

Kate Albright-Hanna

1st Franklin

State Representative

Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: State Representative

Legislative District: 1st Franklin

Party: Democratic

Website: <https://kate4rep.org/>

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kate4rep/>



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

Kate Albright-Hanna

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: I am running for office to show that western Massachusetts can be a model for the rest of the country -- a true laboratory of democracy where we can find solutions to income inequality, food insecurity, public school underfunding, and climate change. My top 3 priorities will be single-payer health care, fully funded public education, and more rail options.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

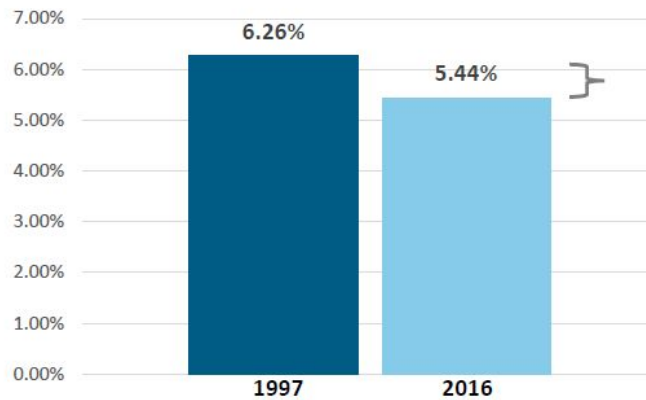
Kate Albright-Hanna: I've spent my life as a muckraking journalist observing, and then acting when I encountered an unjust situation, or an opportunity to make things better. Whether I was producing documentaries for CNN, inspiring a grassroots movement as the director of video for the Obama campaign, or launching progressive talk shows at MSNBC like "Up with Chris Hayes" (one of the first cable shows to cover the Occupy movement), I serve both the journalist's duty to tell the truth, and the politician's duty to make things better with equal passion.

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.

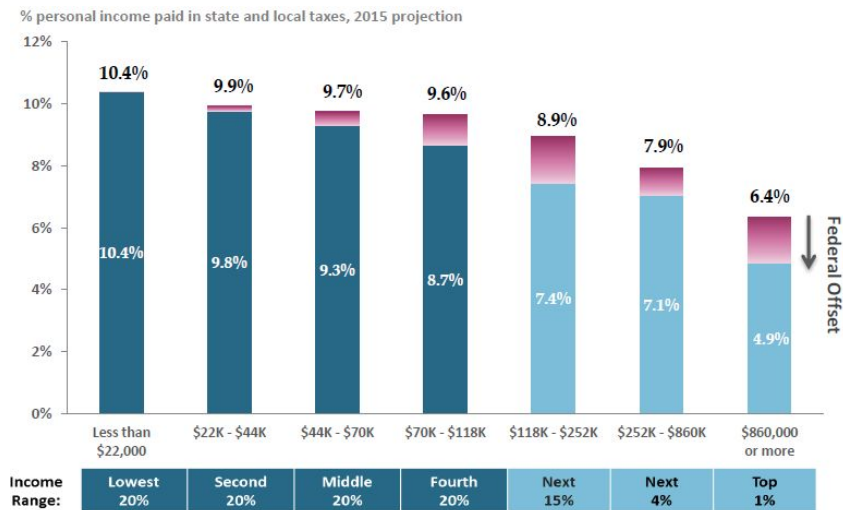
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.

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?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: My general principle is that people who meet actual social needs (nurses, teachers, fire fighters, etc) -- as well as people who make things -- should be compensated for the value they contribute. People and corporations that passively extract wealth via rent-seeking (most commonly in the FIRE sector) should be aggressively taxed, and that money should be redistributed to the 99%.

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.).*

Kate Albright-Hanna: As a senior producer on MSNBC's "The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell," I pushed hard to create talk show segments that didn't revolve around the grand bargain, balancing the budget and austerity. I fought to include guests who would instead frame the conversation around income inequality, union struggles for better wages, and making corporations and wealthy individuals pay their fair share. I continued that conversation when I launched "Up with Chris Hayes," a show that coincided with the Occupy movement and heavily featured it.

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?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes. When Western Mass residents ask about what to do about our town budgets that have been strained by the lack of school transportation reimbursement funds, I tell them we need to pass the Fair Share Amendment to bring our schools and towns back from the brink.

