

# PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS

## *2016 Primary Race for the 7<sup>th</sup> Suffolk Legislative District*

*Endorsement Questionnaire*

*Candidate Responses*

**Monica Cannon**, [monicacannon.org](http://monicacannon.org)

**Marydith Tuitt**, [vote4mary.net](http://vote4mary.net)

**Chynah Tyler**, [votechynah.com](http://votechynah.com)



**PRIMARY ELECTION:** THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

**7<sup>th</sup> SUFFOLK DISTRICT** consisting of Boston: Ward 4: Precincts 8, 9, 10, Ward 5: Sub-precinct 2A, Ward 9: Precincts 4, 5, Ward 12: Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, Ward 21: Precinct 1

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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

#### **Monica Cannon, 7th Suffolk, Q.I:1**

I am running for this seat to be an advocate for a community that desperately needs progress. I want to bring my energy and experience to the State House, in order to help get residents of this district get the resources needed for prosperity.

Top Priorities:

- 1) Economic Empowerment (fair wages and gender pay equity)
- 2) Public Safety (Community Policing and transparency in law enforcement)
- 3) Education (Voc-Tech and college readiness programs)

#### **Marydith Tuitt, 7th Suffolk, Q.I:1**

Over the years I have seen domestic violence issues, housing issues, and violence in and around the district. I have cried with family and friends who have suffered loss to violence, I have had to take sister friends to the police or the hospital after domestic issues and I have worked with constituents that have had no one to help them maneuver through the system, so many different reasons. My knowledge and experience of working to make things right writing legislation that have made positive changes here in MA.

Top 3 priorities

- 1) youth development/education,
- 2) housing stabilization/economic development,
- 3) public safety

#### **Chynah Tyler, 7th Suffolk, Q.I:1**

I'm running for office because I was born, raised, educated in this district. I have experience working in the State House for the current State Senator of this district. I have the ability to effectively create progressive legislation and adjust current legislation for the benefit of my district. I'm running to ensure my district has a voice in the State House.

Top priorities are

- 1) education,
- 2) affordable housing,
- 3) economic development and
- 4) public safety.

### **Background and Experience**

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

#### **Monica Cannon, 7th Suffolk, Q.I:2**

I have dedicated my life's work to fighting for the rights of of the people who seldom have their voices heard. Whether it be combating recidivism for incarcerated men of color through my work at ROCA, or organizing a yearly event to provide backpacks and supplies for our BPS students, I have a longstanding history of creating opportunity for individuals in my community.

*Accomplishments:*

-Chair of the Young Adult Committee for NAACP



- Host for the Annual Back to School Block Party for Peace
- Former Executive Director for Tito Jackson's Community Fund
- Named 2015 Unsung Heroine of Massachusetts

**Marydith Tuitt, 7th Suffolk, Q.I:2**

My 16 years of working with Rep Fox writing legislation and policy, working on the budget with her as a member of the ways and means committee, and my history of working constituent services in her office

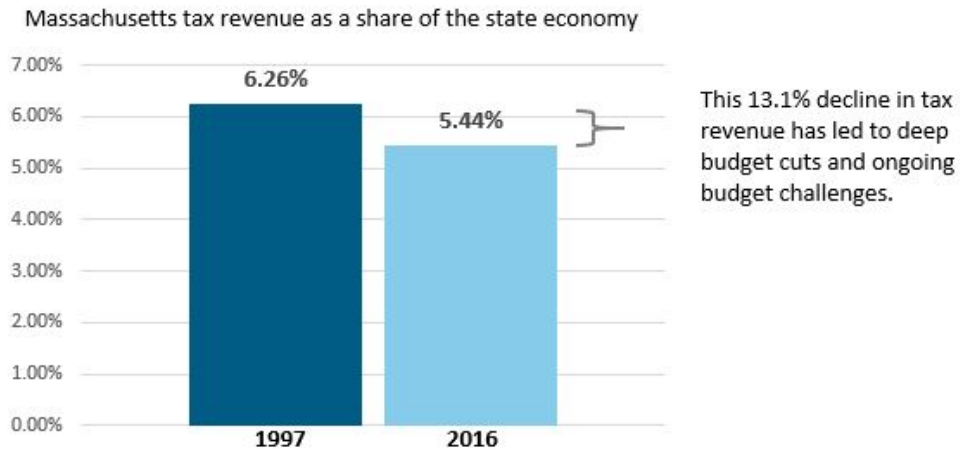
**Chynah Tyler, 7th Suffolk, Q.I:2**

I'm born and raised in this district, therefore I have developed lifelong relationships, I know the history of the district and I have previous experience working in the State House working for my districts current State Senator. While, at the State House, I worked on constituent services, drafting legislation and fighting for my district.

