



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2026 Legislative
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Paul Ruseau

Office Sought: State Representative, 34th 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've lived in the Medford-Somerville area for more than two decades - first in Somerville, and for the past 21 years in Medford, where I live with my husband Bob and our two kids, Nev and Matthew.

By day, I'm a software engineer at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, where my work supports the technology behind life-saving cancer research.

For the past 9 years I've served on the Medford School Committee - five terms fighting for students, educators, and families in this community.

But where I come from shapes everything about why I'm running.

I grew up experiencing homelessness and food insecurity - without access to medical, dental, or mental healthcare. Those experiences have shaped everything I've done since, and taught me what government should be: a force that protects the most vulnerable and makes sure everyone has a stable home, enough to eat, and a real shot at a good life, and it's why I've spent years fighting for the kids and families who are still living that reality right here in our communities.

As a five-term member of the Medford School Committee, I've spent years turning values into policy. We ended out-of-school suspensions - a practice that disproportionately harms students of color and high-needs students. We brought free meals to every student in Medford, because no child should sit hungry in class. We rewrote our bullying prevention plan, our dress code, and our disciplinary policies from the ground up. But there's work that cannot be finished at the local level. We need a champion at the State House - someone who is ready to fight on day one. The families in this district deserve a voice that has lived their struggles, has delivered real results, and isn't afraid to fight for them.

We ask a lot of our educators, and more broadly, those in caretaker roles in our society. We need to fix how childcare and education work in the Commonwealth: Universal pre-K and affordable childcare are not luxuries - they are necessities. We must deliver on our promise of a world-class education for our children and crucial support systems for working families.

Healthcare, housing, and education are tangled up with each other - you can't fix one without the others. We need Medicare for All. Guaranteeing healthcare to every person in this Commonwealth makes our communities more stable, and our neighbors more likely to thrive.

Let me be direct about what's happening in our schools right now - ICE is terrifying our families. Students are coming to school frightened, distracted, and grieving, if they come at all. Teachers don't know what to say, and parents are afraid to drop their children off. At the state level, there is far more we can do to better protect our immigrant neighbors and ensure that Medford, Somerville, and Massachusetts remain welcoming places for everyone. By extension, we must act boldly to combat federal overreach and ensure that the rights of Massachusetts residents don't come at the expense of the President's agenda. We must end all local ICE detention and 287(g) agreements in Massachusetts, fund legal representation for immigrants facing deportation, limit police-ICE collaboration, protect courthouse access, and ensure due process for all residents regardless of immigration status.

Fix the Funding Formula. Somerville and Medford are being shortchanged, receiving hold-harmless minimum increases year after year after year. The way the state distributes local aid to our communities is broken, and it's costing us in our schools, our services, and our stability. Our cities generate real economic activity for this state, and we deserve a fair return. I will go to Beacon Hill and fight every single day to fix the formula and deliver the resources our communities have earned. I'll update Chapter 70 so every district gets what it needs, including inflation adjustments and fair transportation funding for non-regional districts like Medford.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

When I became a School Committee member our policies had not been updated in more than a decade - none of them. Meanwhile there are well over a hundred policies that require updates each year. The backlog was, and remains, staggering. But this mountain of work did not deter me and I got to work. I have been the Rules and Policy Subcommittee chair since 2018, and I have personally written all but two of the policies we have adopted since then. I do not have interest in waiting for someone else doing the work - I do it myself. I work hard to ensure all the right people at the table. I hear from them and then craft policy that meets their needs and the goals we have identified through outreach.

As someone that knows in my bones what it is like to be dirt poor as a child, it's frustrating to watch adults without this lived experience be solely in charge of designing "solutions" to help these children. I understand that the lived experience of those we seek to lift up must be at the center of the work - rather than writing something and saying "hey, how does this look to you?", legislators must be better at saying "how can we make this work for you?" This is how I approach policy and how I will approach legislation.

When I talk about my own experience, knowing by 3rd grade that there were two school systems, those for kids with means, and those for kids like me, and that the present of grants I could apply for as a poor kid was meaningless - and explaining WHY it was meaningless, well, that really hits hard with the people I communicate with on the topic of poverty. I didn't 'miss out' on the field trip to France - I never even considered I would

be going on such a field trip like the other kids - by the time I was in high school that was completely outside of the universe I lived in. Our political system, for a long time, was dominated by (and continues to be driven by) an elite class, which to me seems antithetical to the goal of governance and public policy. We need to rethink so many of the services we provide and center our residents that want to use them - this requires their voices and an understanding of the direct impact on real lives when crafting legislation.

