

PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS

2016 Primary Race for the 7th Middlesex Legislative District

*Endorsement Questionnaire
Candidate Responses*

Jack Lewis, electjacklewis.com

Phil Jack, philjack.com



PRIMARY ELECTION: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

7th MIDDLESEX DISTRICT consisting of Ashland; Framingham: Precincts 8, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18

AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

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I. About You

Motivations and Priorities

1. Why are you running for office? And what will your top 3 priorities be if elected? Q.I:1

Phil Jack, 7th Middlesex, Q.I:1

As I said above, I am running for office to fight for, protect, and strengthen our middle class, and that includes people at every stage of life. That means strengthening and protecting public education from Pre-K through higher ed. It means implementing a living wage and wage protection laws in Massachusetts, making healthcare more affordable, and protecting the rights of workers who want to collectively bargain. And it means doing everything we can to help seniors stay in their homes and age in place.

Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex, Q. I:1

I am running for the State House because the residents of Ashland and Framingham deserve to be represented by someone who will continue Rep. Tom Sannicandro's legacy of unparalleled service. For the last twelve years, Rep. Sannicandro has fought for our schools, our families, and our communities, and I would be honored to continue his work on Beacon Hill.

My interest in public service began at a young age, and this has led me on a journey around the country and world. My commitment to public service has exposed me to diverse cultures and taken me into countless homes. This journey led me to be a substitute teacher, a habitation assistant for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, a volunteer on numerous political campaigns, an intern for government offices and non-profit organizations, ordained ministry, and ultimately my current position as the Executive Director of an area non-profit.

My family and I are investing time in this campaign because we know that the 7th Middlesex District needs a representative who will fight for our schools and communities.

My top three issues of my campaign are:

1. Fighting for the Raise Up priorities including an increased minimum wage, paid family medical leave, and the Fair Share Amendment.
2. Advocating for increased investments in green technology and infrastructure.
3. Ensuring that our Commonwealth truly respects and celebrates the diversity contained within it

Background and Experience

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity? Q.I:2

Phil Jack, 7th Middlesex, Q.I:2

I am the only candidate in this race with any experience in local politics, and I am the only candidate who has held elected office. Moreover I have been fighting for progressive solutions for this district for longer than both of my opponents have lived here, combined. My lifelong commitment to our shared progressive values, and my nearly twenty years of being a leader in this community have prepared me to serve as the next state Representative for the 7th Middlesex district.

Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex, Q.I:2

I am a committed father, husband, non-profit leader, and ordained minister. With a lifelong dedication to public service and progressive ideals, I am committed to serving the residents of Framingham and Ashland on Beacon Hill as their State Representative. Fueled by a passion for social justice, I entered seminary to become an ordained minister. While there, I worked to provide transitional housing and teach life-skills to people released from prison, and directed a summer camp for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In my capacity as a community leader, I helped create OUT MetroWest, in 2011. This program, headquartered in Framingham, serves LGBT youth from across MetroWest Boston. In my capacity as Executive Director, I have served over 700 area students and their families by offering



supportive services, leadership development, and youth empowerment. My husband and I adopted our son through DCF foster care in 2014. Raising our family in Framingham was an intentional choice, and our son's enrollment in the Spanish-immersion program of a local public elementary school was part of our core belief in teaching global citizenship and multiculturalism. I am also an active member of the Framingham Democratic Town Committee, the School Health Advisory Council of Framingham Public Schools, and Framingham Community Partners. As a local community leader and parent, I know that when our towns and Commonwealth succeed, it is easier for our families and schools to do the same.

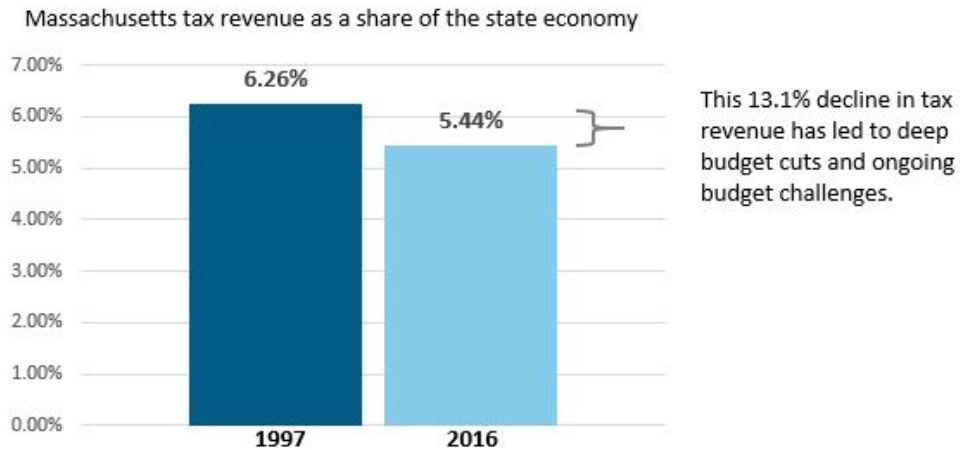
My diverse background makes me uniquely qualified to represent our district on Beacon Hill. For me progressive isn't just a label that I use when it is convenient, for me progressive is a way of life. A commitment to progressive values has dictated every decision I have made, and as state representative, this commitment will influence everything I do on Beacon Hill.



II. The Issues

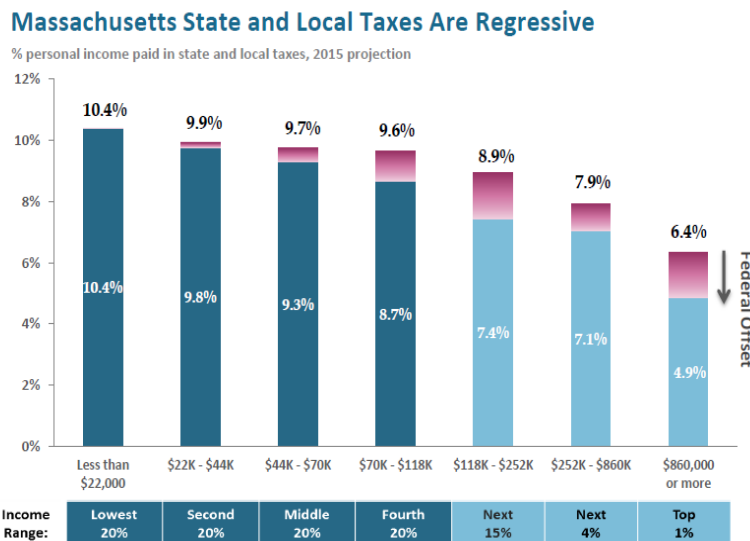
A. Revenue and Taxation

Despite the label of “Taxachusetts,” Massachusetts actually ranks 22nd among states in terms of state and local taxes as a share of total personal income and below the national average. Between 1977 and 2012, Massachusetts reduced state taxes by more than all but one other state. Because of income tax cuts enacted between 1998 and 2002, Massachusetts is taking in over \$3 billion less in tax revenue each year. Such cuts to the state income tax have meant increasing reliance on fees, as well as sales, gas, and property taxes, exacerbating the overall regressivity of our revenue. Regressive taxation strains low- and middle-income families, and reduced revenue.



Section A, Figure 1 - Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.

Section A, Figure 2 - Massachusetts state and local taxes are regressive.



Statement/Experience

1. What principles do you bring to considerations of state revenue and tax reform (individual and corporate)? *How should we raise more revenue to adequately fund our communities for the future?* Q.A:1
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.). Q.A:2

Phil Jack, 7th Middlesex, Q.A:1

On the corporate side, we need to create (and enforce) enforceable clawback provisions so that we are not giving away tax dollars to companies that do not create jobs or that send jobs overseas – even if those jobs are offshored from other states in which that corporation does business. On the individual side, I support the “millionaire’s tax” and in general support a progressive income tax in Massachusetts.

Jack, Related Experience, Q.A:2

As a lifelong Democrat, I have always supported candidates who share these values and goals, often against candidates who would stand to take us backwards in terms of revenues.

Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex, Q.A:1

I prefer changes to the current flat tax system currently employed in Massachusetts. I would prefer that it be replaced with a fairer plan that utilizes a multi-tiered system with higher tax rates for higher incomes and lower rates for lower incomes. I am in favor of the proposed ballot initiative that creates a two-tiered system with an additional 4% income tax on incomes over \$1 million. I also favor increased tax deductions and rebates for solar installation, public transportation usage, and energy-efficient appliance purchases.

Progressive Taxation

3. Currently, Progressive Massachusetts is working on a constitutional amendment to increase the income tax on income over \$1 million by 4%. Do you support or oppose this effort (the Fair Share Amendment)? Q.A:3

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I fully support the Fair Share Amendment and will make its passing one of my primary legislative priorities.

Sales Tax Holiday

4. It has been demonstrated over and over that the annual sales tax holiday does not serve its intended purpose of increasing sales, but rather just shifts sales to the weekend of the holiday. Will you support or oppose efforts to extend the sales tax holiday? Q.A:4

Oppose: Jack, Lewis

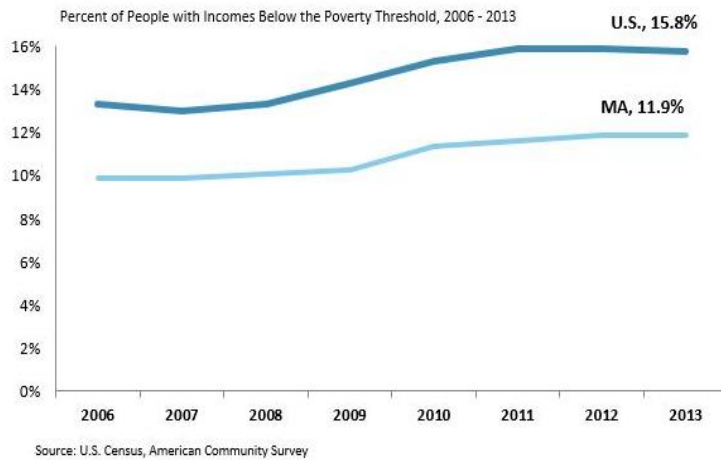
Jack, Additional Comments: I will oppose any efforts to continue or extend this holiday, and was glad to see the Legislature decide not to implement the holiday this year.

Lewis, Additional Comments: Our focus must be on implementing progressive income taxes to ensure that our children, families, and communities have the resources they need to succeed. Unless the revenue lost is offset with another revenue stream, I will oppose efforts to extend the sales tax holiday. Massachusetts is already experiencing a decrease in revenue that is impacting our ability to fund critical programs and infrastructure projects. That being said, since income taxes are inherently regressive, I would support a permanent sales tax holiday if it were offset with increases in tax rates for the those with higher incomes and a new luxury tax.

B. Job Growth and the Economy

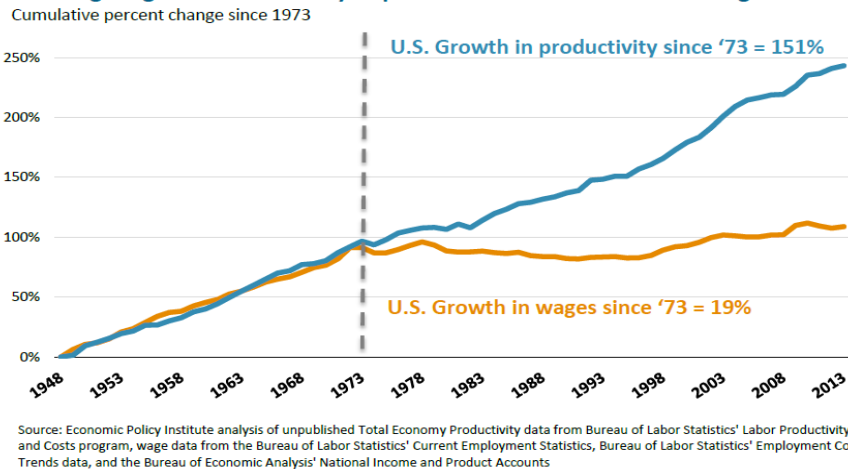
The Massachusetts economy has continued to grow and recover from the Great Recession, but the gains have not been shared equally. Poverty levels continue to increase, while the minimum wage loses value every year. Massachusetts now ranks as one of the top ten most unequal states according to various measures of income inequality.

MA and U.S. Poverty Rates Remain Elevated Despite Years of Recovery



Section B, Figure 3

Growing Wage and Productivity Gap is Our Central Economic Challenge



Section B, Figure 4 - Productivity has grown significantly since the 1970s, but it is not being reflected in higher wages.

Statement/Experience

1. Share your personal values and principles on job growth and the economy. *How can we improve the economy and economic security for all people? How do we grow the number of good paying jobs in the Commonwealth? How do you view wealth and income inequality, and what would you do about it, if anything?* Q.B:1

2. *Optional/As Applicable:* Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on job growth and the economy (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.). Q.B:2

Phil Jack, 7th Middlesex, Q.B:1

I think there are three keys to improving the economy and ensuring economic security for everyone in Massachusetts. First, we need to implement a living wage of at least \$15 per hour, indexed to inflation, for every job in the state. No one who works full time should have to live in poverty. Second, we need to protect and significantly expand the right of working men and women to collectively bargain. Only with a unified, collective voice can workers fight for economic justice, no matter what they do. Third, we need to pass the “millionaire’s tax” so that we can adequately fund all of our public schools which will not only enable more of our students to qualify for good paying jobs, but will also continue to attract great companies to Massachusetts. Forth, we need to expand the availability of affordable housing and loan forgiveness programs. Our universities attract students – prospective employees – from across the world, but these future employees will not stay in Massachusetts and strengthen our labor base if they cannot afford to stay here after graduation. We also need to figure out what, if anything, the state can do to aid low-income families in their efforts at inter-generational wealth accumulation, perhaps even starting a state-sponsored trust that will help low income families save money over the long term. Only through taking these steps can we begin to tackle the problems of wealth and income inequality, which are two of the most serious problems facing our middle class.

Jack, Related Experience, Q.B:2

In addition to having started my own business and employing dozens of individuals over the last twenty-five years, I have always paid my employees above minimum wage because I know that business owners need to take the lead in advancing the standards of economic justice and fairness.

Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex, Q.B:1

In an effort to improve job security in the Commonwealth, I fully support paid family medical leave. Families should not have to worry about losing their jobs when they are needed to care for a loved one or welcome a newborn baby.

I am a strong proponent of increasing our renewable energy infrastructure in Massachusetts. This will not only make our communities cleaner and safer places, but will create countless jobs in this new, diverse, and exciting sector.

Income inequality is a serious problem in our Commonwealth. I also fully support progressive income taxes and a minimum wage that is a living wage in order to help combat this issue and create a more equal society.

Lewis, Related Experience, Q.B:2

As the executive director of OUT MetroWest, I have overseen the hiring and supervision of numerous employees. I have successfully advocated for fair and equitable benefits for my employees and have ensured that our organization’s human relations guide is rooted in worker’s rights.

Minimum Wage

3. Do you support or oppose raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour? Q.B:3

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I fully support raising the minimum wage to \$15. Nobody working full-time in the Commonwealth should be living in poverty.

Tipped Minimum Wage

4. Do you support or oppose making the tipped minimum wage equal to that of the regular minimum wage? Q.B:4

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I fully support increases in the tipped minimum wage in order to fully protect all of our Commonwealth's workers.

Indexed Minimum Wage

5. Do you support or oppose indexing the minimum wage to inflation? Q.B:5

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: The minimum wage should be indexed to inflation. As the cost of goods increases, so should the minimum wage rate.

Paid Family Medical Leave

6. Do you support or oppose efforts to mandate access for up to 12 weeks of Paid Family Medical Leave? Q.B:6

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I absolutely support this.

Corporate Tax Incentives

7. Do you support or oppose legislation to impose greater accountability on corporate tax incentives (such as through automatic five-year sunsets or revocation of incentives that do not meet promised job, wage, and benefit standards?) Q.B:7

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I support legislation to impose greater accountability on corporate tax incentives. Corporations should not be rewarded if they are not meeting important benchmarks.