**II. The Issues**

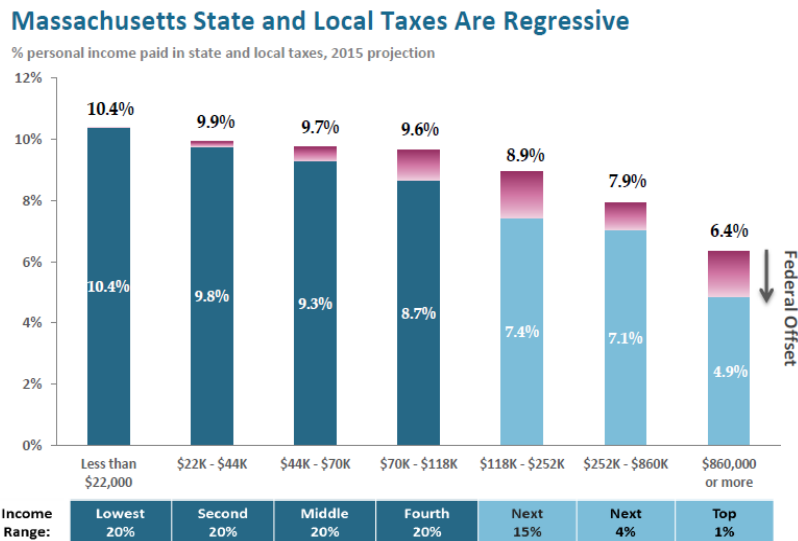
**A. Revenue and Taxation**

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

#### **Monica Cannon, 7th Suffolk, Q.A:1**

Given the decline in tax revenue, it is necessary to have some policy changes in order to provide better services for the residents of Massachusetts. I support millionaires paying their fair share in taxes in order to drive tax revenue. For corporations, I would like to close loopholes and tax breaks on Massachusetts companies that are shipping jobs out of state. However, I strongly oppose any tax increases on the hardworking low and moderate income families of Massachusetts.

#### **Marydith Tuitt, 7th Suffolk, Q.A:1**

I know we need to increase revenue, to do this we need taxes but we also need to increase wages and the cost of living needs to be brought too real life levels.

#### **Chynah Tyler, 7th Suffolk, Q.A:1**

I'm born and raised in this district, therefore I have developed lifelong relationships, I know the history of the district and I have previous experience working in the State House working for my districts current State Senator. While, at the State House, I worked on constituent services, drafting legislation and fighting for my district.

*Tyler, Related Experience, Q.A:2*

While, in the State House, I helped pass legislation for the bottle bill which helped boost state revenue.

