



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2026 CONGRESSIONAL
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Patrick Roath

Office Sought: US House of Representatives, MA-08

Party: Democrat

Website: <https://www.patrickroath.com/>

Social Media Handles:

- **Bluesky:** <https://bsky.app/profile/patrickroath.bsky.social>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/PatrickRoathForCongress>
- **X:** <https://x.com/PatrickRoath>
- **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/patrickroath>
- **TikTok:** <https://www.tiktok.com/@patrickroathforcongress>

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?

I'm running because the unprecedented times we are in demand a different kind of leadership. The solutions and approaches that might have made sense for this district and this country decades ago are no longer suited to the challenges of today. We deserve leaders who are passionate, urgent, and creative — people who are thinking clearly about the future and not tied down to the past. My vision is for an America that proves democracy can still deliver transformative results for working people. Executing on that is how we combat the root causes of authoritarianism and fascism in this country.

This is personal for me. My mother was born in Brockton and raised by a single mom in Braintree. She and my dad, who she met when he got out of the Army at the tail end of Vietnam, built a life through hard work and opportunity, and my family benefited from the American Dream of social mobility that used to define this country. That promise is slipping away. As a new dad, I feel the urgency of making sure the next generation can still expect to own a home, afford to raise a family, and do better than their parents did. That pathway has to be rebuilt, and it won't happen without new leadership willing to fight for it.

My top three priorities:

First, I think Democrats should lead with an omnibus Working Families Affordability Package targeting the things that are driving people out of our communities and limiting social mobility. The exact basket of policies in the bill can change but some of the key ingredients I dwell on are: driving down housing costs by unlocking supply and helping first time buyers, addressing childcare costs by directly subsidizing centers to provide more affordable care for working families, expanding the child tax credit, clawing back tariffs, and tackling health care costs, in part by pushing toward universal coverage.

Second, we need to Trump-proof our government. Congress must reassert itself in the Constitutional order more aggressively than it did after Watergate. That means repealing the archaic statutes being used to deport people without process, clawing back tariff and emergency authority from the executive, directly legislating on climate so protections can't be undone by executive order, banning Congressional stock trading, and strengthening oversight tools like Inspector General independence and whistleblower

protections. As someone who spent a decade at Common Cause fighting for democratic accountability, this is core to why I'm running.

Third is a tie for me between (1) advancing the the PRO Act — unions built the middle class, and passing comprehensive labor reform that protects workers' right to organize is essential to reversing decades of rising inequality; and (2) passing a climate bill that addresses clean energy siting, modernizes our electric grid, and reverses the damage done by the Trump Administration to renewables.

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

I bring a combination of government experience, legal expertise, and grassroots advocacy.

For a decade, I practiced as a commercial litigator at a major international law firm in Boston, where I built an expertise in complex civil litigation and maintained a robust pro bono practice focused on voting rights, political asylum claims, and trans rights.

For many years, I chaired the board of Common Cause Massachusetts, where I joined and led successful campaigns to expand voting access, increase government transparency, and strengthen accountability on Beacon Hill. I played a key role in fights to pass automatic voter registration and codify universal mail-in voting options, as well as the ongoing efforts to enact same day registration in Massachusetts.

After graduating from college, I served as the first White House Press Intern in the Obama-Biden White House. I worked as an aide to Governor Patrick on his 2010 reelection campaign and in the State House, and again later when he ran for U.S. President. In 2010, I represented America abroad as a Fulbright fellow through the State Department, teaching English at an Islamic boarding school in rural Malaysia. From 2015 - 2016, I clerked for a judge appointed by President Obama on the federal court of appeals with jurisdiction over New England.

I have been on the ground in swing states for every Democratic candidate for President in every cycle since 2012. Florida, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania.

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

First, MAGA extremist Republicans who have abandoned any pretense of governing in the public interest. The current Republican majority has shown it will block popular legislation, gut essential programs, and weaponize government institutions to serve a narrow ideological agenda. That is the most immediate obstacle to progress, and defeating it requires Democrats who will fight with urgency and creativity.

