

David LeBoeuf

17th Worcester State Representative

Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: State Representative

Legislative District: 17th Worcester

Party: Democratic

Website: davidleboeuf.org

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

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



Primary: September 4

Election: November 6

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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

David LeBoeuf

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

David LeBoeuf: I decided to run because of the performance of the Republican incumbent who has held the seat for two terms. I wanted the district to be represented by someone who would fight for progressive values including dignity, economic security, and opportunity for everyone, regardless of what zip code they lived in. I was upset by specific votes by the incumbent: she voted against wage theft protections, to delay implementation of earned sick time, and voted "present" on the transgender civil rights bill. Also, constituent services have been sorely lacking these past two terms. As a State Representative, I would be in a unique position to make sure that the voices of the people I represent are heard and their concerns are addressed. The incumbent later declared that she was not seeking re-election to this office but that does not change the values embodied in my candidacy.

My major legislative priorities are universal pre-K access, addressing Chapter 70 and local aid formulas, and addressing the foreclosure crisis.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

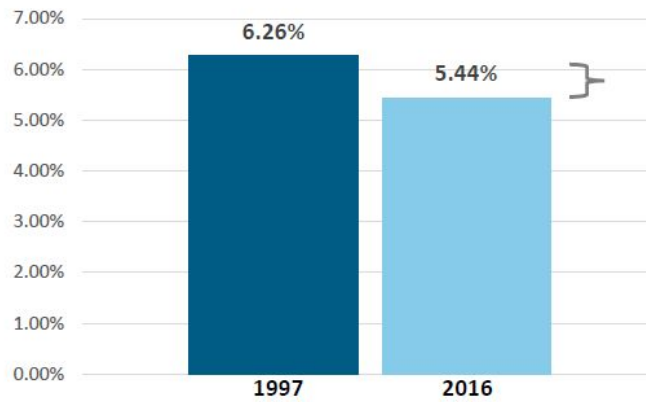
David LeBoeuf: I believe that my many years of professional work in public policy have also prepared me very well for a new role as a legislator. This work has included health care access, urban economic development, and organizing for increased representation of marginalized communities. I have also had major roles in political campaigns since graduating high school, including serving as the campaign manager for now Senate President Harriette Chandler.

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.

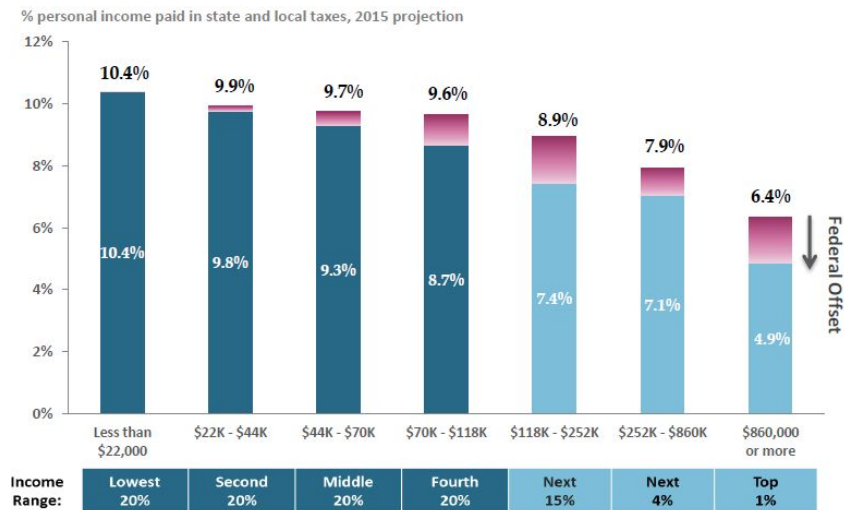
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.

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?*

David LeBoeuf: Overall our approach to revenue generation should not be done on the backs of working families and should be done in a progressive, not regressive way. New revenue should come from taxation mostly on wealth and income rather than sales. A flat rate income tax does not make sense. In regards to corporate taxes, we need a policy that encourages small business development and revokes the corporate giveaways received by large companies that don't deliver on promises or keep people in poverty. Revenue is needed to 1) meet basic needs in municipal operations, health care, education, and housing; 2) updating our infrastructure; and 3) investing in technologies which may need initial subsidies.