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?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: 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?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes. I also support closing corporate tax loopholes, including the carried-interest loophole that would save Massachusetts \$938 million per year.

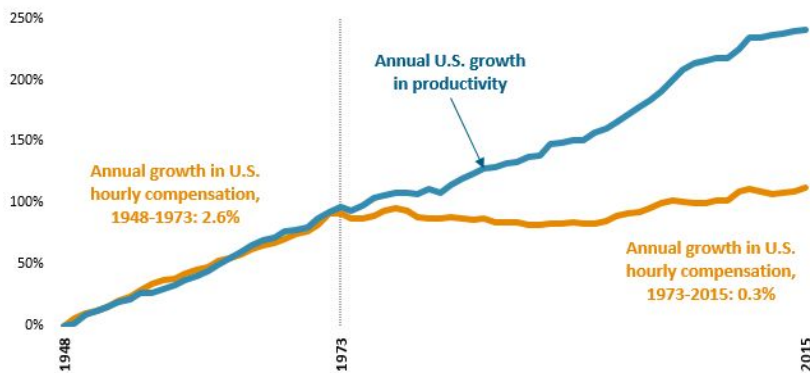
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

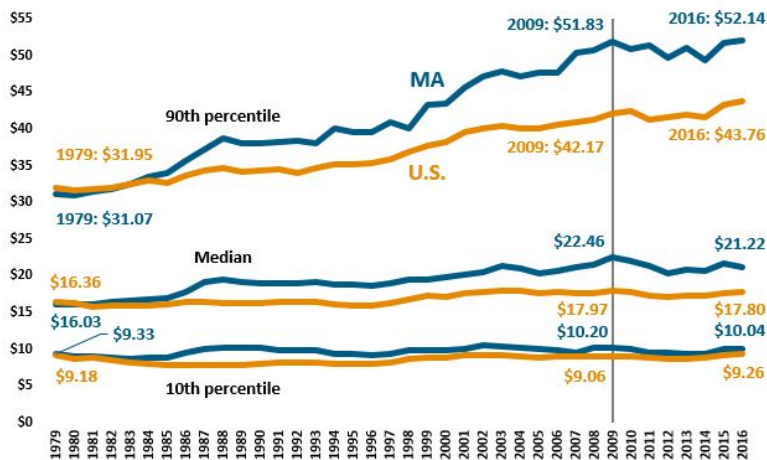
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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?

Kate Albright-Hanna: Our economy is no longer based on making things. Most of the wealth goes to those at the top of the FIRE sector -- which extract rents and fees from people who do provide services and make things. Economists have long predicted that there won't be enough work for more than a 15 hour work-week -- and looked forward to our future of increased leisure time. That future has arrived, but we don't have more leisure time because the productivity gains have been hoarded by the unproductive, rent-extracting rich. We need to reclaim the wealth that has been stashed in offshore accounts, bring corporate tax rates back to where they were during the mid-20th century, break up monopolies, and provide universal health care and a basic income to everyone.

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.).*

Kate Albright-Hanna: As communications director for Zephyr Teachout's 2014 gubernatorial run, as deputy campaign manager for Ready for Warren in 2015, and as the host of a monthly dinner salon focusing on the political economy with journalists, activists and elected officials -- fighting income inequality, corporate corruption and the growing concentration of power has been the constant theme.

3. **Increasing Wages.**

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

The minimum wage needs to be at least \$20/hour to afford an apartment and basic necessities in Massachusetts.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes. Yes, I recently walked the picket line and went on the "Tour of Shame"

with the striking nurses at Baystate.

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?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: 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?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: 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?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

