

*Jack Stanton*

# 5th Barnstable State Representative

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## *Endorsement Questionnaire*

**Office Sought:** State Representative

**Legislative District:** 5th Barnstable

**Party:** Democratic

**Website:** [www.electjackstanton.org](http://www.electjackstanton.org)

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

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**Instagram:** @5andwichman



**Election:** November 6

# Contents

- Election: November 6** **0**
- Introduction: Progressive Mass** **2**
  - About 2
  - Membership 2
  - How Endorsements Work 2
  - Sources 2
- I. About the Candidate** **3**
  - Jack Stanton 3
- II. THE ISSUES** **4**
  - A. REVENUE AND TAXATION 4
  - B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY 6
  - C. EDUCATION 9
  - D. HEALTH CARE 13
  - E. HOUSING 15
  - F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE 17
  - G. GOOD GOVERNMENT/  
STRONG DEMOCRACY 20
  - H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION 23

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# Introduction: Progressive Mass

## About

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

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

### Membership

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

### How Endorsements Work

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

## Sources

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

# I. About the Candidate

## Jack Stanton

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

**Jack Stanton:** I am running for State Rep because for too long Cape Cod has been perceived as a wealthy enclave of our Commonwealth. Beyond the veneer of the vacation homes, folks who live on Cape year round work extremely hard to survive. At present no one is projecting a 50-100 vision into the future to ensure that the Cape will be a sustainable place to live. I was fortunate enough to be raised in this community because my parents moved to Cape Cod at a time when working families could afford to live here. Currently, working families, young people, and seniors are having a hard time affording the incredible cost of living in our hometowns. I believe we can do better, but we need the Commonwealth to step up and deliver on the promises we make to our citizens. Three priorities include: Transportation, fixing chapter 70, and boosting coastal resiliency.

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

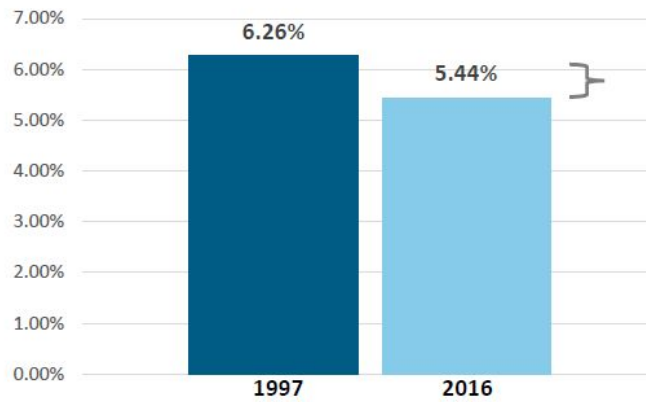
**Jack Stanton:** I know this district in an intimate way that only growing up here can provide. Given the challenges impacting the Cape, it takes one who not only understands the problems we face, but is also living them, to advocate in remedying them. I feel that my knowledge and life experience in the district and beyond makes me far better qualified to represent my neighbors than the incumbent.

# 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.

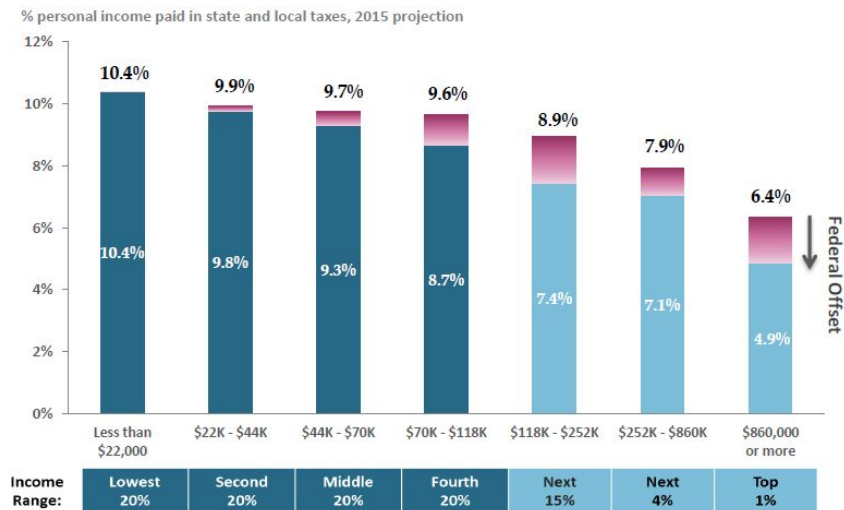
**Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.**

