

*Casey Pease*

**1st Franklin**

**State Representative**

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*Endorsement Questionnaire*

**Office Sought:** State Representative

**Legislative District:** 1st Franklin

**Party:** Democratic

**Website:** [caseypease.org](http://caseypease.org)

**Twitter:** [@CaseyTPease](https://twitter.com/CaseyTPease)

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**Primary:** September 4

**Election:** November 6

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# Introduction: Progressive Mass

## About

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*Progressive Massachusetts is a statewide, grassroots organization committed to working toward shared prosperity, racial and social justice, good government and strong democracy, and sustainable infrastructure and environmental protection. It was founded 5 years ago by local organizers from the Patrick and Obama campaigns in order to continue to move forward progressive values and issues in Massachusetts.*

*Advancing a progressive agenda in Massachusetts requires electing legislators who share--and will fight for--our values, and then holding them accountable.*

### Membership

One of the benefits of being a dues-paying member of Progressive Massachusetts is that you get to participate in our endorsement votes for key elections, helping to shape the future direction of progressive policymaking in the state. **Not yet a member? Join!** [ProgressiveMass.com/member](https://ProgressiveMass.com/member)

### How Endorsements Work

Progressive Massachusetts sends candidates this detailed policy questionnaire, revised periodically by the Elections & Endorsements Committee (EEC). The EEC may choose to make a recommendation in a given race, but the ultimate decision lies with you--the members. In each race, you can choose to vote for a **candidate**, vote “**no endorsement**,” or **abstain**. Candidates who receive at least 60% of all ballots submitted in their respective race will be endorsed by Progressive Massachusetts. If no candidate in a race reaches the 60% threshold, we will not endorse. Regardless of whether or not we endorse, all questionnaires will be made available on our website as a public service.

## Sources

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*Each section features a chart or graph that illustrates one facet of the issue under discussion and is not intended to be comprehensive. All images and data are from Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center ([massbudget.org](https://massbudget.org)).*

# I. About the Candidate

## Casey Pease

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

**Casey Pease:** Casey is running for office to bring a strong, bold, progressive voice to Beacon Hill. He's one of the only candidates raised in the district and understands the unique challenges of the people who live here: going without broadband internet, seeing his beloved elementary school almost close due to the state's continual underfunding of our rural and regional public schools, and the struggles of his working-class family with his parents having raised four kids. Casey's top priorities are based on creating a better future for the district. This means: addressing climate change NOW, fully funding our public schools (and fixing the broken school funding formula), and enacting Medicare for all to boost the economy and help local businesses and farmers.

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

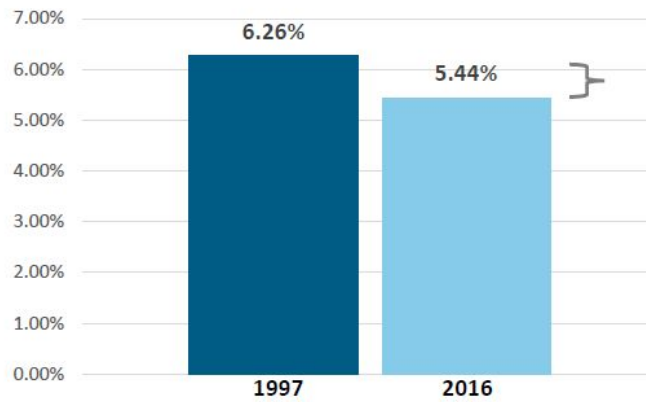
**Casey Pease:** As a lifelong resident – and the one of the only candidates who's gone through this district's public schools – Casey has a local's understanding of local issues and experience building the local and state-level relationships needed to be an effective representative. Although young, Casey has been active in politics and policy for years. Combine that with his youthful energy and progressive vision, and he's the package deal. See [caseypease.org](http://caseypease.org) and the "Why Casey?" page for detail of his experience and progressive record.

# A. REVENUE AND TAXATION

Despite the label of “Taxachusetts,” Massachusetts 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 losing over \$3 billion 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 the system. Regressive taxation strains low- and middle-income families, and reduced revenue collection curtails our ability to invest in vital infrastructure. It also restricts legislators’ ability to pass new and visionary legislation, as there is a continual shortage of funds for existing priorities.

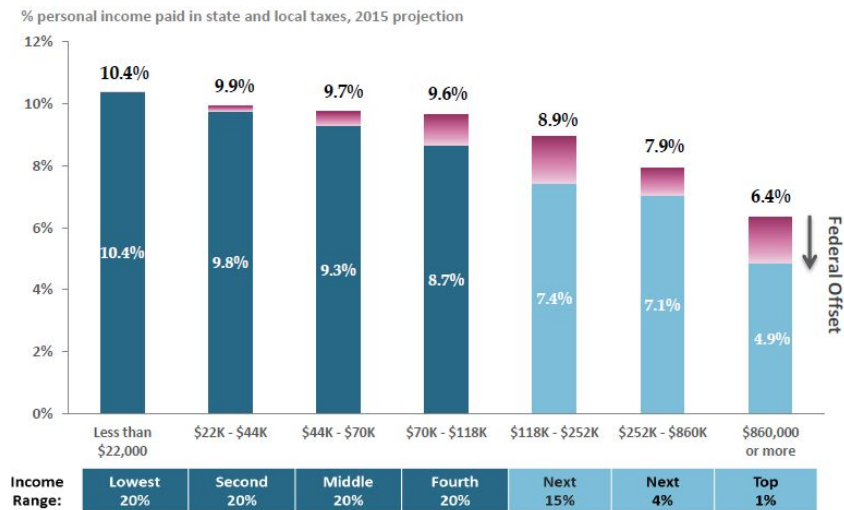
**Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.**

Massachusetts tax revenue as a share of the state economy



This 13.1% decline in tax revenue has led to deep budget cuts and ongoing budget challenges.

## Massachusetts state and local taxes are regressive.



\* Percentages shown inside bar are net effective tax levels after factoring in federal offset. Percentages above bars show tax levels before federal offset.

Source: Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy.