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.).*

David LeBoeuf: In 2010, when I was the Central MA Field Director for "No on 2" (Question 2 would have repealed Chapter 40B) that campaign became coordinated with No on 1 (alcohol tax) and 3 (sales tax) which were both attacks on revenue. I ended up the field coordinator for that coordinated campaign in Central MA and not only recruited volunteers, but also publicly advocated spoke out on all three issues at events.

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?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

4. *Sales Tax Holiday. It has been demonstrated over and over that the annual sales tax holiday does not serve its intended purpose of increasing sales, but rather just shifts sales to the weekend of the holiday. Would you oppose efforts to extend the sales tax holiday?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes. And there should be clawbacks when they violate the terms of the agreements.

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?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

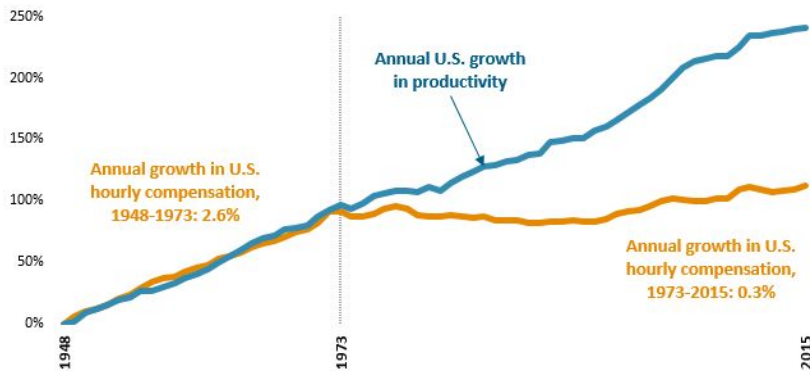
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

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

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

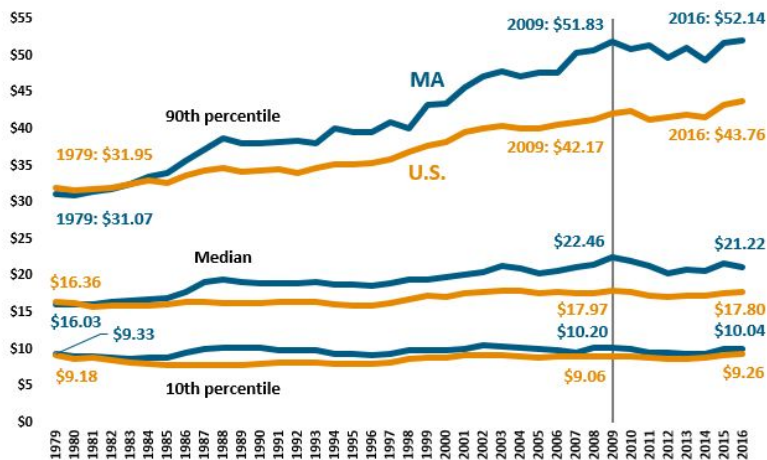
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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

Wages For Most MA Workers Have Stagnated Since Great Recession

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



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

1. Share your personal values and principles on job growth and the economy.

How can we improve the economy and economic security for all people? How do we grow the number of good-paying jobs in the Commonwealth? How do you view wealth and income inequality, and what would you do about it, if anything?

David LeBoeuf: Wealth and income inequality, even more than poverty itself, have been shown to have detrimental effects on overall health and well being. We need to use all of the tools we have available to decrease wealth disparities and not contribute to them. We need to adhere to the principle that economic development needs to be community development. A major strategy for fostering economic security is the strengthening and further development of small, locally based business. Dollars that are spent locally circulate locally, and potentially have up to ten times the economic impact of dollars spent in chain stores. We also need to foster worker ownership and related innovative economic models. Public investment in clean technology and urban manufacturing, with a commitment to hiring local and traditionally marginalized populations, is another promising strategy.

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.).*

David LeBoeuf: In my current job as an Urban Business Initiatives Associate at the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, my primary focus is the implementation of the outreach, application, and selection process for a public-private partnership aimed at increasing opportunities for small businesses in underserved communities. I have championed efforts to increase greater participation of veteran-owned and women-owned businesses in the program. Last year I was invited to speak at a roundtable with Puerto Rico's Resident Commissioner to address the economic crisis on the island. Also through my professional work I have been involved in the Urban Manufacturing Alliance, a national association focused on on-shoring and bringing good wage jobs to our inner city economies. The UMA also takes an approach to encouraging green technology. I have also been involved with community economic development in volunteer leadership, serving as board president of the NeighborWorks HomeOwnership Center of Central MA/ Oak Hill Community Development Corporation.