Second, the structural features of our political system that insulate incumbents, reward corruption, and reinforce the status quo. That's why our campaign refuses all corporate PAC money, and it's why I support public financing of elections, a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United, and Congressional term limits. We have to change the incentive structure that keeps the system locked in place.

Third, institutional timidity among Democratic leadership. Too many elected Democrats seem content to wait out the Trump Administration rather than mount a vigorous, creative opposition. We need leaders willing to use every tool available — oversight, budget reconciliation, coalition-building — to advance progressive priorities even in a hostile environment. The posture of hoping voters will come back to us by default is not a strategy. It's an abdication.

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

Yes. I define “progressive” less as a label and more as a governing philosophy: the belief that government should be a force for expanding opportunity, reducing inequality, and protecting the rights and dignity of every person. Being progressive means fighting for an economy of abundance: building millions of homes, expanding childcare, creating good jobs in clean energy.

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

The late Senator Ted Kennedy, in so many respects.

Former Governor Deval Patrick, whom I worked for directly, showed how to combine progressive values with pragmatic governance, building unlikely

coalitions while delivering real results. His ability to connect policy to people's lived experience—and to lead with both moral clarity and operational excellence—is the model I aspire to.

I also deeply respect Rep. Jim McGovern, who represents a similar district nearby and has built a long, productive career as an effective, values-driven progressive with real leadership in the caucus and tangible results for his constituents.

Rep. Jamie Raskin is another model—a constitutional lawyer who brings legal rigor and moral seriousness to the work of Congress.

II. Shared Leadership

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

Accountability starts with showing up. I will hold regular public town halls across every part of the district. I will maintain ongoing policy roundtables with community organizations, labor leaders, and advocacy groups to shape my legislative priorities.

I'll commit to transparent communication about my votes, the status of legislation, and the obstacles we face. Most importantly, I see accountability as a partnership. I don't want to just report back, I want to be challenged, pushed, and informed by the people and organizations doing the work every day.

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

Regular in-person town halls across the district. Public vote explanations, published promptly. Ongoing policy roundtables with advocacy organizations, organized labor, community groups, and service providers. I like the idea of an advisory council. Social media will be a key part of this too.

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?

Immigrant communities. Newer residents. Renters. Young people, particularly students.

I will prioritize proactive outreach by partnering with trusted community organizations and service providers, ensuring language access in my office, and holding meetings in community spaces where people feel safe. I'll dedicate staff specifically to immigration casework. Beyond immigrant communities, I'll work to reach renters facing housing instability, working families too busy for traditional political events, and young people who feel disconnected from the political process.

These are communities being particularly targeted by the Trump Administration, and I would represent them with that knowledge at top of mind.

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?**

I think the only way to accomplish this is to genuinely integrate members of these communities into the work of a Congressional office and the practice of lawmaking. I commit to doing that, and centering the needs of communities who are farthest from the halls of power and most likely to be targeted by MAGA extremists.

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).**

Part of this relates to staffing, and I will build a team that reflects the diversity of the communities I serve. I will support staff unionization and pay fair, competitive wages to ensure we have a diverse and representative group of colleagues, both in the district and in DC.

My legislative priorities will be developed in genuine partnership with community organizations and advocates. This is how I operated as an advocate and it's how I've run the campaign. I believe the way we've conducted the campaign to date and the emphasis on showing up everywhere, taking hard questions, diving into details, and engaging

with people who don't immediately agree with me serves as a template for how to perform the role.

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 is one where everyone pays their share. People who earn their income from a paycheck shouldn't be paying a higher effective tax rate than people whose wealth comes from investments and financial assets. The most fortunate among us, and the corporations that have benefited enormously from American workers and American infrastructure, should be contributing proportionally.

