

Chris Tribou

22nd Middlesex

State Representative

Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: State Representative

Legislative District: 22nd Middlesex

Party: Democratic

Website: www.christribou.com

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/chrisforbillerica>

Instagram: christribou2018



Election: November 6

Contents

Election: November 6	0
Introduction: Progressive Mass	2
About	2
Membership	2
How Endorsements Work	2
Sources	2
I. About the Candidate	3
Chris Tribou	3
II. THE ISSUES	4
A. REVENUE AND TAXATION	4
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY	6
C. EDUCATION	9
D. HEALTH CARE	13
E. HOUSING	15
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE	17
G. GOOD GOVERNMENT/ STRONG DEMOCRACY	21
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	24
III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	27

Introduction: Progressive Mass

About

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

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

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).

I. About the Candidate

Chris Tribou

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

Chris Tribou: I am running for State Representative because I want to bring progressive values to the State House and create better communication between the state and local governments. My top three priorities are (1) fostering transparency in government, (2) solving the opioid syndemic, and (3) bringing Billerica's working class values to Beacon Hill by fighting for a number of issues from a worker's constitutional right to unionize to pursuing a single-payer healthcare system to building affordable housing in town, to name just a few issues.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

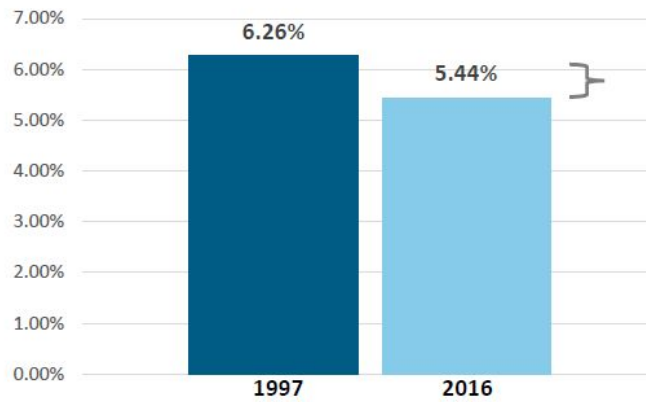
Chris Tribou: I have experience in local government from representing my precinct in Town Meeting and serving as an elected member of the town Planning Board. I have worked with various people with different political backgrounds and affiliations. I am also proud to say that I am an Eagle Scout and have completed and helped on numerous community projects. Working with people to help build a better Billerica has been something I have been doing for most of my adult life, and I feel that I am prepared to take that to the State House.

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.

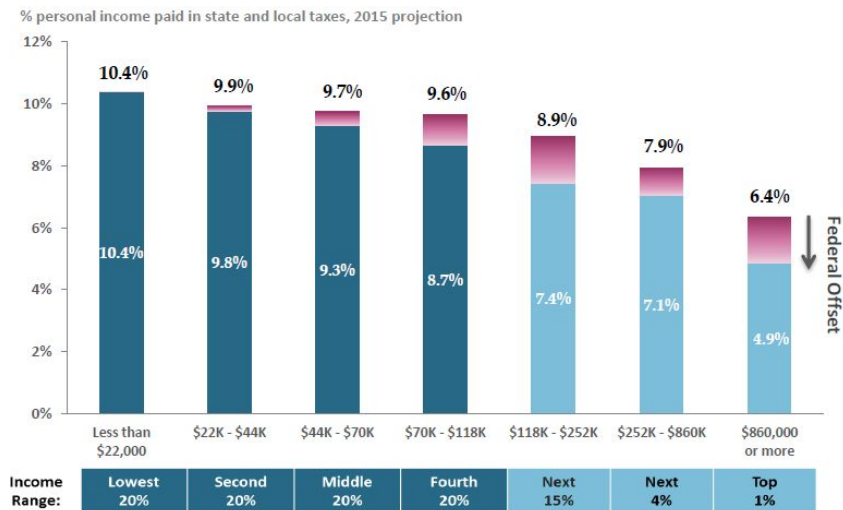
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.

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?*

Chris Tribou: I believe we should amend the state constitution to allow us to create a an additional progressive income tax of 4% for incomes over \$1M along with a 3% at \$500K, and a 2% income tax at \$250K.

