



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2026 CONGRESSIONAL
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Jason Poulos

Office Sought: US House of Representatives, MA-04

Party: Democrat

Website: <https://poulos.house>

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Email questions to elections@progressivemass.com.

I. About You

1. Why are you running for office? And what will be your top 3 priority pieces of legislation if elected?

AI and automation are displacing workers while concentrating wealth in the hands of Silicon Valley billionaires, and we need representatives who understand these challenges and will fight for big progressive policies. Our top three legislative priorities are Medicare-for-All to ensure healthcare isn't tied to employment in an economy where jobs are disappearing, Universal Basic Income as a floor for workers displaced by automation, and a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United and restore our democracy.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

As a Ph.D. in Political Science with a specialization in Computational Science and Engineering from UC Berkeley and a former NSF Graduate Research Fellow, I have the technical expertise to understand AI policy at a time when Congress desperately needs members who grasp these issues. My experience as a Pell Grant recipient, union member (HUCTW, UAW 2865), and researcher on living wage policies grounds my work in the economic realities facing working families.

As someone who designs evaluation frameworks for frontier AI systems professionally, I bring technical expertise that Congress desperately lacks. AI is already displacing workers — from call centers to legal research to creative industries—and most members of Congress don't understand the technology well enough to regulate it. Our campaign connects this expertise to progressive economic policy: Medicare-for-All because healthcare can't be tied to jobs that AI is eliminating, UBI because workers need a floor to stand on, and an automation tax so companies that replace workers with machines fund the transition.

<https://poulos.house/about.html>

3. What do you view as the biggest barriers to progressive policy on the federal level?

The biggest barrier is corporate money in politics — the pharmaceutical industry, AIPAC, crypto PACs, and corporate lobbyists have captured both parties and blocked popular policies like Medicare-for-All and drug price

negotiation under Medicare. Until we overturn Citizens United and ban members of Congress from becoming lobbyists, elected officials will continue to serve their donors rather than their constituents.

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

Yes. Progressive means fighting for policies that put workers and human rights ahead of corporate profits — Medicare-for-All, Universal Basic Income, strong unions, and an end to military funding for governments committing human rights abuses — while refusing to take money from the corporate ACs and lobbying groups that have blocked these policies for decades.

5. Whom do you view as a role model for how you would operate in the office you are running for?

Bernie Sanders and Zohran Mamdani are my role models — I canvassed for Bernie's 2020 presidential campaign in Durham, NC while working as a postdoc in the Research Triangle. Both demonstrate that you can build a movement by refusing corporate money, speaking plainly about economic injustice, and standing firm on human rights even when the party establishment pushes back.

II. Shared Leadership

1. If elected, how will you remain accountable to the communities and organizations that supported your campaign?

By continuing to refuse corporate PAC money, my only accountability will be to the people who elected me. I'll maintain the same transparency and accessibility that defines our campaign — direct engagement with constituents, and a voting record that matches the commitments we make on the campaign trail.

2. What specific mechanisms will you use to maintain transparency with constituents (e.g., town halls, public votes explanations, advisory councils)?

I'll hold regular town halls across the district, publish explanations for every major vote, and maintain our campaign's Discord community as a direct line

for constituent input and feedback. I'll also make my calendar publicly available so constituents can see exactly who has access to their representative.

3. **Which communities do you believe will have the least access to you once you are in office, and what steps will you take to change that?**

Working-class constituents who can't take time off for weekday meetings, immigrant communities who may fear engagement with government, and residents without reliable internet access will face the greatest barriers. I'll hold evening and weekend town halls in diverse locations across the district, partner with community organizations to conduct outreach, and maintain a fully staffed district office that can assist constituents in person and by phone.

4. **How will you ensure that people most impacted by federal policy, particularly communities of color, immigrants, disabled people, LGBTQ+ people, and low-income communities, have real influence over your legislative priorities, not just symbolic inclusion?**

By prioritizing legislation that directly addresses their material needs — Medicare-for-All for those who can't afford healthcare, UBI for low-income workers facing displacement, abolishing ICE and ending qualified immunity for immigrant and Black communities facing state violence. I'll hire district staff that reflects these communities and establish advisory relationships with grassroots organizations actually doing the work.

5. **What does “sharing power” look like in practice in a Congressional office? Please give at least two examples (e.g., staffing, agenda-setting, constituent engagement).**

Staffing: Hiring district staff from the communities we serve and compensating them fairly, with pathways for advancement.

Agenda-setting: Before each legislative session, convening community organizations and directly impacted constituents to identify priority issues rather than letting DC lobbyists and party leadership dictate the agenda.

Constituent engagement: Giving grassroots organizations direct access to draft legislation for input before votes, not just press releases after the fact

III. The Issues

Our questionnaire is based on our [Progressive Platform](#): Shared Prosperity, All Means All/Racial and Social Justice, Good Government and Strong Democracy, and Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection. Most questions refer to specific pieces of legislation filed in recent years in Congress.

A. An Equitable Tax System

1. **What does a fair tax system look like to you? Which specific proposals would you advocate for?**

A fair tax system requires billionaires and corporations to pay their fair share while workers keep more of what they earn. We support a wealth tax on the ultra-rich, higher marginal rates on top incomes, and a corporate automation tax so companies that replace workers with AI and robots fund the social safety net. See our positions on <https://poulos.house/issues/billionaire-tax/> and <https://poulos.house/issues/corporate-automation-tax/>.

2. **Taxing Excessive CEO Pay. Would you support legislation to raise taxes on corporations that pay their executives more than 50 times the wages of their workers? (Y/N)**

YES.

A CEO does not work 50 times harder than their workers, so at a certain point, their pay ceases to be a salary and becomes short-term capital gains derived from stock and investments in their company. It should be taxed as such.

3. **Taxing Extreme Wealth. The top 10 US billionaires saw their collective wealth increase by [\\$698 billion](#) just over the past year.**
 - a. **Would you support requiring the ultra-wealthy to pay taxes on wealth gains as they occur, rather than allowing them to indefinitely defer or avoid taxation, by requiring annual taxation of non-tradable assets like stocks, regardless of sale? (Y/N)**

YES.