I'd advocate for a minimum tax on billionaires. I support bringing capital gains rates more in line with how we tax wages, closing offshore loopholes that allow multinational corporations to shift profits and avoid their obligations, and strengthening the corporate minimum tax. I'd also fight to make the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit permanent and expanded — these are among the most effective tools we have for reducing child poverty and putting money directly into working families' pockets. And we need to claw back the giveaways in the Big Ugly Bill that handed tax breaks to corporations and the ultra-wealthy while gutting services that families across our district accdepend on.

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.

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.

- 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.

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.

As referenced above, I support closing offshore tax arbitrage loopholes and strengthening and standardizing the corporate minimum tax. We should be particularly focused on shutting down tax breaks that subsidize fossil fuel industries. The Big Ugly Bill made many of these problems worse, and we should be unwinding those giveaways and redirecting the revenue toward working families.

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.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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?**

We should raise the minimum wage and index it to inflation. Apart from that, I support pro-labor and pro-workforce reforms like the PRO Act, efforts to ensure that workers are not being improperly categorized as contractors, and aggressive federal enforcement of labor standards. We should do more to make the basic goods of life more affordable, including housing, childcare, health care, education. We also need to make sure our social safety net remains robust and accessible, particularly nutrition assistance and Medicaid.

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.

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

YES.

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.

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.

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?

I've addressed this subject a few times elsewhere in this document at this point but my leading proposals on this front include efforts to bring housing costs, childcare costs, and health care costs under control. I've detailed those plans across this questionnaire, and our plans are available on the website too. I'd add a few other priorities: repeal the President's unilateral tariff, police illegal monopolist behavior, promote less expensive alternatives to traditional four-year college, and make energy more affordable by promoting cheap clean alternatives like wind and solar.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

YES.

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.

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.

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

YES.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

We need to assertively move toward a system of universal healthcare in this country.

The United States is the only developed nation that does not guarantee healthcare coverage to its citizens as a public good. Every peer country has figured this out. They often spend less per capita, cover everyone, and achieve comparable or better health outcomes. The fact that we haven't done this is a policy failure.

Our fragmented patchwork system will be under increasing strain as our population ages. We are on the cusp of a transformation in healthcare driven by AI and advances in drug development, and we need to modernize our infrastructure both for approving new therapies and for equitably diffusing new treatments to the people who need them. That's something I'm very focused on.

Most people are more concerned about cost than coverage per se, and rightfully so. They're dealing with crushing premiums, surprise bills, and insurance companies that deny claims. We can't only talk about the long-term vision — we have to be delivering relief in real time. That means expanding Medicare's drug negotiation power to all Americans, capping out-of-pocket costs as a percentage of income, cracking down on pharmacy benefit managers who manipulate drug prices and

pocket billions, and reining in private equity control of safety net hospitals. We need to be fighting on all of these fronts simultaneously.

My detailed healthcare proposal is up on our website

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, passing the IDEA Full Funding Act to finally deliver the \$31 billion annually Congress pledged in 1975 to cover 40% of special education costs—currently the federal government covers just 10%, leaving Massachusetts districts scrambling.

Second, expanding universal Pre-K access and investing in Title I funding to ensure high-poverty schools receive the resources they need for equitable educational opportunities.

Third, making community college tuition-free and expanding dual enrollment programs so high school students can earn college credits at no cost—disproportionately benefiting first-generation and low-income students.

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.

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.

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.

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

We have an education policy brief up on the website:

<https://patrickroath.com/plan/public-education/>

F. Affordable, Decent Housing

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

The bulk of my thoughts on this question have been up on our website since day 1 of this campaign, but I'll pull out a few sections & summarize here:

The federal government needs to lead an ambitious campaign to build millions more affordable units across the country and provide direct assistance to first-time homebuyers.

The housing crisis stems from one basic problem: we don't have enough affordable homes in the right places. Working families are priced out while luxury towers sit empty. I'll champion federal action to build millions of homes that teachers, nurses, and firefighters can actually afford.

