



**PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS**  
**2026 Legislative**  
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate:** Neil S. Miller

**Office Sought:** State Representative, 26th Middlesex

**Party:** Democrat

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# OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

## **Issue Subsections:**

- A. Revenue and Taxation
- B. Jobs and the Economy
- C. Education
- D. Health Care
- E. Housing
- F. Community Safety
- G. A Humane Immigration System
- H. A Welcoming Society
- I. Good Government and Strong Democracy
- J. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

## **I. About You & Your Governing Approach**

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

I'm running for state representative because Massachusetts is failing to deliver for its residents. The rent is too high; essential public services like the T, MassHealth, and unemployment insurance are letting our neighbors down; and we have the least transparent, least productive legislature in the country.

Top 3 priorities

1. Lower your rent. Our housing shortage enriches landlords by forcing tenants to compete against each other, and makes it impossible for families like mine to plan for a future here. I'm running because I actually believe we can make housing in Massachusetts *more affordable*, if we build enough homes for everyone who wants to be our neighbor. To build 200,000 more homes, I support ending exclusionary zoning and parking mandates statewide and funding affordable housing.
2. Services you can rely on. To fix the T, expand public transit, and ensure people have great health care, we should empower public servants and fight back against outsourcing to corporations. This means paying public workers higher salaries; easing hiring pathways into public service; redesigning public services to reduce administrative burden; and establishing an easy-to-use database of state government contracts.
3. Government you can trust. To bring transparency and accountability to the legislature, I support ending Speaker-controlled stipends for chairing do-nothing committees. I will also push for *legislative reviews*, where lawmakers look back at major bills after several years to see if they've been successful solving residents' problems. Finally, we need to stand up for our rights and fight back against ICE – I support banning ICE agents from working as public employees in Massachusetts and excluding corporations that profit from ICE's abuses from state government contracts.

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

I am a public servant who served as a data scientist in the U.S. until last January, quitting two weeks before Trump came back into office. My team worked with the last White House to expand access to programs like SNAP and strengthen the federal workforce.

I am also a housing advocate, organizing since 2020 with A Better Cambridge. Thanks to our advocacy, more than 1000 new affordable homes are going up all around the city. We raised taxes on lab developers to fund affordable housing, lifted wasteful parking mandates, and overturned a century of exclusionary zoning laws. I've personally knocked on thousands of doors, planned outreach events in every neighborhood, and managed 60+ volunteers to elect a pro-housing City Council majority in 2025.

I have been an advocate for progressive causes since high school, when I worked for my hometown state representative. As a former member and chair of the Cambridge Ward 5 Democratic Committee (Cambridgeport, MIT, Central Square), I was elected to be a delegate for Ed Markey in 2020, organized canvasses for the Fair Share Amendment and Work and Family Mobility Act in 2022, and rallied dozens of neighbors to elect Biden, Harris, and Democrats nationwide. I'm currently a graduate student at the Harvard Kennedy School for Government, a graduate student worker and active member of the Harvard Graduate Student Union.

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

Yes! A progressive is someone who fights for policies that help solve society's biggest challenges. Crucially, a policy is only progressive if it actually works – no proposal that widens inequality, blocks affordable housing, or increases fossil fuel emissions is truly progressive, even if it is well-intentioned.

**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?**

One obstacle is that issues are not being debated transparently: committee deliberations are often private, and major bills are released without sufficient time to understand and analyze important provisions. I support rule changes to make committee deliberations public, and to ensure that legislators and the public have time to study bills before they're voted on.

Besides transparency, there is also no accountability for whether legislators are effectively tackling problems like the climate crisis or our housing shortage. When big laws are passed, there's no follow-up to see what worked well, what was not effective, and whether the law can be tweaked to get better results. The state legislature should create an independent legislative research bureau. Additionally, they should hold legislative reviews on major issues that bring community testimonials and data to assess whether recently enacted legislation was successful. And if leadership doesn't want legislative reviews, I'll use my data science skills to convene them myself!

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

Congestion pricing in New York City has been transformative: millions of trips were shifted onto transit, air quality has improved, bus trips into the city are faster than ever before, storefront vacancies have dropped, and \$500 million in new revenue is being invested into public transit annually. I strongly support congestion pricing for the Boston area, with revenue being dedicated to the MBTA.

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

In 2022, the Cambridge City Council voted 8-1 to eliminate parking mandates from our zoning code. Cambridge was the first city in Massachusetts to take this step.

To win such a wide majority, we formed a broad coalition that could speak to the many benefits of this change:

- Renters who would have more affordable housing options; c
- Cyclists and pedestrians who could move around the city more safely
- Environmentalists concerned about auto emissions and impermeable surfaces
- Business leaders who wanted flexibility in how they use their property
- Homeowners who wanted to remove or lease out parking spots they didn't use

I created fact sheets to explain the proposal; organized tabling events in neighborhoods around the city with the bill's lead sponsor and other volunteers; and rallied dozens of supporters to speak at City Council and Planning Board meetings.

Today, there are dozens of projects all around Cambridge that

**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.**

TEXT

**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?**

I respect the incumbent's work and believe we share many of the same values.

One difference in this race is how we'll personally use our position to advance transparency and accountability. My incumbent opponent was appointed by the Speaker to be the vice-chair of a [committee](#), the House Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs, with a \$7700 stipend. That committee has not held any public meetings and has not considered any bills. The committee's chair would not explain the committee's work to the [Globe](#), and until I raised this issue in my campaign, the committee's website did not list any meetings (see archived webpage [here](#)). While no legislator can singlehandedly make the State House transparent, I would ensure that any committee I lead posts agendas and minutes, so our constituents can evaluate our work. Additionally, I will use my platform to focus attention on whether the laws being passed have achieved results, e.g. by posting deep-dives into why we aren't meeting our climate and housing goals.