The rules of capitalism work very well for those with a lot of starting power, but for those who have to work their way up, constantly applied income tax prevents much of their potential for long-term wealth growth. The wealthy should not escape this mechanism with fancy methods of redefining money at the expense of the 99.99%'s welfare and health.

See our policy stance here: <https://poulos.house/issues/billionaire-tax/>.

- b. **Would you support imposing a 2% annual tax on the net worth of households and trusts between \$50 million and \$1 billion, along with 1% additional surtax on the net worth of households and trusts above \$1 billion?** (Y/N)

YES.

Real estate and trusts should not be investment mechanisms for wealthy individuals and families to cement permanent affluence when the consequence on the consumer is the death of the American dream to own a home, the complete distortion of real and stock markets based on wealth concentration, and increased taxes to make up for the wealthy dodging their own.

4. **Corporate Tax Breaks. Would you support repealing the corporate tax breaks in the “Big Ugly Bill”?** (Y/N) **Are there pre-existing corporate tax breaks that you would also advocate to repeal?**

YES.

In addition, we support repealing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA, 2017) and subsequently re-repeal the Domestic Production Activities Deduction (DPAD, 1999), the Economic Recovery Tax Act (ERTA, 1981), and the Tax Reform Act of 1986. In general, we support repealing legislation (or adding additional measures) in order to re-increase corporate tax rates, end the abuse of stock buybacks and pass-through entities for tax benefits, and redefine depreciation in a way that prevents strategic investments for tax writeoffs.

See our policy stance here:

<https://poulos.house/issues/corporate-automation-tax/>

B. Jobs That Pay a Living Wage

1. **Minimum Wage. The gap between productivity and wages has grown dramatically since 1973. Moreover, the federal minimum wage remains stuck at \$7.25—what it was in 2009. Would you support legislation to...**

- a. **Raise the federal minimum wage to \$17 per hour? (Y/N)**

YES.

And we support further legislation to continually adjust minimum wage to keep up with the cost of living and ensure it better reflects increases in productivity.

- b. **Eliminate all subminimum wages (i.e., for tipped workers, for student workers, and for workers with disabilities)? (Y/N)**

YES.

Minimum wage means minimum wage, and if we are to put a numerical value on the base value of labor, it must everywhere be the same number.

- c. **Index the minimum wage to inflation? (Y/N)**

YES.

As stated above, we would be interested in tying minimum wage to the cost of living, but we would support any mechanism to raise minimum wage in the face of rising costs

2. **Living Wages. Although the current federal push is to raise the minimum wage to \$17, this is still far from a living wage. Indeed, according to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, \$17 is [below a living wage in all 50 states](#). What steps would you take to close the gap between the minimum wage and a living wage?**

I support raising the federal minimum wage and indexing it to inflation — I published a policy brief on inflation-adjusting the Massachusetts minimum wage while an undergrad at UMass Amherst. But wages alone aren't enough when healthcare, housing, and childcare consume most of a paycheck. That's why I'm fighting for Medicare-for-all to decouple healthcare from wages, Universal Basic Income to provide a \$250/month floor, and affordable housing policies to reduce costs that make even \$17/hour unlivable.

<https://poulos.house/issues/medicare-for-all/>
<https://poulos.house/issues/universal-basic-income/>
<https://poulos.house/issues/affordable-housing/>

3. **Retirement Security. With the decline of pensions and other defined-benefit retirement plans in the workplace, retirement is becoming more insecure, and seniors are having to work longer just to stay afloat. Would you support legislation to....**

- a. **Raise the cap on earnings that are taxed for Social Security? (Currently, only earnings up to \$176,100 are subject to the payroll tax.) (Y/N)**

YES.

Profits cannot exist at the expense of the worker, and there have to be strong, defined, and, above all, sufficient mechanisms to return to them their own investment of a life of labor. All earnings should be subject to reciprocity.

- b. **Increase the benefits provided by Social Security? (Y/N)**

YES.

The average monthly Social Security payout is around \$2,000, and the average monthly cost of living is \$2,500-\$3,500 across the country. This gap must be closed, not just for the seniors who have worked their whole lives for the system, but for the millions of disabled Americans who often have solely Social Security for economic support.

See our policy stance here:

<https://poulos.house/issues/social-security-expansion/>

4. **Paid Family and Medical Leave. The US is the only industrial nation without paid family leave, but 13 states and the District of Columbia have established comprehensive, mandatory paid family leave systems at the state level. Would you support passing federal legislation to create a nationwide paid family and medical leave system at least as strong as that in MA? (Y/N)**

YES.

It seems to be bipartisan that the most important thing for a child's development is being in a supportive, loving, and present home. That means giving both parents full security in economic support and employment so they have the peace of mind to put in the tremendous amount of time and effort it takes to grow a family.

5. **Union Rights. The Trump administration has waged an all-out assault on labor unions in the US, and this is on top of the [multi-decade fall in unionization rates](#) due to hostile policy and weak enforcement of existing protections. Unions built the middle-class, and stronger unions are essential to achieving a vision of shared prosperity. Do you commit to voting and advocating for the passage of the [Protecting the Right to Organize \(PRO\) Act](#)? (Y/N)**

YES.

Unions have always been the backbone of worker's rights in this country, and we need strong organizational power directly in the hands of the workers to ensure advocacy and representation, fair treatment, and true bargaining power.

See our policy stance here: <https://poulos.house/issues/collective-bargaining/>.

6. **Congressional Staff Unionization. If your staff members elected to form a union, would you commit to recognizing and supporting such unionization? (Y/N)**

YES.

7. **Affordability. Better pay and benefits can only go so far in ensuring economic security amidst rising prices. What would be your top priorities in addressing the high cost of living?**

Our top priorities for addressing the high cost of living are Medicare-for-All to eliminate healthcare costs that bankrupt families, affordable housing to bring down housing prices, a ban on algorithmic rent-pricing that lets RealPage fix rents across 4 million units, and expanding Medicare drug price negotiation for all medications. We also support student debt, postal banking and public banks to close the credit gap that systematically excludes women and

minority entrepreneurs from capital, and regulating AI data centers to prevent tech companies from driving up residential electricity bills.