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?*

**Casey Pease:** The Fair Share amendment is a good first start, but we should be enacting more progressive income tax reform across the board, and it should be coming from the state legislature, not a ballot referendum. The Bay State has one of the highest rates of income inequality in our country. And it's obvious seeing the gains in Boston, while Western Mass suffers and is often forgotten. Corporations that are paying their CEOs more than 20x their average worker should be taxed at a higher rate, to incentivize spreading the wealth and raising all of their employees up, not just the ones at the top. A pay-ratio tax that raises revenues from executives paid more than a maximum wage set as a ratio of executive to entry-level employee pay should also be on the table in the State House.

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.).*
3. *Progressive Taxation. Currently, Progressive Massachusetts is working on a constitutional amendment to increase the income tax on income over \$1 million by 4% (Fair Share Amendment, sometimes referred to as the "Millionaire's Tax"), which will be on the 2018 ballot. Do you support this ballot question?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

4. *Sales Tax Holiday. 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. Would you oppose efforts to extend the sales tax holiday?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

5. *Corporate Tax Breaks & Disclosure. Do you support the state's collecting and publicly disclosing the information about the benefits actually provided by corporations receiving tax credits?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

6. *Corporate Tax Breaks & Wages. Do you support requiring any company receiving tax credits from the state to pay a living wage and provide good benefits to all its employees?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

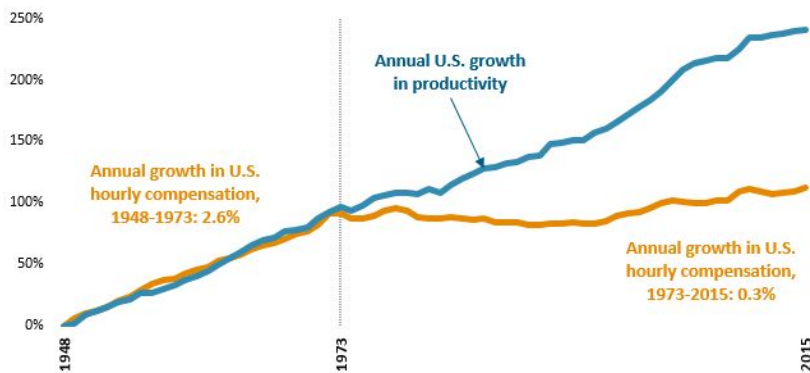
## B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

The Massachusetts economy has continued to grow and recover from the Great Recession, but the gains have not been shared equally. According to various measures of income inequality, Massachusetts now ranks as one of the top ten most [unequal states](#). We are one of the most expensive states in the country for [health care](#), [housing](#), and [child care](#), all of which strain wages. Most MA workers do not have access to paid medical leave, and only a small fraction have access to paid family leave--gaps that force people to choose between their (or their family's) health and their job.

Productivity has grown significantly since the 1970s, but it is not being reflected in higher wages.

### A Large Gap Has Opened Between Wage and Productivity Growth Since 1973

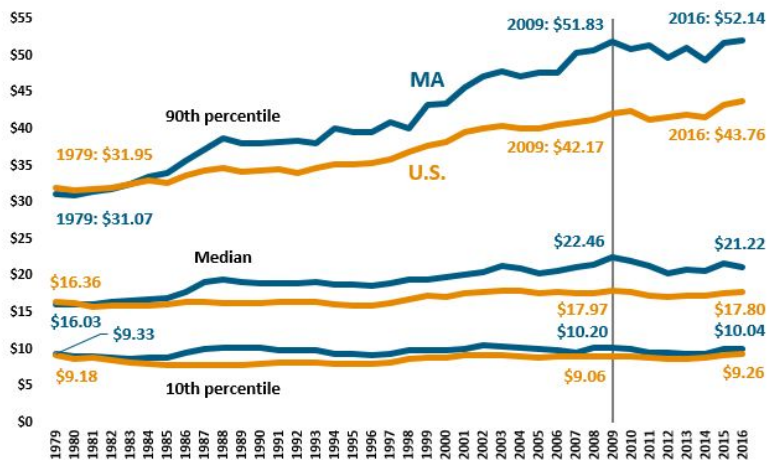
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of unpublished Total Economy Productivity data from Bureau of Labor Statistics' Labor Productivity and Costs program, wage data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Cost Trends data, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis' National Income and Product Accounts  
 Note: Wages are the inflation-adjusted average hourly compensation of private-sector production/nonsupervisory workers.

### Wages For Most MA Workers Have Stagnated Since Great Recession

Real Value of Hourly Wage for Selected Wage-Earning Groups in MA and U.S., 1979-2016 (2016\$)



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey data (deflated using CPI-U-RS).

**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?*

**Casey Pease:** We must work to close the income gap and fight to insure we are supporting our working families as well as the right to unionize in both the public and private sectors. Those at the very top of the economic ladder have the vast majority of the nation's wealth and are neither taxed properly nor fairly. We need to create a progressive tax structure that will allow for more investment and improvement and funding for public transportation – especially the FRTA and PVTA, which serves those in the 1st Franklin District. Frankly, we should also be working to connect Western Mass and Boston with high-speed rail to make more affordable housing available to people currently living in the Greater Boston area and more high-paying jobs available to people living in Western Mass. We NEED to be prioritizing investment in clean energy, which will create thousands of good paying jobs while reducing our CO2 and methane emissions. We should be supporting local farmers by incentivizing agricultural land preservation, and the purchasing of local produce. We must also allow our local farms to capitalize on the recent legalization of marijuana for both recreational and medical uses.

**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.).*

**Casey Pease:** After working on the Bernie Sanders campaign, I have continued to organize with Our Revolution, founded the UMass Progressives (which has since morphed into Our Revolution UMass Amherst) and worked with other progressive organizations advocating for a more fair economy. In an op-ed with the Daily Hampshire Gazette I discussed the importance of political organization especially for an economy that works for everyone.