### **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:** Cannon; Tuitt, Tyler

### **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

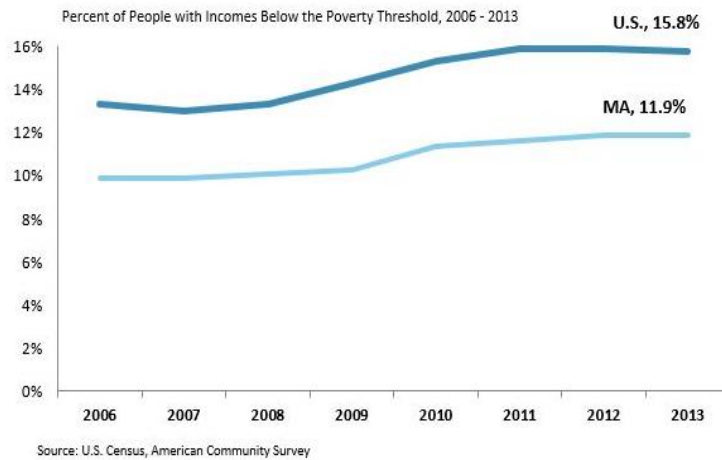
**Support:** Tuitt; Tyler

**Oppose:** Cannon

## 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.

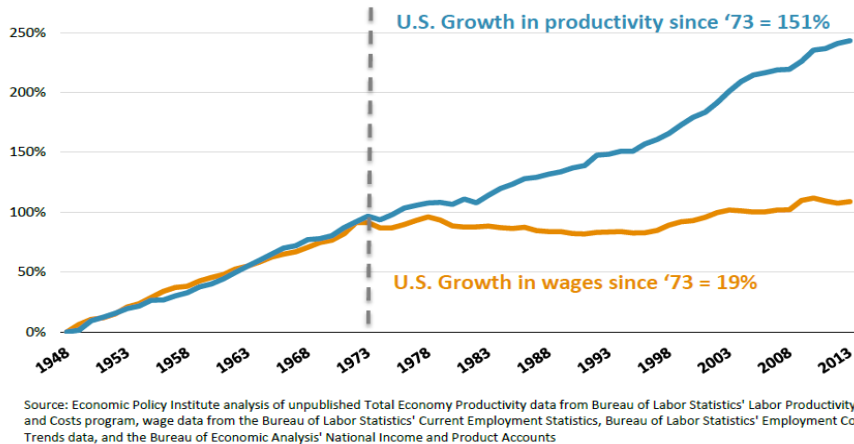
### MA and U.S. Poverty Rates Remain Elevated Despite Years of Recovery



Section B, Figure 3

### Growing Wage and Productivity Gap is Our Central Economic Challenge

Cumulative percent change since 1973



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

#### **Monica Cannon, 7th Suffolk, Q.B:1**

As a woman of color, pay inequity and the need for economic empowerment hits close to home for me. To increase financial security, we must provide training for residents to learn skills for high paying jobs, such as life sciences and the Innovation economy. Also we must combat rising costs of college, since a talented workforce leads to individual wealth building. We can incentivize college savings accounts and provide affordable public high education through the state school system.

Another critical issue is mandating paid parental leave and supporting legislation like the equal pay bill. For closing the wage gap brings families out of poverty.

*Cannon, Related Experience, Q.B:2*

In my leadership role at ROCA, I have advocated and organized individuals to fight for the increase in funding of apprenticeship programs for young men who were previously incarcerated.

#### **Marydith Tuitt, 7th Suffolk, Q.B:1**

we have good paying jobs in MA but they do not hire MS residents for various reasons one they state experience necessary how does one get experience if a company does not give them a chance so many times i see this as a way out for companies to hire outside of MA then of course that means the money is now leaving MA to whatever bordering state the employee resides in. Also much of our work force are people who have the want be part of a particular job field but have no access and funds to acquire the training or skills. We need to work on both of these areas access to the job and then the support and guidance to help sustain the job.

#### **Chynah Tyler, 7th Suffolk, Q.B:1**

It is vital that we train our residents for job sectors that are experiencing growth so they are prepared to enter the workforce. Studies show us where the job market is going to need the most workers and what fields are on the rise in our state. The key is to prepare for that growth, so that our residents are getting those high paying jobs. In regards to wealth and income inequality, we have to do a better job of assisting unemployed and underemployed become prepared to take on meaningful employment opportunities and create a pathway to home ownership.

*Tyler, Related Experience, Q.B:2*

In the community, I assist residents secure job and Job training to help provide stability and security.

#### **Minimum Wage**

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

**Support:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler.

**Tuitt, Additional Comments:** I have supported and asked many of my friends to support the wage increase movement. Social media has been an avenue to have discussion on why it is important.

#### **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:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler.

#### **Indexed Minimum Wage**

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

**Support:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler.



***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:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler.

***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:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler.

***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:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler.

***Equal Pay***

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

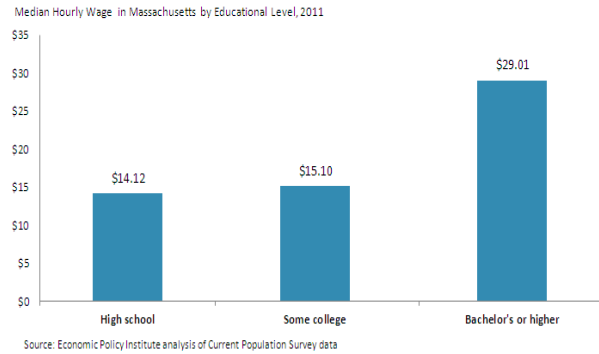
**Support:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler.

Tuitt, Additional Comments: As a Commissioner on MA Commission on Status of Women I have worked on this issue for many years as a woman of color I make 66 cents to the 74 cents of a white female and \$1 of a white male we need equity