I'll push for low-interest financing through a federal effort designed to kickstart the construction of starter homes that give working families a shot at homeownership. I'll fight for historic expansion of affordable housing tax credits to ensure new apartments serve the missing middle—the families making too much for subsidies but too little for market rates.

I'll support a \$40 billion innovation and financing fund empowering communities to convert empty offices to homes, experiment with new construction that cuts costs, and ensure development benefits long-time residents.

We should make it easier for first-time homebuyers to afford a down payment for a home in their community. I support providing \$25,000 in down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers who have paid rent on time for two years, with extra support for first-generation homeowners whose parents never owned property.

I would also champion a competitive federal grant program that rewards municipalities that adopt pro-housing policies – from transit-oriented development to adaptive reuse of commercial properties. When communities step up to address the housing crisis, the federal government should be a partner, not an obstacle.

As we work to increase housing supply, we must also protect renters from exploitation and displacement. I'll work to end corporate price-fixing by large landlords while investing in affordable rental housing through expanded tax credits and direct federal funding. And I'll fight to ensure that as neighborhoods improve, long-time residents can afford to stay and benefit from that progress.

I strongly support revitalizing our nation's public housing infrastructure, which has suffered from decades of chronic underfunding and neglect. I will

fight for substantial increases to HUD funding to address the estimated \$70 billion maintenance backlog in public housing nationwide. Our public housing residents deserve safe, dignified homes—not deteriorating buildings with deferred maintenance and environmental hazards.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Housing is likely the #1 issue facing Massachusetts today, and that’s why we’ve had a housing plan on our website since day 1 of our campaign. I added most of it above, but the full plan can be viewed here:

<https://patrickroath.com/plan/affordable-housing/>

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.

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

YES.

- 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.

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

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

YES.

- 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.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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.

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.

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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

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.

Our gun control issue page is online here: <https://patrickroath.com/plan/gun-control/>

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.

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

YES.

- 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.

- 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.

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.

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.

Our immigration policy is on our website here:

<https://patrickroath.com/plan/immigration/>

I strongly support serious efforts toward comprehensive, bipartisan, and humane immigration reform that pairs an orderly and clear pathway to citizenship for longtime immigrants with increased support for immigration judges, changes to asylum law, and smarter border enforcement.

I also categorically reject MAGA efforts to demonize and dehumanize non-citizens who are living in the United States peacefully and contributing to our society. The Administration's current attempts to strip Due Process rights away from immigrants is a threat to our country that, if unchecked, will lead to rampant authoritarianism

and the targeting of U.S. citizens. We cannot stand idly by while the Administration violates the U.S. Constitution.

The most dangerous threat to our Constitution is ICE – a rogue agency that President Trump is attempting to convert into a private militia force capable of terrorizing our communities. ICE as it exists today cannot be allowed to persist. We should dismantle that agency, which has been bloated with untrained recent recruits, and reassign the responsibility for domestic immigration enforcement to a different part of the government or a new agency that is prepared to comply with the Constitution.

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.

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.

As someone who has fought for civil rights as a lawyer and democracy advocate through my work with Common Cause Massachusetts and other groups, I would be a strong champion for LGBTQ+ equality if elected to the United States Congress. I have been on the front lines of this fight, including by spending years as the lead attorney in a successful federal lawsuit demanding that Massachusetts provide constitutionally appropriate medical care to a transgender inmate. If elected, I would join the Equality Caucus and the Transgender Equality Taskforce, and champion passage of the Equality Act.

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, HR1 (“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.

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.

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

YES.

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.

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?

At a minimum, an enforceable code of ethics.

I support proposals to end life tenure and expand the number of Supreme Court positions.

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

YES.

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?**

The Trump Administration is trampling on the checks and balances imposed by the U.S. Constitution and attempting to unilaterally seize powers it is not constitutionally entitled to. These overreaches have been abetted by a Republican-controlled Congress that is letting the Executive run roughshod over Congress's critical Constitutional role as a check against tyranny.

