

Jeffrey Sánchez

15th Suffolk

State Representative

Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: State Representative

Legislative District: 15th Suffolk

Party: Democratic

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

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

Membership

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

How Endorsements Work

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

Sources

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

I. About the Candidate

Jeffrey Sánchez

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: As a lifelong resident of the community, I've seen how state government and people working together can make our neighborhoods stronger. I grew up in public housing in Mission Hill where I learned about civic engagement from my mother. Now, my wife and I raise our two daughters here in Jamaica Plain. That's why I'm committed to addressing the most important issues for our communities. I helped lead the effort to protect marriage equality and ensure

universal healthcare in the legislature while working with leaders to pass transgender non-discrimination, equal pay, women's health laws, and to raise the minimum wage.

This past session alone we've accomplished so much, from comprehensive criminal justice reform to ensuring copay-free birth control to all women in Massachusetts. I recently completed my first House budget as Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, where we passed a budget that invests in the most vulnerable amongst us, protected healthcare for low-income families, and funded programs that make a difference in people's lives.

We're just getting started. I'm running for re-election to continue our progressive agenda of increasing access to healthcare, affordable housing, and violence prevention so we can help people here in Mission Hill, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, Brookline, and across Massachusetts.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: I have the experience and the record to continue serving our district. I've supported progressive values throughout my career, and have been deeply involved in the neighborhood through good and through bad. I'm on the ground, and everything we hear and see happening in the neighborhood directly informs what we do in the State House.

The House went beyond what everyone thought we would in our criminal justice reform law, and was lauded by reform advocates. With our new law, people can now erase records for crimes that are no longer laws, like the possession of marijuana. And we lift up youth by allowing them to expunge non-violent records, empowering them to turn their lives around without being held back while applying for a job or school.

In my first budget as Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, groups like the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund, Environmental League of Massachusetts, the ACLU, and Pine Street Inn lauded it for various its progressive provisions and priorities. We passed a \$1.8 billion housing bond bill to fund programs that have helped us develop over 500 units of affordable housing in Jackson Square, and will support the 300+ in the pipeline. I secured over \$40 million in our capital bond bill to help fund the Jackson Square Recreation Center and other improvements to the neighborhood.

I've worked hard in the community and in the State House to get into a position of leadership where I can have a direct impact on legislation and issues that matter most to our community and Commonwealth. In my new role as chair of Ways and Means, I have the opportunity to meet with all 159 members of the House to find areas where we agree on priority legislation, and help ensure that we have enough votes to move forward on important issues.

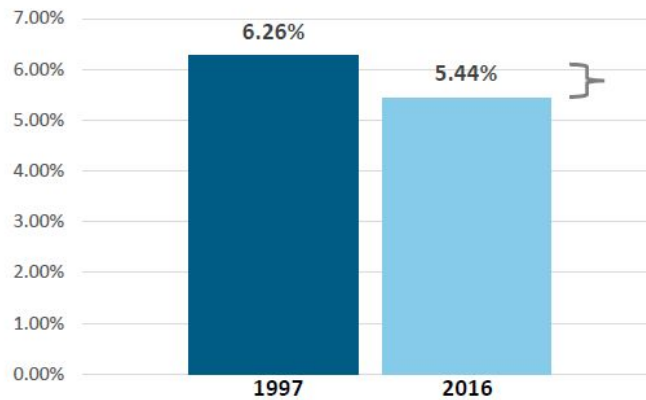
I look forward to building on this work in the State House and in our community. Our campaign has been endorsed by SEIU 32BJ, 1199 SEIU, Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund, NARAL Pro-Choice MA, the Bay State Stonewall Democrats, the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts, Environmental League of Massachusetts Action Fund, and Local 26 Hospitality Workers Union, a testament to our progressive, inclusive experience and vision forward.

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.

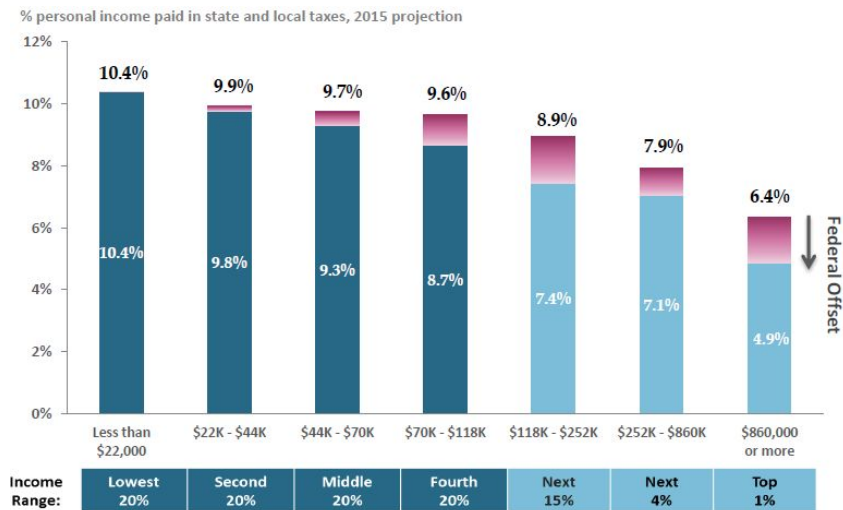
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: I believe that our system should lift up all workers and in a progressive tax structure. We've had a robust conversation about taxation and fees in the past few years, and I am committed to continuing that conversation in the future with members of the House, Senate, in our local community, and around the entire Commonwealth.

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.).*

Jeffrey Sánchez: I have worked with my colleagues in the House to identify ways to increase revenues for programs and services that benefit people across the Commonwealth. I have voted to raise revenues to improve services and programs for people here in Boston and Brookline, and have supported policies that ensure working families stay strong, such as increasing the earned income tax credit and increasing low income housing tax credits to develop affordable housing.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. I voted to advance this ballot question in the legislature and have publicly spoken in favor of it. I was extremely disappointed that the question will not go to the ballot. We've having serious discussions on equity throughout this commonwealth on who's doing great and who's not doing great. We know there's a lot of people in the commonwealth that work hard every single day just to pay rent and put food on the table, and at the same time, there's extreme wealth. That ballot question was trying to get directly at the heart of finding equity here in the commonwealth, especially for hard working people.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: As part of negotiations with RaiseUp and other stakeholders, we passed legislation that implemented a \$15 minimum wage and the strongest paid family and medical leave policy in the country. One concession was for an annual sales tax holiday. Ultimately, I see it as an reinvestment in our local businesses, and an opportunity/incentive for people to keep dollars in their local community. And for us to take away the sales tax repeal, which would have cost the state over \$1.5 billion, crucial funding necessary for state services for our most vulnerable residents.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: It would depend on the information collected. An issue I've brought up relative to the life sciences legislation is that relative to diversity. The state has invested billions to successfully create a booming industry, but people of color rarely hold leadership positions at these firms. In our new Life Sciences law, I made sure that the language including diversity initiatives. Along the way, I

had discussions with the various quasi-public entities and with life sciences companies to push them on the diversity issue so we see more women and people of color in the industry.

On the other hand, affordable housing is made possible through a patchwork of funding programs, and tax credits like the Brownfields Tax Credit and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit are often vital in making the financing possible. These credits have been used in Mission Hill, Jamaica Plain, and across the Commonwealth to preserve and develop affordable housing, which I consider to be an unquantifiable public benefit in terms of health, environment, etc.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: I am a supporter of a living wage and support requiring all companies to pay a living wage and provide good benefits to employees.

