

Jim Hawkins

2nd Bristol

State Representative

Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: State Representative

Legislative District: 2nd Bristol

Party: Democratic

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Primary: September 4

Election: November 6

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Introduction: Progressive Mass

About

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

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

Membership

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

How Endorsements Work

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

Sources

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

I. About the Candidate

Jim Hawkins

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

Jim Hawkins: The wisdom is that if you are unhappy with the state of politics you should run for local office. After winning in April, I was thrilled to find so many legislators who were eager to work with me to advance progressive causes. I started in office during budget week and even in my first few days I was able to provide important support for so many causes. Now that I see how much can be done in the State House, I am eager to continue for a full term.

My first priority is public education. Within hours of being sworn in I was able to submit an amendment for reform to standardized testing. And I have testified in support of a bill to end the shame for kids who don't have money for lunch. My second priority was family business and I have been named to the small business committee. My third priority was available treatment for those suffering from opioid addiction, and I cosponsored amendments in the budget to help provide services. However, my list has grown since I was elected to include concerns for seniors, LGBTQ+, the environment, transportation, health care including the availability of mental health services, poverty and homelessness, housing, transportation, and more.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

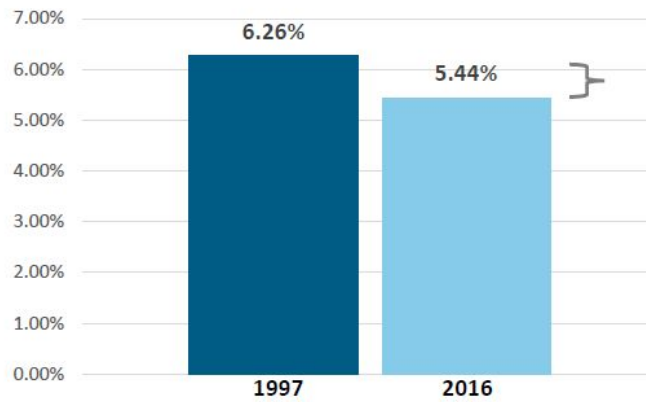
Jim Hawkins: I ran for office after being a Senate District Coordinator for the Mass Teacher Association and being an activist against the local gas compressor station and for other social justice groups. Since being elected, I have very quickly gained support from both sides of the aisle. I have been named to three committees, and I am in the Progressive Caucus. On my own I got items in the budget and with others I was able to advance important progressive legislation. I am beyond eager to continue.

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.

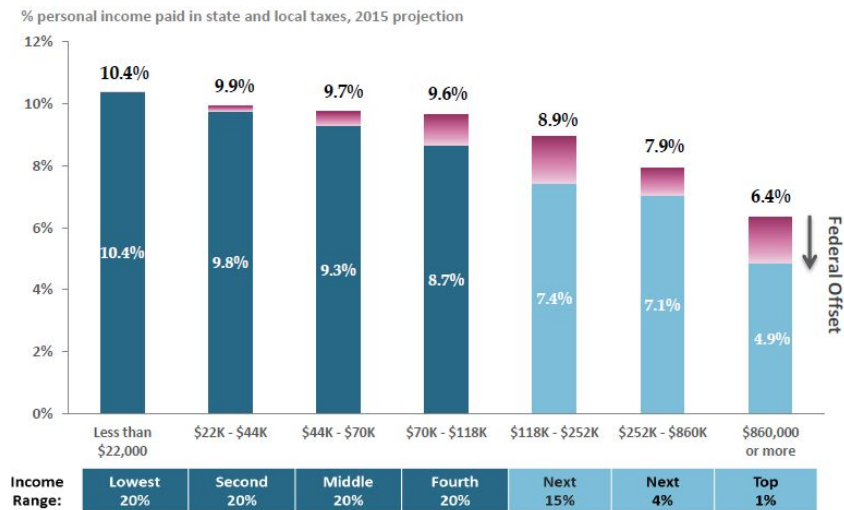
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.

