

PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS

2016 Race for the Cape & Islands

Senate District

Endorsement Questionnaire

Candidate Responses

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October 2016

GENERAL ELECTION: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016

3rd Barnstable House District: Consisting of the towns of Barnstable, Brewster, Chatham, Dennis, Eastham, Harwich, Mashpee, Orleans, Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet and Yarmouth in the county of Barnstable; the towns of Aquinnah, Chilmark, Edgartown, Gosnold, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury and West Tisbury in the county of Dukes; and the town of Nantucket in the county of Nantucket

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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 grew up on the Cape in my family's local business, where we were able to build a life for ourselves. For too many on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket, those opportunities are slipping away. I'm running because I am committed to seeing our communities thrive - and I believe that is possible with the right leadership. As State Senator, I intend to prioritize issues of affordability, tackling the opioid epidemic, and preserving and protecting our environment.

Background and Experience

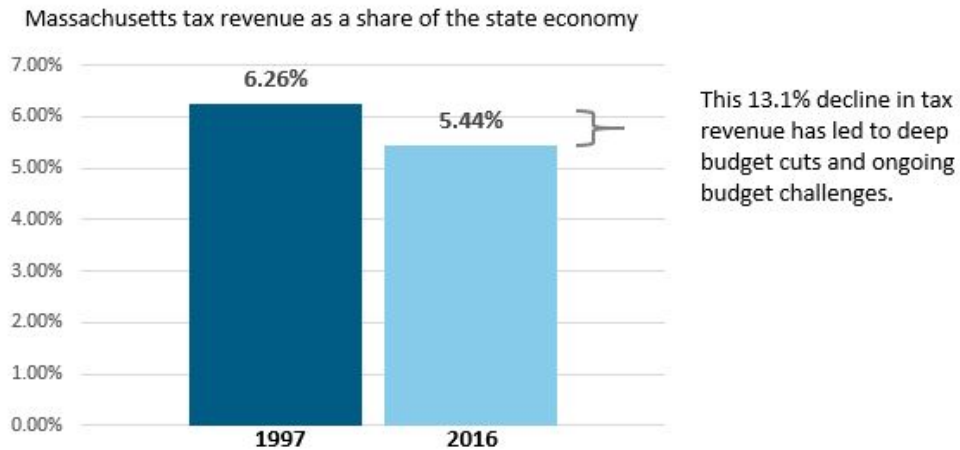
2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

I was born and raised in Truro to a family that understood the challenges currently facing our small businesses and communities. My career has provided me with broad experience in public policy, health advocacy, organizing, and social justice. I have worked extensively with the Massachusetts Legislature through two positions at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health: Deputy Director of Government Affairs and Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs for Environmental Health. I also worked closely with the Legislature in my role as Chair of the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth in 2013 and 2014. When it comes to what matters - achieving concrete results on Beacon Hill - I am the best candidate for the job.