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.).*

Chris Tribou: I have voted on Town Meeting to raise the funding for our school budget and for the town budget. I also voted on the CPA or Community Preservation Act to be implemented in Billerica.

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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. See above.

4. *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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. I believe large corporations should not get tax breaks. However- if they get them, disclosing them so the public understands is a good step.

5. *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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. All companies that get tax credits should absolutely pay their employees living wages and provide good benefits.

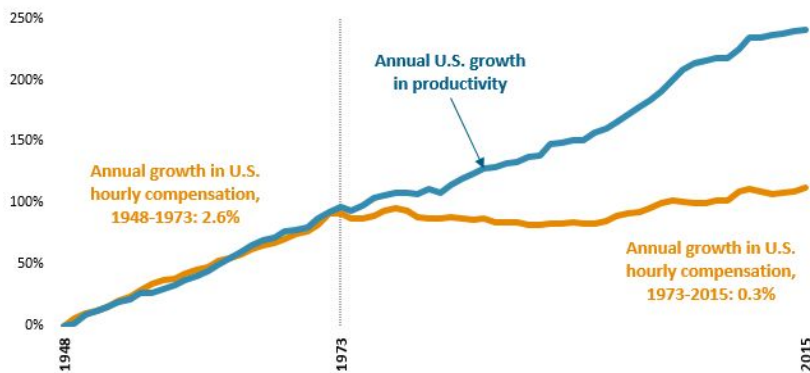
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

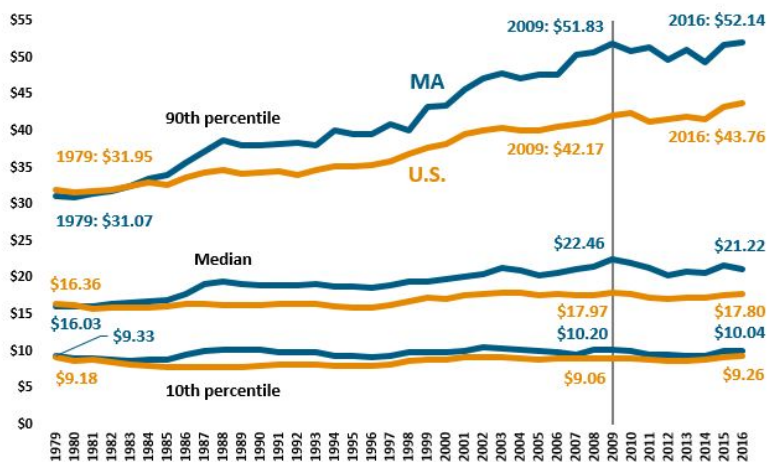
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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?

Chris Tribou: I believe we should create a living wage marked to inflation. We should also focus on improving our transportation (such as adding modernized rail lines) to connect workers to their jobs and consumers to other businesses, improving commerce in the Commonwealth. One of the worst results of the income inequality gap is the effect it has on people's health. We need to create a single-payer or multi-payer healthcare system so that workers can be taken care of right away. This is an issue more Democrats need to emphasize.

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.).*

Chris Tribou: I collected signatures for the Yes on 1 campaign for the Nurse's Association.

3. *Fair Wages. Do you support eliminating the subminimum wage for tipped workers in support of one fair wage?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. I believe we should have a system similar to what they have in Europe and Australia: one living wage for all workers, including tipped workers.

4. *Paid Vacation Time. The US is the only advanced economy that does not guarantee workers paid vacation time. Would you support legislation to require that employers provide at least 10 days of paid vacation time per year?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. I do not believe that 10 days is enough. 30 would be a good minimum.

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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. Forming a union is a fundamental right of workers and I would show no hesitation in supporting a union-organizing drive.

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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. I know that in 2011 a lot of Democrats in the State House and State Senate voted to take away collective bargaining rights. However, I would have voted against that plan as state workers healthcare shouldn't be on the bargaining table in the first place.

7. **Unions -- Part III.** *In the 2018 Janus ruling, the US Supreme Court banned unions from collecting "fair share fees," i.e., fees that workers whose workplaces are they choose not to join the union. Would you support legislation authorizing unions to charge non-members for the specific costs incurred for representing a non-member in a grievance or arbitration case?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. I do not support free riding as other people put their money into the union. Union fees keep the union strong.