<https://poulos.house/issues/medicare-for-all/>
<https://poulos.house/issues/affordable-housing/>
<https://poulos.house/issues/algorithmic-rent-ban/>
<https://poulos.house/issues/prescription-drug-prices/>
<https://poulos.house/issues/student-debt-cancellation/>
<https://poulos.house/issues/ai-data-center-energy/>
<https://poulos.house/issues/credit-access/>

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

C. Reining in Corporate Power

1. **Antitrust Policy.** The Biden administration ushered in a [paradigm shift](#) in the federal government’s approach to antitrust, including strengthened enforcement against corporate monopolies through landmark lawsuits, rulemaking, and a “whole-of-government” competition strategy. The Trump administration has since gutted this approach. Do you support a return to anti-monopoly, pro-competition policies, such as those advocated by former FTC chair Lina Khan? (Y/N)

YES.

The professed goal of capitalism is free market competition, but when capitalists without fail exploit policies to concentrate power in a few indomitable price-setting corporations, it makes this ring hollow. If we are to have a financial nation, it must be a fair one, and that means preventing the haves from permanently closing their circle to the have-nots.

2. **Cryptocurrency Regulation.** The rise of the cryptocurrency industry is weakening financial stability and opening new [floodgates of dark money into elections](#). Do you support [Senator Elizabeth Warren’s principles for cryptocurrency regulation](#) (i.e., “upholding securities laws for non-crypto assets, ensuring investor protections, maintaining financial stability, requiring anti-money laundering compliance and closing sanctions loopholes, and preventing public officials – like President Trump – from profiting off of crypto tokens”)? (Y/N)

YES.

It is absolutely ridiculous that the concept of “decentralized money” (that was from its origin designed with insidious intent, with known Epstein-associate and Republican strategist Steve Bannon investing early in Bitcoin as a tool for “disruptive populism”) has been endorsed by an actual government is ridiculous, and the fact it’s become a tool for tax-evading investments is even more so. We absolutely need common sense regulation like Sen. Warren’s proposal to stabilize and safeguard a digital Wild West.

See our policy stance here:

<https://poulos.house/issues/congressional-stock-ban/>

3. **Big Tech. Would you oppose Big Tech’s efforts to preempt states from enforcing laws regulating consumer privacy and artificial intelligence?**
(Y/N)

YES.

Tech companies cannot be allowed to grow indefinitely just because they have the idea and desire to at the cost of individual liberty. Automatically entering consumer data into these massive servers and forcing creatives to allow their work to be incorporated into datasets with neither recourse nor payment for the selfish desire of building a product most consumers aren’t interested in is wrong and it shouldn’t be controversial to say so. Especially as these big tech companies increasingly show a willingness and friendliness towards turning their databases towards “national security” in the form of rampant First Amendment rights violations and active threats to everyday people’s safety, there must be clearly defined limits on their power and access.

At the same time, we must protect users’ free speech on the internet.

This includes protecting Section 230. See our policy stance here:

<https://poulos.house/issues/internet-freedom>

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

D. Quality, Affordable Health Care

1. **Medicare for All. Would you support the creation of a single payer/“Medicare for All” health insurance system in the country that would guarantee health care as a right?** (Y/N)

YES.

We're too far into human history and have too much existing wealth and technology to continue to let people die because they can't afford health insurance. See our policy stance here:

<https://poulos.house/issues/medicare-for-all/>

2. Expanding Medicare. Would you support expanding Medicare to cover comprehensive dental, vision, and hearing care? (Y/N)

YES.

Medical care for all means medical care for all. There is absolutely no form of healthcare that should be pricelocked.

3. Medicare Advantage. Medicare Advantage overbills the federal government by **\$140 billion a year. Would you support legislation to require Medicare Advantage companies to charge the government at a rate per beneficiary equal to or less than traditional Medicare in order to reduce unnecessary and wasteful spending? (Y/N)**

YES.

More and more, the price of medical procedures seems to be an arbitrary agreement between a monopolistic healthcare industry and a monopolistic health insurance industry rather than any reflection of the reality of how much the procedure costs to perform. We need transparency in pricing, equitable rate laws, and third-party price auditing to ensure consumers are being charged fair prices.

4. Prescription Drug Prices. Prescription drug prices in the US are consistently higher than in other countries. Would you support...

- a. **Allowing patients, pharmacists, and wholesalers to buy low-cost prescription drugs from Canada and other industrialized countries?**
(Y/N)

YES.

This entire country is built on principles of getting the cheapest product possible from wherever you have to make or get it. If billionaires can use this to trap entire countries in poverty in the name of cheap labor, the consumer should absolutely be able to use it to get life-saving otherwise inaccessible medication.

See our policy stance here:

<https://poulos.house/issues/prescription-drug-prices/>

- b. **Allowing the federal government to manufacture lower-cost generic versions of prescription drugs when the market does not offer them?** (Y/N)

YES.

Nothing is stopping a company from theoretically springing up tomorrow and selling lower-cost generic versions of prescription drugs (see Mark Cuban's attempt to do precisely that), so why should the government be prevented from doing so?

5. **Reproductive Rights. Would you support repealing the Hyde Amendment, which bars the use of federal funds to pay for abortion in most cases?** (Y/N)

YES.

An abortion is not an easy decision for anyone, and we need to stop acting like it's being flippantly made. If a woman is considering an abortion, there should be as few external barriers to care as possible: we must ensure safe, professional-grade access to abortive care and procedures nationwide and use federal funds to make the decision as easy as we externally can for someone in that position.

6. **Gender-Affirming Health Care. Would you support legislation to train more providers in gender-affirming care, improve medical education curricula for gender affirming care, and expand capacity of Community Health Centers to provide this care?** (Y/N)

YES.