**3. Increasing Wages.**

**a. Minimum wage.** *Do you support raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

**b. Tipped Minimum Wage.** *And making the tipped minimum wage equal to that of the regular minimum wage?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

**c. Indexing the Minimum Wage.** *And indexing the minimum wage to inflation?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

**d. Teen Minimum Wage.** *And reject efforts to create a subminimum wage for teen workers?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

**4. Paid Leave.** *Do you support requiring access to up to 16 weeks of paid family leave and 26 weeks of paid medical leave?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

**5. Unions -- Part I.** *If workers in Massachusetts make the decision to unionize, would you be willing to*



*publicly support a union-organizing drive and discourage management from fighting their decision?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

6. **Unions -- Part II.** *Since 2010 election, a number of states have rolled back the collective bargaining rights of public workers as part of a well-funded, nationwide assault on unions led by wealthy, conservative donors. Would you oppose any effort to roll back the collective bargaining rights of state or municipal employees?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

7. **Wage Theft.** *Do you support legislation to hold businesses responsible for the wage violations of their subcontractors when the work they do is substantially connected to the company's operations?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

8. **Mandatory Arbitration.** *Would you support legislation to prohibit the use of mandatory arbitration provisions in employment contracts, i.e., requirements that an employee forfeit the right to sue the employer for discrimination, nonpayment of wages or other illegal conduct?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

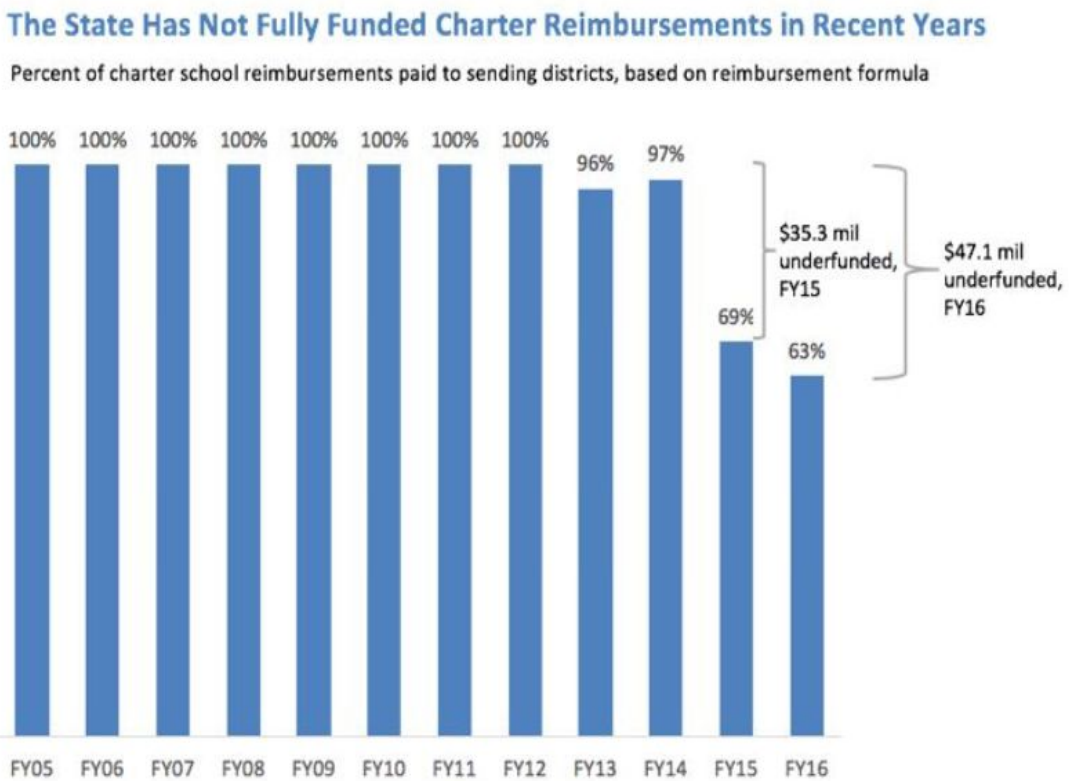
9. **Economic Democracy.** *Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

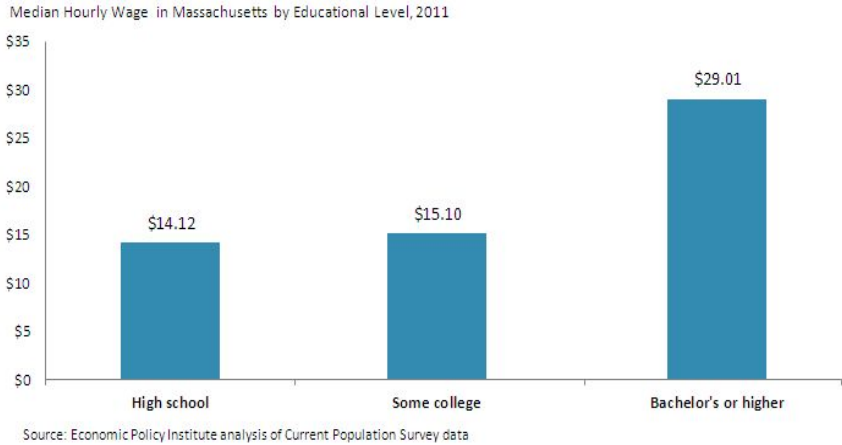
# C. EDUCATION

The promise of public education has always been as 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.