Corporate Tax Incentives and Good Jobs

8. Do you support or oppose legislation to require any corporation that receives tax incentives to meet wage and benefit standards befitting of a "good job"? Q.B:8

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I am in support of this. If corporations are receiving tax incentives, they must be providing fair wages and quality benefits for their workers.

Equal Pay

9. Do you support or oppose legislation to further the principle of equal pay for equal work? Q.B:9

Support: Jack, Lewis

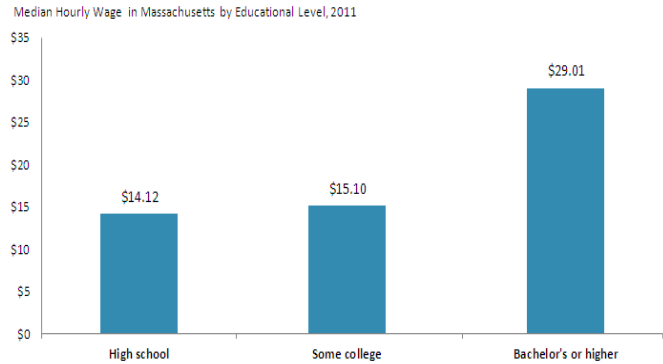
Lewis, Additional Comments: Employee pay rate must be determined by experience and ability, not on gender. I strongly support HB 1733 which helps to address this issue. This issue is a great reminder of the work that remains on women's rights.



C. Education and Workforce Development

Public education has always been a gateway to opportunity and mobility for all, regardless of economic circumstances, a cornerstone of the American dream for all residents. The mission of public schools is to serve all students, including English Language Learners and those with special needs. However, powerful corporate interests are working to undermine public schools, teachers, and unions. These groups are investing 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. Various forms of privatization are being proposed and implemented, including charter schools and “turnaround” schemes that put private management groups in charge of struggling public schools. Costly, mandated standardized test results are used to justify these privatization schemes. Finally, the soaring price of higher education over the last several decades has made access to this opportunity increasingly out of reach, at the very moment when higher education makes a greater difference to one’s economic future.

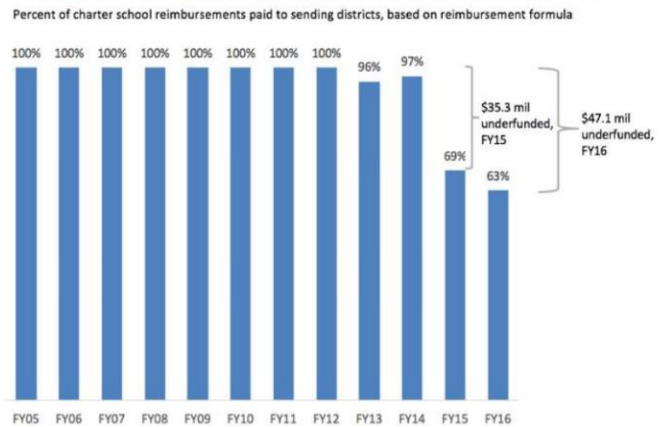
Section C, Figure 5 - Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey data

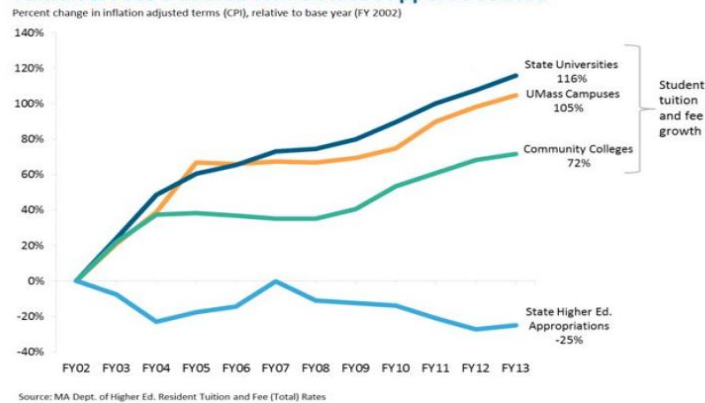
Section C, Figure 6 - The state hasn't been living up to its responsibility to fully fund our public schools.

The State Has Not Fully Funded Charter Reimbursements in Recent Years



Section C, Figure 7 - Massachusetts has been disinvesting from higher education and shifting the cost burden onto students.

Tuition & Fees Doubled While State Support Declined



Statement/Experience

1. Please share your personal values and principles regarding public education and workforce training. *What value does public education and workforce development have in improving our economy as well as in addressing matters of economic justice? What measures should the Commonwealth take on these issues?* Q.C:1
2. Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on public education and workforce development? Q.C:2

Phil Jack, 7th Middlesex, Q.C:1

We need well-funded public education from pre-K all the way through higher ed, and we need a renewed focus on, and economic commitment to vocational education. I support a progressive income tax and support directing part of the revenue raised through that to a universal pre-K program for all families in Massachusetts. I support taxing the endowments of the largest and most prestigious Massachusetts universities and using some of the revenue generated there to help freeze and/or lower tuition rates at community and state colleges and universities. I absolutely oppose raising the cap on charter schools, and know that we need to stop the drain of public school funds created by existing charter schools. And we absolutely need to do a better job funding our vocational schools and making these schools an attractive and viable option for families in every community. Strong public and vocational education systems are the foundation to a vibrant middle class. We cannot grow our economy unless and until we strengthen our public schools.

Jack, Related Experience, Q.C:2

Ten years ago, I organized two busloads of volunteers to travel to Beacon Hill and meet with our legislators, including Rep. Tom Sannicandro, and urge our leaders to get more, and more equitable Chapter 70 funding for Ashland, I have been on the front lines of strengthening the Chapter 70 formula ever since, and I will continue this advocacy and leadership if elected.

Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex, Q.C:1

I fully support public education and workforce training expansion. My son attends a local public school and I am active in the local PTO. Our society has an obligation to ensure that the next generation is both educated and prepared for the jobs of the future. Prior generations made this investment in our success, and I am committed to ensuring that my son's generation has the same support. Quality education is an economic and social justice priority of mine in that it provides youth opportunities not otherwise available and allows for upward movement from poverty. I support more funding for public education, including technical schools. The Fair Share Amendment will help to secure this additional funding, but more needs to be done to ensure that our children have the resources necessary to succeed.

Achievement gaps

3. What would you do to address persistent racial and economic achievement gaps in education?
Q.C:3

Phil Jack, 7th Middlesex, Q.C:3

Diversifying the tools we use to measure student success could go a long way toward ensuring that every student in a diverse population has the same opportunity to succeed. We also need to fund after-school programming, and perhaps make this part of our comprehensive education funding, especially for low-income families. I would also be open to exploring the possibility of mandating that any public schools that charge fees for any part of their programming use a progressive fee structure, so that the lowest-income students have the same opportunities and access as their wealthier peers. We must also amend the Chapter 70 formula to ensure more equitable funding for schools in low-income communities. Too often, the racial achievement gap is a product of the economic achievement gap, and I firmly believe that pushing for economic justice in our schools will help us close these achievement gaps.

Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex, Q.C:3

Racial and economic achievement gaps are a serious problem in our education system. To combat this problem, I will advocate for universal pre-K and full-day Kindergarten to make sure that children are well

prepared when they enter primary school. I fully support the Fair Share Amendment which would bring 2 billion dollars in annual revenue for education and infrastructure in the Commonwealth. I will fight to retain high quality teachers in our school districts, especially those who reflect the diversity of the communities in which they serve.

Universal Pre-K

4. Do you support or oppose creating universal, free Pre-K, accessible to any resident of Massachusetts, integrated into the public school system? Q.C:4

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I am absolutely in support of creating universal, free PreK for all residents of the Commonwealth. Studies consistently show that creating a foundation for early learning helps to close the achievement gap.