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

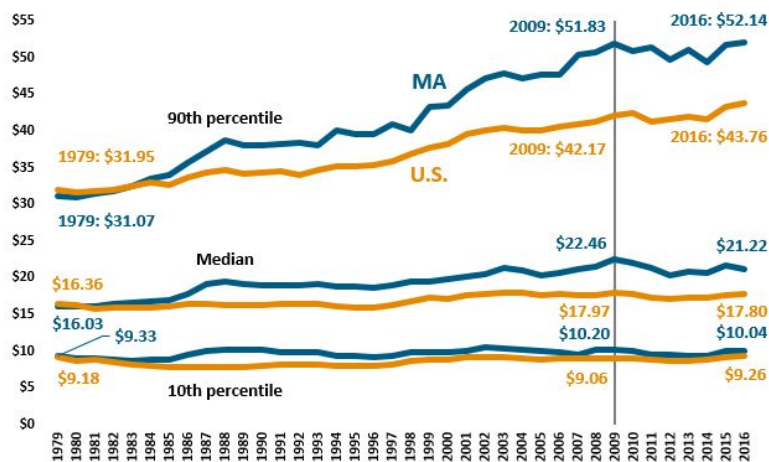
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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?

Jeffrey Sánchez: As I said on the House floor while introducing the FY2019 budget, MassHealth is the largest economic development program we have in Massachusetts. It provides dignity and healthcare to the frail, elderly, poor, and working poor. “Sin tu salud, no hay nada” is a phrase my mother always said when I was young – without health, there is nothing.

The state invests so much in the people of Massachusetts. Through our state budget, we are able to help the most vulnerable amongst us with quality early education through college, with workforce development and training initiatives, housing vouchers and programs, mental health services, and investments in programs that promote healthy lifestyles.

I have supported numerous economic development initiatives to create jobs in our communities, including working with Mayor Menino to pass the I-cubed legislation that helped create Assembly Square in Somerville and the rebirth of the South Boston Waterfront.

At the same time, I know that so many people are working hard in our Commonwealth, yet struggle to put food on the table or pay rent.

I have advocated and voted for policies to decrease income inequality: a \$15 minimum wage, paid family and medical leave, gender pay equity, and pregnant workers’ fairness. Through these initiatives, we are able to lessen the burden that many women, people of color, and low-income individuals face in the job market. Unions are another key component in this effort. In the wake of the *Janus* decision, I am committed to finding solutions that ensure our unions stay strong.

Further, I have supported state initiatives to increase diversity, including in the state’s booming life sciences sector, while also talking to leaders at businesses and higher education institutions to ensure they engage the community and make efforts to employ community members with good jobs.

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.).*

Jeffrey Sánchez: Throughout my career I have worked to increase job opportunities for people of color or low-income.

3. Increasing Wages.

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

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

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

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: I worked actively to pass legislation raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour. Despite vocal efforts, we prevented a teen wage from being adopted. We raised the tipped minimum wage, and changed the way end of shift wages are collected so tipped worker wages are brought up to the state minimum wage based on earnings that day, replacing current policy where employee wages are brought up to the minimum over an entire pay cycle. This prevents high tip weekend earnings from balancing out slower weekday shifts.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: I worked actively to pass legislation that institutes the strongest paid family and medical leave policy of any state in the country. We are the only one to have job-protected leave to receive treatment for a serious medical condition, bond with a newborn or newly adopted child, care for a family member with a serious medical condition, care for a family member injured while serving in the armed forces, or hand matters arising from a family member's active duty service in the armed forces.

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?

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. I have a history standing with our workers – I have stood with PCAs as they worked to unionize, and I recently rallied with healthcare workers at Whittier Street Health Center in support of workers who were fired in the days before their vote to unionize.

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?

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. The House is currently on legislation to ensure labor unions remain strong in wake of the *Janus* decision.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: I have met with unions about this issue. Everyone acknowledges that there are problems, and I am currently working with stakeholders to arrive at a conclusion that supports workers' rights and hard-earned wages.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: I am open to entering the discussion to further understand the impacts on workers.

9. Economic Democracy. Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of

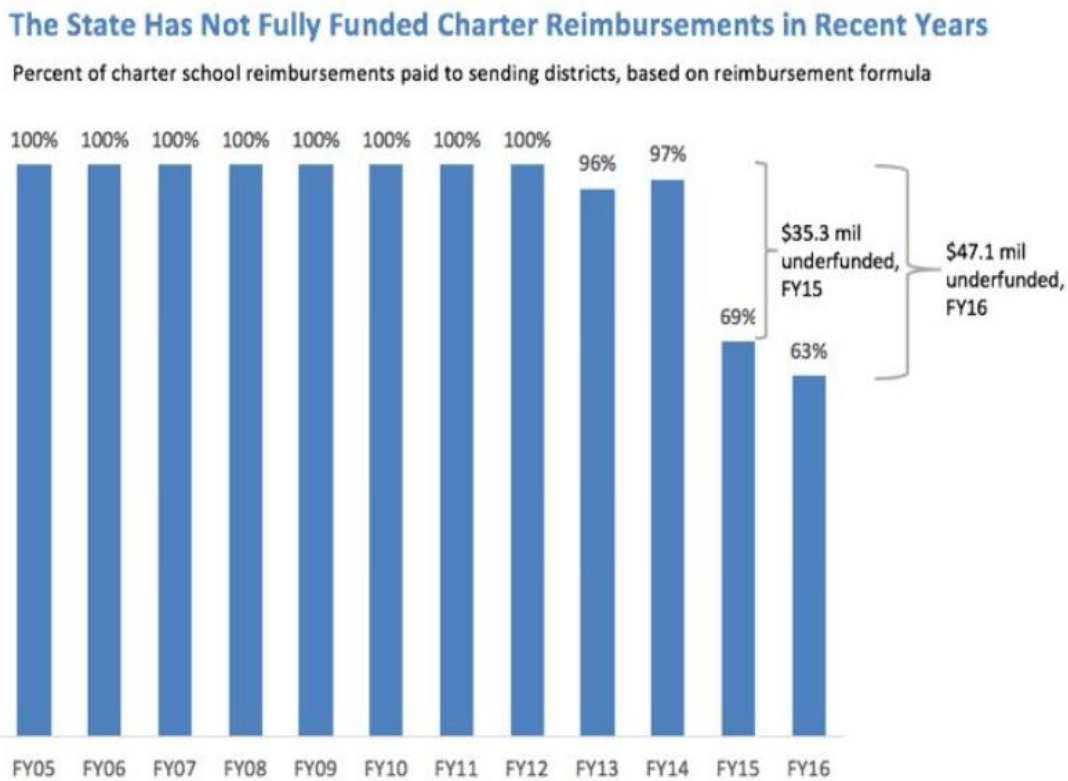
businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. I have always supported people who start small businesses, whether through support for grants, advice throughout the licensing process, and connecting them to resources in the small business community. I'm committed to continuing that conversation with cooperatives, so we can have a thriving culture of local business here in Boston and Brookline, and throughout the Commonwealth.