Once again, there should be as few external barriers as possible when someone is making a life decision. Those considering transitioning should feel

confident that there is a robust, accepting, and situationally trained medical team waiting to help them navigate their situation.

- 7. Combating False Advertising. Would you support legislation to direct the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to prescribe rules prohibiting disinformation in the advertising of abortion services and give the Federal Trade Commission authority to enforce these rules and collect penalties from organizations that violate these rules? (Y/N)**

YES.

We support legislation prohibiting disinformation in advertising, but especially when we're talking about access to life-saving medical care.

- 8. Health Care for All. Would you support legislation to restore Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility to immigrants with status; remove discriminatory Medicare restrictions based on length of US residency for green card holders; and end the exclusion of undocumented immigrants from Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces? (Y/N)**

YES.

A person's immigration status cannot be used to dehumanize and denigrate them to a substandard quality of care.

- 9. Opioid Crisis. 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 and champion steps to encourage the building of such centers (see, as an example, [Project Weber/Renew Overdose Prevention Center](#) in Providence)? (Y/N)**

YES.

A person addicted to opioids is first and foremost a person, and if we can prevent the death of a person, we have a moral obligation to do so. District resources should absolutely be redirected towards creating accessible and trusted overdose prevention centers that focus on safety and emergency response, nonjudgemental support, and rehabilitation. Medicare for All means Medicare for All, and these people equally deserve care that treats the human, not just the addiction.

10. Data Privacy. Would you support legislation to limit the personal reproductive and sexual health data that can be collected, retained, used, or disclosed to only what is needed to deliver a product or service? (Y/N)

YES.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

First of all, people should not have the added fear of their personal data being leaked and used against them when making the often already difficult decision to seek medical care. Second of all, medical institutions absolutely have an obligation to their patients to keep confidentiality (see HIPAA).

Nothing beyond the absolute necessity should ever be shared between your doctor and any outside entity.

E. Quality, Free, Publicly Funded Education

1. **Education Funding. Do you commit to only voting for a budget that includes clear language ensuring that education funding goes out to states as passed? (Y/N)**

YES.

2. **Education Equity. More than seven decades out from the *Brown vs. Board* Supreme Court ruling, our public education systems remain highly segregated and unequal. Please name three policies you would advocate for in order to address this.**

First, end the reliance on local property taxes for school funding, which perpetuates segregation by tying school quality to neighborhood wealth. Second, fully fund Title I and IDEA to ensure schools serving low-income students and students with disabilities have the resources they need. Third, make public college tuition-free and expand Pell Grants so higher education isn't reserved for those who can afford it — as a Pell Grant recipient myself, I know these programs change lives.

See my position on student debt cancellation:

<https://poulos.house/issues/student-debt-cancellation>

3. **Education Privatization**. Do you **oppose** strategies to privatize our public education system such as

- a. **Expanding the use of vouchers?** (Y/N)

YES.

- b. **Increasing the number of charter schools?** (Y/N)

YES.

Education should not be limited to the wealthy or well-connected, or subject to lottery.

4. **Special Education**. Do you support, and will you advocate for, the restoration of the Office of Civil Rights in the Education Department and full funding for IDEA? (Y/N)

YES.

5. **Universal School Meals**. Do you support guaranteeing free breakfast, lunch, and dinner to all students, regardless of income? (Y/N)

YES.

6. **Charter School Accountability**. Do you support requiring that charter schools comply with the same transparency and accountability requirements as public schools? (Y/N)

YES.

7. **Affordable Child Care**. Would you support investing in universal child care infrastructure and affordability, guaranteeing that no families pay more than 7% of their income in fees and that lower-income families receive fully subsidized child care? (Y/N)

YES.

8. **Early Educators**. Would you support legislation to ensure that child care workers are paid a living wage and achieve parity with elementary school teachers who have similar credentials and experience? (Y/N)

YES.

9. **Educator Diversity.** The TEACH program (Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education) provides up to a maximum of \$3,772 per year to students who are completing or who plan to complete coursework that is required to begin a career in teaching and agree to serve as a full-time, highly-qualified teacher in a high-need subject area in a designated low-income school for at least four years. Would you support legislation to invest in a diverse educator workforce by increasing the maximum TEACH Grant award to \$8,000 per year to align with the cost of college and ensuring that the program covers the full cost of attendance? (Y/N)

YES.

10. **Student Loan Debt.** Student loan debt is holding back the economy, as graduates are unable to make important long-term investments in their future.
- a. **Would you oppose any plans to sell or transfer the federal student loan portfolio to the private market?** (Y/N)

YES.

- b. **Would you support the cancellation of student loan debt?** (Y/N)

YES.

See our policy stance here:

<https://poulos.house/issues/student-debt-cancellation/>

11. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** More and more jobs are requiring a college degree, but the cost of higher education has been growing faster than wages, contributing to a ballooning student debt burden. Would you support legislation to guarantee free tuition at public colleges and universities? (Y/N)

YES.

We support the College for All Act:

<https://poulos.house/issues/student-debt-cancellation>

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

F. Affordable, Decent Housing

1. What do you view the role of the federal government in addressing the housing crisis?

The federal government must stop treating housing as a commodity for Wall Street profits. We support increasing affordable housing, an algorithmic rent ban, and investing in public and social housing. The federal government should also condition housing funds on localities eliminating exclusionary zoning that perpetuates segregation.

<https://poulos.house/issues/affordable-housing/>

<https://poulos.house/issues/algorithmic-rent-ban>

2. Just Cause Eviction. Would you support legislation to establish a national just cause eviction standard, which would limit the grounds upon which a landlord may evict a tenant? (Y/N)

YES.

3. Inclusive Communities. Federal funding can be a major source of leverage in shaping state and municipal policy. Would you support legislation to tie transportation or housing funding to...

a. End exclusionary zoning practices? (Y/N)

YES.

b. Repeal state prohibitions on rent stabilization policies? (Y/N)

YES.