Additionally, our records on housing – the number one issue in Cambridge and Somerville – are very different. My opponent opposed the building I now live in ([p. 33](#)), which added substantial affordable housing and small businesses to the neighborhood; opposed a private developer funding and building [affordable homes in East Cambridge](#), where

neighbors have now moved in; and argued against plans in [2020](#) and [2023](#) to zone for and fund multifamily housing around the state. In addition to organizing for Cambridge's nation-leading policy changes, I have been a consistent supporter for [more housing](#) and more affordable housing [in my own backyard](#).

## II. The Issues

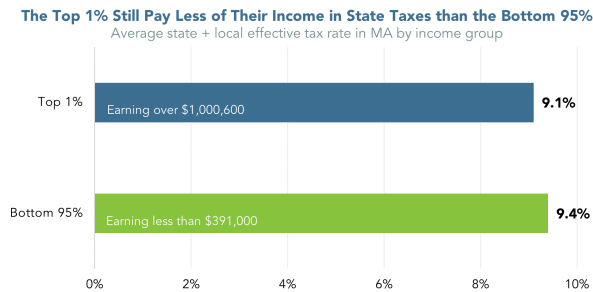
### A. Revenue and Taxation

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.

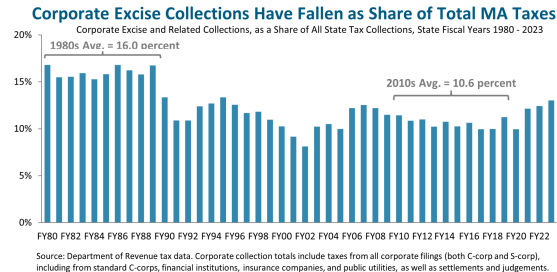
Although we saw a welcome shift when MA voters passed the Fair Share Amendment and added more progressivity to our tax code, the Legislature in 2023 voted to give tax cuts to multi-million-dollar estates, large corporations, and day traders, blunting the full impact of the win. We cannot tax-cut our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

Massachusetts – like America as a whole – in an incredibly wealthy place. However, low taxes mean that wealth accumulates privately, instead of helping to build public goods.

The wealthy and big corporations benefit tremendously from public services, like public education and public transit. They should pay their fair share to reinvest in these services. In addition to strengthening the Fair Share Amendment, I support a wealth tax on the ultra-wealthy. This will help Massachusetts raise revenue, and will also combat inequality.

I am particularly focused on getting dedicated new revenue for the MBTA. I'm in favor of any additional funding, and I especially support measures that adequately reflect the costs of auto-dependency, such as congestion pricing or a vehicle miles travelled (VMT) tax. Additionally, I believe communities should be able to band together and pass regional ballot initiatives to fund transit.

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 work in the U.S. government was focused on hiring and retaining talented public servants. Our work helped the IRS hire thousands of employees who audited rich Americans and big corporations to make sure they paid their taxes.

As past chair of the Ward 5 Democratic Committee in Cambridge, I organized volunteers to canvass for the Fair Share Amendment in 2022.

Here in Cambridge, I supported the City Council's decision in 2022 to raise the "linkage fee" that lab and office developers paid towards affordable housing. I have continuously spoken in favor of raising Cambridge's comparatively low property taxes to fund vital services. My belief in equitable taxation extends across cities, too: while living in Chicago I fought to change practices that gave breaks to downtown office buildings and overtaxed black and brown neighborhoods, and I advocated for congestion pricing when I lived in New York City.

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**

**My opponent supported \$18M in state incentives for Transmedics to [relocate their headquarters from Andover to Assembly Square](#), in our**

**district. While this company does incredible work, and I am glad the jobs came to Somerville, 900 new employees will increase housing demand and rents across the region. I find it hard to understand why a legislator would support spending public funds to help a private company relocate from one part of the state to another, but oppose funding for new homes where those workers could live.**

- 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
<b>Living Wage</b>	\$30.58	\$58.26	\$76.55	\$19.63	\$31.61	\$39.61
<b>Poverty Wage</b>	\$7.67	\$10.40	\$13.13	\$5.20	\$6.57	\$7.93
<b>Minimum Wage</b>	\$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.

Massachusetts should be a bastion of opportunity, where everyone can earn fair wages at jobs that treat them with dignity. This opportunity shouldn't just be for my neighbors who work in tech and biotech. We also need to be creating and protecting good-paying jobs for the folks who build the city, keep us healthy, and work on our main streets.

Reducing inequality starts with great educational opportunities, and that means supporting teachers. My wife and I are public school graduates, and I'm inspired by the teachers in my family: my grandmother and sister were both public school teachers, and my mother-in-law helped form the adjunct professor union at BU. Her organizing helped win job security and health care that was previously withheld from employees who worked at BU for decades, and it shows the power of workers organizing for their rights. As state rep, I will walk the picket line with workers on strike in my community.

That includes graduate student workers. In addition to supporting grad students organizing against wealthy universities, we should support grad students who want to work here after school. The federal government has historically funded scientific research in the U.S. Since Trump is now cutting off those opportunities, Massachusetts should step up and fund research opportunities for early-career scientists.

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

I worked with the last White House to make sure that all federal jobs were good jobs. That included raising wages, expanding benefits, supporting underrepresented workers, and encouraging union organizing in the federal workforce. I analyzed data from the first ever pulse survey of more than 2 million federal workers, and pushed management to act on employees' concerns. For example, I highlighted the burnout being faced by younger, diverse employees who were being paid less than long-tenured colleagues for the same work. Our work was covered when the commissioner of Social Security publicly addressed the concerns SSA employees had about workload and return-to-office mandates.

I also helped strengthen protections for federal contractors, for example raising the minimum wage for federal contractors. Finally, I have written in the Dorchester Reporter and elsewhere about how outsourcing has harmed Massachusetts government services.

As a dues-paying member of the Harvard Graduate Student Union, I will continue to walk the picket line in our ongoing strike.

