

PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS

2016 Primary Race for the 2nd Middlesex Legislative District

Candidate for Senate

Endorsement Questionnaire Response

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PRIMARY ELECTION: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

2nd MIDDLESEX DISTRICT consisting of the cities of Cambridge, wards 9 to 11, inclusive, Medford and Somerville, and the town of Winchester, precincts 4 to 7, inclusive, in the county of Middlesex.

AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

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I. About You

Motivations and Priorities

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

Since I was a teenager, I have been an activist on many issues, including peace, social justice, and education. Being senator allows me to work on all these and many more, and to work with others in my district and across the state. I am able in this role to organize and empower people who share progressive values, and people who otherwise have no voice.

My top priorities (there are many more than 3!) are all related to

INEQUALITY OF INCOME, WEALTH AND POWER

- *Education*: adequate and equitable funding so all children have opportunity; educating the whole child so low-income children don't have limits; early education; less testing more learning; affordable higher education
- *Elder Affairs*: building and maintaining the continuum of long-term services, supports and housing; promoting and protecting secure retirement; developing a workforce that is well-compensated and well-trained; preventing elder abuse; ensuring quality in all care settings
- *Pay Equity and Adequacy*: reducing the income gap by raising the pay of low-income workers; tax policy that reduces the gap (increasing EITC, passing Fair Share amendment and re-examining all tax credits); supporting unionization efforts.....[I expect my Pay Equity bill to become law by the time this is published]
- *Environment*: promoting public transportation (building GLX, providing adequate funding for reliable and affordable transit); reducing reliance on carbon fuels; encouraging solar and wind; protecting and encouraging access to our Mystic River
- *Criminal Justice*: reducing over-incarceration, increasing support for re-entry, bail reform, stopping the school to prison pipeline

Background and Experience

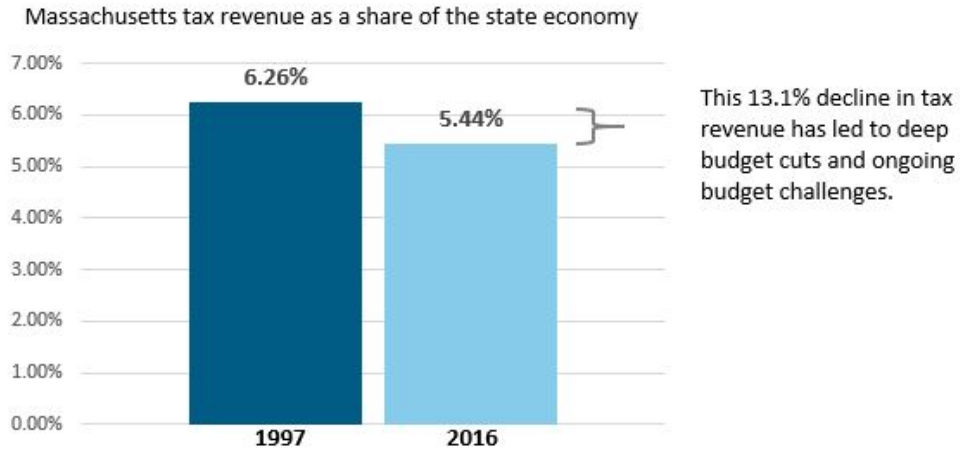
2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity? Q.I:2

My experience as an activist and community organizer helps me understand how to build support inside and outside the legislature. My experience as a school committee member, representative, and senator helps me understand how to use the rules and process, as well as an attitude of persistence. I have developed strong relationships in our communities, inside the legislature, and among advocates state-wide that are crucial in making progress. I continue to learn every day about how to be an effective advocate.