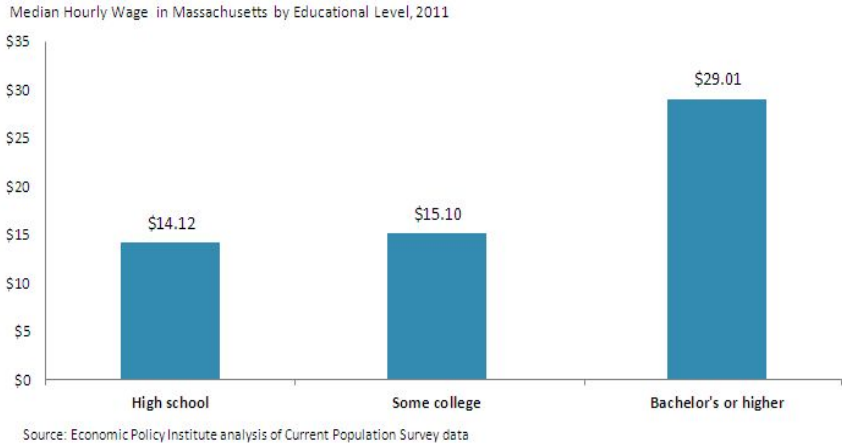
C. EDUCATION

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

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

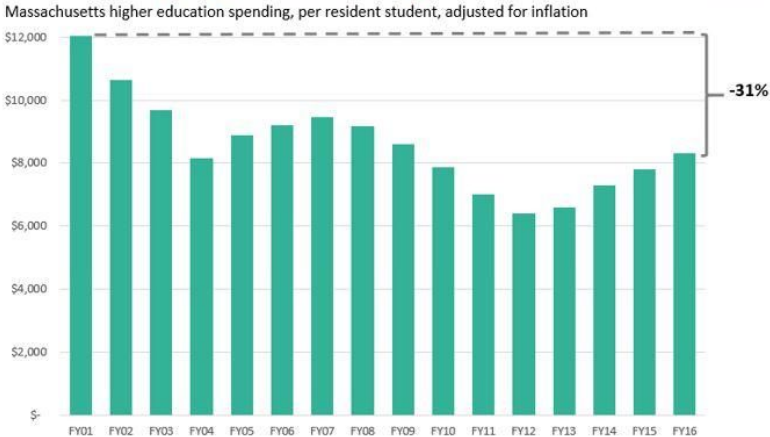


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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

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



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

Jeffrey Sánchez: I am product of public education – I attended Boston Public Schools, graduated from UMass Boston, and took classes at Roxbury Community College (eventually earning my Associates Degree 30 years later). My journey through education is like so many other Latinos in Boston, and throughout Massachusetts. I struggled in school but could always rely on my mother and neighbors to keep me straight. It's these experiences that have motivated me throughout my career to find opportunities to close the achievement gap that holds so many students back.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: Perhaps my proudest accomplishment is passing the Language Opportunities for Our Kids Act.

When I first ran for election, a racist, misleading ballot question was pushed by Mitt Romney and a California billionaire to require kids to speak and learn English-only in school. I was working for the BPS superintendent at the time, and was disappointed in the harsh, unfounded rhetoric that so many voters bought into (it reflects much of what we're hearing now in the immigration debate). In my first session as state representative, I worked with BPS to file the LOOK bill in order to reverse the one-size-fits-all approach to English language learners in Massachusetts.

Over the past 15 years, I worked with all stakeholders to bring attention to the issue, and shed light on the fact that a gap persisted for ELL students, and that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education wasn't even collecting the necessary data to know how many waivers were issued to ELL students in schools. That's why I was so proud that this bill was signed into law last fall, officially allowing school districts to select curriculum and programs to educate ELL students based on their needs, not a one-size-fits-all approach that failed so many for so long.

We held forums, wrote op-eds, and took to the airwaves, but most importantly, we talked to people about the issue. I engaged members of the House and even sat down one-on-one with one of the original ballot question's proponents. This is the approach I bring to all policy matters: engaging all stakeholders on issues that are important to our values, and finding opportunities to move these issues forward.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. Study after study have shown the benefits of early education. In 2004, I was proud to support legislation enabling Massachusetts to become the first state in the nation to launch an independent, consolidated department with a primary focus on early childhood learning and care. From that point, we have committed ourselves to expanding opportunities and increasing quality early education in Massachusetts.

The House is committed to early education and care by decreasing staff turnover and increasing salaries

for early educators. Our recently-passed budget was especially strong, investing \$20 million for the early education workforce reserve, \$8.5 million for early education workforce development, \$235 million for supportive and TANF childcare, and \$270 million for income eligible early education.

Nearly 37% of early educators rely on public assistance. Our \$20 million EEC Workforce Rate Reserve will increase the average early education salary nearly \$1,500.

In addition to teachers, we have invested in infrastructure to support EEC: Our new housing bond law includes \$45 million for the Early Education and Out of School Time Capital Fund to help build early education facilities in communities across the Commonwealth.

I helped secure \$20 million to build the Nurture Learning Lab in JP, which is a state of the art facility inside the Bromley-Heath public housing development. It provides quality classrooms and opportunities for our most at-risk children, setting them up for success in a development that all but stacks the cards against them.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: I believe in diverse assessment tools to understand students' progress at all points in their education, to ensure they perform to the best of their abilities, and so we can learn what we need to do for each individual student on their educational pathway. The Curley K-8 School here in JP could provide us ideas on how we might develop an alternative assessment tool to gauge student performance.

I look forward to seeing the results of this pilot here in Boston Public Schools and in the other five districts.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: The House has actually already begun the process of implementing the recommendations of the FBRC incrementally through the House budget. Our recently-passed House budget funded Chapter 70 at \$4.872 billion, the highest ever amount. In this increase, we allocated \$39 million in new dollars to address increasing teacher and faculty healthcare costs, as recommended by the Foundation Budget Review Commission. This brings us to 30% implantation on our 7-year glidepath. Further, we made substantial increases in other local aid accounts for the first time in years, including \$300 million for the Special Education Circuit Breaker, 90 million for Charter School Reimbursement, and \$9.1 million for McKinney Vento Homeless Student Transportation.

The House budget included funding to implement the LOOK bill for districts to develop educational programming that works for them, and funding for districts to engage and re-engage ELL students at risk of dropping out (3x the state average) and to fund summer language academies. The Foundation Budget Review Commission was vaguer in terms of how to tackle ELL rate increases and low-income student rate increases, essentially leaving it up to additional research to ensure that any additional funds allotted as a result of ELL and low-income students are spent on those students in effective, proven ways that reduce the achievement gap.

I carry the values of a quality public education for everyone. There are so many competing priorities in the budget, but I wanted to use my first budget as chair of Ways and Means to see where we could increase funding given current revenues.

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**?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: I've spent my entire career having conversation with teachers, schools, parents, students, and other stakeholders to talk about how we deal with the issues relative to underperforming schools here in my district and throughout the commonwealth. In my district, we have Boston Public Schools, Brookline Public Schools, Roxbury Prep Charter School, and private schools. I support improving quality and increasing opportunities for students in all of these schools. I am committed to working with schools, the MTA, the BTU, parents and any other interested parties to make sure we're bringing resources and building relationships with schools to make sure that children are prepared to take part in our 21st century economy.

At the end of the day, I am interested in working with people to find ways to close the stark gap students of color face in Massachusetts.

In my first budget as chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, I've tried to get us on a glidepath to fund education and local aid accounts as identified by the Foundation Budget Review Commission, among competing budget priorities. This included \$300 million for the Special Education Circuit Breaker (6.7% increase), \$90 million for the Charter School Reimbursement (11.8% increase), and \$9.1 million for McKinney Vento Homeless Student Transportation (12.3% increase). Given the state of public charter schools post-question 2, it is important to support the children currently attending all schools to ensure that we provide support for struggling students in order to close the education gap throughout the Commonwealth.

- 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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: See above.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: I have always stood up for immigrant communities. I have an established record on this

particular issue.

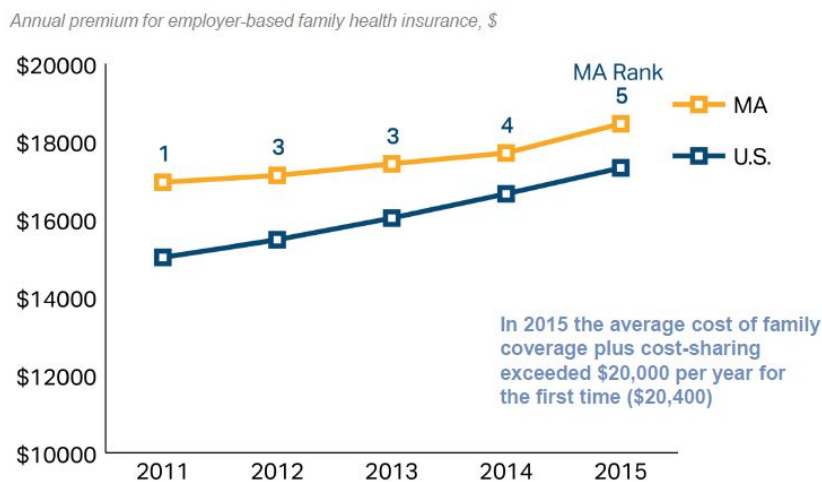
9. ***Tuition-Free Higher Education.*** *Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: We included \$104 million in the recently-passed House budget for higher ed scholarships. I continue to look for ways to make college affordable for all students.