II. The Issues

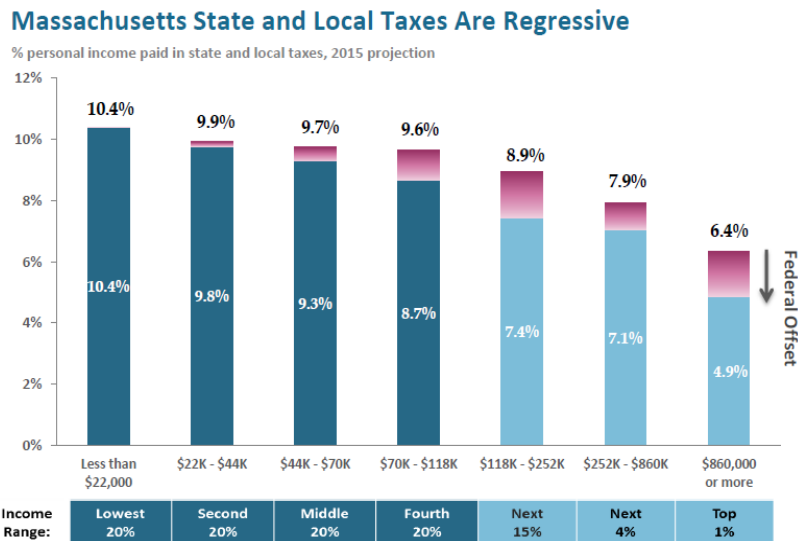
A. Revenue and Taxation

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 committed to building a system that is both fairer and simpler, including tax breaks for lower earners and revenue increases that support the infrastructure investments and services we need to build a Commonwealth. To begin, I will work to elevate the dialogue around revenue in the Commonwealth. We need to move beyond the politically convenient mantra of “no new taxes, no new fees” to a more nuanced conversation about how public investments and services – financed by way of taxes – promote growth, build for a resilient future, and often save taxpayer money in the mid and long term. Deliberate adjustments – such as increases to the income tax combined with decreases in the sales tax – would increase the revenue available for vital services and infrastructure investments while putting more money in the pockets of low-income families and residents. Finally, filing your taxes in Massachusetts should be simple, accessible, and free. I support innovations that expand electronic filing, free filing options, and would support a pilot by the Department of Revenue to explore opt-out tax preparation.

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 revenue and taxation have not been a question that was posed in my work at the MA Department of Public Health, there is very little concrete work I can point to, however in the primary campaign I've spoken fervently in support of making the tax system in this state more progressive from implementing a higher rate on incomes over a million to reducing the dependence on the regressive property taxes, especially on the cape and other areas where the workforce is dependent on seasonal low wage tourist jobs, by extended the room occupancy tax to cover all short time rental of houses, condos and Airbnb rented units.

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 effort to develop a progressive income tax system by passing the proposed constitutional 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?

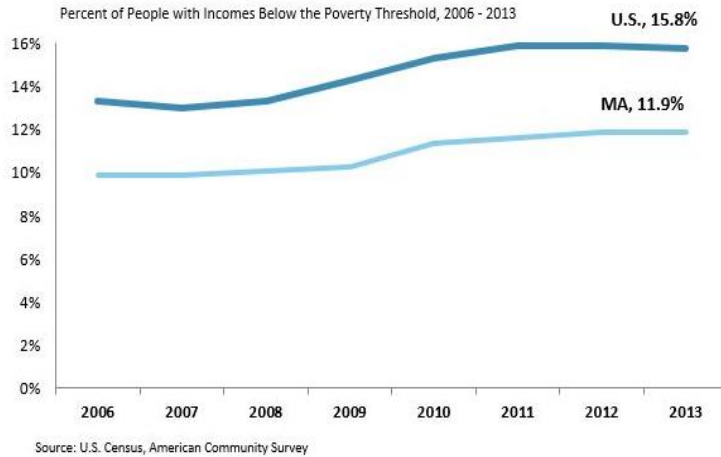
I agree that not only does this simply move sales from one-time frame to another, it disproportionately impacts small standalone Mom & Pop shops and as Mass retailers have shown, in the absence of a sales tax holiday, they are able to put on their own sales tax holiday sales to benefit their customers.



B. Job Growth and the Economy

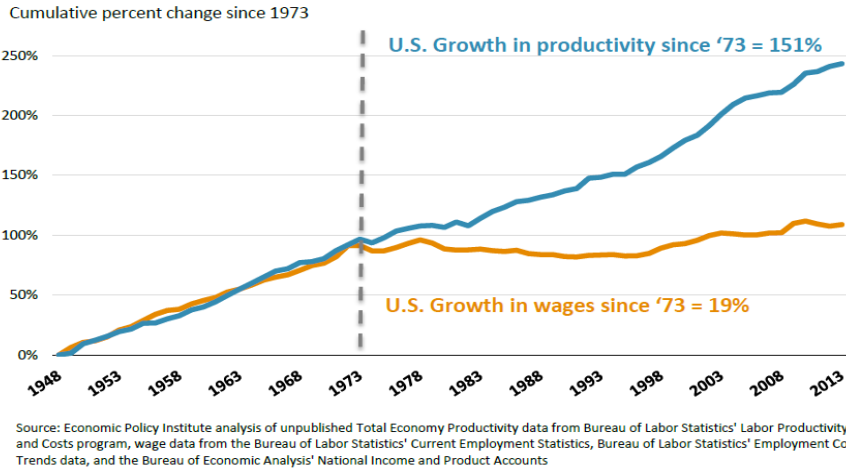
The Massachusetts economy has continued to grow and recover from the Great Recession, but the gains have not been shared equally. Poverty levels continue to increase, while the minimum wage loses value every year. Massachusetts now ranks as one of the top ten most unequal states according to various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

Broadly, I believe the role of government in our economy is to provide a level playing field, ensure the safety and reliability of the products we produce and buy, and protect workers from exploitation and health risk.