**The state hasn’t been living up to its responsibility to fully fund our public schools.**

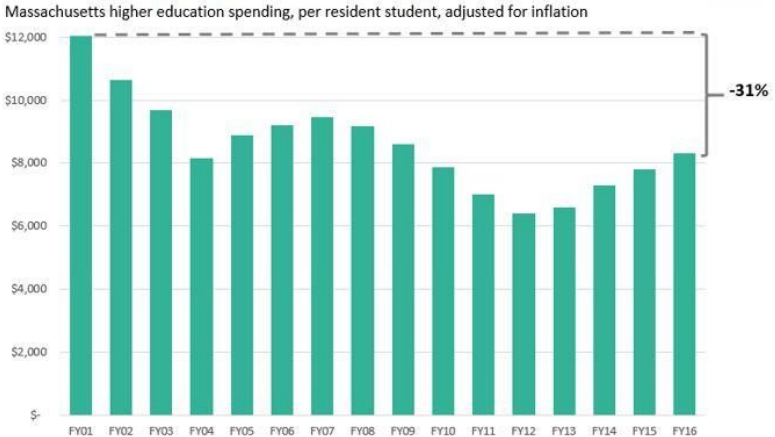


**Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.**



**Massachusetts has been disinvesting from higher education and shifting the cost burden onto students.**

**Per Student, Higher Ed. Cut by 31 Percent Since FY 2001**



1. *Please share your personal values and principles regarding public education. What value does public education have in improving our economy as well as in addressing matters of economic justice? How can we close persistent achievement gaps? What measures should the Commonwealth take on these issues?*

**Casey Pease:** I am a proud product of this district's public schools. I attended elementary school in my hometown of Worthington, middle and high school in Huntington, and have been working on a bachelor's degree at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Education is at the heart of our society, as well as improving our economy and economic justice. We need to be investing in quality public schools and fighting against the inequities we see facing our local districts. The Chapter 70 funding formula needs to be completely reformed to address the needs of rural and urban poor schools and the realities of the modern economy. This includes addressing rural scarcity aid, rural regional transportation costs, and the very negative effect of charter schools on public budgets. There should be less focus on high-stakes standardized tests, which incentivize "teaching to the test" instead of creativity and collaboration. We also must guarantee debt-free public college – an issue that I personally struggle with. It's unacceptable that entire generations of students are starting their adult lives heavily in debt, putting us at risk of being worse off than our parents.

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

**Casey Pease:** I testified before members of the Joint Committee on Education about the Chapter 70 funding formula, highlighting its flaws, its impact on our rural school districts, and my personal experience attending public schools in the district. I attended and spoke, often as a representative for my class, at Gateway Regional School Committee meetings on topics including standardized testing, investment in extracurricular activities, and in support of our teachers. I was a founding member of the Protecting the Promise of Public Education coalition that brought together students, teachers, parents, and administrators to work on ways to reform public education. In 2016, I fought alongside the Massachusetts Teachers Association, serving as an organizer with the Save Our Public Schools campaign to defeat the dark money-funded ballot initiative on charter schools. At UMass Amherst, I worked with the Center for Education Policy and Advocacy on college affordability and student debt and spoke at a rally on ending student debt. I also spent a semester teaching civics for the Southern Hilltown Adult Education Center.

3. *Universal Pre-K. Would you support creating universal, free Pre-K, accessible to any resident of Massachusetts, integrated into the public school system?*

**Casey Pease:** Yes.

4. *Standardized Testing. Do you 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?*

**Casey Pease:** Yes.

5. *Equitable Funding. Do you support changing 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?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.** And include sparsity aid for rural districts.

6. **Charter Schools.** Last November, Massachusetts voters overwhelmingly rejected a ballot initiative to lift the cap on charter schools given the millions of dollars it would have siphoned away from public schools.

a. Would you support **keeping the cap on charter schools**?

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

b. Would you support legislation to bring **greater accountability and transparency to charter schools**, such as by requiring them to adhere to the same disclosure and disciplinary standards as public school districts?

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

7. **Sex Education.** Do you support requiring public schools that teach sexual health education to provide age-appropriate, medically accurate information that is inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities that hat includes the effective use of contraception?

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

8. **Higher Education Access.** Would you support legislation to grant in-state tuition and financial aid to undocumented students?

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

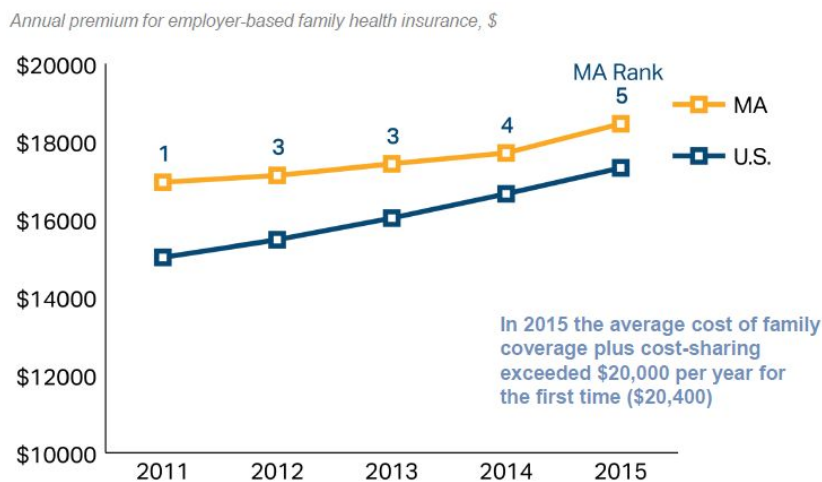
9. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?

**Casey Pease: Yes.** We must go further and forgive the millions of dollars in student debt burdening families and individuals in our commonwealth.

## D. HEALTH CARE

Massachusetts has led the way in providing near universal health insurance coverage, with 97% of the state having health insurance. We provided the blueprint for the national Affordable Care Act, with an insurance-based reform passed by the Democratic Legislature and signed by Republican Governor Romney. While the reforms of President Obama's Affordable Care Act are under assault by Republicans (who control the Executive and both legislative chambers), Massachusetts could lead in more progressive health care reforms. Even without the Republican dismantling of national reforms, there is still work to do right here in Massachusetts. MA's Democratic Legislature passed, and the Republican governor signed, the ACCESS bill in 2017--protecting the right to no-fee contraception, which is (federally) under threat: Where our federal advances are being rolled back, Massachusetts could--and should--push progressively forward. 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.