II. The Issues

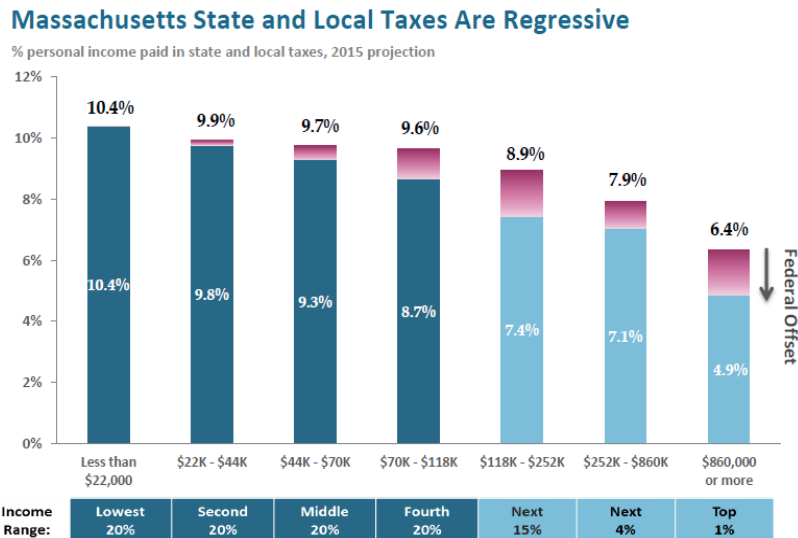
A. Revenue and Taxation

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



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

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



Statement/Experience

1. What principles do you bring to considerations of state revenue and tax reform (individual and corporate)? *How should we raise more revenue to adequately fund our communities for the future?* Q.A:1
2. *Optional/As Applicable:* Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on revenue and taxation (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.). Q.A:2

State revenue should be adequate, and should be raised through fair and reliable sources.

The fairest tax is the income tax, although our sales tax is less regressive than some. We should pass the Fair Share amendment, which should raise about \$2 billion for education and transportation, although not enough to replace the \$3 billion in tax cuts since late 90's.

We should examine tax loopholes and credits and eliminate or reduce those that are ineffective.

Related Experience, Q.A:2

I have supported and voted for the creation and expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, as well as other measures to increase the progressivity of the income tax. I voted for and actively campaign for the Fair Share amendment. I have voted for many measures to increase accountability in tax credit programs. I have sponsored several district forums on the budget and revenue. [Here is one of my newsletters](#) on the topic of transportation revenue: <http://bit.ly/jehlenmailereitc>

Progressive Taxation

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

Support. I support the amendment and bring it up in every public appearance, fundraising event, debate, and in my literature.

Sales Tax Holiday

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

Oppose. I have always opposed the sales tax holiday, which costs us about \$25 million.

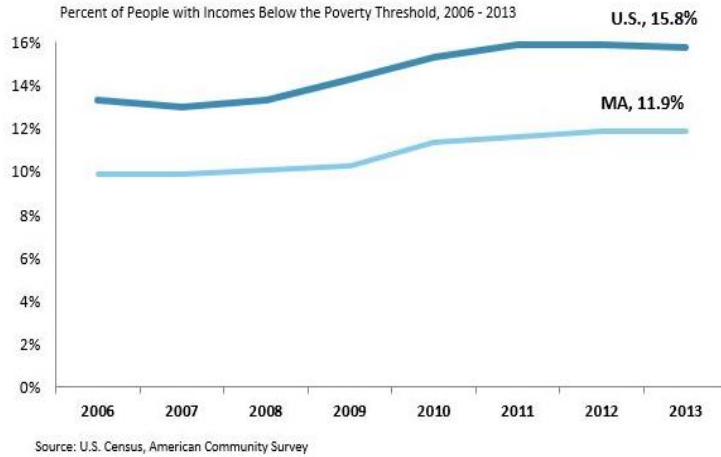
That would provide home care for thousands of seniors, provide almost 2000 new housing vouchers, or give 5000 children preschool education and help reduce the achievement gap.

At first there were only 2 senators voting against it, but now there is little support, especially in a time of austerity. There is no evidence that it increases jobs. It merely shifts spending from one time period to another. My newsletter on the topic is at: <http://bit.ly/jehlenmailersalestax>

