

Darryn Remillard

30th Middlesex

State Representative

Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: State Representative

Legislative District: 30th Middlesex

Party: Democratic

Website: <https://www.darrynremillard.org/>

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Primary: September 4

Election: November 6

Contents

Primary: September 4	0
Election: November 6	0
Introduction: Progressive Mass	2
About	2
Membership	2
How Endorsements Work	2
Sources	2
I. About the Candidate	3
Darryn Remillard	3
II. THE ISSUES	4
A. REVENUE AND TAXATION	4
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY	6
C. EDUCATION	10
D. HEALTH CARE	14
E. HOUSING	16
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE	19
G. GOOD GOVERNMENT/ STRONG DEMOCRACY	23
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	25
III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	28

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

Darryn Remillard

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

Darryn Remillard: I'm running for State Representative because I believe that we need bold and fearless leadership that is ready to fight for a better democracy, thriving communities and healthy families. My top three priorities if elected will be: 1) Fighting for a fair tax system (making the case for a graduated, progressive income tax and paving the way for a state constitutional amendment that allows for this), 2) Passing a state-level student loan debt relief program similar to newer programs being unveiled in Maryland and Minnesota and 3) Filing a SAFE Act (Securing All Firearms Enforcement) Act that impose strict penalties for firearms owners who do not properly secure their firearms and the result of this is the loss/theft of these firearms.

I have other legislative priorities: fighting for the enactment of universal, single-payer healthcare; creating a publicly-subsidized childcare/universal preK model where private and public providers participate in a network/umbrella system that falls under the control/purview of local school districts; filing a bill to create a state-level Municipal Broadband and Smartgrid Development Fund; filing a bill to create a military veterans online job portal for public, union and non-profit employment.

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

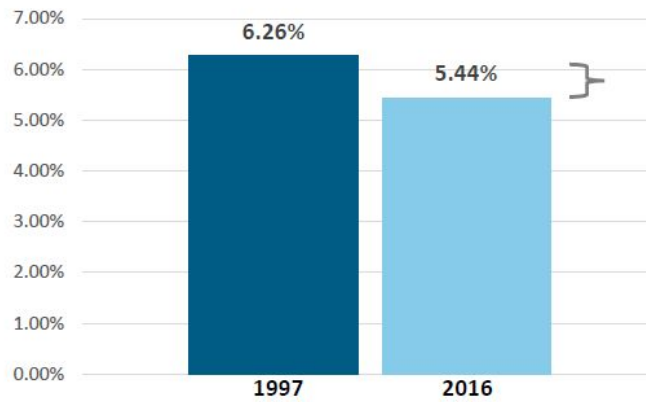
Darryn Remillard: This is my first time running for any public office. My 8 years of military service prepared me for the selflessness dynamic of this job. As a veterinarian my job is fundamentally about listening and discerning subtleties: I listen to listen to both pet owners, but more importantly I advocate for my patients (pets- who cannot speak for themselves). There are times when I have to give good people really bad news, and this requires a significant degree of emotional intelligence and non-verbal (as well a verbal) communication. Lastly: besides holding a bachelor's degree in business management and a DVM veterinary medical degree I also earned a M.S. in Biology (in Laboratory Animal Medicine). My experience as a scientist shapes my thinking with respect to complex problem solving and executive thinking: I have a strong preference for evidence-based thinking and analysis. I'm proud that I've been endorsed by 314 Action, a science-based political advocacy group.

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.

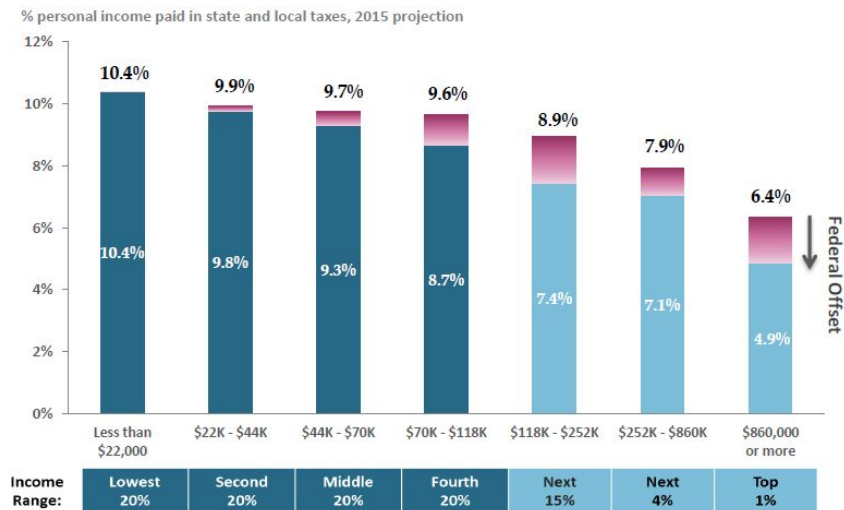
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.

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?*

Darryn Remillard: We do not have a fair tax system, and we must fix this. I support a graduated, progressive income tax and I support the Fair Share Amendment as a first-step towards a 4%/5%/6%/7%/8%/9% graduated, progressive income tax system (anyone earning \$35k-\$50k would only pay 4% income tax; \$50k-250k would pay 5% income tax; \$250k-\$500k would pay 6% income tax; \$500k-\$750k would pay 7% income tax; \$750k-\$1mil would pay 8% income tax; and over \$1mil would pay 9% income tax [aka, the Fair Share Amendment]).

Getting a graduated, progressive income tax enacted will require a state constitutional amendment and likely a ballot petition (a process that could take 5 years). In the meantime: I support increasing capital gains taxes, a revenue positive carbon tax AND creating an all-road tolling system where all interstate and high-volume state highways have public, electronic tolling in place.

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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes. I support the Fair Share amendment.

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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes. I emphatically oppose the existence of the sales tax holiday- it results in \$30 million of lost tax revenue. I oppose any extension of the sales tax holiday as well as a permanent reduction in the state sales tax.

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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes. Lack

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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes. I also support prorated clawbacks for companies that promise to create a certain number of jobs that fail to substantially deliver on this promise.

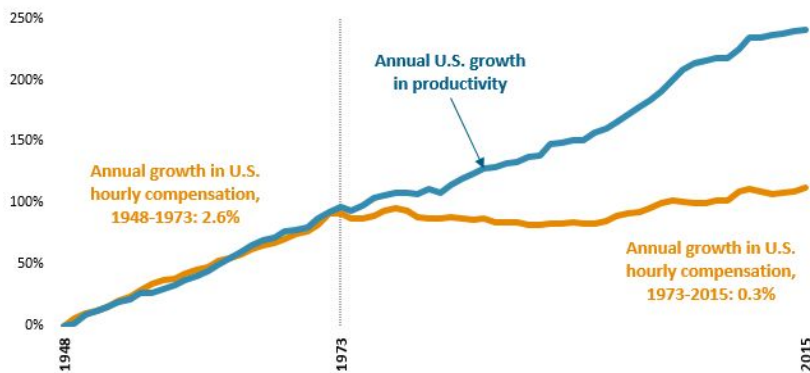
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

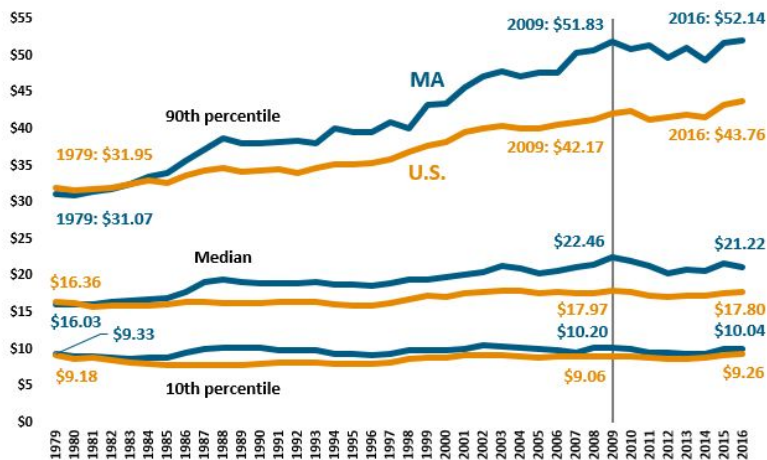
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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?

Darryn Remillard: There's a lot to unpack with this question, and please forgive me for going a little bit over on my word limit! I think that you can learn a lot about someone through the books that they read. One of my guiding books on the topic of economic fairness and how do we build a just and equitable politics/society is Viking Economics by George Lakey. We are living through a second Gilded Age and we place a distorted premium on winner-take-all economics rather than solidarity economics, and we're paying a dear price for this. One of the foundational principles of Viking Economics is that inequality is not inevitable, and we can build a better society through activism and smart policy. My own politics and economic principles are rooted in the social democratic tradition.

I spend many of my weekends as a contractor veterinarian working at low-cost vaccine clinics (I do think because my weekend job pays me 2x what my regular veterinary job pays me (in Wellesley), and this helps my wife and I to not far too far behind on the interest balance on our \$600k of student loan debt from medical and veterinary school, respectively), and I work with people who exist on the margins of our society who are paid minimum wage and work 50+ hrs per week and cannot afford basic necessities. In one of the wealthiest states in the wealthiest country in the history of the world I routinely meet and listen to the stories of people who are ambitious and optimistic, but trapped by economic injustice.

The conventional wisdom is that science and research are our strong economic areas, and here in Woburn and Reading there are 25+ science/biotech/tech focused companies and likely more in the future. But we have other vibrant sectors as well: finance, entertainment, education, social work, child care, other service work. I would like to see us focus on de-privatization of services that were once public and municipally owned and operated: municipal broadband internet, trash and recycling services, etc. We have several financially successful models for municipal broadband (Concord, MA in particular) and municipal waste & recycling (Wellesley, MA) and I would support state-level development funds to expand these models to other municipalities throughout our commonwealth.

Broadly speaking: I support a higher minimum wage and expansion of social safety net programs (nutrition, housing, healthcare, education, child/family/eldercare and unemployment assistance), and I'm honest and upfront about the need for increased taxation to support this.

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.).*

3. Increasing Wages.

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

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

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

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

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

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

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

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

I emphatically oppose any effort to create a two-tiered minimum wage. I will not support a wage system that values some human being more than others.

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

Darryn Remillard: Yes. If elected I will work to increase the length of maternity and paternity leave, and I will also advocate for the inclusion of elder care into Paid Family and Medical Leave.

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?

Darryn Remillard: Yes. I'm proud of my veterinary technician (veterinary nurses) colleagues on the west coast who recently unionized. I believe that we need to strengthen our state laws such that employers who interfere with unionization efforts and collective bargaining efforts face severe financial penalties.

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?

Darryn Remillard: Yes. I will oppose any efforts to weaken collective bargaining rights for public workers.

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?

Darryn Remillard: 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?

Darryn Remillard: Yes. Especially in light of the recent *Epic Systems Corp. v Lewis* Supreme Court ruling that upheld the practice of mandatory workplace arbitration. I would also support empowering (and providing additional funding) for our state Attorney General's office to create a hotline and taskforce that would allow employees to anonymously report discrimination, wage theft, illegal conduct. The AG's office would be able to use this information for enforcement or legal action against these employers.

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

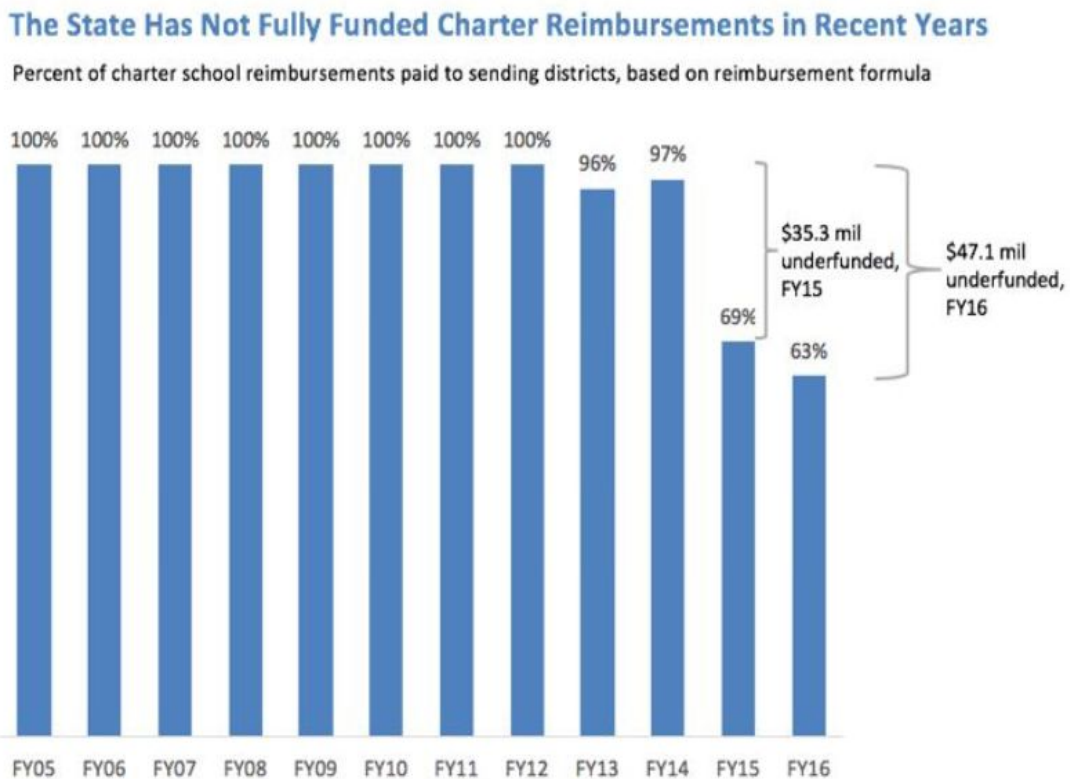
corporations?

Darryn Remillard: Yes. One of the core lessons from *Viking Economics* is that workplace democratization results in far more resilient economies and happier societies. A big question then is *how do we put this into practice, policy-wise?* Future state economic development programs must target family-owned, employee-owned, B corp and cooperatively owned business. We have models for cooperatively-owned electricity companies in Greenfield, MA: let's expand upon this and create a state-level development fund that incentivizes this type of entrepreneurship. Lastly: as a military veteran I would also like to see incentives put into place that encourage more small, veteran-owned businesses in our commonwealth.

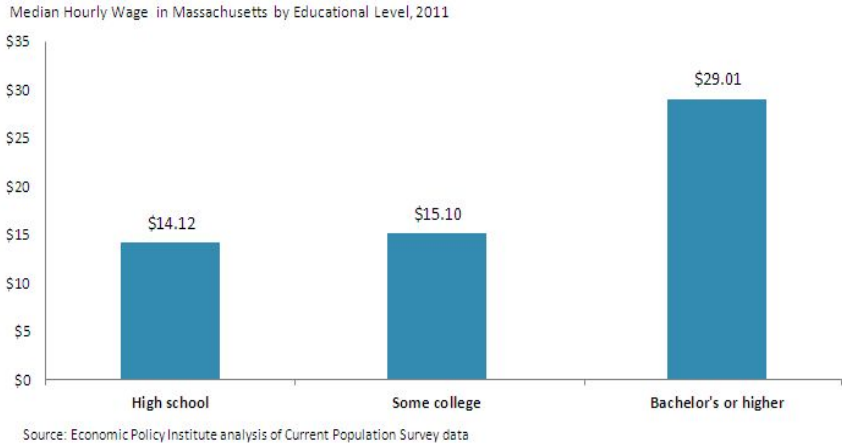
C. EDUCATION

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.

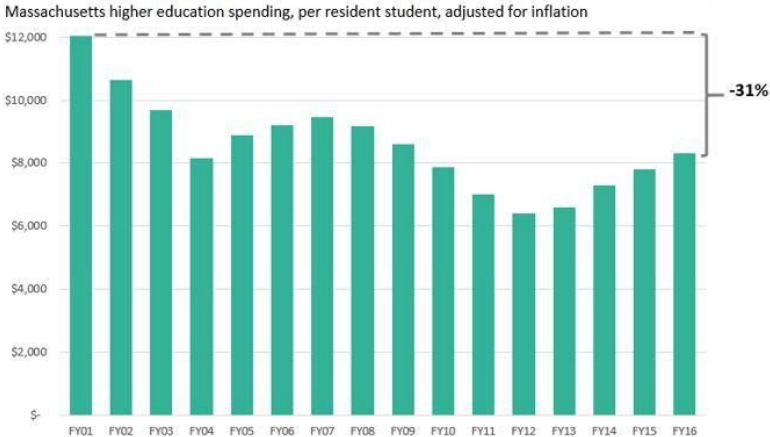


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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



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?*

Darryn Remillard: Education is a right and public good that belongs in the “public commons”. To me this means that we all deserve lifelong educational opportunities. A well-funded, well-supported public education system is best able to achieve this. Our public education system is a core pillar in our democracy and I am naturally suspicious of any attempt to undermine our public education system through overt or subtle, incremental privatization schemes.

The role of our education system (especially public education) is to prepare us for the life-long work of being citizens in our democracy. Ensuring that every person in our society receives a high-quality, public education is simply the right thing to do regardless of what type of work they end up doing at some point later in life. With this said, however, the evidence is strong that better educated states (and societies) are more creative, productive and economically thriving.

We must update our Chapter 70 funding formula as recommended by the Foundation Budget Review Commission and ensure that every child receives the same high level, per-pupil funding. We also need to treat our METCO program like the important tool that it is and dramatically increase funding for METCO: we will not cure racial and economic inequality through a well-funded and equitable public education system, but we will communicate to our children that we value all of them, and if we do this for long enough we can begin to correct multi-generational, systemic racism that underlies racial and economic injustice.

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?*

Darryn Remillard: 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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes. Emphasis added.

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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

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?*

Darryn Remillard: 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?*

Darryn Remillard: 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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

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

Darryn Remillard: Yes. Emphasis added.

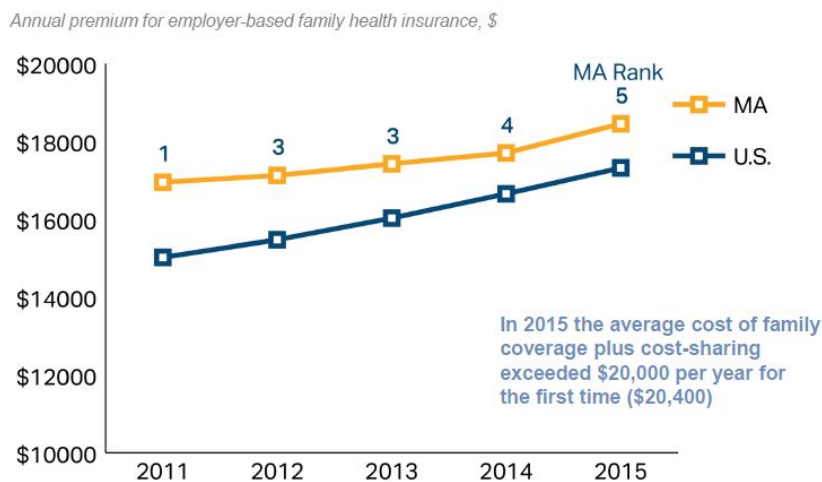
9. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** *Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

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.*

Darryn Remillard: Healthcare is a right- period. For 8 years of my life while I was an enlisted Marine I enjoyed single-payer, universal healthcare through Tricare (Medicare-for-All for the military). There's a reason why Uncle Sam doesn't use our broken model of healthcare: it would result in poor military readiness. When I've had discussions about my support for single-payer healthcare with skeptical voters in Woburn and Reading and I've explained to them that *their military* provides single-payer, universal healthcare I've found that I'm actually able to break through the years of misinformation that have been fed to so many people.

We must do the work of building the framework for a single-payer, universal healthcare system here in Massachusetts and then implement it as quickly as possible. We have 4 medical schools (1 of them is our public medical school) here in Massachusetts, a host of nursing schools, 3 dental schools, 20+ teaching hospitals. I do not accept the argument that we cannot create a single-payer, universal healthcare system here in our state.

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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

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

Darryn Remillard: 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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

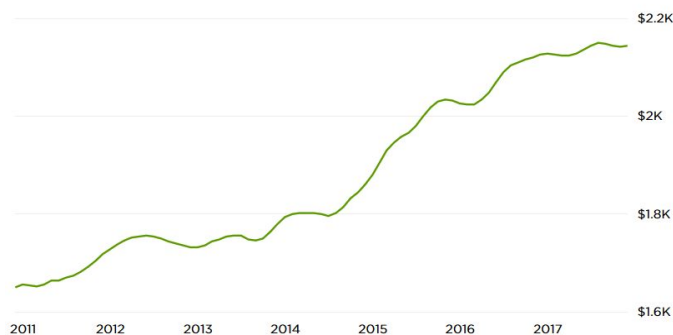
6. **Prescription Drug Pricing.** *Would you support a drug transparency law, like the one recently passed in California, that requires pharmaceutical companies to publicly justify steep price increases?*

Darryn Remillard: 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?

Darryn Remillard: Housing is a right- period. Unaffordable housing is intimately connected to poverty and racial segregation, and stifles economic and social mobility. We desperately need housing reform that incentivizes a regional approach to housing (zoning especially), but this also means that we have to invest in modernization of our public transit system and commercial zoning located in near housing and transportation. The district that I would represent is emblematic of all these issues: Woburn has rental rates that surpass other communities around us and we have not met our affordable housing requirement. Reading has done a much better job of this, and has permitted a lot more dense housing closer to their downtown and in close proximity to their commuter rail line.

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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

b. *The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

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

Darryn Remillard: 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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

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

Darryn Remillard: 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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes. I was encouraged when my friend Matt McLaughlin and the rest of the Somerville Alderboard submitted a home rule petition to create their own version of the Jim Brooks Stabilization Act.

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?*

Darryn Remillard: 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?*

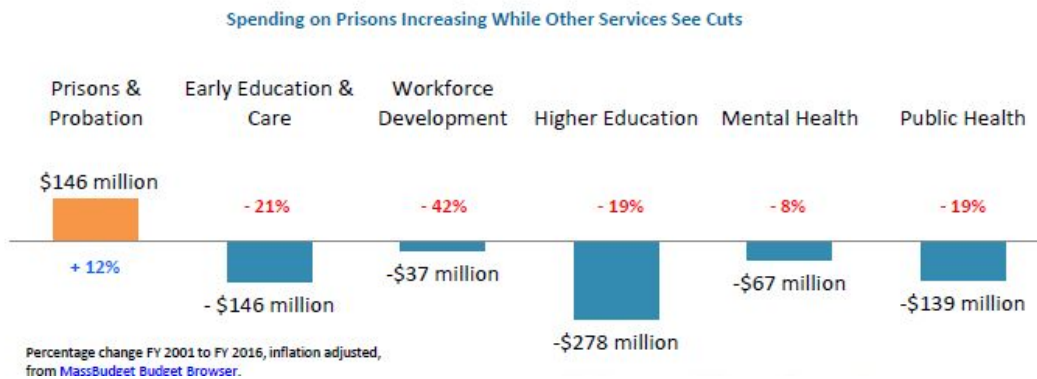
Darryn Remillard: Yes. What I would also support is the creation of a state-level annual property tax that would be imposed upon properties that should be lived in, but remain vacant. Vancouver imposed a tax like this, and the results have been encouraging. This type of annual vacant/luxury property tax would discourage luxury speculation, and the revenue would be used to fund affordable housing

trusts, senior housing tax relief as well as the construction of more non-market based housing.

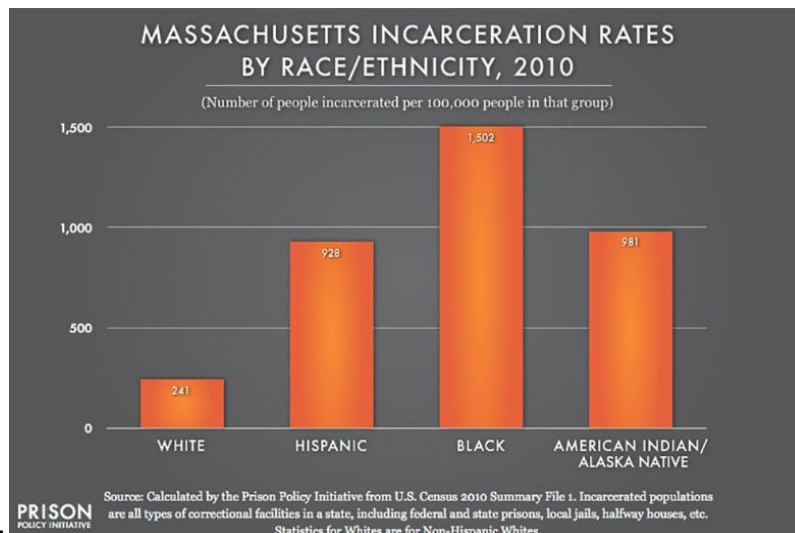
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

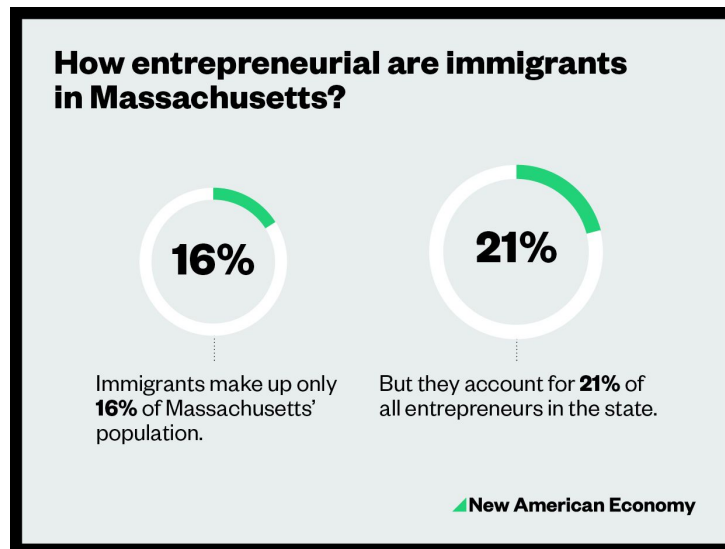
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

Darryn Remillard: It is no secret that people of color face obstacles that white people rarely encounter. We need more people of color in leadership positions to help bring these issues to light, to model better racial equality in our society, and to inspire children of color to continue to break down barriers.

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

Darryn Remillard: I was a founding member (and continue to be involved with) Woburn Welcomes- a citizen's' activist group that aims to advocate for our undocumented neighbors, friends and family in our community.

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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes. Emphasis added.

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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes. I am ashamed that we have not already banned this.

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?*

Darryn Remillard: 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?

Darryn Remillard: 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)?

Darryn Remillard: 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?

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

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

Darryn Remillard: 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?

Darryn Remillard: Yes. Police departments that acquire DoD equipment that is costly to maintain should NOT receive state-level funding to maintain that equipment. Having a requirement in place that local elected officials and voters be consulted prior to acquiring such equipment would be a matter of fiduciary due diligence.

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?

Darryn Remillard: Yes. Much of my work with Woburn Welcomes centers on this specific issue. On a personal level: prior to being turned over to the Washington, D.C. foster care system by my biological

parents we lived in Ciudad Juarez and I experienced life as an immigrant child in Mexico. We've had a broken, exploitative immigration system for much of the 20th century and into the 21st century and it won't be fixed by turning our local, county and state police into unaccountable immigration enforcement officers.

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?*

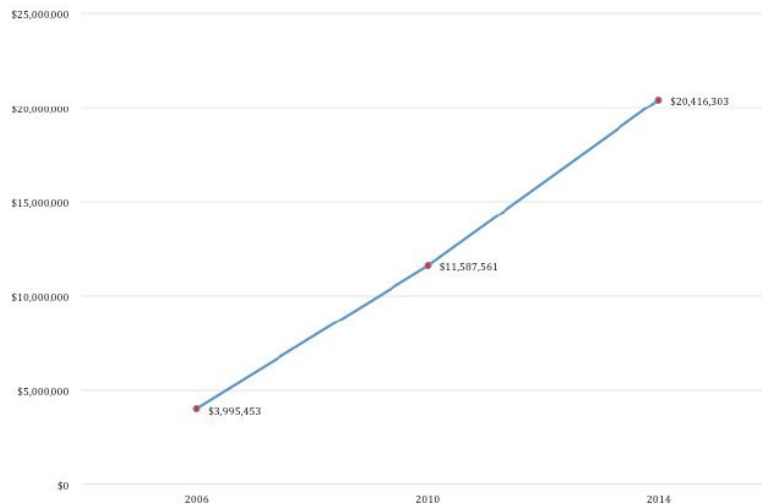
Darryn Remillard: Yes.

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.*

Darryn Remillard: I believe that our democracy is in peril at all levels of government. Many people do not believe that their elected officials represent their broader interests. The first (and most important) pillar of my campaign is to fight for a better democracy. This means that I support automatic voter registration, universal absentee voting (no excuses needed) and ranked choice voting.

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

Darryn Remillard: 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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

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

Darryn Remillard: Yes. We had this once thanks to Sen. Jamie Eldridge.

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"?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

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

a. *Election day voter registration*

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

b. *Automatic voter registration*

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

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

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

d. *No-fault absentee voting*

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

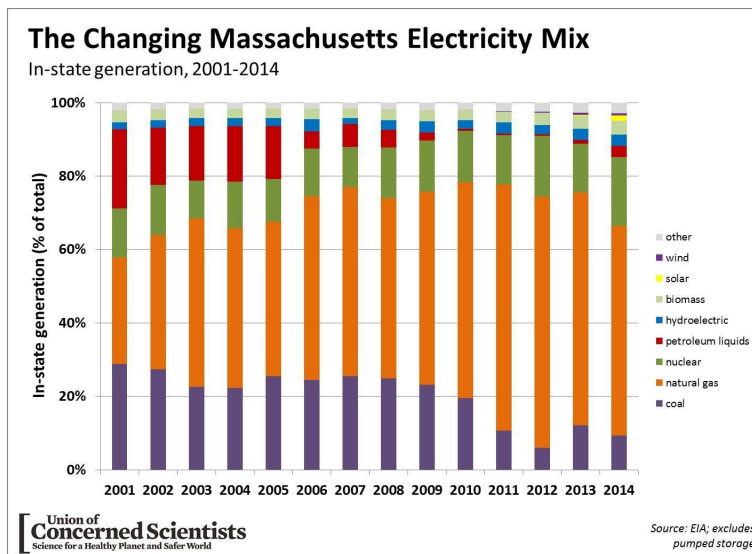
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

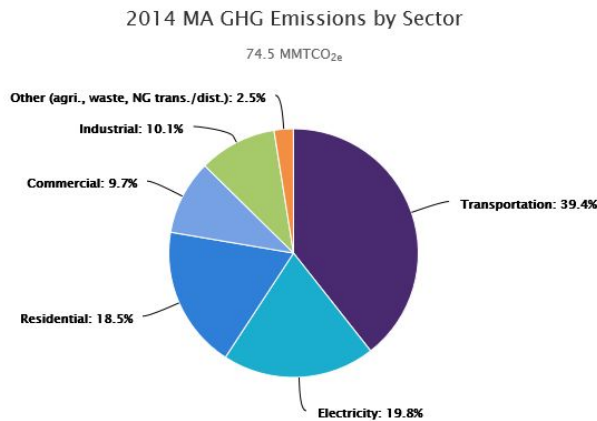
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and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

Darryn Remillard: I believe that climate change is the existential threat that our planet faces. It is clear to me that far too many don't understand the magnitude and totality of what climate change represents. I grew up in Falmouth, MA and my friends' parents are climatologists, oceanographers and marine biologists who have been warning about the danger of anthropogenic climate change for decades. I spent 8 years as a U.S. Marine and the Department of Defense also recognizes the threat and scale of what climate change in the decades ahead. Our past and current investments in sustainable infrastructure and environmental protection/remediation do not reflect the urgency and threat posed by climate change.

2. *Please indicate work you personally have done to protect the environment and expand access to public transportation.*
3. *Waste Reduction. Would you support a statewide ban on single-use shopping bags and a requirement that alternatives be more sustainable?*

Darryn Remillard: 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?*

Darryn Remillard: 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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes. Emphasis added.

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?

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

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

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

I would seek to implement the 2014 Environmental Justice EO signed by Gov. Patrick and have it codified into law (going beyond an Executive Order and having actual legislative codification).

I'd like to give a specific example of what I envision Environmental Justice to mean here in Massachusetts: I support full electrification of our public transit system, but I believe that communities of color and poorer communities should receive this investment beforehand.

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

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

Darryn Remillard: Yes.

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

Darryn Remillard: 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?*

Darryn Remillard: Yes. 53 or so municipalities have their own utility departments. Reading is one of the towns that I am running to represent, and has its own municipal utility department. These are valuable public goods/services/assets to their communities that provide sustainable revenue, and far more reliable utility services.

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

Darryn Remillard: 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?*

Darryn Remillard: 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.

Darryn Remillard: We face enormous challenges as a commonwealth (and planet): we need a level of courage and commitment that is largely lacking in our politics if we are to address these challenges. I've lived and breathed the reality of poverty, racial injustice and misogyny. I know that I'm ready for the job of being an advocate for the people in my district, but I want to be able to expand upon the progressive caucus in our state house and advance bold policy objectives that have been stalled for decades. I'd be honored to win the support of Progressive MA!