

# PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS

*2016 Race for the  
9<sup>th</sup> Essex*

*House District*

*Endorsement Questionnaire*

*Candidate Responses*

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October 2016

**GENERAL ELECTION:** TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016

**9<sup>th</sup> Essex House District:** Lynn: Ward 1: Precincts 1, 2; Saugus: Precincts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; Wakefield: Precincts 1, 2, 3, 7 (Middlesex Co.)

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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?**

I'm running for office because I was born and raised in this district and I can provide the leadership and vision that the 9th Essex needs and deserves. I'm proud to be from Saugus and I'll work tirelessly on Beacon Hill to bring about the changes we need. If elected, my top priorities will be infrastructure revitalization, advancing educational opportunities, and enacting environmental protection policies that make a real difference in preserving our natural spaces and resources.

### **Background and Experience**

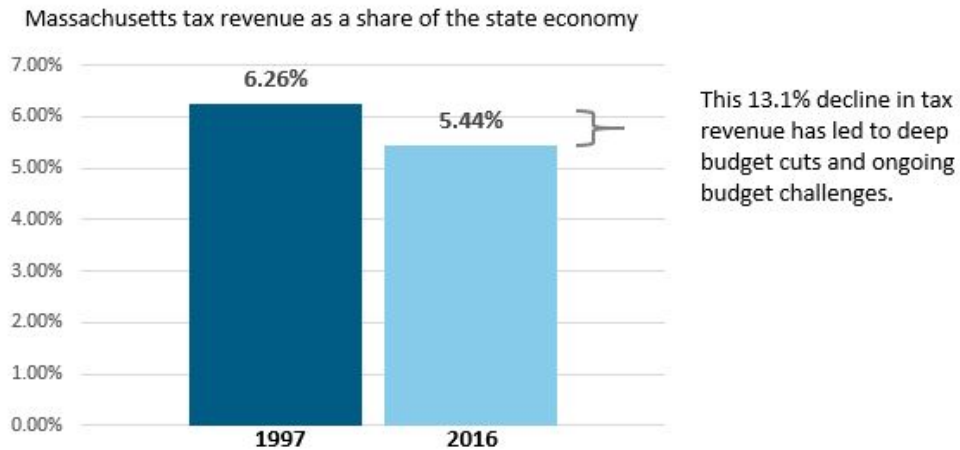
**2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?**

I have experience working with some of Massachusetts' most respected and proactive leaders, and through that experience I have learned about the issues that affect the people of the 9th Essex every day. As a District Representative for Congressman Seth Moulton, I worked with constituents on a daily basis helping them navigate the federal bureaucracy. I've also been a longtime volunteer with GIRLS INC, a nonprofit working to inspire young female leaders.

**II. The Issues**

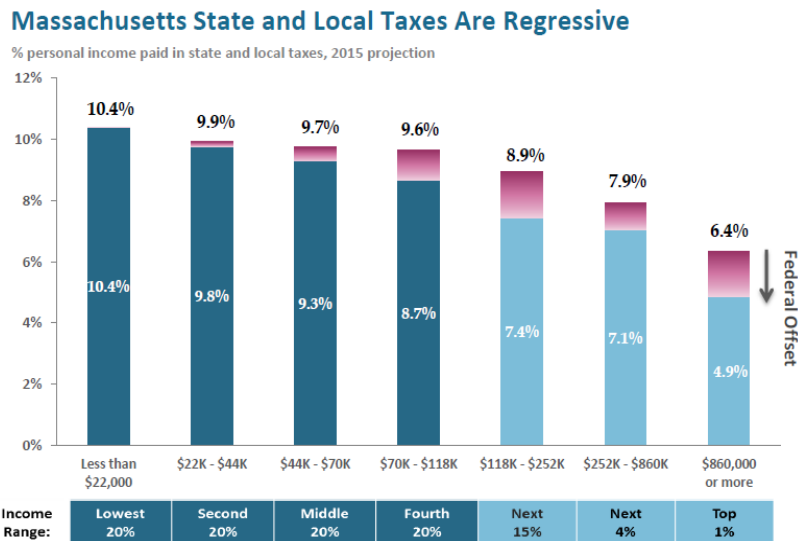
**A. Revenue and Taxation**

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?*

I am a strong supporter of the Millionaire's Tax, which would raise revenue by adding a 4% tax on incomes over 1 million dollars. My support for the Millionaire's Tax comes from my belief that the middle class needs and deserves a break, and that the wealthiest among us should do their part to support important education and infrastructure programs.

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.).

**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)?

I support the Fair Share Amendment.

**Sales Tax Holiday**

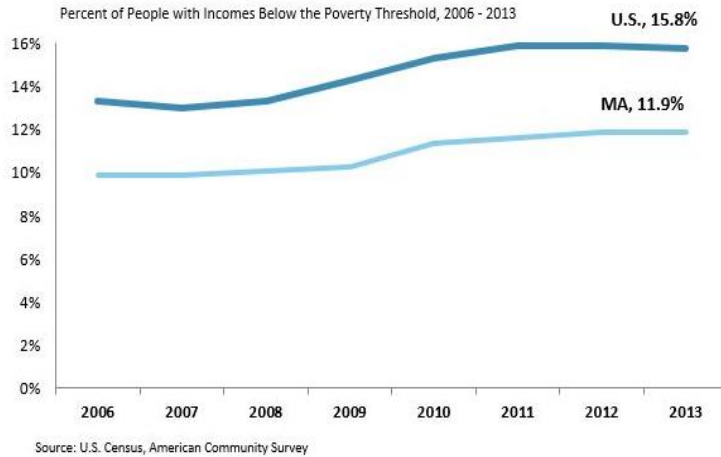
4. It has been demonstrated over and over that the annual sales tax holiday does not serve its intended purpose of increasing sales, but rather just shifts sales to the weekend of the holiday. Will you support or oppose efforts to extend the sales tax holiday?

I will oppose efforts to extend the sales tax holiday.

**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.

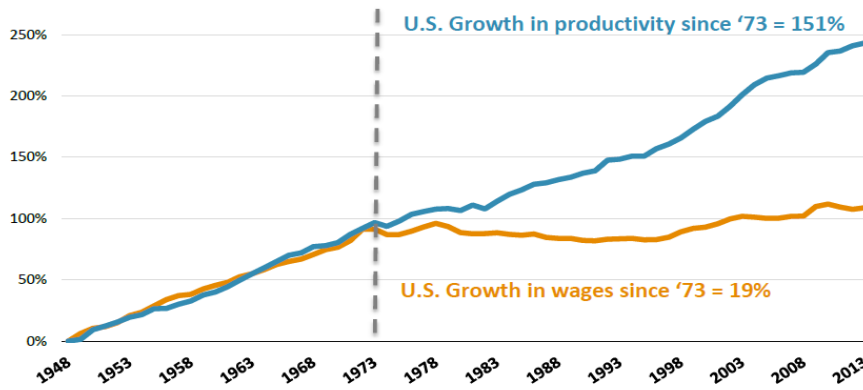
**MA and U.S. Poverty Rates Remain Elevated Despite Years of Recovery**



Section B, Figure 3

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

Cumulative percent change since 1973



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of unpublished Total Economy Productivity data from Bureau of Labor Statistics' Labor Productivity and Costs program, wage data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Cost Trends data, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis' National Income and Product Accounts

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?*

The first step towards a healthy economy is making sure that everyone has access to the education they need in order to get a good job, and then making it so that every hardworking person gets a wage that they can live on. As a State Representative I will work with businesses to ensure that we create an environment that allows them to thrive, but I will also work hard for a living wage and equal pay, and will fiercely defend anti-discrimination laws on the books

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.).

### **Minimum Wage**

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

### **Tipped Minimum Wage**

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

### **Indexed Minimum Wage**

5. Do you support or oppose indexing the minimum wage to inflation?  
I support indexing the minimum wage to inflation.

### **Paid Family Medical Leave**

6. Do you support or oppose efforts to mandate access for up to 12 weeks of Paid Family Medical Leave?  
I do support initiatives that help to make paid family medical leave a reality. I believe employers should be required to offer ample time to those employees who must take off time to address serious health issues or to take care of a newborn or sick family member. No one should have to choose between their paycheck and the wellbeing of themselves or their family members.

### **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?)  
Strongly support legislation that would impose greater accountability on corporate tax incentives. It is ridiculous that multi-million dollar companies are exempt from paying their fair share but working class citizens with families to support are expected to pay more than their fair share.

### **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"?  
Support. Corporations should not receive tax cuts if they are not meeting standards across the board.

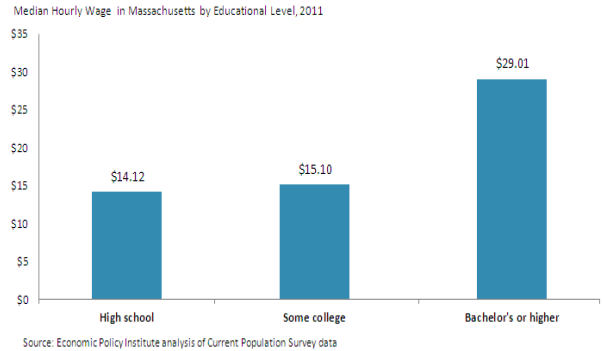
### **Equal Pay**

9. Do you support or oppose legislation to further the principle of equal pay for equal work?  
I strongly support legislation guaranteeing equal pay for equal work.

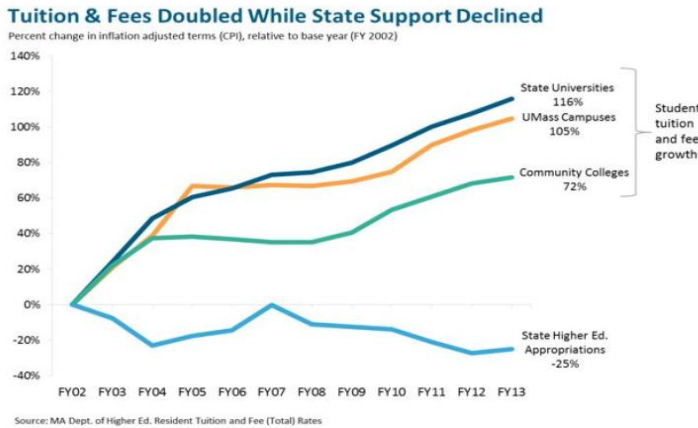
**C. Education and Workforce Development**

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.

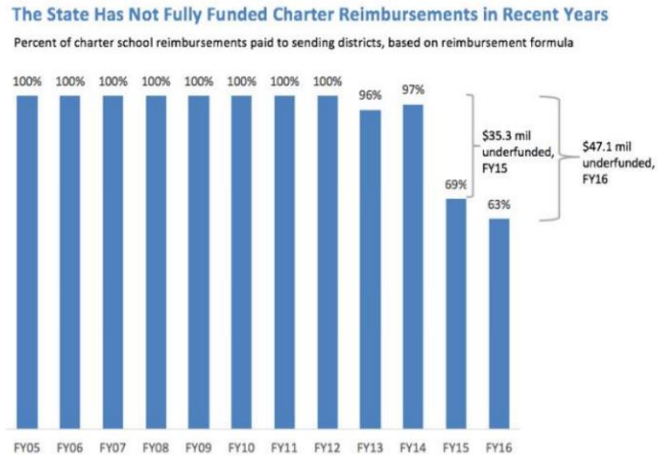
Section C, Figure 5 - Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages



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



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



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

**Achievement gaps**

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



I am a strong supporter of career centers, more affordable or free higher education and furthering adult education. I believe everyone should have the tools available to them to learn. It is so unfortunate in our society that frequently minorities are the ones who suffer economically simply because they couldn't afford to go to college or further their careers. It is a tragedy when learning is postponed or not possible due to finances. I am going to do everything I can to close that gap and make sure everyone has access to higher education.

### ***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?

The time period that Pre-K spans over in a child's life is a crucial developmental period. All children should have access to early education so that each child has an equal shot at excelling in the classroom. Preschool and kindergarten should no longer be a luxury, rather, early education should be seen as a necessity.

### ***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?

There should be a regulated higher standard for the achievement levels of students, teachers, schools, and districts. However, this is not to say that MCAS promotes the correct standard. MCAS pressures teachers to teach to the test, which doesn't help the students grow and creates an environment that values a score over other important learning opportunities. Standardized testing also reportedly causes more students to drop out of high school, and the minimum threshold for proficiency raises each year, which unfairly labels schools as incompetent. The MCAS also caters to those students and schools who are more socioeconomically well off, which makes the playing field uneven for students who live in economically depressed districts. If we continue to enforce the use of standardized testing, we must first make comprehensive changes to the test itself and the system in which it operates.

### ***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?

I support changes that will help level the playing field of districts throughout Massachusetts. Lynn and Boston do not even come close to the benefits that Wellesley and Winchester consistently have. On average, the majority of ELL students within the state go to schools in districts that are either underfunded or districts that do not allocate more money to the needs of those students. Class sizes must also be reduced in schools that, on average, score lower than their counterparts. Extra: extracurricular programs can't be forgotten with all the funding that must go towards children and schools that especially need extra help. Extracurriculars are an important part of the curricula and should be treated as such.

### ***Charter School Cap***

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

I am against Question 2 because I think increasing the number of charter schools would divert much-needed funding from struggling public schools.

### ***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?

I support legislation that would require charter schools to show greater accountability and transparency in their policies. Charter schools should be required to demonstrate that they serve students as well as public

schools. Charter schools should be held to the same standards as public schools, especially when it comes to transparency and disciplinary procedures.

### ***Higher Ed Access***

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

Yes. Those undocumented students, like those who are citizens, deserve the right to pay in-state tuition costs. Undocumented potential students and their families come to the US and more specifically the state of Massachusetts to better themselves and our collective community. Why would we hinder their efforts to do so? By giving undocumented students the financial aid they deserve, we create a more educated and better society.

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

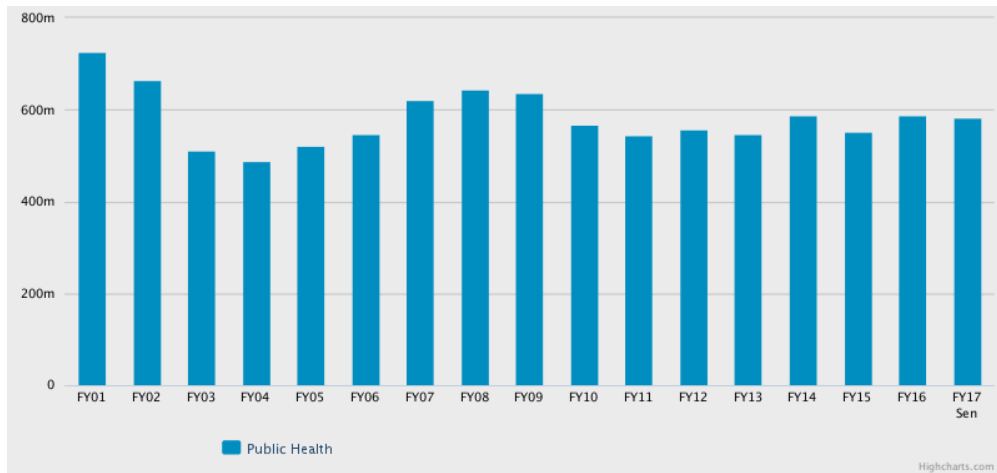
10. Do you support or oppose the goal of providing free, publicly funded higher education for every student who wants it?

Yes. Universal higher education helps to solve other critical global issues. The outcomes of a universal higher education system would include a healthier environment, more scientific innovation, and a stronger economy. While it is a lofty idea, universal higher education is something that we should strive for.

**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.

Everyone should have access to quality, affordable healthcare. As the daughter of a nurse, I know how the system is rigged to line the pockets of pharmaceutical and insurance companies. I would work tirelessly to expand affordable and efficient access to Massachusetts’ world class healthcare facilities so that all our citizens can get access to the care they need.

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

**Single Payer**

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

I would support legislation to enact a single payer health care system.

**Reproductive Rights**

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

I emphatically support women’s right to choose, and would support all legislation that eases access to safe abortion care.



**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**

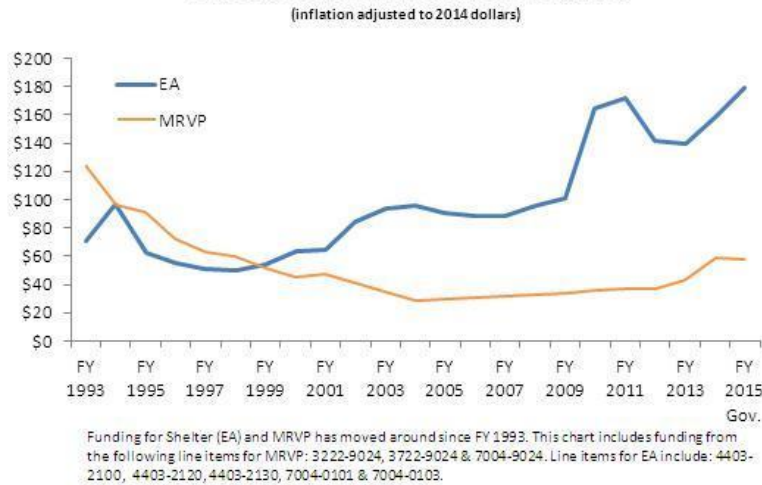


Figure 9

**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?*

Saugus has been one of the most responsive communities in Massachusetts in terms of meeting community housing needs. The town has recently designated the Essex Landing development on Route 1 as affordable housing aimed at young commuters and retirees. If elected, I plan to continue these types of programs that improve the quality of life and job opportunities for all residents.

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

**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?  
 As a State Representative, I will make sure that this region receives the state funding necessary to meet the demands of its residents. By continuing to seek out and develop underutilized land in our

community, we can tackle homelessness, provide affordable housing, and increase the amount of money coming into the district.

***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”?

Affordable housing is key to allowing all of our residents to enjoy the quality of life that they are entitled to. Weakening these goals put this at risk and threatens the prosperity of our community. We will continue to try to meet the goals that have been set out for us by the State if I am elected.

***Zoning Reform***

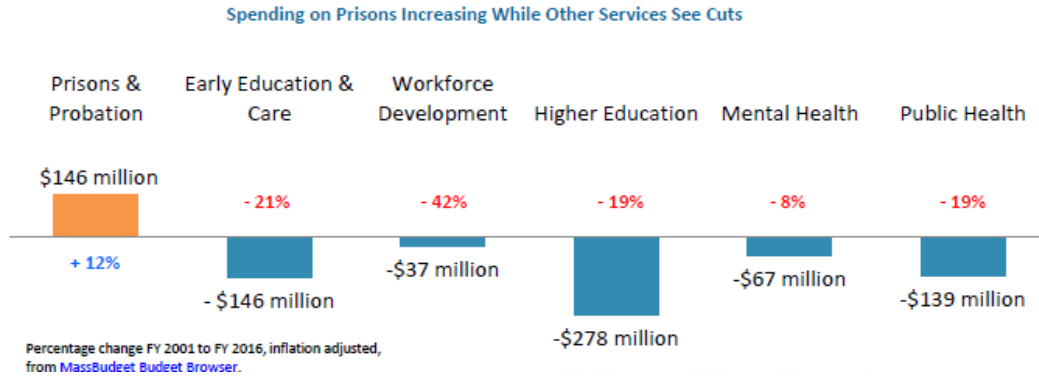
5. Would you support or oppose legislation to upgrade Massachusetts’ zoning laws to encourage more affordable housing and transit-oriented, walkable development and to allow municipalities to adopt inclusionary zoning practices?

Transit oriented and walkable communities are an important catalyst to economic development. I am strongly in favor of any reforms at a state or local level that facilitate affordable housing and growth of local business.

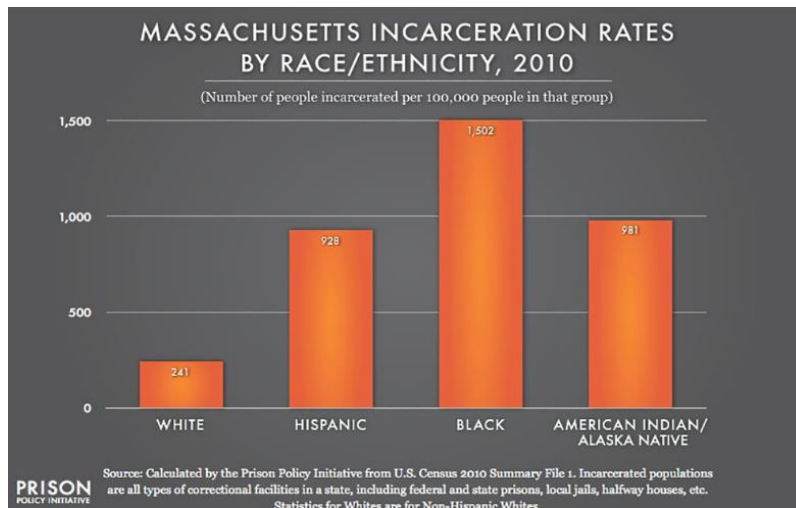
**F. Racial and Social Justice**

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.

I believe in creating an equal playing field, and that means identifying and eliminating the injustices that plague our system and keep members of our community from reaching their full potential. This means addressing the systematic injustices embedded in our justice and education systems, rectifying the harm that unjust policies have done to community members, and ensuring that we give every person the

opportunity to live a fruitful life, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or immigration status.

2. Please indicate work you personally have done to combat racism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, transphobia, and other attempts to marginalize disadvantaged classes.

### ***Mandatory Minimum Sentencing***

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

People must be held accountable for their crimes, however, mandatory minimum sentencing reform must occur within the criminal justice system. Mandatory sentencing crowds prisons with people who require treatment, not harsh punishment. Reforming mandatory minimum sentences would also reduce the costs of maintaining prisons. This money can be distributed to different agencies and programs to help reduce crime. There are several other issues with minimum sentencing that need to be addressed, like punishments for petty crimes. Some forms of punishment aren't even related to the crime a given felon commits. For example, for some petty drug crimes, a person can be subject to the suspension of their license for five years, even if the crime has nothing to do with a motor vehicle. We must make changes to this system.

### ***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?

Yes, I would support the Safe Driving Act. Immigration status should not be a barrier to attaining a driver's license, which many people need to ensure their jobs and economic stability. Additionally, immigration status does not limit how much people can contribute to our community, and everyone living in Massachusetts should have the opportunity to live up to their potential without undue barriers.

### ***Bail Reform***

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

The purpose of the bailing system is to ensure that those charged with a crime show up for their court dates and do not commit other felonies. While the pretrial process accomplishes this (more or less), there are several other problems that the system creates. The bailing system is costly because it detains individuals who could remain in the community without jeopardizing safety. The bailing system is unsafe because it releases the accused who can afford bail, even if the accused are considered harmful to the community. And finally, like minimum sentencing, the bailing system contributes to the overcrowding problem in prisons. We need to transition from a wealth-based bail system to a risk-based system. We must create more structure within this system to keep our community safe while also cutting unnecessary expenditures.

### ***Marijuana Legalization***

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

I oppose the ballot measure in its current form. The opioid crisis demonstrates that we need a greater system of control and extra safeguards to ensure that drugs don't fall into the hands of our children and other vulnerable groups.

### ***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?

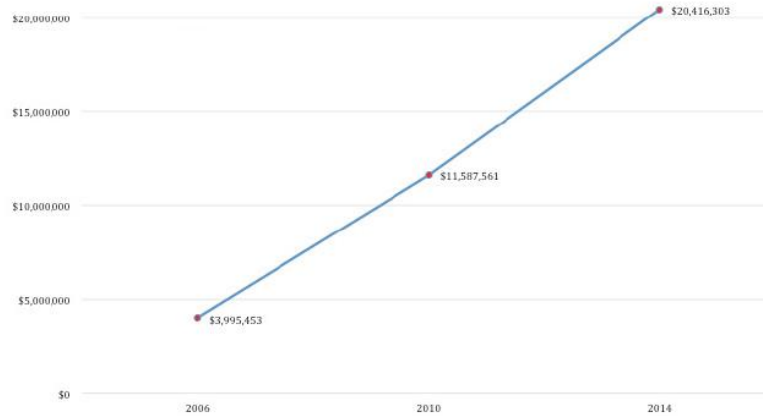
The school-to-prison pipeline is one of the greatest systematic injustices in our society. Our schools need holistic disciplinary and rehabilitation policies that won't condemn kids to incarceration for youthful mistakes.

## 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.

In my time working with Seth Moulton, much of my daily role involved assisting constituents in cutting through the red tape of government bureaucracy. I understand the need for transparent and accessible government agencies and officials in order to build the kind of trusting relationship we need to have between people and government.

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

### 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?

I support good leadership period. I do not believe power should be taken or given to anyone, rather that it be earned by good actions that have shown to benefit our legislature. If it seems like someone in a leadership position is abusing their power, I will do everything I can to ensure the proper steps are taken to remove that person and replace them with someone just. If directly addressed with committee's being allowed to choose their own chair, I would support that. It's common sense that the members which make up a committee should have liberty to choose their own leader.



***Public Campaign Financing***

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

I am a strong believer that there is too much private money in politics. We need to reform our system so campaigns can sustain themselves on public funding and give voters the ability to control donations so that private funds do not get in the way of democracy. I support legislation that would improve our public financing system for elections.

***Election Day Voter Registration***

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

I support Election Day Registration because our democracy works best when all people can easily vote.

***Automatic Voter Registration***

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

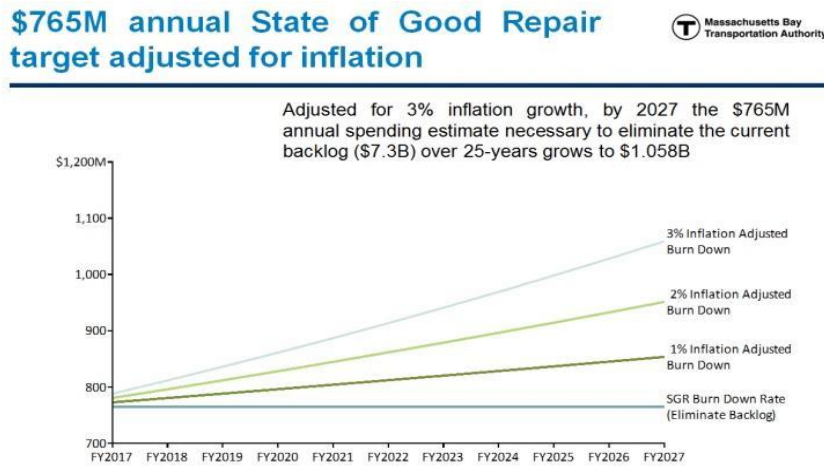
I would support automatic voter registration. As stated in the previous answer, I firmly believe that we should encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote, and make the registration and voting process as available and hassle-free as possible.

**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.

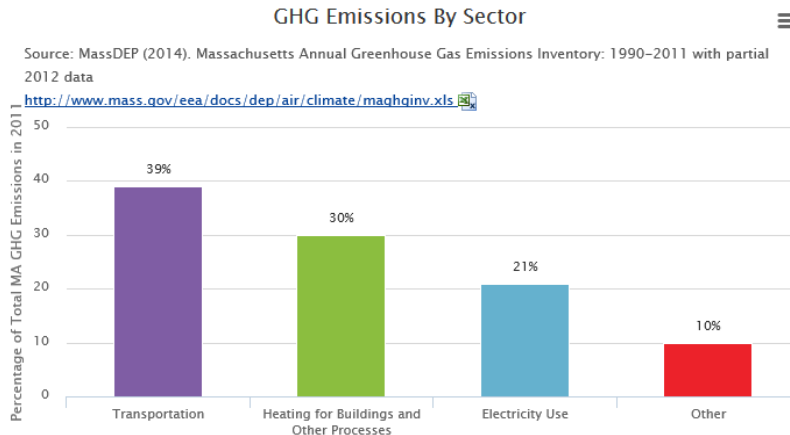
Public transit must play a role in decarbonizing our transportation system, as well as advancing complementary goals of equity and inclusion. However, Massachusetts politicians have lost their understanding of public transit as a public good that benefits all residents and businesses in Massachusetts,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

As a lifelong environmentalist, I care deeply about issues concerning the future of the environment. We all benefit from efforts

2. Please indicate work you personally have done to protect the environment and expand access to public transportation.

In my home town of Saugus we have a trash incinerator and a landfill; an issue known as Wheelabrator, that has had horrible effects on the surrounding environment and the health of people that live near it. I have personally met people who are dying due to carcinogens in the air. On top of that the landfill is the only one in the state that does not have a liner and they are attempting to expand into the marshlands which would be devastating for our community's water source. I have tirelessly worked with local activists and organizations to remove Wheelabrator from Saugus and provide alternative options for waste removal and waste reduction.

### **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?

It is imperative that we all come together and commit to fighting global climate change. It is very disappointing that the state has not met emissions requirements, and I see the need for a renewed commitment to fighting to pass down a clean, healthy Earth to future generations.

### **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?

Strongly support. We have not done enough to embrace the realities of climate change and we've barely begun to combat them.

### **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?

I am a strong advocate for solar and alternative energy. There is a nonprofit organization called GRID out west that works with local and state government to provide free installation of solar panels for low income homeowners. I would love to see something like that replicated in Massachusetts.

### **Carbon Fees**

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

Support. We have seen this done in other states and it has been very effective.

### **Gas Pipelines**

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

The expansion of gas pipelines throughout the state detracts from our goals of creating a greener state.

### **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?

I believe reform and revenue are required. It is known that the MBTA does not receive enough funding and as legislators we need to take public transport seriously. It is an investment in our infrastructure which is crucial to a well-functioning commonwealth.



***MBTA Fare Hikes***

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

Fare prices have been raised twice in the past 4 years. I believe the current fare rate is too high, especially when it comes to the commuter rail. The MBTA is taken by everyone but the people who rely on it most heavily are lower income workers. It is not right that because our government cannot pass appropriate funding that the burden then falls on the backs of Massachusetts residents. I am a strong advocate for extending the MBTA into the north shore, specifically my district for two reasons. One a lot of city employees live in my district so naturally they would increase the use and revenue of the MBTA, and two, there is almost no public transport in the north shore which specifically for my district is appalling since we are about a 15-minute drive outside the city.

**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.*