8. **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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. Many companies, one local example being Callahan construction, has been exploiting workers by using subcontractors to shift the blame when the subcontractors undermine ethical law-abiding businesses and the employees that work for them.

9. **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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. Wells Fargo has demonstrated that these mandatory arbitration provisions are ways for companies to violate laws, making it impossible for employees to seek justice as workers.

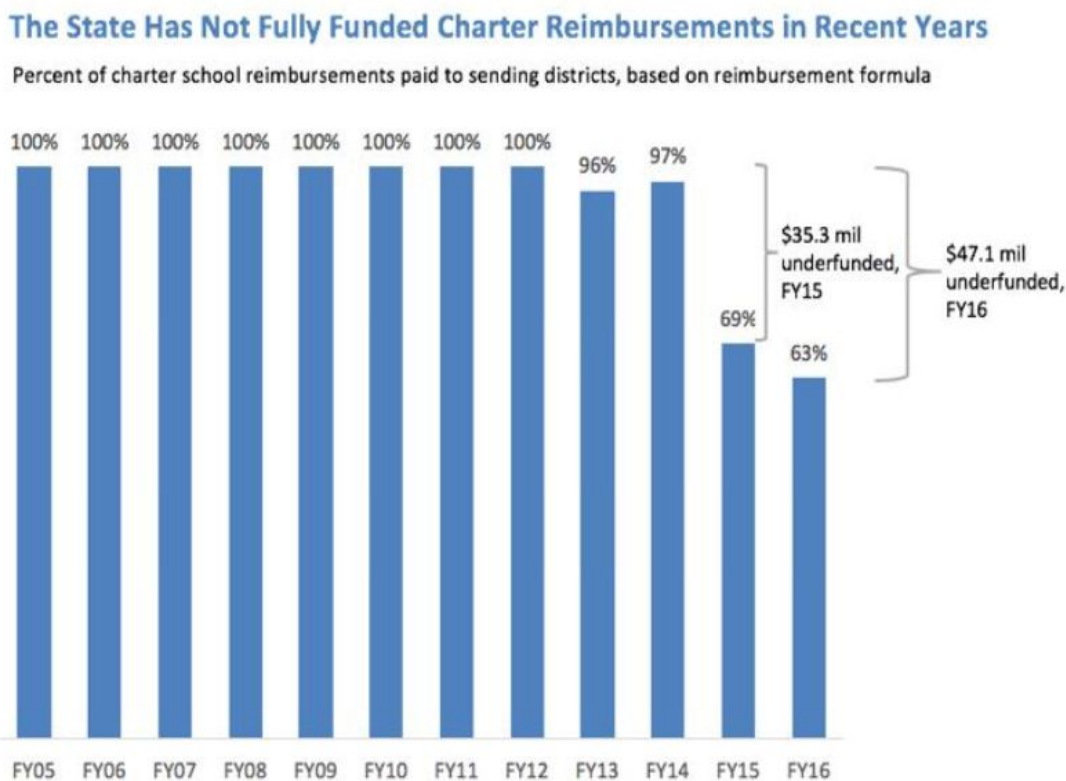
10. **Economic Democracy.** *Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. I would support legislation to make it easier to foster and develop cooperatives and benefit corporations. It's time we moved more toward an economic democracy model for our Commonwealth.

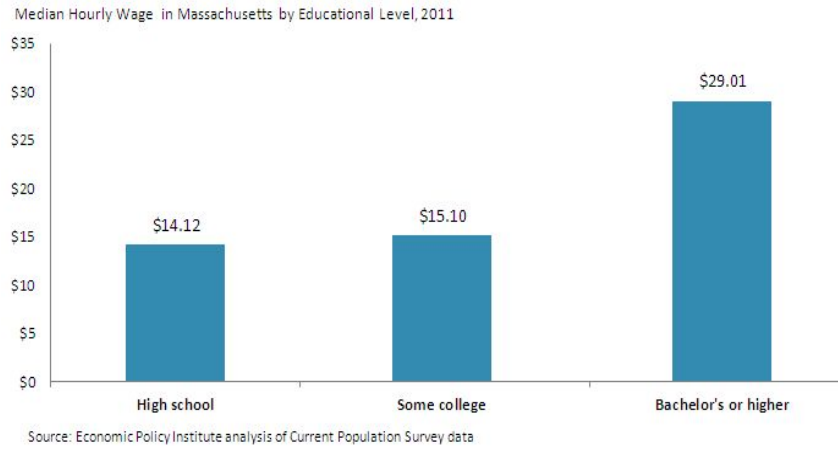
C. EDUCATION

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.