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?*

**Jack Stanton:** As a progressive I believe in an efficient, responsive government which manages public resources well. We should be the ones who win arguments over fiscal responsibility and our policy should always be in the pursuit of “the public good”. Tax breaks for wealthy individuals and corporations run counter to this basic precept, and we need to take back the moral high ground in terms of being good stewards of the public’s money and trust. I strongly support the fair share amendment to ensure we have the resources to make the public sector investments needed to take our Commonwealth forward and believe our tax structure should be progressive in nature. Efficiencies and collaboration between various state agencies must be sought. Sin taxes and user fees are regressive and should ONLY be utilized as stopgaps of last resort for emergency funding needs (i.e. disaster mitigation and the like).

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?*

**Jack Stanton:** Yes.

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

**Jack Stanton:** Yes.

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

**Jack Stanton:** Yes.

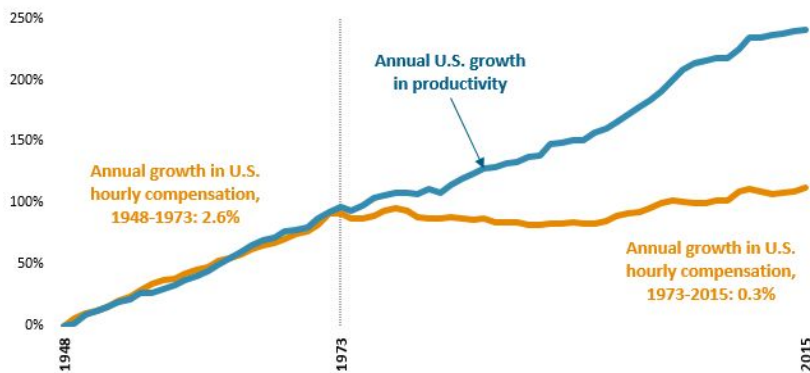
## B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

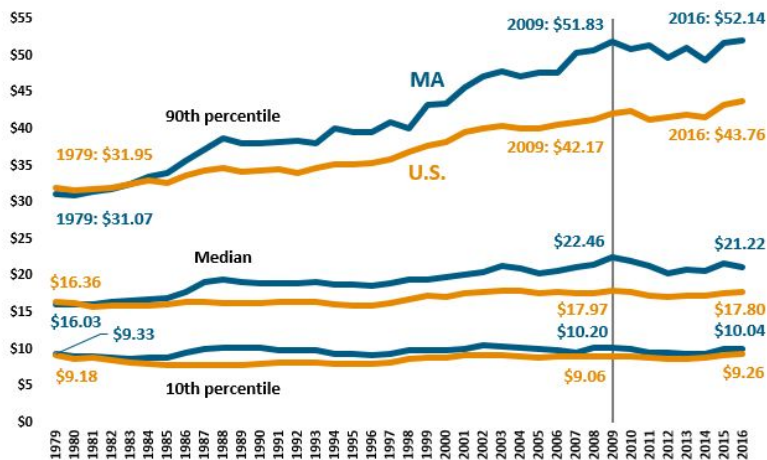
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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?*

**Jack Stanton:** Two of my core values relating to job growth are sustainability and equity. “Job growth” is not the only indicator we should be looking for given precarious gig economy jobs. I believe that the sectors that have the greatest growth potential in our Commonwealth are in alternative energy, and employment tied to the “Blue Economy”. Many of these jobs are infrastructure jobs which will create multiplier effects further down the line. Further, we have the potential to be industry leaders within these emerging new sectors, and should strive to foster their development with incentives here in Massachusetts. Given the coastal nature of our state, we need to leverage our maritime assets with an emphasis on job creation in sectors such as marine technology, tourism, offshore wind, aquaculture, and sustainable fisheries. I view income and wealth inequality as one of the greatest threats to our democracy and our once vibrant middle class.