That acquiescence must end. Democrats in Congress must prioritize restoring the critical checks and balances fundamental to our democracy. That means repealing or substantially amending statutes that the Trump Administration has exploited in attempts to seize and misuse authority. One example is revisiting laws passed by Congress delegating its authority to set tariffs to the President. Immigration is another example. Congress should drastically curtail or repeal the various laws that the Administration is currently invoking in asserting its right to deport noncitizens, such as the Alien Enemies Act.

A Democratic majority in either chamber would also provide crucial oversight capabilities through committee investigations, hearings, and subpoena power to examine potential abuses of power. We should make sure we are well prepared to leverage and focus national attention on these hearings.

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

I would adopt an amendment that advocates for the same Economic Bill of Rights conceived of by FDR and championed by MLK in his "Poor People's Campaign" before his death, including the right to a job with a fair wage, universal single-payer healthcare coverage, and services that support economic mobility including funding for public education and other social services.

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

As a longtime leader and advocate with Common Cause, campaign finance reform and democracy issues are near and dear to my heart.

Anti-corruption is one of the leading pillars of my campaign, and more of my thoughts are available here:

<https://patrickroath.com/plan/fixing-politics-and-democracy/>

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 scale of the climate crisis demands a society-wide, large-scale commitment to transforming our energy system, our infrastructure, and our economy. I believe we need an effort on the order of what the Green New Deal envisions — a comprehensive national mobilization that treats climate change as the existential threat it is while creating millions of good jobs and expanding economic opportunity for working families.

What should that look like in practice? First, massive investment in the full spectrum of clean energy technologies — from offshore wind and solar to advanced nuclear, fusion, and geothermal — paired with environmental resilience projects that protect communities already feeling the effects of climate change, including coastal communities across our district. Massachusetts has the research institutions, skilled workforce, and innovative spirit to lead the nation in developing and deploying these technologies.

Second, the jobs created by this transition must be good union jobs, and the benefits must be shared broadly — not concentrated in a few regions or industries. As we transition to cleaner energy, we must ensure it remains affordable for families and businesses through investments in energy efficiency and protections against price spikes.

Third, to make meaningful national progress, we need climate policies that will endure across multiple administrations. That means directly legislating on climate rather than relying on executive action that gets reversed every four years, and building the broadest possible coalition for action that creates jobs, improves public health, and strengthens communities.

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?**

I'll champion investments in the full spectrum of clean energy technologies—from offshore wind and solar to geothermal—while building environmental resilience through targeted civil engineering projects throughout our district. Massachusetts has the research institutions, skilled workforce, and innovative spirit to lead the nation in developing and deploying these technologies.

I would work to directly promote local entrepreneurs and leaders offering climate friendly solutions, and would be an advocate for consumers before regulatory bodies.

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.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

Coastal resiliency along the Boston harbor.

Cleaning up the Fore River.

Orange line extension to past Forest Hills.

Increased frequency of commuter rail trains, particularly to Brockton

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

An issue that's key to the Massachusetts 8th District is the Weymouth Compressor Station. I stand firmly with FRRACS group & other residents fighting against the natural gas compressor station in Weymouth. This facility poses demonstrative environmental and health problems for the community and represents the wrong fossil fuel direction for our energy future. More info on my climate policy is on our website at: <https://patrickroath.com/plan/climate-the-environment/>

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

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

America can only be great on the world stage by being good.

My experience teaching English at a rural Islamic boarding school in Malaysia as a Fulbright scholar through the U.S. State Department taught me that America's greatest strength isn't our military might—it's our ability to build genuine partnerships based on mutual respect and shared values. Real security comes from diplomacy, development, and demonstrating that democracy delivers.

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.

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.

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.

My full thoughts on foreign policy can be viewed on my website at:

<https://patrickroath.com/plan/foreign-policy/>

III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Anyone interested in learning more should review our website or reach out to us directly using info@patrickroath.com.

You can sign up to volunteer here or donate to the campaign here!