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

I certainly do consider myself a progressive, yes. We talk about equity ad nauseum in our movement. A living wage is not \$15/hour or even \$20/hour. A living wage is pay that allows all of us to have ONE job and afford to live comfortably, childcare, food, healthcare, mental healthcare, dental healthcare, housing, disposable income for recreation, and care for all of our most vulnerable members of our communities regardless of why they are vulnerable. Massachusetts loves to tout how progressive we are as a state, and well, that is just not true by nearly every measure. Are most of our residents thriving? Not even close.

For me, a progressive is willing to also come to terms with the reality that we have systems in place that don't need to have fixes - but have to be replaced entirely. An example of that is housing - until we decommodify housing we will not build our way out of the housing crisis. If the market could have solved this - why hasn't it solved it yet? Because the system is designed to enrich property owners, and to protect property ownership above all else.

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 machinery of the legislature is the biggest obstacle to passing progressive policy - but just like when I began my time on the school committee, I'm not deterred by massive problems - in fact, I am motivated by them.

When I analyze the problem 'why don't we pass more legislation' I find a few things that jump out at me that may be root causes. 1) the volume of bills filed, and 2) the lack of transparency that allows the public to know what their legislators are really up to.

I will work to change how many bills are filed. I have a Masters in Human Factors in Information Design - and when I see 6000 bills filed by the House alone - I approach that as a cognitive load problem. Many bills are filed that are copies of other bills. This can be solved through rules changes - allowing many legislators to file a bill and claim they 'filed' or 'sponsored' the bill. There is no requirement that there can only be one - why not 20 folks getting to return to their district and say they 'filed' the bill? Instead duplicative bills clog up the system.

From what I have heard from current legislators, many bills are filed and even the sponsors do not show up to support the bill. This smells bad to me. It sounds like legislators wanting to be able to tell their constituents 'yes, I filed that bill!' so they can get re-elected, meanwhile they don't actually support it. This will be a hard one to crack - but if this problem can get some sunshine I think two things will happen - there will be fewer bills filed, and we may get some legislators that wear a cloak of 'progressivism' when it is merely a tool for getting elected.

Reducing the number of bills filed is a must in my opinion. Doing so will free up time and mental capacity in the legislature to work on big bills - medicare for all for instance.

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

Medford passed the Values-Aligned Local Investments Ordinance requiring that our public dollars are not invested in the destruction of our world, whether that is the environment or her people. The idea that there is a fiduciary responsibility of government investments to make money at the expense of the literal future of our ability to live on this planet, or by killing other people has to be challenged.

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

Deconstructing systems of racism has been top of my priority list for many years as a School Committee member. These issues have been incredibly divisive and caused community turmoil. However, as an elected official I feel a strong duty to tackle these issues because, well, who else will!? There are topics for which there is no scenario where everyone will be singing songs together during or after change has begun. This happened in Medford when I put forth the resolution to rename the Columbus Elementary school. It was a remarkably divisive experience that required police monitoring the homes of School Committee members due to threats. I did not for even one moment doubt the course of action that we were on.

Open Meeting Law applies to School Committees, so the coalition of elected officials was only three of us (there are seven School Committee members in Medford). While a majority did publicly support this change - some members were less than thrilled by the prospect of what it would entail. However, the community that supported this change far outweighed the community that was opposed to the change and the school was renamed the Missituk Elementary.

From this experience however I took a different approach to the dress code policy. Dress code policies in schools are notoriously racist, sexist, and classist. In particular, the treatment of cis female bodies was an issue brought to my attention. Without detailing examples, there were different rules based on gender and race - including written policy that had explicit differences.

I began the process of changing this policy by meetings that elevated the student experience - and that was the way to go. While there was some pushback from some staff and families, the vast majority of feedback was positive. I am deeply proud of the final policy which empowers our students and families, and makes clear that outdated views on how a person presents themselves have no place in our schools. This policy change had significant and real impact and improved the lives of our students, and I believe our entire school community.

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

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

Christine Barber is a friend, and someone I look up to. She is dedicated to the work, and I trust her. I've been proud to call her my State Representative.

It is easy from the outside to say I will do things differently - especially on transparency. I have struggled with the compromises Representative Barber has made - but again, without being in the room, and without any transparency, it is hard to know if I would have made similar compromises.

I can say I am similar in that I will work hard, very hard, for the district and for the entire Commonwealth. I am not running for office for me - quite the opposite. I would not run for this position if I felt there was a better candidate for the job. I am running for office to do the work - the work, i.e., the people of Massachusetts, are why I am running for office.

II. The Issues

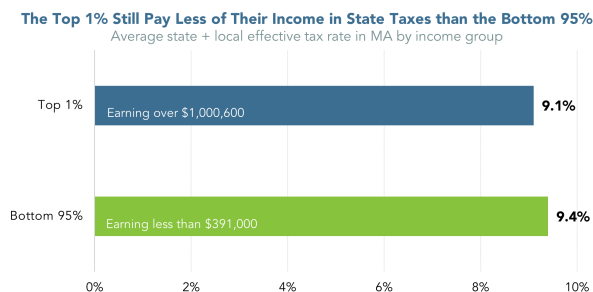
A. Revenue and Taxation

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.