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

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

**Jack Stanton:** Yes.

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

**Jack Stanton:** 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?*

**Jack Stanton:** 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?*

**Jack Stanton:** Yes.

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

**Jack Stanton:** Yes.



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

**Jack Stanton:** Yes.

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

**Jack Stanton:** Yes.

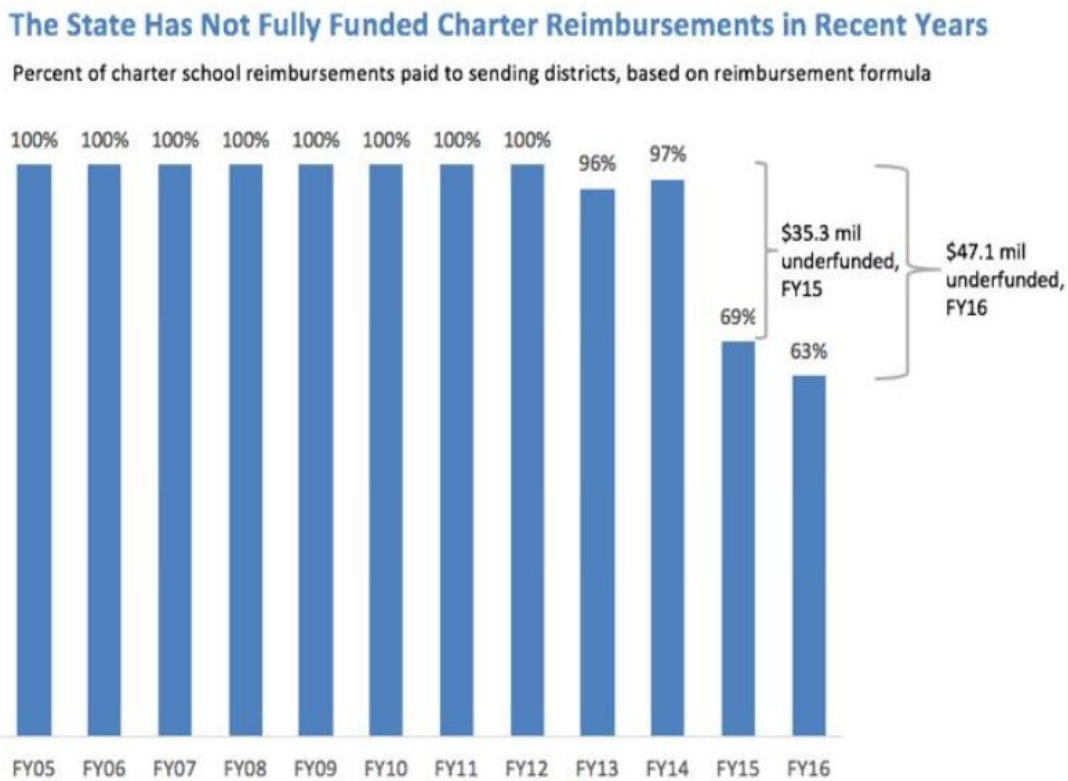
10. **Economic Democracy.** Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?