**MA has among the highest health insurance premiums in the country.**



Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, Insurance Component

1. *Please share your personal values and principles regarding health care insurance, delivery, and outcomes.*

**Casey Pease:** The reality for families, our towns, and small business across this country is that healthcare is too expensive. We must continue to work for universal coverage and single payer healthcare which will decrease the overall healthcare costs on both the people and businesses. In Western Massachusetts – especially in the 1st Franklin District – rural healthcare access and availability is worse than the rest of the state. We have to continue to support our community health centers as well as make the needed transportation investments, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to utilize them. We also must stand up for nurses and patients by demanding safe staffing levels and fight the hospital

executives, with large salaries and bonuses, that are denying our communities quality care. In regards to the opioid crisis, we must expand and integrate drug treatment while prioritizing prevention, recovery over incarceration, and criminal justice reform and invest in more beds for those seeking treatment.

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

**Casey Pease:** My mother is a union rep at Berkshire Medical Center, and I have spent years organizing with the Massachusetts Nurses Association, which helped in supporting my family's economic security growing up. With the MNA as a co-sponsor, I organized a rally in support of the Affordable Care Act as it fell under attack from the Trump administration and in support of Medicare for All. I have walked the picket line at Baystate - Franklin medical center and Berkshire Medical Center as nurses went on strike for safe staffing. Serving as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical responder in the district for the past five years, not only have I personally been working to ensure emergency care, I have advocated for smart policy -- such as ambulance staffing legislation that would allow for one EMT and a first responder to drive an ambulance, which is needed in small town departments that are mostly or entirely volunteer.

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

**Casey Pease:** Yes.

4. **Reproductive Rights.** *Would you support legislation to guarantee women access to abortion care without dangerous delay, isolation, and obstruction?*

**Casey Pease:** Yes.

5. **Dental Care.** *Do you support the authorization of dental therapists in Massachusetts, similar to a nurse practitioner or physician assistant, in order to expand access to dental care?*

**Casey Pease:** Yes.

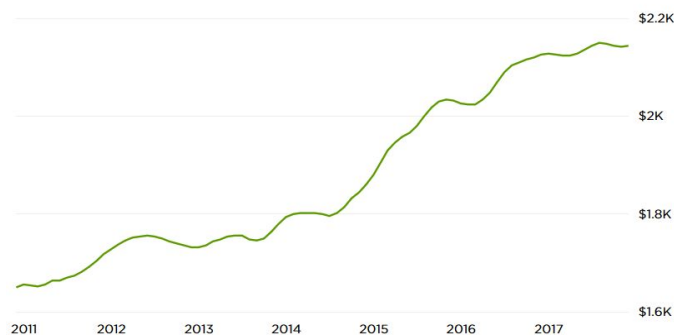
6. **Prescription Drug Pricing.** *Would you support a drug transparency law, like the one recently passed in California, that requires pharmaceutical companies to publicly justify steep price increases?*

**Casey Pease:** Yes.

## E. HOUSING

Massachusetts has a lot to offer, but that does little if people can't afford to live here. Although Massachusetts ranked #1 last year in the [US News & World Report's state ranking](#), we were #45 in cost of living and #44 in housing affordability. A worker earning minimum wage in Massachusetts would have to work [80 hours a week](#) to afford a modest one bedroom rental home at market rate (and almost 100 hours a week in Metro Boston). 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. The Commonwealth is at risk of losing [14,231 subsidized units](#) by December 31, 2019, as subsidies expire and owners convert properties into market-rate condominiums. 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. There is a waiting list of up to ten years for a rental voucher. 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.

### Median rents have gone up by more than 30% since 2011.



(source: [zillow.com](#))

#### 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?*

**Casey Pease:** In a state as well off as ours, everyone should have access to affordable housing. There's no excuse for anything but. Massachusetts must meet the demands of those in need of affordable housing and increase the options that are available. We should be incentivizing or requiring developers to include affordable housing projects, as well as offering incentives for green buildings that are healthier and more energy efficient. Rising housing costs have caused many to leave their communities or places where they grew up. We must be making larger investments in public transportation as well as highlighting its importance for working families' ability to get to work. We must ensure those who are living without permanent housing, and are transitioning from shelters, are continued to be supported by programs such as Rental Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT), the Mass Rental Voucher Program, and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. We should also be looking at what other state and local governments around the country are doing – perhaps even taking Utah's "radical" step of giving the homeless homes.

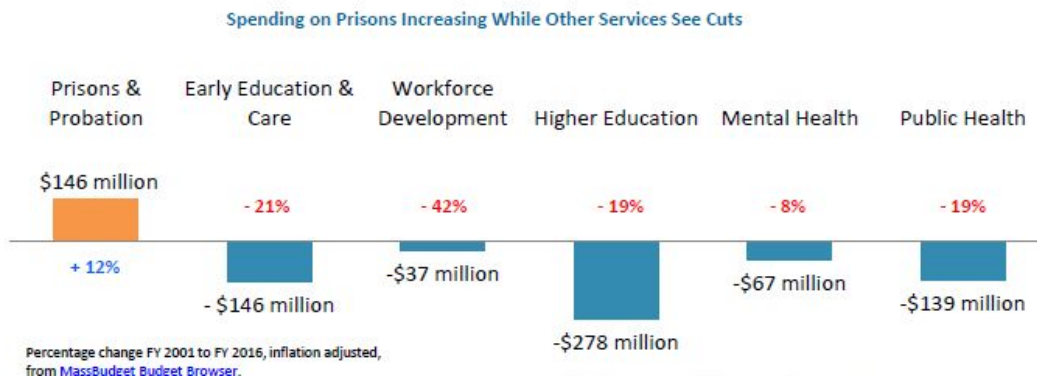


2. **Optional/As Applicable:** Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on housing (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).
3. **Funding.** Do you support increasing funding for
- a. The creation of new units of affordable housing, especially low-income units?  
**Casey Pease: Yes.**
  - b. The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?  
**Casey Pease: Yes.**
  - c. Matching funds for the Community Preservation Act (via fees from the Registry of Deeds)?  
**Casey Pease: Yes.**
4. **Housing Preservation.** Currently, certain property owners who guarantee affordable rents have been incentivized by subsidized mortgages via the 13A program. However, many of the contracts under 13A are set to expire in 2019. Do you support giving cities and towns the authority to require such apartments to remain affordable?  
**Casey Pease: Yes.**
5. **Foreclosure Prevention.** Do you support a requirement that banks mediate in good faith with homeowners to seek alternatives before beginning foreclosure proceedings?  
**Casey Pease: Yes.**
6. **Tenant Protections.** Would you support legislation, such as the Jim Brooks Stabilization Act, that requires landlords to provide a reason when seeking to evict a tenant, like failure to pay rent, damaging property, or breaking a lease; informs tenants of their rights under state law; and increases data collection on eviction?  
**Casey Pease: Yes.**
7. **Zoning Reform.** Would you support legislation to upgrade Massachusetts's zoning laws to encourage more affordable housing and transit-oriented, walkable development and to promote inclusionary zoning practices?  
**Casey Pease: Yes.** As long as the affordable housing is mixed use, we shouldn't be segregating based on income.
8. **Combating Speculation.** Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to impose a graduated tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?  
**Casey Pease: Yes.**