**C. Education and Workforce Development**

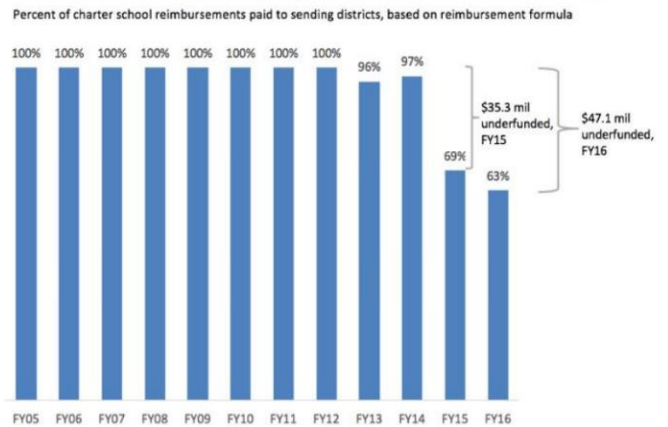
Public education has always been a gateway to opportunity and mobility for all, regardless of economic circumstances, a cornerstone of the American dream for all residents. The mission of public schools is to serve all students, including English Language Learners and those with special needs. However, 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



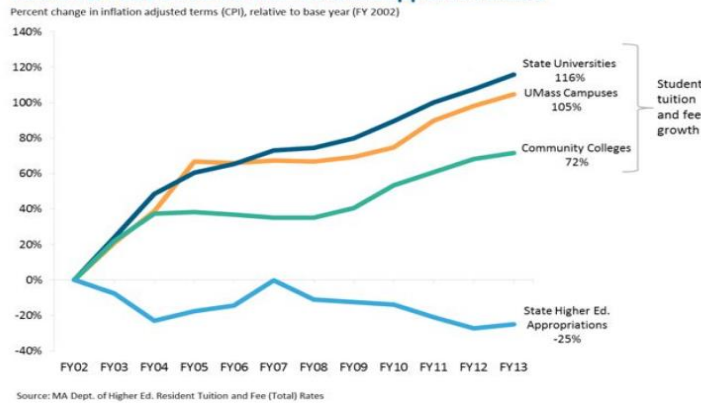
Section C, Figure 6 - The state hasn't been living up to its responsibility to fully fund our public schools.

**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

### **Monica Cannon, 7th Suffolk, Q.C:1**

Public education is the pathway to economic security. In order to ensure financial stability, public schools must train our children for the jobs of tomorrow and have them college ready. That means a stronger emphasis on vocational training and promoting STEM education, where communities of color and low achieving schools are underrepresented.

*Cannon, Related Experience, Q.C:2*

I am a member of the Citywide Parent Council and Co-Chair of the Parent Council at Lile G. Frederick Pilot School. Also, I have organized and hosted the Annual Back to School Block Party for the past seven years.

### **Marydith Tuitt, 7th Suffolk, Q.C:1**

Education is the base to how successful a community will be, if the boys and girls in the neighborhood are poorly treated by budget cuts and school closures their education will suffer. Insufficient education prior to high school means hard path to higher ed, hard path to a good paying job, and even a path to prison. Improve education means improve workforce=better economy. Funding for schools should be priority for the state budget.

### **Chynah Tyler, 7th Suffolk, Q.C:1**

Education and workforce training is vital in ensuring that our residents are able to secure gainful and meaningful employment. I support free 2year community college in our state. I believe workforce training should be geared towards jobs that are accessible today and towards jobs that we know are going to be available in the near future.

*Tyler, Related Experience, Q.C:2*

I worked on public college education reform while in the State House.

## **Achievement gaps**

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

### **Monica Cannon, 7th Suffolk, Q.C:3**

I have the honor to be a Member of a BPS Parent Teacher Association and I am the only candidate in the race who currently has children in the Boston Public Schools. I know first-hand the inequities in public education. I think it first starts with universal access to free Pre-K so our children of color and low income families do not start behind in the development process. Also, more funding needs to go towards after school and parent trainings to make sure academic progress does not end in the classroom for low income families.

### **Marydith Tuitt, 7th Suffolk, Q.C:3**

I am always concerned about the treatment of disenfranchised boys and girls because even though we may not be racist sometimes we have subliminal biases that may cause us to treat some people certain ways and this tends to be one explanation behind the gap. So I would stay out front by trying to create legislation and local discussions around the equity and competence training needed within the schools across the state.

### **Chynah Tyler, 7th Suffolk, Q.C:3**

Classroom styles should be based on best needs for student. Every student should a space that helps them thrive and succeed in the education system.

#### ***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:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler.

#### ***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

**Support:** Tyler

**Oppose:** Cannon, Tuitt

**Cannon, Additional Comments:** I do not support the use of high stake testing in its current form. Evaluating a school district needs to take a more wholistic approach, especially in district like the seventh Suffolk, which is majority of color and less affluent.

