



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2026 CONGRESSIONAL
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Craig Swallow

Office Sought: US House of Representatives, MA-09

Party: Democrat

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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?

I am running for office because career politicians have allowed an oligarchy and gerontocracy to erode our democracy. For far too long, Washington has prioritized corporate donors, lobbyists, and political self-preservation over addressing the real, material needs of working people. This failure has not only deepened inequality but also hollowed out public trust in government, leaving entire communities behind. I believe it's time for bold, people-centered leadership that puts everyday Americans first.

If elected, my top three legislative priorities would be:

1. Universal Healthcare through Medicare for All: Ensuring that healthcare is affordable, accessible, and a fundamental right for every American, not a privilege tied to wealth or employment.
2. Affordability and Cost-of-Living Relief Package: Tackling the rising costs of housing, energy, healthcare, and transportation through a combination of price controls where appropriate, robust public investment, and aggressive antitrust enforcement to break up monopolies and restore competition.
3. Congressional Accountability and Anti-Corruption Act: Restoring trust in government by banning members of Congress from trading individual stocks, overturning Citizens United, and ensuring that the power of the American vote is not overshadowed by corporate money in politics.

These priorities reflect my commitment to building a government that works for the people, not the powerful.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

I come from a working-class background and have spent my career in education, restaurant management, and community leadership. I have balanced payrolls, managed teams, resolved conflicts, and operated under real-world constraints that most politicians have never experienced. I have also organized locally, led coalitions, and worked directly with voters who are frustrated with politicians that speak at them rather than with them. That combination of operational leadership, lived experience, and grassroots organizing is exactly what Congress needs more of.

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

The biggest barriers are money in politics, institutional inertia, and a political culture that rewards caution over courage. Even when there is public support for progressive policies, leadership often blocks action to protect donor interests or maintain the status quo. Procedural tools are routinely used as excuses for inaction rather than obstacles to overcome.

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

Yes. To me, being progressive means believing the government has a responsibility to actively improve people’s lives, reduce inequality, and correct systemic injustices. It means prioritizing outcomes over optics, people over profits and public service over career politicians. It is about measurable improvements that people can feel in their daily lives, providing them the ability to enjoy their present and save for their future comfortably. Politics should be a time of service dedicated to enriching the lives of everyday Americans, not a career that serves as a safe haven for the ultra-wealthy.

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

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has been a major inspiration, particularly because of our shared educational and service-industry backgrounds. She has shown that it is possible to be principled, accessible, and relentless in holding power accountable, regardless of party. I aspire to bring that same level of transparency, courage, and constituent-centered leadership to Congress.

Additionally, I find Zohran Mamdani’s work deeply inspiring. His focus on advocating for working people and demonstrating that the government can act swiftly when there’s the will of the people is a model I hope to emulate in my own leadership.

II. Shared Leadership

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

I will treat my office as an extension of the community, not a hierarchy above it. That means regular feedback through town halls and meetings with local advocates, public reporting on commitments made and kept, and an expectation that constituents have a voice in shaping priorities.

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

- Regular in-person and virtual town halls across the district.
- Plain-language explanations of votes and legislation.
- A standing constituent advisory council representing diverse communities.
- Publicly accessible digitally branded materials that provide consistent communications on meetings, legislation and policy priorities.

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?**

Historically, low-income communities, immigrants, disabled residents, and rural or transit-poor communities have the least access. I will counter this by holding office hours outside traditional spaces, partnering with trusted local organizations, and ensuring accessibility through language access, disability accommodations, and flexible engagement formats. District nine can feel significantly more remote in parts of the Cape & Islands. I will continue to commit to hosting events in communities traditionally overlooked.

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?**

Influence means shared decision-making. I will involve impacted communities early in agenda-setting, compensate community advisors for their time when I am able, and measure success based on policy outcomes, not representation alone. These are the same communities that I will be working with to develop my campaign and will be the foundation of my community.

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 with lived experience in the communities they serve and empowering them to shape policy recommendations.

