

*Michael Gatlin*

**6th Middlesex**

**State Representative**

---

*Endorsement Questionnaire*

**Office Sought:** State Representative

**Legislative District:** 6th Middlesex

**Party:** Democratic

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

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/mikegatlinforframingham/>



**Primary:** September 4

**Election:** November 6

# Contents

<b>Primary: September 4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Election: November 6</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Introduction: Progressive Mass</b>	<b>2</b>
About	2
Membership	2
How Endorsements Work	2
Sources	2
<b>I. About the Candidate</b>	<b>3</b>
Michael Gatlin	3
<b>II. THE ISSUES</b>	<b>4</b>
A. REVENUE AND TAXATION	4
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY	6
C. EDUCATION	9
D. HEALTH CARE	13
E. HOUSING	15
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE	17
G. GOOD GOVERNMENT/ STRONG DEMOCRACY	21
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	23

---

# 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](https://www.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](https://massbudget.org)).*

# I. About the Candidate

## Michael Gatlin

---

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

**Michael Gatlin:** I am running for this office because I have been involved in my community for many years, serving as a volunteer in many positions including PTO President, School Superintendent search committees, Framingham Public Library Foundation, Framingham Education Foundation and many other. My priorities are as follows:

Establishing pre-K education for all children;

Ensuring that the Commonwealth keeps its promises to our young people by supporting the state college system at a much higher level than the current 20% of cost, so that our kids, not out of state kids paying out of state tuition, attend our public colleges and universities.

Increasing and improving public transportation in Framingham and in the Commonwealth as a way of ending dependence upon cars and assisting in efforts to reduce climate change, reduce traffic, and make transportation easier and more accessible for our elders.

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

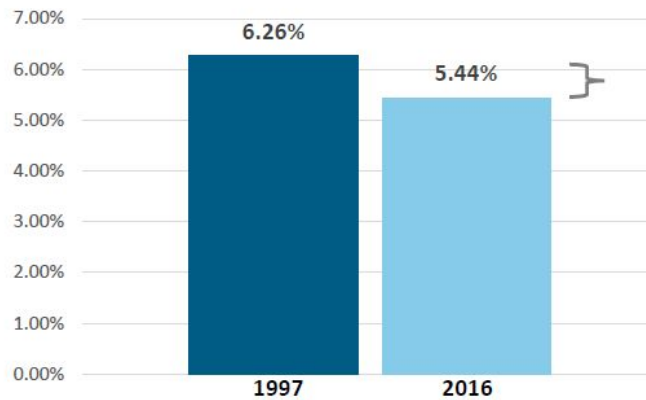
**Michael Gatlin:** My extensive experience and involvement in all levels of the community, both governmental and non-profit, working on exactly these types of issues. I am also a practicing attorney.

# 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.

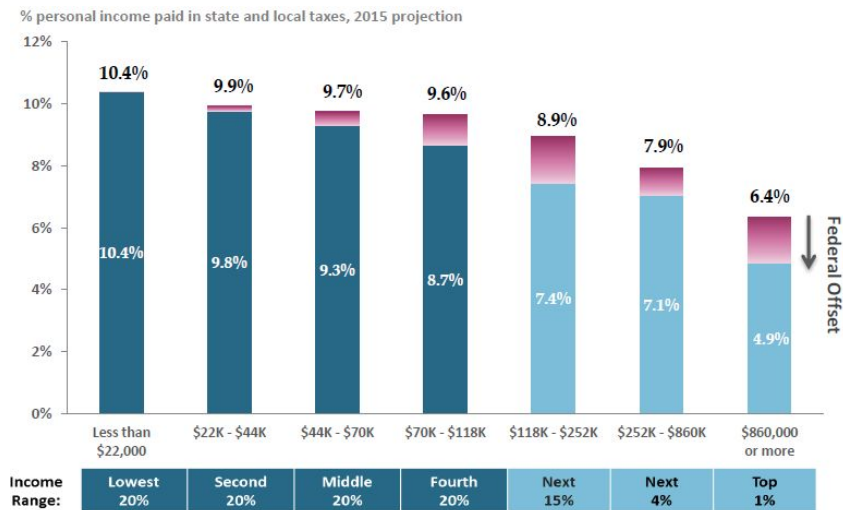
**Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.**

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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** Recent Supreme Court decisions have made it clear that internet sales are subject to state sales taxation, and that fantasy football and related forms of wagering may not be banned. We should make certain that the Commonwealth is collecting all sales tax revenues from internet transaction are collected. We should set up a system for fantasy wagering which maximizes tax revenues which are a new source of funds.

We should also correct the deficiencies in the propose ""millionaires tax"" proposal which was struck down by the SJC and resubmit the questions, or enact the proposal through the legislature.

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.).*

**Michael Gatlin:** I have been speaking about these ideas throughout my campaign in meet and greet settings, in public forums and as I go door to door.

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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes. See above answer.