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?

Yes. I am a strong supporter of this effort and believe that everyone who works should be paid a living wage.

Tipped Minimum Wage

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

Growing up, I worked summers in my family's restaurant. I believe that tips can be a powerful earning tool for some employees - but believe that all should have access to a consistent 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?

Support

I strongly support paid family medical leave. This is a critical issue of fairness for our families in the workplace.

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?)

I support both of those positions. If a business receives a public benefit at the taxpayers' expense, then they must make an accounting to the public.

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"?

Yes, corporate tax policy should be aimed at benefitting workers as well as creating the conditions for business in Massachusetts to be able to be started, nurtured and grown. The benefit for workers should be not only a job, but a decent paying job that can be the basis of supporting Massachusetts families.

Equal Pay

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

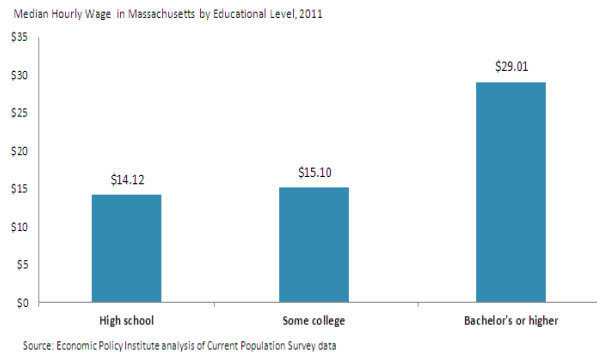
I have long identified as a feminist and a male ally and very much support efforts to secure equal pay regardless of gender.



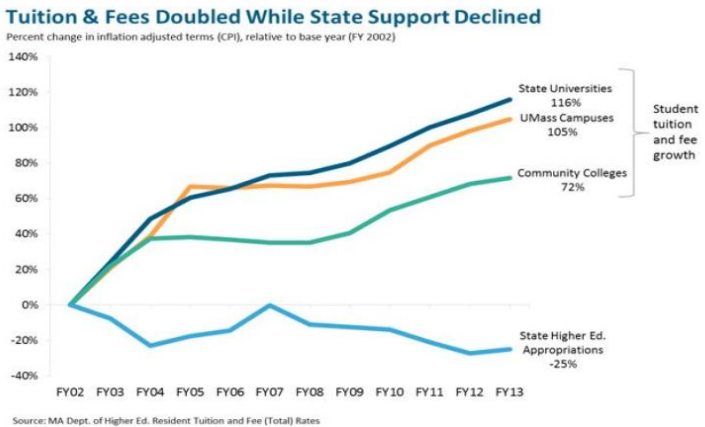
C. Education and Workforce Development

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.

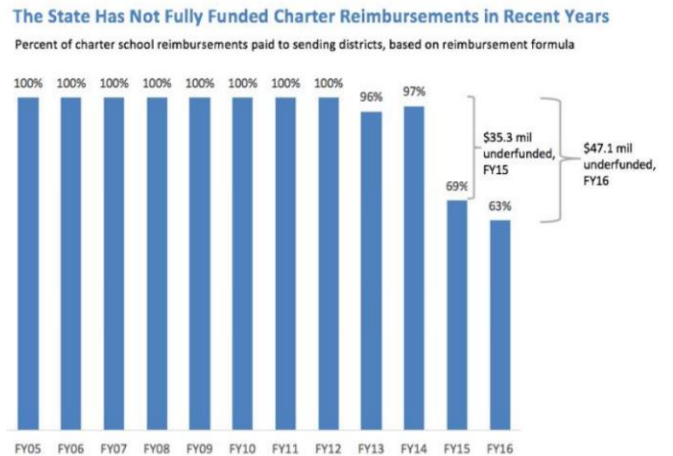
Section C, Figure 5 - Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages



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?

I got my start in political organizing as a high school student when I led a successful student-driven effort to avoid significant budget cuts that would have resulted in the lay-off of 40 staff positions. Standing with educators is important to me - many members of my large extended family are public school teachers. I believe that a strong education is critical to equipping all of our students with the ability to reach their full potential.