B. Job Growth and the Economy

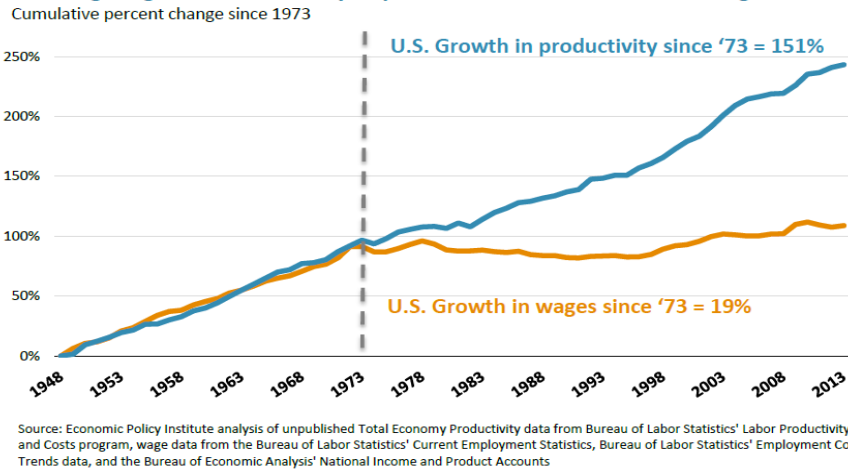
The Massachusetts economy has continued to grow and recover from the Great Recession, but the gains have not been shared equally. Poverty levels continue to increase, while the minimum wage loses value every year. Massachusetts now ranks as one of the top ten most unequal states according to various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

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



Section B, Figure 3

Growing Wage and Productivity Gap is Our Central Economic Challenge



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

Statement/Experience

1. Share your personal values and principles on job growth and the economy. *How can we improve the economy and economic security for all people? How do we grow the number of good paying jobs in the Commonwealth? How do you view wealth and income inequality, and what would you do about it, if anything?* Q.B:1
2. *Optional/As Applicable:* Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on job growth and the economy (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.). Q.B:2

Growing inequality in income, wealth, and power in our country is our greatest challenge, to both a fair economy and our democracy. Improving our economy requires investing in education and in transportation, as well as in services to support seniors and people with disabilities. We should support the Fight for 15, as well as unionization efforts. See my priority list.

Related Experience, Q.B:2

See below: See also my newsletter on income and education: <http://bit.ly/jehlenmailerincomeeducation>

Minimum Wage

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

Support. Have voted to increase minimum wage, and support legislation mandating \$15/hour for airport workers, home care workers, nursing home workers, big box retail and fast food workers, day care workers... I also support their organizing efforts and have attended several rallies. In last night's Senate debate, I argued for requiring \$15 minimum wage for all corporations that receive state subsidies through grants or tax benefits.

Tipped Minimum Wage

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

Support. Lead sponsor.

Indexed Minimum Wage

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

Support. The minimum wage should be indexed to inflation. As the cost of goods increases, so should the minimum wage rate.

Paid Family Medical Leave

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

Support. I was lead sponsor of Earned Sick Days. For my legislative career, I have been lead or cosponsor of Paid Family Leave.

Corporate Tax Incentives

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

Support. Have often voted for accountability; see recent Senate vote.

Corporate Tax Incentives and Good Jobs

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

Support. I also argued for denying tax incentives to companies that pay executives more than 100 times what they pay average worker. We should not subsidize inequality.

Equal Pay

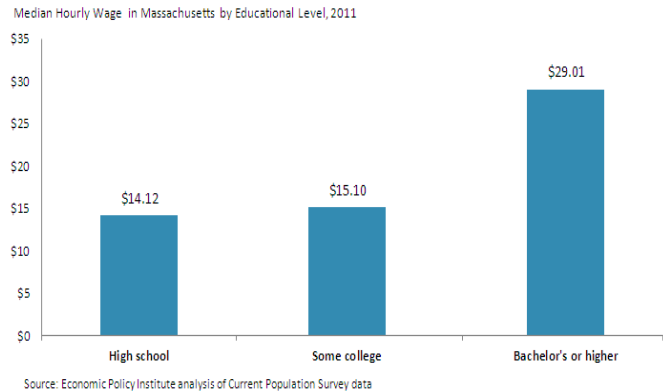
9. Do you support or oppose legislation to further the principle of equal pay for equal work? Q.B:9

Support. Lead sponsor of Pay Equity bill which just passed House after passing Senate in January [2016].