Standardized Testing

5. Do you support or oppose the use of high-stakes testing for such things as student promotion, high school graduation, teacher evaluation, and the evaluation of schools and districts? Q.C:5

Oppose: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I oppose the use of highstakes testing. Evaluating a student's accomplishments and knowledge based on a single test is unwise. We teach our students to collaborate because that is the most common workplace model, yet we test them individually. In the current testing model, we expect students to perform appropriately in a short period of time, when the true test of students' ability can be judged best when they have the opportunity to reflect and revise their ideas over time.

To evaluate teachers based on their students' performance is to suggest that a teacher has complete control over all aspects of their students' lives. How much of a student's performance is influenced by their family dynamic, economic situation, or physical well-being? There are other methods by which to evaluate a teacher's effectiveness and a school's performance than solely by a test.

A child's performance on an exam is not necessarily a correct indicator of their abilities or their teacher's abilities. Schools already have other forms of evaluation methods such as portfolios which are already used for students that need them.

Funding Structure

6. Do you support or oppose changes to the Chapter 70 Education formula, including the Foundation Budget, to incorporate proper state funding for ELL students, Special Education students, transportation costs, charter school reimbursements to sending schools, and class size reduction? Q.C:6

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: Chapter 70 is long overdue for reform. The Foundation Budget, which is the total minimum spending required of schools by the state to adequately ensure that a school is meeting educational requirements mandated by constitutional law, is largely out of date. The Foundation Budget Review Commission needs to meet more than every decade.

Charter School Cap

7. Do you support or oppose the 2016 ballot question that would lift the cap on charter schools? Q.C:7

Oppose: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I believe that the cap on charter school should not be lifted, and I oppose the 2016 ballot initiative. We are still learning from the charter school model – some schools perform better than average, some perform at or below average. Inaugurating more schools without the data that supports charter schools is a foolish move. Our children are not guinea pigs. Our focus should be on working to ensure that public schools provide the best possible education to students.

Successful charter schools are often so because they are able to fund successful initiatives like smaller class sizes, more time spent with tutoring and mentoring, 'hands-on' learning opportunities, and close

collaboration between schools and families, all of which improve education for children. Charter schools drain funds from public schools, making it difficult – if not impossible -- to implement these initiatives in our public schools, without necessary increases in public school funding.

Charter Accountability

8. Do you support or oppose legislation measures to bring greater accountability and transparency to charter schools, such as by requiring the backfilling of students throughout the school year and by requiring charter schools to adhere to the same disciplinary procedures and public disclosure standards as public schools? Q.C:8

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: Charter school are funded with public dollars and should be held to the same standards as public schools. I believe that our elected school boards should have jurisdiction over our charter schools and be able to hold them accountable as they do with regular public schools.

Higher Ed Access

9. Do you support or oppose legislation to grant in-state tuition and financial aid to undocumented students? Q.C:9

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: All students deserve the opportunity to receive higher education should they seek it. Many undocumented students moved to the US with their parents at a young age. These students have worked hard throughout their years in our public school systems and should not be treated differently than most of their classmates. Giving undocumented students the right to receive tuition aid provides them with an incentive to work towards throughout their academic careers. Statistics show that minorities are at a much higher risk of dropping out of school and the ability to afford college after their high school graduation will help to mitigate this problem.

Universal Higher Education

10. Do you support or oppose the goal of providing free, publicly funded higher education for every student who wants it? Q.C:10

Support: Lewis

Oppose: Jack

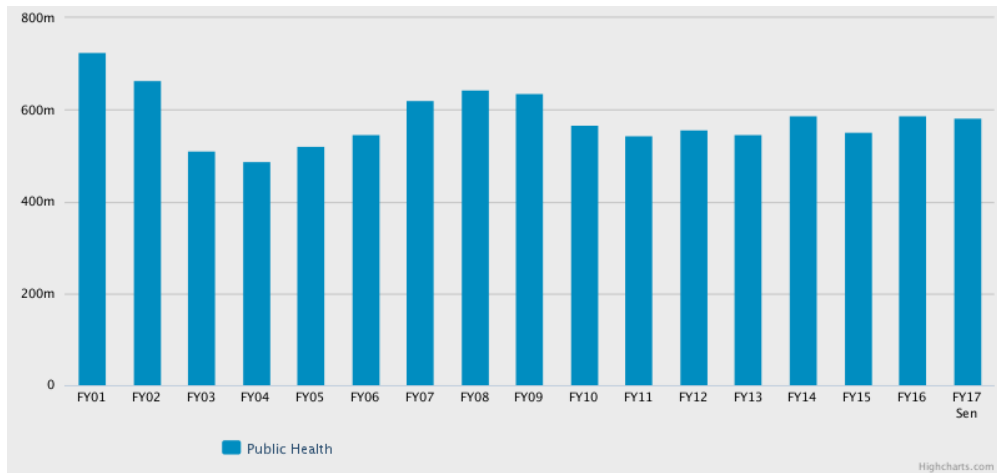
Jack, Additional Comments: Higher income families should not have access to completely free higher education as long as our state budget continues to be as strapped as it is.

Lewis, Additional Comments: I absolutely support free, publicly funded college education for anyone who seeks it. Access to higher education should not exclude students simply because they cannot afford tuition costs. An educated workforce greatly strengthens our economy, and high education gives workers access to jobs with higher pay and better benefits for themselves and their families.

D. Health Care

Massachusetts has led the way in providing near universal health insurance coverage, with 96% of the state having health insurance. But there is still work to do. Significant disparities in health insurance coverage and health care access continue to exist along income, racial, and education lines. Premiums continue to rise, and medical debt remains a persistent problem. We still spend an oversized portion of public and private money on health care, but without necessarily achieving better health outcomes.

Section D, Figure 8 - Public health funding has decreased 19% since 2001.



Statement/Experience

1. Please share your personal values and principles regarding health care insurance, delivery and outcomes. Q.D:1
2. *Optional/As Applicable:* Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on health care (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.). Q.D:2

Phil Jack, 7th Middlesex, Q.D:1

I support single-payer healthcare, but I acknowledge that Vermont has shown us how hard it could be to implement single-payer healthcare at a state level. If there's a way to make it work in Massachusetts, then let's get that done. Otherwise, we need to continue to approach healthcare as a three-part challenge: accessibility, affordability, and coverage. On coverage, we need to greatly expand what is covered under programs like MassHealth. On affordability, we need to get to a point where we can actually enforce the cost-containment measures we currently have in place, and hold large insurers accountable for raising the premiums on individual plan holders. On accessibility, we must hold hospitals and doctors accountable for refusing to accept low-income patients who rely on those hospitals and doctors.

Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex, Q.D:1

I strongly believe that quality healthcare should be a right. In the legislature, I will be a major proponent of achieving true universal healthcare in the Commonwealth. For me, this issue is a personal one. As a child in DCF foster care, my son relied on MassHealth services for his healthcare. I am so grateful that he was given quality health services and had access to the care that he needed. I will actively support both the Act to Provide Improved Medicare For All and the Act to Ensure Effective Health Care Cost Control as well as any other future relevant healthcare legislation. My door will always be open to parents, organizations, and constituents who want their voices to be heard on this important subject. I will continue to be eager to learn more about how we can best make universal, reliable healthcare a reality in our communities.



Single Payer

3. Would you support legislation to enact a single payer health care system in Massachusetts?
Q.D:3

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I fully support legislation to enact a single payer health care system. My campaign has recently been endorsed by Mass-Care, the Massachusetts campaign for single payer healthcare.

Reproductive Rights

4. Would you support or oppose legislation to support women accessing abortion care without dangerous delay, isolation, and obstruction? Q.D:4

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: Every woman should have access to reproductive health services. This absolutely includes access to abortion care without dangerous delay, isolation, and obstruction. It is a woman's right to make her own health decisions, and nobody else's.

E. Housing

Over the last ten years, the need for affordable housing has increased, while funds for affordable housing have decreased at both federal and state levels. Currently, there is a waiting list of up to ten years for a rental voucher, and the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment requires a wage 40% higher than the average renter wage. Half of families in Greater Boston alone pay over 30% of their income in housing and utilities costs—and over 25% of households pay *more than half* their income to housing. This is unsustainable. It has led to expanding economic inequality, increased homelessness, and damage to our economy, as talented workers often leave the state for less expensive regions.