Strategic investments in public education - from early education to post-secondary - are vital not only to the success of our students, but also to the success of our communities. I am eager to improve the health, academic outcomes, and long-term success of all students, including marginalized students experiencing multiple challenges related to their race, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status,

and family income. The existing achievement gap is unacceptable and by building programs that provide opportunity to our most marginalized students, we can work to close it.

Addressing these issues require skilled public school personnel who are fairly compensated and have adequate time to perform the many tasks required in their jobs, including lesson planning and other services that teachers are often expected to conduct in their “spare time”. It also requires policy makers to really listen to the voices of students, parents, and teachers – a practice to which I am fully committed.

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

Quality education means that all students are able to learn and grow in a safe, affirming environment. During my tenure as Chair of the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth, the Commission partnered with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to produce a guidance on supporting transgender students that is not only making a difference to students and school personnel across the Commonwealth, but has also been cited by the Obama administration as a national model.

Achievement gaps

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

I believe a solid education is a critical foundation for all students – and particularly for low-income students who often lack the opportunities provided to their peers in other districts. While closing the achievement gap is surely complex, I support measures that reduce class size and increase state funding. As part of this, I would advocate for more accurate data from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on current class sizes and would seek to provide accompanying changes such as student social supports to increase effectiveness of smaller class sizes.

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?

Research is incredibly clear that investing in early childhood education and care programs provides significant long-term benefits, especially for low-income children. This is a public policy initiative that simply makes sense. I strongly support it.

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?

Research is incredibly clear that investing in early childhood education and care programs provides significant long-term benefits, especially for low-income children. This is a public policy initiative that simply makes sense. I strongly support it.

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?

A funding structure that underestimates the real level of spending is not sustainable. I support making adjustments so that key educational improvements – such as full-day kindergarten, smaller class sizes, special education, and school-based technology – are funded with adequate resources for success.

Charter School Cap

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

I support maintaining the existing cap on charter schools. This is a complex issue and I don't believe a ballot initiative will achieve its goals while addressing the nuances of the charter debate.



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?

Data suggest that charter school enrollment of ELL students and students with disabilities still lags compared to traditional public schools in the very districts with higher concentration of immigrant families and high-need students, and that disciplinary methods in charter schools merit further examination. I support accountability measures that would thoughtfully address these and other issues to create a level playing field for all students.

Higher Ed Access

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

Higher education is increasingly vital to success in a wide variety of careers – a trend that is no less true for undocumented students. I strongly support legislation permitting undocumented students access to financial aid and in-state tuition where relevant.

Universal Higher Education

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

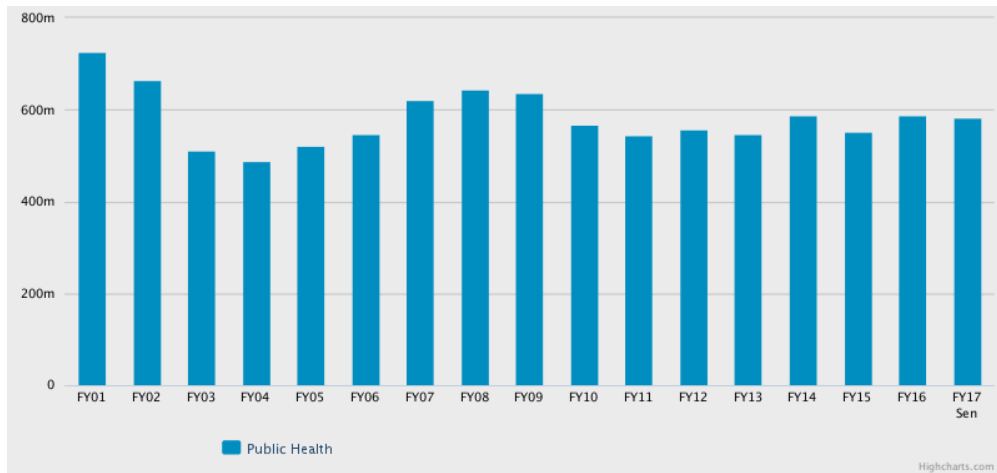
I support providing at least two full years of post-secondary education free of charge to all Massachusetts high school graduates through our system of public and community colleges and universities.



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.

Health care needs to be financed and delivered as a basic right and in a way that stresses health prevention and early intervention rather than catching everything only when it becomes catastrophic. Given the aged population on Cape Cod and elsewhere special efforts need to be put in place to allow seniors to age comfortably in place. Insurance needs to provide adequate treatment durations for opioid and other addictions and the state needs take steps to put in place the continuity of transitional care and services needed. For this effort to be successful, as a community we need to move towards a single payer system.

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

My background in public health stems from an early age – I started a sexual health initiative as a college student at NYU and later worked as a harm-reduction counselor for the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod. While at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, I made key contributions to legislation to improve healthcare quality and control costs. For instance, I helped create a Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund, prioritizing evidence-based community health strategies that focus on prevention. More recently, I testified in front of the state’s Joint Committee on Health Care Financing to speak about the importance of a single payer system for the LGBTQ community.

Single Payer

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

Yes. Consistent coverage options that are easily accessible for individuals at varying income levels are the best way to ensure marginalized populations can get the health care that they need. Single payer is the best way to provide that. I have been endorsed by Mass-Care.



Reproductive Rights

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

I staunchly support the right to choose and would welcome efforts to improve access to safe abortion care and related services. Currently, services in the Cape and Islands region are non-existent, making this issue one of particular importance.



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

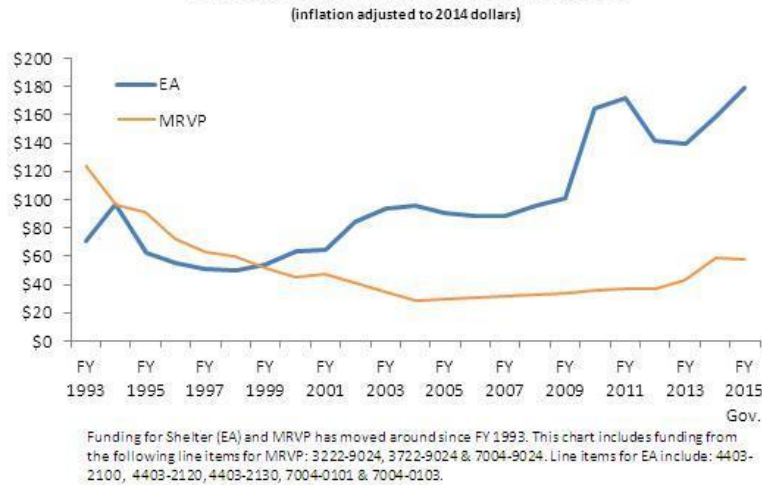


Figure 9

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?*

As Senator for the Cape and Islands, I would intend to ensure that young people have a chance to raise families in our towns, and that seniors can stay in the communities that they have built. Affordable housing is perhaps the biggest piece of this puzzle. I support incentivizing the development of rental housing available to residents across the income spectrum; establishing tax-free savings accounts for first-time home buyers; and building the type of modern infrastructure necessary to connect affordable housing with regional transportation and economic hubs.

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

LGBTQ youth, like many others in the Commonwealth, experience homelessness at disproportionate rates. As Chair of the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth, I supported a pilot project to assist homeless young people in accessing the IDs they needed to apply for state services, obtain employment, and enroll in educational programs. While more affordable housing is ultimately the answer, I also support – and have supported – efforts to prevent and address homelessness among at-risk populations.



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?

Funding for housing programs is critical, and I would support restoring or increasing funding to programs that repair existing public housing, create new units of affordable housing, and maintain a strong Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program. I am eager to partner with existing advocates in the Legislature and community-based organizations to make this a reality. We also need to focus on expansion of housing for middle income residents, especially in communities like mine where high property values are making affordable housing options difficult for poor and middle class families who don't qualify for traditional state support.

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"?

I oppose efforts to weaken affordable housing goals.

Zoning Reform

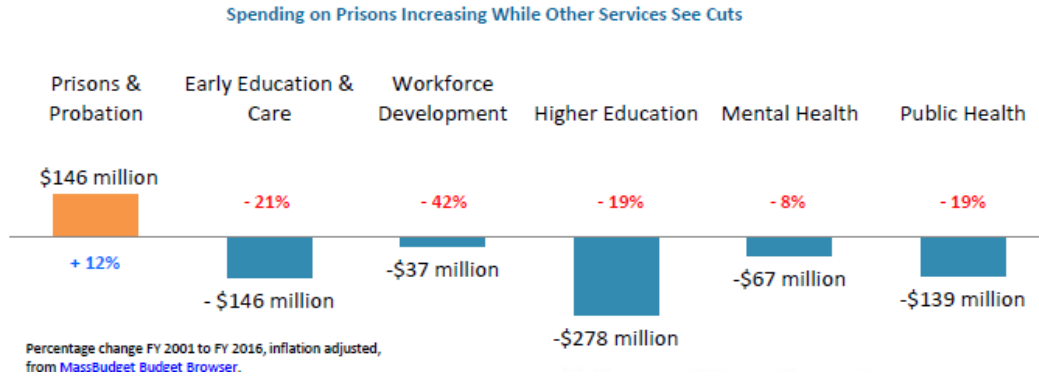
5. Would you support or oppose legislation to upgrade Massachusetts' zoning laws to encourage more affordable housing and transit-oriented, walkable development and to allow municipalities to adopt inclusionary zoning practices?

The Commonwealth's zoning laws are antiquated – this is all too visible on the Cape and Islands. I support revisions that would modernize existing laws and give our towns the tools they need to thrive. This is a critical issue for my district.

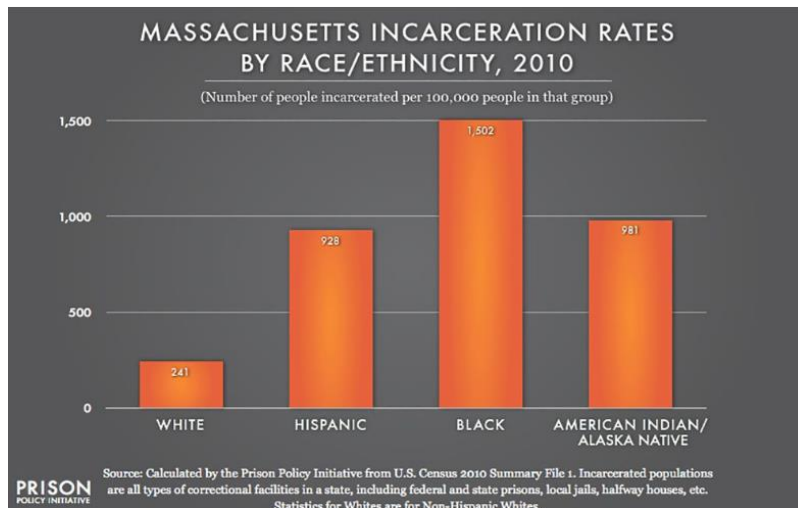
F. Racial and Social Justice

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.

In a Commonwealth where racial inequities persist, we all lose. Through my background in public health, I have seen race-based disparities in data that impact just about every sector of our society. It is inexcusable that such disparities persist. People of color have fought long and hard to make Massachusetts a better place to live and work; if elected state Senator, I am committed to supporting and advancing those efforts to make our state safer, healthier, and more just for all residents.

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

As a white gay man and ally to transgender individuals and people of color, I believe we can't underestimate the importance of intersectionality. I am committed to putting forth policies that address existing systemic injustices and the ways that those systems interact to keep people of color, LGBTQ people, and other marginalized groups out. In the past, I served on the steering committee of Freedom Massachusetts, the statewide campaign that won the recent passage of nondiscrimination protections in public accommodations for transgender and gender-nonconforming residents. I have also engaged in anti-racism trainings in an effort to expand my own understanding and increase my ability to make change in solidarity with people of color.

Mandatory Minimum Sentencing

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

The impact of mandatory minimums has been disproportionately felt among communities of color. I support legislation eliminating this harmful and ineffective practice.

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?

Providing the opportunity to apply for a license or learner's permit – regardless of immigration status – makes the roads safer for everyone and provides undocumented individuals with the paperwork they need to be able to drive to work, healthcare appointments, educational programs, and other critical aspects of daily life. I support these efforts and have stated so publicly.

Bail Reform

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

Recent research has pointed to the existing bail system as a significant driver of inequality within our criminal justice system. I support further examination and reform within this system.

Marijuana Legalization

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

Broadly, I support legalization of recreational marijuana. However, there are substantive problems with the ballot initiative as written, specifically in the absurdly low rate at which recreational marijuana will be taxed. I will vote no on Question #4. Currently, there are few evidence-based studies on marijuana. As a result, we have marijuana use enabled by unregulated transactions and little opportunity to understand or debunk its professed benefits. Additionally, we have an incarceration problem, particularly for young black men. While the legalization conversation is important, our energies are best spent on interventions for harmful substance use and education that reduces health risks of marijuana and other substances as well as promoting healthy communities.

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?

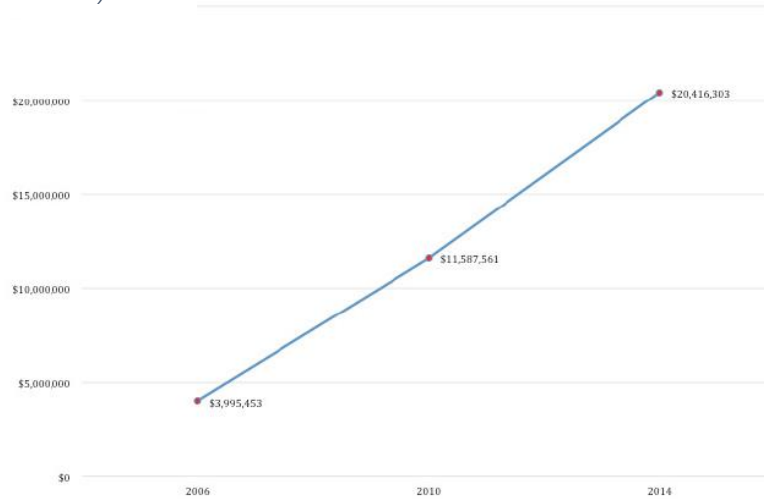
No child should find themselves in a court room when they should be in the classroom. I support legislation that addresses school push-out, which disproportionately impacts students of color, LGBTQ students, and students with disabilities. Through my work with the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth, I saw state data suggesting that unsafe schools feed cycles of violence and victimization – for instance, LGBTQ youth are both more likely to be injured with a weapon at school and to bring a weapon to school. For students to be successful, we need to address the root causes of misbehavior; we must hold students accountable for upholding safe school climates without using the criminal justice system to penalize normal adolescent behavior.

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.
 Ongoing vigilance is always needed to ensure that government is conducted in the daylight, including the work of the Legislature. The same standards of open process need to be followed by those making the laws not only those following them. I am specifically interested in how we can better retain talent among legislative staff; too often, staffers leave Beacon Hill to lobby simply because the pay is too low.
2. Please indicate work you personally have done to promote transparency, campaign finance reform, legislative rules reform, and access to voting.
 My campaign is actively conducting voter registration efforts and education of voters about the early voting system that has been put in place with this election. My campaign is based on having the maximum possible voter contact to not only ask for their vote but to also to educate and inform. On legislative transparency, I have publicly voiced my support for including the Legislature under the state’s public records law. On the campaign trail, I publicly discuss an idea to prohibit electeds and candidates from directly soliciting for financial contributions.

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?
 Yes.



Public Campaign Financing

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

Yes. As a first time candidate, I have a keen appreciation for why a public financing system is desperately needed.

Election Day Voter Registration

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

Yes.

Automatic Voter Registration

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

Yes, absolutely, as long as the trigger is such that registration happens and correctly identifies where the newly registered is residing.

H. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

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

Public transit must play a role in decarbonizing our transportation system, as well as advancing complementary goals of equity and inclusion. However, Massachusetts politicians have lost their understanding of public transit as a public good that benefits all residents and businesses in Massachusetts, not just those who use it in their daily lives. The greatest evidence of this is their neglect of the MBTA: its debt has grown to nearly \$5.5 billion, with over \$7 billion in deferred maintenance costs. Regional Transit Authorities that serve communities, including Gateway Cities across the state, face enormous capital needs as well.

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

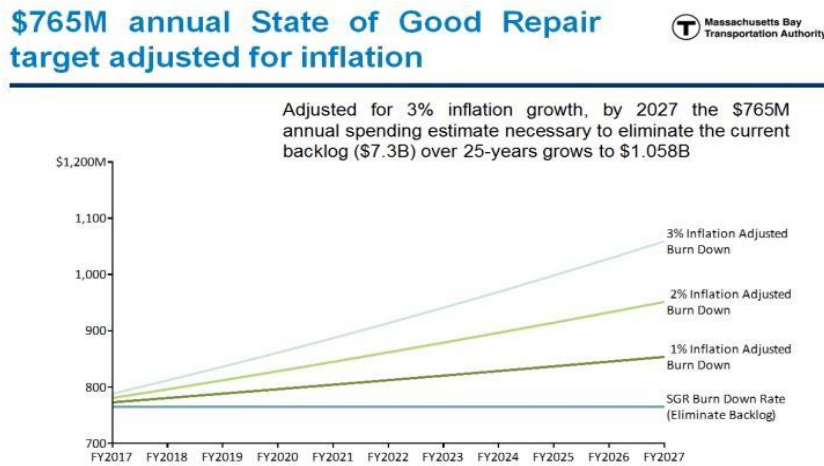
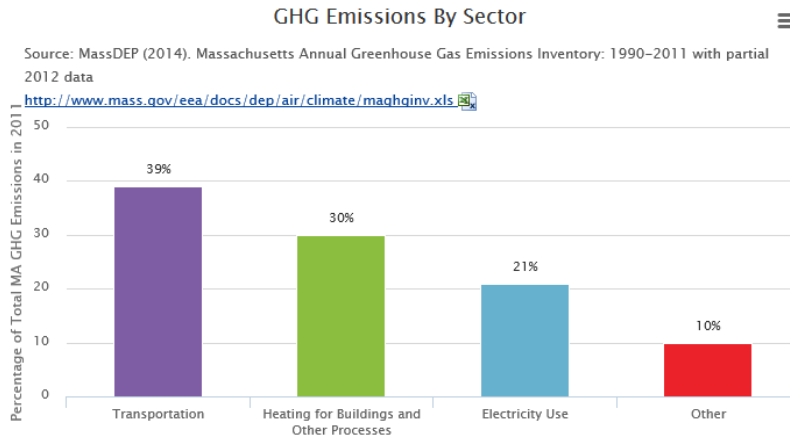


Figure 14 - Transportation is currently the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in MA, although heating and electricity are also major





Statement/Experience

1. Please share your personal values and principles regarding Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection.

The Cape and Islands is a district uniquely vulnerable to the impact of global warming and environmental degradation. As someone with a background in environmental health, I am passionate about preserving the natural beauty and resources of my region and across the Commonwealth. I believe that with smart policy and strong leadership, we can create solutions that revitalize the economy while protecting our environment for generations to come.

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

While at the Department of Public Health, I stood up to Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant to protect Cape & Island residents. If elected, I have committed to pushing for swift decommissioning and closure of the plant.

As Chair of the LGBTQ Youth Commission, I met with MassDOT to ensure that public transit agencies were aware of the unique needs of LGBTQ youth riding their systems (e.g. how to mitigate frequent harassment; connecting RTA bus lines to youth groups).

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?

Meeting the requirements of the GWSA is crucial to ensuring the Commonwealth leads the country in confronting climate change. Massachusetts must continue its leadership in reducing emissions through RGGI and clean energy advancement and develop new strategies for reducing transportation emissions. I support investing in a range of cleaner energy solutions and incentivizing energy efficiency.

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?

As a candidate running to represent the Cape and Islands, I not only support such funding and partnership but also see it as essential to mitigating the impact of a changing climate on our communities. As Director of Policy & Regulatory Affairs for Environmental Health at DPH, I contributed to these policies, worked across agencies to bring public health into the conversation of climate adaptation, and proposed expansion of core public health activities to meet these challenges.

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 believe that we must approach energy issues through an environmental justice lens. I support efforts to expand solar energy and make it available in all communities.

Carbon Fees

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

I support carbon pricing as one strategy in reducing harmful emissions.

Gas Pipelines

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

I oppose gas pipeline expansion.



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?

To truly meet the needs of the T, increased resources are needed. Reforms may help, but won't get us all the way there. Additional revenue for the T should be explored (as well as resources for RTAs who often provide the only affordable transportation lifeline to impoverished residents in rural areas).

MBTA Fare Hikes

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

I support capping MBTA fare hikes at 5% for a two-year period, especially for riders who make less than 80% AMI. I realize that the T faces significant fiscal and operational challenges. If greater revenue is needed, additional fee increases should be tiered with higher increases based on income.

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.*