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.*

Jeffrey Sánchez: I have worked my entire career to make sure that people have health insurance. When my family arrived here, hospitals were turning us away because we were low-income and didn't have health

insurance. Now, nearly 98% of the state's population has access to health insurance, and all low-income families have access to MassHealth. We as a commonwealth invest in this Medicaid program unlike any other state, and I am proud of all that we have accomplished relative to healthcare. Despite what others

say here and at the national level, I do not see our MassHealth expenditures as a burden, but as an investment in the most vulnerable populations in Massachusetts.

I am proud to have voted for healthcare reform in 2006, which has since expanded coverage to nearly 98% of the population and served as the model for the Affordable Care Act. In the time since, I have worked with all stakeholders to limit healthcare costs, including through the passage of Chapter 224 in 2012, which set many of our cost-containment and analysis agencies, as chair of the Speaker's Working Group on Managed Care Organizations, and as co-chair of the Special Commission on Provider Price Variation (PPV Commission). In the PPV Commission, we convened every healthcare stakeholder to understand the implications of out of network billing, market forces, rate adjustment, and other factors on healthcare costs, and set a glidepath forward for how we'll continue to ensure quality healthcare. The recommendations of that Commission were incorporated in our recently-passed House healthcare bill, which assessed stakeholders throughout the healthcare system, including insurance companies, large hospitals, urgent cares clinics, and ambulatory surgical centers, to invest over \$300 million in our safety net: community hospitals, community health centers. We also take on transparency in pharmaceutical companies and get into further transparency by allowing the Division of Insurance to review contracts.

Further, I have dedicated myself to public health and eliminating health disparities for racial and ethnic minorities. In Boston, there is a 20-year difference in life expectancy between Back Bay and Roxbury. We need to take social determinants of health into account, along with language, cultural, and other factors in order to ensure positive health outcomes for all people. I have advocated for establishing the Office of Health Equity throughout my time as a state representative, and successfully included language establishing this office in the recently-passed House budget.

The issue of medical debt is another I have brought to the forefront. Not only does this inability to access care affect the health of these residents, it will also worsen as costs continue to rise. While necessary to ensure that residents have coverage, it is also equally important they are not limited in obtaining care due to inhibitory cost sharing measures and gaps in coverage. I have worked with Health Law Advocates to sponsor legislation that would encourage manageable payment plans for patients that are interest free and meet certain monthly income requirements. It would require providers to wait 150 days before reporting medical debt to consumer credit reporting agencies or filing a civil action against the patient; a medical bill audit to determine patient eligibility for any available discount or charity care programs; and required notification of out-of-network providers prior to providing care (we included this last provision in the House's recently-passed healthcare bill). Overall, we want to better equip patients to settle debts and ensure providers receive more timely payment.

The healthcare industry and the Massachusetts economy are inherently intertwined, and I will continue to be thoughtful as I work on healthcare policy.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: See above for what I have done to pass legislation improving access to healthcare and eliminating health disparities. Below are a few selected pieces of writings and research I have done on healthcare policy:

Report of the Managed Care Organization Working Group:

<http://www.jeffreysanchez.org/speakers-managed-care-organization-mco-working-group-releases-report/>

Special Commission on Provider Price Variation Report:

<http://www.mass.gov/anf/budget-taxes-and-procurement/oversight-agencies/health-policy-commission/publications/special-commission-on-provider-price-variation-report.html>

Op-Ed in Commonwealth Magazine explaining the Special Commission on Provider Price Variation Report: <https://commonwealthmagazine.org/health-care/sanchez-a-few-common-themes-emerged/>

Testimony provided to the Health Policy Commission's 2014 Cost Trends Hearing:

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/05/08/chairman-sanchez-formal-remarks-hpc-cost-trends-hearing-10-06-14.pdf>

Testimony provided at the Health Policy Commission's 2016 Cost Trends Hearing:

<http://www.jeffreysanchez.org/sanchez-kicks-off-health-care-cost-trends-hearing/>

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: I firmly believe that healthcare is a right. See above for my approach to ensuring that healthcare is accessible and affordable for all people. 98% of the population has health insurance coverage, and we continue to work on ways, including through our most recent healthcare bill, that we ensure access to affordable healthcare.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. During my time as chair of the Public Health and Health Care Financing committees, I was proud to work with NARAL, Planned Parenthood, and other stakeholders to prioritize legislation that advanced reproductive rights and reproductive justice, such as the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, the gender pay equity law, and legislation reinstating protections for people accessing healthcare services when the Supreme Court struck down the Commonwealth's buffer zone law. I've been a tireless advocate for MassHealth, which provides dignity, respect, and health insurance to our most vulnerable populations, and fought back efforts that would have banned MassHealth from covering abortions.

In my new role as chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means, we've been able to further advance the agenda: we ensured access to copay-free contraceptives in Massachusetts despite what happens in Trump's Washington through the ACCESS Act, we ensured confidentiality when patients receive sensitive health services with the passage of the PATCH Act, and we committed funding to family planning services when President Trump threatened to withhold them. Our budget recently passed in the House ensures funding for family planning services, HIV/AIDS treatment and services, domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, and creates the Office of Health Equity to ensure we better address racial and ethnic health disparities. Most importantly, we lifted the cap on kids, ensuring that women's reproductive justice.

The announcement of Justice Kennedy's retirement from the Supreme Court adds a new dimension and puts Roe at risk. I am committed to defending a women's right to choose and will ensure all women maintain this right in the event of changes to federal law or decisions from the Supreme Court.

I'm proud that our campaign has been endorsed by the Planned Parenthood Action Fund and NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts. I am committed to reproductive rights and reproductive justice.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. I have always supported increased access to healthcare services for low-income people. We always include language in the budget to ensure MassHealth maintains existing dental coverage for adults. In the past, I have supported funding for Forsyth Kids, which is a program that brings preventive dental care to Massachusetts children of all ages at schools, day care centers, neighborhood facilities, summer camps and public events in vulnerable communities. I will continue to work with all stakeholders involved on the issue to ensure access to dental care for all people in the Commonwealth.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: Here in Massachusetts we are also trying to tackle high prescription drug costs. As part of the recently-passed Peter V. Kocot Healthcare Bill in the House, we included a number of provisions relative to prescription drug costs. We added prescription drug companies to the list of industries we are going to examine in the Health Policy Commission (HPC)/Center for Health and Information Analysis (CHIA)'s Cost Trends report process.

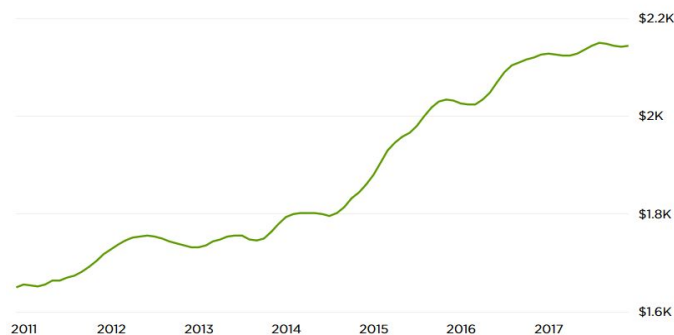
Additionally, we will incorporate prescription drug data in our annual report on healthcare cost trends in the commonwealth. Representatives from prescription drug companies, as well as prescription benefit managers, will be called as witnesses to testify about their companies' practices, price increases, spending trends, business changes, and any other topics HPC commissioners want to ask about. CHIA will do an annual report on ten high cost outpatient drugs that account for a significant percent of state healthcare spending.

The bill also prohibits so-called "gag orders." Previously, these rules prohibited pharmacists from telling consumers about cheaper drug options that may be available.

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?

Jeffrey Sánchez: I grew up in public housing in Mission Hill, where my mother organized with the community to demand better housing conditions from the Boston Housing Authority. They eventually took their fight against the city to the Supreme Court, where they won and the BHA was put into receivership. I learned during those times that people had to fight for resources.

Growing up in a time of great racial tension in Boston, I left for San Diego in my 20s, where I worked as an outreach worker at a youth homeless shelter near the border. While there, I helped kids who had crossed the border to escape abuse and connected them to rapid rehousing resources offered by the state. Seeing the effectiveness of these programs has influenced the policies I advocate for here in Massachusetts.

Eventually, Mayor Thomas Menino reached out with a job offer I couldn't refuse. The city had earned a Hope VI grant to redevelop Mission Main, the dilapidated housing project in which I grew up. I worked

with the tenant task force there to create a plan that razed the development to make way for the thriving neighborhood and quality housing we see there now. It was an innovative model where the tenants had partial ownership over the entire project.

As part of my daily life, I continue to talk to people who live in public housing, struggle to find a safe place to sleep each night, and who are at-risk of losing their homes. I meet them over the course of my daily life, and their stories, combined with my own life experience, make up the foundation that drives me to advocate for housing on a daily basis. I make an effort to engage tenant leaders in Bromley-Heath and Mission Main, so we can bring attention to the issues they go through. I'll get into those details in the next question.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: As I mentioned, ensuring affordable housing for all people is a core value I hold. Throughout my career in the legislature I have worked to increase opportunities to develop affordable housing, preserve existing housing, and help make housing more sustainable for people not just here in Boston and Brookline, but across the Commonwealth.

Our housing market has bounced back from the Great Recession, but we are victims of our own success. The work we've done to rebuild Jamaica Plain into a welcoming, thriving community has made it desirable for so many, but has caused an increase in demand and prices on our housing stock. I see this every day as I walk down Centre Street in Boston's Latin Quarter, and I think it was especially evident when Hi-Lo gave way to Whole Foods a few years ago. In the time since, I have worked with neighborhood groups, community development corporations, city and state housing agencies, and resident/tenant organizations to ensure that our corner of the city remains affordable for the people living here.

It is a challenge. Due to Republicans in Congress, there is a total lack of federal funding for housing programs, so the state has to pick up the slack. I have supported programs in the budget that help people stay in long-term stable housing while simultaneously supporting state bond financing and tax credits to help spur development of affordable housing.

In addition to financing, I have supported housing policies throughout my career. I voted to enact Chapter 40R in 2004, which is a tool that encourages cities and towns to adopt smart growth zoning. Further, I have helped fight back efforts to weaken and repeal Chapter 40B, our affordable housing law that has helped to produce hundreds of affordable housing developments that could not have been built under traditional zoning approaches.

During the height of the recession, foreclosure became an issue front and center, and I supported legislation to help soften the impact of the foreclosure crisis. I voted for legislation that requires financial institutions to modify the loan if the modification would be "commercially reasonable" compared to the anticipated recovery from foreclosure. I also supported legislation that delayed foreclosures by an additional 60 days if the financial institution neglected to consider a loan modification, provided eviction protections to tenants in foreclosed properties, and required counseling for order for a low-income senior to receive a reverse mortgage.

Overall, I have dedicated my career to housing, and will continue to look ensure stable, safe, and secure

housing for people in our community and across the Commonwealth.

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

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

Jeffrey Sánchez:

- b. The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?*

Jeffrey Sánchez:

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

Jeffrey Sánchez:

We know that investments in long-term housing decrease homeless shelter caseload, and the House is committed to this program. That's why, as Chair of House Ways and Means, I placed an emphasis on funding these programs. We were able to increase to \$100M for MRVP. At this funding level, we will be able to increase the number of vouchers, as well as the subsidy amount.

Our House budget invests \$17 million in Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT), which helps families at risk of losing their home, as well as \$32 million for HomeBASE, which helps families in shelters find and secure permanent housing. I suggested creating a new \$5M rapid rehousing program, which gives flexible dollars to shelters to help individuals with education, job training, and the search for housing. Further, our budget removes the homelessness penalty for those receiving EAEDC benefits, which can lower benefits by as much as \$220. As a result of this work, organizations like Pine Street Inn called it one of the most progressive budget they've seen.

Additionally, I was proud to help lead the House on passing a \$1.8B housing bond bill. We authorized a number of programs that finance affordable housing throughout the Commonwealth in our housing bond law, including: \$400M for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, \$150M for the Housing Stabilization/Investment Trust Fund (HSF), \$125M for the Capital Improvement and Preservation Trust Fund (CIPF, which helps preserve existing affordable housing at risk of losing affordability restrictions, aka 13A), \$100M for the Housing Innovations Trust Fund (HIF), \$50M for Commercial Area Transit Node Housing Program (CATNHP, which provides funding to encourage homeownership/rental housing in smart growth mixed-use commercial areas served by public transit), \$65M for the Facilities Consolidation Fund, \$55M for Community-Based Housing, and \$60M for the Home Modification Loan Program (HMLP).

Programs funded through the housing bond bill have brought 363 affordable units to Jamaica Plain alone over the past 5 years and will be crucial to the 606 units in the pipeline and 832 to be rehabbed.

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?

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: I will work with all stakeholders to ensure that we provide resources policies that help homeowners in foreclosure proceedings.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. I have been at the forefront of making sure that property owners work with their tenants in meaningful ways. We have worked hard to make sure that Massachusetts' tenancy protections rights are as strong as they are, and I will continue to engage with stakeholders, like tenancy rights groups on this issue.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. As I mentioned above, I voted for Massachusetts' Chapter 40R program, which established incentives for smart growth zoning. Further, I supported funding for the Commercial Area Transit Node Housing Program, which provides funding to encourage homeownership/rental housing in smart grow growth mixed-use commercial areas served by public transit.

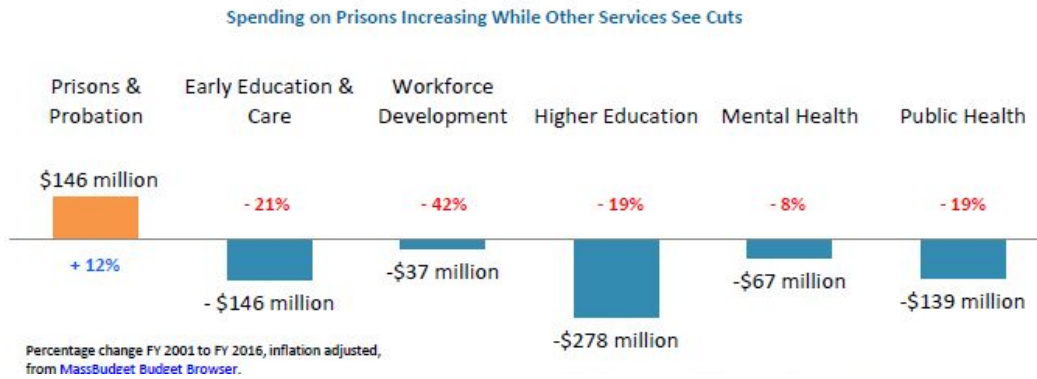
8. **Combating Speculation.** *Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to impose a graduated tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: In my history working on housing finance, funding affordable housing entails having a patchwork of funding sources and strategies. I have worked with residents, advocates, and others to find ways to build affordable housing stock. We have been successful using programs like the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Brownfields Tax Credit, MassWorks, Low Income Housing Tax Credit, and so many other programs to build affordable housing in our community.