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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes. I support living wage efforts, but I'm not sure why we need to give tax credits to encourage payment of those wages, except perhaps for small, family-owned businesses.

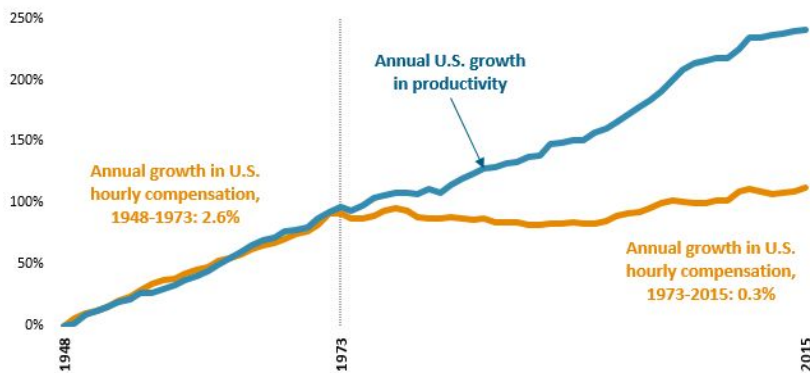
## B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

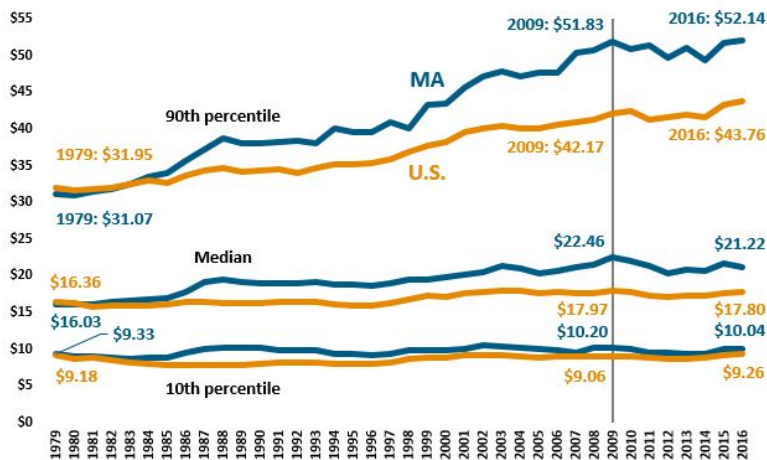
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** I think education is key to economic security. I spoke earlier about my commitment to college education, but vocational training is also very important. Many Mass. businesses now face a shortage of skilled workers, and I would support more job training programs and vocation education. The life sciences are a particular area of strength in Mass., and continued growth, with attendant salary growth. can only be accomplished with access to education and training.

**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.).*

**Michael Gatlin:** I have served on a number of Boards in Framingham which are supportive of education and enrichment programs, as well as serving on the Board of the Framingham State University Foundation. These beliefs also underlie my message to voters during this campaign.

**3. Increasing Wages.**

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

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?*

**Michael Gatlin:**

**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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.



6. **Unions -- Part II.** *Since 2010 election, a number of states have rolled back the collective bargaining rights of public workers as part of a well-funded, nationwide assault on unions led by wealthy, conservative donors. Would you oppose any effort to roll back the collective bargaining rights of state or municipal employees?*

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

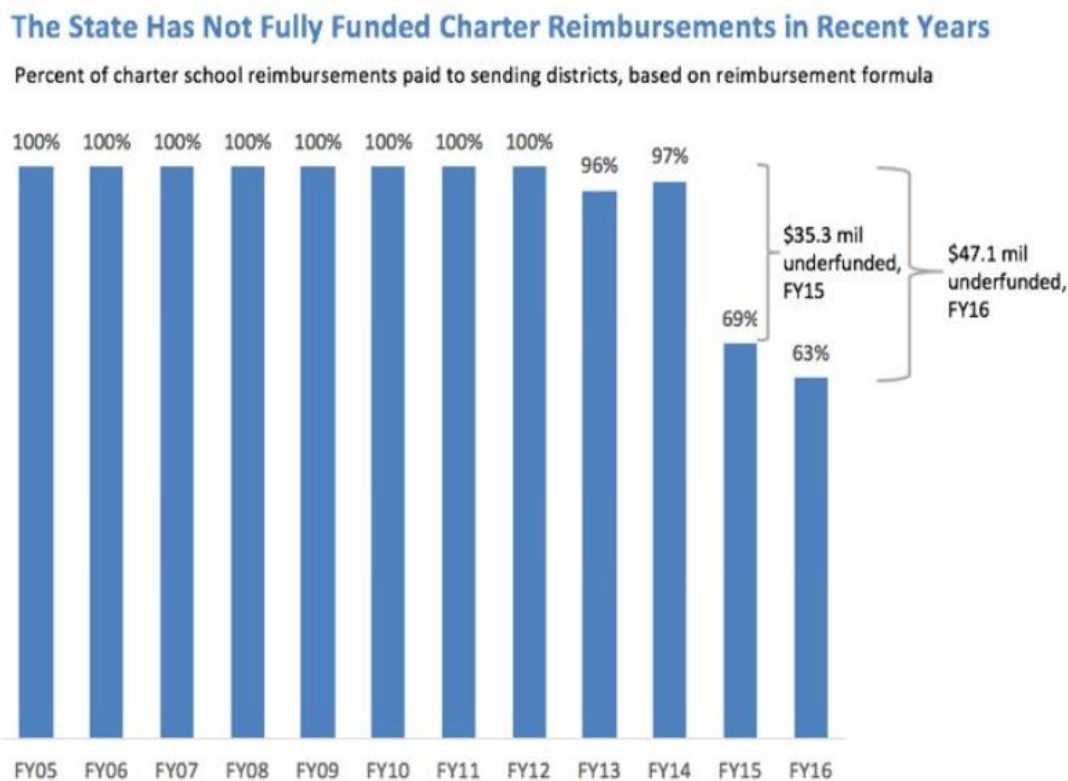
9. **Economic Democracy.** *Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?*