**Jack Stanton:** Yes.

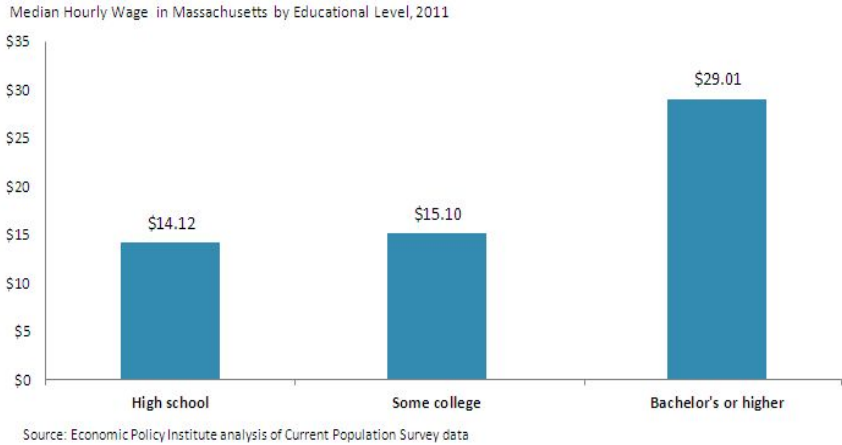
# C. EDUCATION

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.**

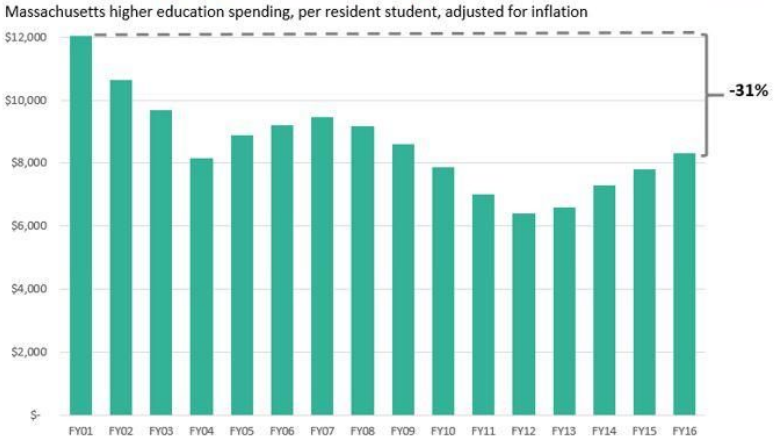


**Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.**



**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?*

**Jack Stanton:** As a product of public schools and a contemporary and friend of many people who attended private schools, the contrast between the social education is stark--let alone the curriculum-based differences. A public education is one of the few aspects of American society that ideally levels the playing field and allows every student the opportunity to succeed. While funding shortfalls disparately affect schools, the core value of a public education is such that we must defend it at all costs.

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?*

**Jack Stanton:** Yes.

4. ***Standardized Testing.*** *Do you support a three-year moratorium on the high-stakes uses of standardized testing, as proposed by S.308? (High-stakes" uses include high school graduation, teacher evaluation, and assigning ratings to schools.)*

**Jack Stanton:** 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?*

**Jack Stanton:** 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**?*

**Jack Stanton:** 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?*

**Jack Stanton:** 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?*

**Jack Stanton:** Yes.

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

**Jack Stanton:** Yes.

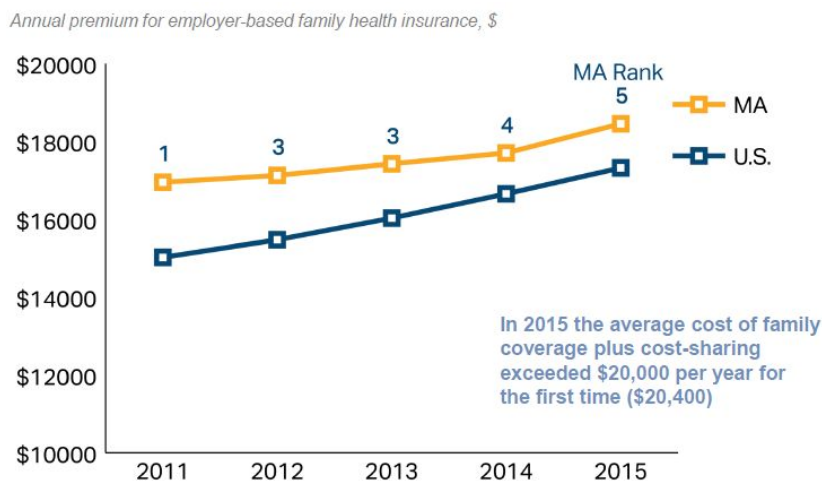
9. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** *Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?*

**Jack Stanton:** 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.*

**Jack Stanton:** Every developed economy in the world has some form of single-payer system to distribute services in a cost-effective manner, and they typically cover all of their citizens at nearly half the price exacted in the United States. In the name of efficiency, economic impact, and improved outcomes this approach should be immediately instituted. We should be looking for results, not rhetoric. The vast aggregations of data do not lie – this is the only way forward. It should be pursued with vigor.