3. Increasing Wages.

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

5. *Unions -- Part I. If workers in Massachusetts make the decision to unionize, would you be willing to publicly support a union-organizing drive and discourage management from fighting their decision?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes. I stood with the Mass Defenders at the Worcester Court House when they protested their inability to form a union and support legislative change to give public defenders basic dignity at work.

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?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes. One of my principal reasons for running for this office was that the incumbent votes against wage theft protections

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?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

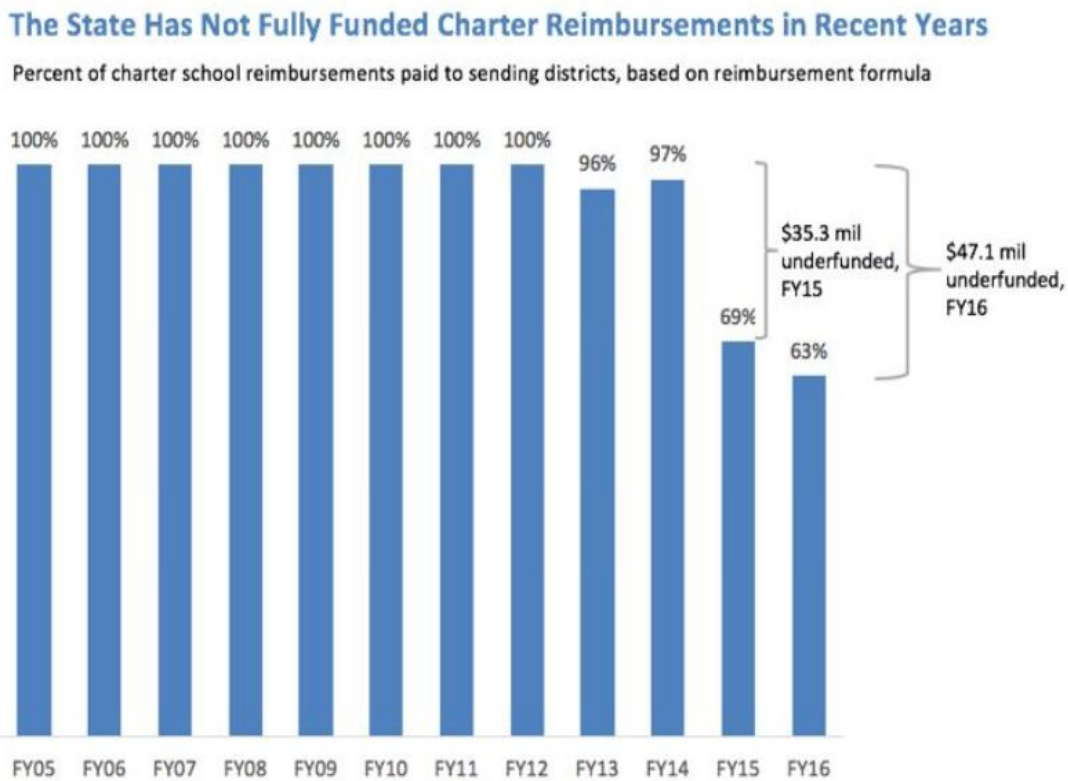
9. *Economic Democracy. Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes. I would be an eager co-sponsor of such legislation. One bill that has been introduced over the past few years would give workers the first option to purchase a business when the owner(s) decide to sell it. I would like to see this bill advanced and become law.

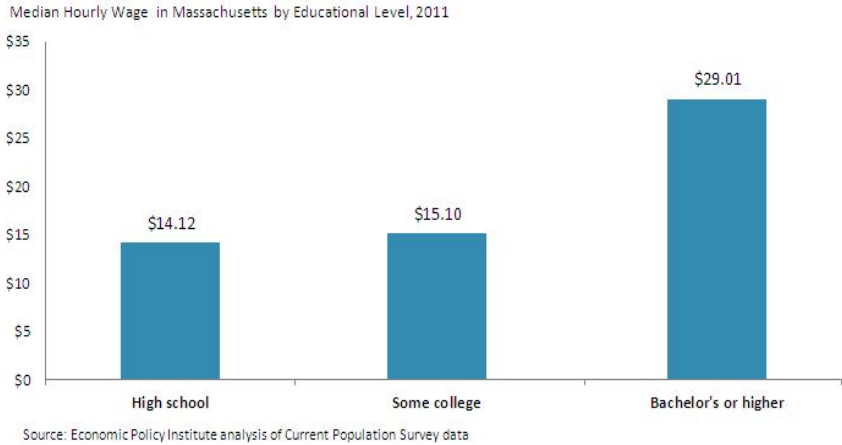
C. EDUCATION

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.

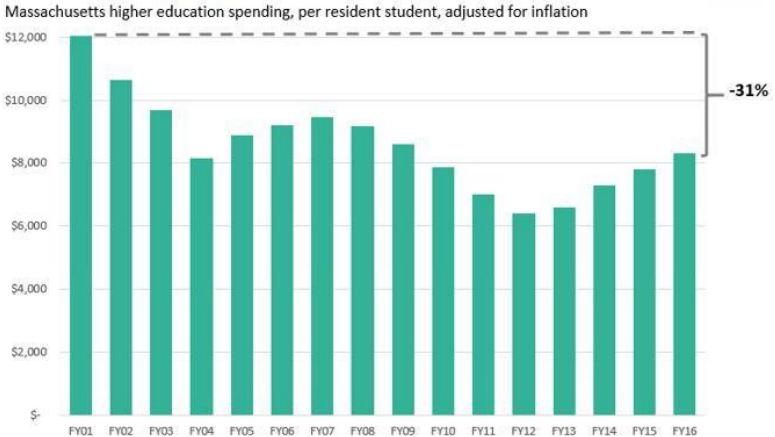


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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?*

David LeBoeuf: In my own life, and the lives of many of my friends, education has been the key to success and economic security. Our public schools, while imperfect, are remarkable institutions that have the potential to level the economic playing field. We must devote resources to strengthening them and must resist all efforts to privatize them, exposing the bulk of these efforts as cynical ploys to siphon off public money into private, unaccountable hands. Charter schools and voucher programs, even when well-meaning, damage public schools by diverting resources from them and leaving them with the most challenging students.

It is also essential to be vigilant about the disparities in discipline and access to meaningful supports across racial lines, and to challenge these disparities. We need to hire more teachers who reflect the ethnic and racial composition of our public school populations. I support using precious dollars to hire social workers rather than focusing on discipline measures that interact with the penal system.

One of the key elements of my campaign is the support of universal pre-kindergarten. This is a program that has been proven to support students with language acquisition, identify learning disabilities, and reduce the likelihood that a student will be held back. Furthermore a strong school system is key indicator of a strong economy and encourages local investment.

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

David LeBoeuf: My first foray into politics was in 2007 when I was a junior at South High Community School in Worcester, MA. At that time I organized students to support the "102%" campaign for increased funding for our schools from the municipal budget. I also testified against the establishment of the now dissolved Spirit of Knowledge Charter School, specifically how it would divert resources from our already underfunded schools. I am a proud Worcester Public School graduate and have devoted much of my volunteer advocacy to supporting our students. I am on the board of the African Community Education program and am the co-founder of the Worcester Public Schools Young Professional Alumni Network (YPAN) - a group that encourages former WPS grads to volunteer and support our students.

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes. This is one of the corner stones of the campaign

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?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

5. *Equitable Funding. Do you support changing the Chapter 70 Education formula, including the Foundation Budget, to incorporate proper state funding for ELL students, Special Education students,*

transportation costs, charter school reimbursements to sending schools, and class size reduction?

David LeBoeuf: Yes. This is one of my campaign's top priorities

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?*

David LeBoeuf: 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?*

David LeBoeuf: 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?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

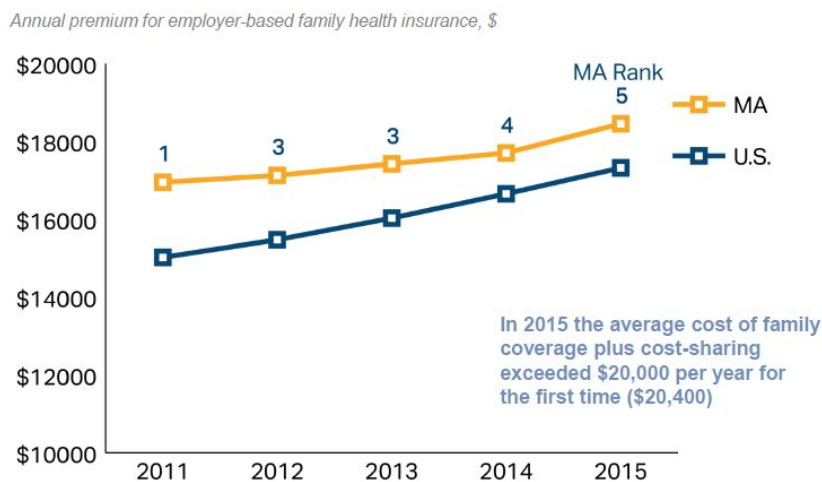
9. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** *Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?*

David LeBoeuf: 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.*

David LeBoeuf: I am dedicated to fighting for quality affordable health care that is accessible to all residents. However, this goes way beyond insurance coverage. Health care needs to be delivered in a context that is culturally competent and focused on the needs of the individual and/or family. There needs to be enough time to allow practitioners to assess and care for the whole person, not just enough time to order a test or prescribe a medication for an identified disease. This type of care is becoming increasingly rare in the corporate-driven health care delivery environment. A possible antidote to that environment is to return to the original community health center model where clients/patients form a

majority of governing boards, and provide them adequate funding to deliver care according to the above principles. Government regulation should restrict the ability of large medical conglomerates to command favorable pricing from payers at the expense of community health centers and hospitals.

I am also dedicated to revisiting what defines the minimum standard of care that insurance carriers need to adhere to in Massachusetts and eliminating clawbacks for behavioral health.

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

David LeBoeuf: In 2014, I was asked to implement an outreach program for the Massachusetts Health Connector to educate residents on how to access quality health insurance. Our team reached the most consumers of all partners involved in the project statewide, going door to door to reach over 5,000 households.

I am also on the board of the Latin American Health Alliance which runs programs to provide treatment and support addiction recovery in the Latino Community.

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: 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?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

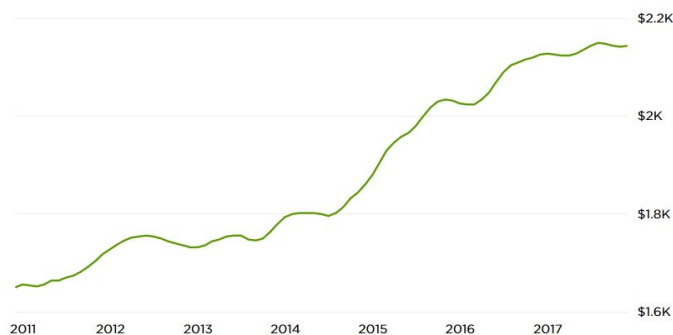
6. **Prescription Drug Pricing.** *Would you support a drug transparency law, like the one recently passed in California, that requires pharmaceutical companies to publicly justify steep price increases?*

David LeBoeuf: 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?

David LeBoeuf: I believe that housing is a human right and forms a cornerstone of economic security and dignity.

In Central Massachusetts we have challenges which may differ from those in other parts of the state. In Worcester there is an apartment shortage, so there needs to be greater opportunities for home ownership for low and moderate income families. Community Development Corporations have an impressive track record of developing this kind of housing, so it would be a wise investment to support them with tax incentives (CITC program) and sometimes direct funding. Since these organizations also run training and education programs and hire labor for construction and maintenance, they can also serve as a conduit for linking jobs to housing.

The foreclosure crisis has not disappeared in Central MA, and any approach to housing policy needs to restore resources for counseling, mediation, and enforcement to hold the banks accountable.

In the long term, we need to diminish incentives for housing speculation such that units become and remain affordable, as well as foster local economic development so that people have access to jobs that allow them to afford suitable housing. In the short term, we need to make sure that sufficient housing vouchers are available. Sufficient affordable housing dramatically decreases the incidence of homelessness. As a commonwealth, we need to do much better at addressing the root causes of homelessness and curtail the practice of housing families in hotels.

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

David LeBoeuf: One of my first jobs in the political arena was serving as the Worcester County organizer for the No on 2 Campaign in 2010 to defeat the ballot initiative that would have repealed Chapter 40B. It was my responsibility to organize support for preserving affordable housing.

After this I had a fellowship with CHAPA researching successful messaging for affordable housing development in suburban areas.

I am currently the Board President of a community development corporation- the Neighborworks HomeOwnership Center and Oak Hill CDC where we provide affordable housing to seniors, families, and individuals in addition to first time homebuyer classes and foreclosure prevention counseling.

3. **Funding.** Do you support increasing funding for

a. *The creation of new units of affordable housing, especially low-income units?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

b. *The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: 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?

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes. This is also one of the cornerstones of my campaign

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?

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

- 7. **Zoning Reform.** Would you support legislation to upgrade Massachusetts’s zoning laws to encourage more affordable housing and transit-oriented, walkable development and to promote inclusionary zoning practices?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

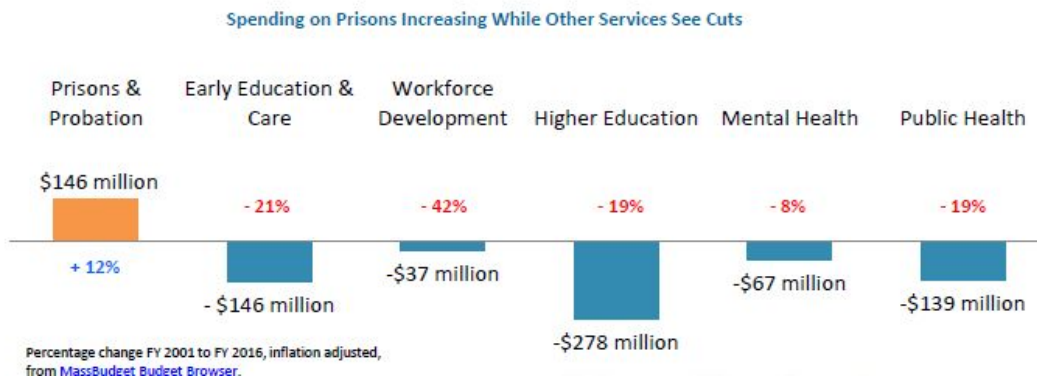
- 8. **Combating Speculation.** Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to impose a graduated tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

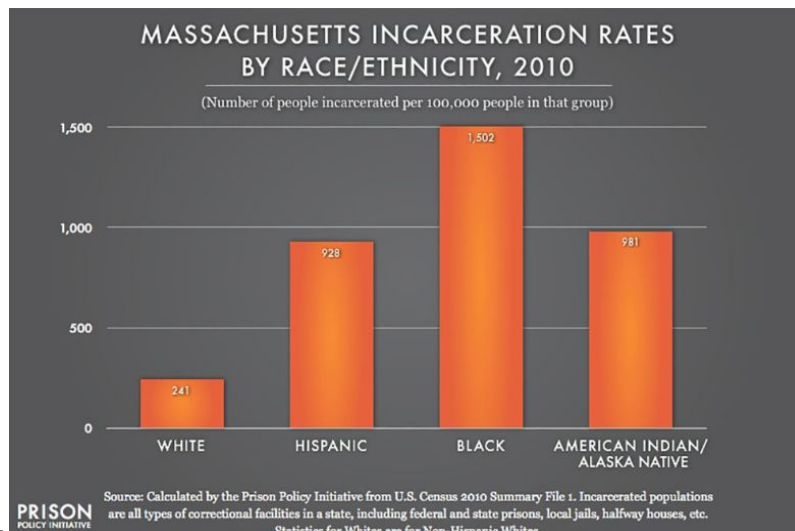
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

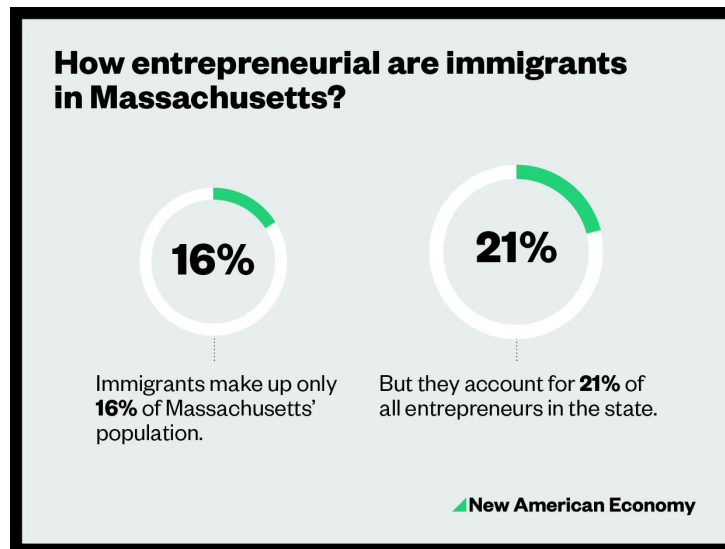
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

David LeBoeuf: To me, racial and social justice means fighting not just for equality but for equity. We need to be cognizant of the history of discrimination that continues to create disparate outcomes even in the absence of intentional discrimination. These disparities exist in all aspects of life, including housing, economic opportunity, education, health care, and access to a healthy environment.

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

David LeBoeuf: I was instrumental in creating a local organization that focused on giving a platform to disenfranchised communities in the electoral arena. We fought against voter ID efforts (initiated by the Tea Party), revolutionized debates and forums for local candidates such that real community concerns were addressed, and engaged in voter education drives. I served as the political action chair for the local NAACP. In my role as a board member of a local Worcester nonprofit, African Community Education, I organized opposition to public vilification of refugees (many of whom were Muslim). I also helped a local group of sexual assault survivors develop a legislative plan.

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?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

4. *LGBTQ Youth. Our neighboring states of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Vermont ban the use of harmful conversion therapy practices for minors. Do you support banning the use of conversion therapy in Massachusetts?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

5. *Mandatory Minimums. The landmark criminal justice reform bill passed earlier this year eliminated or reduced a number of mandatory minimums for drug-related offenses; however, it left in place, or*

expanded, those related to opioids. The opioid crisis in Massachusetts is severe, but it will not be solved by doubling down on criminalization. Do you support eliminating mandatory minimums for opioid drug offenses?

David LeBoeuf: 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?*

David LeBoeuf: 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)?*

David LeBoeuf: 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?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: 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?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

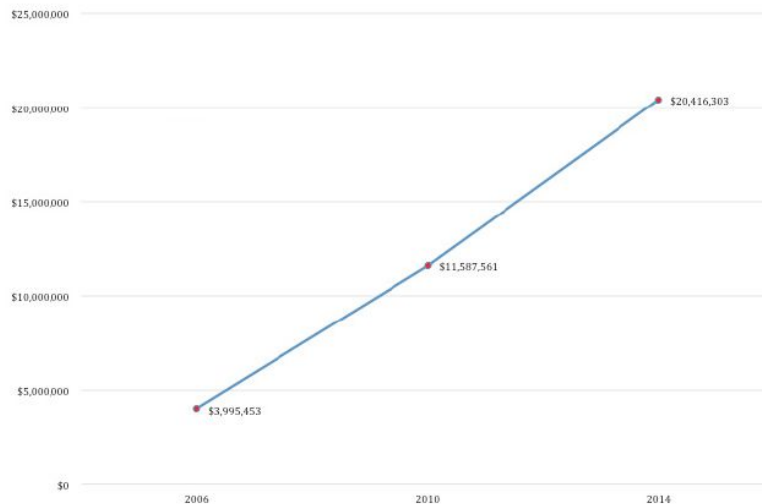
David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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.*

David LeBoeuf: This has been a passion of mine from an early age and I have devoted a large portion of my professional career to defending voting rights in the Commonwealth and making sure elections are decided by the people, not special interests. The right to vote is sacred and must be protected at all costs. The role of government is to make sure that it is completely representative and efforts to diminish the voice of the people need to be actively challenged.

I also believe we need to move towards an election system where money and corporate influences do not cancel out the will of the people. This is why I have pledged to reject all corporate PAC money.

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

David LeBoeuf: I spent 7 years as the director of a community effort focused on voter empowerment. Our efforts were to not only register disenfranchised communities but also to inform people of their rights. I stood up against the Tea Party on voter ID. Our organization worked closely with MassVote on a variety of civic engagement programs. I also organized efforts in central MA to support the Election Modernization Bill and put pressure on key legislators to change their votes.

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?*

David LeBoeuf: 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?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: 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"?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

a. *Election day voter registration*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

b. *Automatic voter registration*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

d. *No-fault absentee voting*

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

My organization was involved in the first Election Reform bill and I'm looking forward to being a champion on these issues in the legislature.

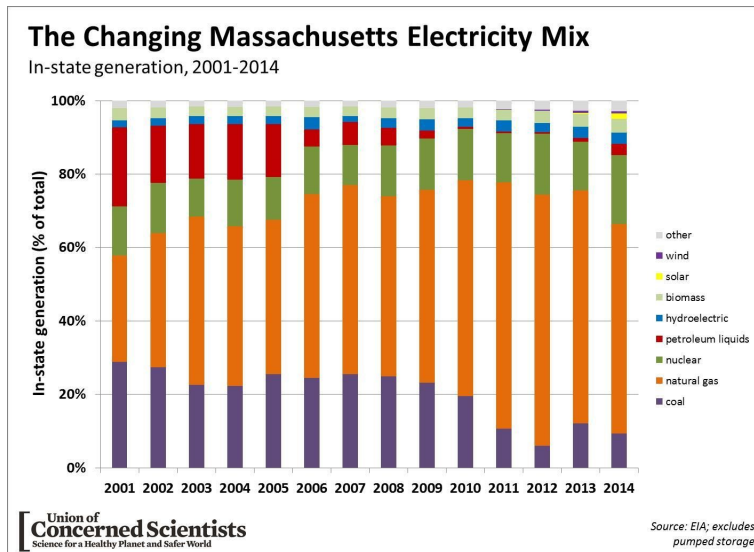
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

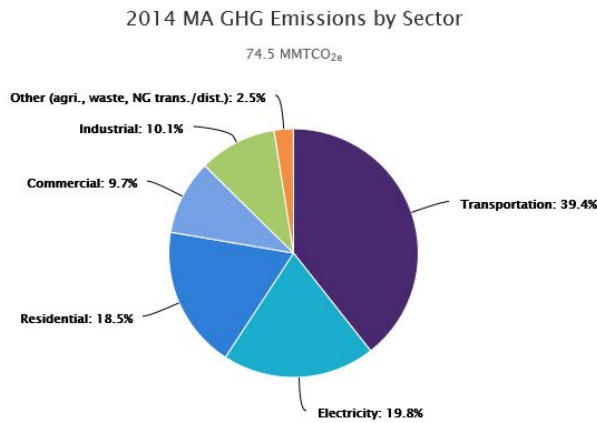
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and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

David LeBoeuf: The key principle we need to remember is that we work in the same world where we eat, drink, and breathe. No one should have to choose between a job or a place to live and their health. Economic activity whose byproducts harm human life and our habitat cannot be sustained long term. Currently all life on our planet is threatened by both climate change caused mostly by burning of fossil fuels and by toxic, often non-biodegradable substances that enter our biosphere as a result of energy generation, manufacturing, and waste disposal. Knowhow, sustainable resources, and technology exist that can change this situation and lead to a sustainable future. We need a strategic economic policy focused on what we need for a future that sustains life: transitioning to a clean technology, carbon-free economy where outputs would become inputs and there is little to no waste generation. At the same time, we need to make sure that where there is transition to a clean economy, its benefits accrue to its workers and populations that have historically been shut out of economic well-being. As we look at actions to move towards environmental sustainability it cannot be in a way that puts an extra financial burden and low-income and working families.

I am a proud public transportation supporter and believe it drives the economy. Funding needs to be equitable across the whole state and not forget those of us who do not have MBTA service in our communities.

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

David LeBoeuf: As president of Oak Hill CDC we have promoted community gardens. I am also a member of the Regional Environmental Council and on the executive board of the Coes Zone Task Force, which seeks to maintain the quality of Coes Park and John J. Binienda beach.

I also wrote an open letter to Gov. Baker asking him not to override the reinstatement of funding for the Regional Transit Authorities and attended a local rally to support our bus drivers and riders.

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes. I am for the banning of plastic bags and movement to paper. I would need to see specific legislation as I do not want to add economic burdens to low income families who may not be able to afford reusable bags.

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?

David LeBoeuf: 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?

David LeBoeuf: 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?

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

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

David LeBoeuf: 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?

David LeBoeuf: Yes.

10. **Public Transit.** Do you support finding progressive revenue sources to fund the maintenance,

expansion, and improvement of the MBTA and the RTAs?

David LeBoeuf: 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?*

David LeBoeuf: Yes. This is a major concern in my district, as 3 bus lines are at risk of being cut, two that go into Leicester.