Agenda-setting: Allowing constituent advisory councils to help determine legislative priorities and oversight focus areas.

Constituent Engagement: Consistent town halls (virtual and in-person) that allow voters to ask questions and push for policy that impacts them.

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 that is transparent, equitable, and designed to reduce fraud, evasion, and inequality. It ensures that the wealthiest individuals and corporations pay their fair share, while alleviating the burden on working families. I support implementing higher marginal tax rates on extreme wealth, closing capital gains loopholes that disproportionately benefit the ultra-rich, introducing a financial transaction tax to curb speculative trading, and strengthening IRS enforcement to crack down on corporate tax evasion. These measures would not only generate revenue for critical public investments but also help create a more just and balanced economy.

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.

I would support repealing the corporate tax breaks in the 'Big Ugly Bill.' Additionally, I believe corporate tax incentives should be reserved for companies that demonstrate a genuine commitment to their workers and the planet. This includes paying livable wages, providing access to affordable childcare, financially supporting the continuing education of their employees, and actively contributing to ecological restoration and reversing climate impacts. Tax breaks should reward businesses that invest in their workforce, adopt sustainable practices, and prioritize the well-being of our communities and environment over profits.

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)
NO, I'd advocate to raise it to [\\$25/hr federally](#).
 - 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?**

As I mentioned earlier, I would advocate for a federal minimum wage of \$25/hour to better reflect both inflation and productivity growth. Strengthening unions is also critical, this includes repealing 'right-to-work' laws, streamlining union recognition processes, and expanding worker protections to ensure wages rise in tandem with productivity and inflation. Additionally, implementing universal healthcare and affordable childcare would significantly reduce the financial burdens on working families, helping to offset any inflationary pressures that a minimum wage increase alone might not fully address. Together, these steps would create a more equitable and sustainable economy for all.

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.

I would support federal legislation to create a nationwide paid family and medical leave system that is at least as strong as Massachusetts' program. Additionally, I would advocate for extending and improving family leave policies to align with those of other high-income nations, ensuring that all workers have access to comprehensive, equitable,

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?

My top priorities for addressing the high cost of living include lowering housing costs through significant public housing investments and incentivizing the development of affordable, right-sized housing that reflects modern family structures—such as smaller spaces for households of one or two people with pets. I would also focus on reducing energy costs by

transitioning to public and renewable utilities, expanding healthcare access to alleviate medical debt, and enforcing antitrust laws to combat corporate price-gouging. Together, these measures would tackle the root causes of rising costs while ensuring that economic security is within reach for all.

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.

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.

Interdistrict and Regional Schools

Federal funding formulas that reduce reliance on local property taxes

Funding and support of OCR in Department of Education to aggressively pursue violations of civil rights and implement desegregation standards

Universal access to early childhood education and wraparound services

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.

F. Affordable, Decent Housing

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

The federal government must treat housing as infrastructure. That includes large-scale public housing investment, tenant protections, anti-speculation measures, and incentives for deepening affordable housing rather than luxury development.

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.

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.

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.

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.

OTHER POLICY PROPOSALS

In *Department of State v. Muñoz* (2024), the Supreme Court ruled that a U.S. citizen does not have a constitutional right for their non-citizen spouse to be admitted to the country. While the Court claimed it was not undermining marriage itself, this decision opens a dangerous door by separating the act of marriage from the rights that come with it.

Marriage has always meant more than a ceremony or certificate. It unlocks over 1,100 federal and state rights and protections, including tax status, healthcare access, immigration benefits, survivor rights, and parental authority. The *Muñoz* ruling

weakens that foundation by declaring that marriage no longer guarantees the ability for spouses to live together in the same nation.

This is not only about immigration. It raises a deeper question about whether the government can decide which marriages count for full legal protection. That kind of selective treatment threatens every family's freedom, stability, and dignity.

The Right to Family Unity Act, which affirms the right of citizens to live with their spouse in the United States.