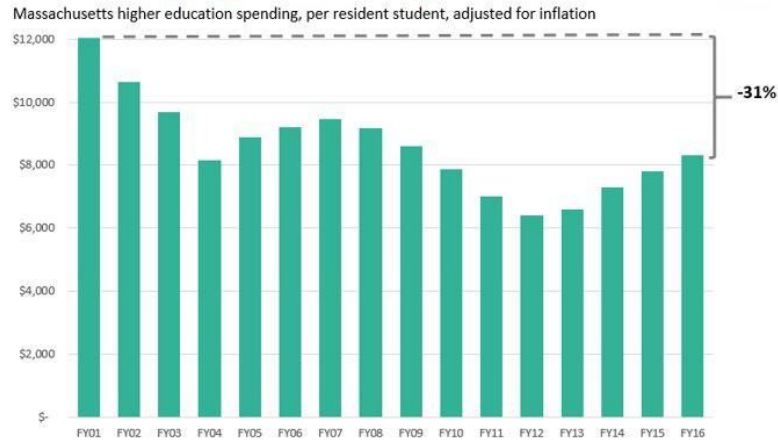


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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



Note: FY 2007 total is adjusted downwards to account for the fact that significant funding during this year was for capital investments that supported activity during other fiscal years.

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?*

Chris Tribou: We need public education to not only receive more funding but we also need to focus our funding on trades and STEM fields. We will need to update the state's infrastructure to be more advanced and we will need a workforce with these skills to maintain an advanced economy in the state. We should include a focus on civics in order to make our democracy more effective and easier to involve oneself in. An educated populace is necessary for a democracy to succeed. If the politicians we elect are ill informed and uneducated then we will not make progress as a society. We also need to focus on increasing emotional intelligence in order to have more effective leaders and people with good morale. We need to also focus on reducing the debt burden in our education system as it puts our young people in financial holes that are increasingly difficult to get out of.

2. *Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on public education?*
3. *Universal Pre-K. Would you support creating universal, free Pre-K, accessible to any resident of Massachusetts, integrated into the public school system?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. I support Universal Pre-K because many parents struggle to afford childcare and oftentimes have to take multiple jobs just to get by. Childcare is extremely expensive and families are instead just having one parent stay at home because it is cheaper than going to work and trying to pay for it.

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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. I do because a lot of the success of students is dependent on their parents economic class or status or the wealth of their town. Since property taxes are used to fund schools, a school budget is really dependent on how rich the town's populous is. Some towns are using iPads while others are using rundown books that are 25-30 years old.

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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. This is the primary reason we need the Millionaire's Tax in Massachusetts. Our schools need these resources to succeed and to continue to evolve with students. It's important that our Chapter 70 Funding gets directly into the hands of our educators and their students.

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?

Chris Tribou: Yes. I would support the cap on charter schools.

- 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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes, since they are using taxpayer money just like our public schools. We have to make sure that they are not discriminating against special needs students or minority students. Public schools lose their money to charter schools. Some charter schools are also more strict with minority or special needs students and can kick them out. This means they go to a public school that doesn't have a lot of money and will not receive the services they need. We need to make sure that if a community has a charter school that it is welcoming to all students, not just the privileged.

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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. Sexual health education is important to reduce unintended pregnancies and STDs. Kids with a better understanding of sex will help them make the right choices as they grow older. I would support working with Planned Parenthood to bring their education program to the Billerica Public Schools.

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

Chris Tribou: Yes. If they live in the state for ten or more years, then they should be eligible for in-state tuition and state scholarships so long as they have attended a high-school in the United States.