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? **NO**

**My career has been focused on strengthening public services. The best way to do that is by making sure public servants have the resources – pay, benefits, talented colleagues, and union representation – to do their job well. But if strikes shut down essential public services like public education, public transit, or public health, that will disproportionately hurt our neighbors who can't stay home with their kids, drive to work, or afford private healthcare. When a union dislikes a policy change that's in the public interest, e.g. New York State declining to mandate staffing changes that would make it hard to run more trains on the subway, the threat of a strike shouldn't be used to take power away from the people.**

**I strongly support the right to strike for workers at corporations and private institutions.**

8. **State House Unionization.** Would you support legislation to extend collective bargaining rights to State House staff? **YES**

## C. Education

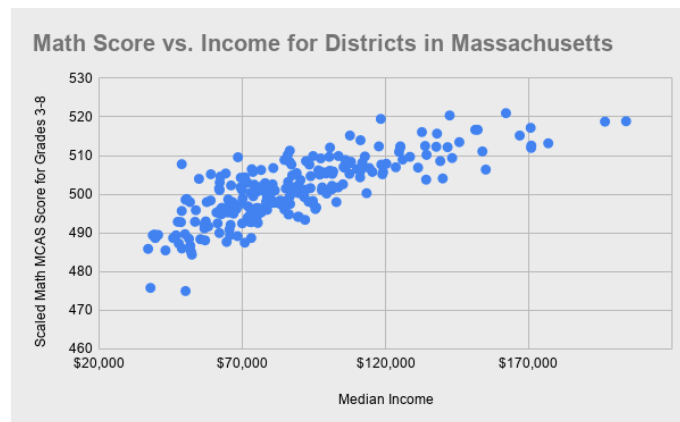
Massachusetts parents and caregivers face the [highest child care and early education costs of any state in the US](#). The average annual cost of infant care in Massachusetts is more than half of what a full-time minimum wage worker earns in a year. These costs are prohibitively expensive for low- and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

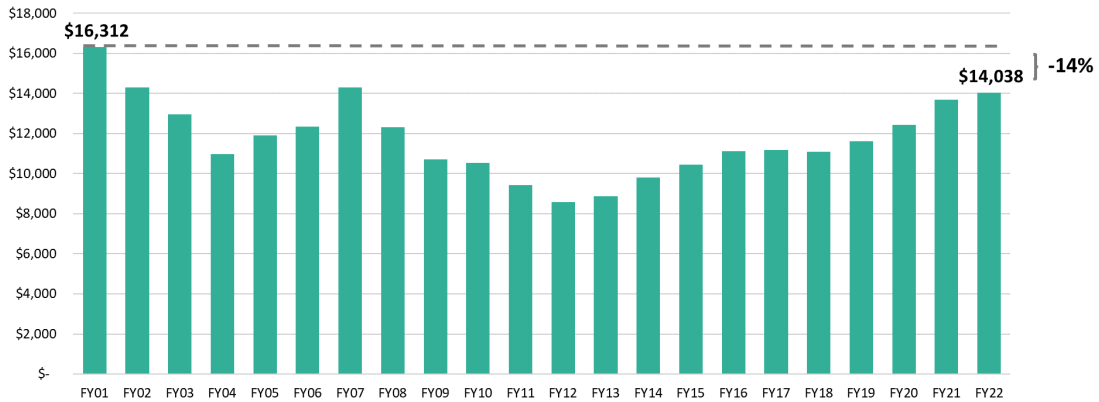
**Standardized test scores have a very strong correlation with the income of the school district. ([Source](#))**



**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.

Everyone in my family graduated from public schools, and I believe that excellent public education is essential to fighting inequality and preserving our democracy. However, too many students in Massachusetts aren't getting the education they deserve. I will fight back against efforts to privatize public education. Instead, we should invest in resources that have been shown to work.

One of the best investments we can make is in early childhood education. I support expanding universal pre-K statewide, and clearing the bureaucratic roadblocks that can slow down school expansions. Beyond just having pre-K, we need to provide high-quality early education, with teachers who are trained and given support in the classroom. And to attract great teachers, pre-K, K-12, or beyond, we need to pay them more.

Some wealthy suburban districts have seen enrollment declines because they don't build affordable housing, or any homes at all for young families. I believe we should not increase state aid to those districts, and instead focus funding on districts that serve low-income families.

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

I worked with Chicago's early childhood education program to assess how teacher pay impacted educational quality. Not surprisingly, paying teachers more led to

better outcomes! Higher pay attracted teachers who were better-qualified, and it reduced stress and turnover for those educators.

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**

**Yes, I support keeping the cap on charter schools. We should also push back against privately run schools that use aggressive legal tactics to siphon students requiring special education away from public school districts. These private schools cost public school districts millions of dollars, without showing a benefit for these students. We should invest in high-quality public school services providing special education, perhaps by sharing services among neighboring school districts. We should also push for transparency into how well these privately run schools perform.**

6. **K-12 Education Funding.** Our public schools are losing out on the full benefits of increased funding due to a glitch in how the Chapter 70 formula treats inflation. The combination of several years of high inflation and an inflation cap in education funding calculations has locked in lower levels of aid to districts. Do you support fixing this gap and ensuring that our school districts get the funding they deserve? **YES**
7. **Receivership.** The Lawrence Public Schools and Southbridge Public Schools are currently under state receivership, with a state-appointed receiver assuming the powers of a superintendent or democratically elected school committee. The state takeover has not produced sustainable gains and has at times been characterized by [chronic mismanagement](#). Would you support ending the practice of state receivership and returning power to democratically elected school committees? **YES**
8. **Guaranteed Education for Incarcerated Youth.** Would you support legislation to mandate that at least 6 hours of credited daily education is available for all incarcerated, school-aged youth, including those with IEPs? **YES**
9. **Comprehensive Sex Education.** Do you support requiring public schools to provide age-appropriate, medically accurate information that is inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities and includes topics such as consent and the effective use of contraception? **YES**
10. **Inclusive Curricula.** Our educational curricula must speak to students’ lived experiences and recognize and celebrate the diversity of our Commonwealth.
  - a. **Racially Inclusive Curricula.** Would you support legislation to ensure that instruction in K-12 education shall include the teaching of accurate histories,

writings, and contributions of racial and ethnic groups that have been historically underrepresented or marginalized? **YES**