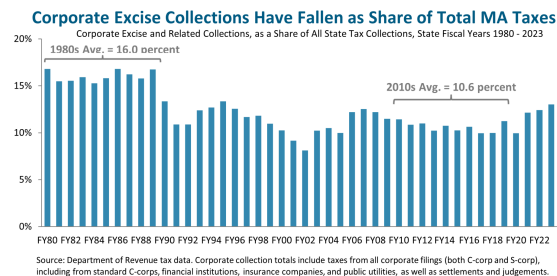
Although we saw a welcome shift when MA voters passed the Fair Share Amendment and added more progressivity to our tax code, the Legislature in 2023 voted to give tax cuts to multi-million-dollar estates, large corporations, and day traders, blunting the full impact of the win. We cannot tax-cut our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

Washington State just passed a 10% millionaires tax. We must increase the millionaires tax significantly. Additionally, we must be more progressive here - why not an even higher tax rate for those making more than \$2m, and \$3m? We have to stop talking about this kind of income as if we are talking about the difference someone experiences when they make \$50k or \$60k and get real on what these numbers really mean.

I support a truly progressive tax system in Massachusetts - we have to lower the tax rate for some of our residents, and raise it for many others. This system should raise more revenues - not the same.

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.).

I have been a vocal advocate of getting rid of Prop 2 ½, and recently, we successfully passed a Prop 2 ½ Override here in Medford for the first time. Additionally, I support returning to communities the ability to have direct taxation for school districts and decoupling education from the municipal budgeting entirely.

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.

Policies that promise fair wages, protect the right to organize, and put an end to working-class exploitation are long overdue, especially as it becomes increasingly harder to establish roots and feel economically secure in today's world - no one working full time should ever live in poverty. I watched my father work hard and never make ends meet where heat, food, and on-time rent payments were inconsistent. This showed me what it is like to live without a good-paying job: people cannot thrive without a good-paying job.

We have to put an end to worker misclassification to better protect Gig-Economy workers, not just raise the minimum wage, but adjust it for inflation and cost-of living, and more broadly, ensure that the state has a vested interest in investing dollars back into their communities, like a public bank or low-interest loans to small businesses. When workers do well, Massachusetts does too. We must address the seasonal worker challenges in our UI system.

We also have to be preparing for and enacting legislation that will handle the likely impacts on workers of the AI revolution that is taking place. With more than half of workers in our state being knowledge workers we are at a very high risk for substantial displacement of jobs to AI - whether that is layoffs, or simply a slowing in hiring as productivity increases reduce the need for workers. We must act now to develop systems to support workers being laid off from such jobs when there may not be another job for them at all, and provide training to help transition those being displaced by AI. We also need to consider the impacts of this increased productivity which will further increase profits for corporations. The loss of employment cannot simply mean the rich get richer - we have a stake in this and have to play our hand as regulator to protect our residents and the commonwealth.

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.).

As a member of the bargaining team for the Medford School Committee I have bargained with 10 unions over the years. This experience has been incredible and invaluable as it has really given me a great look into unions - I am not a member of and do not have family members that are part of unions.

I have been proud of my work to increase wages for our lowest paid workers in particular. In 2020, in the midst of a pandemic, and during the first negotiations of my time as an elected official, I insisted on a 25% increase for our paraprofessionals. Their wages were abhorrently low and while 25% wasn't going to make them living wages, it was a start. The starting annual pay when I was elected was \$14,800, and

it is now more than twice that. These next two years of the contract we settled last year will see them get 8% increases each year. This will be hard on the district budget - but I firmly believe we cannot balance our budget on the back of workers and I refuse to do so.

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

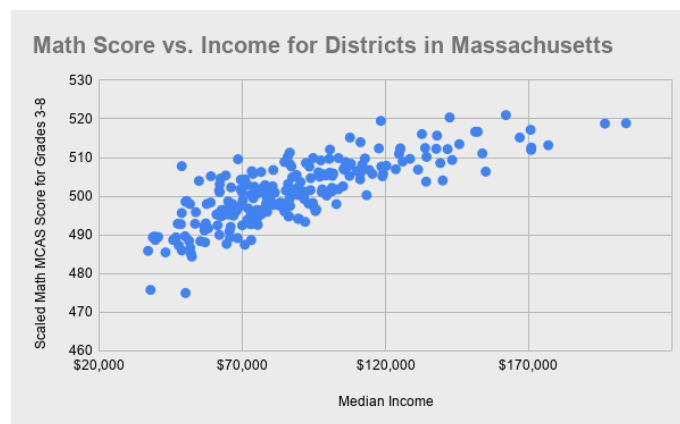
Massachusetts parents and caregivers face the [highest child care and early education costs of any state in the US](#). The average annual cost of infant care in Massachusetts is more than half of what a full-time minimum wage worker earns in a year. These costs are prohibitively expensive for low- and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