C. Education and Workforce Development

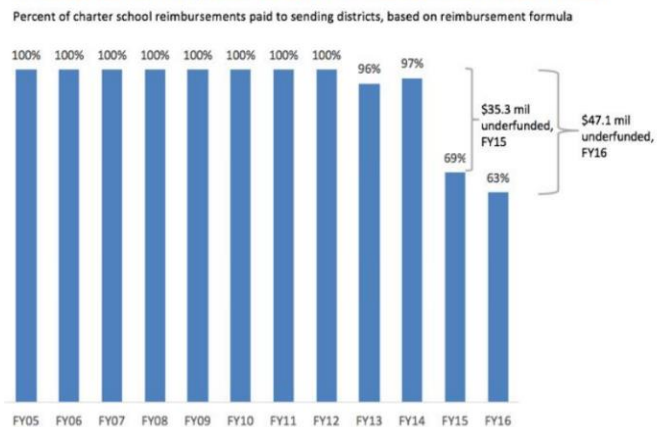
Public education has always been a gateway to opportunity and mobility for all, regardless of economic circumstances, a cornerstone of the American dream for all residents. The mission of public schools is to serve all students, including English Language Learners and those with special needs. However, powerful corporate interests are working to undermine public schools, teachers, and unions. These groups are investing millions of dollars to promote the expansion of privately run charter schools, which siphon money from our public K-12 districts while largely excluding students with the greatest needs. Various forms of privatization are being proposed and implemented, including charter schools and “turnaround” schemes that put private management groups in charge of struggling public schools. Costly, mandated standardized test results are used to justify these privatization schemes. Finally, the soaring price of higher education over the last several decades has made access to this opportunity increasingly out of reach, at the very moment when higher education makes a greater difference to one’s economic future.

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



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

The State Has Not Fully Funded Charter Reimbursements in Recent Years



Statement/Experience

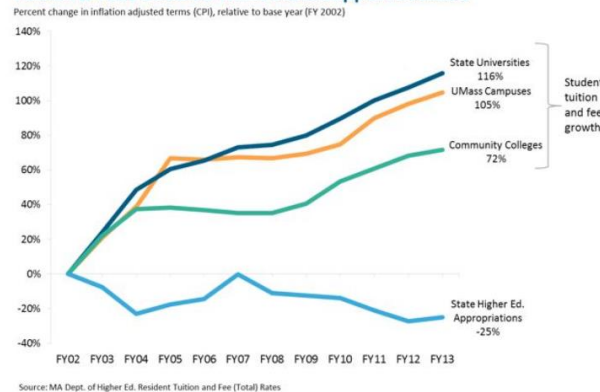
1. Please share your personal values and principles regarding public education and workforce training. *What value does public education and workforce development have in improving our economy as well as in addressing matters of economic justice? What measures should the Commonwealth take on these issues?*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

Aren't the answers to this obvious from the rest of the questionnaire? Here's what I wrote about the Foundation Budget: bit.ly/jehlenmailerfoundationbudget

However, the purpose of education is not just preparation for the workforce!

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

Tuition & Fees Doubled While State Support Declined



Related Experience, Q.C:2

I helped organize the Council for Fair School Finance. We brought the successful lawsuit which led to the 1993 Education Reform Act and the original Foundation Budget. For the next 7 years, we kept the commitment to increasing public school funding by hundreds of millions of dollars in an equalizing way.

I served on the Foundation Budget Review Commission. This year, the Senate twice voted to commit the state to implementation of its recommendations, in the charter school bill and in the budget.

Achievement gaps

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

Q.C:3

Three things would help address achievement gaps. All are difficult and expensive:

1. Raising families out of poverty: Mass. has among the highest gaps in both income and achievement; test scores as well as future prospects are correlated about 90% with family income
2. Adequate and equalizing funding for all schools: the state has retreated from its commitment since 2000, and now has among the highest differences in spending between districts
3. Universal preschool, giving all children a more equal start

Universal Pre-K

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

Support. Yes; a mixed delivery system makes most sense, but can be very collaborative with school systems.

Standardized Testing

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

Oppose. I sponsor and support legislation to eliminate high-stakes testing. We would not eliminate testing, but would use tests appropriately to improve instruction. A newsletter on testing:

<http://bit.ly/jehlenmailertestingv2>

I brought together superintendents and union leaders from nine school districts to work with Jack Schneider of Holy Cross and Dan French of Center for Collaborative Education to form a consortium to pilot new, broader, more authentic models of assessing student learning and school performance.

