



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2026 CONGRESSIONAL
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Jeromie Whalen

Office Sought: US House (MA-01)

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?

In 2016, I was an educator in my mid-20s who had to walk into my classroom after the election, look my students in the eye, and tell them everything was going to be OK, even though deep down I knew it wasn't. I kept asking myself how we got here and who allowed this to happen. Fast forward to 2024, and I was standing in front of a new group of students who were given the exact same speech as before, but this time shrugged with apathy. That was the moment it really hit me: this kind of behavior had been normalized. This isn't the world I want my students, my family, my friends, or my community to grow up in.

So I looked around to see who would rise to the occasion, and no one did. In that moment, I raised my hand. I also watched many experienced, thoughtful, and deeply committed people who care just as much about this district and this country do the same. I'm running for office because of my students, because of my community, and because of everyone who raised their hand alongside me and has been in this fight from the beginning.

Healthcare - Medicare for All, cap prescription drug prices, support mental health services

Economy - Comprehensive tax reform on ultra-wealthy, establish living wage

Education - Universal Pre-K, Pay Teacher More Act, Tuition-free Community College and Vocational Training

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

Combination of my academic studies and life experiences. I have a doctorate in Education in Mathematics, Science, and Learning Technologies that allows me to examine information deeply and thoroughly, but just as important is my 11 years as a public school educator, which has allowed me to listen closely, communicate clearly, and ground every decision in the real needs of the people I serve.

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

One of the biggest barriers to progressive policy at the federal level is the outsized influence of corporate money and special interests in our political

system. When powerful industries can spend unlimited sums to shape elections, lobby Congress, and write loopholes into legislation, it becomes much harder to pass policies that put working families and communities first. I've seen time and again how good ideas, from lowering drug prices to tackling climate change, run into a wall of well-funded opposition determined to protect profits over people.

Moreover, there's the persistent effort to divide people along lines of race, immigration status, gender, and geography in order to distract from economic inequality and corporate power. Progressive policy is strongest when it builds broad, multiracial coalitions around shared needs like good jobs, affordable health care, and a livable planet. Overcoming these barriers means not only changing laws and rules, but also organizing, educating, and making clear that a more just and equitable country benefits all of us.

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

Yes I do consider myself to be progressive, and when I say it I immediately follow up with "progressive is practical."

Medicare for All is practical. Passing the Green New Deal is practical. Taxing billionaires is practical. Funding public education is practical. Fighting for a more just, equitable, and better future for MA-01 isn't just progressive, it's becoming clear it's the only real answer to the problems working-class people are facing in Western and Central Mass.

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

I'm really excited to work alongside Jim McGovern, our liberal champion and neighbor over in MA-02. I've spoken next to Jim at No Kings, and I walked 43 miles with him to fight food insecurity in the Valley, while Richie didn't walk a single step. He brings not just a deep understanding of Congress, but a real knowledge of this region too, including parts of MA-01 that he once represented. I'd gladly stick close to Jim, soak up everything I can learn from him, and also follow the Squad around like a little kid brother. I've got a lot to learn from the progressive leaders already in Congress.

II. Shared Leadership

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

Doing this without taking any corporate money shows exactly where my commitment lies, with my communities. While it's like playing a video game on hardcore mode, that's what it takes and that's what we're doing. The best way to stay accountable to your constituents is to be accountable from day one. The way we're running this campaign reflects my character, and I'm damn proud of what we've accomplished so far. That same approach won't change when I get to Congress.

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

All of the above, and everywhere too. MA-01 is a huge district, 83 municipalities spread across about 30 percent of the state's land mass. Our current representative hasn't held a town hall in Berkshire County since 2017. My background in communication and media production, combined with my experience in education, means I know how to listen to constituents, reach people where they are, and clearly explain the actions I've taken.

- 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?**

My office is already seeing the impacts of the Trump agenda of hate and Our rural communities in Berkshire County would have the least physical access to me, but that doesn't mean that I can't be accessible through virtual means of communication. My dissertation is on Emergency Remote Teaching, I know my way around a Zoom room or two! :) I will also make a greater effort to show up in person as well, which we have already been doing throughout the course of the campaign.

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

By leaning into the relationships we've built across all of these communities.

My opponent has largely relied on the white Irish Catholic vote in the Springfield area to get him over the finish line, while mostly ignoring Black and Brown communities. We've built real, authentic relationships with people in these communities who stand with us because of who we are and what we're fighting for. We stand beside them in calling for the abolishment of ICE, something our current representative has never done. We show up, we care, and people notice.