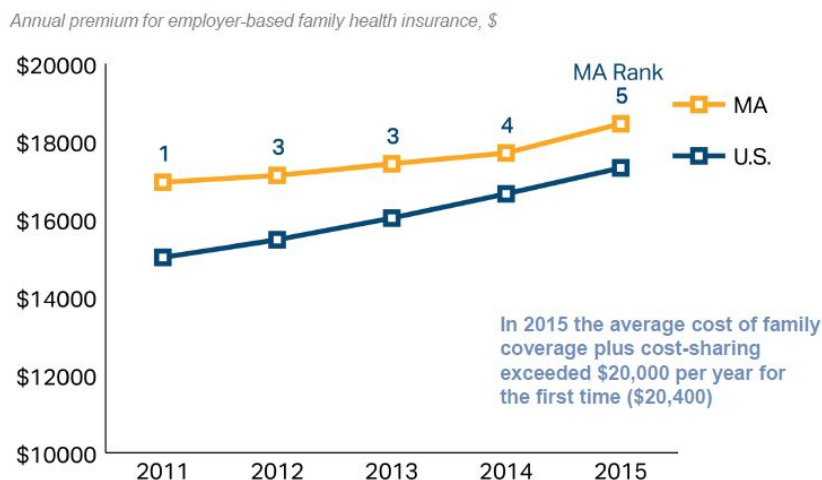
9. ***Tuition-Free Higher Education.** Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. In the long run, student debt will backfire on the economy and cause a recession in the future. For young Americans, and we are already seeing these results now, buying houses and starting families will be delayed until a later point in life. The effects of student debt root far deeper than we can see. College should be tuition free and debt free.

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.*

Chris Tribou: I would first like to create price control legislation that would lower the cost of healthcare. I would then work with the House and Senate on creating either single payer or a strong public option. People have the constitutional right to live their lives with dignity and to pursue happiness, and all Americans deserve healthcare.

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

health care (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).

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

Chris Tribou: Yes. I agree that health insurance is a right, not a privilege.

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

Chris Tribou: Yes. I believe in a woman's right to choose and would oppose any legislation looking to rid the state of or to rollback women's healthcare.

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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. I would as dental care is healthcare and affects health, employment, and mental health.

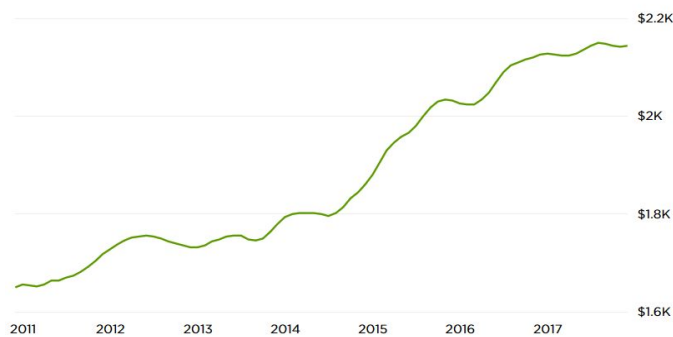
6. **Prescription Drug Pricing.** *Would you support a drug transparency law, like the one recently passed in California, that requires pharmaceutical companies to publicly justify steep price increases?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. People are sometimes in life or death situations and they need their prescribed medicine to survive. Price gouging hits low-income families the hardest, and we should strive to make sure that drug prices are affordable to the consumer patient.

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?

Chris Tribou: As a millennial growing up in Billerica and trying to move out on my own, I know first-hand the effects that housing costs have had. Billerica residents are being sold out of town, and it's time for us to create affordable housing that builds people up, not kicks people out. Building affordable housing near transit sites, such as the MBTA station in North Billerica, is imperative in solving this crisis. To tackle homelessness, I believe we need to empower local housing authorities to take unoccupied residencies and, on a reasonable basis, consider them abandoned and take them by eminent domain. We can rent them at affordable rates for people at $\frac{1}{3}$ of their income, and connect them with the local labor department offices to find them work.

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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes.

b. *The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?*

Chris Tribou: Yes.

c. *Matching funds for the Community Preservation Act (via fees from the Registry of Deeds)?*

Chris Tribou: 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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes.

5. **Foreclosure Prevention.** *Do you support a requirement that banks mediate in good faith with homeowners to seek alternatives before beginning foreclosure proceedings?*

Chris Tribou: 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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. Yes, I would support any legislation similar to the Jim Brooks Stabilization Act. Data collection on eviction could be really helpful in addressing our housing affordability crisis.