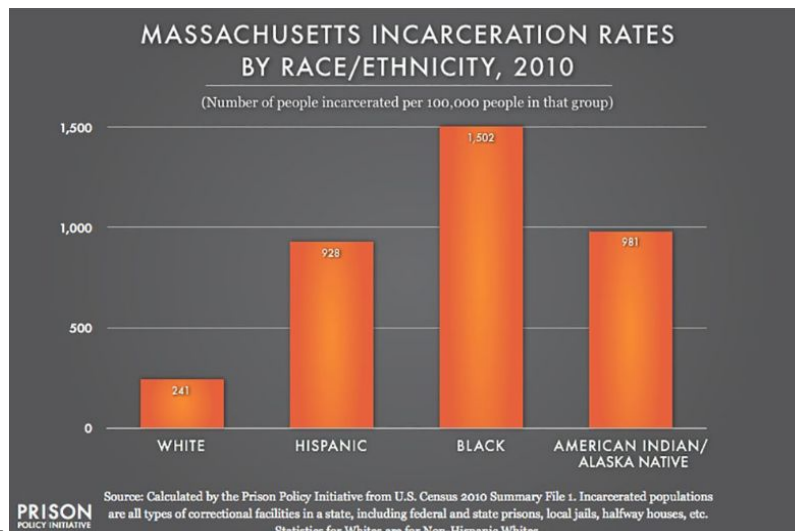
# F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

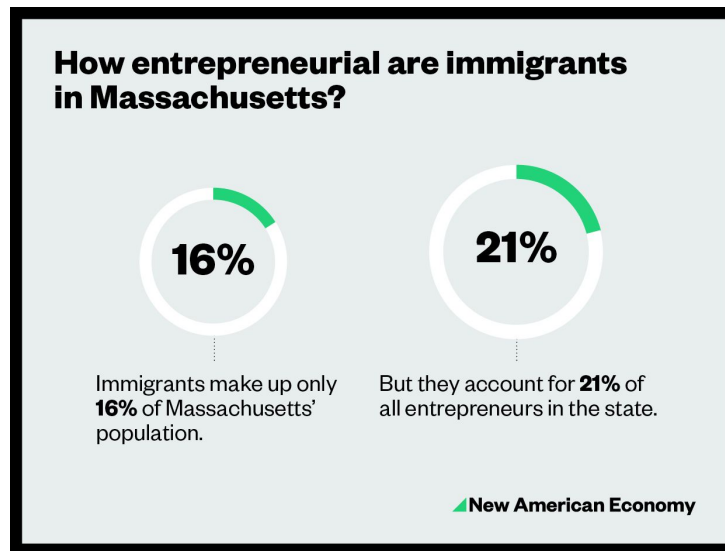
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all” 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.

## Spending on prisons has increased while other services have been cut.



## Significant racial disparities exist in incarceration in Massachusetts





1. *Please share your personal values and principles regarding Racial and Social Justice.*

**Casey Pease:** I have always been an advocate for promoting equality, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts should continue to lead in the fights for equality and equity for all people regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, genetics, familial/parental status or pregnancy, age, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religion, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. It is incredibly important to acknowledge my privilege as a white man and how white privilege gives us an upper hand politically, legally, economically and environmentally and so also a responsibility to work to end institutional racism. We must continue to fight for criminal justice reform, an end to for-profit prisons, breaking the school to prison pipeline, and reducing the sentencing of non-violent drug offenders (including eliminating mandatory minimums and reforming bail), which disproportionately affects communities of color. We also need to be advocating for inclusive policies for marginalized individuals across the board. As a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical responder, it's unacceptable that undocumented immigrants in our community don't feel safe to seek medical attention out of fear of deportation. We must pass the Safe Communities Act.

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

**Casey Pease:** I founded the Gateway Student Advocacy, Volunteer Efforts, and Service (Gateway SAVES) club while a student at Gateway Regional High School. It worked to embrace and advocate around the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights as well as promote equality among women, people of color, and LGBTQIA+ individuals.

3. *Trans Accommodations. In 2016, Massachusetts passed legislation to prevent discrimination against transgender individuals in public accommodations. Conservatives are seeking to repeal the bill on the 2018 ballot. Will you advocate for the protection of this legislation?*

**Casey Pease:** Yes.

4. *LGBTQ Youth. Our neighboring states of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Vermont ban the use of*

*harmful conversion therapy practices for minors. Do you support banning the use of conversion therapy in Massachusetts?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

5. **Mandatory Minimums.** *The landmark criminal justice reform bill passed earlier this year eliminated or reduced a number of mandatory minimums for drug-related offenses; however, it left in place, or expanded, those related to opioids. The opioid crisis in Massachusetts is severe, but it will not be solved by doubling down on criminalization. Do you support eliminating mandatory minimums for opioid drug offenses?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

6. **Juvenile Justice -- Part I.** *Ample research shows that teenage offenders served by a juvenile system are much less likely to re-offend and more likely to successfully transition to adulthood. Teenagers in a juvenile system have access to greater educational and counseling services, and they're much less likely to face sexual assault than at an adult facility. Do you support raising the age of criminal majority from 18 to 21?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

