant lifeline to survivors, with nearly 70,000 people supported that would have otherwise been left unassisted.

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, I am the lead filer of this bill and continue to fight for its passage.**
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, Absolutely. I continue to be a leading voice in the House in support of gun safety. I filed and passed the first Red Flag law in Massachusetts in 2018, and four of my bills were adopted into the omnibus last session including those that would regulate ghost guns and ban guns in public spaces in response to Bruen.**

G. A Humane Immigration System

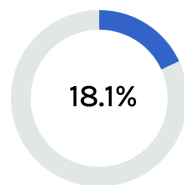
Immigrants make up [18%](#) of Massachusetts's population; however, demagoguery against, or indifference to, immigrant populations has historically been a mainstay of Massachusetts politics. We too often see both Democrats and Republicans fear-monger about immigration and the border, championing policies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

My principles are rooted in the belief that all residents, regardless of status, deserve to live, work, and raise their families with dignity and without the constant threat of deportation. Immigrant communities are the core of our neighborhoods – they are our teachers, our entrepreneurs, and our friends. To welcome and protect our immigrant neighbors is imperative to the fabric of our communities; the rich cultures that comprise our Commonwealth make Massachusetts a truly special place to live.

In an era of federal hostility, Massachusetts must be more of a firewall against federal overreach and infringements on civil liberties that seek to tear families apart or rule through fear. I am a strong supporter of the PROTECT Act, a bill, drafted by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus this session. It takes a comprehensive approach to addressing federal attacks, banning new 287(g) agreements, banning the presence of ICE in courthouses without a warrant, expanding visa certifying entities to protect survivors of domestic violence or trafficking who aid law enforcement, and requiring law enforcement applicants to disclose previous ICE or CBP employment, among the many important provisions.

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.).

I am a close partner of the MIRA Coalition, and collaborate with them to host prep meetings in my office before important votes to prepare for anti-immigrant amendments and strategize how to inoculate them. I was proud that a provision of one of my bills made it into the PROTECT Act, which prohibits the courts and RMVs from sharing data with ICE. By ensuring that courthouses remain safe, we set the necessary standard that essential public spaces must remain free from harassment.

I was a strong champion for the Work and Families Mobility Act several sessions ago, and I also supported the legal defense fund that we have funded in the last two budgets.

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. At the moment, I am focused on supporting my colleagues in the Black and Latino Caucus and our efforts to get the PROTECT Act over the finish line. However, I will continue to look to my colleagues and advocates on the ground as we seek additional ways to protect our communities from ICE moving forward.**
 - 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**
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**

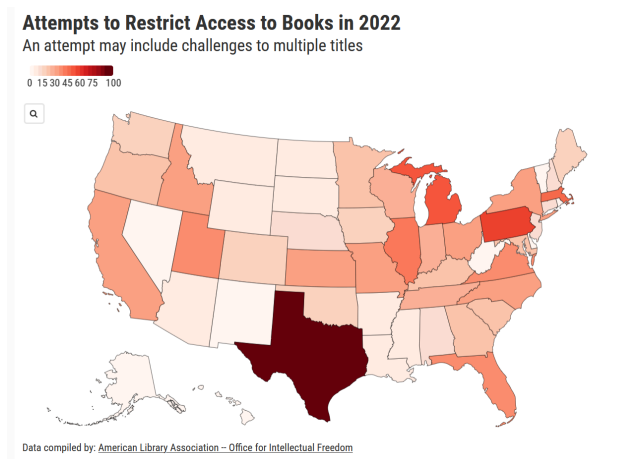
H. A Welcoming Society

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.

Massachusetts is known as a welcoming and inclusive state. However, the work is not finished. To build a truly welcoming society, we must be as vigilant about dismantling systemic racism, protecting LGBTQ+ rights, and addressing other arenas of discrimination in our own backyard as we continue to resist national rollbacks to fundamental rights.

That is why important work continues to be done in the Legislature, including removing outdated and offensive language from the General Laws and, last session, passing the Parentage Act to recognize all families and their parentage rights. My principles are rooted in the belief that Massachusetts should always strive to be a space where everyone feels safe and free to express their true self, and that we should always be looking for ways to improve.

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

Some examples of my work to make Massachusetts and more welcoming place include:

- **First-In-The-Nation Protections:** In the FY26 budget, I led the charge to create the Affirming Care Trust Fund, securing a \$1 million appropriation to safeguard access to gender-affirming care against federal interference.
- **Saving “Youth on Fire”:** I am the fiercest champion for Youth on Fire, Harvard Square’s drop-in center for homeless youth. On numerous occasions, when the program faced catastrophic budget shortfalls and the threat of permanent closure, I stepped in to establish partnerships with new host organizations necessary to keep their doors open.
- **Building Support for Public Accommodations:** I was a key strategist and leader in the House, actively whipping the votes necessary to pass the landmark public accommodations bill.

While my work protecting LGBTQ+ rights is particularly extensive, my commitment to inclusivity and welcoming all identities is a common thread throughout my record.

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 helped organized the boycott of my mascot in high school which depicted a Native American.**

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.

My approach to governance is rooted in the belief that a healthy democracy requires more than just the right to vote. It requires the ability to be heard and the power to hold leaders accountable. That is why I send out a weekly newsletter outlining votes, meetings I take, and updates on bills I file. And that is why I respond to every constituent email, and talk about the Legislature and our work at the grocery store, coffee shop, and baseball field. I am in our community and district every day, in conversation with constituents and transparent about what is going on and where I stand on issues.