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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes.

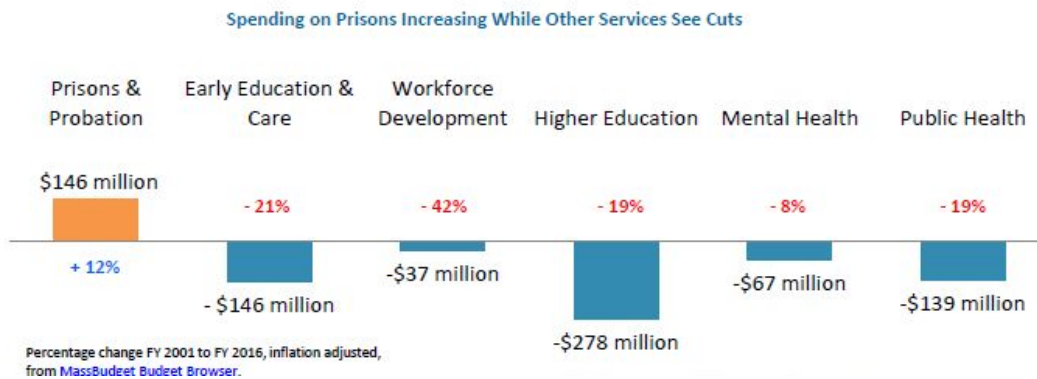
8. **Combating Speculation.** *Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to impose a graduated tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?*

Chris Tribou: Yes.

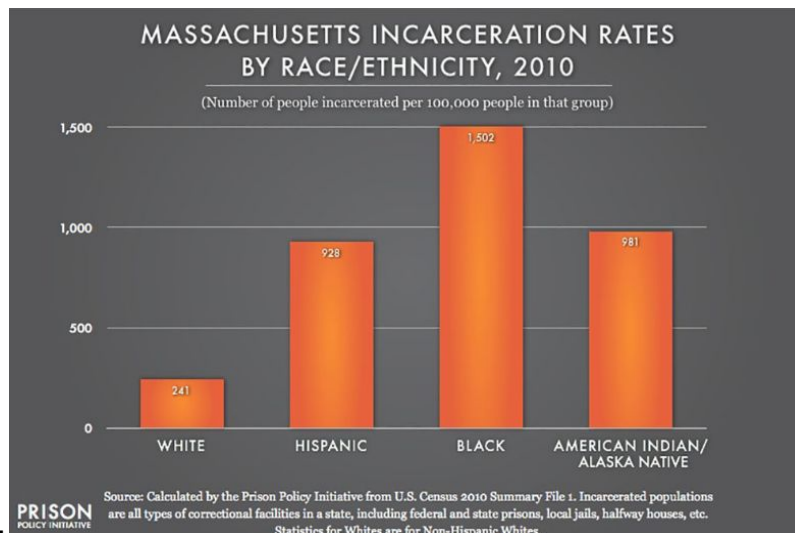
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

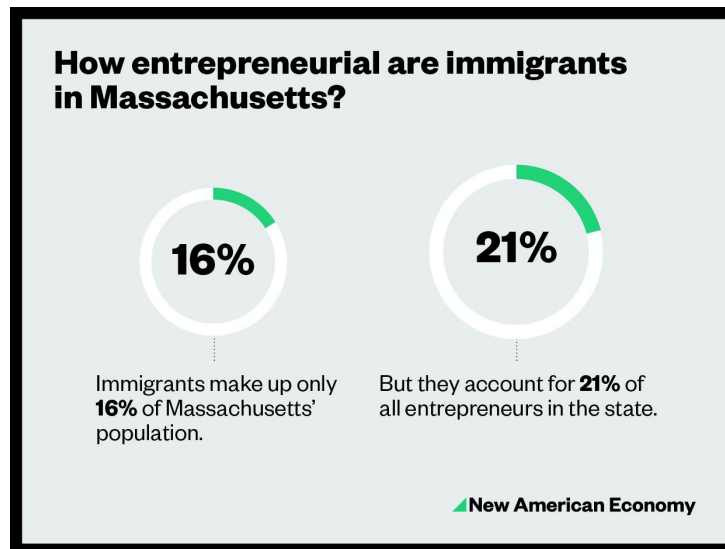
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

Chris Tribou: In order for our country to move forward economically, in education, and culturally, we must understand our history and the pain it has caused minority groups and the LGBTQ+ community. We must continue to create laws that protect the disenfranchised and a mentality that focuses on compassion and love instead of indifference and hate. Intersectionality!