Funding Structure

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

Q.C:6

Support. See above.

Charter School Cap

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

Oppose. The ballot question goes too far! It would essentially eliminate all limits on charter schools. Charter schools take local funds away from district schools. In approving charter schools, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education does not consider all children or the effect of a new charter on other schools. I support innovation and choice, and organized for a successful alternative public school program in Somerville. But decisions on how to allocate limited school budgets should be made democratically, at the local level.

The Senate bill includes a provision I strongly support: as in many other states, if a district approves a charter it will pay for it; if the state board approves it without local approval, the state will pay. The great

majority of local school funding is raised from local property taxes and should be spent with local approval.

Here's what I wrote in 2014: <http://bit.ly/jehlenmailercharterschool>.

You can also read my chapter in the recent Harvard Education Press book: *Dilemmas of Educational Ethics*.

Charter Accountability

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

Support. I support these accountability measures, all included in the Senate legislation this year, which I helped write.

Higher Ed Access

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

Support. Cosponsor and testified

Universal Higher Education

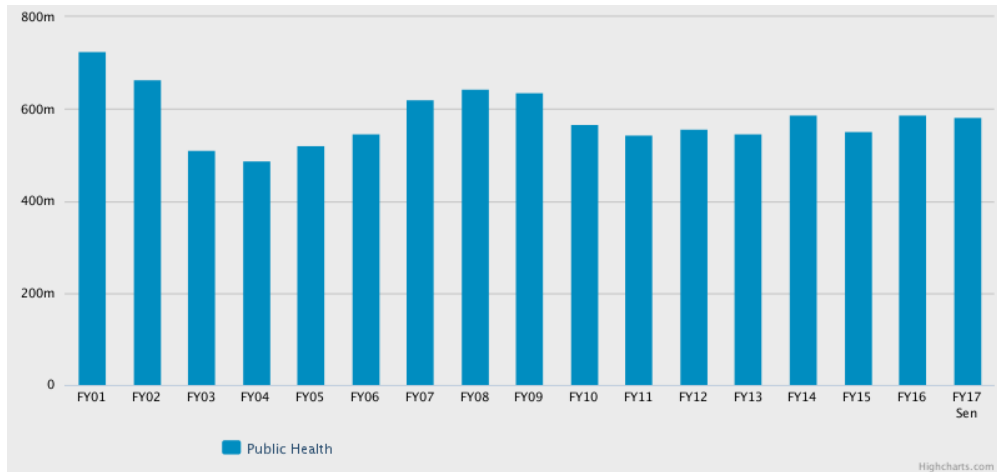
10. Do you support or oppose the goal of providing free, publicly funded higher education for every student who wants it? Q.C:10

Support. This will require significant new revenue.

D. Health Care

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

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



Statement/Experience

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

I support universal health care. Single payer is most efficient, but current system is covering almost all people. Continued increases in costs are being shifted onto individuals through premiums and copays and deductibles. We need to control costs, and also expand coverage to include long-term care. I support a state version of Sen. Kennedy's CLASS Act.

Public health funding has been cut significantly, but it is crucial for protecting all of us.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and reducing tobacco use, lowering obesity, and other means of promoting good health across the lifespan are very important.

Related Experience, Q.D:2

Most of my work in this area is related to increasing access to home care, and preserving/increasing funding for home care, adult day health, affordable assisted living, residential care, etc.

Single Payer

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

Support. Cosponsor for my whole career.

Reproductive Rights

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

Support.