This session, after hearing from constituents with significant concerns about the House rules, I was a leading voice pushing for many of the reforms that came to be in our latest rules package. I want to make sure that constituents and stakeholders across the Commonwealth feel like the legislative process is available, accessible, and transparent to them, and that is how I lead.

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

As I mentioned above, I was a leading voice in pushing for rules reform this session. That includes publishing votes – which I have done since I became a Chair in 2019 – publishing summaries of bills, reporting bills out 60 days after hearings, and moving up Joint Rule 10.

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, I send out a newsletter weekly that includes explanations of recent votes and details all events I go to and meetings I take.**

- b. Holding office hours on weeknights or weekends at least once per month? **YES, I already do this and will continue to do so.**

- c. Holding town halls in your district at least twice per year? **YES, I already do this and will continue to do so.**

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? **NO. Similar to what was stated in the SJC's recent opinion, I have concerns about how the ballot question was written. I do believe**

stipend reform is needed and have been having conversations about reform with my colleagues in leadership for the last several years. I have also had these conversations with constituents, and will continue to do so.

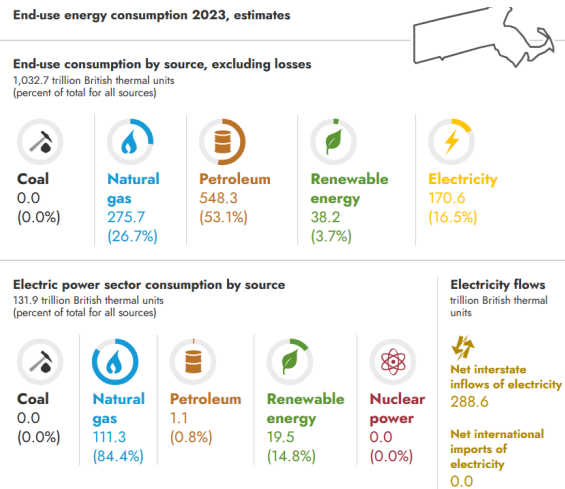
6. **Legislative Research Bureau.** The Massachusetts legislature is the only legislature in the nation without a professional, non-partisan research bureau. Would you support the creation of such an office? **YES**
7. **Expanding Access to Public Meetings.** Would you support updating Open Meeting Law 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

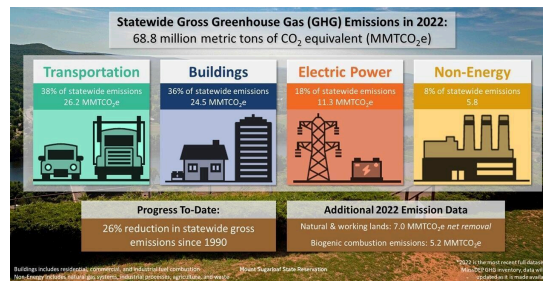
As a coastal state, Massachusetts will be hit particularly hard by climate change, but we are not responding with the necessary urgency. Massachusetts has ambitious and necessary greenhouse gas reduction goals, but we are [not on track](#) to meet them. Our state remains overly dependent on fossil fuels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

My work is rooted in the principle that environmental justice is social justice. It is unacceptable that low-income residents and communities of color disproportionately suffer the consequences of climate change, and I am committed to moving Massachusetts towards a sustainable future that centers environmental justice in every solution. I am also committed to facilitating a just transition for workers in the movement to clean energy, ensuring we protect our planet and workers alike. We have a moral obligation to protect our natural resources and pass on a livable, thriving planet to our children and grandchildren. While we have already done irreparable damage, I continue to work with extreme urgency to move us beyond reactive policy and towards proactive protections that will sustain our Commonwealth for generations to come.

I am working on a number of bills that seek to create a healthier environment, including updating the bottle bill to improve our recycling infrastructure and incentivize bottle redemption, banning polystyrene, and phasing PFAS, or forever chemicals, out of consumer products.

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

I have secured amendments to each of the climate omnibus packages that have passed in the past several sessions. As the former lead filer of the 100% Clean Act, I pulled provisions from that omnibus and filed them as amendments. This includes:

- **Zero-Emission Mandates:** Requiring 100% of new car sales to be electric by 2035.
- **Transit Electrification:** Mandating the electrification of the MBTA and regional transit authority buses.
- **RPS Standards:** Raising the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to 40% by 2050.

Recently, I have worked in close partnership with AFL-CIO President Chrissy Lynch and environmental advocates like ELM to create a green-blue coalition that recognizes the urgency of addressing climate change, and simultaneously seeks solutions that don't leave workers behind in the transition. I have successfully included workforce standards for clean energy procurement and contracting in recent bills to ensure a just transition.

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**

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 am asking you to look at both my record and my lived experience, as both are relevant to who I am as a legislator. Class is often invisible in our country, but my experience growing up in poverty fuels my work and my record shows that my fight for justice is more than words. I chose to continue running for the House and not the Senate because I know my experience, relationships, and leadership skills are needed in the House to continue to do the work that I do. In considering my endorsement, I hope you also consider the populations I center and the tangible results I have delivered on their behalf.