Funding for housing vouchers has fallen-- costs for shelter has increased

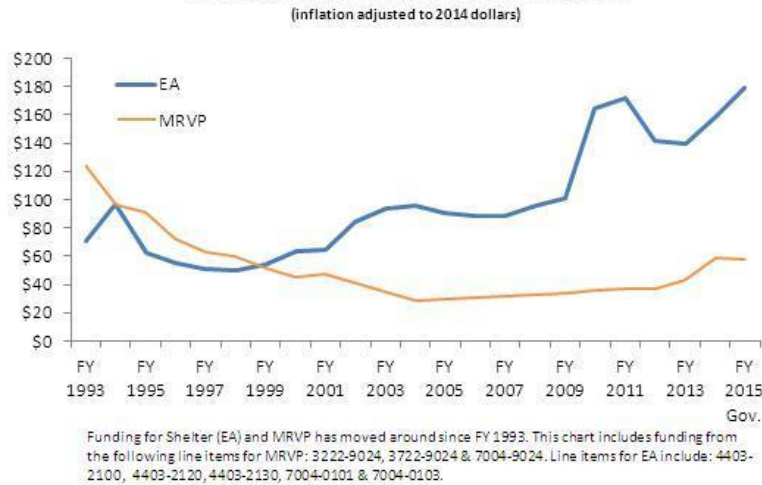


Figure 9

Statement/Experience

1. Please share your personal values and principles regarding affordable housing. *How would you ensure that there is suitable housing for all who need it, within reasonable distance of job opportunities? How would you address the need to link housing, jobs, and transportation? How would you tackle homelessness?* Q.E:1
2. *Optional/As Applicable:* Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on housing (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.). Q.E:2

Phil Jack, 7th Middlesex, Q.E:1

An adequate stock of affordable housing is key to supporting working men and women as well as seniors and others living on fixed incomes. We need to increase the funding available for the Mass Rental Voucher Program, Emergency Assistance, and Workforce Housing initiatives. We should also continue to find new ways to incentivize municipalities to create and implement affordable housing plans, particularly those that incorporate easy access to public transportation options. We must also find ways to solve the first/last mile problem for communities like Ashland and Framingham that are served by local regional transit authorities. Finally, for families who are homeless, we need to scrap the onerous, insulting requirements that forces families to prove homelessness before they receive much-needed assistance from the state. And with respect to the assistance we provide, we must make it a goal to ensure every homeless family has access to real temporary housing and not just a hotel room, a case worker to help them manage the transition to independence, and access to a job or to job training.

Jack, Related Experience, Q.E:2

The first board I ever joined in Ashland was the Affordable Housing Committee. I made that choice because I wanted to be a leading advocate in bringing more affordable housing to Ashland. I have continued to lead on this effort through my service on several other boards and committees, including my

time as Chair of the Board of Selectmen during which I was instrumental in creating an affordable housing plan and our Affordable Housing Trust.

Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex, Q.E:1

For too long our Commonwealth's budget has been balanced on the back of those who most need our support. Our Commonwealth has an obligation to ensure that families and individuals receive the support they require. This includes availability for housing vouchers and a comprehensive public transportation system that provides access to jobs. The intersectionality between homelessness, joblessness, and poverty is great. In addition to ensuring that support is available for those that require it, the Commonwealth should actively work to tackle the root causes of poverty through educational programs, fair tax policies, and living wage laws.

Funding Housing Programs

3. (a) Do you support or oppose increasing state funding to housing programs, and (b) how would you work to see increases (if relevant) realized? Q.E:3

Phil Jack, 7th Middlesex, Q.E:3

- a) Support.
- b) I know budgets are tighter than ever, but I think there are at least two potential sources of revenue to help increase funding for state housing programs. One is a progressive income tax. The second is a surcharge on large, luxury developers and the high-price units they build, with the revenue generated directed exclusively toward funding for affordable housing. I would support and help lead the effort on both of these initiatives.

Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex, Q.E:3

- a) I fully support increasing state funding for housing programs.
- b) Families should not be living in substandard conditions solely based on their ability to afford and obtain quality shelter. In the legislature, I will co-sponsor legislation that would push for increased funding in this area and strongly encourage my colleagues to support this initiative. My door will always be open to families and advocates looking to make their voices heard on this important issue. As the country's only right-to-shelter state, Massachusetts has a responsibility, both legal and moral, to respond to the housing deficit.

Affordable Housing

4. Do you support or oppose efforts to weaken affordable housing goals under chapter 40b, such as by lowering the affordable housing percent in a community to below 10% or counting market-rate housing as "affordable"? Q.E:4

Oppose: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: The only change we should be seeking in the percentage of affordable housing should be an increase. Families should not be forced to move out of their communities as they become too expensive to live in. The Chapter 40B affordable housing rate of 10% is already a low one, and lowering the rate further will only cause more housing discrimination.

Zoning Reform

5. Would you support or oppose legislation to upgrade Massachusetts' zoning laws to encourage more affordable housing and transit-oriented, walkable development and to allow municipalities to adopt inclusionary zoning practices? Q.E:5

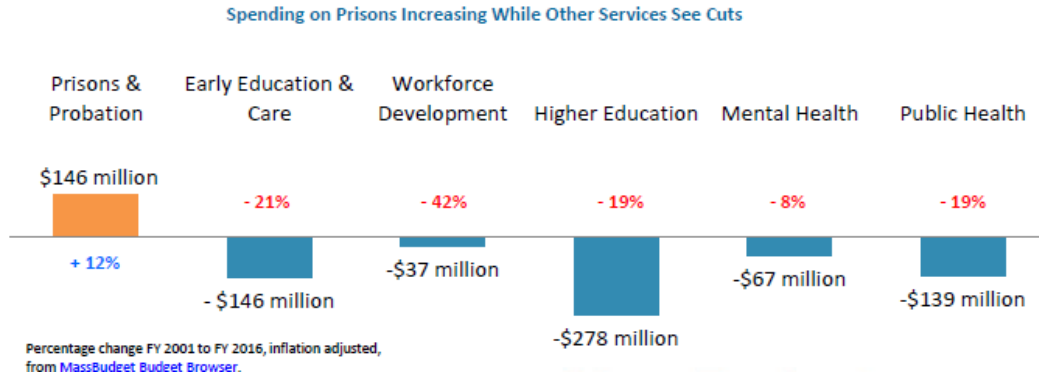
Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I will support legislation that would upgrade the Commonwealth's zoning laws to encourage more affordable housing development. Amending our zoning laws reduces barriers to the affordable housing that Massachusetts residents need. New zoning laws must also ensure that people with disabilities are able to travel and live freely in our communities.

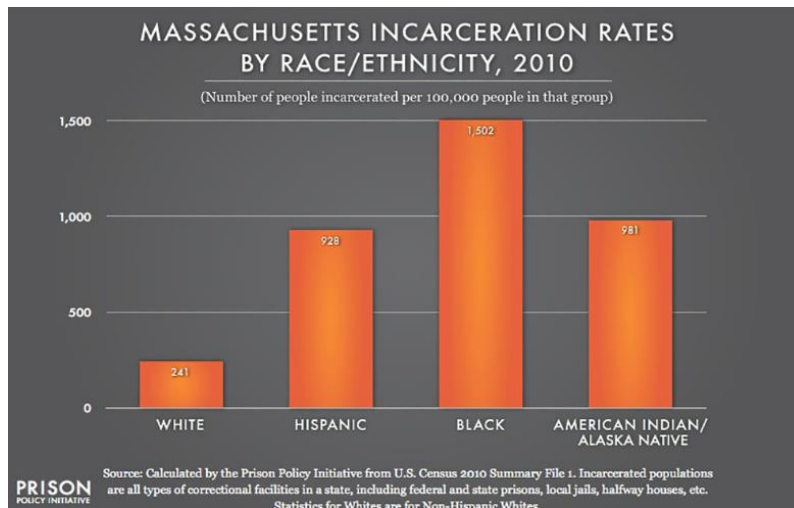
F. Racial and Social Justice

Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all” into crisis. We support a judicial system that does not disproportionately target communities of color and the poor, that does not criminalize public health issues such as addiction, that reorients away from ineffective and costly ‘tough on crime’ policies. A comprehensive approach to reform must be taken in all aspects of the criminal justice system.

Section F, Figure 10 - Spending on prisons has increased while other services have been cut.



Section F, Figure 11 - Significant racial disparities exist in incarceration in Massachusetts.



Statement/Experience

1. Please share your personal values and principles regarding Racial and Social Justice. Q.F:1
2. Please indicate work you personally have done to combat racism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, transphobia, and other attempts to marginalize disadvantaged classes. Q.F:2

Phil Jack, 7th Middlesex, Q.F:1

Simply put, every single person in Massachusetts (and in our nation) must be treated with the utmost dignity and respect, and must be given every opportunity to succeed and to rebound from whatever setbacks, self-inflicted or otherwise, they may encounter in their lives. We need to have meaningful

criminal justice reform in Massachusetts, and I think our reform effort should focus on getting state funding targeted to three areas: pretrial, diversionary program for at-risk youth; education and job training for incarcerated; and large-scale investments in reintegration services including family reintegration, job accessibility, food and housing stipends, and professional support for any personal or mental health issues that recently released prisoners may be facing.

Jack, Related Experience, Q.F:2

Combatting hatred or intolerance in any form has been a life-long core principal and I believe has been reflected in how I run my law firm, how I conduct myself in local government, how I coach, and which candidates I support and work for.

Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex, Q.F:1

Racial and social justice have long dictated every decision I have made. From working as a habitation assistant in a group home for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to volunteering in local jails and prisons, I have tried to embody this commitment in my personal and professional life. As a local minister in a Unitarian Universalist congregation, my portfolio included social justice and religious education. I regularly preached on issues including environmentalism, welcoming of immigrants, and racial justice. In our religious education program, I led youth service learning trips to Guatemala, Nicaragua, West Virginia, and New York City, oversaw our congregation's healthy relationship and sexuality program, and taught about multiculturalism and diversity. It was also in this capacity that I helped found OUT MetroWest, a local non-profit committed to advocating with and for LGBTQ youth.

Lewis, Related Experience, Q.F:2

In my role as a local minister, I helped create a non-profit to serve LGBTQ middle and high school teens. Our organization offers eight meetings a month, works to empower youth, and educate the larger community by fighting transphobia and homophobia. Sample programs have included explorations of the prison industrial complex, self-defence, and anti-racism. We have also led groups to lobby for progressive, inclusive reforms at the State House.

My undergraduate degrees were in Middle East Studies, International Studies, and Political Science, programs that took me around the world, into countless homes and diverse places of worship. I have been fortunate to live abroad in Egypt, Morocco, Ghana, and New Zealand and study liberation theology in India and Venezuela. These experiences that involved working closely with people from different backgrounds than my own have led me to lead and participate in cross-cultural and interfaith discussions around racism, religious discrimination, and homophobia.

In my role as a parent, my commitment to fighting for racial and social justice influenced our choice to enroll our son in the Spanish-immersion program of a local elementary school. In addition to spending 80% of his day in a Spanish-language environment, his classmates are ethnically, racially, and socioeconomically diverse, with families from around the world. It is our firm belief that such an educational environment leads to greater understanding of the concept of global citizenship and will contribute to our son's evolving commitment to strong social and racial justice issues.

Mandatory Minimum Sentencing

3. Do you support or oppose legislation to eliminate mandatory minimum sentences related to drug offenses? Q.F:3

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I oppose mandatory minimum sentences related to drug offenses. "Mansins" do not have any effect on decreasing drug crime or drug addiction and have a disproportionate affect on communities of color. By preventing judges from using their own discretion, they set up people for failure rather than rehabilitation.

Safe Driving Act

4. Do you support or oppose the Safe Driving Act, which would remove immigration status as a barrier to applying for a license or learner's permit? Q.F:4

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I absolutely support this. This legislation would provide everyone in the Commonwealth with access to drivers' licenses regardless of their immigration status. Licensed drivers make our roads safer places to travel on and ensure that all drivers are insured. We can do our part at the state level to work towards immigration reform. Our neighbors in Connecticut, Vermont, and Rhode Island have already implemented similar measures in their states. It is time for Massachusetts to do the same.

Bail Reform

5. Do you support or oppose legislation to reform the pretrial process (bail reform)? Q.F:5

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I am in support of legislation to reform the pretrial process. Our current process discriminates against the poor who cannot afford to pay bail, even for misdemeanor offenses. Those who cannot afford bail then have to await trial in jail. This creates unnecessary burdens on both families and taxpayers.

Marijuana Legalization

6. Do you support or oppose the 2016 ballot initiative to legalize recreational marijuana and regulate it like alcohol? Q.F:6

Jack, Additional Comments: I'm really down the middle on this one, and, to be honest, haven't completely made up my mind either way.

Lewis, Additional Comments: I admit that I am strongly conflicted on the marijuana ballot initiative. I strongly believe that the residents of Massachusetts should have a right to make their individual voices heard on this issue and I support the placement of this issue on the ballot. I have spent most of my professional life working with teens to make better decisions about their health, including not experimenting with drugs or alcohol. That being said, the prosecution of nonviolent drug offenses has harmed countless families in our society. As a Commonwealth, our resources should be spent less on prosecuting people for making personal choices but instead on providing treatment and assistance to those who suffer from addiction. The current "War on Drugs" has disproportionately harmed communities of color and low-income families. Over the next few months I plan to educate myself more on this issue and invite guidance from the larger community.

School-to-Prison Pipeline

7. Do you support or oppose legislation to defuel the school school-to-prison pipeline, such as by stopping zero tolerance disciplinary policies? Q.F:7

Support: Jack, Lewis

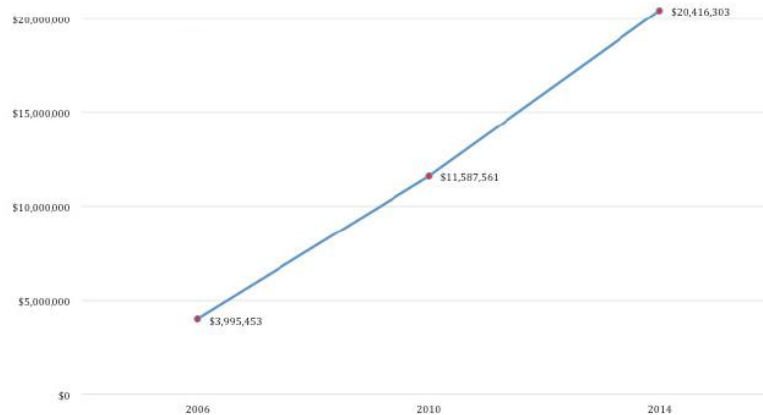
Lewis, Additional Comments: I support measures to defuel the school-to-prison pipeline. The school-to-prison pipeline has its greatest impacts on students with disabilities, low income students, and students of color. Taking kids out of class as a form of discipline does nothing to brighten our children's' futures. In reality, it causes struggling students to fall further behind and adds to the achievement gap problem. Students should be given services that help them to do their best and overcome adversity, not be pushed out of our educational systems.

G. Good Government and Good Citizenship

The influence of big money in politics is detrimental to democracy. Independent expenditures in MA elections have grown by a factor of five over the past decade. A centralized power structure on Beacon Hill, is undemocratic, and makes it easier for lobbyists to target the top and undermine the system. Key to any vision of good government is citizen engagement. Voter turnout in midterm elections, and especially local elections, remains low. The Election Modernization Act of 2014 helped eliminate Massachusetts's embarrassing status as one of the ten worst states in terms of voting rights, but there is still much work to be done.

Section G, Figure 12 -
Independent expenditures in MA
elections have risen rapidly.
(Source: Common Cause)

MA Independent Expenditure Totals



Statement/Experience

1. Please share your personal values and principles regarding Good Governance Reform. Q.G:1
2. Please indicate work you personally have done to promote transparency, campaign finance reform, legislative rules reform, and access to voting. Q.G:2

Phil Jack, 7th Middlesex, Q.G:1

There are three governance reforms I would support if elected. The first has to do with transparency and accountability: I would fight to ensure that the state Legislature and Executive Branch are held to the same standards as we impose on every other public agency in Massachusetts. Second, I would work closely with my colleagues in the Legislature and Congress - many of whom are personal friends, with whom I have relationships that will be key to my success as a state Representative - to overturn or nullify the effects of Citizens United. Third, I would push for greater access to the ballot box through early voting, same-day registration, and perhaps even online voting and/or weekend elections in Massachusetts.

Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex, Q.G:1

I believe firmly that government can be a force for good in the lives of all people. To reach the day when that goal is realized, we must work to ensure that government itself functions transparently and effectively. Elections must be free from the corruptive influence of big money, legislators must be able to represent their constituents without facing obstruction, and all people should be able to exercise their right to vote with ease. Without these reforms, our government will never be the fair, open, and

democratic system it deserves to be, nor will it fulfill its obligation to build a more prosperous and equitable society.

Lewis, Related Experience, Q.G:2

Since I have not previously served as an elected official, I have not been able to directly affect government transparency and campaign finance reform. I have made these central tenants of my race though. In my role as the executive director of OUT MetroWest, I have actively worked to education our participants on the electoral process. We have had speakers from MassEquality and GLAD, in addition to former State Rep. Carl Sciortino address our youth. In addition to helping them better understand the issues facing our democracy, we regularly register participants to vote.

Power and the Legislature

3. If elected, would you support or oppose efforts to dilute the amount of power held by leadership in your respective branch of government? For example, would you support a rule change allowing committees to appoint their own chair, instead of leadership? Q.G:3

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: As a member of the House of Representatives, I would strongly support measures that would enhance the ability of individual legislators to advocate for their constituents. Direct representation is a bedrock tenet of a democratic legislature. Allowing committees to elect their own chairs would grant more power to individual representatives. This would also foster a more democratic and forward-looking culture in the House. When the people of the 7th Middlesex district choose their representative, they are trusting that person to hear their concerns and advocate for them on Beacon Hill.

Public Campaign Financing

4. Do you support or oppose legislation to create a robust public financing system for state elections? Q.G:4

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I absolutely support public financing for all state elections. Running for public office should not be an opportunity limited to people with wealthy connections or great personal wealth. Democracy demands a diverse legislature that is truly representative of the entire socioeconomic spectrum. Legislators would be free to focus on their duties as representatives, rather than their campaign accounts. The residents of our great Commonwealth would be able to choose from a more diverse set of candidates for public office, not only those who can raise extraordinary amounts of money, and that is unequivocally beneficial to our democracy.

Election Day Voter Registration

5. **Election day voter registration.** Do you support or oppose Election Day Registration? Q.G:5

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I firmly support Election Day voter registration. Simply put, nothing should stand in the way of anyone who wishes to exercise their right to vote. Keeping up with the demands of modern life, both in the workforce and at home, is a time-consuming task, and it may be difficult for some people to find the time to register to vote. However, simply living a busy life should not disqualify anyone from voting. Nor should any circumstance that simply results in someone missing an arbitrary registration deadline. Voting is *the* core civil right, and restricting access to it on such meaningless grounds as tardiness is neither democratic nor fair. I am confident that Election Day registration will correct this unfair situation and open voting rights to many more citizens of the Commonwealth.

Automatic Voter Registration

6. Do you support or oppose automatic voter registration?

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I fully support automatic voter registration. Several states have already written this idea into law, and I believe that in so doing they embraced the idea of a larger democracy in



which all people are active participants. Just as some people do not have time to register to vote, many others may not know how to do so, or do not have access to a translated voter registration form in their language. Automatic voter registration expands the democratic process to all those who might wish to participate in it but would otherwise be unable to do so.

H. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

Massachusetts will be hit particularly hard by climate change. In order to avoid catastrophic climate change, global carbon emissions need to be reduced by 70% by 2050 and brought to 0 by 2080. Massachusetts has been a leader in increasing energy efficiency and reducing carbon production and must continue this leadership role in the United States. This will require the decarbonization of our state economy and a transition away from fossil fuels toward clean, renewable sources of energy. In light of congressional gridlock at the federal level, state government must take a role in incentivizing reduced carbon usage and assisting in coordination between agencies and moving forward local government understanding of looming climate threats.

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: its debt has grown to nearly \$5.5 billion, with over \$7 billion in deferred maintenance costs. Regional Transit Authorities that serve communities, including Gateway Cities across the state, face enormous capital needs as well.

Figure 13 - The cost of keeping transit in good repair grows as we continue to defer maintenance.

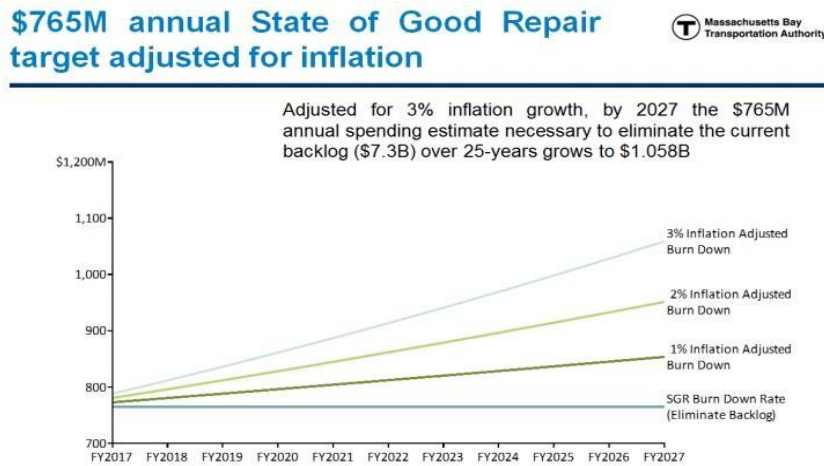
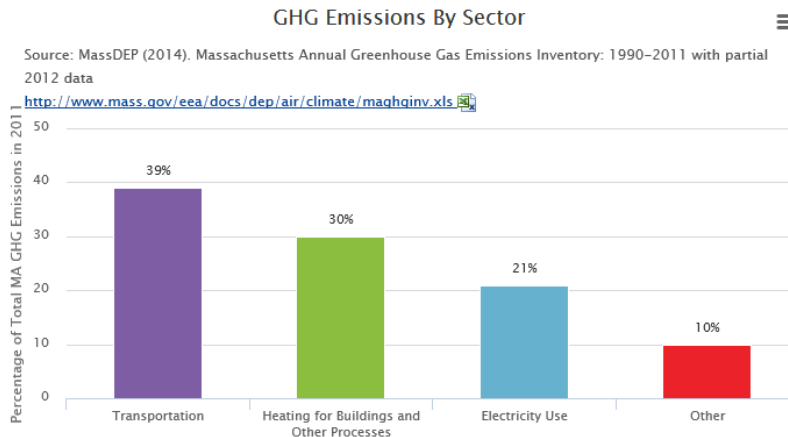


Figure 14 - Transportation is currently the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in MA, although heating and electricity are also major



Statement/Experience

1. Please share your personal values and principles regarding Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection. Q.H:1
2. Please indicate work you personally have done to protect the environment and expand access to public transportation. Q.H:2

Phil Jack, 7th Middlesex, Q.H:1

We need to make long-term investments in renewable energy, and continue to work towards our shared goal of having at least 1% of our state budget dedicated solely to environmental priorities. We need to move away from our dependence on dirty fuel, and continue to push for complete divestment – in both the public and private sector – from funds that invest in dirty fuel technologies or companies. This must be a priority for every state legislator because climate change is the most significant threat facing our planet today. Climate change will continue to significantly and dangerously alter our weather patterns and cause great harm to both our coastal and inland economies. Moreover, we have a moral obligation to protect our planet, and we need to continue to take meaningful steps forward to do that.

Jack, Related Experience, Q.H:2

I have been fortunate in recent years to have the opportunity to work on developing sustainable energy projects through my law practice, and have used my expertise in law to help expedite the initiation and completion of these projects. My first job out of college was with the PIRGs, and I spent time there and as an aide in Congress focusing on clean water and clean air initiatives. The fight for environmental justice is a fight that I've been on the front lines of for my entire adult life. Personally, I have tried for years to install solar panels on my roof, only to be told that our roof-line cannot support this addition. But, my wife and I continue to pursue this option and hope that the technology soon becomes available so that we can get one step closer to our goal of owning a home with zero carbon footprint. I served on the Ashland Conservation Commission, and on that board and through my service on other boards I helped lead several initiatives to increase Ashland's energy efficiency, in turn decreasing our reliance on dirty fuel options.

Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex, Q.H:1

As with all justice issues, I have long fought for environmental justice. In my role as a local minister, I provided ministerial oversight to the congregation's environmental group. I regularly preached on these important issues, while making them an essential component of religious instruction. Investing in sustainable infrastructure and environmental protections are a core component of my campaign, and as a state representative, will be among my primary priorities.

Lewis, Related Experience, Q.H:2

My family's commitment to environmentalism influences every decision we have made. We utilize only one car, a small, fuel-efficient vehicle. My husband uses the commuter rail daily, my son rides the bus to school, and my work commute is less than a mile. We grow two gardens, collect rainwater, and compost. Several years ago we invested in solar panels in order to decrease our carbon footprint, one of the best decisions my family has ever made.

Global Warming Solutions Act

3. Earlier this year, the Massachusetts SJC ruled that the state has not met the emissions reductions requirements of the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act. What steps would you support to meet and go beyond the targets set by this act? Q.H:3

Phil Jack, 7th Middlesex, Q.H:3

I would push for increases in the amount of energy that utility companies must purchase from clean energy providers and the amount of reimbursements for homeowners whose homes generate excess clean energy. I would support carbon pricing and funding for the conversion of brownfields into solar farms.

Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex, Q.H:3

I support innovative policies, small and large in scope, to combat climate change. It is imperative that we invest heavily in renewable energy. I support Senator Downing's aggressive energy bill, S 2372, which will greatly expand the Commonwealth's commitment to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions through the use of renewable energy. Yet this is only a first step. Renewable energy is key to our future, economically and environmentally, and we must work to incentivize its development on the largest scale possible. However, there are a number of smaller scale policies that the Commonwealth should pursue. We must work to decrease our reliance on fuel-burning cars by incentivizing the purchase of electric cars. Buildings must be retrofitted for energy efficiency, our power grid must be upgraded and modernized to handle new renewable inputs, and we must conserve forest land to foster carbon sequestration. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we absolutely must build a reliable public transportation system. Public transport is inherently more energy efficient than individual cars, but if that efficiency is to be fully utilized, riders must be able to rely on it as their regular source of transportation. I believe that these policies, if aggressively implemented, will ensure that we meet the targets GWSA set out. Together, with a simultaneously innovative and radical approach, we can avoid the worst horrors that climate change promises to wreak on our planet.

Funding Climate Change Adaptation

4. Will you support or oppose increasing funding and collaboration between state and local governments on resiliency and climate adaptation efforts to help mitigate the consequences of climate change? Q.H:4

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I believe that the collaboration between state and local actors is essential in our ability to combat climate change. If we do not act collectively, we will not be able to move towards creating a more sustainable future for our children and grand-children. An investment in climate change adaptation and resilience is a necessary investment in our future.

Solar Energy

5. Do you support or oppose efforts to increase equitable access to solar power by pushing to remove caps on solar generation and restore compensation for low-income and community solar? Q.H:5

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I fully support the removal of net metering caps on solar generation. We must remove barriers and incentivize people to switch to solar energy in order to encourage the growth of this renewable energy industry.

Carbon Fees

6. Do you support or oppose legislation to put a fee on carbon emissions? Q.H:6

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I absolutely support carbon pricing. The environmental cost of fossil fuels are not currently reflected in their price. Senator Michael Barrett's legislation on carbon pricing would work to change the incentives of carbon emissions. Putting a fee on emissions will encourage all residents and businesses to rethink their energy usage and cause people to think about innovation and renewable energy in a new and personal way.

Gas Pipelines

7. Do you support or oppose the expansion of gas pipelines in the state? Q.H:7

Oppose: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I strongly oppose the expansion of natural gas pipelines in Massachusetts. A recent report identified 20,000 leaks in the pipelines that already exist. In just under a year, these leaks emitted hundreds of thousands of metric tons of methane, which is dozens of times more potent than carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere. Natural gas, being a combustible fuel, also poses an explosion hazard and therefore threatens the safety of local populations. Gas companies have said that they will

need decades to fix these leaks. When we are already contending with serious problems like this, why would we even consider constructing new pipelines? Doing so would condemn future generations to dealing with the same problems down the road. Moreover, it would distract from the far more urgent goal of fixing dangerous and environmentally damaging leaks. If we are to slow global warming and keep our residents safe, we must strongly oppose pipeline expansion, and thus I am proud to do so.

MBTA Fiscal Challenges

8. Do you believe that the fiscal problems facing the MBTA can be solved by reform alone, or is new revenue require? Which reforms? Which additional revenue sources? Q.H:8

Phil Jack, 7th Middlesex, Q.H:8

We need new revenue, which is why I support the “millionaire’s tax.”

Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex, Q.H:8

I believe that both reform and new revenue will be required if the MBTA’s fiscal problem are to be fixed. However, as I will explain below, I do not believe that this should be solved by fare increases. One of the MBTA’s greatest assets is its affordability relative to other transit systems. Affordable fares give the MBTA a larger customer base; moreover, the MBTA must stay true to the public aspect of its mission and provide affordable transit to those who are not able to afford other forms. Yet, with the MBTA’s structural deficit set to increase above 400 million by 2020, new revenue is necessary. The MBTA can secure this revenue by allowing more small businesses to open concession stands, creating new advertising opportunities in MBTA facilities, and receiving funds from any new taxes raised under the Fair Share Amendment. However, the MBTA can and must make more change through internal reforms. It must focus on modernizing and improving its current facilities and vehicles, especially with regard to customer service. It should aim to offer amenities like working bathrooms, air conditioning, and Wi-Fi, and allow customers to easily review these services. To incentivize this and tie it to fiscal matters, the Commonwealth should agree to share a percentage of MBTA debt according to how many customer services goals are met. Public transportation is the veins and arteries of our Commonwealth. We have a communal obligation to ensure that public transportation is dependable and expanding.

MBTA Fare Hikes

9. Do you support or oppose capping MBTA fare hikes at 5% (or less) for every 2-year period? Q.H:9

Support: Jack, Lewis

Lewis, Additional Comments: I believe that the MBTA should cap fare hikes at 5% or less. While recent fare changes have resulted in decreased bus fares, the cost for the commuter rail and subways systems have increased, and in some cases these increases have been as high as 10%. These increased fares impact low income communities the most. While I understand that we must raise revenue to modernize our public transportation systems, there are better ways to do this. I fully support the Fair Share Amendment which would increase revenue for education and infrastructure by 2 billion dollars annually.



III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Limit answer to 250 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.

Phil Jack, 7th Middlesex, Q.III

I know it is easy for a candidate to satisfactorily fill out questionnaires. What cannot be replicated is the twenty-five years of experience I have in fighting these fights - in advocating for the advancement our shared progressive values. I hope to continue that fight alongside Progressive Mass.

Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex, Q.III

I would be honored to receive the endorsement of Progressive Massachusetts. Progressive values have dictated every decision I have made, professionally and personally, and as a state representative, I pledge to be a leading voice for common sense, progressive reforms. Massachusetts has long led the way for the rest of the country on important justice issues and, in order for our Commonwealth to be that shining city on a hill that our founder imagined, we need to fight harder than ever against those who would prefer to strip away hard-fought protections. I look forward to working closely with Progressive Massachusetts and ask that the organization be a partner with me on Beacon Hill.