When it comes to other communities, like the disabled community or the LGBTQ+ community, my life of service shows how I've always listened and advocated. In college, I worked closely with a young adult with autism who became my best friend and later my best man at my wedding. For nearly a decade, I traveled out to California to produce hundreds of stories for the Queer Youth Leadership Awards, highlighting young people making a real difference in their communities. That kind of work shaped how I lead, how I listen, and how I show up for people.

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).**

I do this every day. I have an incredible team that I trust with many parts of our day-to-day operations. They regularly engage with voters and meet people with the same compassion and humanity that I try to lead with. They are just as representative of what we're building as I am.

You can see this in how our campaign already operates. Each day, I get a full rundown of the schedule, along with a staffer who's with me to help handle logistics, from tracking contacts to navigating events to taking photos and supporting media work.

But shared power also shows up in deeper ways. One recent example, and there are many like it, involved a team member who spoke with a volunteer who couldn't make a canvass because they had unexpectedly lost their brother. They flagged it for me right away, and I reached out personally to check in, share that I've also lost my brother, and let them know they weren't alone. Sharing power means sharing responsibility for one another. In the context of both the campaign and the office we're building, I think that says a lot about who we are.

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?**

If only we had some concrete numbers to go off.. Oh wait we do!

Thanks Bernie!

- 1 percent tax on married couples' net worth above \$32 million
- 2 percent tax on net worth from \$50 to \$250 million
- 3 percent tax from \$250 to \$500 million
- 4 percent tax from \$500 million to \$1 billion
- 5 percent tax from \$1 to \$2.5 billion
- 6 percent tax from \$2.5 to \$5 billion
- 7 percent from \$5 to \$10 billion
- 8 percent tax on wealth over \$10 billion

In addition to that, there's [elements of this](#) that I agree with too, but probably higher thresholds as it has a larger impact on GDP.

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.

The American corporate tax system is packed with giveaways that let multibillion-dollar corporations duck their responsibilities while the public picks up the tab. Through the stock option loophole, tech giants like Meta and Apple have wiped out billions in taxes by deducting executive compensation that never even left the company as cash.

At the same time, offshore profit shifting lets pharmaceutical and tech firms route around \$90 billion each year through tax havens, while accelerated depreciation and long-standing fossil fuel subsidies have helped companies like FedEx, Amazon, and Exxon post massive profits while paying little to nothing in federal income tax. Layer on top the pass-through deduction (Section 199A), which overwhelmingly benefits the wealthiest sliver of earners, and you have a system that drains public revenue and props up corporate windfalls instead of investing in infrastructure, schools, and the communities that keep the country running. The list goes on. Review it all, revise it all.

B. Jobs That Pay a Living Wage

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

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

YES.

- b. **Eliminate all subminimum wages (i.e., for tipped workers, for student workers, and for workers with disabilities)? (Y/N)**
YES.
 - c. **Index the minimum wage to inflation? (Y/N)**
YES.
2. **Living Wages. Although the current federal push is to raise the minimum wage to \$17, this is still far from a living wage. Indeed, according to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, \$17 is [below a living wage in all 50 states](#). What steps would you take to close the gap between the minimum wage and a living wage?**

On day one I will sign onto the Raise the Wage Act to address the immediate concern. Then I will also support legislation that continues to ensure a living wage for every hard working person in our communities.

3. **Retirement Security. With the decline of pensions and other defined-benefit retirement plans in the workplace, retirement is becoming more insecure, and seniors are having to work longer just to stay afloat. Would you support legislation to....**
- a. **Raise the cap on earnings that are taxed for Social Security? (Currently, only earnings up to \$176,100 are subject to the payroll tax.) (Y/N)**

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

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

YES.

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

HELL 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?

When it comes to Western and Central Massachusetts, affordable housing has to be a top priority, especially with the push for West–East rail and the likelihood that it will bring higher-income buyers in from the greater Boston area. I support rent control measures and prohibiting corporations from swooping in to buy up single-family homes or apartment buildings, while still allowing local residents who are rooted in their communities to own and care for rental properties with compassion.

I also think utility rates are hurting everyone, especially seniors on fixed incomes. We can address this by investing in Green New Deal initiatives and by supporting the expansion of municipal utilities, something our region already benefits from when those options are available.

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)

HELL 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.

[Just going to leave this here](#) as it boils my blood.

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.

-Restore the Department of Education and, in particular, the Office of

Civil Rights (how the fuck am I writing this in 2026) to ensure that civil rights violations are addressed and that data is gathered to inform the government on how to best address segregation.