See our policy stance here:

<https://poulos.house/issues/algorithmic-rent-ban>

4. **Public Housing. Would you support the repeal of the Faircloth Amendment, which bans HUD from funding the construction or operation of new public housing units beyond the total that existed in 1999? (Y/N)**

YES.

See our policy stance here: <https://poulos.house/issues/affordable-housing>

5. **Tenant Opportunity to Purchase. Would you support legislation to provide tenants with opportunities to come together to purchase their buildings prior to large, for-profit developers buying them? (Y/N)**

YES.

People in the community should own their community, and we must do everything we can to combat the increasing concentration of housing ownership by a few multibillion-dollar companies in a clear attempt to monopolize a human necessity — and right.

6. **Ending the Criminalization of Homelessness. Would you support legislation to prevent the criminalization of homelessness by ensuring that unhoused people cannot be arrested or ticketed by federal police when living on federal lands when there are no other options without blocking traffic, asking for help or donations in public places, practicing religion in public spaces, or living in a vehicle without blocking traffic? (Y/N)**

YES.

No one is homeless by choice, and we should not make life harder for those who already have it the hardest. People have the right to exist where they find themselves.

7. **Access to Counsel. There is currently no federal right to a lawyer in housing court. Do you support expanding the right to representation to housing court? (Y/N)**

YES.

8. **Housing for Formerly Incarcerated Persons. In 2024, Former HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge released a [draft rule](#) enacting protections for formerly**

incarcerated people in housing, such as shortening the “lookback period” to 3 years. Would you support legislation to enact such protections? (Y/N)

YES.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

G. A Fair and Efficient Criminal Justice System

1. **Ending the War on Drugs. The War on Drugs has been destructive to so many communities, making them less safe while failing to address the root causes of substance use or the drug trade. Would you support...**

- a. **Legalizing recreational marijuana? (Y/N)**

YES.

At this point, we've had several states have legalized recreational marijuana, and in exactly zero of them has society collapsed. We need less people in prison, not more. No one, regardless of substance, deserves to be in prison for using.

- b. **Expunging criminal records for conduct that has been legalized or decriminalized? (Y/N)**

YES.

While law is an important and unifying principle that allows us to form society and should be valued as such, it is a fact that many laws (especially those surrounding drug policy) are a product of cultural values, not absolute moral laws. When those values change in response to perceived injustice, it is the job of justice to carry everyone, especially those previously most disaffected, into a more accepting culture.

- c. **Investing some of the tax revenue that would come from a federally legal cannabis industry into the communities most harmed by the failed War on Drugs? (Y/N)**

YES.

The true purpose of the War on Drugs was to invent reasons to target already marginalized communities and prevent their prosperity and laws were selectively enforced to reflect that. For the nation to say we've progressed past this or any of our other historical racist actions, there needs to be real support for building communities we've torn down.

2. **Ending Mass Incarceration. Do you support the following policies:**

- a. **Repealing mandatory minimums for nonviolent drug offenses?** (Y/N)

YES.

We need to think of crime less as statistics that get penalties but as people who commit actions. When you're talking about removing an individual from their community, that needs to be treated as a human decision. Especially for nonviolent drug offenses, which create no tangible threat to their community, there should be no arbitrary sentence pre-imposed.

- b. **Eliminating cash bail, so that no one is held in jail solely for an inability to pay, and conditioning federal grants on states' elimination of cash bail?** (Y/N)

YES.

We claim that no one is above the law in this country, and that means money cannot be used as a means to escape punishment. There should absolutely be federal pressure for states to abandon cash bail, which makes a crime a permanent offense for the average person but a mere fine for a rich one.

- c. **Abolishing the death penalty?** (Y/N)

YES.

It should be the first step in creating a more humane system.

- d. **Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which has been proven to have significant racial disparities?** (Y/N)

YES.

A sentence of life in prison without parole is equivalent in many senses to a death penalty, and we believe a fundamental paradigm shift in the way we do prisons is necessary. We must redirect our efforts from removal to rehabilitation: the goal of incarceration should always be to address the underlying causes that lead to a person committing a crime and helping them resolve those material or mental problems. We point to the Nordic model as a representation of the more humanitarian-focused system we believe in.

3. **Private Prisons. Do you support barring the federal government and state and local jurisdictions from contracting with private corporations to run prisons and detention facilities? (Y/N)**

YES.

If you provide the means for a profit incentive, there will be people who take advantage of it. There should be no means to profit off of prisoners, be that from their incarceration, labor, or provided services.

4. **Prison Conditions. In addition to having incarceration rates that far [outpace](#) those of other countries, the US is known for violating both domestic and international law in the conditions of its prisons. Do you support the following steps to emphasize the rehabilitative, as opposed to punitive, nature of the system and protect basic rights?**

- a. **Preventing companies from charging prisoners unreasonable fees for banking and telecommunications services? (Y/N)**

YES.

- b. **Requiring that incarcerated individuals be paid for their work at a rate no lower than the federal minimum wage? (Y/N)**

YES.

- c. **Limiting the use of solitary confinement to no more than 15 consecutive days, beyond which it is defined as torture by the United Nations? (Y/N)**

YES.

But we would further be open to banning solitary confinement in its entirety

5. **Police Accountability. Lax or nonexistent systems of accountability and perverse incentives at the federal, state, and local level, combined with a legacy of systemic racism, too often lead to law enforcement neither enforcing the law nor keeping the public safe. Would you support...?**

- a. **Prohibiting the transfer of military weapons from the federal government to state and local law enforcement? (Y/N)**

YES.

There is no situation nor crime where military-grade weaponry would be an appropriate response from law enforcement. It is more important to protect people's lives than allow the ego fantasy of using weapons of mass death.

- b. **Reforming qualified immunity doctrine to ensure that it does NOT provide law enforcement officers that brutalize or otherwise violate civil rights with defense or immunity from civil liability for their actions? (Y/N)**

YES.

No one is above the law, including the law.

We have called for ending Qualified Immunity particularly for ICE and CBP agents: <https://poulos.house/issues/ice-accountability/>.