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

(inflation adjusted to 2014 dollars)

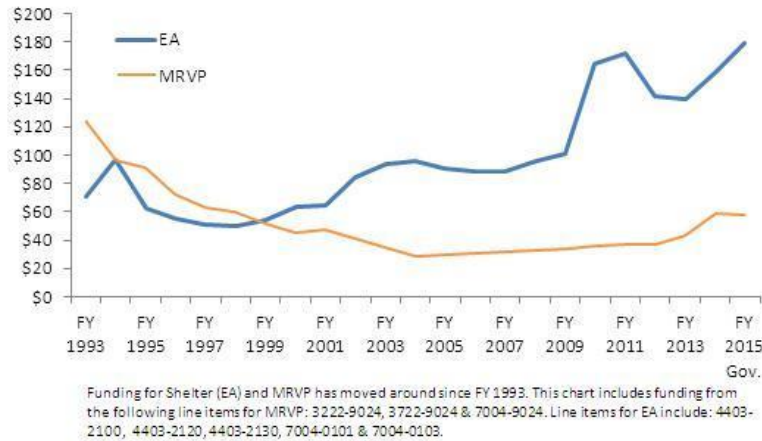


Figure 9

Statement/Experience

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

Housing issues are tightly related to income inequality and transportation. New construction is too focused on luxury condos. I supported Senate’s zoning reform.

Related Experience, Q.E:2

My legislation created 1000 units of supportive housing for people with disabilities, seniors and veterans. I am working on legislation to ensure that new housing is “visitable:” i.e. accessible to people with limited mobility.

Funding Housing Programs

3. (a) Do you support or oppose increasing state funding to housing programs, and (b) how would you work to see increases (if relevant) realized? Q.E:3
 - a) Support. b) I always include MRVP and RAFT among my top budget priorities.

Affordable Housing

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

I oppose and have voted against these efforts and campaigned against the repeal of 40B.

Zoning Reform

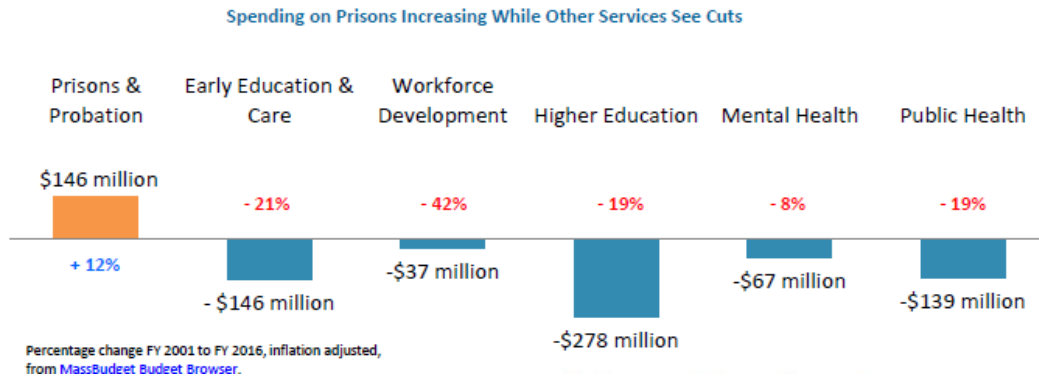
5. Would you support or oppose legislation to upgrade Massachusetts’ zoning laws to encourage more affordable housing and transit-oriented, walkable development and to allow municipalities to adopt inclusionary zoning practices? Q.E:5

Support. I support the Senate's zoning reform bill.

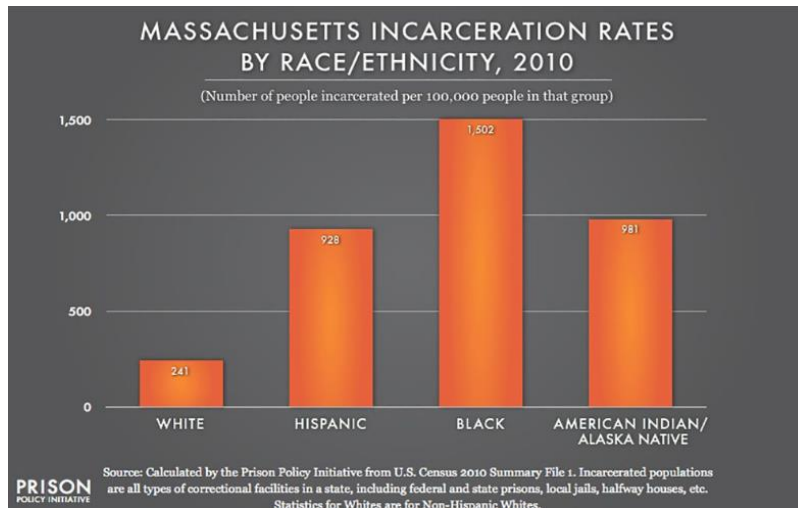
F. Racial and Social Justice

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

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



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



Statement/Experience

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

Again, these issues are tightly related to income inequality, to education, transportation and housing!