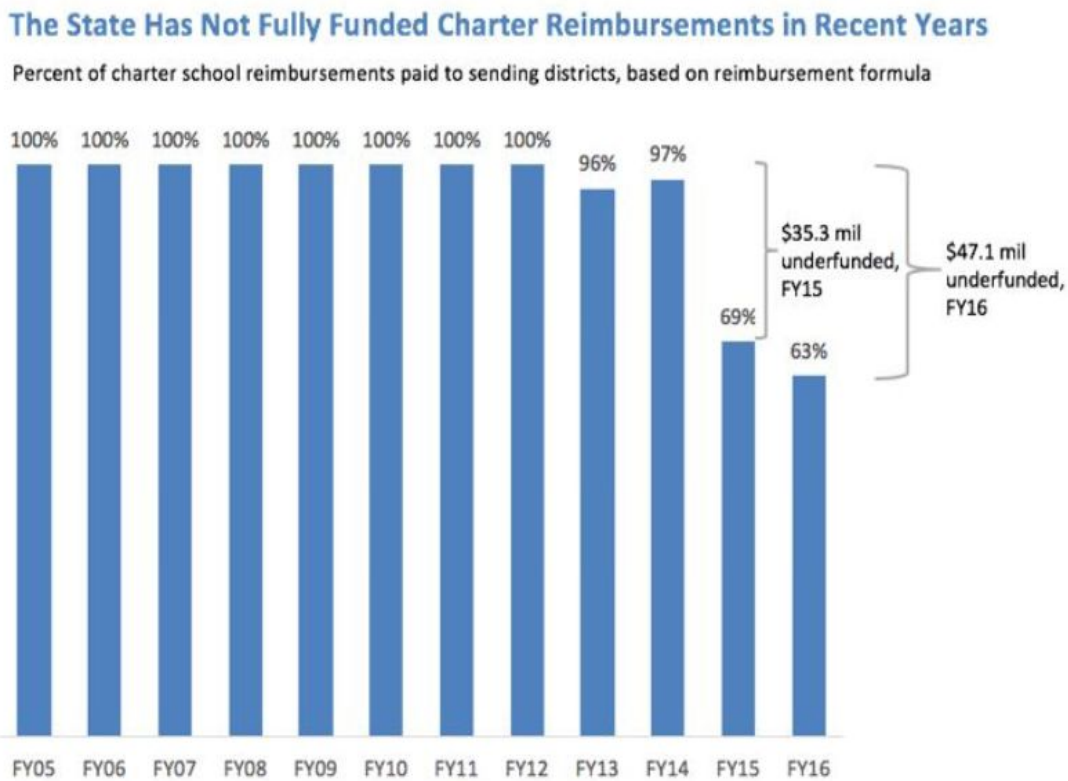
9. **Economic Democracy.** *Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes. I would also like to see more safeguards for employees like a right not to be under constant surveillance at work -- and a ban on contacting employees by email, text, etc during off hours.

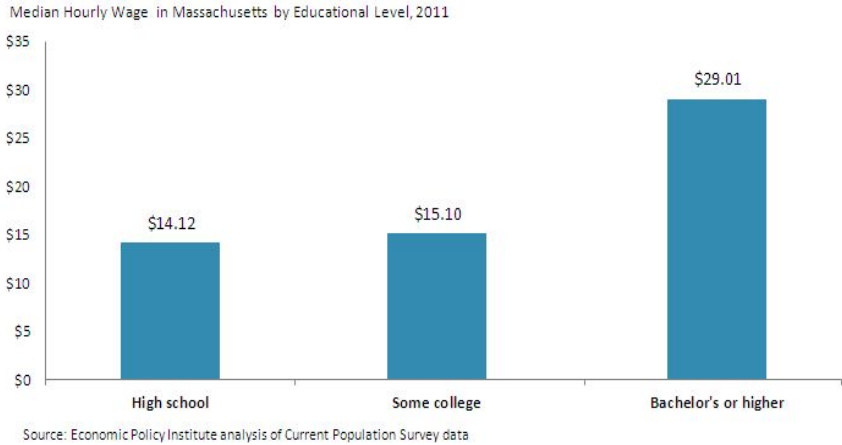
C. EDUCATION

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.

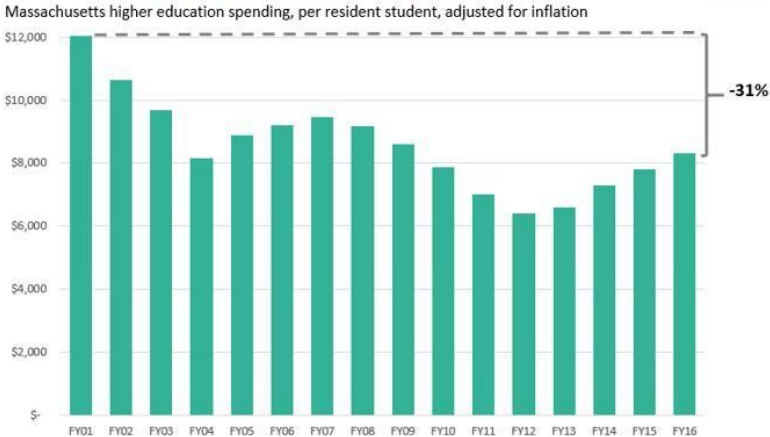


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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?***