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

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

**Jack Stanton:** Yes.

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

**Jack Stanton:** 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?

**Jack Stanton:** 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?

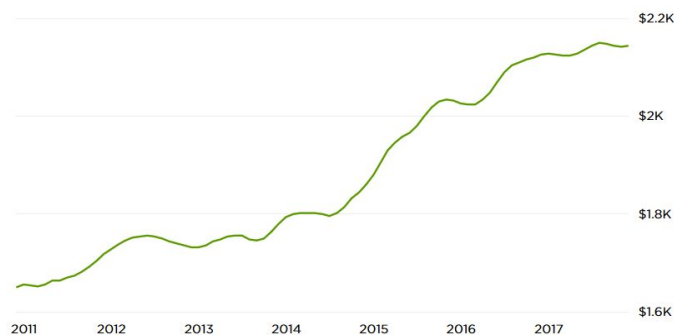
**Jack Stanton:** Yes.

## E. HOUSING

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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?*

**Jack Stanton:** On the Cape, one of my primary issues is the housing crisis. Many of my friends who moved back here after school, or never left at all, are finding it difficult to afford housing in the community the only place that they've ever called home. In addition, some of the issues contributing to higher housing costs can be alleviated by extending rail and expanding local public transit.

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

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

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



**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

*b. The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?*

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

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

**Jack Stanton: 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?*

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

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

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

**6. Tenant Protections.** *Would you support legislation, such as the Jim Brooks Stabilization Act, that requires landlords to provide a reason when seeking to evict a tenant, like failure to pay rent, damaging property, or breaking a lease; informs tenants of their rights under state law; and increases data collection on eviction?*

**Jack Stanton: 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?*

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

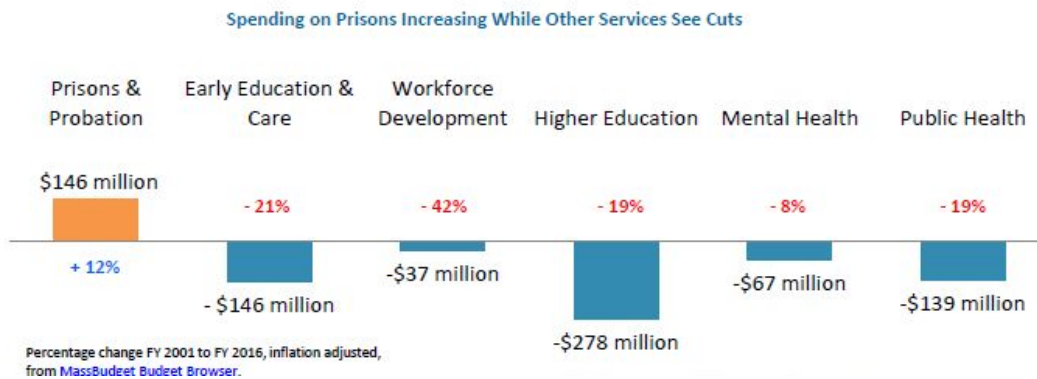
**8. Combating Speculation.** *Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to impose a graduated tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?*

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

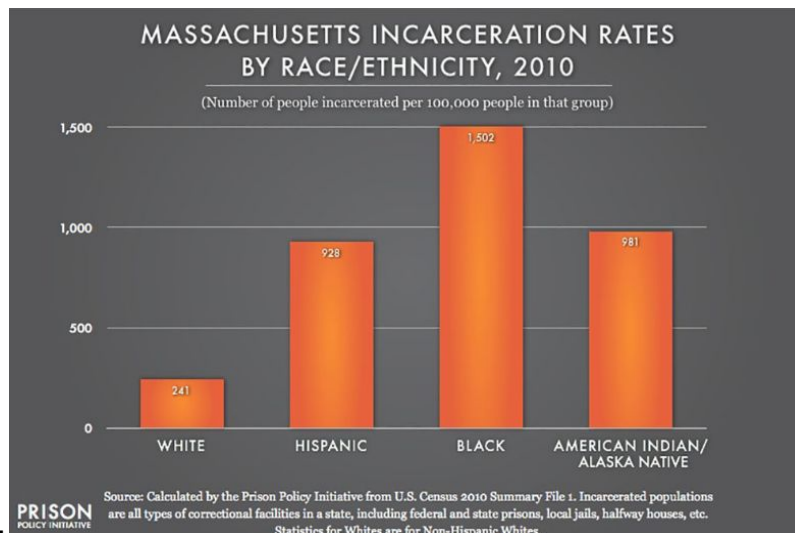
# F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

