

PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS

*2016 Race for the
3rd Barnstable*

House District

Endorsement Questionnaire

Candidate Responses

Matt Patrick, www.electmattpatrick.org



GENERAL ELECTION: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016

3rd Barnstable House District: Falmouth precincts 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9; Bourne precincts 3-6; and all of Mashpee

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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 am running for office because I believe we have an opportunity to make people's lives better through upcoming legislation, ballot initiatives that require legislative support and ideas I have to help alleviate the burden of student loans on our young people, help create a safe and thriving community for the aging Cape Cod population, do better against the opiate crisis without jailing non-violent offenders, strengthen our use of clean renewable energy and finally have a fair tax system. My top three priorities are 1) \$15 minimum wage for big box and fast food retail chains, 2) Single Payer Healthcare and 3) Climate change action

Background and Experience

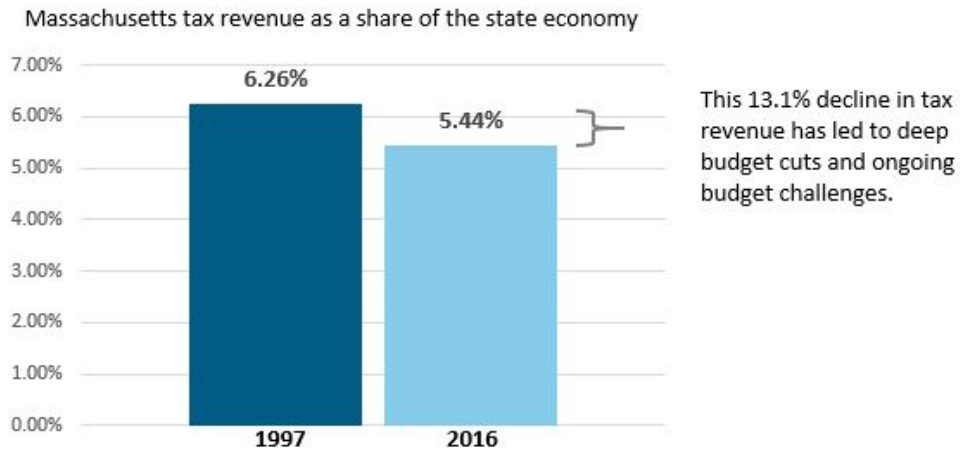
2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

I served in this exact capacity for 10 years 2001-2011.

II. The Issues

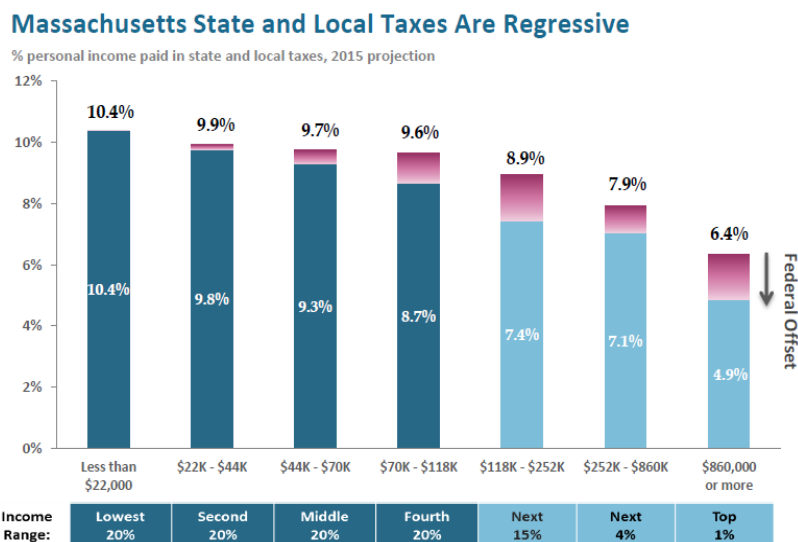
A. Revenue and Taxation

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 have always believed that the purpose of government is to help improve the lives of people. Part of that is fair taxation. I advocate for the Millionaire's/Fair Share tax to raise money for public education, infrastructure and mass transportation and when I was a state rep, I and a few colleagues led the successful effort to close corporate tax loopholes that raised hundreds of millions for our municipalities. I can do that again and I will.