Kate Albright-Hanna: I don't believe schools should be viewed as factories for creating future workers. I believe that we all have a basic human right to learn and reach our intellectual potential. If we're going to solve existential problems like climate change and disease and feeding a growing planet, we're going to need people who are prepared for a lifetime of research and discovery. We need to fully fund our public schools and universities, eliminate student debt, empower teachers to inspire students (while de-emphasizing standardized testing), and eliminate public funding for charter schools (allowing them to be truly self-funding private schools).

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: I have two children in public schools, and one toddler getting ready to enter pre-k. I believe all public officials should participate in the public school system if they have children.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes. Yes, all day 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?***

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

5. ***Equitable Funding. Do you support changing the Chapter 70 Education formula, including the Foundation Budget, to incorporate proper state funding for ELL students, Special Education students, transportation costs, charter school reimbursements to sending schools, and class size reduction?***

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes. Yes, we're about \$2 billion underfunded right now, which has pitted our towns and against our schools and degraded our communities.

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?***

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes. I would eliminate all public funding for charter schools.

- 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?***

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes. Yes, until we can eliminate funding for them completely.

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?

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

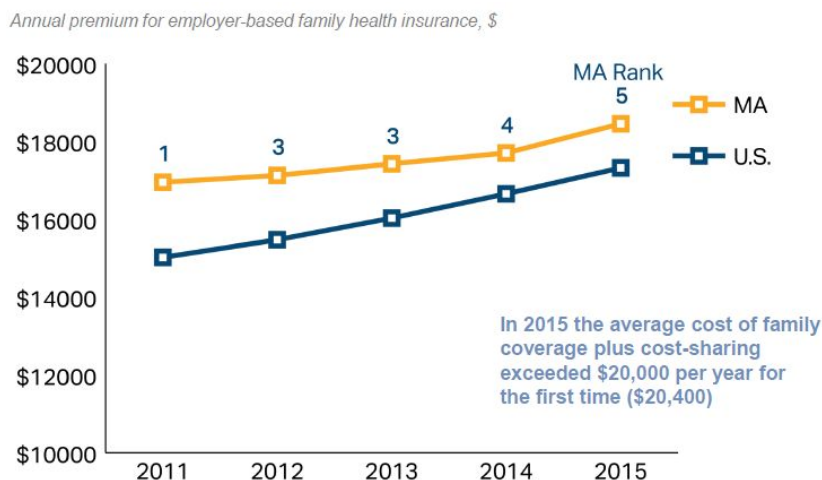
9. *Tuition-Free Higher Education.* Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

D. HEALTH CARE

Massachusetts has led the way in providing near universal health insurance coverage, with 97% of the state having health insurance. We provided the blueprint for the national Affordable Care Act, with an insurance-based reform passed by the Democratic Legislature and signed by Republican Governor Romney. While the reforms of President Obama's Affordable Care Act are under assault by Republicans (who control the Executive and both legislative chambers), Massachusetts could lead in more progressive health care reforms. Even without the Republican dismantling of national reforms, there is still work to do right here in Massachusetts. MA's Democratic Legislature passed, and the Republican governor signed, the ACCESS bill in 2017--protecting the right to no-fee contraception, which is (federally) under threat: Where our federal advances are being rolled back, Massachusetts could--and should--push progressively forward. Significant disparities in health insurance coverage and health care access continue to exist along income, racial, and education lines. Premiums continue to rise, and medical debt remains a persistent problem. We still spend an oversized portion of public and private money on health care, but without necessarily achieving better health outcomes.

MA has among the highest health insurance premiums in the country.



Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, Insurance Component

1. *Please share your personal values and principles regarding health care insurance, delivery, and outcomes.*

Kate Albright-Hanna: I support single-payer health care. Everyone should have access to the same levels of health care, and we should work to end the cultural, gender and racial biases that often result in unequal care and outcomes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: I produced the Obama Administration's first White House Summit on Health Care Reform as digital director at HHS in 2009. During the 2007-2008 Obama campaign, I produced dozens of videos with candidate Obama and supporters explaining why we urgently needed health care reform.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

5. *Dental Care.* Do you support the authorization of dental therapists in Massachusetts, similar to a nurse practitioner or physician assistant, in order to expand access to dental care?

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

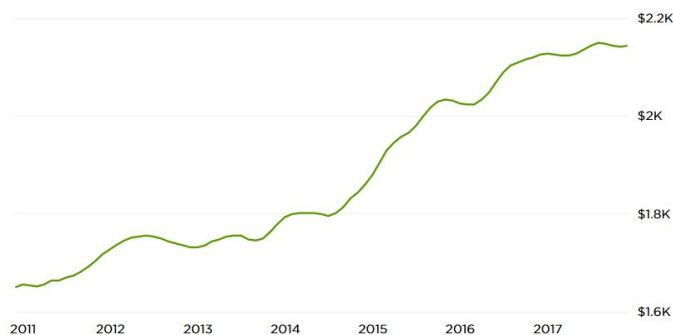
6. *Prescription Drug Pricing.* Would you support a drug transparency law, like the one recently passed in California, that requires pharmaceutical companies to publicly justify steep price increases?

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

E. HOUSING

Massachusetts has a lot to offer, but that does little if people can't afford to live here. Although Massachusetts ranked #1 last year in the [US News & World Report's state ranking](#), we were #45 in cost of living and #44 in housing affordability. A worker earning minimum wage in Massachusetts would have to work [80 hours a week](#) to afford a modest one bedroom rental home at market rate (and almost 100 hours a week in Metro Boston). Over the last ten years, the need for affordable housing has increased, while funds for affordable housing have decreased at both federal and state levels. The Commonwealth is at risk of losing [14,231 subsidized units](#) by December 31, 2019, as subsidies expire and owners convert properties into market-rate condominiums. Half of families in Greater Boston alone pay over 30% of their income in housing and utilities costs—and over 25% of households pay more than half their income to housing. There is a waiting list of up to ten years for a rental voucher. This is unsustainable. It has led to expanding economic inequality, increased homelessness, and damage to our economy, as talented workers often leave the state for less expensive regions.

Median rents have gone up by more than 30% since 2011.



(source: [zillow.com](#))

1. Please share your personal values and principles regarding affordable housing.

How would you ensure that there is suitable housing for all who need it, within reasonable distance of job opportunities? How would you address the need to link housing, jobs, and transportation? How would you tackle homelessness?

Kate Albright-Hanna: In rural Western Massachusetts, we have relatively affordable housing while we continue to lose population. We need high-speed rail and more robust public transportation options so that people can commute to job opportunities in the cities. As a general matter, I'm interested in the theories of Henry George, who proposed a land value tax to eliminate speculation -- as well as the principles of classical humanist urbanism. If we recapture the wealth stashed in empty luxury buildings by the global elite, we can provide homes for everyone who needs one.

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

3. Funding. Do you support increasing funding for

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

b. *The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: 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?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: 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?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: 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?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

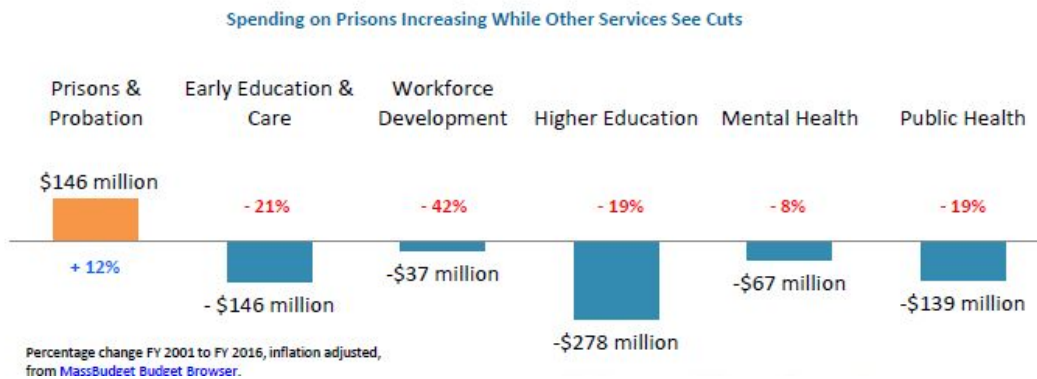
8. **Combating Speculation.** *Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to impose a graduated tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

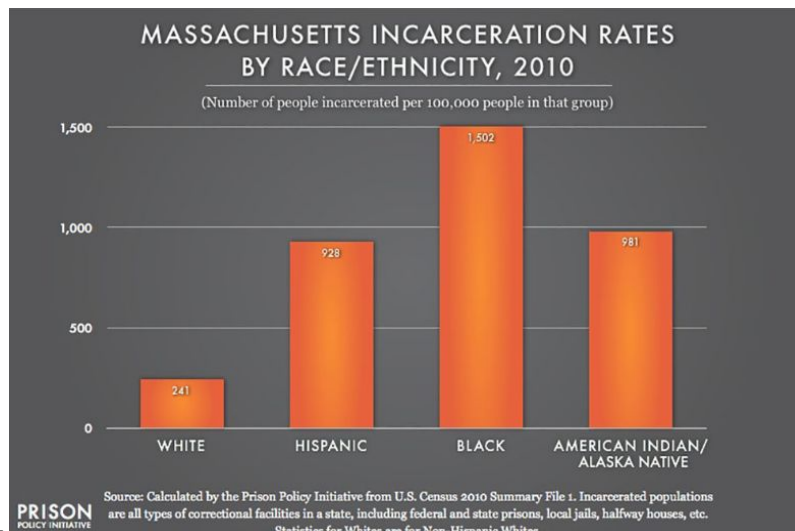
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

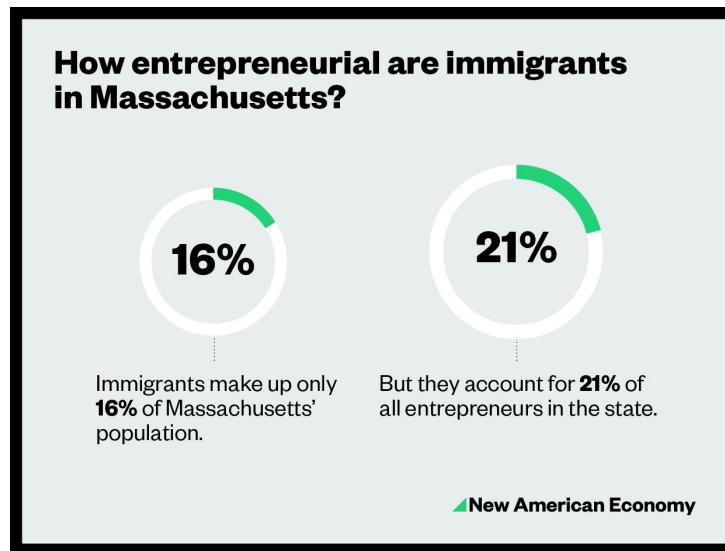
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

Kate Albright-Hanna: I believe that we're still living within the logic of colonialism and slavery, and that our current version of capitalism rewards existing power brokers (overwhelmingly white, male, cisgendered) over everyone else. I wish that MLK Jr. could have had more time to pursue the second phase of the struggle, which he called "The Poor People's Campaign." I subscribe to its five pillars: a meaningful job at a living wage; a secure and adequate income; access to land; access to capital, especially for poor people and minorities; and the ability for ordinary people to "play a truly significant role" in the government.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: I wrote this article about the patriarchy: <https://medium.com/@katealbrighthanna/a-bernielady-in-a-broworld-b95d89a6952a>. After 9/11, I produced documentaries about preserving civil liberties -- particularly for Muslims -- in a climate of fear. I also produced a piece that showed how Spain decided to double down on welcoming and integrating immigrants into their country following a terrorist attack -- as a humane way to prevent future attacks. In 2005, I went down to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and investigated police shootings of African-Americans who were trying to cross a bridge into a predominantly white suburb during the flood (the police were later found guilty and convicted). In 2015, I produced a video for a non-profit in Chicago that trains underprivileged young people (mostly of color) to build their political power. In 2016, I volunteered to film the situation inside the Palestinian territories for the international non-profit ActionAid.

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?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

4. *LGBTQ Youth. Our neighboring states of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Vermont ban the use of*

harmful conversion therapy practices for minors. Do you support banning the use of conversion therapy in Massachusetts?

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

5. **Mandatory Minimums.** *The landmark criminal justice reform bill passed earlier this year eliminated or reduced a number of mandatory minimums for drug-related offenses; however, it left in place, or expanded, those related to opioids. The opioid crisis in Massachusetts is severe, but it will not be solved by doubling down on criminalization. Do you support eliminating mandatory minimums for opioid drug offenses?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

6. **Juvenile Justice -- Part I.** *Ample research shows that teenage offenders served by a juvenile system are much less likely to re-offend and more likely to successfully transition to adulthood. Teenagers in a juvenile system have access to greater educational and counseling services, and they're much less likely to face sexual assault than at an adult facility. Do you support raising the age of criminal majority from 18 to 21?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

7. **Juvenile Justice -- Part II.** *Under Massachusetts law, if a high school senior and a high school sophomore have sex – with mutual consent — the senior could be punished by incarceration and then forced to register as a sex offender. In recent years, states have been passing so-called "Romeo and Juliet" laws out of a recognition that such cases only get prosecuted when a parent disapproves of their child's relationship. Do you support the elimination of the charge of statutory rape for consensual sex between youths who are close in age (See H.3065 for reference)?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: 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?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: 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?

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

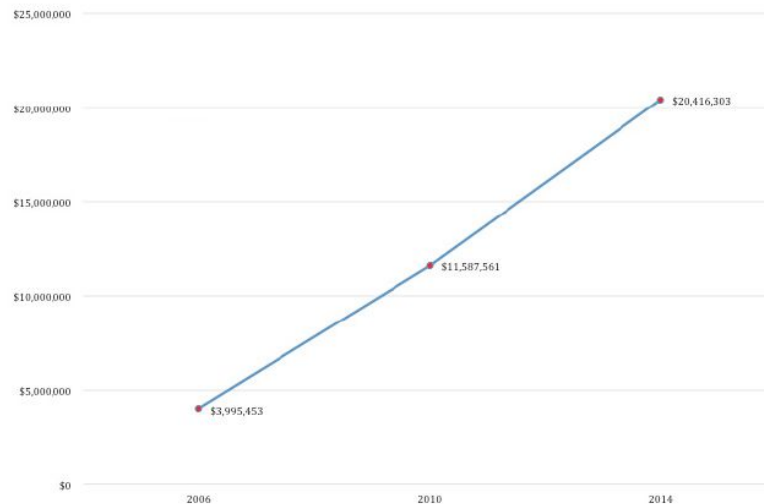
Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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.*

Kate Albright-Hanna: As a muckraking journalist, I strongly value transparency, accountability and a campaign finance system that gives equal weight to all voices -- not just the wealthy and well-connected ones.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: In 2017, I began production on a documentary about corruption in the New York state government, and consulted on that state's constitutional convention referendum. In 2008, I produced a video for the Obama campaign called "The Myth of Voter Fraud: How to Protect Your

Vote."

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?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: 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?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: 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"?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes. As the mother of three children running for state rep, hell yeah.

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

a. *Election day voter registration*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

b. *Automatic voter registration*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

d. *No-fault absentee voting*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

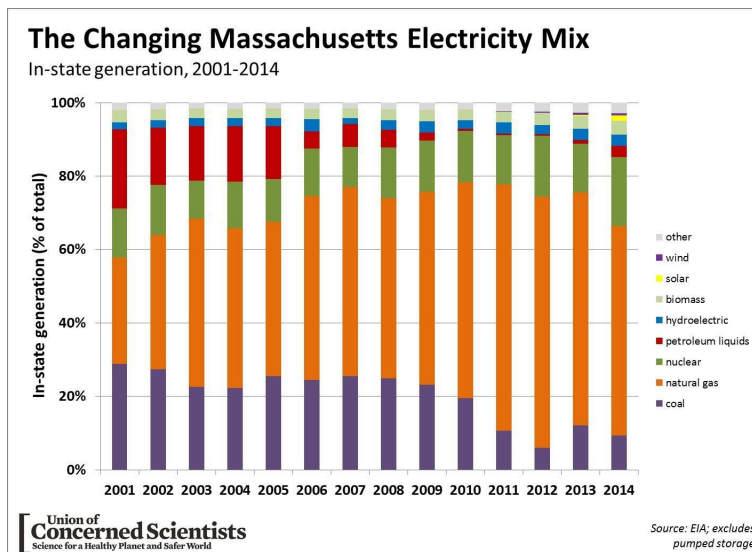
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Massachusetts will be hit particularly hard by climate change. In order to avoid catastrophic climate change, global carbon emissions need to be reduced by 70% by 2050 and brought to 0 by 2080. In 2016, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the state has failed to meet its legal obligation to set and enforce annual limits on greenhouse gas emissions as outlined in the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act. Setting and reaching these goals will require the decarbonization of our state economy and a transition away from fossil fuels toward clean, renewable sources of energy. In light of congressional gridlock at the federal level, state government must take a role in incentivizing reduced carbon usage and assisting in coordination between agencies and moving forward local government understanding of looming climate threats.

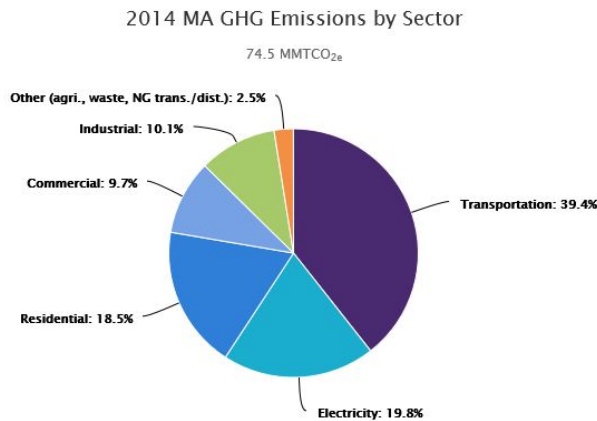
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and environment for the most vulnerable residents. However, this nominal commitment to “Environmental Justice” has been more rhetorical than real.

Public transit must play a role in decarbonizing our transportation system, as well as advancing complementary goals of equity and inclusion. However, Massachusetts politicians have lost their understanding of public transit as a public good that benefits all residents and businesses in Massachusetts, not just those who use it in their daily lives. The greatest evidence of this is their neglect of the MBTA: its debt has grown to nearly \$5.5 billion, with over \$7 billion in deferred maintenance costs. Regional Transit Authorities that serve communities, including Gateway Cities across the state, face enormous capital needs as well.

Despite recent progress, Massachusetts is still overwhelmingly dependent on fossil fuels.



Transportation is currently the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in MA.



(Source: <http://www.mass.gov>)

1. *Please share your personal values and principles regarding Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection.*

Kate Albright-Hanna: I don't believe we can reverse climate change without fundamentally changing our economic system, our physical landscape and our food system. We need highly efficient, walkable cities surrounded by continuous forests and meadows that support biodiversity and sequester carbon. We also need farmland that uses regenerative agriculture techniques to keep as much carbon as possible in the ground while building healthy soils. And finally, we need a carbon-neutral high-speed rail system that connects the cities to the rural areas, as well as fully funded mass transit within population centers.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: I live on 27 acres in Western Mass, and I'm in the process of taking out invasive species and planting native species that will support a rich and diverse local ecosystem. I joined my town's planning board so that I could make sure we continue to move in a green, walkable, biodiverse direction. To that end, I just wrote and passed a site plan review bylaw at our town meeting this week. I also connected our selectboard to a green energy aggregation initiative I learned about on the campaign trail -- and our town meeting approved participation in that as well. If the deal goes through, every citizen will be receiving 100% renewable energy in a few years.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

4. ***Solar energy.** Do you support increasing equitable access to solar power by removing caps on solar generation and restoring compensation for low-income and community solar?*

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes. We should be much more pro-active and aggressive about installing solar on every home, regardless of income. We don't have time to wait for the market to sort it all out.

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?

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes. We need to move faster than that.

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?

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: 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?

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

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

Kate Albright-Hanna: 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?

Kate Albright-Hanna: Yes.

III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Limit answer to 150 words or fewer.

Use this space to add any other issues important to your vision for Massachusetts or any other matter you think progressive voters should know about your candidacy.

Kate Albright-Hanna: I believe Massachusetts should be the gold standard for progressive policies -- and a model for other states. We should embody the values of justice, freedom and equality -- and show what it means to live those values in our laws and institutions. The people of Massachusetts are ready for that. The politicians need to catch up.