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

Chris Tribou: My Eagle Scout project was to build an Accessible tree nursery to help people enjoy nature in town. I was also the public relations officer for the Black Student Union at UMass Lowell and advocated for racial justice on campus and around Lowell. I also attended and participated in the Women's March on Boston. I volunteered for the U.N. gift box and anti-human trafficking campaign.

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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. I am a strong and open advocate for Yes-On-3, as transgender rights are human rights. Any repeal of these protections could endanger the trans community and their mental health. We are seeing the current state rep. in Billerica advocate for hateful legislation and I will not stand for it.

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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. YES! (for those in the back)

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?

Chris Tribou: Yes. They don't work.

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?*

Chris Tribou: 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)?*

Chris Tribou: 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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. I support the elimination of solitary confinement.

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

Chris Tribou: Yes. I support an independent review board. State employees must be held just as accountable as private citizens for their actions.

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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes. Yes, as the equipment can change the character of the police force as they started to feel like soldiers instead of problem-solving members of the community. We must build a bridge of trust between our law enforcement and our civilians.

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?

Chris Tribou: Yes. The current administration is not giving legal immigrants with temporary status an extension and is not allowing them to apply for citizenship. This leaves them until september of 2019 to either leave or become undocumented. This will place many mixed status families in limbo.

Massachusetts must take a stand for these residents and protect them from an unjust deportation.

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?*

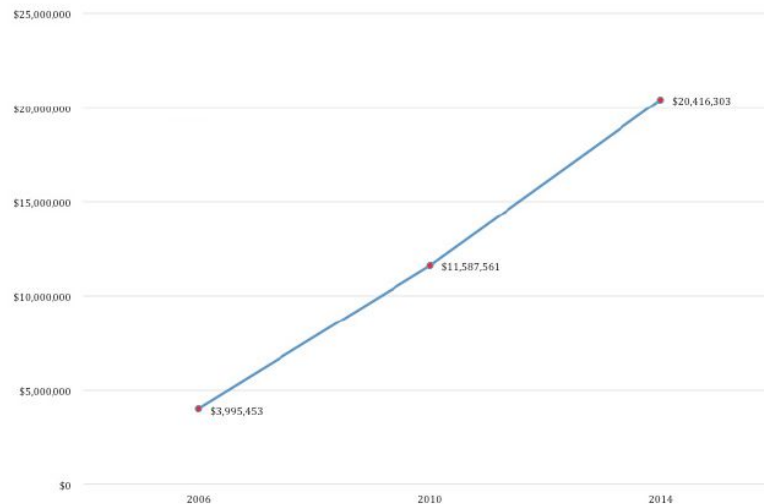
Chris Tribou: Yes. Yes, as long as it is a standard state license.

G. GOOD GOVERNMENT/ STRONG DEMOCRACY

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.*

Chris Tribou: I believe good government promotes involvement within itself, and engages people of all political affiliations and backgrounds in order to enrich its flow of ideas. That is what a democracy is all about. A good government maintains contact with constituents so that accurate representation is being carried out each day, and it maintains transparent in terms of its legislation, and in terms of local elections.

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

Chris Tribou: I set up a voter registration drive with my team at Market Basket in Billerica, and we are

going door-to-door with voter registration forms asking 17 -22 year olds who will be eligible to vote this fall to register.

3. **Power and the Legislature.** Concentration of power in Leadership remains a problem in the MA Legislature and has been a persistent obstacle to progress, and that power is maintained by “process” rules on how decisions are made and which legislation moves forward. Would you support the following rules changes to dilute the amount of power held by leadership in your respective branch of government...?

a. Allowing committees to appoint their own chair, instead of Leadership?

Chris Tribou: Yes.

b. Allowing bills to be discharged from a committee if they have majority support in a given chamber?

Chris Tribou: Yes.

c. Limiting extension orders to one per bill per committee for a maximum of 1 week in order to prevent needless delay?

Chris Tribou: Yes.

4. **Transparency.** Too often, decisions that affect millions across the Commonwealth are made behind closed doors with little public input. Indeed, 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. Would you support the following efforts to increase transparency and public accountability...?

a. Allowing committees to appoint their own chair, instead of Leadership?

Chris Tribou: Yes.

b. Allowing bills to be discharged from a committee if they have majority support in a given chamber?

Chris Tribou: Yes.

c. Limiting extension orders to one per bill per committee for a maximum of 1 week in order to prevent needless delay?

Chris Tribou: Yes.

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

Chris Tribou: 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"?

Chris Tribou: Yes.

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

a. *Election day voter registration*

Chris Tribou: Yes.

b. *Expansion of early voting to "off-year" elections*

Chris Tribou: Yes.

c. *No-fault absentee voting*

Chris Tribou: Yes.

d. *Universal voting-by-mail*

Chris Tribou: Yes.

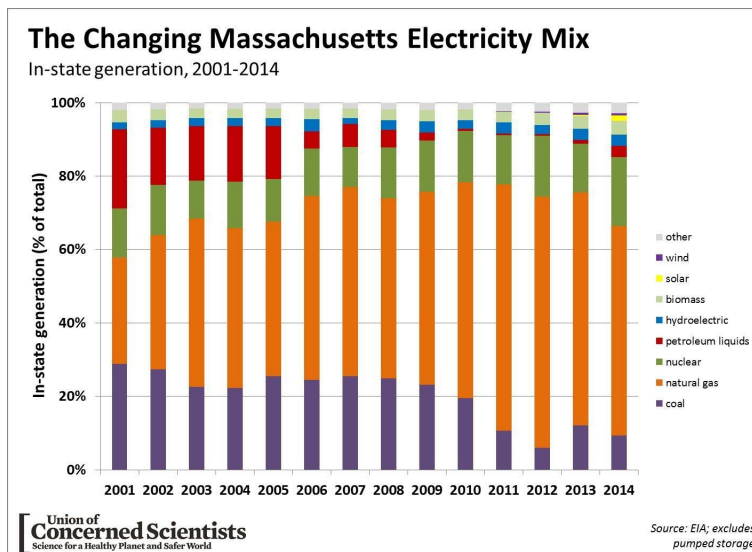
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

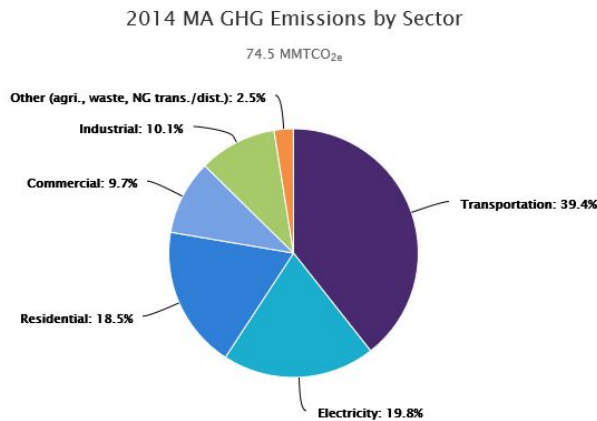
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and 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.*

Chris Tribou: I believe that we should focus creating a strong public transportation system in order to reduce carbon emissions. I also believe in creating denser cities in order to reduce suburban sprawl and protect the environment of western Massachusetts for animal habitats, recreational use, and open space.

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

Chris Tribou: I built an Accessible tree nursery for my Eagle Scout project.

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

Chris Tribou: 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?*

Chris Tribou: 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?*

Chris Tribou: 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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes.

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

Chris Tribou: Yes.

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

Chris Tribou: Yes.

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

Chris Tribou: Yes.

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

Chris Tribou: 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?*

Chris Tribou: Yes.

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

Chris Tribou: 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?*

Chris Tribou: 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.

Chris Tribou: In sum, what Massachusetts needs to do is lead the country on progressive legislation that builds a more inclusive, compassionate, and kind community. All of the above-asked questions and answers relate to this cause, and it is one that we must pursue for our children and our grandchildren. If Massachusetts can do this, and I know we can, the rest of the country will follow.