Codifying Obergefell and Loving v. Virginia into federal law so that marriage equality and interracial marriage remain protected even if the Supreme Court changes course.

A Comprehensive Family Rights Review through a federal commission to examine how court rulings have weakened family-based protections and to recommend legislation that restores them.

Immigrant Family Protections that ensure working families in mixed-status households are not punished for who they love or where they were born.

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?

I would advocate for eighteen-year term limits for Supreme Court Justices with staggered appointments. Its aim is depoliticizing the courts as it prevents one party from dominating nominations or rulings for generations. I will also advocate for a modern and enforceable ethics code that requires transparent financial disclosures and recusal filings. Expanded Congressional oversight over the court will allow public hearings and impeachment when sitting justices violate these reforms.

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?**

If Trump continues to violate the law, I would support and advocate for bold and legally grounded strategies to counteract corruption by collaborating with state officials. This could include urging key blue states to temporarily collect and withhold federal taxes as leverage to demand accountability and ethical governance.

Additionally, I would work with states to implement increased restrictions on federal agencies like ICE and other government entities, ensuring they operate within the bounds of the law and respect state-level protections for civil rights and liberties.

Furthermore, with Democratic control of the House, I would advocate for using the full power of House Rules to hold accountable those who facilitated Trump's actions. This includes stripping committee assignments from Republican lawmakers who were complicit in enabling corruption and misconduct, provided they remain in office. It is critical to enforce a sense of accountability within the legislature by leveraging penalties such as censure and other disciplinary measures without hesitation. This approach would send a clear message that there are real consequences for undermining democratic principles and that prosecution will follow for those whose actions warrant it. By taking these steps, we can restore integrity to our institutions and ensure that no one is above the law.

Additionally, I would put forth or support legislation that addresses the following.

1. Strengthen Congressional Oversight

- Expand Congressional Subpoena Power: Ensure that congressional subpoenas are enforceable without lengthy court battles by creating expedited judicial review processes. This would prevent delays in obtaining critical information from the executive branch.
 - Increase Resources for Oversight Committees: Provide additional funding and staff to congressional committees to enhance their capacity to investigate and oversee executive actions effectively.
2. Close Loopholes in Ethics Laws
 - Apply Ethics Rules to the President and Vice President: Currently, federal ethics laws do not apply to these offices. A new law should require the president and vice president to divest from financial interests that pose conflicts of interest or place assets in a blind trust.
 3. Create a Federal Ethics Agency
 - Establish an independent ethics agency with the authority to investigate and enforce ethics violations across all branches of government. This agency would have the power to issue binding rules, impose penalties, and ensure compliance with transparency and disclosure requirements.
 4. Reform Presidential Powers
 - Limit the Pardon Power: Propose a constitutional amendment to restrict the president's ability to issue preemptive pardons or grant clemency to family members, political allies, or major donors.
 - Codify the Emoluments Clauses: Pass legislation to enforce the Constitution's emoluments clauses, ensuring that the president cannot profit from foreign or domestic entities while in office.
 5. Enhance Transparency
 - Mandatory Disclosure of Tax Returns: Require all presidential candidates and sitting presidents to publicly disclose their tax returns to ensure transparency and accountability.
 - Strengthen Campaign Finance Disclosure: Pass laws requiring all entities spending money on federal campaigns to disclose their major donors.
 6. Reinforce Congressional Authority
 - Reassert the Power of the Purse: Prevent the executive branch from reallocating funds without congressional approval, ensuring that budgetary decisions reflect legislative intent.

- Revive the Office of Technology Assessment: Provide Congress with expert analysis on complex issues, reducing reliance on executive branch information.

7. Innovative Ideas

- Clemency Board: Transfer the clemency power from the president to an independent board of judges and experts to prevent political favoritism.
- Ethics Training for Officials: Mandate regular ethics training for all executive branch officials to foster a culture of accountability and integrity.