- c. **Restricting the use of civil asset forfeiture by police departments and prosecutors' offices? (Y/N)**

YES.

- d. **Prohibiting no-knock warrants for federal law enforcement and for state and local departments that receive federal funding, requiring them to provide notice of their authority and purpose before executing a warrant? (Y/N)**

YES.

6. **Gun Violence Prevention**. The US has the largest number of guns per capita in the world—and consequently one of the highest rates of gun deaths. For too long, the federal government has refused to play a constructive role in preventing gun violence. Would you support....?

- a. **Reinstating the federal assault weapons ban?** (Y/N)

YES.

- b. **Banning high-capacity magazine ammunition?** (Y/N)

YES.

- c. **Requiring a license to purchase a gun?** (Y/N)

YES.

- d. **Limiting the number of guns an individual can buy to one per month?** (Y/N)

YES.

- e. **Repealing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, which shields the gun industry from lawsuits?** (Y/N)

YES.

If your product is death, you should be held accountable as such.

- f. **Repealing the Dickey Amendment, which limits the CDC's ability to conduct research on gun violence?** (Y/N)

YES.

7. **Community-Based Response**. Would you support legislation to create a **Division on Community Safety** within HHS to fund, conduct, and coordinate research, technical assistance, and grant programs related to non-carceral, health-centered investments in public safety? (Y/N)\

YES.

As we've seen in Baltimore, community-based response works. The city had over 300 homicides a year for decades until mayor Brandon Scott brought that number from 333 in 2022 to 133 in 2025, the lowest homicide rate Baltimore has seen in 50 years. He himself credits much of this success to the Safe Streets program, a city-funded group of ex-cons who use their reputation to safeguard their streets without police involvement. It is proof that community-based organization works better than injecting outsiders with guns on their hips into the community. It should absolutely be our model for public safety going forward.

8. **Diversion. Would you support legislation to allow federal judges to divert parents and caregivers from incarceration into comprehensive programs that would better serve them, their families, and society by offering resources, services, and training to meet their unique needs? (Y/N)**

YES.

9. **Ending Permanent Punishments. Currently there is no standard process for sealing federal records. Would you support [legislation](#) to allow individuals to petition the United States Courts to seal records for nonviolent offenses that are not automatically sealed? (Y/N)**

YES.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

H. A Humane Immigration System

1. **Comprehensive Immigration Reform. The approximately 14 million undocumented immigrants in the US are important contributors to strong economies and strong communities. Due to political and economic instability abroad, as well as a labyrinthine and discriminatory immigration bureaucracy at home, this number could very well continue to grow. However, comprehensive immigration reform legislation has remained elusive in Washington. Would you support the following policies?**

- a. **The DREAM Act, which would allow certain US-raised immigrant youth to earn lawful permanent residence and American citizenship?** (Y/N)

YES.

We should welcome all those who want to build a life here.

- b. **A path for undocumented immigrants to gain US citizenship?** (Y/N)

YES.

We need to make immigration easier, not harder. In the same vein as expunging criminal records for acts now legal, those who for whatever desperate reason came here without paperwork and began building a life deserve every opportunity to do that paperwork today. We believe that no human is illegal, and we cannot reduce someone to their status in such a cruel and dehumanizing way. People living here who want documentation absolutely deserve a pathway forward.

- c. **Repealing the [three-year, ten-year, and permanent bars of reentry for undocumented immigrants](#)?** (Y/N)

YES.

2. **Reining in the Expansion of Deportation and Detention Machine. Every day, we hear new unconscionable stories about how the US is treating immigrants at the border, fueled by both bad laws and lawlessness at the federal level. Our immigration system should reflect our values. Which of the following policies would you support?**

- a. **Ending ICE's daily bed quota?** (Y/N)

YES.

See our policy stance: <https://poulos.house/issues/ice-accountability/>

- b. **Imposing a moratorium on the construction of new detention facilities?** (Y/N)

YES.

- c. **Repealing the increased funding for ICE from the “Big Ugly Bill”?**
(Y/N)

YES.

Further, we should abolish ICE and defund the DHS.

3. **Ending Family Detention. Would you support repealing mandatory detention, prohibiting the detention of families and children in family detention, eliminating the use of private detention facilities and jails, and requiring DHS to establish civil detention standards?** (Y/N)

YES.

4. **Immigration Court Reform. The US immigration court system lacks appropriate safeguards from political influence. Would you support legislation to turn the nation's immigration court system into an independent judiciary and ensure that immigration courts are administered by qualified, impartial judges; have adequate court resources and support services; are defined by transparency and integrity; and are financially independent?** (Y/N)

YES.

5. **Abolishing ICE. Would you support legislation to sunset the US Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) and establish a commission to develop a more humane immigration enforcement system and to transfer functions like organized crime, drug smuggling, and human trafficking to other government agencies that are well-equipped to handle them and have proven track records of transparency, accountability and compliance with the law?** (Y/N)

YES.

See our policy stance: <https://poulos.house/issues/ice-accountability/>.

6. **ICE Oversight and Accountability. ICE agents have been terrorizing immigrant communities here in Massachusetts and across the country. Would you support requiring DHS officers and agents engaged in immigration enforcement to clearly identify themselves by wearing visible**

insignia and specifying the agency they work for (e.g., ICE, CBP) during detentions and arrests banning the use of face coverings or non-tactical masks that conceal officers' identities? (Y/N)

YES.

7. **National Guard. Would you support legislation to prevent the National Guard from being used for immigration enforcement purposes and functioning as an extension of ICE? (Y/N)**

YES.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

I've signed the Purge Palantir pledge to reject all contributions from Palantir Technologies and its executives. Palantir builds the AI-powered surveillance tools ICE uses to target immigrants, and their software is now being integrated into DOGE to merge federal databases on American citizens. We can't fight the surveillance state while taking money from the companies building it.

I. A Diverse and Welcoming Society

1. **LGBTQ Rights. The Trump administration has been waging an all-assault on the LGBTQ community, especially the right of trans individuals to exist in public space.**

- a. **Would you commit to vote against and speak out against any rollback of LGBTQ rights? (Y/N)**

YES.