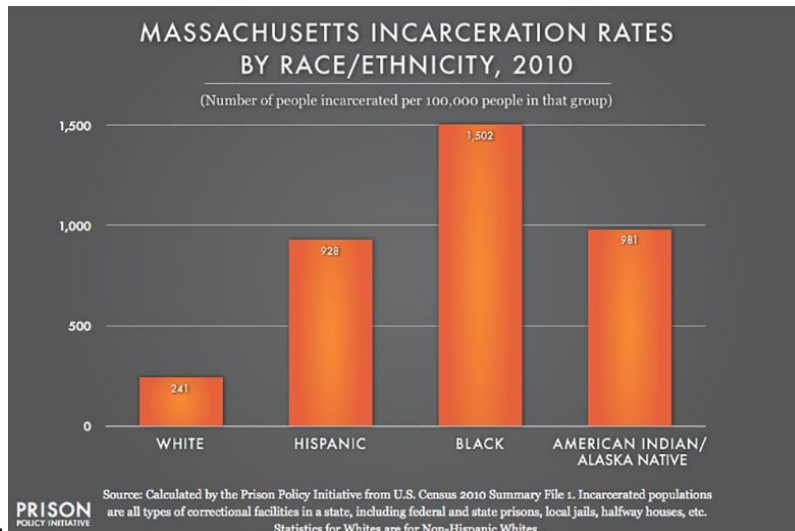
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

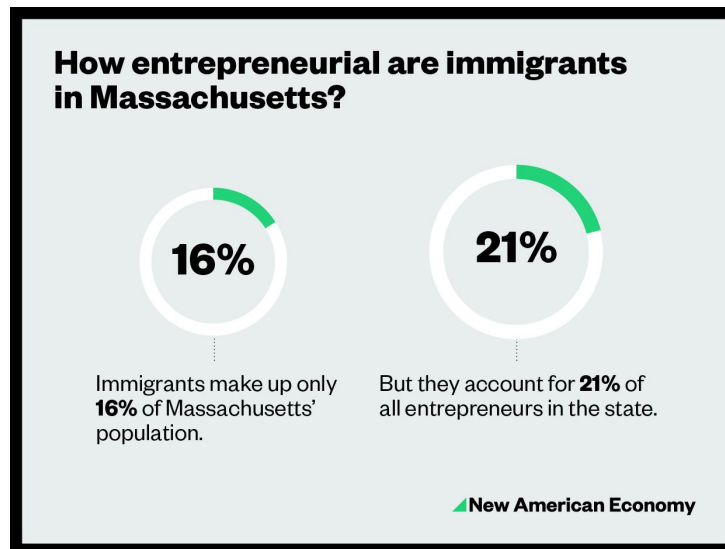
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

Jeffrey Sánchez: I have fought for racial and social justice my entire life. Growing up a Latino male in Boston, I saw the impacts of an unjust criminal justice system firsthand. Many of my friends were affected by the system, and some continue to pay the price, despite having served their sentences a long time ago, given distorted record systems, outdated laws, mandatory minimums, and other laws.

I have seen firsthand the devastation caused by drugs and the violence in my community. In many cases, drugs and violence are inextricably linked because many who peddle drugs, like heroin, fentanyl, and carfentanil, are involved in that same violence. At the same time, I recognize that there are people turning their lives around. There are people working to prevent youth violence through intervention and encouraging people to talk to each other.

These experiences drive my values and principles. I always try to find ways to connect people to resources, whether it's through health fairs at the public housing developments in the district or by sponsoring CORI sealing and job fair days.

I believe in giving people opportunities and for the state to support those who want to lift themselves up. This includes criminal justice reform, but it also includes policies like a \$15 minimum wage, paid family and medical leave, gender pay equity, and reproductive justice.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: I am very aware of the structural racism and other injustices that exist in our society, and have worked my entire life to increase equality and justice for everyone.

I am proud to have worked for Mayor Tom Menino, who, early on in his career, stood up for same sex marriage in the face of discrimination and pushed for transgender public accommodations in the city of Boston. I stood by the Mayor during those days when I was working with him. It was something all of us working for him were proud of and was an instance where the city was able to make a statement, so we could prevent further discriminatory actions from taking place here in Massachusetts.

Marriage equality was a defining issue when I first ran for office. At the time, there were forces pushing to have discussions on civil unions rather than taking on wholesale and complete equality for same sex marriages. Equality was a defining issue when I first ran for office, and many, even here in Mission Hill and Jamaica Plain, pushed instead for civil unions. I stood with the Goodridges in their court case. When constitutional amendments were proposed to scale back marriage equality, along with Representative Liz Malia, we talked to our colleagues to help them understand what was at stake. To this day, the vote to support marriage equality remains one of my proudest.

Equality is a central message of our campaign. I was proud to support our transgender public accommodations law in 2016 and am fervently organizing to ensure it is not repealed at the ballot. I've helped pass laws empowering women and reproductive justice, including gender pay equity, pregnant workers fairness act, ensuring access to copay-free contraception, and lifting the regressive cap on kids.

In Massachusetts, the median income for Latino households statewide is just \$39,742 a year, while white households bring in \$82,029 and black have a median income of \$46,381. These disparities are wide, and I've committed my life to closing these gaps. Part of the cause for Latinos is language barriers. To combat that, I successfully pushed for the Language Opportunities for Our Kids Act for 15 years, which was signed into law last November. It will improve the way we teach English language learners in our schools. In the House budget, we increased funding for Adult Basic Education to create 1,000 more slots to become available off the ELL waitlist, so adults can pursue their GED and learn English.

All citizens of the Commonwealth are entitled to a fair shake when confronted with the major institutional forces in their lives. This includes equal treatment within our system of law and order, our places of employment, and our healthcare system. The House Ways and Means budget proposed significant work in ensuring such critical protections. We included a significant increase for the Massachusetts Commissions Against Discrimination, which investigates and prosecutes complaints of discrimination that occur in employment housing, access to education, and financial transactions. We created the Race and Bias Initiative at the Trial court, which will increase staffing and provide training to ensure equity in the justice system for racial, linguistic, cultural, and sexual minorities. We created the Office of Healthy Equity, which would coordinate efforts by the state to close racial disparities including access to care and quality of treatment.

In addition to making investments in establishing basic levels of fairness within the Commonwealth, the House Ways and Means budget actively strives to create equal opportunities for all of the state's residents. We believe these commitments mark significant steps in our goal of closing the achievement gap for communities and populations that have remained underserved and underprivileged for far too long. We funded a major increase in METCO, which provides opportunities for students in certain cities to attend public schools in other communities to eliminate racial imbalance and enhance diversity within school districts. And, we fund youth at-risk summer jobs at \$11.5 million, a \$1.2 million increase over the previous year, in order to fund job training and employment for young people at risk for unemployment or incarceration.

In addition to these specifically targeted programs, the House Ways and Means budget dedicates millions of dollars of funding towards services that disproportionately assist communities of color, including direct local aid programs and jail diversion and community reentry initiatives.