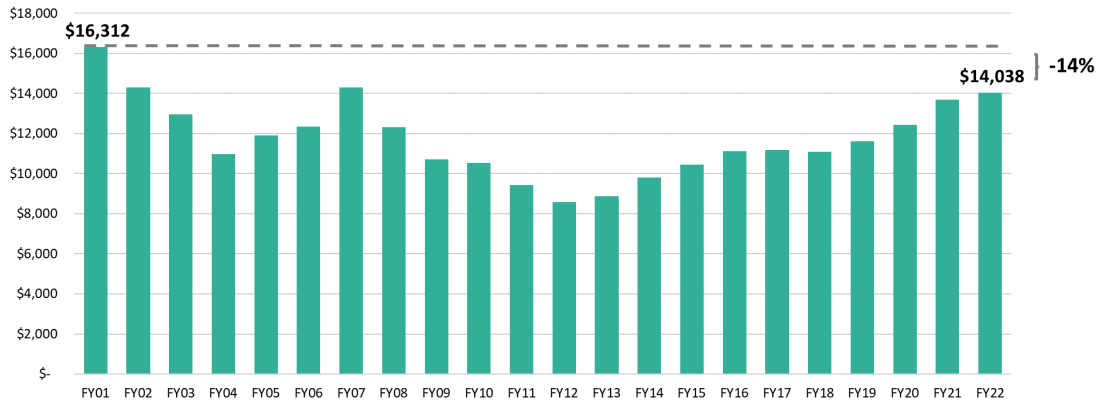
Standardized test scores have a very strong correlation with the income of the school district. ([Source](#))



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 had a third grade teacher, Mrs. Houpis, who I felt was the first adult who truly cared about me and steered me in a positive direction. When things were chaotic at home, I knew that at school there was someone that really believed in me. When home life isn't providing that bedrock for our children, schools become that safe space.

Massachusetts' claim to be the leader in education is incredibly upsetting to me. Averages don't tell a meaningful story about almost anything - yet we rely on them endlessly.

There are communities spending vastly more than others and 'achieving' less. Do they have worse educators? No, of course not. Massachusetts' approach to funding education is a disgrace. We allow a student living one house over from another (two towns) to have an educational experience so vastly different one would think they lived in different countries. Massachusetts should be ashamed, and I am.

Now, who is to blame? The 1993 Education Reform act was enacted because of the problem of this extreme inequality in funding. But it is time to move on from merely lessening the inequality to solving it - this is a solvable problem - Vermont did it, and other places have too. Schools should be funded entirely through the state. Only the state has the resources to ensure our rural communities and

regional schools can afford to educate their children. ALL the children of Massachusetts are OUR children - and it is time we enact policy that actually reflects that.

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

There have been several policy changes in Medford that some colleagues were not thrilled to participate in because of the conflict they would engender. The Columbus School renaming, as mentioned above, the dress code policy, which I brought from a traditionalist, sexist, and frankly racist policy to one that is one we have today, the ending of out-of-school suspensions, which was disproportionately harming our students of color, and the free school meals policy we adopted before the commonwealth passed the same policy. All of these were contentious, with a lot of community pushback (and support too). I pushed on all of these and am proud that they were all passed without being watered down.

3. **Affordable Child Care.** Would you support legislation to make child care free for low-income families and ensure that no family has to pay more than 7% of their income on child care? **YES**
4. **Universal Pre-K.** Would you support creating universal, free Pre-K, accessible to any resident of Massachusetts, integrated into the public school system? **YES**
5. **Charter Schools.** Charter schools siphon millions of dollars for public education away from public schools and create a two-track system of public schools described by the national NAACP as “separate and unequal.” Do you support keeping the cap on charter schools? **YES**
6. **K-12 Education Funding.** Our public schools are losing out on the full benefits of increased funding due to a glitch in how the Chapter 70 formula treats inflation. The combination of several years of high inflation and an inflation cap in education funding calculations has locked in lower levels of aid to districts. Do you support fixing this gap and ensuring that our school districts get the funding they deserve? **YES**
7. **Receivership.** The Lawrence Public Schools and Southbridge Public Schools are currently under state receivership, with a state-appointed receiver assuming the powers of a superintendent or democratically elected school committee. The state takeover has not produced sustainable gains and has at times been characterized by [chronic mismanagement](#). Would you support ending the practice of state receivership and returning power to democratically elected school committees? **YES**
8. **Guaranteed Education for Incarcerated Youth.** Would you support legislation to mandate that at least 6 hours of credited daily education is available for all incarcerated, school-aged youth, including those with IEPs? **YES**
9. **Comprehensive Sex Education.** Do you support requiring public schools to provide age-appropriate, medically accurate information that is inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities and includes topics such as consent and the effective use of contraception? **YES**

10. **Inclusive Curricula.** Our educational curricula must speak to students' lived experiences and recognize and celebrate the diversity of our Commonwealth.
- a. **Racially Inclusive Curricula.** Would you support legislation to ensure that instruction in K-12 education shall include the teaching of accurate histories, writings, and contributions of racial and ethnic groups that have been historically underrepresented or marginalized? **YES**
 - b. **LGBTQ-Inclusive Curricula.** Would you support legislation to ensure that Massachusetts public schools include sufficient instruction on the histories, roles, and contributions of LGBTQ individuals in the history of this country and the Commonwealth? **YES**
11. **Redistributing Institutional Wealth.** Would you support legislation that would levy a small excise tax on private college and university endowments above \$1B to fund free public higher education for all in-state students? **YES**
12. **Debt-Free Higher Ed.** Would you support legislation to guarantee Massachusetts residents can graduate Massachusetts' public colleges and trade schools completely free of student loan debt? **YES**
13. **Supporting Public Higher Ed Faculty.** Would you support ensuring that adjunct faculty and part-time staff are eligible for state health care and retirement benefits? **YES**
14. **Student Protest & Academic Freedom.** Will you support the unequivocal rights of students and faculty to peaceful protest and freedom of expression in Massachusetts' public and private institutions of higher education? **YES**

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

Having insurance is how we have measured 'access' for too long. Access is how we should measure access. High deductible health plans have many residents not using the services they pay for because they cannot afford the deductibles - which is in many ways like having no insurance at all. Healthcare that requires people to travel (especially in places without public transportation) is yet another way access is restricted.

Medicare for All is the only solution - we have to remove all the profiteering from the delivery of healthcare.

Without a centralization of healthcare similar to how the state must tackle education, there are no models for which rural healthcare does not continue to spiral toward insolvency and reduced access. Band-aids have limited function and we are long past acknowledging that and doing something about it.

Healthcare services need to be where people are - in the communities and close to public transportation where possible.

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 worked my entire career in healthcare information technology, and I'm proud of how I have helped clinicians provide the best for their patients, and is the major motivation for my remaining in this domain even though there are more lucrative opportunities.

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

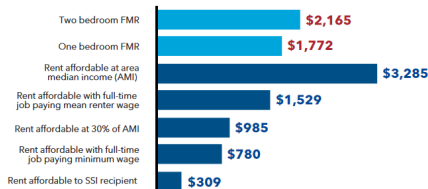
E. Housing

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

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

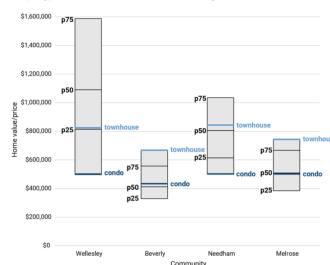
The high cost of housing has led to displacement, and in a growing number of municipalities, the local workforce can no longer afford to live there.

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



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

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



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

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

Social housing, decommodification of housing, and a massive increase in publicly owned, mixed income housing is the path forward here. We also must eliminate zoning from communities that are designed to prevent an increase in housing, and ensure that single family housing zoning with its deeply racist history becomes history itself.

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

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

Limiting the number of people that can stay in emergency shelters is outrageous. Massachusetts sits on a massive rainy day fund - and an influx of people that have nowhere to live sure seems like an emergency worthy of using some of those funds. I will speak out against such artificial and arbitrary limits.

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

5. **Everyone Needs ID.** Would you support easing access to Mass IDs for people experiencing homelessness by waiving the \$25 fee for IDs and easing the verification requirements for youth and adults who are unhoused and seeking IDs? **YES**

6. **Local Option Real Estate Transfer Fee.** Would you support enabling all cities and towns the flexibility to design and pass real estate transfer fees that will be effective in their municipalities to raise money for affordable housing production? **YES**

7. **Green and Affordable Communities.** Would you support doubling the current Deeds Excise Tax (from \$4.56 per \$1,000 to \$9.12 per \$1,000), upon the sale of real property in Massachusetts, to create a new funding stream to be split evenly between affordable housing and climate resiliency? **YES**

8. **Rent Control.** Massachusetts residents face some of the highest and fastest-growing rents in the country.

- a. Would you support lifting the statewide ban on rent control and enabling cities and towns to pass rent stabilization ordinances to limit annual rent increases? **YES**

- b. Do you support the proposed 2026 statewide ballot initiative to limit annual rent increases? **YES**

9. **Tenant Opportunity to Purchase.** Would you support providing tenants of small, medium, and large multifamily properties with the right of first refusal when the owner plans to put a building on the market? **YES**

10. **Right to Counsel.** Would you support legislation to provide legal representation for low-income tenants in eviction proceedings? **YES**

11. **HDIP Reform.** The Housing Development Incentive Program (HDIP) is a multimillion-dollar annual state tax credit program subsidizing market-rate housing in Gateway Cities. Would you support reforming this program to support both market-rate and affordable housing development? **YES**
12. **Social Housing.** Social housing is publicly financed, mixed-income housing, owned by a local or regional housing authority. Would you support efforts to increase state funding for social housing initiatives? **YES**
13. **Zoning Reform.** Would you support zoning reforms to increase housing production and create more affordable and environmentally sustainable communities such as...
 - a. Requiring multi-family zoning and removing costly parking mandates around public transportation and city/town centers statewide? **YES**
 - 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**

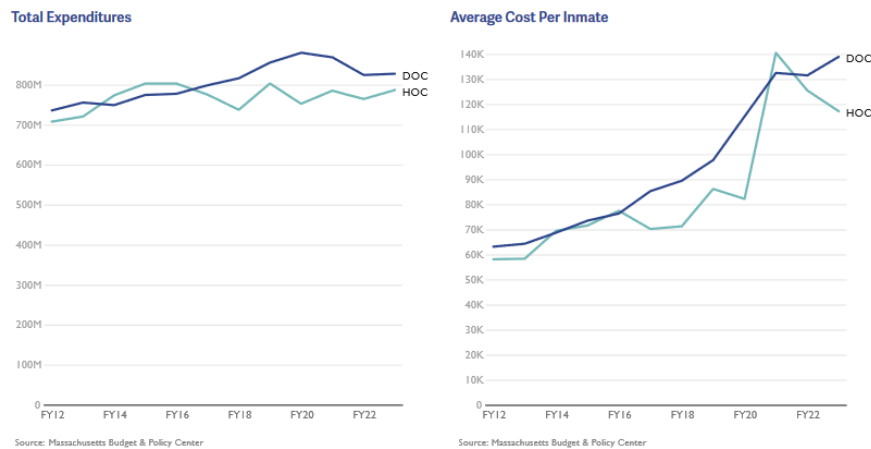
F. Community Safety

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.

'Community' is the key word here - the othering of people that have committed crimes serves no one and harms everyone. If we are to get serious about community safety, we have to bring about real police accountability - sunlight is the only thing that can ensure our police are truly serving and protecting our communities.

We need to invest in rehabilitation far more than we do now. While we have the highest per inmate spending in the country, we also have a very high rate of recidivism. Whatever we are doing inside our prisons is not working and that needs to be addressed.

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

I reviewed and commented on the local CCOPS ordinance and provided feedback on how the impact of it within the context of the public schools and the various state and federal laws regarding student privacy rights.

3. **Police Accountability.** The 2020 police accountability law passed by the Massachusetts Legislature contained a number of steps forward, but important measures were left out. Would you support legislation to do the following?
 - a. Eliminating qualified immunity for state and local police and correctional officers so that individuals whose constitutional rights are violated can have their fair day in court? **YES**
 - b. Enacting the recommendations from the special legislative commission on facial recognition, to implement privacy, civil rights, and due process protections to govern police use of the technology? **YES**
4. **Sentencing Reform.** The 2018 criminal justice reform bill was an important first step in reducing mass incarceration. However, in our "liberal" state, incarceration rates remain much higher than they are in other countries, and sentencing laws can be even more punitive than those in states viewed as conservative. Do you support the following reforms?
 - a. Eliminating mandatory minimums for all drug offenses? **YES**
 - b. Raising the age of criminal majority from 18 to 21, in line with research that shows that young offenders served by a juvenile system are much less likely to reoffend and more likely to successfully transition to adulthood? **YES**
 - c. Decriminalizing consensual sexual activity between adolescents, by creating an exception to the statutory rape law for youth close in age? Massachusetts is one of only three states that criminalizes consensual sexual activity between two adolescents. **YES**

- d. Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which is costly and has been shown to be racist in its application? **YES**
 - e. Restructuring joint venture sentencing such that accomplices to murder are sentenced proportionally to their level of responsibility for a death rather than a minimum sentence of life without parole? **YES**
- 5. **DOC Oversight -- I.** Would you support legislation to establish an inspector general for the Department of Correction? **YES**
- 6. **DOC Oversight -- II.** Massachusetts legislators have the statutory right to make unannounced visits to correctional facilities run by the state. Would you commit to visiting, whether announced or scheduled, Department of Corrections facilities as a state legislator? **YES**
- 7. **Solitary Confinement.** Would you support legislation to create universal access to productive out of cell time with programming, education and vocational training for all incarcerated people? **YES**
- 8. **Prison Moratorium.** Would you support a moratorium on the construction of new prisons and jails in the Commonwealth? **YES**
- 9. **Keeping Families Connected.** Would you support eliminating the arbitrary, unnecessary restrictions on visitation rights in prisons and jails? **YES**
- 10. **Clean Slate.** The Massachusetts court system maintains a database of name-based court arraignment records, referred to as Massachusetts Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI). Many people are trapped in poverty and shut out of jobs and housing because of the difficult process to expunge their records, even for cases that did not end in a conviction or occurred when they were teenagers. Would you support...
 - a. Requiring the Commissioner of Probation to automatically seal criminal and juvenile records after the applicable waiting periods without requiring individuals to file a petition to do so? **YES**
 - b. Requiring the immediate sealing of a criminal offense if the charge did not end in a conviction? **YES**
- 11. **Reentry.** The Department of Correction's stated mission is to "prepare [individuals in custody] for safe and successful reentry into the community," but regularly fails to live up to that. Do you support the following measures to strengthen reentry efforts...
 - a. Mandating that correctional facilities in Massachusetts assist incarcerated individuals in acquiring valid Massachusetts identification cards before their release? **YES**
 - b. Increasing funding for reentry-related programming? **YES**
- 12. **Gun Violence Prevention.** Will you vote YES to protect the 2024 gun safety bill on the ballot in November 2026? **YES**

G. A Humane Immigration System

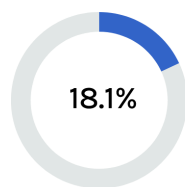
Immigrants make up [18%](#) of Massachusetts's population; however, demagoguery against, or indifference to, immigrant populations has historically been a mainstay of Massachusetts politics. We too often see both Democrats and Republicans fear-monger about immigration and the border, championing policies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

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

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

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

OVERVIEW



Immigrant share of population

1,270,500

Number of immigrant residents

\$51.8B

Immigrant spending power

\$20.4B

Immigrant tax contributions

2023

Data year

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

Immigrant communities, or rather, simply 'our communities' should have all the protections from the federal government we can possibly provide - no limits. It still shocks me that our police departments allow for masked men to abduct our residents from the street as if nothing is out of place. What would stop me from just getting a van and doing the same thing!?! Our police departments need to be doing more than just not assisting ICE - they need to be protecting our residents without a valid warrant from a judge.

We need legislation that bars the sharing of information from any government entity in the state, and we need to forbid the collection of immigration status now that we live in a country where we can be forced to hand over such data.

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 have worked behind the scenes in the school system to ensure procedures are in

place that protect the rights of students, families and faculty, including upholding Medford's Welcoming City Ordinance, and bolstering staff training on how to handle ICE coming to our schools. Our agenda also has this sentence on them, which I wrote: "A welcoming inclusive community is both a value of the School Committee and an aspirational goal. We ask for your help in achieving this goal and value your perspective."

Additionally, I am a member of the local LUCE groups (and reporter trained) and have participated in ICE sightings and report on ICE activities.

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**

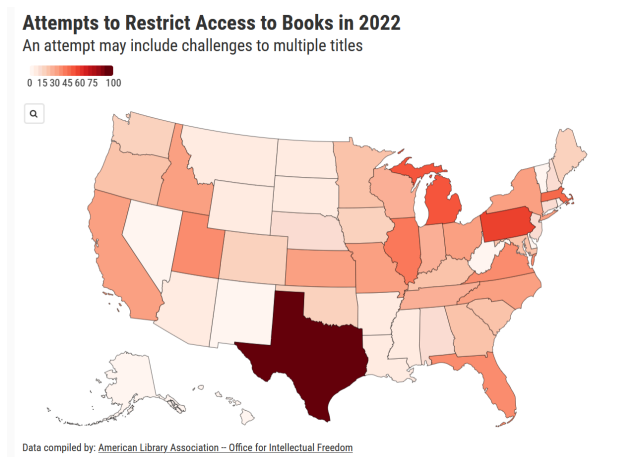
H. A Welcoming Society

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.

As a gay man, a husband, and a parent, I've watched our highest court strip away rights — and write the playbook for eroding more. The Dobbs concurrence didn't hide it. Justice Thomas named Obergefell and Lawrence. Marriage equality. The right to exist as ourselves in our own homes. Next on the list.

In 2017, my husband and I took a road trip with our kids. Somewhere between one state line and the next, we found ourselves doing the math out loud: if something happened, if we were pulled over, if a hospital had to make a call — would this state recognize us as a family? Would our children still be ours? We were two parents on vacation with our children. We should not have been wondering whether the law would let us stay that way.

That fear hasn't gone away. It's gotten sharper. State legislatures across the country are passing laws targeting LGBTQ+ families, trans kids, and the doctors and teachers who care for them. Federal courts are signaling they're open for business on the next round of rollbacks. Too many elected officials are treating our families as a debate to be managed rather than people to be defended.

Refuge status is not self-sustaining. It takes legislators who will codify protections, fund the services families rely on, and refuse to trade our rights away for political comfort. My community is under attack. I will fight to my last breath to protect our rights — and to make sure Massachusetts remains a place where every family, including mine, is safe.

The most important principle to building a welcoming community, however, is leading by example. One example of this was when a constituent called me truly shocking and cruel things on social media. Later, that same person reached out to me for help regarding their child in our schools. I responded as I would hope any public servant would - with kindness and the offer of any help that was necessary to address the situation the constituent was experiencing. As Walt Whitman said, 'I contain multitudes' - and this is true of those that might take aim at us one day and need our help the next.

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

In 2004, I worked on Carl Sciortino's first campaign for state representative — the same seat I'm running for today. Carl was a 26-year-old openly gay challenger taking on a 16-year incumbent who had voted to put a marriage ban into the Massachusetts constitution. He won by fewer than 100 votes. That race, in Medford and Somerville, was part of stopping the amendment from ever reaching the ballot. I learned then that marriage equality in Massachusetts wasn't held by court decisions alone — it was held seat by seat, in places like ours.

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.

The Open Meeting Law must apply to the legislative and executive branches. As someone that has had to serve my community within the restrictions of the OML, I know it can be done and we are better for it. We don't get together in secret and hash anything out - where the interests of the public may in fact not be the only interests in the room.

Increasing voter turnout requires that the government itself think that this is important. The state should provide funding to communities to advertise that elections are happening - this would not be terribly expensive - but mandatory advertising, paid for by the state, would go a long way to reducing the 'I didn't know' which is unfortunately a real problem.

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

Transparency in Medford has meant telling the public the truth - even when it is an ugly truth. We have accomplished that by ensuring the budget we pass is the actual budget - taking all the side spending and putting it into the budget - this was a painful and incredibly exhausting process that took years, but we are closer than ever to a budget that reflects reality - not a pretty reality - but reality nonetheless. The public should be treated like adults and have all of the resources available to them to make decisions about their lives.

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**

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**

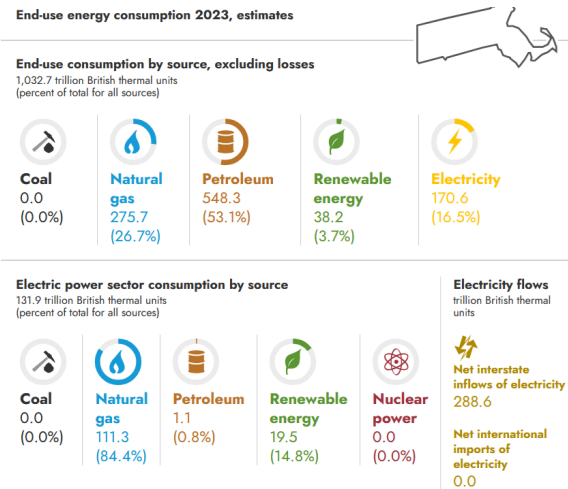
7. **Expanding Access to Public Meetings.** Would you support updating Open Meeting Law so that people can choose to participate remotely in public meetings on a permanent basis and providing the necessary funds to municipalities to implement this? **YES**
8. **Same Day Registration.** Massachusetts 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

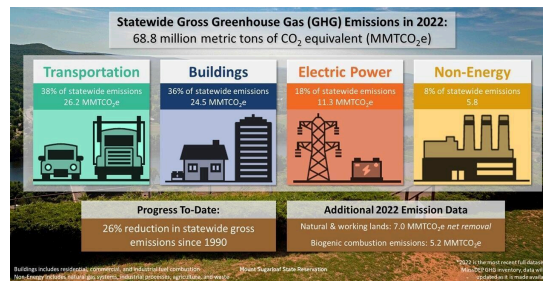
As a coastal state, Massachusetts will be hit particularly hard by climate change, but we are not responding with the necessary urgency. Massachusetts has ambitious and necessary greenhouse gas reduction goals, but we are [not on track](#) to meet them. Our state remains overly dependent on fossil fuels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

We are LONG past the point of talking about sustainability - the time to act is here (okay, it was 30 years ago). I will work to update the MSBA enabling legislation to require all substantially renovated or new school buildings to be 100% electric. It is time to stop spending public money on fossil fuel based systems, now.

While Massachusetts has been a leader in reducing our emissions, it is time to get serious about transportation and buildings, and commercial emissions. We have all the plans to be the leader - but we are not implementing those plans.

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

As a School Committee member I wrote into the new high school enabling resolution to require it be LEED platinum and not use fossil fuels. I also wrote and passed a policy requiring the elimination of single use products in our schools.

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.