- Limit/Remove voucher programs that lead to the privatization of our educational system and a drain of resources for public education

- Universal pre-K services to allow for all families the access to early childhood services, which is disproportionately inaccessible to children of color.

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 in some circumstances, though I think this needs a more thorough look. I see it as a band-aid for a much larger problem, the spiraling cost of educational debt, which is what we really need comprehensive reform to rein in.

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?**

Housing is a human right, and the government should be thinking seriously about how it provides real housing solutions. That can happen in a lot of ways, including investing in public and social housing, strengthening tenant protections like rent stabilization, reforming zoning to allow more mixed-income and multi-family housing, and putting limits on corporate speculation that drives up costs for working people.

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)

NO, not to say I'm pro-death penalty or anything, but I'm a bit agnostic on this one. If anything, I think the bar needs to be incredibly high. You look at the Innocence Project and the over 200 exonerated people on death row, and even one wrongful death should give the entire system pause.

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

NO, but again, I'm pretty agnostic on this one too. I do think there are situations where someone's actions are so cruel and dangerous that

they can't safely be part of society. At the same time, I support the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling that bans life sentences for people under 21, clean slate initiatives that automatically seal records after a certain period of time, and restoring voting rights for individuals with prior convictions, among other reforms.

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)

HELL 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.

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)

HELL YES, and [watch this.](#)

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?**

When we see Clarence Thomas receiving lavish gifts that are clearly connected to the opinions he's issued, it makes the case for a strong, enforceable code of ethics that the Supreme Court must follow.

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?**

I believe that every person must be held accountable for what they do, even if they are in the Oval Office. I support impeaching Donald Trump for his abuse of power, corruption, and violation of his oath of office.

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

I actually have two amendments! First we need to amend the Constitution to overturn Citizens United to get money out of politics. We also need to finally

ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to protect and enshrine rights for women and LGBTQ+ people in the Constitution.

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

K. Sustainable Infrastructure & Environmental Protection

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

YES. Infrastructure creation means investing in renewable energy while creating strong, union jobs. We also need to make polluters pay by holding companies accountable when they have come in, pillaged our resources, and left communities with the damage, while creating good jobs to handle cleanup and prevent future harm. At the same time, education has to be part of the solution by providing a curriculum that addresses the climate crisis from a scientific perspective and removes the political games from an issue that impacts all of us.

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

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

I'd take an approach that works directly with local officials and community members to make sure projects get done without sacrificing our environment or the natural beauty of Western and Central Massachusetts. I would work closely with environmental leaders to ensure solar and wind projects are responsibly sited and developed. I'd also consult with farmers so they can keep farming and aren't pushed out by outside pressures, like large energy developers driving land prices to unaffordable levels. At the same time, I'd stay up to date on battery storage technology, which could offer real benefits for our energy future but currently pose safety and environmental risks that are a major cause for concern.

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)

HELL 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)**

NO, not because I don't support ending our reliance on fossil fuels, but because with our current infrastructure, this isn't realistic yet. Our district, unfortunately, relies heavily on cars due to its rural nature and the long distances people have to travel. Until we have reliable charging infrastructure, affordable alternatives, and stronger public transit options in place, a hard phaseout date risks leaving working people behind.

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?**

We've seen a lot of funding directed toward West–East rail, but there has been a lack of leadership in actually connecting our region to Boston in a meaningful way. Fast, frequent service between Boston and Western Massachusetts has been promised for as long as I can remember, yet members of my own campaign staff who live in Boston still cannot take a train to Springfield. We need to turn those promises into real connections that bring new growth to the region.

We've also seen the Fair Share Amendment help support services for the PVTA and WRTA. In conversations with officials at both agencies, it's clear that MA-01 could benefit from roughly a 30 percent expansion in routes and increased bus frequency to better connect rural communities across the region. Federal initiatives modeled on the Fair Share Amendment could help finance meaningful expansion in Western and Central Massachusetts and get people connected in a fast and efficient way.

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?**

Peace through diplomacy, and by regaining the hearts and minds of the world through restoring USAID and other international programs focused on humanitarian aid, development, and peaceful cooperation.

Oh, and maybe don't use taxpayer dollars to bomb hospitals or kidnap the leaders of other countries. That doesn't feel like too much to ask.

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

I think you'll love what we have going on in MA-01. It's a different take on how campaigns are usually run, and I think you're going to be impressed with what we're building. Really appreciate your time and your commitment to a better Massachusetts and a better world 😊