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?*

Jim Hawkins: My priority with any tax reform is to avoid increasing the burden on working families and people who struggle to make ends meet. I oppose the initiative to reduce the sales tax. I support the Fair Share amendment. The prospect of revenue since the recent court decision on sports wagering needs to be tempered with a consideration of gambling addictions. I have formally supported a bill that would provide a means for cities to offer low-income seniors relief from the tax burden that result from overrides for things like new schools. And there was a proposal to add a \$2 tax to rental cars to provide police training. Revenue continues to be strong in 2018, but we must continue to plan long term strategies to ensure that important community efforts get reliable support.

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.).*

Jim Hawkins: I actively campaigned for the Fair Share Ballot question.

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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. Before I was elected, I was responsible for signature gathering drives with both teachers and local residents for this ballot question. And I actively support it now as part of my campaign to help with public schools who still are woefully underfunded and the struggling MBTA. Since the surcharge is only on incomes over a million dollars, it has no impact on working families and only an incremental effect on millionaires.

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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. The idea of a sales tax holiday is nothing more than a publicity stunt for conservatives. Family-owned businesses in Attleboro include manufacturing companies that would not be affected. The family-owned running shoe store does not charge sales tax anyway. The family-owned auto parts store sells primarily for resale and mostly does not charge sales tax. And a couple years ago, I put off buying an expensive bicycle to the sales tax holiday to save money. I would have bought it anyway without the sales tax holiday. A sales tax holiday does not create extra business, and it gives away scarce revenue.

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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

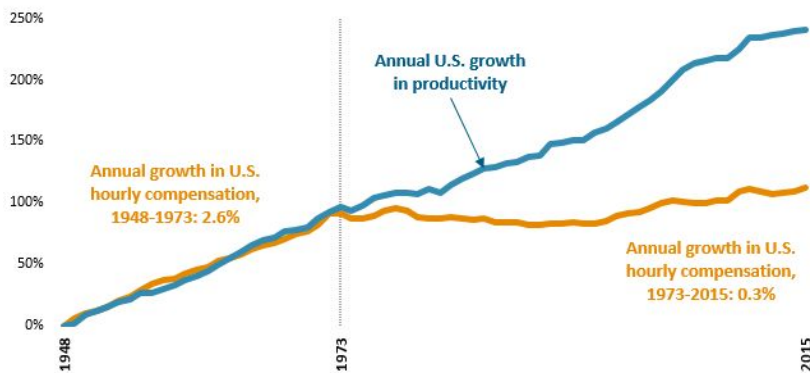
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

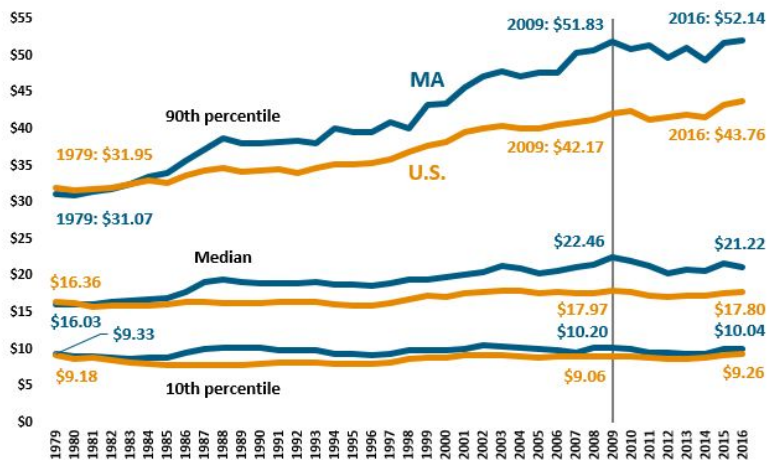
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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?

Jim Hawkins: The economy in Massachusetts has done well, but many families still struggle to just get by. Transportation might provide a way for people to live further from Boston where housing is more affordable to have access to better paying jobs closer to Boston. But I-95 and 128 are stop-and-go for most of the day. And the commuter rail suffers from older, unreliable equipment. And parking at the rail stations is scarce. There is significant job growth in the solar and offshore wind industries. IBEW has a school off the Southeast Expressway but we could use more. Also the marijuana industry is brand new. Since there are no established businesses, this could offer opportunities for economically disadvantaged communities.

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.).

Jim Hawkins: As a teacher at Attleboro High School, I created a course in financial literacy that included topics on careers, credit, investing, and long-term planning. I have seen students since who years later were excited to tell me what they did with these ideas.

3. Increasing Wages.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes. Before I was elected, I organized signature gather drives with teachers and local volunteers for both minimum wage and paid family leave.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes. My campaign was pro-labor. I was a building rep for the local teachers union. I was also in charge of public relations and founded the Rome Boulevard Road Race and was able to donate as much as \$8,000 annually for kids who could not afford sports user fees. I started as a political

liaison for the local teachers union and progressed to Senate District Coordinator for the Mass Teachers Association. I stood in picket lines with striking Verizon workers. I have received considerable support from many labor unions in Massachusetts and I am a vocal advocate.

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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

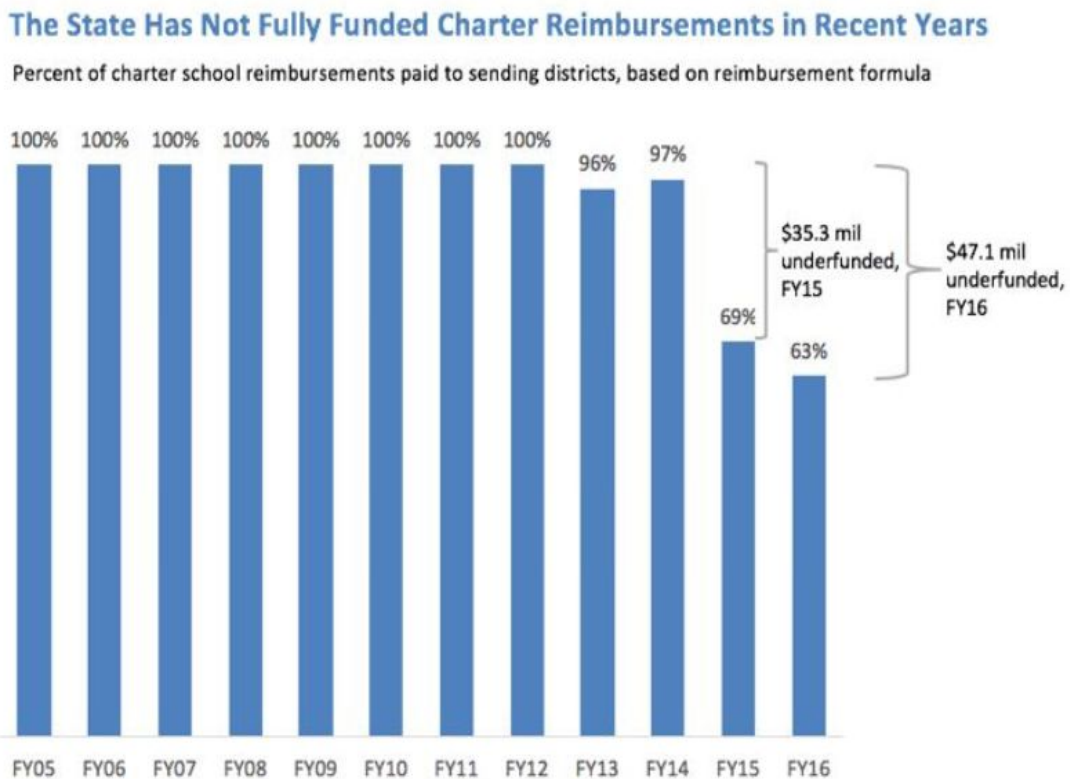
9. **Economic Democracy.** *Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. In the US, CEO pay is more than 300 times what the average worker earns. This is part of the incredible income inequality we suffer from.