Related Experience, Q.F:2

I joined marches and demonstrations during the Civil Rights Movement of the 60s. When Somerville was becoming more racially integrated, I joined the Count on Me movement to promise to speak up against racism. My family and I have joined Black Lives Matter demonstrations. I am honored to have been made a Life Member of the NAACP by the Mystic Valley Branch.

Mandatory Minimum Sentencing

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

Support. Cosponsor of bills; member of Criminal Justice Commission.

Safe Driving Act

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

Support. Lead Senate sponsor

Bail Reform

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

Support. Strongly support. It's outrageous that most of those in county custody are awaiting trial.

Marijuana Legalization

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

Support.

School-to-Prison Pipeline

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

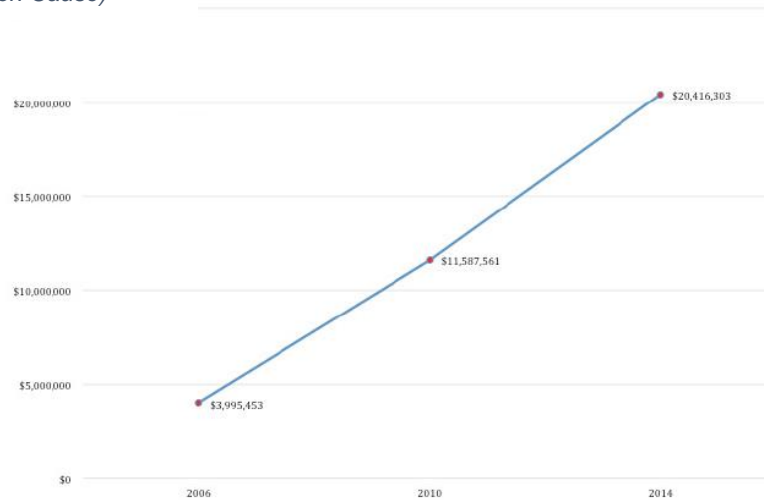
Support. I supported Chapter 222, school discipline reform. My bill to require training and MOUs for school resource officers, based on the ACLU/CJJ report, was adopted as an amendment to the juvenile justice bill, which will also help reduce the school to prison pipeline overall. I will continue to work also on the bill preventing arrests for non-violent or verbal student behavior. One reason for opposing unlimited expansion of charter schools is that almost all recent charters have been to schools which utilize hyper-discipline and zero-tolerance. I support diversion and police training, as has been successful in places like Somerville. And the Senate passed my bill to increase the threshold for felony theft.

G. Good Government and Good Citizenship

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

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

MA Independent Expenditure Totals



Statement/Experience

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

I'm in favor of any constitutional means of limiting the power of money in politics.

Related Experience, Q.G:2

I supported the efforts for campaign finance reform. I am delighted to be in the Senate while it has changed to be far more democratic and participatory. I support same-day registration, and supported early voting - I'll support over-riding the governor's veto of funds for early 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? Q.G:3

The Senate, with President Stan Rosenberg's leadership, is providing a model of shared leadership, giving all members a chance to participate. I am completely supportive of these changes.

Public Campaign Financing

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

Support. Need revenue!



Election Day Voter Registration

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

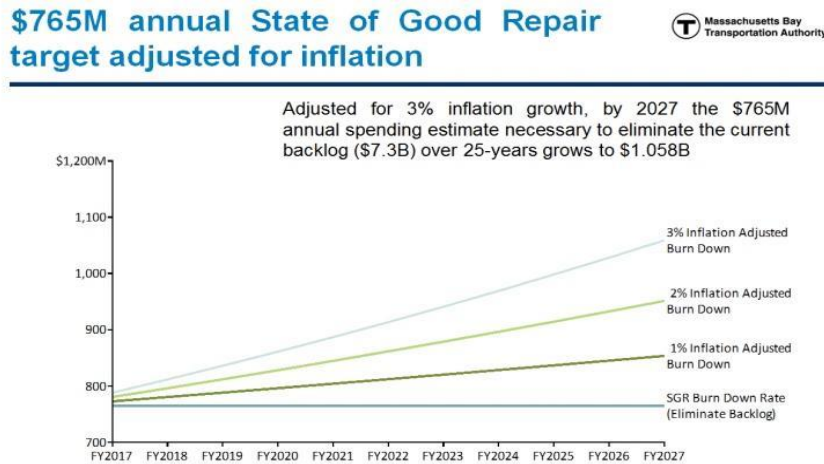
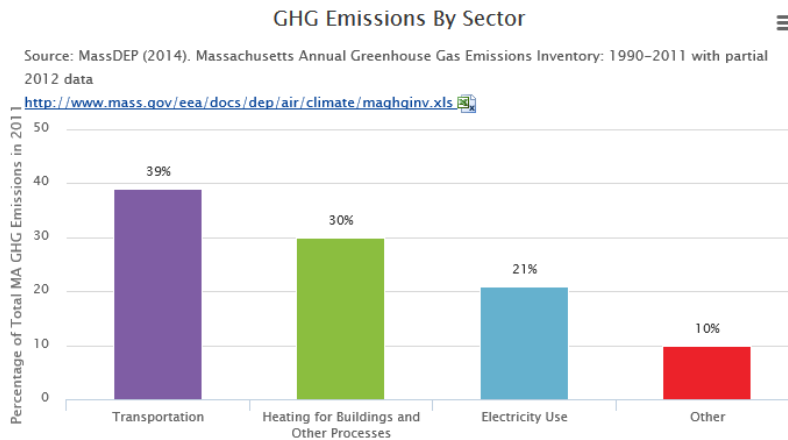


Figure 14 - Transportation is currently the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in MA, although heating and electricity are also major



Statement/Experience

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

Reliable, affordable public transit, and safe pedestrian, bike, and auto infrastructure are all important for our economy and for happy productive lives. This takes money. I supported a higher gas tax and campaigned in favor of keeping indexing, which unfortunately was not successful.

Deep cuts to DEP and DCR will have long-term negative effects on protecting our environment and making Massachusetts a wonderful place to live. Our forebears left a legacy of parks which we are not only not expanding, but not adequately caring for. We are underfunding transportation so much that it only affects our daily lives but reduces our chances for economic growth.

Related Experience, Q.H:2

Helped with creation of Assembly Square station, first new transit station in 27 years. Have worked for well over a decade to keep Green Line Extension on track, and continue to work on extension to Route 16 and the full Community Path. Support limiting fare increases to 5-every two years (as in transportation bill), or 7% every two years (in this year's budget). Have worked to limit RIDE fares, and to create and expand contracting with taxi companies to increase access and cut costs of the RIDE.

Got funding for Mystic River Master Plan and its implementation, with more parks and access. Got funding for removing water chestnuts on Mystic.

Support environmental legislation to cut use of carbon based fuels and increase supply of renewable energy – for example, my amendment to energy bill to stop the surcharge which would fund new gas pipelines.

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

Global Warming Solutions Act

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

Supported Senate energy bill and net metering cap lift.

Funding Climate Change Adaptation

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

Support.

Solar Energy

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

Support. I support raising the caps, and have voted to do so.

Carbon Fees

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

Support. cosponsor of Sen. Barrett's bill

Gas Pipelines

7. Do you support or oppose the expansion of gas pipelines in the state? Q.H:7
Oppose. The Senate adopted my amendment to prevent DPU from imposing a \$3 billion, 20-year surcharge for electric customers to support new natural gas pipelines.

MBTA Fiscal Challenges

8. Do you believe that the fiscal problems facing the MBTA can be solved by reform alone, or is new revenue require? Which reforms? Which additional revenue sources? Q.H:8
MBTA and other transportation infrastructure need significant increases in revenue. I supported higher gas taxes and indexing in the transportation bill, and campaigned against repeal of indexing. I support the Fair Share amendment.

MBTA Fare Hikes

9. Do you support or oppose capping MBTA fare hikes at 5% (or less) for every two-year period? Q.H:9
Support. Voted for 5% cap in the transportation bill, and for the 7%/2 year in this year's Senate budget and voted for override of veto.