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.).

As I said in question 1, I have previously worked on fair taxation of corporations and currently advocate for the fair share tax. I also introduced a bill to put the tax on stock dividends back where it was before the dot com boom (back to 12%) because money earning money should not be taxed the same as labor.

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)?

Support

Sales Tax Holiday

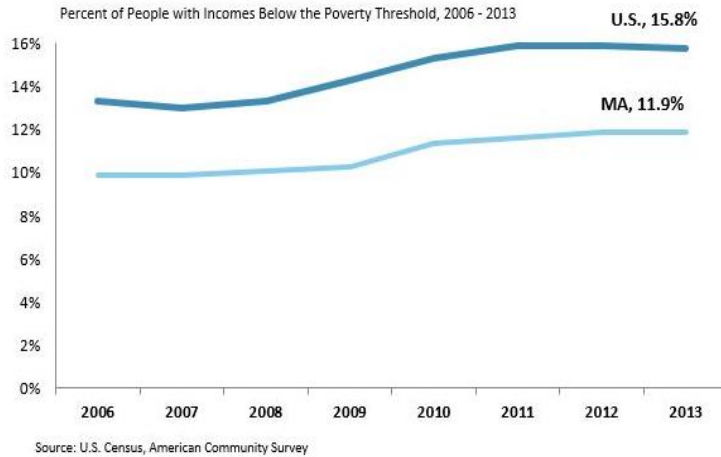
4. It has been demonstrated over and over that the annual sales tax holiday does not serve its intended purpose of increasing sales, but rather just shifts sales to the weekend of the holiday. Will you support or oppose efforts to extend the sales tax holiday?

Oppose

B. Job Growth and the Economy

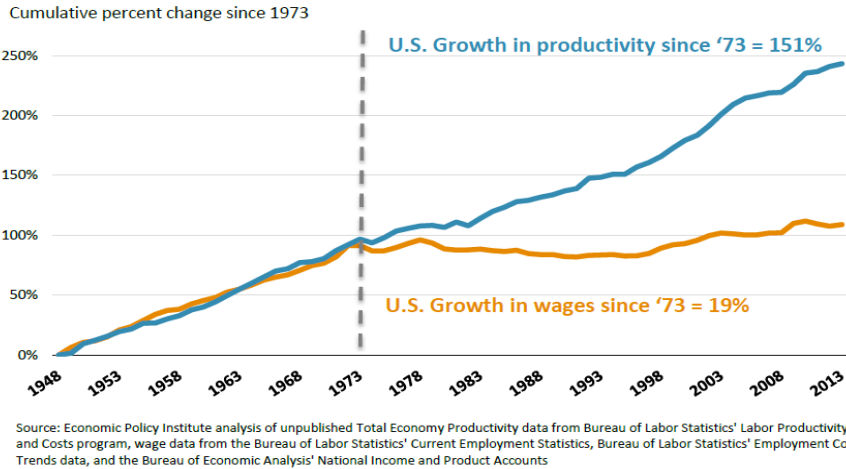
The Massachusetts economy has continued to grow and recover from the Great Recession, but the gains have not been shared equally. Poverty levels continue to increase, while the minimum wage loses value every year. Massachusetts now ranks as one of the top ten most unequal states according to various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

Income inequality is at the root of almost if not all of our problems and if we don't solve it, we won't solve its symptoms. One thing I did as a legislator was write sections of the Green Communities Act that made it possible for all of the solar going up on homes and municipal sites at a reasonable cost. As part of renewable energy, this has become the fastest growing sector of the MA economy creating over 100,000 new and good paying jobs. I also support offshore wind, which is another job creator that has ancillary economic benefits to local businesses as well.

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.).

Green Communities act, raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour, advocating for offshore wind, support of union strikers.

Minimum Wage

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

Support

Tipped Minimum Wage

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

Support

Indexed Minimum Wage

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

Support

Paid Family Medical Leave

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

Support

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?)

Support

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

Equal Pay

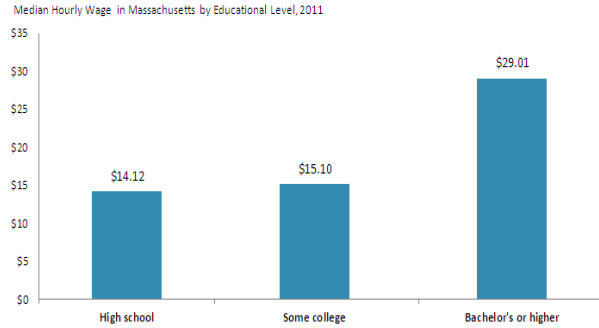
9. Do you support or oppose legislation to further the principle of equal pay for equal work?

Support

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

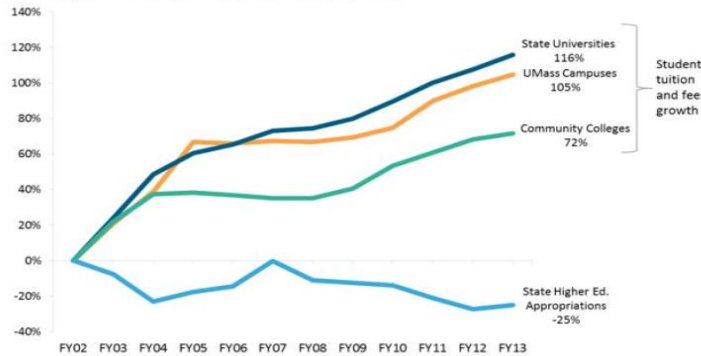


Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey data

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

Tuition & Fees Doubled While State Support Declined

Percent change in inflation adjusted terms (CPI), relative to base year (FY 2002)



Source: MA Dept. of Higher Ed. Resident Tuition and Fee (Total) Rates

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

Percent of charter school reimbursements paid to sending districts, based on reimbursement formula



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?*

Public education is a right and it is one of our most important investments. Massachusetts should fully fund and support its public education institutions.

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

I have always been an advocate for public schools. I am a frequent and outspoken proponent for free public university tuition and I fully support our public K-12 schools and the educators who work there and oppose raising the cap on charter schools, which bleed money from public schools.

Achievement gaps

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

Limiting charter schools with supposed lottery enrollment. More investment in our public schools and the programs we could have there.

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?

Support

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?

Oppose

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?

Support

Charter School Cap

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

Oppose

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?

Support

Higher Ed Access

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

Support

Universal Higher Education

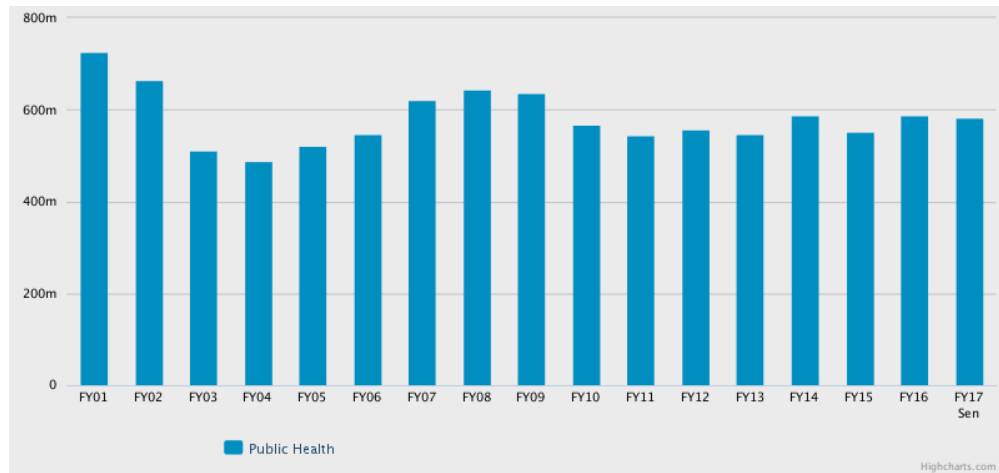
10. Do you support or oppose the goal of providing free, publicly funded higher education for every student who wants it?

Support

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.

I believe in a Medicare for All single payer system. No one should profit from the sick and especially the poor sick. Most of us are one even minor accident away from complete and permanent financial ruin.

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

I filed legislation for single payer when I was in the house.

Single Payer

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

Support

Reproductive Rights

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

Support

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

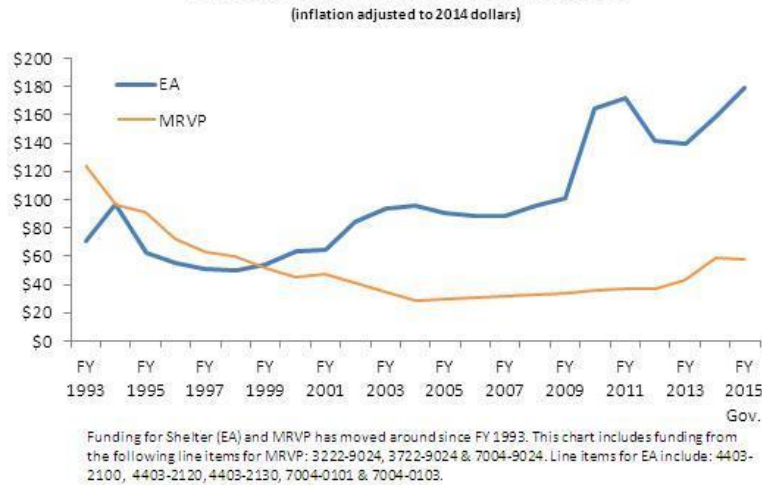


Figure 9

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?*

We need to figure out a way to create affordable housing near centers of activity and transportation, and I think one way we could do it is to allow buildings in appropriate areas to go up higher than current limits-- like the brownstones you see in areas of Boston. These are beautiful and affordable options that would benefit our communities. I would argue that all new housing affordable or otherwise be in a form of cluster developments in and around major transportation hubs.

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

I've recently been working with a group on Cape Cod to address the homelessness problem through creative solutions in conjunction with local nonprofits.

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?
 - a) Support
 - b) I would suggest the state look at the model set by Barnstable County- any time a house is sold over a certain amount there is a title transfer fee which is used to fund County government on Cape. One could suggest something like this to help raise money for housing. Another way to do it is to look at

the models of the Community Preservation Act and The Cape Cod Commission Act. You can do either of these with transfers of a minimum purchase, maybe \$500,000 or lower.

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”?

Oppose

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?

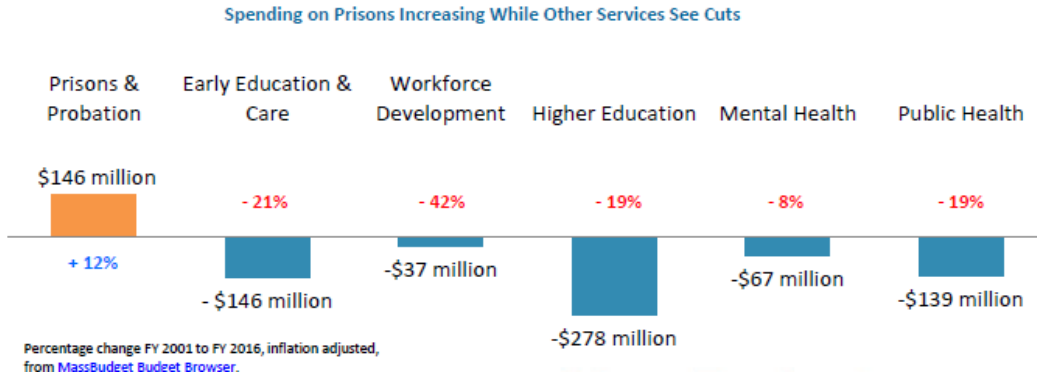
Support

This is similar to what we have on Cape with the Cape Cod Commission.

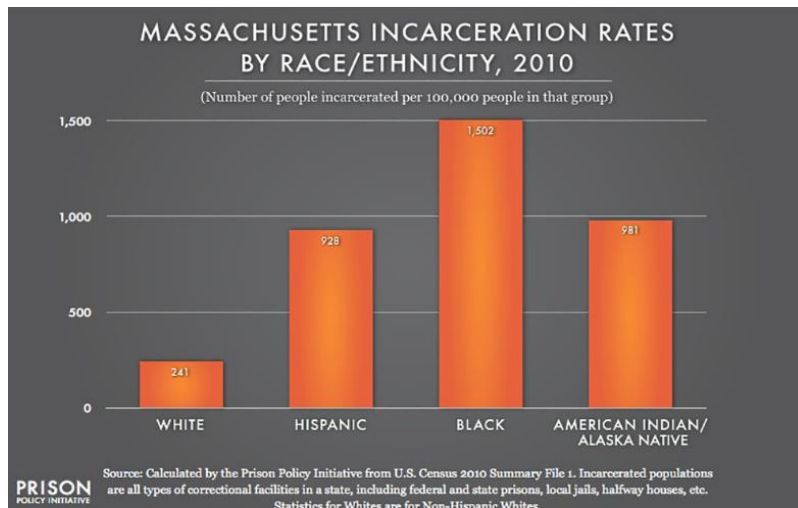
F. Racial and Social Justice

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'm an advocate for equality. These issues are extremely important and whether it concerns LGBTQ, Women, People of Color or someone else it won't go away unless we admit it exists and actually talk about it. We've got to be willing to call people out when they're doing or saying something harmful.

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

I joined the Peace Corps in 1977 and went to Africa, where I learned a lot about different cultures. I've worked on multiple social justice causes throughout my life and, as a State Rep, I stood up for Marriage Equality and also co-sponsored anti-bullying legislation.

Mandatory Minimum Sentencing

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

Support

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?

Support

Bail Reform

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

Support

Marijuana Legalization

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

Support

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?

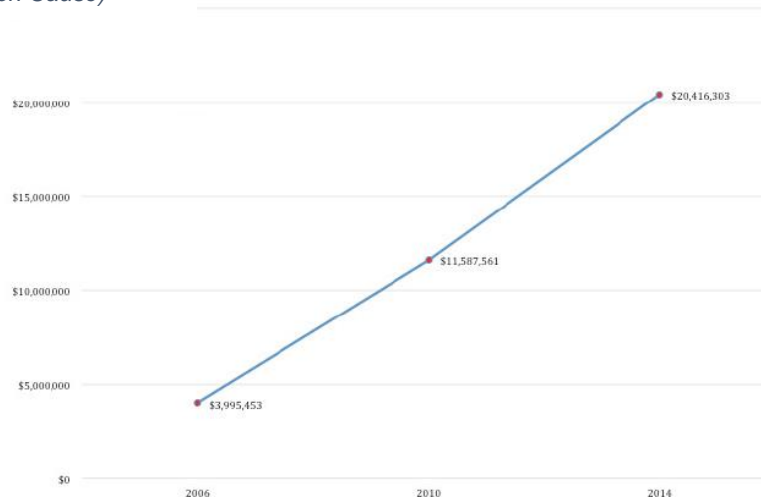
Support

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.

You may have heard that I've been barking up this tree for some time. I was famously applauded (although through gritted teeth) by The Boston Herald for taking on Democratic Leadership while I was still in the House. I also gave my farewell speech (which I'm happy to share with you) based on good governance and reform.

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

I led the fight to close Corporate Tax loopholes and to examine the line item for the House Budget ("Speaker's Budget"). I've always thought we could have a better, more fair and transparent House if committees were elected by a committee on committees based on qualifications and time served and then those same committees would elect their chairman.

I am against predatory voter ID laws that make it more difficult to vote. Voting should be easy and Election Day should be a holiday.

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?

Support



Public Campaign Financing

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

Support

Election Day Voter Registration

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

Support

Automatic Voter Registration

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

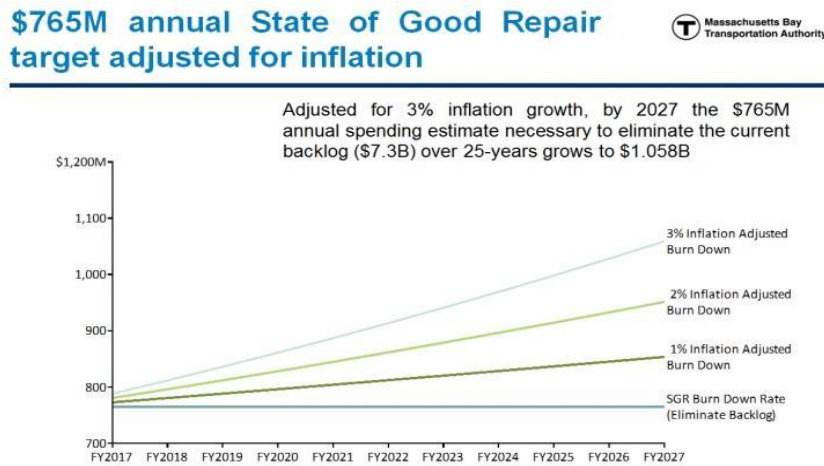
Support

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.

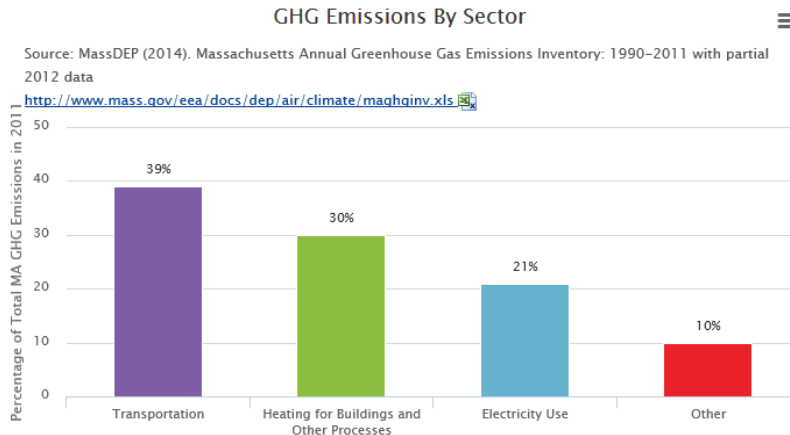
Public transit must play a role in decarbonizing our transportation system, as well as advancing complementary goals of equity and inclusion. However, Massachusetts politicians have lost their understanding of public transit as a public good that benefits all residents and businesses in Massachusetts,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

I am a longtime and well-known advocate for sustainable growth and environmental protection.

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

One of the things I did before I was a state rep was co-chair the coalition to create the Cape Cod Commission, which is now a national model for local regional self-reliance and sustainable growth. I also led the effort to preserve and protect the Quashnet River from development. I have continued to advocate more access to public transportation.

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?

Expansion of solar and wind, moving towards a transportation system based on electricity and expansion of Mass Transit and bicycle lanes.

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?

Support

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?

Support

Carbon Fees

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

Support

Gas Pipelines

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

Oppose

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 think we need to pass the Millionaires Tax to inject that revenue and see what we can do.

MBTA Fare Hikes

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

Support



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.*

I am one of the most progressive candidates you will ever meet, and my record bears that out. I'm not afraid to follow my progressive values.