7. **Juvenile Justice -- Part II.** *Under Massachusetts law, if a high school senior and a high school sophomore have sex – with mutual consent – the senior could be punished by incarceration and then forced to register as a sex offender. In recent years, states have been passing so-called "Romeo and Juliet" laws out of a recognition that such cases only get prosecuted when a parent disapproves of their child's relationship. Do you support the elimination of the charge of statutory rape for consensual sex between youths who are close in age (See H.3065 for reference)?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

8. **Solitary Confinement.** *Do you support limiting the use of solitary confinement to no more than 15 consecutive days, and eliminating the use of solitary confinement for at-risk populations, including pregnant women, LGBTQ people, those with mental illness, and those under age 21 or over age 65?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

9. **Police Accountability.** *Do you support the establishment of an independent review board for police shootings in the Commonwealth?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

10. **Militarization of Police.** Under the federal 1033 program, the US Department of Defense can transfer excess military equipment to local police departments. Such equipment makes police forces look like occupying armies and exacerbates the impact of overpolicing in communities of color. Meanwhile, communities are often left in the dark about the equipment that local police departments are acquiring. Would you support, at minimum, a requirement that local elected officials vote on any such transfer before it can take place?

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

11. **Safe Communities Act.** Do you support the Safe Communities Act, which prohibits the use of state resources for mass deportations or deportation raids, limits local and state police collaboration with federal immigration agents, and prohibits state support for a Muslim registry?

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

12. **Safe Driving Act.** Would you support the Safe Driving Act, which would remove immigration status as a barrier to applying for a license or learner's permit?

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

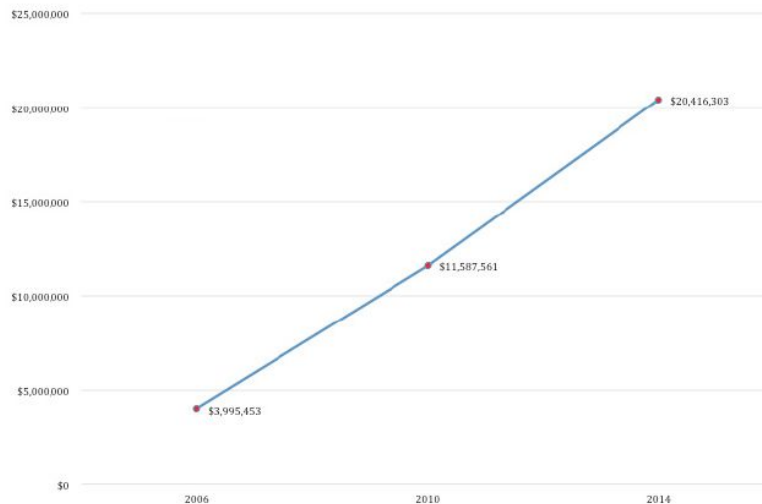
# G. GOOD GOVERNMENT/ STRONG DEMOCRACY

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*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. A strong democracy requires an engaged electorate, but voter turnout in midterm elections, and especially local elections, remains low. Myths about voter fraud are peddled in order to justify voter suppression. 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.*

**Independent expenditures in MA elections have risen rapidly.** (Source: [Common Cause](#))

**Figure 1: MA Independent Expenditure Totals**



1. *Please share your personal values and principles regarding Good Government and Strong Democracy.*

**Casey Pease:** At the root of many of the issues close to our heart, money in politics is the reason why the Commonwealth and the federal government have been dragging their feet to enact the change we need. Politicians are lobbied hard by special interests and rely on campaign contributions to get re-elected. Over 90% of the time, the candidate that raises the most money gets elected. This keeps the playing field favoring the rich and connected who either give to elected officials that accept what the Supreme Court ought to recognize as bribes or fund primary and general election challengers who will. This is not what our Founders intended. We need a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United. We need publicly funded elections. We need an independent redistricting committee. We need ranked-choice voting and same-day voter registration. We need strong public records laws that finally cover our ENTIRE state government. By enacting these reforms, we will see a resurgence of public trust

in government and civic participation.

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

**Casey Pease:** I successfully organized and put forth a resolution endorsing a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United ruling, end corporate personhood, and affirm that money is not free speech, at the Worthington Town Meeting in 2015, in collaboration with the Move to Amend organization. In 2016, I spoke to Greenfield Community College students on the rewards of political engagement and the importance of fighting to get money out of politics, discussing what I've seen and learned firsthand with my experience working on political campaigns.

3. ***Power and the Legislature.*** *If elected, would you support 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?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

4. ***Transparency.*** *Massachusetts is one of only two states where the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the Judiciary claim full exemption from the public records laws. Do you support ending that exemption?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

5. ***Public campaign financing.*** *Would you support legislation to create a robust public financing system for state elections?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

6. ***Candidate Diversity.*** *The cost of child care can prove prohibitive to working mothers or fathers seeking to run for office. Would you support legislation to explicitly allow working parents running for office to use campaign funds to pay for childcare while the candidate is "performing work or attending events directly related to the candidate's campaign"?*

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

7. ***Voting.*** *Which of the following policies to increase voter participation do you support?*

- a. *Election day voter registration* **Casey Pease: Yes.**
- b. *Automatic voter registration* **Casey Pease: Yes.**
- c. *Expansion of early voting to "off-year" elections* **Casey Pease: Yes.**
- d. *No-fault absentee voting* **Casey Pease: Yes.**