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

I'll co-sponsor the Democracy For All Amendment, which clarifies that money isn't speech and corporations aren't people. This amendment would overturn Citizens United and limit unlimited campaign spending. Recognizing a constitutional amendment takes time, I'll build coalitions with reform-minded colleagues and rally public support through town halls to pressure Congress.

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

OTHER POLICY PROPOSALS

Term Limits for Members of Congress

- House: Maximum of five terms (10 years)
- Senate: Maximum of three terms (18 years)
- Prevents the rise of entrenched political dynasties and keeps Congress accountable to the people, not corporate donors or party bosses.

10-Year Ban on Lobbying After Leaving Office

- Former members of Congress would be barred from lobbying the federal government for 10 years after their last day in office.
- This closes the "revolving door" between Congress and K Street, where lawmakers too often cash in on their connections.

No Lobbying for Family Members or Chiefs of Staff

- Extend the 10-year cooling-off period to spouses and immediate family members of lawmakers.

- Include chiefs of staff and senior aides, who often shape policy behind the scenes and then lobby their former colleagues.

Public Accountability Dashboard

- Require public disclosure of post-congressional employment for former members for 10 years.
- Create a searchable database so constituents can track whether lawmakers went from serving the public to serving private interests.

Ban Congressional Stock Trading

- Ban Individual Stock Ownership for Members of Congress & Their Families
- No lawmaker or their immediate family members should be allowed to own individual stocks while in office. This rule will also apply to senior staff members, ensuring that there's no chance of exploiting confidential information for financial gain. Public servants should not profit from their position; they should only have a public duty to serve.

Require Full Divestment into Blind Trusts or Broad Index Funds

- Congress members, their spouses, and senior staff should be required to divest from any individual stocks or financial interests within six months of taking office and place their remaining investments into blind trusts or diversified, low-risk index funds. This ensures that any financial holdings are not subject to the influence of day-to-day legislative activities.

Real-Time Public Disclosure of Financial Transactions

- Real-time reporting of financial transactions will be mandatory.
- Lawmakers will be required to disclose any trades, purchases, or sales of stocks within 24 hours of the transaction, including information about investments made by their immediate family members.

Impose Harsh Penalties for Violations

- No more slaps on the wrist. Violations of this ban will come with severe consequences, including substantial fines, criminal charges, and even expulsion from Congress if necessary. This sends a clear message that abusing public office for personal gain is unacceptable.

Strengthen the Bipartisan Ban on Congressional Stock Trading Act

- I will support and work to strengthen existing efforts like the *Bipartisan Ban on Congressional Stock Trading Act*, and advocate for the creation of independent oversight bodies to enforce these new laws. This will include

ensuring that there is a third-party auditing system in place to verify compliance and impose penalties when necessary.

Establish Clear, Independent Oversight of Congressional Financial Activities

- We must set up an independent ethics body that reports directly to the public, providing quarterly reports on the financial activities of lawmakers and their staff. This oversight body will have the authority to conduct investigations into potential conflicts of interest and recommend penalties when violations occur.

Overturn Citizens United

Limit Campaign Lengths

- Set a federal cap on the official campaign season for Congressional races (e.g. no more than 6 months before primary election day).
- Ban fundraising by sitting members of Congress during legislative sessions. They should be doing their jobs, not dialing for dollars.
- End the "permanent campaign" that prioritizes media hits over real governing.

Pass the DISCLOSE Act

- Transparency is step one. I'll back the DISCLOSE Act to mandate full disclosure of campaign spending, including by dark money groups and super PACs. Voters deserve to know who's funding ads: whether it's a local teacher or a corporate front. Monthly reports on my campaign's website will model this Transparency.

Ban Corporate PACs and Dark Money

- I'll support legislation to ban corporate PAC donations and end anonymous funding in elections. This includes closing loopholes that let dark money groups hide their sources. In Congress, I'll push for the For Our Freedom Amendment to empower states like Massachusetts to set their own campaign finance rules, protecting MA-9 from outside cash.

Strengthen Public Campaign Financing

- To level the playing field, I'll advocate for publicly funded elections and small-donor matching systems. For example, a \$10 donation from a New Bedford nurse could be matched 6-to-1 with public funds, amplifying your voice over corporate donors. Programs like Seattle's Democracy Vouchers show this works; candidates focus on voters, not millionaires.

Reforming the Supreme Court: Accountability, Ethics, and Balance of Power

- The Supreme Court holds immense power over the lives of every American, yet it operates with virtually no accountability. No other job in this country offers a lifetime appointment with no enforceable code of ethics and no meaningful oversight. It's time that changed.

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. A Green New Deal should combine aggressive climate action with job creation, labor protections, and environmental justice, ensuring frontline

communities benefit first. Please see more policy proposals at the end of section.

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?**

Push for Statewide Utility Reform

- Rein in Eversource and National Grid by supporting legislation that increases oversight on rate hikes and profit margins.
- Demand transparency in rate-setting processes, especially for delivery fees that are often hidden.

Expand the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- Advocate for increased state and federal funding.
- Simplify access and auto-enroll qualified residents (e.g., SNAP recipients).

Promote Local, Publicly-Owned Renewable Energy

- Fund and expand municipal solar and offshore wind projects (like Mayflower Wind).
- Let towns in MA-9 create municipal utilities, which tend to charge lower rates than investor-owned utilities.

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

- Help towns pool their buying power to negotiate better electricity rates.
- Push for renewable energy options within CCAs to stabilize prices long-term.

Increase State Rebates and Incentives

- Help low- and middle-income families access Mass Save programs for free energy audits, insulation, and HVAC upgrades.
- Push for upfront rebates instead of back-end reimbursements.

Retrofit Public Housing and Schools

- Use federal infrastructure funds to modernize public buildings, reducing utility costs for municipalities and freeing up local budgets

Ban Winter Shutoffs and Predatory Fees

- Enact a stronger moratorium on utility shutoffs during cold months.
- Crack down on excessive late fees or reconnection fees, especially for seniors and low-income families.

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.
- Sustained federal support for modern regional bus systems across Massachusetts and the development of high speed rail across the United States.

OTHER POLICY PROPOSALS:

Fossil Fuel Companies: The Modern Day Polluters

For decades, Big Oil and Gas have:

- Known the science and buried it or misled the public.
- Blocked meaningful climate policy while continuing extraction and expansion.
- Passed the costs of disasters, grid upgrades, wildfires, floods and storms onto everyday consumers.

That means when a hurricane hits, or the grid goes down, or rates rise, it isn't just climate—it's corporate profit playing off public risk. It's time we treat fossil fuel companies the same way we treated the chemical polluters of the past.

A Climate "Superfund" for Fossil Fuel Damage

- Just as the 1980 Superfund Act forced chemical companies to pay for toxic-waste cleanups, we need a Climate Superfund that forces fossil fuel corporations to pay for the damage they caused and invest in our future.
- Support and co-sponsor federal legislation that creates a national fund into which major fossil fuel companies contribute.
- Allocate those funds to rebuild infrastructure, protect working-class communities, invest in resilient transit and clean energy, and safeguard vulnerable areas like coastal and industrial regions.
- Require full transparency on corporate disclosures: what companies knew, when they knew it, and how they responded and hold them criminally or civilly liable for deliberate deception.

- Empower states and municipalities in the 9th District and beyond to pursue litigation and recovery actions on behalf of their citizens with federal support. (More than 35 states and municipalities are already suing fossil fuel corporations.

Justice + Opportunity for the 9th District

- A Climate Superfund means local hiring, job training, clean-energy factories and infrastructure projects in our region—not outsourcing the benefits.
- We must ensure that historically marginalized communities often first to be hit by pollution or climate risk receive both the investment and the decision-making power.

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?

I believe our foreign policy should be guided by respect of human rights regardless of nation of origin, diplomacy, international cooperation, and most of all restraint. Military force should be a last resort, and U.S. policy should prioritize peace, climate stability, and global economic justice over endless conflict.

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.

III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS