

Denise Garlick

13th Norfolk

State Representative

Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: State Representative

Legislative District: 13th Norfolk

Party: Democratic

Website: www.DeniseGarlick.com

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Primary: September 4

Election: November 6



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Election: November 6	0
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Introduction: Progressive Mass

About

Progressive Needham is a chapter of Progressive Massachusetts, 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. Progressive Massachusetts 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. Learn more at progressivemass.com.

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) unless otherwise specified.

I. About the Candidate

Denise Garlick

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

Denise Garlick: I am seeking re-election as State Representative because I believe that my work and advocacy has improved the lives of the people of my District and our Commonwealth, and I know I have more work to do. As a woman, mother and Registered Nurse, I have found meaning in my life in service, working in partnership for positive results for my children, my patients, my professional associations, my Towns, and my Commonwealth. Every day I work hard to address our challenges and bring positive results, answering this call to service.

My top three priorities are, as always:

1. To seek solutions for the issues and concerns of the 40,000 individuals of the 13th Norfolk District and preserve our values reflected specifically in my responsiveness to identified priorities and in general to my strong commitment to healthcare, education, energy and the environment (for which I have been a listener and learner and now an advocate!) and all modes of transportation which are vital to my communities.
2. To effectively advocate and support, the needs of vulnerable populations in my District and in the Commonwealth including individuals and their loved ones dealing with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health and behavioral health issues including addiction, older adults and veterans. These supports are the products of legislation and/or budget decisions and include adequate housing, healthcare, transportation and effective programs to be able to live with dignity.
3. In these unsettled times in our country I will work to promote and preserve the values of Massachusetts reflected in women's issues, civil rights, criminal justice reform, gun violence protections and opposing voter suppression. Particularly since November 2017, I wake up every day with a sense of pride, appreciation and gratitude that I live in Massachusetts and my goal is to ensure that my children and their children will always have reasons to have that same feeling.

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

Denise Garlick: I was first elected to this office in 2010 and am proud of my record of leadership, serving as: House Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, Chair of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs, and Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Education. I have also served on the Joint Committees on: Public Health, Healthcare Financing and Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Some of the highlights of my legislative efforts include being the lead sponsor of the passage of Pulse Oximetry Bill, the ICU Safe Staffing Bill, the language regarding "medical necessity" in the Substance Abuse Recovery Bill, the language regarding suicide prevention in the Gun Violence reform bill and the language regarding a pilot program regarding the evolution of sheltered workshops to a community and employment based program. I believe that my budget work, in which I am engaged throughout the year, is one of the tools in which the issues and concerns of my constituents

and the values of our Commonwealth are realized.

I have a strong record of working in collaboration to get results for this district, serving as a member of the Caucus of Women Legislators, the Metrowest Caucus, the Tech Hub Caucus, the Oral Health Caucus, the Caucus for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, the Elder Affairs Caucus, the Biotech Caucus, and the Manufacturing Caucus.

Additionally, I serve at the national level as the Chair of the Council of State Governments (CSG) Health Public Policy Committee and I have been named as one of 24 people in the country as an “Opioid Fellow” by the National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL).

Interestingly, I was the seventh woman in the history of Needham to have served on the Needham Board of Selectmen, responsible for municipal issues of education, public safety, public works and public health, and helped to manage a budget of more than \$100 million. And I also chaired the Needham Senior Center Exploratory Committees, which led the charge in constructing a \$8.2 million Senior Center.

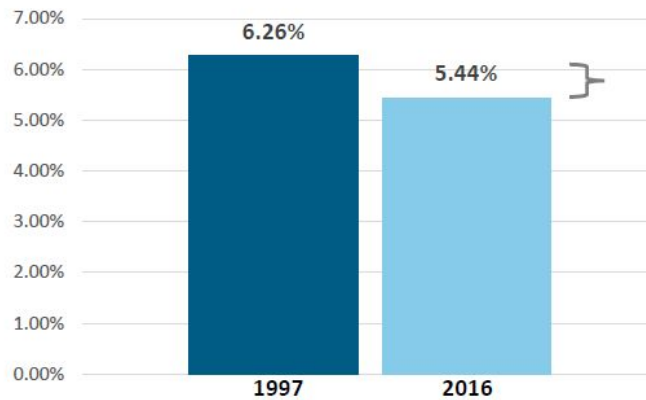
As the Chair of the Needham Board of Health (serving 2 terms), I founded and chaired the Needham Coalition for Suicide Prevention, which continues its work today and serves as a model for communities across the country.

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.

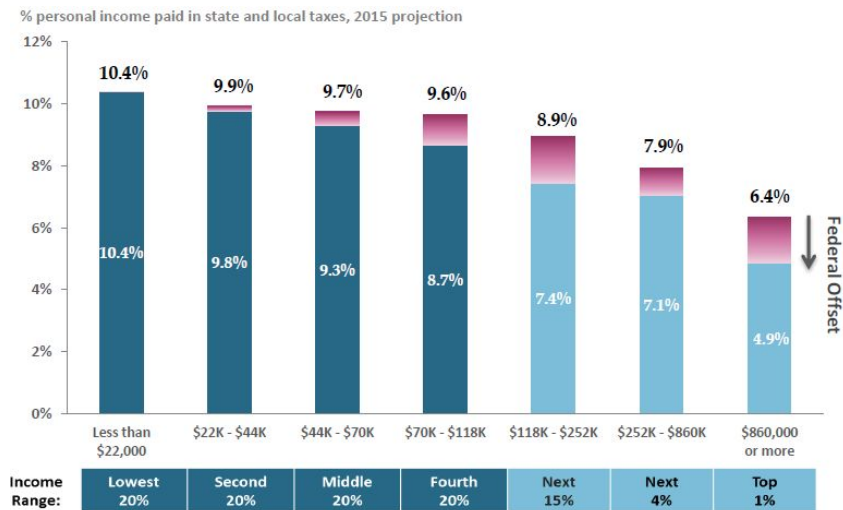
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.

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?*

Denise Garlick: The great conundrum for an elected individual is that every constituent wants great services and very few want to pay more taxes. In order to make the case that increased revenue is needed to deliver the quality of life Massachusetts residents need and deserve, it is my opinion that several elements have to be in place:

1. The Commonwealth must demonstrate that it is a good fiscal steward.
2. The purpose of the funds should be clearly delineated, identifying key necessary policy areas and the long-term goals of each investment.
3. There needs to be a realistic and respectful assessment of the taxpayer and the health of the economy.

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?*

Denise Garlick: 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?*

Denise Garlick: I have overall concerns that the sales tax holiday simply shifts the shopping pattern and does not result in increased sales. At the same time, I am sensitive to the individuals in my district – the shoppers who have waited to purchase a high-dollar unique item, or those small business owners who tell me this holiday does make a difference. I believe that each year, we must make a determination that reaches an appropriate balance of revenue for the State and the benefits for individuals. During my tenure, there have been instances when I have voted in favor of the sales tax holiday, and other years when I have voted in opposition based on the overall fiscal health of the Commonwealth.

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?*

Denise Garlick: Yes.

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

Denise Garlick: Yes.

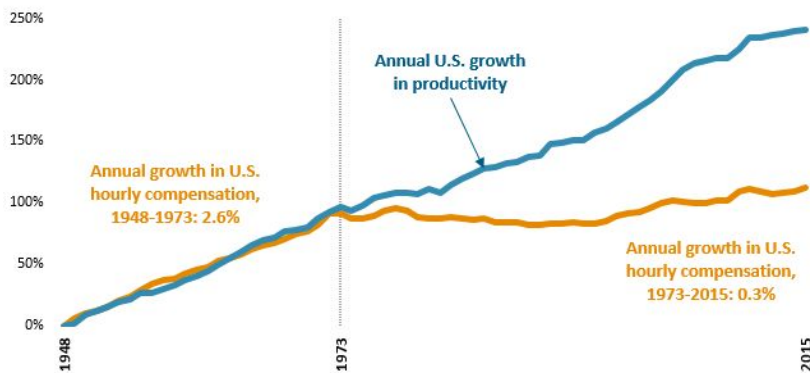
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

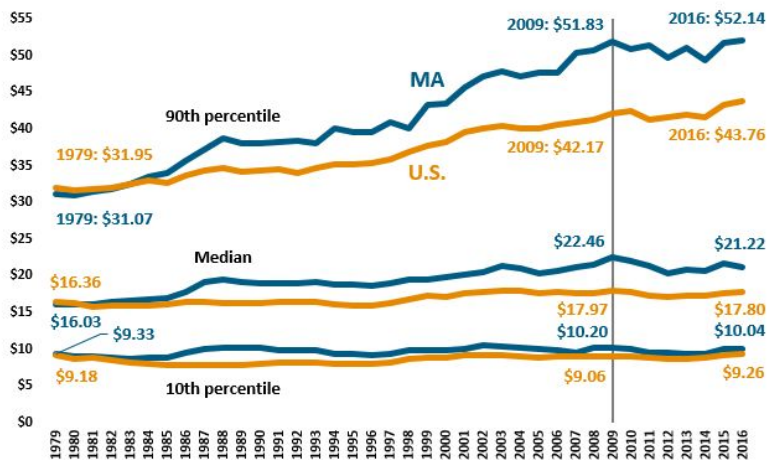
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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?

Denise Garlick: The gap in income inequality is toxic in our society. Massachusetts must stay at the forefront of developing good paying jobs for an educated and well-prepared workforce. One area that I believe has great potential – and about which I am very passionate – is enhancing STEM education opportunities for young women. I also believe we should be making stronger investments in vocational schools and community colleges to bridge the opportunity gap.

The human service workforce is another area that is “stuck” and not advancing in wages or benefits. Beyond vocational training and community college, we should be pursuing strategies to help with related needs like child care, ongoing career counseling, and paid time in training. This can create a career ladder for someone who works in home care, for example, moving along a path to grow from a health care/home care aide, to PCA, to Certified Nursing Assistant, to Registered Nurse.

Finally, it deserves to be said that the loss of ground by the middle class coincides with the loss of strength of unions that undeniably helped to build the middle class. Good unions are good for society.

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.).*

Denise Garlick: As a member of the Needham Board of Selectman I was an active member of the Needham Council of Economic Advisors and in my present position as State Representative, I continue to serve ex officio and assign staff to be always present. The work of providing infrastructure to enhance robust development of Needham Crossroads is being accomplished through multiple partnerships in which I participate including the Department of Transportation, the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, the Massachusetts Area Planning Council and the Town leadership and staff. It demands my vigilance and presence as the advocate at the State level brokering meetings with these powerful entities with many competing interests. The development of a robust Needham Crossroads business community is vital as an economic engine in our Commonwealth.

3. **Increasing Wages.**

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

Denise Garlick: Yes.

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

Denise Garlick: Yes.

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

Denise Garlick: 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?*

Denise Garlick: Yes.

5. **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?

Denise Garlick: Yes.

6. **Youth Jobs.** Do you support greater reinvestment in youth employment and vocational training programs?

Denise Garlick: Yes.

7. **Privatizing Public Services.** In 2015, the MA Legislature, urged by Governor Baker, voted to waive the so-called Pacheco Law for the MBTA. The Pacheco Law contains strong safeguards to ensure that state services are not privatized when doing so would harm workers and state revenue. Do you support reinstating the Pacheco Law?

Denise Garlick: Yes.

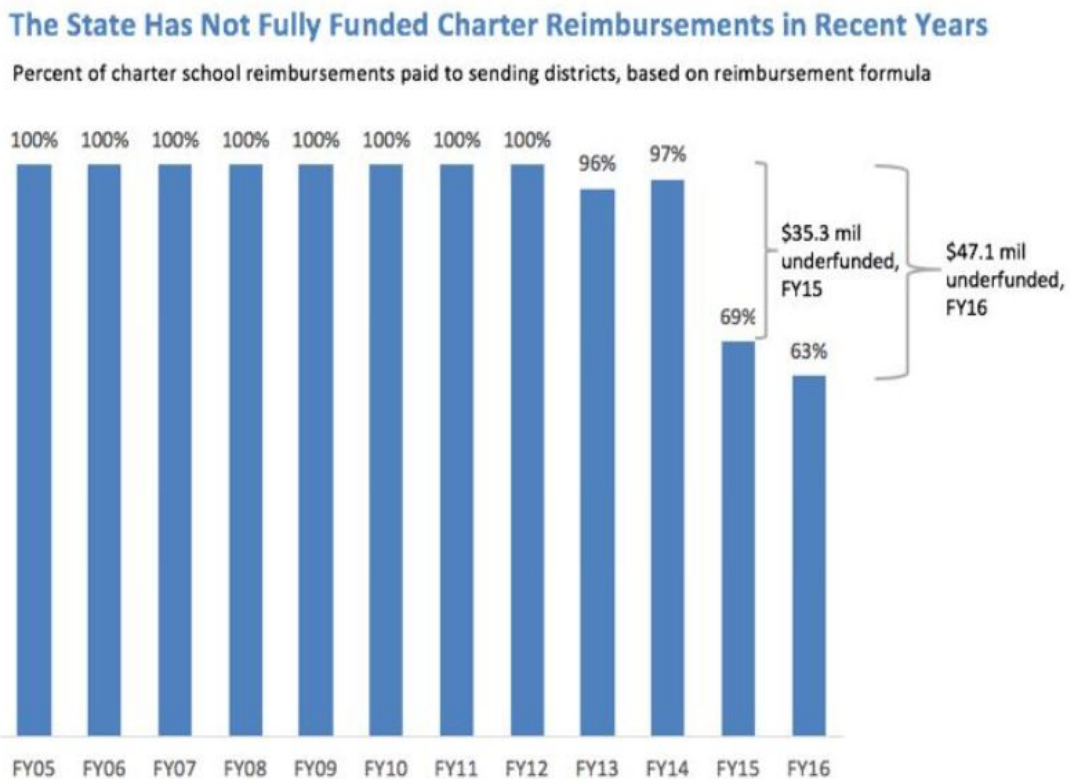
8. **Economic Democracy.** Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?

Denise Garlick: Yes.

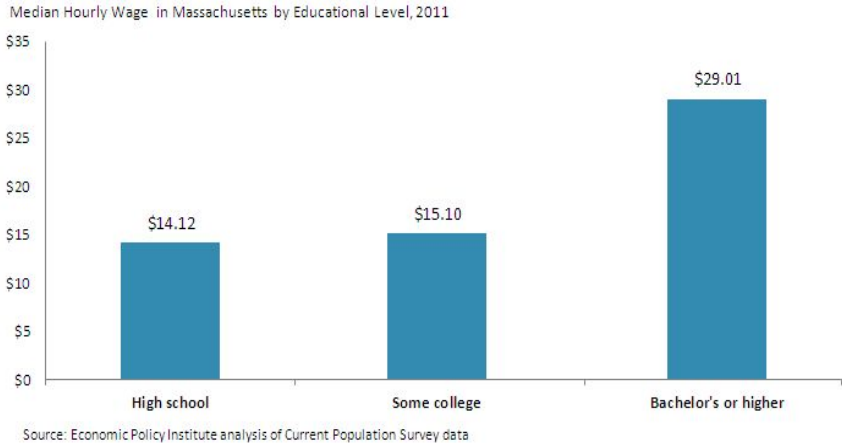
C. EDUCATION

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

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

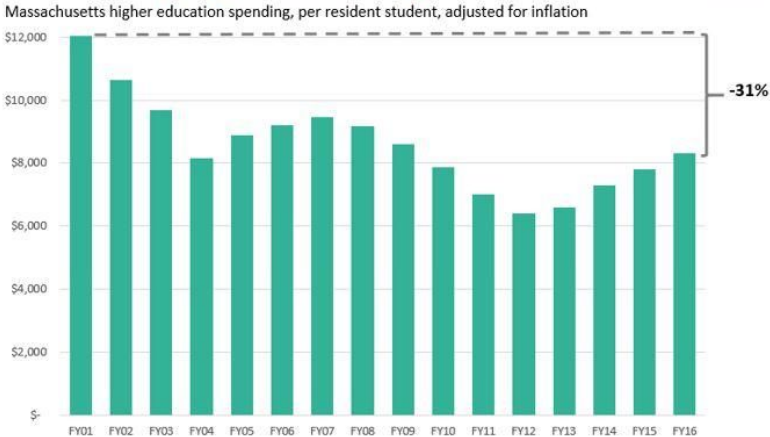


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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

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



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

Denise Garlick: I believe that as a society, we have a responsibility to provide education and opportunity to our students. This is a value that I share with the constituents of Needham, Dover and Medfield who have placed education for our children as one of our top priorities. When it comes to education, there are a number of very passionate people who agree with this belief, who also have very different ideas as to the best manner to reach success. What we do know is that education is a great generator of opportunity, which forms the very foundation of social and economic justice.

The Commonwealth has long been a leader in education on a national scale, but we face challenges in this area too. Massachusetts is ranked number one in public education in the nation but we also have a significant achievement gap. College and graduate students are facing crushing student loan debt. The state's special education circuit breaker formula and funding is vital to meet the needs of the students who need and deserve services and the communities that are strained by the effort. Too many of our schools are dealing with crumbling infrastructure or as in my District the need to also keep pace with a growing school age population.

These are just a handful of the challenges we face, but the more productive conversation is around our shared value of making investments in education for the benefit of our society and economy.

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?*

Denise Garlick: 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?*

Denise Garlick: Yes. And I support the concept of a "portfolio" in which there are multiple ways to assess a child's many intelligences and better plan and help the child to thrive in the areas of their individual strengths.

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?*

Denise Garlick: 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?*

Denise Garlick: 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?*

Denise Garlick: Yes. Additionally, I was the lead sponsor of legislation that stipulated that all charter school teachers should be licensed. I am deeply concerned that some charter schools have teachers who are not qualified to teach leading a classroom and receiving taxpayer money.

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

Denise Garlick: I support programs that will open doors for immigrant students to access education and work towards the American Dream upon which this nation was founded.

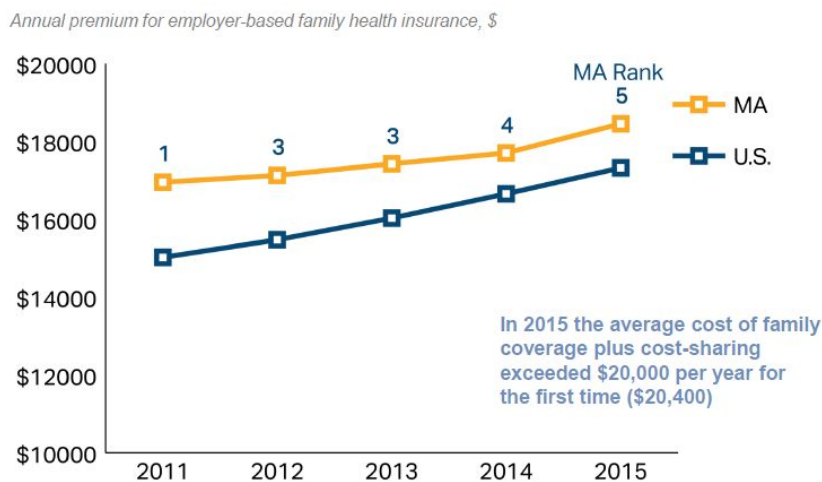
8. ***Tuition-Free Higher Education.** Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?*

Denise Garlick: This is a wonderful ideal, and I support this principle, but as a legislator, I would be concerned about the broader economic impact and finding ways to fund this. That said, we absolutely need a solution to the overwhelming burden of starting life as a young adult with substantial debt. We must work on a solution or doom a generation.

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.

Denise Garlick: I personally believe and my professional life as a Registered Nurse has been dedicated to the principle that health care is a human right and that all individuals are deserving of dignity and respect in the healthcare process. In the 13th Norfolk District, we have a community hospital; BID-Needham, that is a source of critically needed physical and mental health care. It is an asset to our community. There is a great imbalance in the reimbursement to community hospitals vs the teaching/academic facilities and using the tools of budget and legislation, I have worked to support our community hospital. As a participant in the Massachusetts Institute of Community Health Leadership I

engaged in a year-long intense program addressing racial and other health disparities. I am the cosponsor of the health disparities bill championed by Rep. Sanchez and intend to vote in the affirmative for the House budget that contains language to establish an office for health disparities.

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

Denise Garlick: As a Registered Nurse I have the education and experiences of working in the Veterans Administration system, in one of Boston's premier acute care hospital as a Critical Care Nurse, in the community with adults with moderate to severe intellectual and developmental disabilities who were medically fragile, on a locked ward at a major psychiatric hospital and also with a healthy college age population in a Town on the District's border. Every one of those work experiences, in fact, every day, I learned of the incredible strengths and areas to be strengthened of individuals, families, communities and the healthcare system to ensure access to quality, affordable healthcare. I am the past President of the Massachusetts Nurses Association and I have supported and advocated at the state and national level on issues for patients and for my profession. I have worked on the issue of Single Payer since the 1990's! I have served on Joint Committees on Public Health, Health care Financing, Elder Affairs (Chair) and presently the Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery (Chair). At the National level, I am the Chair of the Council of State Governments (CSG) Health Public Policy Committee. Additionally, I have been named as one of 24 people in the United States to be named an "Opioid Fellow" for the National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL).

As the Chair of the Joint Committee of Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, I work diligently on the mental health care system. I strongly advocated for \$90 million in resources for the Department of Mental Health in the Fiscal Year 2019 budget. Through the Committee, I have redrafted legislation on Crisis Intervention for police officers and first responders. I am dedicated to the needs of individuals living with mental illnesses and to the many community supports, including first responders that work to ensure individuals living with mental illness have live dignified lives.

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

Denise Garlick: Yes. I am the House of Representatives sponsor of the Medicare For All bill.

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

Denise Garlick: 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?*

Denise Garlick: As a Registered Nurse and a member of the Oral Health Caucus, I support increased access to dental care. It should be part of every insurance plan covering more than 97 percent of Massachusetts residents.

6. **Prescription Drug Pricing.** *Would you support a drug transparency law, like the one recently passed in*

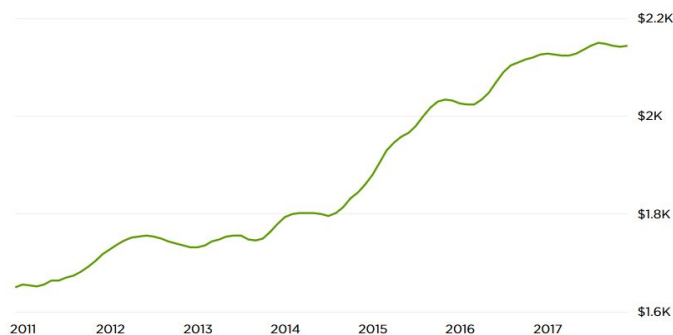
California, that requires pharmaceutical companies to publicly justify steep price increases?

Denise Garlick: 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?

Denise Garlick: One of the greatest needs in our Commonwealth today is for housing. It is the key to safety and socioeconomic stability for individuals of all ages, especially older adults, of all color, race, abilities, gender and sexual identity. Using the tools of the budget each year I have voted to support major investments in housing and I voted affirmatively on the Housing Bond Bill.

The issue of homelessness exists in my District and although it is not prevalent it is one of the intensely personal constituent needs, that through my office, we address urgently. Additionally, I am working with the Town of Medfield and the Medfield Housing Authority on the expansion of Tilden Village by an additional 40 units and I look forward to working in partnership as the vision for the development of the Medfield State Hospital property becomes a reality. In Needham, the Needham Housing Authority is in the early stages of the renovation, building and expansion of Linden Chambers. This is work that will demand positive partnerships with the Town government, the Housing Authority Board and multiple state boards. I am deeply committed to this work and it is integral to my service as the State

Representative.

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

Denise Garlick: See above.

3. **Funding.** Do you support increasing funding for affordable housing production (especially low-income housing units) and the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?

Denise Garlick: 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?

Denise Garlick: Yes.

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

Denise Garlick: Yes.

6. **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?

Denise Garlick: I support the principle of local autonomy, and I am proud that in Needham's downtown we followed the principles of smart growth with transit oriented walkable development.

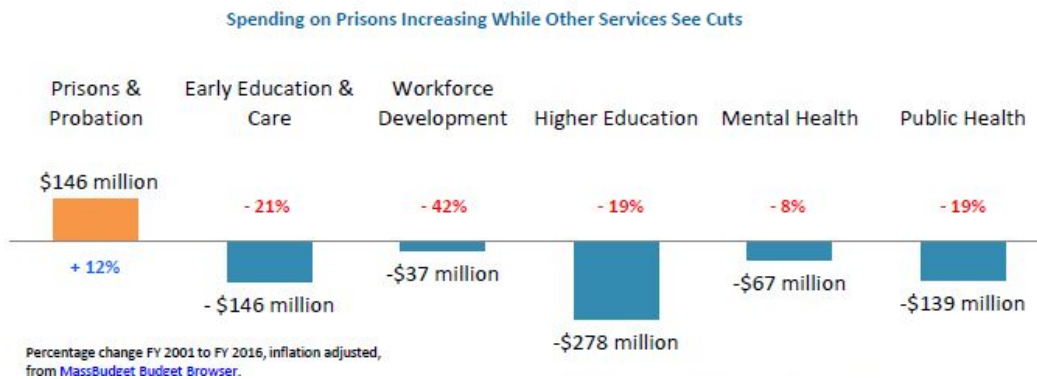
7. **Combating Speculation.** Do you support imposing a graduated tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?

Denise Garlick: I am interested in strategies to identify resources for an affordable housing trust fund.

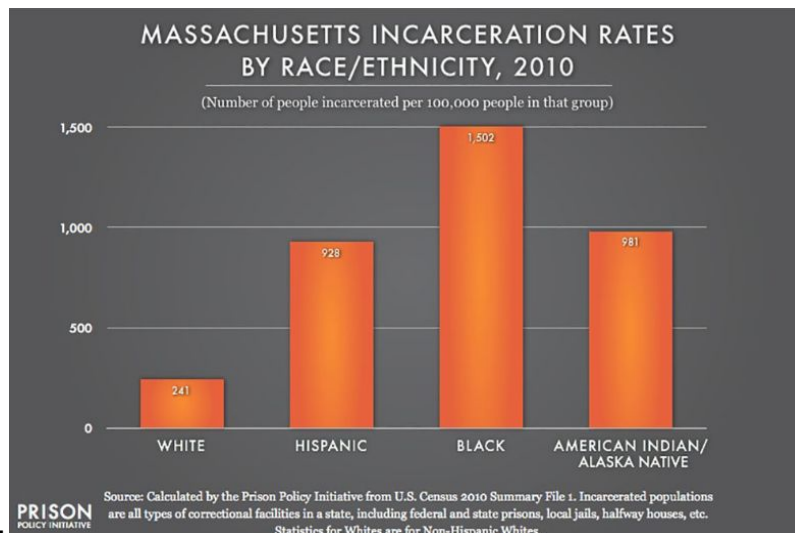
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

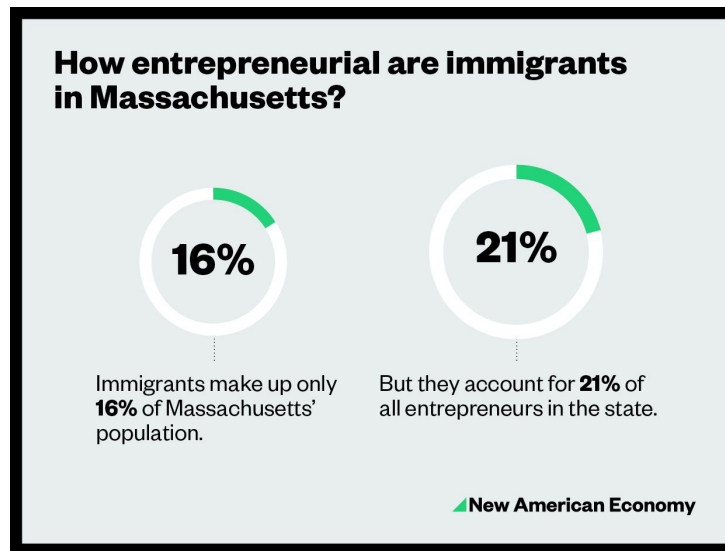
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

Denise Garlick: Across the U.S., we bear witness to an incredible divide and disparity across races, economic classes, and cultures, and I believe that the government can – and must – serve to bridge this gap. I am a strong believer in good government, recognizing the responsibilities we have to our community as public servants. From transportation infrastructure to affordable healthcare to strong schools, we must be acutely aware that the advances and opportunities we pursue must benefit all of our residents in a fair and equitable way.

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

Denise Garlick: I have been proud to co-sponsor legislation and funding for efforts such as LGBTQ awareness training for aging services providers and the LGBTQ Youth Commission. As the Chair of Elder Affairs, I also served as the chair of the LGBT Aging Commission.

I am particularly passionate about, and have been a long-time advocate for, those with disabilities. I am the mother of four children (now young adults), and my second child, Beth, was born with microcephaly and a prognosis that she would never walk or talk. Across my career, and as Beth's Mom, my husband Russell and I work in partnerships with schools, advocates, other parents, and service organizations. Beth was the first child in the inclusion model at Newman school, and she was a founding member of a community-based work and employment program as a young adult that parents demanded and piloted in Needham.

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?*

Denise Garlick: Yes. I have voted in the affirmative on this legislation each time it was brought to the House of Representatives.

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?*

Denise Garlick: Yes.

5. **Sentencing Reform.** *Which of the following steps to combat mass incarceration in the Commonwealth do you support?*

- a. *Eliminating mandatory minimum sentences related to drug offenses*

Denise Garlick: Yes.

- b. *Raising the felony threshold for theft from \$250 to \$1500*

Denise Garlick: I voted for the language presented in the Criminal Justice Reform bill.

- c. *Raising the age of criminal majority from 18 to 19*

Denise Garlick: Yes. I voted for the language presented in the Criminal Justice Reform bill.

- d. *Promoting community based alternatives for sentencing individuals who are primary caretaker of a child*

Denise Garlick: Yes.

- e. *Limiting the role of School Resource Officers, to curb the school-to-prison pipeline*

Denise Garlick: I prefer to increase investments in alternatives to school resource officers, not necessarily diminish the current role.

- f. *Eliminating or reducing fees and fines that hinder reentry efforts and turn jails into debtors' prisons*

Denise Garlick: Yes. I support this. I am happy to see this was in the criminal justice reform bill.

- g. *Increasing investment in education and job training programs for the formerly incarcerated*

Denise Garlick: Yes.

I have voted in the affirmative on the landmark Criminal Justice Reform Bill of 2018. As the Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, I had an active role in the discussions and development of many concepts of the Bill. In the many discussions about racial and social justice an equally compelling facet of criminal justice is the large proportion of individuals with mental illness who are incarcerated. The House of Correction and Department of Corrections are the de facto largest public mental health facilities in the Commonwealth. We have a great deal of work to do in our Commonwealth on the prevention, care and treatment of mental illness, and we have a grave responsibility to provide more than incarceration.

6. **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?*

Denise Garlick: Yes.

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

Denise Garlick: Yes.

8. **Black Lives Matter.** Since 2016, in response the Black Lives Matter activists' illumination of criminal justice system abuses, conservatives have pushed a myth of a "war on cops." States such as Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Kentucky have advanced "Blue Lives Matter" legislation, making law enforcement a protected class under hate crime statutes. In November 2017, the MA Legislature followed suit, creating a new "superpenalty" and mandatory minimum for assaulting a police officer. Would you oppose such policies, which would disproportionately punish minority communities and contribute to an overly carceral state?

Denise Garlick: Yes.

9. **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?

Denise Garlick: Yes. Yes, I am a cosponsor. I shared my support and rationale for the bill at the Norfolk County Chiefs of Police Legislative Breakfast and was proud to host "A Community Conversation on Community Policing" to facilitate a dialogue among law enforcement and residents.

10. **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?

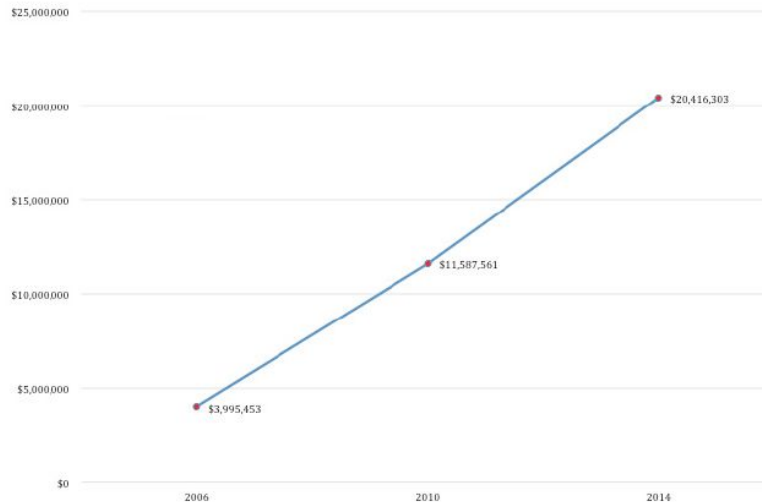
Denise Garlick: Yes. Many immigrants have lawful presence (multiple forms; visa, work permits, child in the US, marriage, refugee etc) in the United States and should not be denied a license.

G. GOOD GOVERNMENT/ STRONG DEMOCRACY

The influence of big money in politics is detrimental to democracy. Independent expenditures in MA elections have grown by a factor of five over the past decade. A centralized power structure on Beacon Hill, is undemocratic, and makes it easier for lobbyists to target the top and undermine the system. A strong democracy requires an engaged electorate, but voter turnout in midterm elections, and especially local elections, remains low. Myths about voter fraud are peddled in order to justify voter suppression. The Election Modernization Act of 2014 helped eliminate Massachusetts’s embarrassing status as one of the ten worst states in terms of voting rights, but there is still much work to be done.

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

Figure 1: MA Independent Expenditure Totals



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

Denise Garlick: Elsewhere in this questionnaire, I have talked at length about my belief in the call to public service, and that is the foundation for my work as a State Representative. I have a great sense of responsibility and accountability to my constituents for my actions, my willingness to listen and learn and the respect that I bring to my interactions with all my constituents.

I believe that government has an obligation to make better the lives of individuals, strengthening communities and promoting a strong, fair just nation.

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

Denise Garlick: I believe that one of the great threats to good government and a strong democracy,

that we are witnessing, is voter suppression. Later in this questionnaire you will see my actions to affirmatively vote in all instances where promoting voters' rights and access is the guiding principle. I am deeply concerned about the many negative and cynical messages that voters receive concerning the power of an individual's vote. The greatest danger, in my opinion, is the negative messages our children are receiving concerning elected, agency leaders and staff and processes for government action. I am deeply concerned that young people will disengage from the democratic system as voters long before they are even eligible to engage. To that end, I am deeply committed to our youth. State House visits for our third and fifth graders are a priority for me to engage with our children and share a sense of achievement of Massachusetts history and pride. I am deeply committed to the Needham Pollard Middle School students and I have traditionally presented 21 times each Spring to each class section a 53-minute class on "How a Bill becomes a Law" that has grown and changed in the years of my service to include a reflection of media messages on government. Since the first time I was elected in 2010, I have now met with more than 2000 students. Recently, I have been invited to community service events at the Dover - Sherborn Middle School and Pollard Middle Schools. I visit with our AP history and Government students and have structured a meaningful, goal directed process for interns in their post-high school years. This is important work to me and I dedicate the time and attention it deserves because I believe it will have a positive impact on young people's willingness to assume their personal power to effect meaningful impacts in government and for our society.

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?*

Denise Garlick: I would not support or oppose a blanket assertion as phrased here, but would certainly welcome proposals along these lines in an effort to increase efficiency and accountability in our state legislature.

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

Denise Garlick: Yes.

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

a. *Election day voter registration*

Denise Garlick: Yes.

b. *Automatic voter registration*

Denise Garlick: Yes.

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

Denise Garlick: Yes.

d. *No-fault absentee voting*

Denise Garlick: Yes.

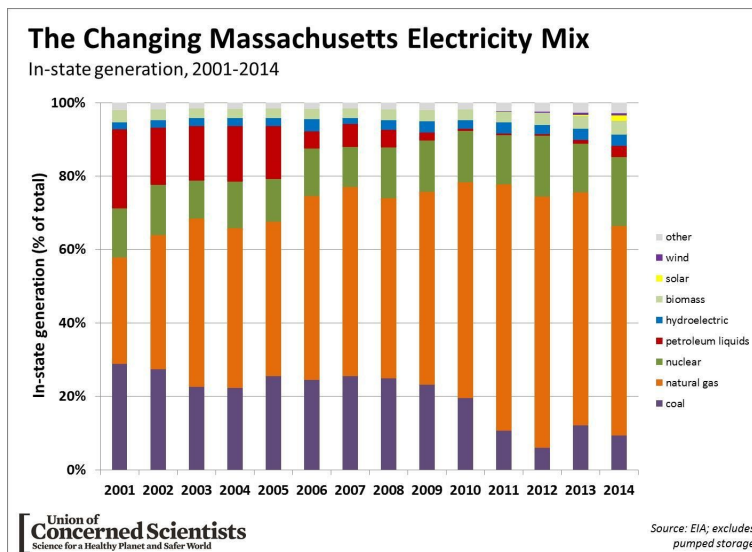
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

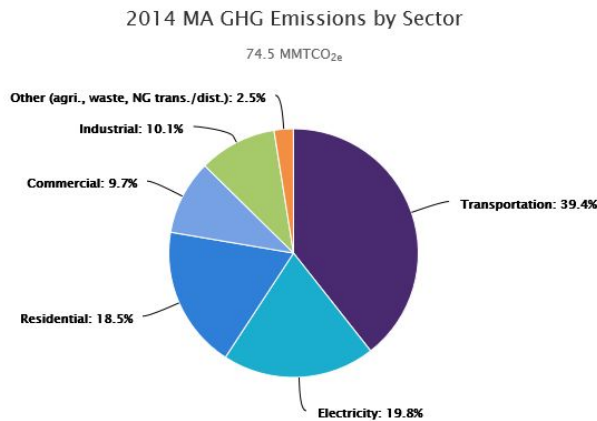
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and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

Denise Garlick: As a newly-elected State Representative, I began my service with my understanding of the strengths of our communities and Community and areas of concern that needed to be strengthened. I deeply value the concept of “listening and learning” and the arena that it proved to be the most valuable is related our environment and energy. I am deeply grateful to my many teachers from Green Needham, the League of Women Voters energy and environment subgroup and the Interfaith Group on Environmental Justice. I have grown in my understanding of these issues and impacts and have developed into a steadfast advocate and supporter of issues related to climate disruption, energy and our environment.

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

Denise Garlick: In the last session, at my request the Chair of the Joint Committee on Climate Change hosted in Powers Hall, Needham a forum on energy and the environment focused on pending legislation. Additionally, as a public health advocate, I am deeply concerned about the negative impacts and health risks of environmental/ industrial issues specifically on low-income communities as well as our country and world.

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

Denise Garlick: 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?*

Denise Garlick: 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?

Denise Garlick: 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?*

Denise Garlick: Yes.

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

Denise Garlick: Yes.

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

Denise Garlick: Yes.

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

Denise Garlick: Yes.

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

Denise Garlick: Yes.

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

Denise Garlick: Yes.

10. **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?*

Denise Garlick: 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.

Denise Garlick: It has been an honor to represent the 13th Norfolk District of Needham, Dover and Medfield - which I consider my three hometowns. I share the issues and concerns of the families, older adults, veterans and individuals of all abilities in this district. I bring these shared values to the state house, advocating for solutions in healthcare, the opioid epidemic and polysubstance use, education, civil rights, civic engagement, and the environment, among others.

In these unsettled times, I am proud of the many ways Massachusetts leads our nation. We are number one in public education, in life sciences, and in benefits and services provided to veterans. I also know we can and must continue to strengthen our Commonwealth by closing the achievement gap, reforming criminal justice, committing to clean energy and preserving our environment. It is a humbling responsibility to address the complicated issues that impact the lives of the 40,000 residents of the 13th Norfolk District. I believe public service is important and worthy work and it is my hope that I will continue this work by earning the vote of the people of Needham, Dover and Medfield.

I was grateful to be recognized by Progressive Needham in 2017 with the "Persistence Award" for my work as the lead co-sponsor on the passage of the Race Amity Bill and I would be honored to receive the support of Progressive Massachusetts.