#### ***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:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

#### ***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:** Cannon, Tuitt

**Support:** Tyler

#### ***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:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

#### ***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:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

#### ***Universal Higher Education***

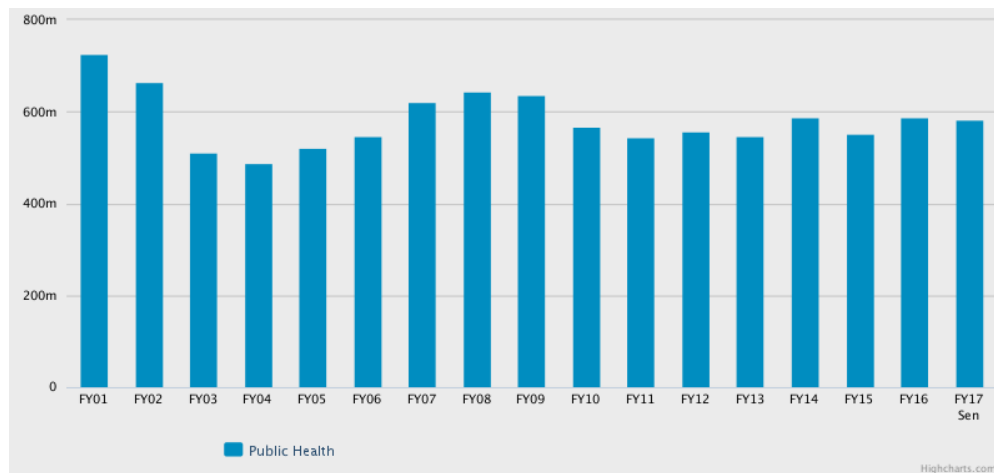
10. Do you support or oppose the goal of providing free, publicly funded higher education for every student who wants it? Q.C:10

**Support:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

**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

**Monica Cannon, 7th Suffolk, Q.D:1**

I support a single payer system that will help to ensure healthcare costs are Affordable and accessible to all. As medical debt continues to rise, it has become the most common reason for personal bankruptcy. This means affordable healthcare is an economic issue for the Commonwealth.

**Marydith Tuitt, 7th Suffolk, Q.D:1**

My thoughts on healthcare insurance have been very red line, I had family coverage and paid estimated \$300 month and still had copay, and had to make sure that the doctor or whatever was on the network otherwise I had to pay more than just copay; this is a lot compared to what I receive in return. So if I struggle what about someone that makes less than me which is many of the constituents of the Commonwealth. I believe if I pay that much I should be treated with respect and should not have an appointment at 2pm and never see the room or the doctor until 4pm yet if I am 15 minutes late I have to pay a fee and reschedule.

**Chynah Tyler, 7th Suffolk, Q.D:1**

I believe health care insurance cost should be based on consumers' affordability, not what's deemed affordable by the companies.



***Single Payer***

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

**Support:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

***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:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

## 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

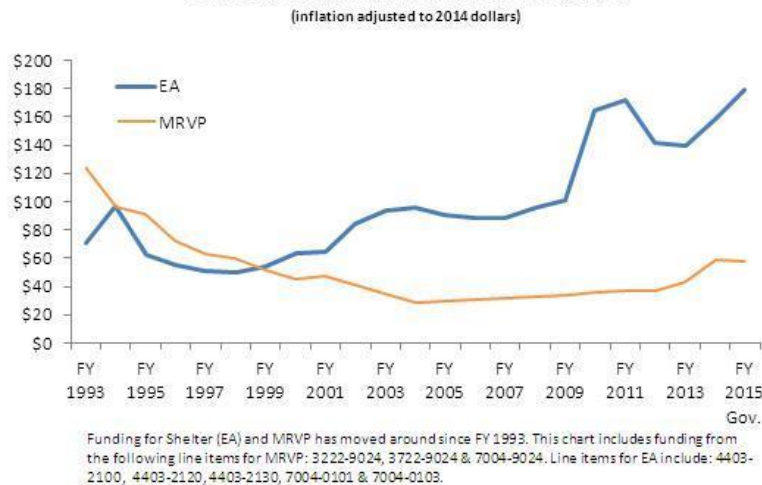


Figure 9

### 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

#### Monica Cannon, 7th Suffolk, Q.E:1

I strongly believe that everyone has the right to affordable housing. Just as important, low and moderate income communities need to have access to housing that is transit oriented. For there is a strong correlation between transportation access and employment rates.

*Cannon, Related Experience, Q.E:2*

In my role at ROCA, I had to advocate for fair housing for convicted felons and ensure they had access to affordable living.

#### Marydith Tuitt, 7th Suffolk, Q.E:1

I believe we should look at creating a program that establishes home ownership and assistance in maintaining that property. We talk about affordable housing, we should be talking about housing we can afford. The cost of living and wage are not compatible, developers build and they come but it is not us that have lived here our lives and want to stay here. 7th Suffolk is suffering from gentrification the haves moving the have nots out. I want to create a system that will prevent that if we own the property and the business we cannot be moved out.

### Chynah Tyler, 7th Suffolk, Q.E:1

I believe with the building boom, the cost of rents are rising and what's deemed affordable by the owners of the priorities are not realistic to the renters. I believe housing, employment and transportation are all intertwined and essential. We have to invest funds in to provide safe housing space to help homeless population recover and reintegrate.

*Tyler, Related Experience, Q.E:2*

Work on RAFT bill while in the State House. Which, provided long term temporary housing assistance to homeless Women and families to live stable housing rent free for up to 2 years, while they worked on getting life back on track.

### 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

### Monica Cannon, 7th Suffolk, Q.E:3

- a) Support.
- b) I would advocate and introduce Legislation to increase funding. I would also whip votes and look to engage the Black and Latino Caucus for votes.

### Marydith Tuitt, 7th Suffolk, Q.E:3

- a) Support.
- b) We must capture some of this funding from developers who thrive on our open spaces, and if we use public dollars to assist you or not.

### Chynah Tyler, 7th Suffolk, Q.E:3

- a) Support.
- b) Continuing the work I started in the State House.

### 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:** Cannon, Tuitt

**Support:** Tyler

### 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:** Cannon, Tyler

**Oppose:** Tuitt

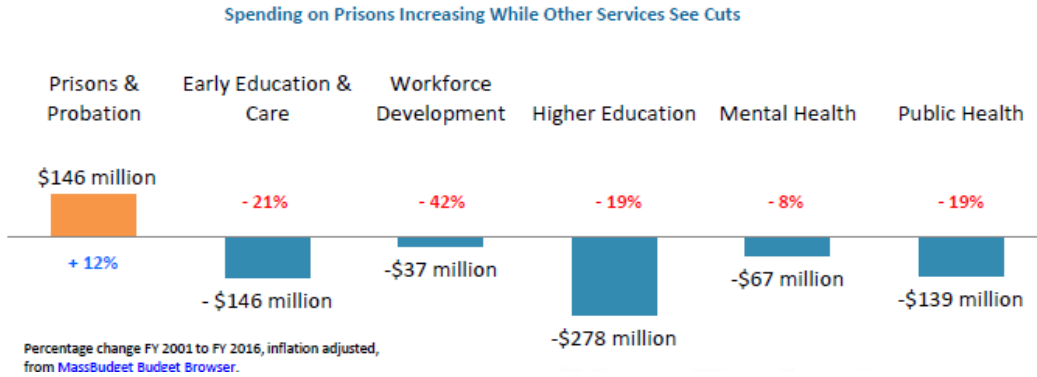
**Tuitt, Additional Comments:** I would support if the affordable or the transit-oriented was affordable for those that fall into the low income bracket.



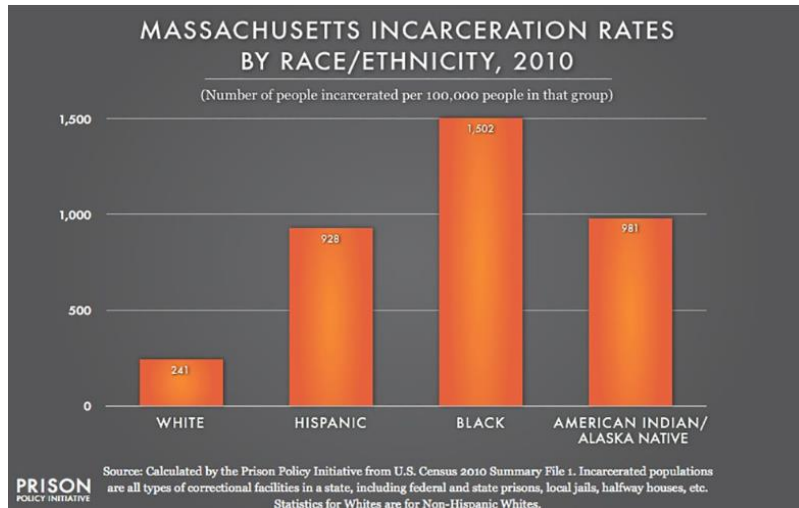
**F. Racial and Social Justice**

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

#### **Monica Cannon, 7th Suffolk, Q.F:1**

I have made it my life's mission to fight for social justice. As a woman of color, creating equal opportunity engaging the dialogue on race relations is critical to my community's development. With the state of hostility that presently exists, it is imperative that a legislator embraces a role of leadership for advancing social justice causes.

*Cannon, Related Experience, Q.F:2*

My work at ROCA has enabled me to empower young men, primarily of color, to overcome the racism of the criminal justice system. I am also proud to be the Chair of the Young Adult Committee of the NAACP.

#### **Marydith Tuitt, 7th Suffolk, Q.F:1**

We have a problem I am a mother of a young black man that has been stopped while walking down the street by himself; wearing straight leg pants, Ralph Lauren polo shirt, designer loafers and clean cut and being questioned because he fit the description. I have associates female and male who have been stopped while driving black or interracial. I speak about racial and social justice to youth groups and colleges whenever i can, because the only way to learn something is by someone teaching it to you. So I teach harmony and unity by teaching about social justice and racial unity.

*Tuitt, Related Experience, Q.F:2*

I have worked with many cultures and organizations to combat and bring awareness about many of the issues listen about; organizations such as MIRA, GLAD, MAC, Islamic center, Nation of Islam, Somalian community, the Imperial Court and many others by attending events, talking about how to advocate for their groups, standing with them on important issues and helping in planning events at the State House

#### **Chynah Tyler, 7th Suffolk, Q.F:1**

I believe in Criminal Justice Reform and I believe it's time to help our state move in the right direction.

*Tyler, Related Experience, Q.F:2*

I previously worked to assist incarcerated citizens reintegrate into society.

### **Mandatory Minimum Sentencing**

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

**Support:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

### **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:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

### **Bail Reform**

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

**Support:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

### **Marijuana Legalization**

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

**Support:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler



***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

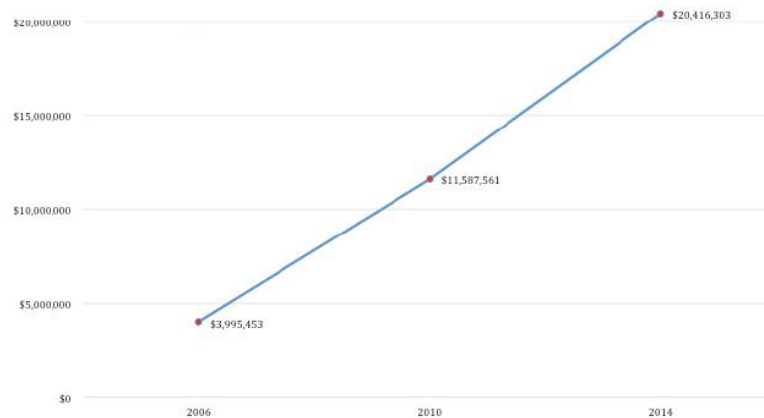
**Support:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

## 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

#### Monica Cannon, 7th Suffolk, Q.G:1

In order for a democracy to be successful it must have transparency and accountability. Getting money and private interests out of Beacon Hill will enable decisions to be made for the benefit of the hard working families in this state.

*Cannon, Related Experience, Q.G:2*

With NAACP I have done numerous voter registration drives.

#### Marydith Tuitt, 7th Suffolk, Q.G:1

For there to truly be good governance the citizens of the state must take a real position in the election of their representatives by electing those that are seeking the position for the people and not just the power and the fame. True governance is done by civic engagement and education from early years about what that means.

*Tuitt, Related Experience, Q.G:2*

I have worked with Rep Fox and done research around access to voting, rules reform and have been an active staffer in the success of many of our laws in regards to campaign reform and transparency.

**Chynah Tyler, 7th Suffolk, Q.G:1**

I believe that we have a lot work to do to reform for the benefit of our state.

*Tyler, Related Experience, Q.G:2*

My campaign is about the voters' wants and needs.

***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:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

***Public Campaign Financing***

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

**Support:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

***Election Day Voter Registration***

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

**Support:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

**Tuitt, Additional Comments:** Have worked with Rep Fox on filing her bill and seeking support around EDR for more than 6 years

***Automatic Voter Registration***

6. **Automatic voter registration.** Do you support or oppose automatic voter registration?

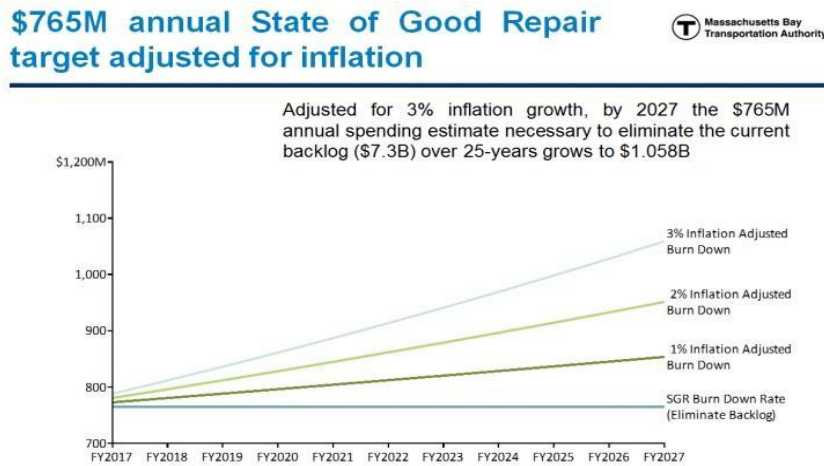
**Support:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

**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.

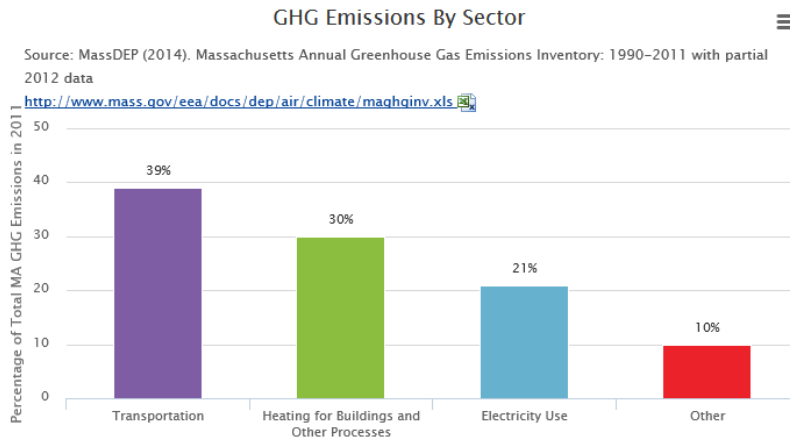
Public transit must play a role in decarbonizing our transportation system, as well as advancing complementary goals of equity and inclusion. However, Massachusetts politicians have lost their understanding of public transit as a public good that benefits all residents and businesses in Massachusetts, 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.



**massDOT**

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

#### **Monica Cannon, 7th Suffolk, Q.H:1**

Sustainable infrastructure and protecting the environment is not only a

Social justice, it is an economic imperative. Access to quality roads and a reliable and affordable public transit system is good for business and drives job growth.

#### **Marydith Tuitt, 7th Suffolk, Q.H:1**

[no response]

#### **Chynah Tyler, 7th Suffolk, Q.H:1**

Sustainable infrastructure is vital for the many people that use Public Transportation system for the everyday livelihood. We have to ensure that we protect the environment in the process.

*Tyler, Related Experience, Q.H:2*

I worked on environmental issues at the State House.

### **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

#### **Monica Cannon, 7th Suffolk, Q.H:3**

Work with the environmental committee and MassDEP to develop actionable steps that hold companies and organizations accountable for lowering their admissions. I would be happy to engage Progressive Mass to help find legislative solutions.

#### **Marydith Tuitt, 7th Suffolk, Q.H:3**

[no response]

#### **Chynah Tyler, 7th Suffolk, Q.H:3**

Work with environmental experts to see what it would take to reach that goal and expand.

### **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:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

### **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:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler



**Carbon Fees**

6. Do you support or oppose legislation to put a fee on carbon emissions? Q.H:6  
**Support:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

**Gas Pipelines**

7. Do you support or oppose the expansion of gas pipelines in the state? Q.H:7  
**Oppose:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

**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

**Monica Cannon, 7th Suffolk, Q.H:8**

The MBTA needs a combination of reform as well as new revenue to solve the fiscal problems. We should explore all options, including innovative ways to garner more fare payments and allocating more state dollars to public transportation.

**Marydith Tuitt, 7th Suffolk, Q.H:8**

WE NEED REFORM and maybe we should hold off on TOD for awhile until we fix the system

**Chynah Tyler, 7th Suffolk, Q.H:8**

New revenues as well, funds from tax increase of top 1% and criminal justice reform would help.

**MBTA Fare Hikes**

9. Do you support or oppose capping MBTA fare hikes at 5% (or less) for every two-year period? Q.H:9  
**Support:** Cannon, Tuitt, Tyler

**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. *Optional response; not all candidates chose to respond.*

**Monica Cannon, 7th Suffolk, Q.III**

I look forward to working with Progressive Mass in the days to come. As my current list of endorsements shows, I have shown a consistent history of fighting for progressive causes and will continue that legacy if I were to win the election.