These are serious investments. In my first budget as chair of Ways and Means, I wanted to make an impact and fund programs that would make a significant difference in people's lives. The budget is a

statement of values, and this budget, which has been lauded by so many groups as the most progressive budget passed by the House, doubles down on our commitment to improve equity for every person in Massachusetts.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. Voting for transgender public accommodations rights was one of my proudest votes, and I am actively working with Freedom for All Massachusetts to ensure we defend transgender rights at the ballot in November. I recently sponsored a forum with Rep. Liz Malia to spread awareness about the issue and will continue to spread the word to my House colleagues in other parts of the commonwealth.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. I talked to my colleagues in the House to ensure we had the votes to pass this legislation, and proudly voted for it on the House floor.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: The bill passed by the House and Senate was consensus legislation that reformed our criminal justice system top to bottom, front to back. We were able to accomplish this agreement with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: The research in cognitive and adolescent maturity supports this, but there are a number of questions relative to implementation and feasibility that must be taken into consideration. To better understand the issues, the new criminal justice reform law established a task force to examine and study the treatment and impact of the court system and the correctional system on individuals ages 18 to 24.

Our law also created a process of expungement: juveniles 18 and under can erase their record under the new law, and adults 18 to 21 can erase certain non-violent offenses.

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)?

Jeffrey Sánchez:

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: Our new criminal justice law repeals archaic solitary confinement concept and defines a more humane restrictive housing concept. It establishes regulation and accountability around restrictive housing and requires regular reviews and mental health screenings of inmates in restrictive housing to be evaluated for return to general population. It creates a restrictive housing oversight committee to collect data on the use of segregation and its impacts on inmates, violence, recidivism, and costs, prohibits the use of restrictive housing for pregnant women and prohibits using an inmate's gender identity as grounds for placing them in restrictive housing.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: Given the recent incidents relative to overtime and hiring practices, I have focused my efforts on the Massachusetts State Police. In our House budget recommendations, we proposed a new audit unit within the state police to review hiring and promotion practices. It also directs the Collins Center for Public Management at UMass Boston to review and make recommendations on the overall management structure.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: I support community policing. The city of Boston, particularly District E-13 here in Jamaica Plain, has done a great job embedding itself in the community, particularly in communities of color, in order to build trust among residents. Community Service Officers hold public meetings in English and Spanish to update the community and have been responsive to the community's needs when violence occurs.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. I have supported the safe communities act in the past. I will continue to make sure that we look out for our immigrant communities.

Let me be clear: what we're seeing on our border is horrifying and not representative of the country I love. I have family and friends who are immigrants. As a homeless outreach worker in San Diego in the 80s, I worked on the border, and worked with kids who escaped to the US for safety. I helped them find services, but along the way I heard countless, heart-wrenching stories. Those stories stay with me to this day, and I do not take this issue lightly.

Throughout my legislative career I have brought stakeholders together to fend off efforts that seek to limit or eliminate benefits for immigrants here in the commonwealth of Massachusetts, similar to Proposition 187 that passed in California in 1994. Our budget, and everything that we do, supports immigrant families through healthcare, education, domestic violence services, and so much more. I will continue to be at the forefront of these challenges.

I have been actively working with stakeholders and talking to my colleagues about misconceptions of the provisions in this legislation.

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?*

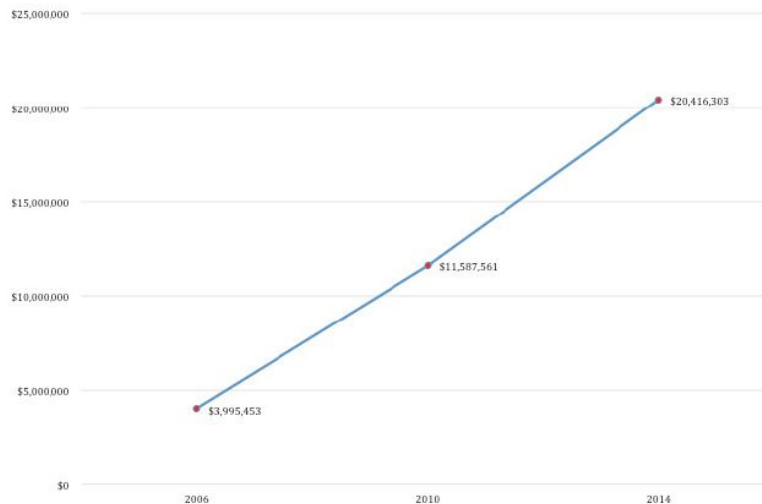
Jeffrey Sánchez: As mentioned, I have always stood up for immigrant communities. I have an established record on this particular issue.

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.*

Jeffrey Sánchez: I have worked my entire life to increase access to democracy. I frequently do voter registration drives, especially in public housing, to increase engagement. In order to let the public know what I’m doing as state representative, I’ve emphasized a robust public engagement strategy, including social media, website, digital and paper newsletters, and office hours.

I’ve brought on interns of all ages to expose them to the State House, and always invite schools and youth organizations to my office to learn about the legislative process. The best way to learn is by doing, and I appreciate having youth from the community involved in the day-to-day of my office.

2. *Please indicate work you personally have done to promote transparency, campaign finance reform,*

legislative rules reform, and access to voting.

Jeffrey Sánchez: I have supported laws to improve access to elections, including pre-registration for 16 and 17 years olds, early voting, and automatic voter registration. I supported legislation establishing a civics curriculum in schools to ensure all of our students are prepared to participate in our democracy.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: I am a member of the leadership team, and will continue to work with all members, as I have done my entire career. As part of the budget process, I invited every member to meet with me one-on-one to discuss their priorities. In total, I met with over 120 representatives from every corner of Massachusetts. Every member has a voice, which is heard in the budget and every piece of legislation we take up.

I take seriously the views of residents and community stakeholders to make sure that we pass legislation that makes a difference in everyone's lives, including our progressive budget. I continue to advocate for the values and principles we hold here in Mission Hill, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, and Brookline, and I do so by seeing where consensus lies among the members of the House, so we can move forward in a meaningful manner.

4. **Transparency.** *Massachusetts is one of only two states where the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the Judiciary claim full exemption from the public records laws. Do you support ending that exemption?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: There is a commission studying this exact issue.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez:

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"?*

Jeffrey Sánchez:

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

a. *Election day voter registration*

Jeffrey Sánchez:

b. *Automatic voter registration*

Jeffrey Sánchez:

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

Jeffrey Sánchez:

d. *No-fault absentee voting*

Jeffrey Sánchez:

Voting is at the heart of our democracy. Increasing access to registration and making it easier to vote is a key component to ensuring communities participate in the democratic process. I am proud to have supported legislation expanding access, including pre-registration to vote for 16 and 17- year olds, early voting, and recently, automatic voter registration. I will continue to work with stakeholders, including city and town clerks, Common Cause, and others, in order to ensure access to elections in Massachusetts.

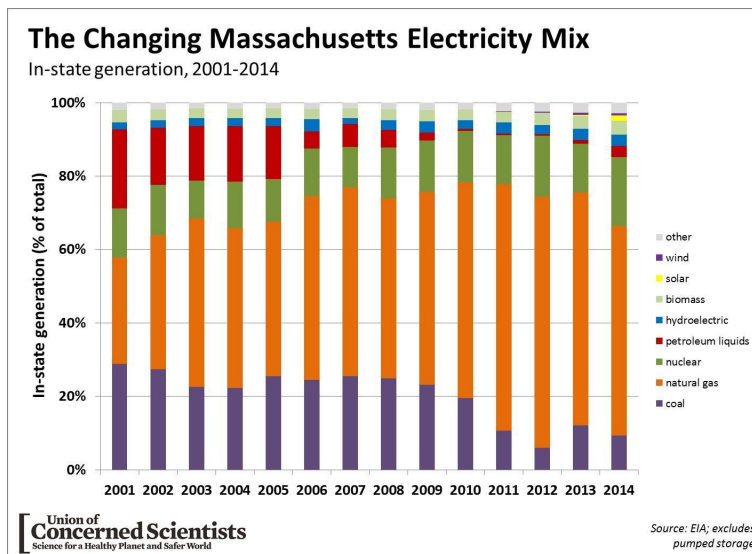
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