- b. **This year and last year, the National Defense Authorization Act included harmful anti-trans policy riders. Would you commit to vote against any omnibus bill, defense authorization, or spending bill that includes a rollback of LGBTQ rights? (Y/N)**

YES.

2. **Right to Read. Would you support legislation to classify discriminatory book bans as violations of federal civil rights laws? (Y/N)**

YES.

The right to education means the right to a true variety of information.

3. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Would you support legislation to codify executive orders from the Biden administration that required federal agencies to identify and address barriers to serving underserved communities and established agency equity teams and annual equity action plans to embed equity in federal planning?** (Y/N)

YES.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

J. Good Government and Strong Democracy

1. **Comprehensive Democracy Reform. Do you support the voting rights reforms from the former HR 1, the For The People Act? Among other things, HRI (“For the People Act”) contained automatic voter registration, Election Day Registration, the expansion of early voting, the prohibition of partisan gerrymandering, and other vital reforms.** (Y/N)

YES.

For voting to be a right, every barrier to entry has to be relieved. We would also support legislation establishing a federal holiday for election day and increasing the range of voting center coverage.

2. **Ending Incarceration-Based Disenfranchisement. Currently, Maine and Vermont are the only states that provide full suffrage to the incarcerated. Do you support ending the disenfranchisement for those currently incarcerated?** (Y/N)

YES.

If voting is our right, then it can never be taken away. Those incarcerated absolutely need means of representing themselves and speaking out about the true conditions they’re experiencing.

3. **Public Financing.** Do you support public financing of Congressional elections? (Y/N)

YES.

The huge economic barrier to entry of launching a campaign against incumbents backed by millions of PAC dollars is a massive deterrent to outsiders trying to launch progressive campaigns. Money should serve as no measure in politics.

4. **Citizens United.** Would you support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United decision and allow limits on corporate political spending? (Y/N)

YES.

See our policy stance here:

<https://poulos.house/issues/overturn-citizens-united>

5. **Reining in Corporate Spending.** Would you support requiring that any corporate political spending must be approved by at least 75% of a corporation's shareholders and 75% of its Board of Directors? (Y/N)

YES.

6. **DC Autonomy.** In recent years, Congress has repeatedly meddled in DC's ability to self-govern.

- a. Do you support DC statehood? (Y/N)

YES.

- b. Do you commit to voting against any piece of legislation to override democratically passed legislation by the DC City Council? (Y/N)

YES.

7. **Supreme Court Reform.** The 6-vote reactionary Supreme Court majority has repeatedly violated precedent and the rule of law in order to embolden the Trump administration and hobbled the ability of the Biden

administration to take action. What reforms, if any, to the Supreme Court would you support and advocate for?

The Supreme Court has become an illegitimate institution that serves corporate power and the Republican Party rather than the Constitution. We should expand the Court to rebalance it after Republicans' theft of the Merrick Garland seat and also codify enforceable ethics rules with real consequences, mandatory recusal standards, and term limits to end lifetime appointments that let justices shape policy for decades after the presidents who appointed them leave office. Most urgently, we need a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United and restore the ability of Congress to regulate money in politics.

<https://poulos.house/issues/overturn-citizens-united/>

8. **Anti-Corruption — Congress. Would you support a ban on Congressional stock trading of any kind? (Y/N)**

YES.

See our policy stance here:

<https://poulos.house/issues/congressional-stock-ban/>

9. **Conflicts of Interest. Would you support legislation to require the President and Vice President to disclose and divest any potential financial conflicts of interest and require presidential appointees to recuse themselves from any matters involving the president's financial conflicts of interest that come before their agencies? (Y/N)**

YES.

10. **Anti-Corruption — President. Scholars have described the Trump administration as the most corrupt in modern history, with every week bringing new scandals, conflicts of interest, and corruption. What steps would you take to increase oversight and better hold officials to account for corruption and law-breaking?**

Congress must reassert its oversight authority and stop deferring to executive power. We support strengthening inspectors general with independent funding and removal protections, mandatory disclosure of presidential and cabinet tax returns, strict enforcement of the Emoluments Clause, and real

penalties for defying congressional subpoenas. We also need to protect whistleblowers who expose corruption rather than prosecuting them. The same anti-corruption reforms we support for Congress — banning stock trading, closing the revolving door to lobbying — must apply to executive branch officials and their families.

Related issues:

- Lifetime ban on congressional lobbying:
<https://poulos.house/issues/congressional-lobbying-ban/>
- Ban congressional stock and crypto trading:
<https://poulos.house/issues/congressional-stock-ban/>
- Overturn Citizens United:
<https://poulos.house/issues/overturn-citizens-united/>

11. If you make one change to the US Constitution, what amendment would you adopt, and why?

We should adopt an amendment to overturn Citizens United and establish that corporations are not people and money is not speech. Until we get corporate money out of politics, every other progressive priority — Medicare-for-All, climate action, workers' rights — will be blocked by the lobbyists and PACs that have captured Congress. This single change would restore the ability of the people to govern themselves rather than being ruled by the highest bidder. <https://poulos.house/issues/overturn-citizens-united/>.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

K. Sustainable Infrastructure & Environmental Protection

1. Green New Deal. Do you support the concept of a Green New Deal? If so, what should it look like?

YES. The Green New Deal would transition the economy off fossil fuels while creating millions of good union jobs in clean energy, manufacturing, and infrastructure. We must prioritize environmental justice for frontline communities that have borne the brunt of pollution and climate disasters, and ensure that workers in fossil fuel industries have a just transition to new employment. Climate policy that doesn't address economic inequality will fail — we need solutions that tackle both crises together.

<https://poulos.house/issues/climate-justice/>

2. **Energy Transition.** In 2024, global temperatures were recorded at 1.5 degrees celsius above pre-industrial levels for the first time. We need to rapidly decarbonize our economy if we are to begin to reverse global warming. Which of the following policies would you support to accelerate that transition?