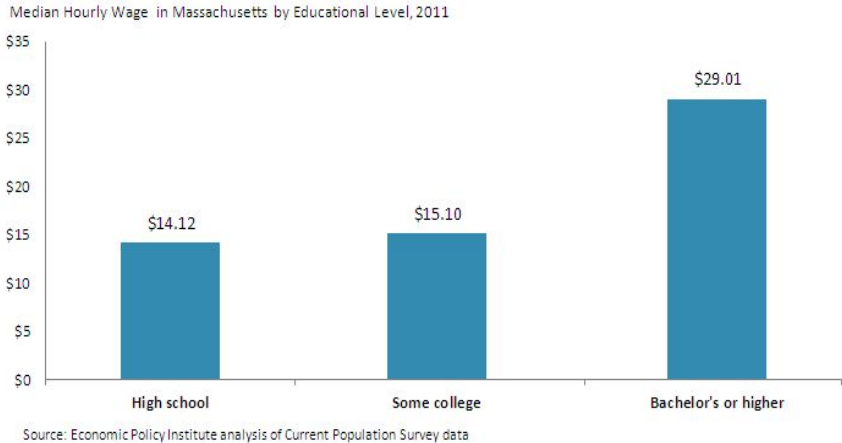
C. EDUCATION

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.

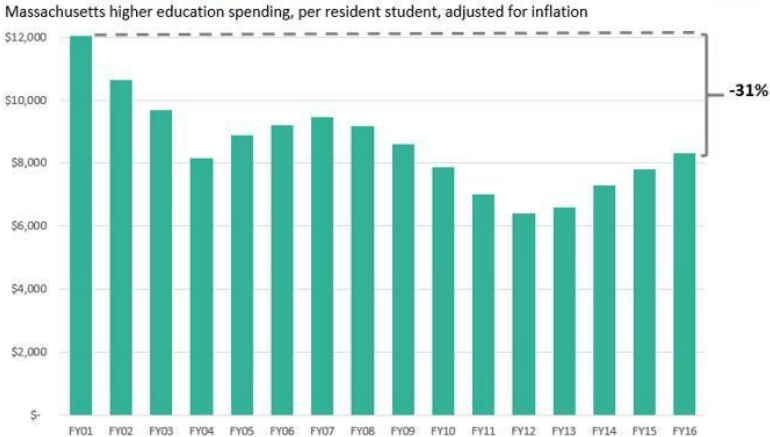


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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?*

Jim Hawkins: I am a retired high school math teacher, and I have been a vocal advocate for public education for years. Most recently I was a Senate District Coordinator for the Mass Teachers Association and worked with both Republican and Democrat state legislators. Public Education is critical to continued economic success in the commonwealth. We offer AP and other high end curriculum for high achieving students. We offer vocational programs to train students for jobs that can't be shipped overseas. We offer special education programs. And we provide opportunity for students who come from families and communities that struggle.

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

Jim Hawkins: I was the Political Action Liaison (PAL) for the Attleboro teachers and after I retired I was a Senate District Coordinator for the Mass Teachers Association(MTA) I organized letter writing campaigns, sign holding, signature drives, phone banks and ore for public education. I also arranged monthly meetings between teachers from different towns in my district and state legislators both Republican and Democrat. The teachers shared first hand experiences of how state legislation affected them in the classroom.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes. Children's most formative years are when they are at this age. Studies have shown significantly more success from children who have had access to Pre-K.

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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I am a vocal advocate of MCIEA (Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment). Attleboro is one of six (soon to be seven) cities whose teacher unions and administration have been working together to create a performance-based test rather than a traditional paper-and-pencil test. Since it is being created with real students and teachers who are in the classroom, it is destined to be simpler and more effective than standardized tests that are created with researchers who lack real experience. This will avoid the \$30 million we spend on outside test. It will be less stressful on students and school districts. It will avoid "teaching to the test" And, since it involves multiple measures, it will be a better measure of student success. Within hours of being sworn in I was able to introduce and amendment to include funding for MCIEA and get eleven cosponsors and six favorable comments in the 348 meeting, including the Speaker Pro Tempore.

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?*

Jim Hawkins: 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**?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I organized signature gathering, phone calls, and sign holdings for the “no on two” drive. It seems that charter schools are always in the low-income districts who can least afford to lose part of their budget to charters. It makes far more sense to properly fund and support these school districts since many of the students are low income and require greater support. I cannot agree with expanding a parallel system of schools when the public schools who still serve 95% of students are so badly underfunded.

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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. All schools in the commonwealth should be subject to the same accountability. As we learn that traditional suspensions are not effective it is not fair to burden public schools with the entire task of creating new more effective protocols.

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?

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

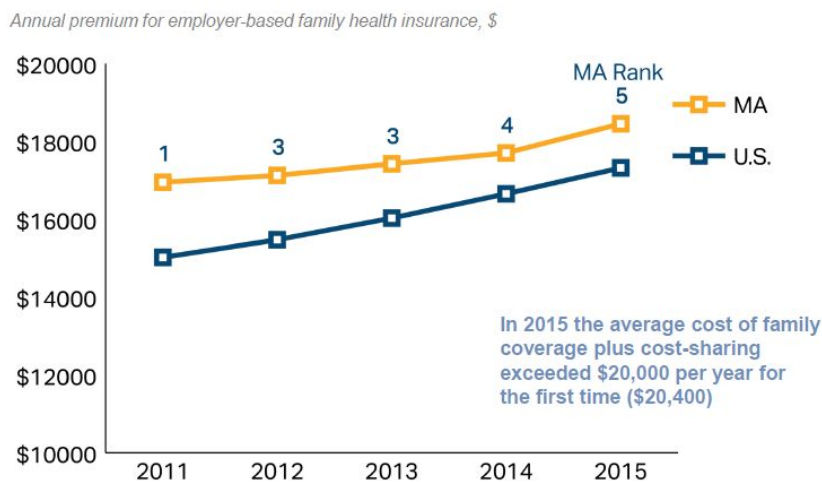
9. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?

Jim Hawkins: Yes. These days a Bachelor’s Degree has replaced the High School diploma as the minimum needed for a good job. We must find ways to make college available for all students not just the ones who can afford it.

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.*

Jim Hawkins: Massachusetts has led the way in health care reform but there is still a great need. Co-pays and coverage of medical care is still an obstacle for many. Residential treatment facilities for mental health treatment continue to close at an alarming rate. Despite all the attention it has gotten, treatment for opioid addiction is still not readily available for people who want it. We can do better.

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

health care (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).

Jim Hawkins: I supported budget amendments including access to mental health coverage and availability of Naloxone.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes. We are the wealthiest country on the planet and health insurance should be right. And it would cost less too. As more people are enrolled with insurance the risk is mathematically reduced. And lower risk will lead to less expensive premiums.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I have been endorsed by Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund as evidence of my views.

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?

Jim Hawkins: Yes. Dental insurance is relatively expensive and doesn't cover everything. Many people can't afford dental treatment and their overall health suffers as a result.

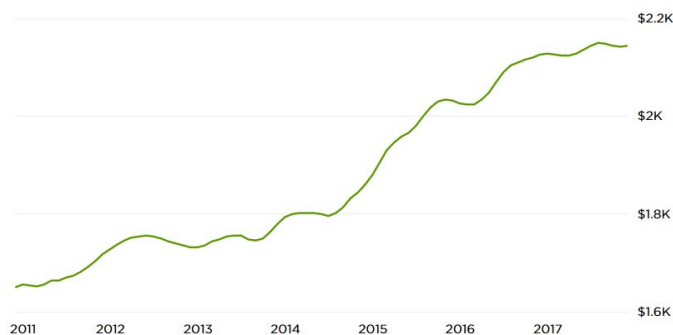
6. *Prescription Drug Pricing.* Would you support a drug transparency law, like the one recently passed in California, that requires pharmaceutical companies to publicly justify steep price increases?

Jim Hawkins: Yes. Pharmaceutical companies have some of the best-funded lobbying efforts, but the cost of medications that is sometimes life savings is out of reach for many.

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?

Jim Hawkins: In many communities, we see “tear downs” become more and more commonplace. Perfectly usable homes are torn down and replaced by new bigger and more expensive houses. As housing becomes scarcer, the price is escalating. Many times, the available location for affordable housing is not near grocery stores or work. For people who cannot afford a car, this is a major problem. Regional Transportation did get better funding in this year’s budget but there is still a problem. And middle-income families who can’t afford to live near the better paying jobs closer to Boston are handicapped by constant traffic jams on I-95 and Rt 128 and the commuter rails are not reliable.

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

Jim Hawkins: I have been working with the local organizations that work with veterans and other homeless people but they are all underfunded and understaffed. I did co-sponsor amendments in the

budget for homeless services, but we can do better.

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

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

b. The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: 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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: 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?*

Jim Hawkins: 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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I have signed a letter of support for pending legislation on zoning regulations.

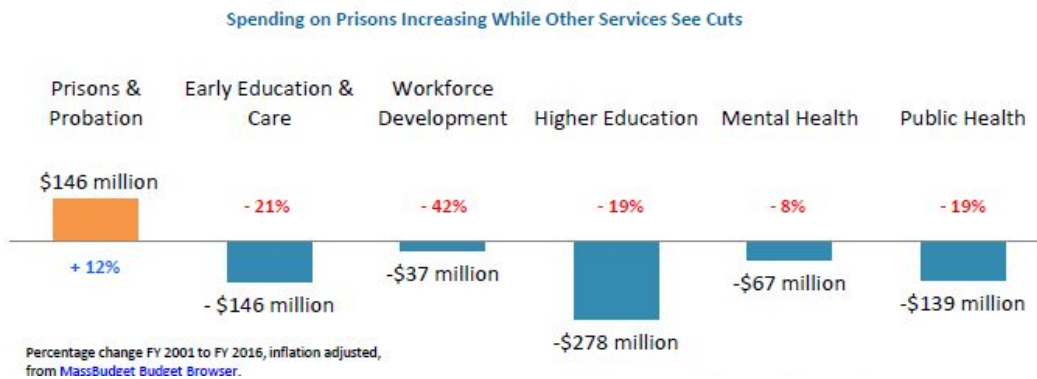
8. Combating Speculation. *Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to impose a graduated tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

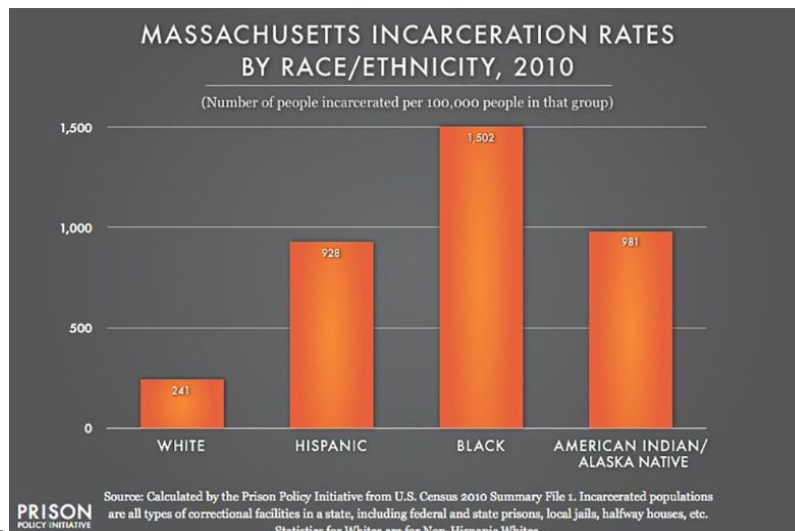
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

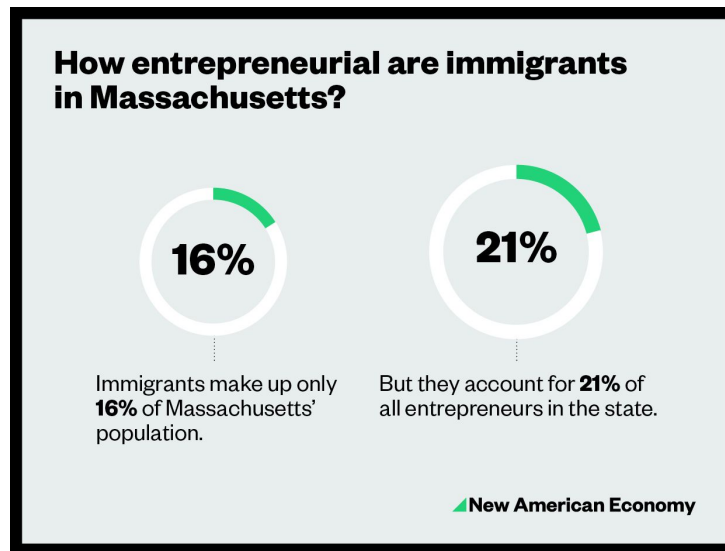
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

Jim Hawkins: Massachusetts may enjoy a progressive reputation but data on housing, employment, incarceration, and even access to health care show we still have a long way to go.

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

Jim Hawkins: I have been involved with the local SURJ (Stand Up for Racial Justice) and work to learn more about the endless ways we perpetuate social injustice. I am endorsed by the Bay State Stonewall Democrats for my views and actions around LGBTQ+ issues. And I co-sponsored a budget amendment funding training for professionals working with LGBTQ seniors.

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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I oppose the repeal effort and will be voting YES to protect it this fall.

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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. Conversion Therapy is beyond dangerous. I was not in office when I might have co-sponsored it, but I have written a formal letter in support of H1190 the bill to ban 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?

Jim Hawkins: Yes. Conservatives feel that mandatory lockups for overdose victims and punishment for victims and dealers will stop the problem. This totally ignores the power addiction has over an individual. And at the same time recovery programs are not always readily available. And there is a scarcity of doctors who are certified for medical treatment.

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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. The part of a persons brain that provide long term planning and realization of consequences is not fully functional until a person is in their mid-twenties. These are formative years for people and it is most critical to provide educational and counseling services to help these people and prevent recidivism.

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)?*

Jim Hawkins: 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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I understand the added cost to these changes, but it is inhumane to put someone with anxiety issues or medical issues in solitary confinement. We can do better.

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

Jim Hawkins: 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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I

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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. Our communities will be safer if all residents, legal or not, feel free to have relaxed and open conversations with local police. And local police departments are facing budget cuts and cannot afford to use scarce local resources to carry out initiatives that should be the responsibility of ICE.

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?*

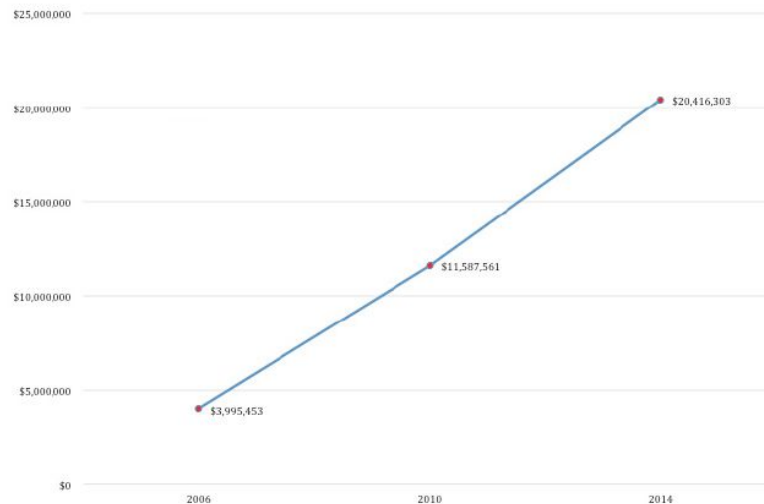
Jim Hawkins: Yes.

G. GOOD GOVERNMENT/ STRONG DEMOCRACY

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

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

Figure 1: MA Independent Expenditure Totals



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

Jim Hawkins: Access to voting rarely gets the same press as campaign expenditures. We should be looking at ways to make registration easier, even automatic. And we should be looking at ways to make voting easier and more accessible. And campaigns are now all about money. Midway through my campaign for the special election, I was out-spent 14 to 1. And we see Governor Baker with \$8 million in his campaign account. Not only does the presence of this money in campaigns distract from the issues, it absolutely prevents many qualified people from even entering politics.

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

Jim Hawkins: Before I entered politics, I always voted in even the smallest elections and I made it a point to be educated in my choices. And now that I have seen first hand the cost of campaigning and the effects of voter turnout I will advocate for reform.

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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: 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"?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I am familiar with local candidates who are dealing with this very issue.

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

a. *Election day voter registration*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

b. *Automatic voter registration*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

d. *No-fault absentee voting*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

I support all those policies.

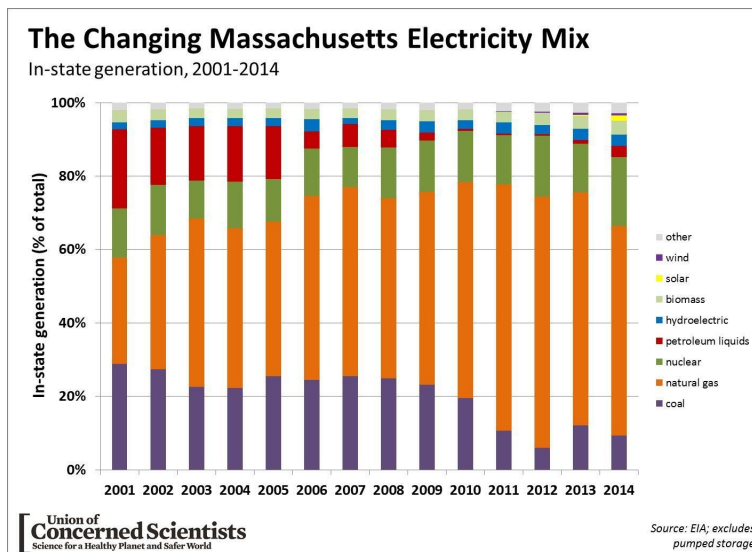
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

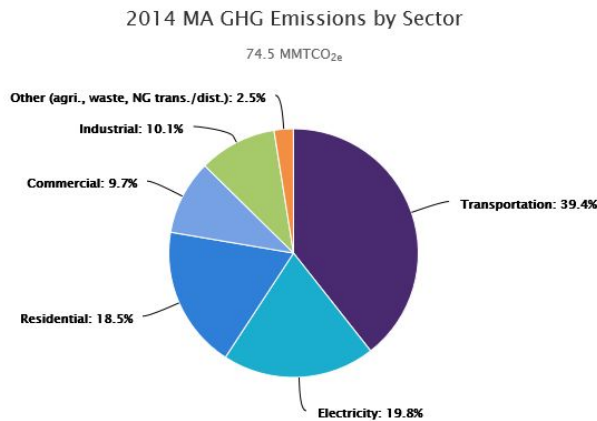
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and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

Jim Hawkins: I believe protecting the environment may be our most important mission. The damage we are doing is escalating and irreversible. Massachusetts maybe particularly vulnerable with miles of coastline and the Boston waterfront susceptible to rising levels of the ocean. We need to address everything we have access to including the use of fossil fuels, the use of cancer causing chemicals, and trash that will never decompose.

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

Jim Hawkins: I have been active with the local group Citizens Against the Rehoboth Compressor Station (CARCS) for some time now. I am on the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy and hope to be a voice for the environment. And I have been investigating options for access and parking at the two railroad stations in Attleboro. I also cosponsored a budget amendment to increase funding for Regional Transit Systems.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I don't see this as any inconvenience to retail customers nor does it create expense for retail organizations. It's a change that is due.

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?*

Jim Hawkins: 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?

Jim Hawkins: 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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I have been working with the Citizens Against the Rehoboth Compressor Station (CARCS).

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: 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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. North Attleboro has municipal power and it's less expensive and more reliable.

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

Jim Hawkins: 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?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I cosponsored a budget amendment that improved funding for RTAs.

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.

Jim Hawkins: I am proud to be elected to the State House. I joined the Progressive Caucus, but I have found everyone even on both sides of the aisle is there to serve the people of the Commonwealth. I was able to make a difference in the first few days I was in office even though much of the process happened before I was there. I feel I can make an even bigger impact if I get re-elected and can be part of the legislative process from beginning to end. I am going to work really hard to get re-elected. Progressive Mass was a big part of my success in the special election, and I hope you will be part of my re-election bid.