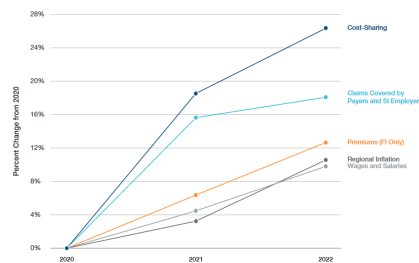
- b. **LGBTQ-Inclusive Curricula.** Would you support legislation to ensure that Massachusetts public schools include sufficient instruction on the histories, roles, and contributions of LGBTQ individuals in the history of this country and the Commonwealth? **YES**
  
11. **Redistributing Institutional Wealth.** Would you support legislation that would levy a small excise tax on private college and university endowments above \$1B to fund free public higher education for all in-state students? **YES**
  
12. **Debt-Free Higher Ed.** Would you support legislation to guarantee Massachusetts residents can graduate Massachusetts' public colleges and trade schools completely free of student loan debt? **YES**
  
13. **Supporting Public Higher Ed Faculty.** Would you support ensuring that adjunct faculty and part-time staff are eligible for state health care and retirement benefits? **YES**
  
14. **Student Protest & Academic Freedom.** Will you support the unequivocal rights of students and faculty to peaceful protest and freedom of expression in Massachusetts' public and private institutions of higher education? **YES. As a Jewish student at Harvard, I have also [spoken out](#) against the Trump administration's attempts to punish protestors.**

## 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

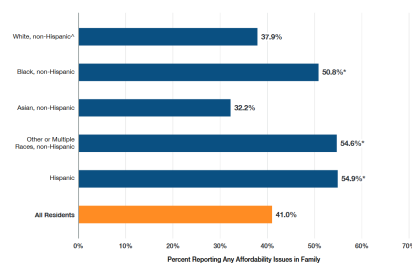


Member cost-sharing and premiums increased at a faster rate than regional inflation and wages and salaries from 2020 to 2022, driven in part by fluctuations in utilization during this time period.

Source: Data from the Massachusetts Department of Labor Statistics. Claims amounts were adjusted for pharmacy inflation reported by payers. Reported cost sharing, premiums, and claims amounts have not been adjusted to account for benefit carve-outs, which may vary by plan. Claims amounts are published monthly from 2020 to 2022, with 2020 data available as Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4 2020 annual data. Rates for wages and salaries are reported by reporting and data for annual data for Q1 2020, Q2 2020, Q3 2020, and Q4 2020. 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.  
 \*Reference group: All residents 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.

The United States spends more than any other country in the world on health care, and has horrible outcomes to show for it. Massachusetts offers amazing medical care for some – I'm running for state representative so all of my neighbors can get world-class care.

Health insurance is the first step. I support a single-payer health care system. I will also prioritize making it easier for residents to access MassHealth, by simplifying the application and verification process. I helped take care of an elderly family member who received literally life-saving support from home health aides under MassHealth, but the stress of applying, re-applying, verifying eligibility, every time she returned from a hospital stay detracted from the quality time we could spend together in her final months. At a time when DC Republicans are trying to drown people in paperwork to kick them off health care, Massachusetts needs to do everything possible to avoid adding our own burdens.

We also need to hire providers and build capacity to address ER wait times and the wait times to see a primary care physician. The PCP problem is especially bad for young people and renters who move and change insurance providers frequently. My family has experienced this first-hand – and it's especially concerning because my wife has a chronic condition and we're planning to have kids in the near future! We need to pay PCPs more (increasing reimbursements and student loan assistance). Massachusetts should also offer incentives for doctors who want to move here from states where medical expertise is under attack by Republican politicians.

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

I have written in the [Dorchester Reporter](#) and elsewhere about the state's failure to deliver on a common application for MassHealth and SNAP. If we developed in-house tech and design capacity within state government, instead of relying on external consultants, it would be much easier for low-income residents to access health care right now.

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**

**Among many other benefits, the stability of a single insurance provider will help young people who currently shift insurance providers with every new job and move. My wife Ariella and I have switched insurance at least eight times since 2019! She relies on a monthly prescription biologic to manage a chronic medical condition, and each switch means a wait for pre-authorization that can delay treatment. The insane bureaucracy of insurance companies has literally made my family sick – Massachusetts deserves better.**

**We should start building up state capacity now to deliver a world-class single payer system. That means hiring skilled public servants to start working out the financial and operational model for Massachusetts. We can also build up capacity by addressing the challenges faced by MassHealth beneficiaries today, like provider shortages and pre-authorization delays. The political window for delivering single payer may be small – state government should be ready to deliver.**

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**

**Recent experience has shown me first-hand how harmful anti-choice policies can be. While my wife Ariella and I were travelling last year, a flareup brought us to an emergency room in Houston, TX. Even though she was in such excruciating pain that Ariella could barely talk, and even though she communicated through the pain exactly what needed attention, the only thing ER intake staff cared about was the possibility that she was pregnant. The audacity of a state like Texas using its power to force medical professionals to withhold care in a life-threatening emergency, and then claim that they are "protecting life," shows why it's so vital for Massachusetts to protect reproductive rights.**

9. **Overdose Prevention Centers.** An essential part of addressing the opioid crisis, overdose prevention centers allow medical professionals to respond to overdoses and engage participants in medical and behavioral health services. Would you support the legalization of overdose prevention centers? **YES**
10. **Vaccination.** Would you support legislation to eliminate non-medical exemptions to the routine vaccines for children required for school entry, as our neighbors in Maine, Connecticut, and New York have already done? **YES**

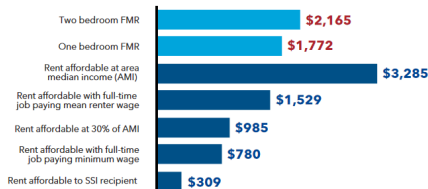
## E. Housing

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

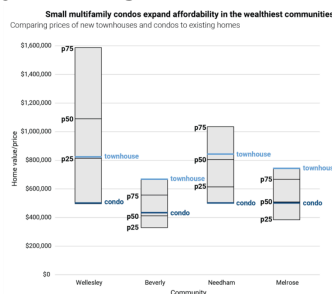
Home ownership has become increasingly out of reach, as the state's median home price is [approximately \\$600,000](#). In more than 20 communities, the median home price recently [passed \\$1 million](#). Meanwhile, we have some of the [most restrictive zoning laws](#) in the country, making it difficult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

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

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



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



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

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

I am running for state representative because it is impossible for families like mine to plan for a future here. The rent is too high – I’m running to make it *lower*. The only way to do that is by building enough homes for everyone who wants to be our neighbor. Whether you’re “from here” or from halfway across the globe – and whether you’ll be here forever or for just a few years – I believe you deserve a place in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts has fallen behind other progressive states in tackling the segregation, sprawl, and unaffordability that comes when every town can set its own zoning policy. Connecticut lifted parking mandates statewide; Maine legalized multifamily housing in every residential neighborhood; and New York, Oregon, and Washington State have funded affordable housing instead of counting on developers to build below-market-rate units. We also need to pass building code reforms, like legalizing single-stair apartments, to help new construction to get built more affordably, and at higher-quality. By ending exclusionary zoning, lifting wasteful parking mandates, and funding affordable housing, we can build 200,000 new homes across the state.

The private market by itself won’t provide homes that low-income neighbors can afford. I support subsidizing low-income renters by increasing the amount and quantity of housing vouchers, and funding the creation of permanently affordable housing.

Finally, as a renter, I know we need to expand tenant protections so landlords can’t take advantage of tenants. I support rent stabilization (see below) and better notifications for tenants about their legal rights. I also support a statewide rental database, so we can see whether the state’s housing policy is helping to bring down rents.

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

I’ve spent six years organizing with A Better Cambridge (ABC), an all-volunteer housing advocacy group. Thanks to ABC’s advocacy, there’s hundreds of permanently affordable homes going up all around us, and I’m proud to have been a leader of so many pro-housing victories. Together, our coalition ended wasteful parking mandates, secured dedicated new funding for affordable housing, and reversed exclusionary zoning to legalize multi-family housing city-wide. I’ve personally knocked on thousands of doors, planned outreach events in every neighborhood, and managed 60+ volunteers to elect a pro-housing City Council majority in 2025. I have been a consistent supporter for [more housing](#) and more affordable housing [in my own backyard](#). When new permanent supportive

housing opened just down the street from me last year, thanks to zoning changes and funding I helped pass, it was a powerful reminder that our advocacy matters.

At the state level, I have also written ([here](#) and [here](#)) about how the current 40B process empowers local police departments and housing opponents to make new housing less affordable and less livable.

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

I oppose the Governor's decision to weaken our right to shelter. Instead of limiting eligibility, we should have moved more aggressively to open new shelters for families facing homelessness. I do commend the state's success creating space at the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in East Cambridge and in Cambridgeport, both within my district.

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 support fees on real estate transfers that lead to commercial redevelopment (into offices/labs) or expensive low-density housing. If a low-density property is being redeveloped into higher-density property with more affordable homes, I believe it should be exempt. We need more affordable housing, so we should be making it more expensive to build.**

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**

**If a low-density property is being redeveloped into higher-density property with more affordable homes, I believe it should be exempt.**

8. **Rent Control.** Massachusetts residents face some of the highest and fastest-growing rents in the country.
- 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**
  - Do you support the proposed 2026 statewide ballot initiative to limit annual rent increases? **NO**

**As a renter, I am generally in favor of rent control/rent stabilization. When my own apartment building was sold, the new landlord raised our rent 14% and tried to steal our security deposit. Double-digit rent increases should not be legal.**

**I'm planning to vote against the current ballot question, though, because it will harm new housing development, especially mixed-income buildings with affordable housing. In Montgomery County, MD, multifamily permits dropped 90% after rent control was enacted, vs. higher multifamily construction in neighboring counties. If the ballot question exempted new construction completely (e.g. St. Paul, MN now exempts all homes built after 2004) or had a longer exemption period (e.g. Mayor Wu's home rule petition exempted new construction for 15 years), I'd be comfortable supporting it.**

**I support local options for rent control, so long as exclusionary municipalities can't exploit it to stop new homes from being built.**

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**

**I'm strongly in favor of inclusionary zoning, and would be one of the only legislators to live in an IZ building. There should be guardrails to ensure exclusionary towns don't set impossibly high affordability mandates, which are functionally backdoor bans on multifamily housing. [Oregon](#), [Washington State](#), and [Paris](#) have been successful creating more affordable homes using funded inclusionary zoning – we should learn from their examples.**

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**

**I strongly support the MBTA Communities Act, and welcome the thousands of new homes that are moving forward in dozens of municipalities. That being said, many communities chose to comply by rezoning existing multifamily properties. Others added limitations, like parking mandates, that make it impossible to build truly transit-oriented housing in the rezoned districts. As a result, the vast majority of communities that have rezoned under the law have not had any new proposals move forward ([source](#)). This paper compliance is an insult to hundreds of thousands of families around Massachusetts who leave every year because of housing costs.**

**Local officials are always going to feel pressure from stably housed homeowners to stop new homes in their neighborhoods. Statewide, though, this will just lead to segregation and unaffordability. The legislature should legalize multifamily housing and lift parking mandates statewide.**

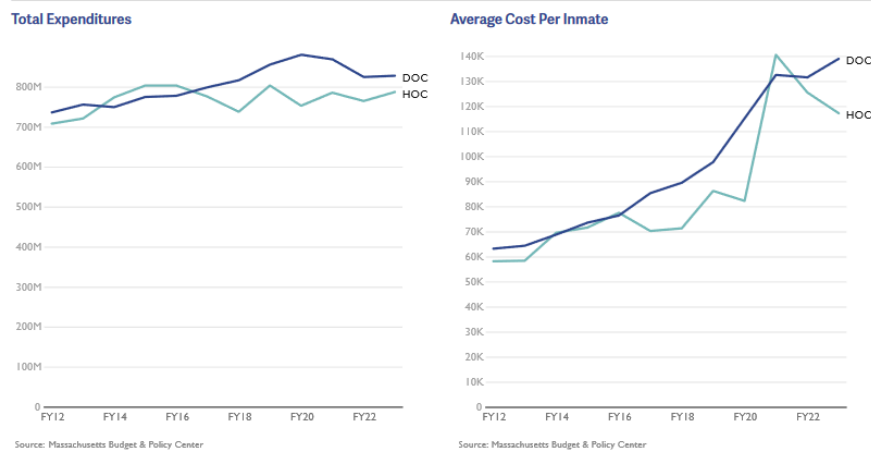
## F. Community Safety

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.

Massachusetts spends too much on policing and incarceration that fails to keep communities safe. We should shift public funds into services that uplift, instead of punish: housing, health care, education, and workforce development.

I will lead the way on bills that reform the parole process, to make sure we're not keeping neighbors incarcerated out of inertia. My wife, a civil rights lawyer, represented an inmate who was incarcerated in Bristol County for 17 years in successful parole proceedings. A parole board hearing two years earlier could have set him free, if a single member of the board had voted differently. When my wife visited her client a year after his release, his health was transformed for the better and he had started a business in his community. While this client persevered, an additional two years of incarceration may be a hurdle too high for many inmates to overcome.

Additionally, we need to rein in the power of police unions to stop accountability for crimes committed by officers. Family friends have sadly borne witness to sexual abuse, violence, and corruption by Boston police officers. In each case, the police union fought to silence criticism and cover up crimes, instead of supporting a fair investigation. With corruption endemic in many police unions, we should not allow them to have a stranglehold on our public safety policy.

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.).

Living on the South Side of Chicago from 2013—2018, I volunteered as a data engineer for the [Civic Police Data Project](#), which documented disparate police misconduct against Black and Brown Chicagoans.

I have also written ([here](#) and [here](#)) about the outsized influence police officers have to shape spending decisions in Massachusetts cities and towns.

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**

**Beyond legislation, I will use my rights as a state legislator to regularly visit Department of Corrections prisons. This serves to conduct oversight and support constituents who have justice-involved family members.**

7. **Solitary Confinement.** Would you support legislation to create universal access to productive out of cell time with programming, education and vocational training for all incarcerated people? **YES**
8. **Prison Moratorium.** Would you support a moratorium on the construction of new prisons and jails in the Commonwealth? **YES**
9. **Keeping Families Connected.** Would you support eliminating the arbitrary, unnecessary restrictions on visitation rights in prisons and jails? **YES**

10. **Clean Slate.** The Massachusetts court system maintains a database of name-based court arraignment records, referred to as Massachusetts Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI). Many people are trapped in poverty and shut out of jobs and housing because of the difficult process to expunge their records, even for cases that did not end in a conviction or occurred when they were teenagers. Would you support...
- a. Requiring the Commissioner of Probation to automatically seal criminal and juvenile records after the applicable waiting periods without requiring individuals to file a petition to do so? **YES**
  - b. Requiring the immediate sealing of a criminal offense if the charge did not end in a conviction? **YES**
11. **Reentry.** The Department of Correction's stated mission is to "prepare [individuals in custody] for safe and successful reentry into the community," but regularly fails to live up to that. Do you support the following measures to strengthen reentry efforts...
- a. Mandating that correctional facilities in Massachusetts assist incarcerated individuals in acquiring valid Massachusetts identification cards before their release? **YES**
  - b. Increasing funding for reentry-related programming? **YES**
12. **Gun Violence Prevention.** Will you vote YES to protect the 2024 gun safety bill on the ballot in November 2026? **YES**

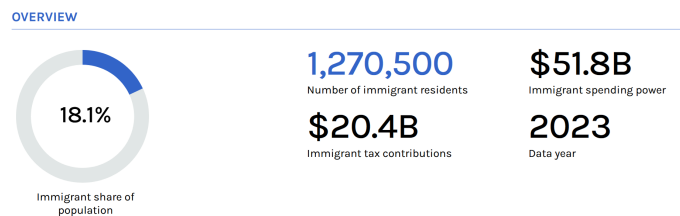
## G. A Humane Immigration System

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

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

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

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



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

My mother-in-law arrived in Massachusetts in the 1980s from the Soviet Union, seeking freedom and love. She is the most patriotic American I know – my family here is proof of how integral immigration is to this community.

While working in the U.S. government under the last administration, I saw how the government can use all of its tools for good causes, like fighting the climate crisis. We need to do the same here in Massachusetts to state up for ICE. I support banning ICE agents from gaining employment in high-trust public positions in Massachusetts, such as police officers or in schools. We should also tell the corporations profiting from ICE contracts that they're ineligible for winning contracts with state government here – and we should band together with other progressive states to wield our market power and make these companies choose a side.

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.).

As a graduate student, I have prioritized being a [welcoming neighbor](#) for

international students coming to Cambridge and Somerville for school.

And no credit for taking action personally, but my wife Ariella recently started a new job as a civil rights attorney defending immigrants from the North Shore. She regularly visits clients facing deportation at Plymouth County Correctional Facility, and represents them in court to ensure they are not being detained or deported unlawfully.

3. **Protecting Our Immigrant Neighbors.** The entanglement of state and local law enforcement with ICE's federal immigration enforcement makes everyone less safe. To end such entanglement, would you support the following measures....?
  - a. Preventing police and court officials from inquiring about immigration status? **YES**
  - b. Prohibiting any new 287(g) agreements, i.e., agreements in which state and local law enforcement are deputized to act as ICE agents? **YES**
  - c. Calling on Gov. Healey to end the Department of Correction's 287(g) agreement with ICE, the only such contract in New England and the only such contract in a state with a Democratic governing trifecta? **YES**
  - d. Prohibiting local law enforcement from assisting ICE such as by allowing ICE to use facilities, properties, and equipment or providing information to ICE such as relating to upcoming court appearances? **YES**
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**

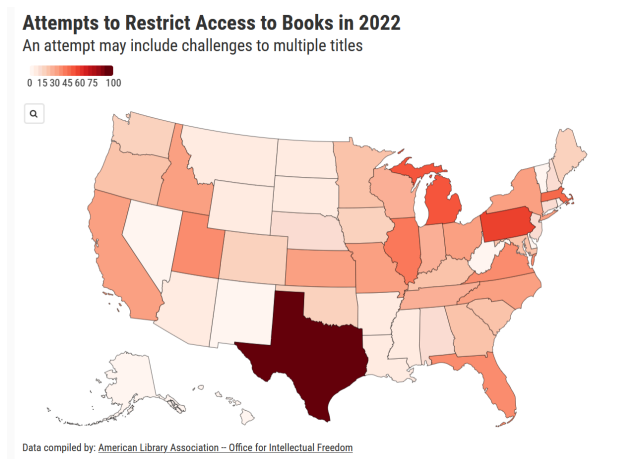
## H. A Welcoming Society

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 considers itself a welcoming state. But as long as a home in Massachusetts remains expensive, my neighbors will continue to move out to Texas and Florida. As long as Massachusetts remains out of reach, thousands of trans Americans who might have otherwise become our neighbors are stuck in states that don't respect their existence. We can build 100,000s more homes, make housing more affordable, and truly live up to our values.

Data security: the Trump administration and private actors are trying to wield the personal data of MA residents against patients and doctors. As a data scientist with experience implementing data sharing strategies in the federal government, academia, and the private sector, I want to make sure MA's data protections are rock solid.

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

Professionally, I help design and deploy one of the first surveys of US government employees that asked about sexual orientation and gave trans employees the opportunity to self-identify. To build an equitable workforce and deliver great services, we needed to know whether the 2 million employees in the federal workforce were representative of the communities they serve, and hear where we were falling short empowering employees. Working with the White House, I used this data to identify disparities in the support services employees received. Other teams across the government adapted our survey design for their own use.

3. **Right to Read.** Right-wing efforts to ban books from school or public libraries disproportionately target books about LGBTQ people and communities of color. Would you support legislation to prevent book removal due to personal or political views in public and school libraries, require public libraries to adopt the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, and protect librarians from retaliation? **YES**
4. **Data Privacy.** In recent years, we have seen the dangers of unregulated data markets: right-wing groups tracking women seeking abortion care, domestic abusers tracking partners/exes, ICE agents tracking immigrants, and much more.
  - a. Do you support passing legislation to ban companies from selling our sensitive data, such as biometric and location information? **YES**
  - b. Do you support applying a private right of action to privacy laws, to ensure consumers have access to the civil court system when companies violate the law? **YES**
5. **Indigenous People's Day.** Would you support legislation to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples in state statute as the recognized holiday on the second Monday of October? **YES**
6. **School Mascots.** Would you support legislation to prohibit the use of Native American mascots in Massachusetts public schools? **YES**

## I. Good Government and Strong Democracy

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Source: MassLive](#)

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

Massachusetts has one of the least productive, least transparent, and least competitive state legislatures in America. Barriers to voting, including the lack of same-day voter registration, disproportionately shuts out young people and voters who move frequently. It is also unacceptable that state primaries are held in early September, when thousands of renters move and families are busy with the new school year. This year, the election will be held literally on September 1, when thousands of my Cambridge and Somerville neighbors will be moving or helping their friends move. In races like this, the primary election is the election. Even if it's clear from our policies that Massachusetts is not looking out for renters and young families, these barriers to voting put an even finer point on it.

To revitalize democracy in Massachusetts, the legislature should also discuss the major obstacles to participating at the local level.

- One is the overreliance on unrepresentative community meetings and unelected land use boards to make decisions about housing and infrastructure. I support statewide zoning reform, so development decisions aren't unduly influenced by those with the time and resources to attend these meetings. Predictable development decisions would also reduce the advantage big developers have navigating discretionary processes, vs. local neighbors who want to build in their community.
- I also support rescheduling local elections to align with high-turnout general elections in even years. (Cities have local elections in odd years, and towns have local elections in spring.) The separation of these races means local officials are elected by a small minority of voters.
- Finally, open town meetings have very low attendance. In many towns, over 90% of residents will never attend town meeting. These bodies make extremely important decisions, like what services to prioritize, how high taxes should be, and who gets to live in a community. Attendees are disproportionately long-time homeowners, and these meetings don't reflect communities' diversity. I would support a bill to study how open town meeting, representative town meeting, and council forms of government differ in terms of participation and outcomes.

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

Here in Cambridge, I ran the City Council campaign for an all-volunteer pro-housing group, A Better Cambridge (ABC). Every election year, ABC knocks on thousands of doors of renters and affordable housing tenants all around the city, to help people register to vote and then show up at the polls for pro-housing candidates. The impact is drastic: when young people and renters vote, we elect candidates who look out for our interests. Each City Council election has seen higher turnout than the last.

I have long supported legislative rules reform. I worked with Act on Mass in 2020 to organize a meeting for 20 neighbors with our then-state representative (now redistricted), to push for public committee votes.

Finally, I worked as a research assistant for a project studying digital civic infrastructure across MA's 351 municipalities. This project highlighted bright spots, like the emergence of community-supported hyper-local news sources in many towns. But I also dug into the data and found that participation in local democratic processes is concerningly low – many towns never hear from 80% or more of their voters. Massachusetts is a birthplace of American democracy – we can do more to revitalize civic engagement across the Commonwealth.

3. **Accessibility.** Central to good government is accessibility and responsiveness. Would you commit to the following?
  - a. Sending out a newsletter that includes explanations of recent votes at least once per month? **YES**
  - b. Holding office hours on weeknights or weekends at least once per month? **YES**
  - c. Holding town halls in your district at least twice per year? **YES**
4. **Public Records Law.** Massachusetts is the only state where the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the Judiciary claim full exemptions from the public records laws. Do you support the ballot initiative to eliminate these exemptions? **YES**
5. **Legislative Accountability.** Massachusetts's system of 'leadership stipends' is an outlier among the 50 states. Do you support the ballot initiative to reform this system to create a fairer pay structure and hold committees to higher standards of transparency and productivity? **YES**

**Yes, absolutely. My incumbent opponent was appointed by the Speaker to be the vice-chair of a [committee](#), the House Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs, with a \$7700 stipend. That committee has not held any public meetings and has not considered any bills. The committee's chair would not explain the committee's work to the [Globe](#), and until I raised this issue in my campaign, the committee's website did not list any meetings (see archived webpage [here](#)).**

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**

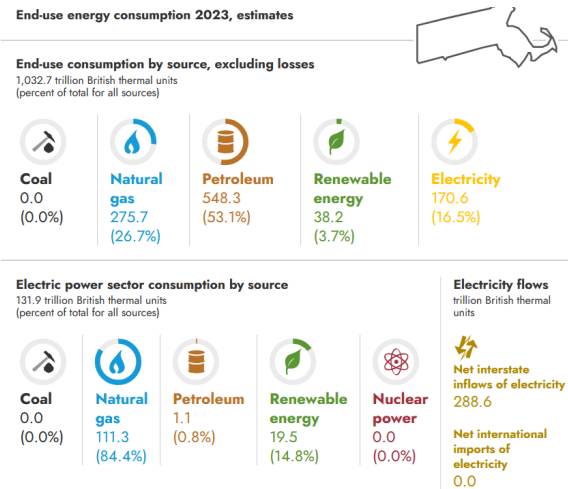
9. **Inactive Voter Lists.** Massachusetts is the *only* state in the country where voters are placed on the Inactive Voter List—one step before being removed from the voter rolls—if they fail to return our annual municipal census. Do you support removing this barrier to participation? **YES**
10. **Ranked 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

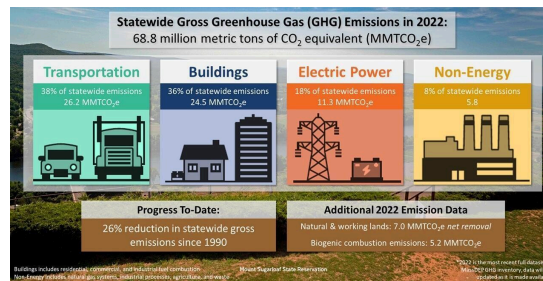
As a coastal state, Massachusetts will be hit particularly hard by climate change, but we are not responding with the necessary urgency. Massachusetts has ambitious and necessary greenhouse gas reduction goals, but we are [not on track](#) to meet them. Our state remains overly dependent on fossil fuels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

Fighting climate change is the challenge of our lifetime. Technological advancement has made it possible to rapidly decarbonize – now we need the political will to get it done.

To rapidly decarbonize, I will fight to:

- Expand access to public transit, running more frequent buses and trains to the places where people live, work, and play.
- Build more clean energy, like solar and offshore wind, as well as battery storage and transmission lines to use that clean energy.
- Build hundreds of thousands of new homes near public transit. New buildings are vastly more energy-efficient than old buildings.

At 30 years old, I'll be one of the youngest state legislators in Massachusetts (possibly the youngest). Friends in my generation can become despondent at the spectre of climate change, and on occasion I feel the same way. I'm running so that my children can lead beautiful lives well into the 22nd century. So I will push back against policies that keep emissions high, even if they are well-intentioned. This includes rules that make it harder to build energy-efficient public housing but don't apply to inefficient mansions, and to unfunded mandates on public transit systems which shift resources away from expanding service. We only have one planet, and the legislature needs to hold itself accountable for keeping it livable.

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

I became a housing advocate in Cambridge, joining a campaign launched with Sunrise Boston, largely because of the climate crisis. The best way local governments can help fossil fuel emissions is by building more homes near transit. I personally do not own a car, and get around on bike, transit, and by walking. I am proud to have pushed Cambridge to legalize and build housing that allows thousands more people to live in a place where they don't need to drive so often.

I have volunteered with TransitMatters, an pro-transit organization in greater Boston. I worked on a project with TransitMatters about first-last mile connections to commuter rail stations, from Brockton to Melrose. I also participated in the [First/Second Street Study](#), advocating for bike and bus infrastructure in East Cambridge. Finally, when I lived in New York, I was an advocate for rapid bus lanes and bike infrastructure through my neighborhood.

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**

**I would support requiring an all-electric system by 2035 if we provide full funding to get it done, without reducing service. Based on the [T's experts](#) and its proposed 2027-2031 Capital Investment Plan, the current 2040 mandate (just for electric buses) will cost over \$2 billion, factoring in new vehicles and garages. We have not given the T anywhere near \$2 billion, so meeting the current deadline comes at the expense of maintenance, running additional service, and expansions like the Red-Blue connector, regional rail, or extending the blue and orange lines. The MBTA is just 1% of MA's transportation emissions – one more diesel bus full of passengers is greener than 100 new Teslas.**

**Assuming that these tradeoffs aren't real buys into the conservative framing that**

**government can simply “do more with less.” I trust the public servants at the T to lay out these decisions honestly; it’s the legislature’s job to set priorities.**

11. **Free Public Transit.** Do you support making public transit in the Commonwealth fare-free? **YES, I support fare-free public transit as long as we fully fund any lost revenue.**

**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.