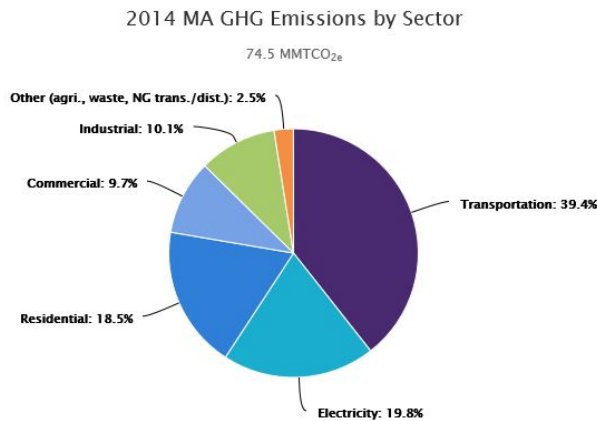
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and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

Jeffrey Sánchez: We are lucky to live in a community with a commitment to a healthy, thriving environment. From Frederick Law Olmsted and community gardens on the Southwest Corridor to local co’ops and houses studded with solar panels, our district represents the future. I am committed to protecting our natural resources and ensuring that we invest in clean energy to protect our future generations. As we saw this past winter, the impact of climate change and sea level rise is here, and we must do our part to prepare, mitigate, and defend. I have supported this through funding in the budget and in bond bills.

At the same time, we must lead the way in renewable energy. We’ve developed an economy around solar and wind, and we must show the rest of the country that the transition is possible.

Sustainable infrastructure must tackle the transportation sector, as it comprises the largest portion of carbon emissions in our state. We do this by encouraging mode shift and incentivizing electric vehicles, two policies I have helped pass in the State House.

My wife and I want to ensure a bright future for my two daughters. I share those values with every parent in Massachusetts and will continue to work with my colleagues in the House and with community members to ensure we remain a clean energy leader.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: Climate change is one of the most serious threats we face. Similar to much of my work, I take seriously the motto “think globally, act locally.” Nowhere is this truer than my work on the environment. I took up gas leaks as an issue in 2007 when the Arborway Coalition noticed trees dying along the parkways. In the time since, I’ve been able to help pass legislation to publicly identify and grade gas leaks, require them to be fixed, and ensure leaks are fixed when the road is open for utility work or other construction.

Massachusetts is a leader on the environment, and this is because we have made a concerted effort to grow our clean energy economy, invest in green jobs, and pass policies that encourage solar, wind, and

hydropower. I am proud to have passed the Global Warming Solutions Act in 2008, which mandated that the state reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020 and by 80 percent by 2050. This policy alone has spurred individual businesses and institutions to join the effort to reduce carbon emissions to reach those goals.

I helped pass the Green Communities Act, which significantly increased energy efficiency measures to reduce electricity demand. As a result of these standards, Massachusetts is recognized as the most energy efficient state in the USA. This law also strengthened the Renewable Portfolio Standard and engaged municipalities to invest in clean energy.

In 2016, I voted for legislation to increase long-term contracts in offshore wind and hydropower. This has further diversified and increased our renewable energy portfolio, and is responsible for the largest procurement of offshore wind by any state in the country. It is an economic development initiative as well, helping create an entire industry of offshore wind here in Massachusetts.

In the budget, we made significant investments in the environmental programs that help to protect natural resources and public health in Massachusetts. This included increases in environmental protection, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Office of Watershed Management, Climate Change Planning and Adaption, and the Department of Ecological Restoration. It was lauded by the Environmental League of Massachusetts for investing in these “green budget” programs, which will help the commonwealth be resilient in the face of climate change.

Relative to transportation, I have worked to improve current transportation infrastructure through bonding and increased funding, while also supporting expansion and pilot projects that improve our existing capital (such as the Roslindale Washington St. bus pilot). Our voted to raise the gas tax and index it to inflation to support public transportation. The increase helped pay for new Orange and Red line cars, which should be on the track in 2019. However, the voters repealed the index on the ballot, underscoring the difficulty of raising revenue here in the commonwealth.

I have supported sustainable transportation through local projects along the Arborway and Jamaica way, understanding that transportation comprises a significant amount of our carbon emissions. Improving the safety of the built environment for people who walk and bike is key to encouraging mode shift. I’ve supported funding for the Complete Streets program, which helps cities and towns fund local projects that include bike and pedestrian infrastructure.

I look forward to working with all stakeholders in the future to continue our discussion of we build on our success as a leader on sustainable energy, the environment, and sustainable transportation.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: We have done this in both communities I represent - Boston and Brookline. I understand that each municipality in the Commonwealth is different and may have a different approach, so I will continue to talk to all House members to understand their perspective, given the cities and towns they represent, as well as other relevant stakeholders.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. I have supported legislation in the past that increased the net metering cap, including controversial legislation last session.

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?

Jeffrey Sánchez: I support a diverse mix of renewable energy including solar, offshore wind, and hydropower. I helped pass 2008's Green Communities Act (GCA), which, in addition to eliminating many barriers - financial, regulatory, etc. - to building renewable energy projects in MA, doubled the rate of increase in the Renewable Portfolio Standard from 0.5% per year to 1% per year with no cap, and created a new Class II requirements to expand renewable energy.

In 2012, I supported the Competitively Priced Electricity Act, which increased the size of hydroelectric projects eligible for financial incentives under the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard and increased the overall percentage of renewable electricity supply that electric distribution companies could purchase.

Further, I supported 2016's renewable clean energy bill, which has led to the largest procurement of offshore wind by a US state, and represents 6% of our state's total annual electricity load. I will continue to look at how we encourage the development of clean, renewable energy in the commonwealth, working with experts to understand REC markets so we move toward a clean, sustainable energy mix that protects the environment for generations to come.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. I have held meetings with the Administration where we specifically discussed EJ policy to see how they are implementing it. Our House budget funded the Office of Climate Change Planning and Adaptation at \$2.2 million, an amount necessary to hire an EJ director and staff to carry out this policy. I'm committed to making sure that we find a way to ensure our community and communities across the commonwealth have a say in environmental policies and processes.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. See above.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. I believe Attorney General Maura Healey and the study she commissioned have done a good job explaining future infrastructure scenarios. I will continue to engage stakeholders to ensure we invest in clean energy that remains affordable for every person in the Commonwealth.

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: I have supported increases to the gas tax in the past to help pay for sustainable investments like the MBTA. As vehicles continue to increase in fuel efficiency, we wanted to study the implementation of transitioning to a vehicle miles traveled system, which would help capture some of the cost of carbon usage in gasoline. We included the study in our 2016 economic development bill, but that section was vetoed by the Governor. While they do not capture the full cost of carbon emissions, they are one approach, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House, as well as other stakeholders, on this issue.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: See above.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: I will work with members of the House and municipalities to better understand this issue, particularly as it relates to municipal finance, local aid, and clean energy.

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

Jeffrey Sánchez: Yes. I have supported tax increases in the past in order to dedicate revenue for the MBTA, including the Fair Share Amendment. Further, I have voted for legislation to limit the amount by which the MBTA can raise fares, so the T does not become cost prohibitive to the people who rely on it most.

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?*

Jeffrey Sánchez: In the wake of the Fair Share Amendment not making it onto the final ballot, we continue to have discussions about how we ensure quality public education and transportation infrastructure, among so many important initiatives in the budget. I'm interested in this proposal and how it fits into our overall system's needs.

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.

Jeffrey Sánchez: have put the time and effort into this questionnaire to ensure I give you thoughtful answers. It would be easy for me to go through this and say “yes” to everything because I really do believe in the same values as Progressive Massachusetts. But I owe it to this organization and to my constituents to be thoughtful about this legislation, and to use my position to see how we can advance our ideals for a better Commonwealth through consensus.