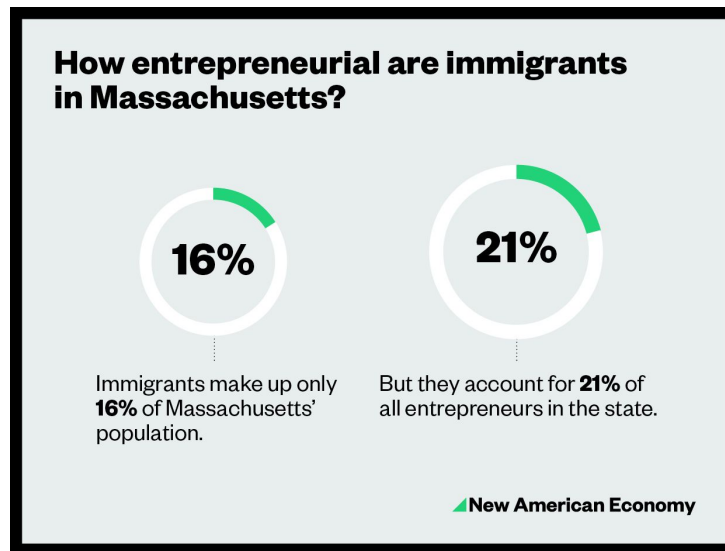
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

**Jack Stanton:** Discrimination in any and all forms is something to be battled head on, and it is the role of public officials to use their platform to spearhead these fights. Simply, I abhor judgment based on anyone's identity and refuse to allow such judgments to fester in the public square, endangering marginalized groups and allowing reactionary elements to enter the dialogue.

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

**Jack Stanton:** 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?*

**Jack Stanton:** Yes.

<http://www.capecodtimes.com/opinion/20180712/two-cape-legislators-oppose-ban-on-conversion-therapy>

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?*

**Jack Stanton:** 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?

**Jack Stanton: 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)?

**Jack Stanton: 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?

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

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

**Jack Stanton: 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?

**Jack Stanton: 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?

**Jack Stanton: 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?

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

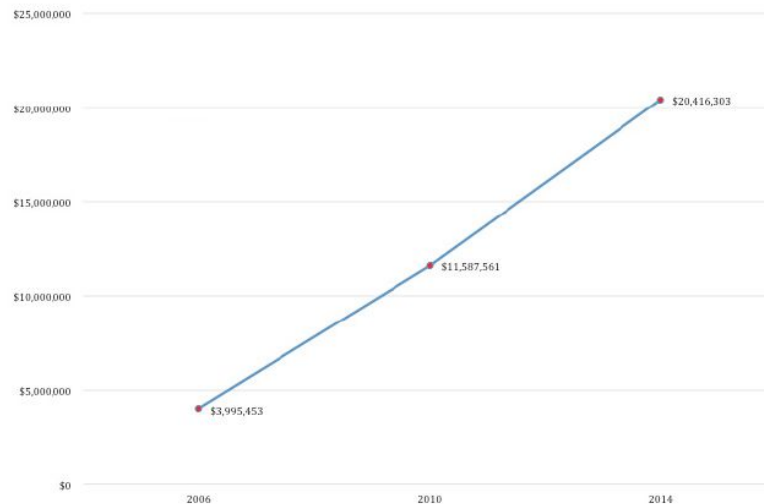
# G. GOOD GOVERNMENT/ STRONG DEMOCRACY

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

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

**Figure 1: MA Independent Expenditure Totals**



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

**Jack Stanton:** Good government means two things: effective enough to actually achieve outcomes for ordinary people as well as local and responsive enough to know what to do in the first place. In terms of issues specifically relating to campaigning, I would strongly prefer the entire system to be publicly financed. A publicly financed election would greatly curb the ability of big money and dark money actors to buy a government that is small and unresponsive to the point of irrelevance. This would also make elections more competitive and elected officials more reflective of the views of the electorate.