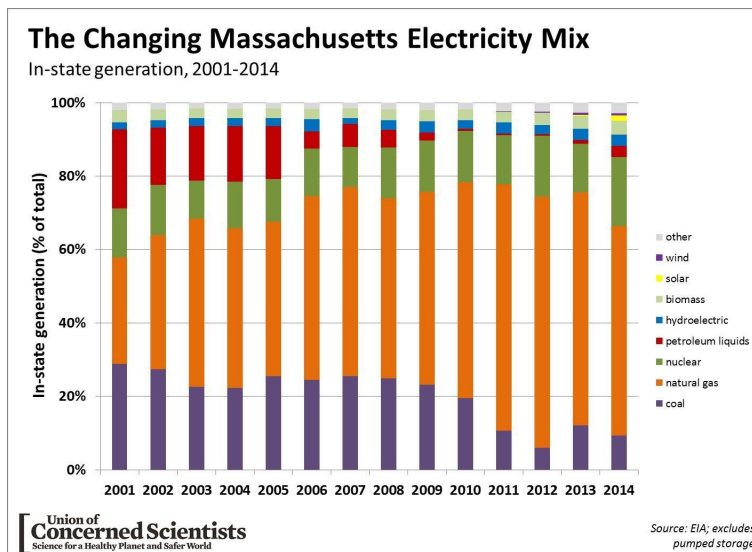
# H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*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. In 2016, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the state has failed to meet its legal obligation to set and enforce annual limits on greenhouse gas emissions as outlined in the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act. Setting and reaching these goals 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.*

*Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and environment for the most vulnerable residents. However, this nominal commitment to “Environmental Justice” has been more rhetorical than real.*

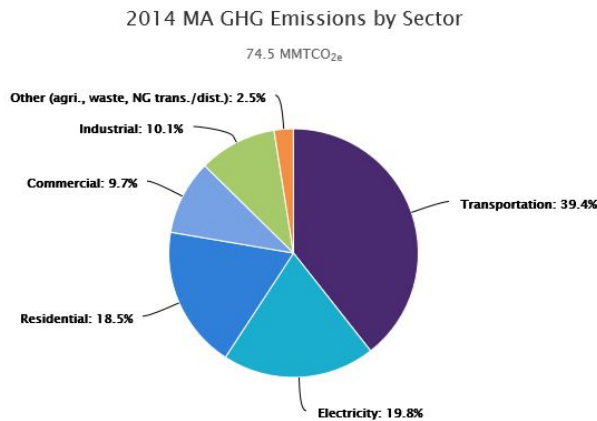
*Public transit must play a role in decarbonizing our transportation system, as well as advancing complementary goals of equity and inclusion. However, Massachusetts politicians have lost their understanding of public transit as a public good that benefits all residents and businesses in Massachusetts,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

**Despite recent progress, Massachusetts is still overwhelmingly dependent on fossil fuels.**





**Transportation is currently the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in MA.**



(Source: <http://www.mass.gov>)

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

**Casey Pease:** We need to act quickly to reduce our carbon footprint and the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> and methane we release into our atmosphere. We need to not just to protect our region’s natural beauty or mitigate the worst and wider effects of climate change, but to seize what is also a very real opportunity to create thousands of good-paying jobs, boost economic growth, and save consumers and businesses billions of dollars. This issue is linked to so many others – from improving transportation and sustainable public transit, to enhancing public health and getting dark money out of our politics – and we can address much of this with energy that’s clean, reliable, cost-effective, and local. We must create a system of carbon pricing that incentivizes using renewables in place of fossil fuels and work harder to meet the requirements of moving to 50% renewable energy by 2050 and go even further by requiring a move to 100% renewables. To achieve that we need more than Gov. Baker’s imports of Canadian hydropower on transmission lines that haven’t even been built yet. We need to fight the monopolistic power of the utilities and sometimes the DPU itself, and we need to raise the Renewable Portfolio Standard by a MINIMUM of 3% per year.

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

**Casey Pease:** I chaired the Massachusetts College Democrats Environmental Caucus working to engage young people on combating climate change, protecting our environment, and encouraging college campuses across the Commonwealth to invest in more energy efficient and low carbon public transportation. I rallied with fellow students at UMass Amherst in opposition to cuts to the PVTa and demanded the Baker administration be more proactive in advocating, rather than cutting, public transportation services.

3. *Waste Reduction. Would you support a statewide ban on single-use shopping bags and a requirement that alternatives be more sustainable?*

**Casey Pease:** Yes.

4. *Solar energy. Do you support increasing equitable access to solar power by removing caps on solar*

generation and restoring compensation for low-income and community solar?

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

5. **Renewable Energy.** Do you support a target of at least 50% clean energy by 2030 for Massachusetts, as adopted in California and New York? (Hawaii is committed to 100% renewables by 2045). To accomplish this, would you support an increase in the Renewable Energy Production Standard (the green energy mandate on utilities) by at least 3% each year?

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

6. **Environmental Justice.** Successive and bipartisan gubernatorial administrations have made verbal commitments to environmental justice (EJ) and Governor Deval Patrick issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice in 2014 which has not been implemented.

- a. Would you support implementation of the 2014 EO?

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

- b. and support efforts to codify environmental justice into law?

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

7. **Gas pipelines.** Do you oppose the expansion of gas pipelines in the state?

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

8. **Carbon pricing.**

- a. Do you support putting a fee on carbon emissions?

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

- b. Do you support using some of the revenue from such a fee to invest in **green infrastructure**?

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

9. **Public Utilities.** Would you support legislation to allow municipalities to purchase their electric distribution utility (the poles and wires that transmit power) and operate a municipal or cooperative electric utility?

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

10. **Public Transit.** Do you support finding progressive revenue sources to fund the maintenance, expansion, and improvement of the MBTA and the RTAs?

**Casey Pease: Yes.**

11. **Regional Transportation Funding.** Would you support legislation to allow municipalities to place a

*question on the ballot to raise revenue for local and regional transportation projects?*

**Casey Pease:** Yes.

# III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

**Limit answer to 150 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.*

**Casey Pease:** Casey would like to work on legislation creating a paid internship program for the Massachusetts state legislature, perhaps similar to the now gutted LBJ congressional internship program, which would ensure better representation among interns.

· Casey will work to continue to foster public participation in our democracy, from advancing civics education and community service to ensuring accessible constituent services.

· We must support farmers and environmentally and financially sustainable farms. For one thing, there's diverting manure and food waste to anaerobic digestion (composting organic materials without air), which can provide farmers with a steady new source of income by producing fertilizer and generating energy that offsets natural gas demand while reducing methane emissions and reliance on landfills. We should be incentivizing and subsidizing this!

· The future relies on finding creative solutions. We must continue to fund research in both the public and private sectors to ensure we have the tools to solve any problems that come our way.