- a. **Setting a goal of 100 percent clean energy generation and use by 2035?** (Y/N)

YES.

- b. **Prohibiting new leases for coal, oil, and gas on all federal lands and waters?** (Y/N)

YES.

- c. **Opposing any legislation that authorizes, or expedites the permitting or approval of, new fossil fuel pipelines?** (Y/N)

YES.

3. **Clean Energy.** What steps would you take to promote renewable energy development in Massachusetts?

We support expanding offshore wind development, investing in solar and battery storage, and modernizing the grid to handle distributed renewable generation. We need federal standards to ensure AI data centers don't consume the clean energy we're building while pushing residential ratepayers onto dirtier and more expensive power. Any renewable expansion must include strong labor standards so these are good union jobs, not a race to the bottom.

Related issues:

- Climate Justice: <https://poulos.house/issues/climate-justice/>

- Regulating AI Data Centers:

<https://poulos.house/issues/ai-data-center-energy/>

4. **Clean Water.** Would you support legislation to require natural gas drillers to disclose the chemicals that go into the ground during the hydraulic

fracturing (“fracking”) process and to close the so-called “Halliburton loophole,” which prevents the EPA from conducting rigorous oversight? (Y/N)

YES.

5. **Environmental Justice. Would you support legislation to codify environmental justice into law; require federal agencies to address environmental justice through agency actions and permitting decisions; and strengthen legal protections against environmental injustice for communities of color, low-income communities, and indigenous communities? (Y/N)**

YES.

6. **Making Polluters Pay. Would you support legislation to impose a fee on the largest US-based fossil fuel extractors and oil refiners and foreign-owned companies doing business in the US based on their percentage of global emissions, with the funds raised used to finance a wide range of efforts to tackle the impacts of climate change? (Y/N)**

YES.

7. **Data Centers. The rapid growth of data centers has been pushing up utility bills and consuming large amounts of energy and water. Would you support legislation to require data centers to publish their energy usage and provide additional clean energy supply to cover their extra usage (B.Y.O.N.C.E., "bring your own clean energy")? (Y/N)**

YES.

<https://poulos.house/issues/ai-data-center-energy/>

8. **Electric Vehicles. Would you support legislation to phase out the sale of gasoline- or diesel-powered vehicles by 2035? (Y/N)**

YES.

The health and safety of our planet is more important than the needs of the oil industry.

9. **Fare-Free Transit. Would you support investing in fare-free public transit?**
(Y/N)

YES.

See our policy stance here: <https://poulos.house/issues/public-transit/>.

10. **Public Transportation. What would be your top priorities for federal investment in transportation and infrastructure if elected?**

For 40 years, 80% of federal transportation funding has gone to highways while transit-dependent communities are left behind. We should rebalance federal funding to give public transit equal investment, expand commuter rail to underserved communities in MA-4, and support fare-free bus programs that improve mobility for working families. We should also electrify public transit fleets and invest in pedestrian and bike infrastructure. Transportation policy is climate policy. We can't meet our emissions goals while continuing to subsidize car dependency. <https://poulos.house/issues/public-transit/>

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

L. National Security and the US's Role in the World

1. **What principles and priorities govern your approach to foreign policy?**

US Foreign policy should be grounded in non-intervention, diplomacy, and human rights. We should stop arming governments that commit atrocities, end the endless wars that have destabilized entire regions, and prioritize diplomacy over military force. We spend more on defense than the next ten countries combined while our infrastructure crumbles and people can't afford healthcare. We oppose military aid to countries facing credible genocide charges, support restoring funding to international institutions, and believe Congress must reassert its constitutional authority over war powers instead of rubber-stamping executive military action.

2. **If elected, would you support Section 702 reforms requiring federal law enforcement agencies to obtain a warrant before searching data collected by the NSA?** (Y/N)

YES.

3. **Would you commit to voting against the annual National Defense Authorization Act until the Pentagon is able to [successfully pass an audit](#)?**
(Y/N)

YES.

4. **The so-called “Leahy Law” prohibits the US government from using funds for assistance to units of foreign security forces where there is credible information implicating that unit in the commission of gross violations of human rights; however, current and past presidents have evaded this law. Would you vote to block weapons sales or transfers to any country credibly accused of human rights abuses, such as Israel, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates?** (Y/N)

YES.

<https://poulos.house/issues/israel-palestine>

5. **In 2002, George W. Bush notified the United Nations that the US would not ratify the Rome Statute, which created the International Criminal Court. Further, Donald Trump has been undermining the ICC’s work by sanctioning ICC officials and their families for investigating acts of genocide committed by the State of Israel. Would you commit to (a) opposing any such attacks on the ICC and (b) supporting the ratification of the Rome Statute and the US’s participation in the International Criminal Court?** (Y/N)

YES.

6. **The Trump administration has engaged in an illegal campaign of bombing fishing boats in the Caribbean and an illegal campaign of bombing Venezuela. In both cases, the US military has killed civilians, and in the latter, the US has kidnapped the head of state, committing to an unpopular regime change policy.**
- a. **Do you support using Congressional authority to ban military strikes on fishing boats in the Caribbean?** (Y/N)

YES.

- b. **Do you support using Congressional authority to withdraw US military forces from Venezuela and prevent further military escalation?** (Y/N)

YES.

- c. **Do you support using Congressional authority to prevent further military escalation in Latin America, such as proposed attacks on Cuba, Mexico, or Colombia?** (Y/N)

YES.

7. **Do you oppose Trump's military escalations against Iran?** (Y/N)

YES.

While we do not support the Ayatollah's authoritarian and restrictive regime nor their violence against and killing of protestors, we do not believe it is in the national interest of the United States to intervene.

8. **Would you support ending the unilateral US trade embargo on Cuba that prevents Cuban purchases of US exports but does not affect Cuban trade with the rest of the world, thereby hurting both economies and populations while achieving nothing?** (Y/N)

YES.

9. **Do you support the United States rejoining global organizations that the Trump administration has left, such as UNESCO or WHO?** (Y/N)

YES.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS