



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2026 Legislative
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Tom Hopcroft

Office Sought: State Senator, Second Middlesex

Party: Democrat

Website: www.TomHopcroft.com

Social Media Handles:

- **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/TomHopcroft/>
- **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/ElectTomHopcroft/>
- **Instagram:** https://www.instagram.com/Students_for_Hopcroft/
- **TikTok:** <https://www.tiktok.com/@Tom.Hopcroft>

OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

Issue Subsections:

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

I. About You & Your Governing Approach

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

Massachusetts has a paradox at its heart: we rank first in innovation and education yet last in legislative effectiveness. That dysfunction has real costs for working families, from housing costs that price them out, to healthcare bills that bankrupt them, to childcare and student loan debt that follow families for decades. Fixing Beacon Hill's structural dysfunction through transparency, rules reform, and accountability is the precondition for the progress we need.

My three priorities: First, an economy that works for everyone, with good jobs, affordable housing, accessible childcare, and workforce development connected to clean energy, life sciences, and the innovation economy. Second, world-class opportunity for every resident, including universal pre-K, debt-free public higher education, affordable healthcare, and drug discovery that saves lives. Third, climate leadership that builds union jobs, cleans our air and water, advances environmental justice, and makes Massachusetts a national model.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

I have spent my career at the intersection of business, government, academia, and nonprofits, building coalitions to solve problems that no single institution could solve alone.

As President of the Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council for nearly two decades, I worked with governors, legislators, and business leaders on workforce development, career pathways, economic development, and inclusive innovation. I served on the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education under Governors Patrick and Baker. I founded the Net Zero Institute to accelerate corporate decarbonization, and filed amicus briefs in immigration cases cited by Supreme Court justices.

As a Winchester School Committee member and former chair, I have been a consistent leader on decarbonization, pushing for solar installations across town and driving to make Lynch Elementary Winchester's first all-electric net zero building. I have also championed mental health resources, support for special education, and fair educator contracts. I know how to build coalitions and get results.

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

Yes. To me, progressive means believing that government has an affirmative responsibility to expand opportunity, reduce inequality, and protect the dignity of every person, and then doing the hard work to make that happen rather than just saying the right things.

I come to progressive values through a career spent at the intersection of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. I have seen how concentrated power, whether in corporate boardrooms or on Beacon Hill, produces outcomes that leave people behind. I have also seen how coalition building across unlikely partners produces real change that no single institution or ideological movement could achieve alone.

Progressive, to me, is not a label. It is a commitment to results for the people who need them most, achieved through the most effective means available.

4. What do you view as the biggest obstacles to passing progressive policy at the state level, and how do you plan to overcome these obstacles?

The biggest obstacle is structural. The concentration of power in Beacon Hill leadership shields decision-making from public scrutiny and accountability. When legislators can kill bills in committee without a recorded vote, when stipends flow from leadership as a loyalty mechanism, and when rules insulate the Speaker and Senate President from accountability to their own caucus, the result is stagnation across every issue progressives care about.

Compounding this is a disconnect between the innovation economy that Massachusetts has built and the legislative effectiveness we lack. We have the resources and talent to solve many of these problems. What we lack is the political will that accountability creates.

My plan is to change the rules, build coalitions across caucus lines, work with organizations like Progressive Mass to amplify constituent pressure, and be transparent with my constituents about what is and is not moving.

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

States like Washington and Michigan are beginning to grapple with how AI and automation will reshape the future of work, but have not yet developed a comprehensive response. Massachusetts should lead.

The impact of AI could go one of two ways. AI drives net job creation requiring rapid retraining, or productivity gains reduce the overall need for workers. Either way, Massachusetts needs a proactive strategy. If displacement outpaces creation, we should invest in socially necessary work that has been historically undervalued, such as care workers, mental health professionals, educators, and community health workers. These are areas of genuine shortage and genuine need. Funding them well, partly by capturing productivity gains through taxation, would address both workforce stability and unmet social needs.

I have spent my career preparing workers for economic transitions. Massachusetts should

convene a serious cross-sector commission and lead the nation on this.

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

After the Trump Administration's Muslim Travel Ban, I stood with then-Attorney General Maura Healey when she announced her lawsuit, and then I built a coalition to act. I organized researchers, economists, business leaders, and lawyers, some immigrants themselves, to document the economic contributions of immigrants in Massachusetts and across the country.

That research became the foundation for seven amicus briefs filed at the district, appellate, and U.S. Supreme Court levels, making the case that immigrants are innovators, job creators, and essential to the Commonwealth's economic strength. Justices Sotomayor, Ginsburg, and Breyer cited research from our briefs.

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

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

Senator Jehlen has served this district with distinction for two decades, and I have deep respect for her record. Like her, I come to this race having served on a School Committee in the district, understanding that local government is where policy meets people's daily lives. Like her, I believe constituent accessibility is not optional, it is the job. And like her, I am committed to the full range of progressive priorities this district cares about.

Where I bring something different is my background at the intersection of business, innovation, and public policy. Senator Jehlen built her career within the progressive movement and the legislature. I have spent mine building coalitions across sectors that do not typically work together, making the economic and social case for progressive outcomes to audiences that needed convincing. I want to bring that bridging capacity to Beacon Hill at a moment when it is urgently needed.

II. The Issues

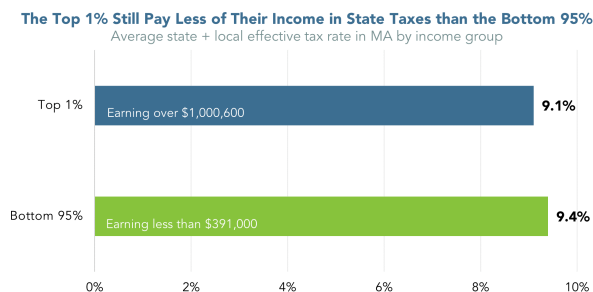
A. Revenue and Taxation

Although Massachusetts has developed the moniker of “Taxachusetts,” our history shows the opposite. Between 1977 and 2016, Massachusetts [reduced state taxes](#) by more than all but two other states. Because of income tax cuts enacted between 1998 and 2002, Massachusetts lost over \$4 billion in tax revenue *each year*—\$4 billion not invested in our roads, bridges, schools, parks, and services. Such cuts to the state income tax, combined with [low corporate income taxes compared to other states](#), have meant increasing reliance on regressive taxes and fees and curtailing our ability to invest in vital infrastructure. It also restricts legislators’ ability—and willingness—to pass new and visionary legislation, as there is a continual shortage of funds for existing priorities.

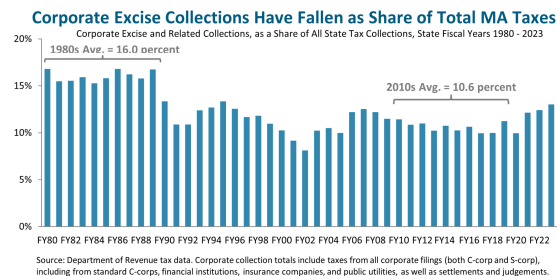
Although we saw a welcome shift when MA voters passed the Fair Share Amendment and added more progressivity to our tax code, the Legislature in 2023 voted to give tax cuts to multi-million-dollar estates, large corporations, and day traders, blunting the full impact of the win. We cannot tax-cut our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

Moreover, Massachusetts faces the threat of steep federal budget cuts, but given that we have the same GDP as the country of Sweden, we have the ability to raise the revenue to meet needs if we have the will to do so.

Even with the recently passed Fair Share Amendment, the top 1% still pay a lower effective tax rate than the bottom 95%.



Even as corporations are securing an increasing share of total income, their share of taxes has been falling.



1. What principles do you bring to considerations of state revenue and tax policy? How should we raise more revenue to adequately fund our communities for the future?

My core principle is that a tax system should be fair, transparent, and adequate to fund the public investments that make Massachusetts competitive and livable. Those who have the greatest ability to pay should contribute a greater share. Corporations and individuals should not be able to hide income offshore or exploit loopholes unavailable to ordinary taxpayers. And revenue should keep pace with the actual cost of education, healthcare, infrastructure, and climate resilience.

Massachusetts does not compete on low taxes. We compete on talent, world-class universities, a culture of innovation, immigrant entrepreneurship, and quality of life that attracts and retains the best people. Those are the assets worth protecting and investing in. Revenue reform should close loopholes thoughtfully, recognizing that changes affecting business location decisions require careful design and phasing to keep Massachusetts attractive even as we ask more of those who benefit most from what we have built here.

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

In April 2026, I presented Article 16 at Winchester's Spring Town Meeting, making the financial case for bonding \$8.7M in distributed solar installations across town facilities. Winchester has a limited commercial tax base, so rather than raising revenue we focused on reducing costs. By building a community-owned distributed power plant across multiple town sites, we lock in energy well below market rates while volatile utility costs continue to rise. The project generates \$16M in total energy savings against \$8.7M in all-in costs, netting \$7.3M in savings over 25 years, and is cash-flow positive from year one. Town Meeting passed it 136 to 23, well above the two-thirds threshold required. This is the approach I bring to fiscal questions at every level: find the investment that aligns progressive values with fiscal soundness, build the case in terms that persuade skeptics, and assemble the coalition to get it done.

3. **Corporate Tax Breaks.** Corporate tax breaks cost Massachusetts [more than \\$1 billion in foregone revenue](#) each year. Which of the following steps would you support?
 - a. Repealing any tax break that does not provide the intended benefits in a cost-effective manner? **YES**
 - b. Establishing sunset dates for all tax breaks to require periodic review? **YES**
 - c. Ending the current sales tax exemptions for aircraft and aircraft parts, which costs the Commonwealth approximately [\\$30 million](#) each year? **YES**

4. **Corporate Disclosure.** Would you support legislation to make publicly accessible the reports that are already filed annually by publicly traded corporations, detailing their sales, profits, taxable income, and taxes paid? **YES**
5. **Corporate Fair Share.** Large multinational corporations like Amazon and Walmart hide significant profits offshore in order to avoid paying taxes here in Massachusetts and in other states. Would you support legislation to increase the amount of offshored corporate income subject to MA's corporate income tax to 50%, the maximum allowable amount and the amount taxed by most of our neighboring states? **YES**
6. **Taxing Extreme Wealth.** Would you support the establishment of a Massachusetts wealth tax, which applies only to extremely rich taxpayers (with a threshold of at least \$100 million) and taxes them on a percentage (e.g., 1% annually) of their wealth above the threshold? **YES**
7. **Digital Ads Tax.** Would you support imposing new tax targeted at large companies that amass our personal data, either through a data-mining excise tax or a tax on digital advertising, as introduced or passed in states like New York and Washington State? **YES**
8. **Preventing Regressive Tax Cuts.** Massachusetts needs to raise new revenue to advance a progressive agenda. At the same time, we also need to fight regressive tax cuts that weaken our public services.
 - a. MA stands to lose hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue each year due to corporate tax cuts in Trump's Big Ugly Bill that will automatically enter the MA tax code. Do you support permanently decoupling the state tax code from these federal changes? **YES**
 - b. Will you oppose the corporate lobby's ballot question to reduce the state income tax, a measure which would cost the state \$5 billion a year? **YES**
 - c. Will you oppose the corporate lobby's ballot question to reform the state tax collection cap law (62F) in order to make the state more frequently hit the cap and lose out on critical investments? **YES**
9. **Rainy Day Fund.** Massachusetts will see significant budget cuts next year due to Trump's Big Ugly Bill. Would you support using 15% of the rainy day fund in order to prevent cuts? **YES**
10. **PILOT Reform.** Do you support enabling cities and towns to require large tax-exempt not-for-profit institutions (i.e., with property valued at or above \$15M) to make payments in lieu of taxes to the municipality equal to 25 percent of the amount that would be paid if they were not exempt? **YES (implementation should be phased and negotiated thoughtfully)**
11. **Public Bank.** Would you support the creation of a Massachusetts public bank chartered to provide cost-effective financing for small businesses and municipalities, land trusts and cooperatives, and climate adaptation/remediation projects? **YES**

B. Jobs and the Economy

Massachusetts ranks as one of the top ten [most unequal states](#), as the gains from economic growth have disproportionately benefited the already well-off. Compounding this, we are one of the most expensive states in the country for [health care](#), [housing](#), and [child care](#), all of which strain wages. A strong economy depends on strong wages, as workers spend and help local economies thrive. Although Massachusetts now has a \$15 minimum wage, a living wage for a single adult without children is now [\\$27.89 per hour](#).

In recent decades, unions have been under attack nationally. However, unions played—and continue to play—a pivotal role in creating a strong middle class. With weaker unions (or no unions at all) come weaker social and economic rights and an imbalanced economy. Strengthening the rights and power of labor is essential to an economy that works for all.

Productivity has grown significantly since the 1970s, but it is not being reflected in higher wages.



<https://archive.massbudget.org/reports/swma/>

The minimum wage in Massachusetts is well below a living wage. ([Source](#))

	1 Adult			2 adults (both working)		
	0 children	1 child	2 children	0 children	1 child	2 children
Living Wage	\$30.58	\$58.26	\$76.55	\$19.63	\$31.61	\$39.61
Poverty Wage	\$7.67	\$10.40	\$13.13	\$5.20	\$6.57	\$7.93
Minimum Wage	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00

1. Share your principles and proposals regarding creating good-paying jobs for all and reducing inequality in the Commonwealth.

Prosperity should be broadly shared, not concentrated at the top. Productivity gains over the past five decades have not meaningfully translated into wage growth for working people, and Massachusetts, despite its extraordinary assets, is not immune to that trend.

Work should pay enough to live with dignity. That means a minimum wage that reflects actual living costs, strong labor standards enforced by a well-resourced Attorney General, and the right to organize and bargain collectively. It also means investing in the workforce development infrastructure that connects people to good jobs in clean energy, life sciences, and the innovation economy.

Getting there also requires addressing structural barriers that exclude communities of color, immigrants, and women from full economic participation. I have advanced this through the Tech Compact for Social Justice, our immigration advocacy coalition, and my work on the Board of Higher Education expanding access and affordability.

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

As chair of the MassTLC Education Foundation board, I supported initiatives to inspire middle and high school girls to pursue STEM careers, creating pathways into the innovation economy where wages run twice the state average. Hundreds of girls and young women came through the program, part of a global competition, and many went on to careers in technology including at companies like Microsoft. I also founded and ran the Board Ready Bootcamp, which helps women, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ leaders build the skills, confidence, and networks to advance their board journeys and gain access to economic decision-making that has historically excluded them. Combined with the Tech Compact for Social Justice, our immigration amicus coalition, and my work on the Board of Higher Education expanding access and affordability, these efforts reflect a consistent commitment to opening doors that have historically been closed to too many people.

3. **Livable Wages.** Although Massachusetts now has a \$15 minimum wage, that is still not a living wage in much of Massachusetts, and \$15 has lost a lot of value due to high inflation. Do you support the following steps...?
 - a. Raising the minimum wage to \$20 per hour? **YES**
 - b. Eliminating subminimum wages? **YES**
 - c. Ensuring that the minimum wage law applies to municipal workers? **YES**
 - d. Indexing the minimum wage to inflation? **YES**

4. **Wage Theft.** Do you support holding businesses responsible for the wage violations of their subcontractors when the work they do is substantially connected to the company's operations? **YES**
5. **Paid Leave for All Workers.** In 2018, MA passed the strongest paid family and medical leave law in the country. However, the law did not include municipal workers or graduate student workers. Would you support extending the law to make sure that all workers have access to these vital benefits? **YES**
6. **Paid Time Off.** The US is the only advanced industrial country where workers are not guaranteed paid time off. Would you support legislation to require employers to offer full-time employees at least two weeks of paid time off each year, which they can use for any reason with no loss of pay? **YES**
7. **Right to Strike.** Would you support legislation to legalize the right to strike for public employees (with the exception of public safety personnel) after six months of failed negotiations with their employer? **YES**
8. **State House Unionization.** Would you support legislation to extend collective bargaining rights to State House staff? **YES**

C. Education

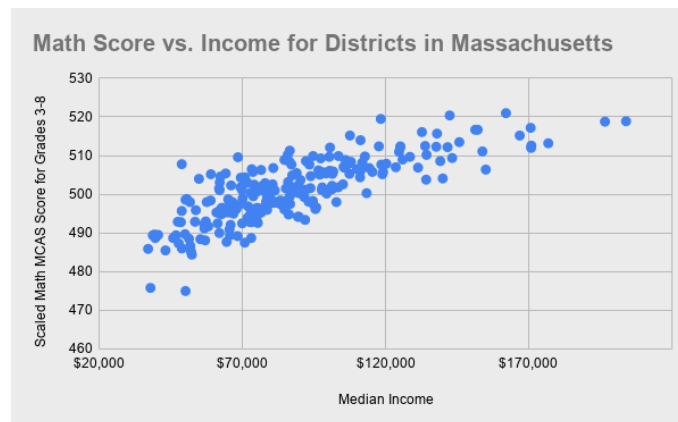
Massachusetts parents and caregivers face the [highest child care and early education costs of any state in the US](#). The average annual cost of infant care in Massachusetts is more than half of what a full-time minimum wage worker earns in a year. These costs are prohibitively expensive for low- and middle-income families, who are forced to choose between making ends meet and saving for the future on one hand, or affording child care on the other.

Public education plays a fundamental role in democracy, cultivating informed, well-rounded community members and providing the knowledge and skills needed for economic mobility and opportunity. Although our public education system gets high marks overall, it remains one of the [most unequal](#) in the country, with significant opportunity and resource divides based on income and race. In 2019, Massachusetts passed the Student Opportunity Act to update the formula for state aid to public school districts and correct these inequities, but schools have faced added strains due to the pandemic and inflation.

Public education has also been under attack by powerful corporate interests seeking to undermine public schools, teachers, and unions. These groups invest millions of dollars to promote the expansion of privately run charter schools, which siphon money from our public K-12 districts while largely excluding students with the greatest needs. Costly, mandated standardized test results are used to label schools as “failing” and justify these privatization schemes. State receiverships in struggling school districts take power away from communities and often facilitate privatization schemes that could never achieve democratic support.

At the same time, our understanding of education has also broadened. No longer do we only talk about K-12 education; rather, most of the [fastest-growing occupations](#) require education beyond a high school diploma. Massachusetts has been disinvesting from public higher education for the past two decades, leading to higher tuition costs and putting students at risk of long-term debt (if they are even still able to attend). Our public colleges and opportunities are an economic engine for local economies as well as a pathway to economic opportunity, and when that opportunity is cut off for students, we all lose out.

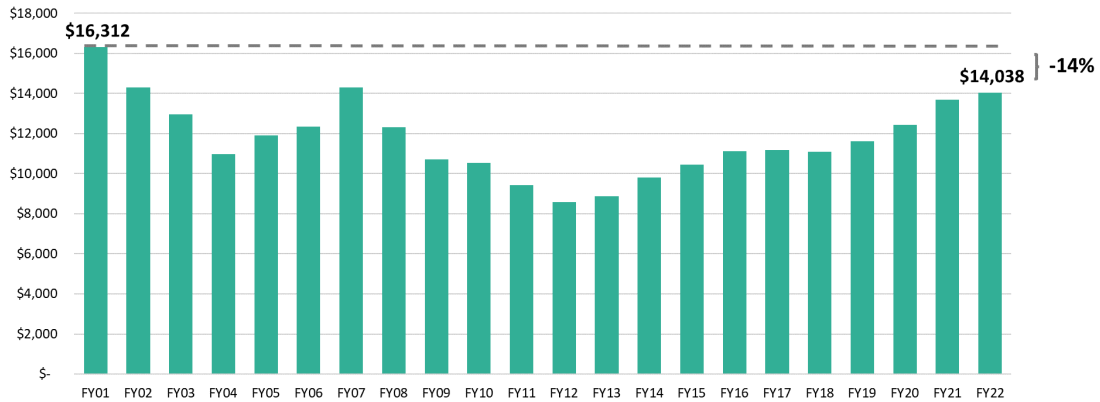
Standardized test scores have a very strong correlation with the income of the school district. ([Source](#))



Massachusetts has been disinvesting from higher education and shifting the cost burden onto students. (Source)

Higher Education Funding Per Student Cut by 14 Percent Since FY 2001

Massachusetts higher education spending, per resident student, FY 2001-FY2022 adjusted for inflation (2024\$)



1. Please share your principles and proposals regarding public education.

Public education is the foundation of our democracy and economic opportunity, and Massachusetts has a responsibility to make it excellent and equitable for every student regardless of income or background.

Adequate and fairly distributed funding is where I start. The Student Opportunity Act was an important step, but inflation, pandemic recovery costs, and federal uncertainty have eroded its impact. We also need to fix the Chapter 70 inflation cap, fully fund the Special Education Circuit Breaker, and ensure transportation reimbursements reflect actual costs.

Beyond K-12, I believe in a continuum of public education from universal pre-K through debt-free public higher education. Childcare costs that consume such a large share of wages that they force people out of the workforce are a crisis for equity and our economy.

I come to these issues as a Winchester School Committee member and former chair, a former Board of Higher Education member, and a parent of children with special education needs.

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

As Winchester School Committee chair, I advocated for an independent third-party review of our early literacy program when community and media pressure pushed for a quick fix. My position was that you cannot get from A to B without knowing where A is. That review revealed deeper challenges around trust between teachers and administrators, and led to an inclusive, teacher-led process that has since produced curriculum alignment, teacher buy-in, and a path to implementation. I also championed expanded mental health resources, math support, fair educator contracts, and consistent advocacy for adequate special education funding as a parent of children with special education needs.

As a member of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education under Governors Patrick and Baker, I worked on access, affordability, and workforce alignment, ensuring higher education serves as a pathway to opportunity rather than a source of long-term debt.

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

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

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

Healthcare is a right, not a privilege, and Massachusetts has made more progress than most states. But coverage without affordability is not really full access. Too many residents are technically insured but effectively locked out of care because deductibles and premiums consume too much of their income.

Universal coverage is the starting point. Every Massachusetts resident should have access to quality care regardless of income, background, or immigration status. I will support legislation that moves us toward that goal, including single payer at the state level.

Cost containment must target the right places: strengthening Health Policy Commission enforcement, addressing pharmacy benefit manager abuses, opposing hospital consolidation that drives up prices without improving outcomes, and protecting the drug discovery and research that saves lives while eliminating the waste embedded in century-old drugs like insulin whose development costs were recouped long ago.

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

In 2019, I testified before the Joint Committee on Financial Services in support of insurance coverage for PANS/PANDAS, a pediatric neuropsychiatric condition my son developed at age nine. That legislation passed. In 2025 my son and I testified in support of a screening bill to ensure children presenting with sudden-onset neuropsychiatric symptoms are evaluated for underlying medical causes rather than misdiagnosed as purely psychiatric. Early detection enables medical treatment that not only produces better outcomes but prevents tens of thousands in out-of-pocket family costs, and out-of-district therapeutic day school placements that can exceed \$100,000 per student annually. That bill was sent to study. Our family's experience navigating MGH, McLean Hospital, and a system requiring significant financial resources to access shaped my understanding that healthcare equity is not just about coverage, it is also about who can afford to get the care they need when they need it.

3. **Single Payer.** Would you support legislation to enact a single payer health care system in Massachusetts, which would guarantee health insurance as a right? **YES**
4. **Medical Debt.** States like Connecticut and Arizona have taken action, in partnership with RIP Medical Debt, to eliminate medical debt for hundreds of thousands of working-class residents. Would you advocate for similar action in Massachusetts? **YES**
5. **Full Spectrum Pregnancy Care.** Would you support requiring health insurance plans to cover all pregnancy care (including prenatal care, childbirth, and postpartum care), without any kind of cost-sharing, building on the recent mandate to require coverage

for abortion and abortion-related care? **YES**

6. **Abortion Access - 1.** Young people under sixteen seeking an abortion must obtain parental consent or judicial authorization. While most young people involve their parents, many cannot, causing delays to timely medical care and counseling. Scared teens may also turn to dangerous measures: going out of state or risking their lives and health with illegal or self-induced abortion. Would you support repealing this restriction on young people's access to abortion? **YES. I recognize the genuine tension between ensuring young people have appropriate support for consequential decisions and ensuring timely access to care. On balance, the harm caused by delays, the burden of judicial bypass, and the reality that many young people cannot safely involve their parents outweigh the case for maintaining this restriction.**
7. **Abortion Access - 2.** Despite recent overdue updates to abortion care protections in Massachusetts, dozens of patients have to travel out of state every year for necessary care. Would you support expanding abortion access after 24 weeks of pregnancy when in the best professional judgement of a licensed physician? **YES**
8. **Anti-Abortion Centers.** In Massachusetts, anti-abortion centers (also known as crisis pregnancy centers), which have a politically-motivated agenda to dissuade and delay patients from accessing abortion care, outnumber abortion clinics by more than 2 to 1. These centers scare and shame pregnant people considering abortion care and often oppose birth control and emergency contraception. Would you commit to opposing any Massachusetts government support and funding for such centers? **YES**
9. **Overdose Prevention Centers.** An essential part of addressing the opioid crisis, overdose prevention centers allow medical professionals to respond to overdoses and engage participants in medical and behavioral health services. Would you support the legalization of overdose prevention centers? **YES**
10. **Vaccination.** Would you support legislation to eliminate non-medical exemptions to the routine vaccines for children required for school entry, as our neighbors in Maine, Connecticut, and New York have already done? **YES**

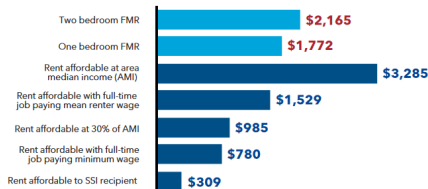
E. Housing

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

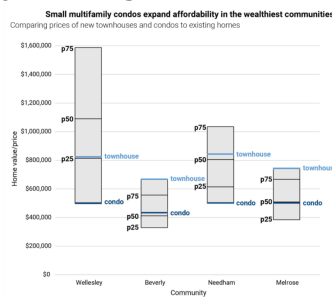
Home ownership has become increasingly out of reach, as the state's median home price is [approximately \\$600,000](#). In more than 20 communities, the median home price recently [passed \\$1 million](#). Meanwhile, we have some of the [most restrictive zoning laws](#) in the country, making it difficult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

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

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



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



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

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

Massachusetts has a structural housing deficit of around 222,000 units, the product of restrictive zoning, inadequate public investment, and a decade of legislative inaction. The consequences fall hardest on renters, working families, and communities of color, and undermine our ability to attract and retain the talent that drives our innovation economy.

We cannot solve a shortage without building more housing at all price points, including deeply affordable units the market will never produce on its own. That requires zoning reform, MBTA Communities Law enforcement, and state reinvestment in social and affordable housing.

Tenant protections are equally essential: rent stabilization, right to counsel in eviction proceedings, and tenant opportunity to purchase all protect people already housed while we build our way out of the shortage.

Finally, expanding the rental tax deduction and meaningful first-time homebuyer incentives would help working families build the wealth and stability that homeownership provides.

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

I have worked to help a senior disabled veteran family member navigate the affordable housing lottery process and secure a unit they could afford. That experience gave me a firsthand understanding of how difficult, opaque, and stressful that process is even for someone with an advocate in their corner, and how much harder it must be for those navigating it alone. It reinforced my belief that access to affordable housing is not just a supply problem but a systems problem, and that the people most in need are often the least equipped to navigate the bureaucratic barriers between them and stability.

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

Governor Healey inherited a genuine crisis and took some meaningful steps, including securing emergency funding and expanding shelter capacity. However, the implementation of shelter caps that turned away eligible families, and restrictions that made access more difficult for the most vulnerable, fell short of the Commonwealth's obligation to protect people in crisis. A state with our resources should not be turning families away from shelter. I will work to ensure that our emergency shelter system is adequately and sustainably funded, that eligibility criteria reflect genuine need rather than political pressure, and that we treat

housing instability as the public health emergency it is rather than managing it through restriction and attrition.

4. **Welcoming New Neighbors.** Would you support efforts to locate both long-term housing and short-term shelter in your district? **YES**
5. **Everyone Needs ID.** Would you support easing access to Mass IDs for people experiencing homelessness by waiving the \$25 fee for IDs and easing the verification requirements for youth and adults who are unhoused and seeking IDs? **YES**
6. **Local Option Real Estate Transfer Fee.** Would you support enabling all cities and towns the flexibility to design and pass real estate transfer fees that will be effective in their municipalities to raise money for affordable housing production? **YES**
7. **Green and Affordable Communities.** Would you support doubling the current Deeds Excise Tax (from \$4.56 per \$1,000 to \$9.12 per \$1,000), upon the sale of real property in Massachusetts, to create a new funding stream to be split evenly between affordable housing and climate resiliency? **YES**
8. **Rent Control.** Massachusetts residents face some of the highest and fastest-growing rents in the country.
 - a. Would you support lifting the statewide ban on rent control and enabling cities and towns to pass rent stabilization ordinances to limit annual rent increases? **YES**
 - b. Do you support the proposed 2026 statewide ballot initiative to limit annual rent increases? **YES. I support limiting rent increases to protect tenants from displacement. I have a general preference for local option approaches that allow communities to design solutions reflecting their specific housing markets, and will work to ensure any statewide framework preserves meaningful local flexibility.**
9. **Tenant Opportunity to Purchase.** Would you support providing tenants of small, medium, and large multifamily properties with the right of first refusal when the owner plans to put a building on the market? **YES**
10. **Right to Counsel.** Would you support legislation to provide legal representation for low-income tenants in eviction proceedings? **YES**
11. **HDIP Reform.** The Housing Development Incentive Program (HDIP) is a multimillion-dollar annual state tax credit program subsidizing market-rate housing in Gateway Cities. Would you support reforming this program to support both market-rate and affordable housing development? **YES**
12. **Social Housing.** Social housing is publicly financed, mixed-income housing, owned by a local or regional housing authority. Would you support efforts to increase state funding for social housing initiatives? **YES**
13. **Zoning Reform.** Would you support zoning reforms to increase housing production and create more affordable and environmentally sustainable communities such as...
 - a. Requiring multi-family zoning and removing costly parking mandates around

public transportation and city/town centers statewide? **YES**

- b. Enabling communities to adopt inclusionary zoning ordinances (i.e., requirements that a certain percentage of new units in a development be affordable) by simple majority vote? **YES**
14. **MBTA Communities Law Enforcement.** Would you support measures to strengthen the law with stricter consequences for municipalities that refuse to comply, including voiding non-compliant zoning? **YES**

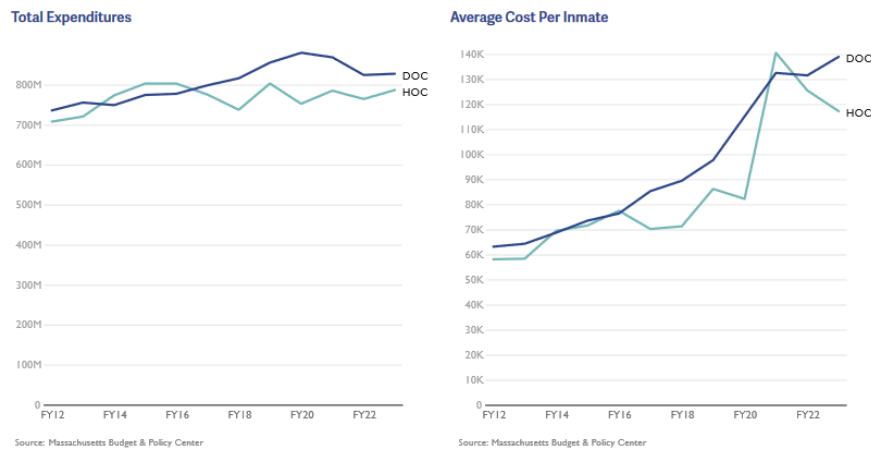
F. Community Safety

Mass incarceration in Massachusetts has proven socially and economically destructive, breaking apart communities across the state. Even though Massachusetts has one of the lowest incarceration rates of the United States, we have some of the [starkest racial disparities in incarceration](#), a result of overpolicing and systemic biases.

Although incarceration rates in Massachusetts have gone down over the past few years as a result of policies from the 2018 criminal justice reform omnibus bills, spending on the Department of Correction has [risen](#). The average cost per year to house an individual in the Massachusetts Department of Corrections is [more than](#) \$100,000, money that could be better reinvested into the communities that have suffered from decades of misguided and racially discriminatory “tough on crime” policies. To achieve “justice for all,” we need a judicial system that does not disproportionately target communities of color and the poor and that does not criminalize public health issues such as addiction.

The correctional population in Massachusetts has declined, yet the state continues to increase the Department of Corrections budget.

Figure 14: Total expenditures for correctional institutions and average cost per inmate, inflation-adjusted to 2023 dollars



Although MA’s incarceration rate is lower than the national rate, racial disparities are even more stark. ([Source](#))

Statistics (2022)	MA	US Total
Imprisonment rate (per 100K residents)	94	355
Black : White Disparity	7 : 1	4.8 : 1
Latinx : White Disparity	4 : 1	1.3 : 1

1. Please share your principles and proposals regarding community safety, police accountability, and criminal legal reform.

Public safety and justice are not competing values. They are mutually reinforcing ones. Communities are safest when people trust the institutions meant to protect them, and that trust is undermined when our criminal legal system operates with racial disparities, inadequate oversight, and sentences that reflect politics rather than evidence.

Accountability comes first. Law enforcement must be subject to the same transparency and oversight standards we apply to other public institutions. Sentences should reflect culpability, not mandatory minimums that remove judicial discretion. And the goal of incarceration should be successful reentry, not permanent exclusion.

Prevention is not an afterthought. Investing in mental health, substance use treatment, housing stability, and youth opportunity reduces crime more durably than incarceration. The most cost-effective public safety strategy is one that addresses the conditions that produce harm before they escalate.

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

As Winchester School Committee member, I have supported efforts to modernize school safety infrastructure, including updated access controls, expanded camera coverage, and real-time networking with public safety agencies for emergency response. I support our school resource officer and an approach focused on helping students resolve conflicts rather than criminalizing behavior.

Earlier in my life I volunteered with the Cayuga Heights Fire and Rescue Department and drove for Cornell EMS, giving me a firsthand appreciation for the people who show up when things go wrong and the systems that support them.

As Symposium Editor of the *New England Journal on Criminal and Civil Confinement*, I developed an appreciation for the legal frameworks governing incarceration and confinement, work that informs my belief that accountability, proportionality, and rehabilitation must all be part of a just system.

3. **Police Accountability.** The 2020 police accountability law passed by the Massachusetts Legislature contained a number of steps forward, but important measures were left out. Would you support legislation to do the following?
 - a. Eliminating qualified immunity for state and local police and correctional officers so that individuals whose constitutional rights are violated can have their fair day in court? **YES**

- b. Enacting the recommendations from the special legislative commission on facial recognition, to implement privacy, civil rights, and due process protections to govern police use of the technology? **YES**
4. **Sentencing Reform.** The 2018 criminal justice reform bill was an important first step in reducing mass incarceration. However, in our “liberal” state, incarceration rates remain much higher than they are in other countries, and sentencing laws can be even more punitive than those in states viewed as conservative. Do you support the following reforms?
- a. Eliminating mandatory minimums for all drug offenses? **YES**
 - b. Raising the age of criminal majority from 18 to 21, in line with research that shows that young offenders served by a juvenile system are much less likely to reoffend and more likely to successfully transition to adulthood? **YES**
 - c. Decriminalizing consensual sexual activity between adolescents, by creating an exception to the statutory rape law for youth close in age? Massachusetts is one of only three states that criminalizes consensual sexual activity between two adolescents. **YES**
 - d. Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which is costly and has been shown to be racist in its application? **YES. Every person deserves the possibility of rehabilitation and review. Eliminating life without parole does not mean releasing people who remain dangerous. It means ensuring that parole boards, not mandatory sentencing, make that determination based on evidence of rehabilitation and risk.**
 - e. Restructuring joint venture sentencing such that accomplices to murder are sentenced proportionally to their level of responsibility for a death rather than a minimum sentence of life without parole? **YES**
5. **DOC Oversight -- I.** Would you support legislation to establish an inspector general for the Department of Correction? **YES**
6. **DOC Oversight -- II.** Massachusetts legislators have the statutory right to make unannounced visits to correctional facilities run by the state. Would you commit to visiting, whether announced or scheduled, Department of Corrections facilities as a state legislator? **YES**
7. **Solitary Confinement.** Would you support legislation to create universal access to productive out of cell time with programming, education and vocational training for all incarcerated people? **YES**
8. **Prison Moratorium.** Would you support a moratorium on the construction of new prisons and jails in the Commonwealth? **YES. Massachusetts should not be building capacity for more incarceration. However, I support replacing or modernizing existing facilities that are unsafe or inhumane without increasing overall capacity. The goal should be fewer people incarcerated in better conditions.**

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

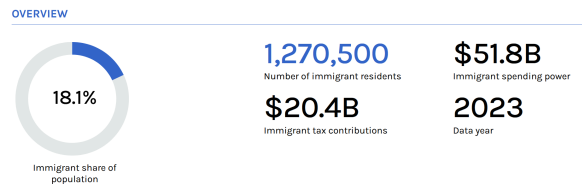
G. A Humane Immigration System

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

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

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

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



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

Immigrants are not a problem to be managed. They are neighbors, colleagues, entrepreneurs, caregivers, and essential contributors to what makes Massachusetts extraordinary. The coalition I put together to research and file amicus briefs in the wake of the Muslim Travel Ban found that 58% of Fortune 500 companies based in Massachusetts were founded by immigrants or their children, generating \$136 billion in annual revenue and employing nearly 500,000 people globally. Immigrants comprise more than a quarter of STEM jobs in our state. At MIT, 37% of Nobel Prize winners are foreign-born. At Harvard, 33%.

The current federal administration's campaign against immigrant communities is both a moral and economic crisis requiring a state-level response.

State and local law enforcement should not be entangled with federal immigration enforcement. That entanglement destroys the community trust that effective policing depends on and makes everyone less safe.

I stood with then Attorney General Maura Healey against the Muslim Travel Ban and filed seven amicus briefs at the district, appellate, and Supreme Court levels. That commitment has not wavered.

2. Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to advance

your principles on welcoming and protecting our immigrant communities (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).

In addition to the travel ban amicus work, MassTLC published a companion report on the economic impact of DACA, documenting that 5,900 DACA recipients live in Massachusetts, with 4,700 in greater Boston. We also sponsored an H1B visa for a Mexican immigrant we hired at MassTLC, serving as her critical first U.S. employer and helping her build a career contributing to our economy.

These commitments are personal as well as professional. I live in Winchester's most diverse elementary school district, a Title I school community where immigrants truly are our neighbors and friends. Our school hosts an International Night where families cook food from their cultures to share, a genuine celebration of the community we have built together. My children's closest friends are from all over the world.

3. **Protecting Our Immigrant Neighbors.** The entanglement of state and local law enforcement with ICE's federal immigration enforcement makes everyone less safe. To end such entanglement, would you support the following measures....?
 - a. Preventing police and court officials from inquiring about immigration status? **YES**
 - b. Prohibiting any new 287(g) agreements, i.e., agreements in which state and local law enforcement are deputized to act as ICE agents? **YES**
 - c. Calling on Gov. Healey to end the Department of Correction's 287(g) agreement with ICE, the only such contract in New England and the only such contract in a state with a Democratic governing trifecta? **YES**
 - d. Prohibiting local law enforcement from assisting ICE such as by allowing ICE to use facilities, properties, and equipment or providing information to ICE such as relating to upcoming court appearances? **YES**
4. **Language Access.** Would you support building the capacity of key public-facing state agencies to meet the language access needs of an increasingly diverse population by standardizing and enforcing language access protocols and practices? **YES**
5. **Immigrant Legal Aid.** In 2025, the MA Legislature created a new fund to provide cost-free legal services to immigrants at risk of deportation. Would you support increasing the funding for the program and codifying the fund into law? **YES**
6. **Community Trust and Accountability.** Would you support legislation to ban former ICE or Border Patrol agents from serving as police officers, teachers, or other public employees in Massachusetts? **YES. Workers who have engaged in or supervised civil rights violations, racial profiling, or abusive enforcement practices should not serve in positions of public trust. Implementation, however, should include a fair process for reviewing individual records rather than a categorical ban on all who served in any capacity, consistent with my broader belief that consequential determinations require human judgment applied to individual circumstances.**

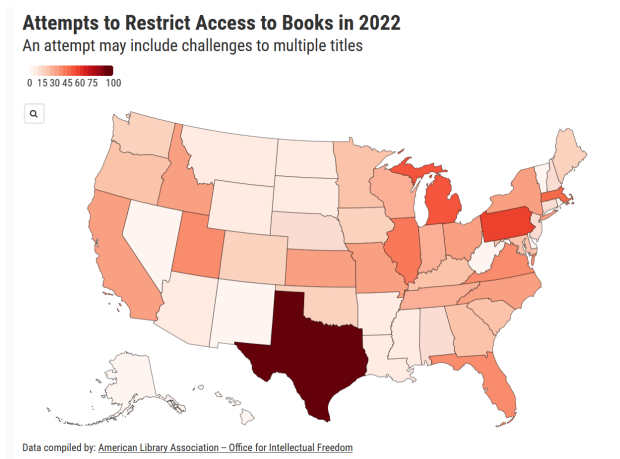
H. A Welcoming Society

Our commonwealth is at its strongest when we recognize and celebrate the diversity of our population.

Massachusetts has often been a leader on LGBTQ rights, being the first state to legalize same-sex marriage and having passed a strong trans anti-discrimination law (with additional protections for health care passed more recently). However, efforts to ban LGBTQ-friendly books are not just a "red state" problem but unfortunately far too common here at home.

Although Massachusetts likes to view itself as a leader in social progress, racial discrimination has been prevalent in our history and in our present, and a legacy of oppression and expropriation of indigenous communities remains unaddressed in policy and iconography.

In 2022, there were 45 attempts to restrict access to books in MA, with 57 titles challenged. ([Source](#))



1. Please explain your principles and proposals relative to building a welcoming society.

A welcoming society is not just a moral aspiration. It is a practical precondition for the kind of community and economy Massachusetts wants to be. When people feel excluded, surveilled, or erased from public life, they cannot fully participate in the civic, economic, and cultural institutions that make communities thrive.

Every person deserves to be seen and respected for who they are, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or background. That belief has to show up in policy, be it in curricula that reflect the full diversity of our history and present, in data privacy protections that prevent our personal information from being weaponized against us, and in public institutions that actively work to include rather than passively tolerate.

Building a welcoming society also requires confronting the legacies of exclusion

honestly. That means acknowledging the history and ongoing experience of indigenous communities, communities of color, and LGBTQIA+ residents, and translating that acknowledgment into concrete action.

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

During the pandemic, I launched and hosted a podcast called On the Tech Trail. When Akamai's CHRO Anthony Williams, a Black man who moved here from Atlanta, shared that every friend advised him against moving to Boston because of its reputation for racism, I devoted the entire second season to what we called Boston's Brand Problem. If Massachusetts is seen as unwelcoming to people of color, we will lose the talent and diversity of perspective that drives innovation. We convened 22 leaders to address both the reality and the reputation directly. After the murder of George Floyd, we convened 100 technology companies to form the Tech Compact for Social Justice, where each company made specific commitments to advance equity in their hiring and workplaces. I also founded the Board Ready Bootcamp to create pathways for women, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ leaders into board seats and economic decision-making.

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

I. Good Government and Strong Democracy

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Source: MassLive](#)

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

Democracy depends on accountability, and accountability depends on transparency. Massachusetts has built an extraordinary innovation economy and an enviable record on education and healthcare, yet ranks last in legislative effectiveness. The reason is structural. Power concentrated in Beacon Hill leadership, shielded from public scrutiny, produces stagnation across every issue progressive voters care about.

Transparency is where I start. Legislators should not be able to kill bills in committee without a recorded vote. Stipends should not flow from leadership as a loyalty mechanism. The Speaker and Senate President should be accountable to their caucus, not insulated from it.

Expanding democratic participation matters just as much. Same-day registration, restoring voting rights for incarcerated people, and ranked choice voting at the local level are all tools for making our democracy more representative of the people it is meant to serve.

I will cosponsor and vote yes on the Good Government Agenda bills from day one, stand for roll call votes when requested, and push for rules reform at the start of the January 2027 session when the leverage is greatest.

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

I have seen Beacon Hill's opacity from both sides. As a parent, I watched a bill my son and I testified for, requiring screening for a serious pediatric neuropsychiatric condition, get sent to study with no public record of who voted against it or why. That experience is not abstract to me.

As Winchester School Committee member and former chair, I have tried to model what transparent public governance looks like in practice: strict Open Meeting Law compliance, no serial communications outside meetings, all meetings properly noticed and broadcast publicly, minutes recording each member's individual vote published online, public comment welcomed at virtually every meeting, and budget and subcommittee materials posted for anyone to access.

Through my work co-chairing a legislative technology caucus working group supporting then-Senator Karen Spilka and nearly two decades engaging with the legislative process, I arrive at Beacon Hill with existing relationships and credibility that I intend to put to work for transparency and accountability from day one.

3. **Accessibility.** Central to good government is accessibility and responsiveness. Would you commit to the following?

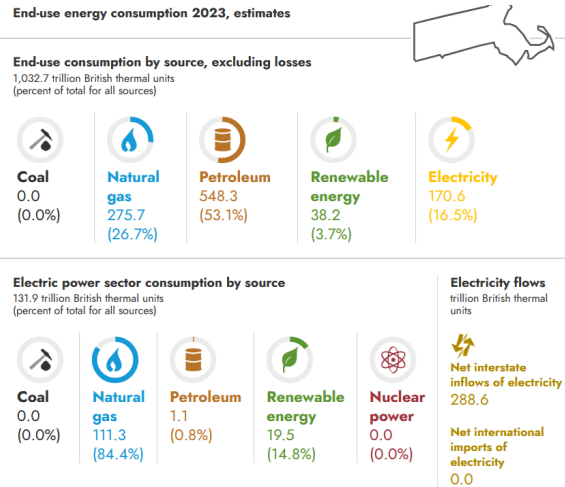
- a. Sending out a newsletter that includes explanations of recent votes at least once per month? **YES**
 - b. Holding office hours on weeknights or weekends at least once per month? **YES**
 - c. Holding town halls in your district at least twice per year? **YES**
4. **Public Records Law.** Massachusetts is the only state where the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the Judiciary claim full exemptions from the public records laws. Do you support the ballot initiative to eliminate these exemptions? **YES**
 5. **Legislative Accountability.** Massachusetts's system of 'leadership stipends' is an outlier among the 50 states. Do you support the ballot initiative to reform this system to create a fairer pay structure and hold committees to higher standards of transparency and productivity? **YES**
 6. **Legislative Research Bureau.** The Massachusetts legislature is the only legislature in the nation without a professional, non-partisan research bureau. Would you support the creation of such an office? **YES**
 7. **Expanding Access to Public Meetings.** Would you support updating Open Meeting Law so that people can choose to participate remotely in public meetings on a permanent basis and providing the necessary funds to municipalities to implement this? **YES**
 8. **Same Day Registration.** Massachusetts lags behind other states in making voting accessible for all. Do you support eliminating Massachusetts's arbitrary and exclusionary 10-day voter registration cutoff and allowing voters to register or update their registration at the polls on Election Day and during the early voting period? **YES**
 9. **Inactive Voter Lists.** Massachusetts is the *only* state in the country where voters are placed on the Inactive Voter List—one step before being removed from the voter rolls—if they fail to return our annual municipal census. Do you support removing this barrier to participation? **YES**
 10. **Ranked Choice Voting.** Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to adopt ranked choice voting in local elections? **YES**
 11. **Universal Voting Rights.** Would you support restoring the franchise to incarcerated individuals serving time for felony convictions (Their right to vote was taken away by ballot twenty years ago)? **YES**

J. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

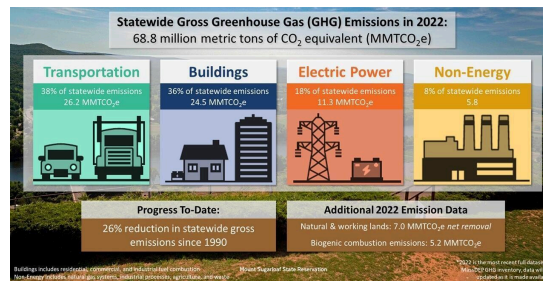
As a coastal state, Massachusetts will be hit particularly hard by climate change, but we are not responding with the necessary urgency. Massachusetts has ambitious and necessary greenhouse gas reduction goals, but we are [not on track](#) to meet them. Our state remains overly dependent on fossil fuels like oil and gas despite the pollution and myriad public health harms they produce and the ample [data](#) showing that we must leave fossil fuels in the ground. As we now face a federal government hostile to renewable and climate action, the responsibility lies with state government to take leadership in accelerating a green energy transition and ensuring that equity is at the forefront.

Public transit must play a role in decarbonizing our transportation system, as well as advancing complementary goals of equity and inclusion. However, Massachusetts politicians have lost their understanding of public transit as a public good that benefits all residents and businesses in Massachusetts, not just those who use it in their daily lives. The greatest evidence of this is their neglect of the MBTA: it would need [more than \\$24 billion](#) to bring infrastructure and equipment up to a state of good repair. Regional Transit Authorities that serve communities, including Gateway Cities across the state, face enormous capital needs as well.

Despite recent progress, Massachusetts is still overwhelmingly dependent on fossil fuels.



Transportation is currently the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in MA.



1. Please explain your principles and proposals relative to sustainable infrastructure and environmental protection.

Climate change is not a future threat. It is a present reality, and Massachusetts is not responding with the urgency it demands. We have ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals and are not on track to meet them. With a federal government actively hostile to climate action, the responsibility falls to states to lead.

The clean energy transition must be built on equity and broadly shared opportunity. Publicly funded projects should meet strong labor standards. The communities that have borne the greatest burden of fossil fuel pollution deserve to benefit most from the transition, both through cleaner air and water and through access to the good jobs it creates.

I founded the Net Zero Institute to accelerate corporate decarbonization and have spent years making the economic and business case for climate action to audiences that needed convincing. On the Winchester School Committee I championed Lynch Elementary as our first all-electric net zero building, led solar installations across town facilities, and helped Winchester earn Climate Leader certification.

Massachusetts should lead the nation. We have the innovation assets, the institutional capacity, and the moral obligation to do so.

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

In April 2026 I presented and got passed a \$8.7M solar bonding article at Winchester's Spring Town Meeting, net positive from year one and projecting \$7.3M in net savings over 25 years, approved 136 to 23. On the School Committee I also advocated for an EV-first municipal fleet policy, building decarbonization standards, and the Specialized Stretch Energy Code that helped Winchester earn Climate Leader designation in the Green Communities program. Through the Net Zero Institute I convene corporate sustainability leaders around decarbonization best practices, accelerating the private sector transition that public policy alone cannot achieve. And for nearly two decades at MassTLC I made the economic and business case for innovation, including climate tech, and inspired future leaders in Massachusetts to become creators, not just consumers, of the future.

3. **Fossil Fuel Infrastructure.** Do you oppose the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure in the state? **YES**
4. **Make Polluters Pay.** Do you support holding the corporations who are most responsible for causing global climate change financially accountable to pay for damages caused by climate driven extreme weather and the infrastructure improvements needed for resilience? **YES**

5. **Expanding Solar Coverage.** Would you support legislation to create permanent incentives for siting solar projects where they have the least environmental impact, i.e., on buildings and disturbed land? **YES**
6. **Banning Predatory Industry Practices.** Third-party electricity suppliers notoriously give confusing or misleading offers and often target low-income and older adults. Would you support banning third-party electricity suppliers that sell directly to residents? **YES**
7. **Utility Accountability.** Would you support legislation that restricts investor-owned utilities' profits, including but not limited their ability to recover lobbying, advertisement, trade association dues, and investor relations expenses on utility bills? **YES**
8. **Data Centers.** Data centers across Massachusetts and the country have been driving heavier energy and water usage, leading to higher costs for everyday customers. Would you support the following measures...?
 - a. Requiring primary-use data centers to pay for the cost of utility infrastructure upgrades, procure renewable back-up energy sources, and provide quarterly water and energy usage data? **YES**
 - b. Imposing a moratorium on new large-load data centers while a commission is convened to define appropriate community and environmental regulations? **YES. The moratorium should be time-limited and the commission should move quickly, with meaningful representation from the technology industry, municipalities, environmental justice communities, and utilities. Data centers create jobs and provide the compute capacity that powers biomedical research and other innovations essential to Massachusetts's economy. The goal should be workable environmental and community standards that allow responsible development, not a permanent barrier to investment.**
 - c. Repealing tax exemptions for data centers? **YES. Tax exemptions should not subsidize energy-intensive data centers without environmental accountability. However, targeted incentives should remain available for demonstrably green facilities, such as the Green High Performance Computing Center model in Holyoke, which represents the kind of public-private university consortium that advances both innovation and sustainability goals.**
9. **Plastic Bag Ban.:** Would you support a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags? **YES**
10. **Electrifying Public Transit.** In Massachusetts, 43 percent of GHG emissions in 2016 came from transportation infrastructure and vehicles. Tackling this will require a shift away from cars and toward public transit, as well as electrification of both. Would you support requiring the MBTA to operate an all-electric system by 2035? **YES**
11. **Free Public Transit.** Do you support making public transit in the Commonwealth fare-free? **YES, with a commitment to phased implementation tied to adequate**

funding. Fare-free transit is only a genuine public benefit if it is paired with the funding needed to maintain or expand frequency and routes. A fare-free system that results in reduced service would harm the riders it is meant to help, particularly those in underserved communities who depend on transit most.

III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Limit answer to 150 words or fewer.

Use this space to add any other issues important to your vision for Massachusetts or any other matter you think progressive voters should know about your candidacy.

I am running for an open seat following Senator Jehlen's retirement, bringing a fresh perspective shaped by nearly two decades leading the innovation economy and by my life as a parent actively navigating the systems this district's families depend on every day.

My sons have IEPs, 504 plans, and diagnoses including dyslexia, dysgraphia, anxiety, PANDAS, Crohn's disease, and a rare disease. My family has fought for appropriate special education services, battled insurance denials, and navigated the mental health system firsthand. Of the five candidates in this race, I am the only one with school-aged children, and the only one who has had to fight these fights, though I would not wish these experiences on anyone. That lived experience is not incidental to my candidacy. It is central to why I am running and what I will fight for.

Massachusetts deserves a senator who builds coalitions across unlikely partners to deliver results. I am ready to do that work.