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

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

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

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

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

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

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

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

4. **Transparency.** Too often, decisions that affect millions across the Commonwealth are made behind closed doors with little public input. Indeed, Massachusetts is one of only two states where the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the Judiciary claim full exemption from the public records laws. Would you support the following efforts to increase transparency and public accountability...?

a. Eliminating the aforementioned exemption?

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

b. Making all committee roll call votes available to the public?

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

c. Making conference committees more transparent by requiring minutes to be recorded and shared with the public within 24 hours of every meeting?

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

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

**Jack Stanton: 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"?

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

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

a. Election day voter registration

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

b. Expansion of early voting to “off-year” elections

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

c. No-fault absentee voting

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

d. Universal voting-by-mail

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

Ranked choice voting gives the voters the best way of getting the leaders they want and more choices in an election. It should be pursued in the Commonwealth.

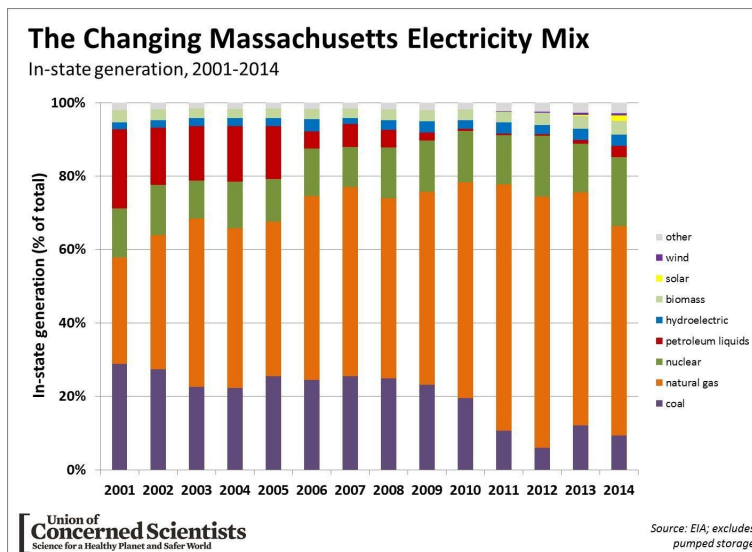
# H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

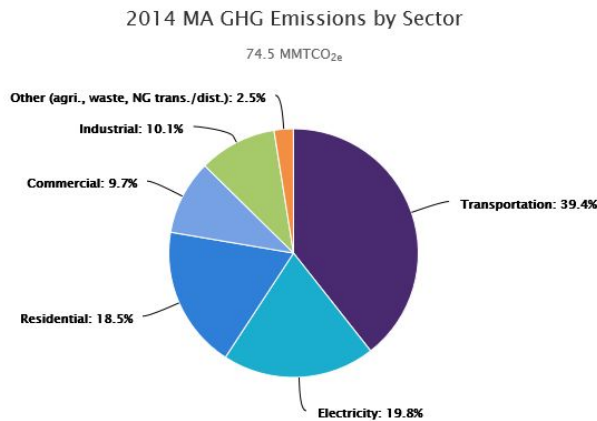
Public transit must play a role in decarbonizing our transportation system, as well as advancing complementary goals of equity and inclusion. However, Massachusetts politicians have lost their understanding of public transit as a public good that benefits all residents and businesses in Massachusetts,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

**Jack Stanton:** It should go without saying that climate issues are of enormous concern on the Cape. My values and principles are clear: we must do everything in our power to preserve the very land I grew up on. More than one fifth of the tax base of the Town of Sandwich lies directly in a flood zone, and if left unchecked, the local economy will be decimated by the rising seas. The actions we take as a government must account for sustainability and carbon emission; we simply no longer have the option to do otherwise.

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

**Jack Stanton:** 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?*

**Jack Stanton:** 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?*

**Jack Stanton:** 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?*

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

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

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

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

**Jack Stanton: Yes.** Remove the pipeline tax!

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

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

**Jack Stanton: 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?*

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**

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

**Jack Stanton: 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?*

**Jack Stanton: Yes.**