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

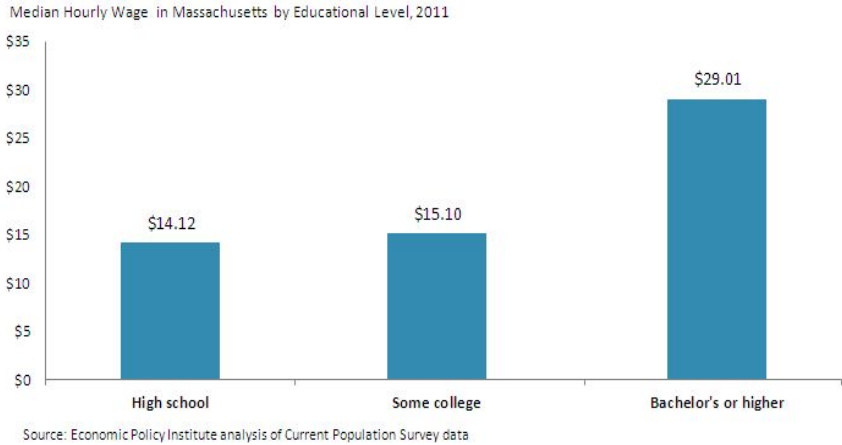
## C. EDUCATION

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

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

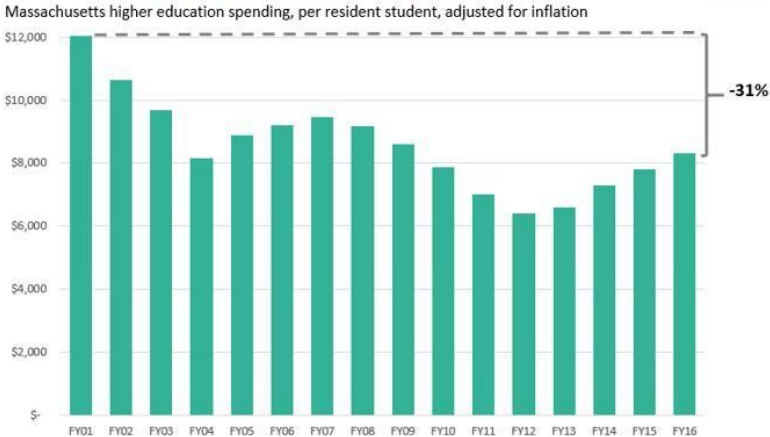


**Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.**



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

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



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

**Michael Gatlin:** Please see my answer regarding my three main campaign issues. In addition, I believe that Mass., like many other states, should make community college education free to residents.

I believe that the MCA and similar measure result in teachers ""teaching to the test"" rather than education students. I know teachers are frustrated with this. Clearly, we need to monitor and require positive educational outcomes, but standardized testing has long been known to be inherently biased and perhaps not even reflective of the educational achievement which these tests are supposed to be evaluating.

The Foundation budget must be modernized, it must incorporate the fiscal realities of public education in 2018 and should be fully funded.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** I speak about this issue in campaign literature, in meetings with voters, in public forums and in my volunteer work prior to this campaign.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes. A central tenet of my campaign.

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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** No. I believe testing plays a role, maybe even an important role, but it cannot be the sole means of evaluation.

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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes. Chapter 70 funding leaves rural towns like those in my district with scant resources. I will fight for more equitable funding for rural districts in addition to adequate funding throughout the Commonwealth for ELL students, Special Education students, transportation costs, charter school reimbursements to sending schools, and class size reduction.

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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes. I believe that charter schools are part of the educational landscape, and they will not be going away. I think the disclosure requirements should be uniform; the schools are still funded by taxpayer dollars and should therefore be open to public view.

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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** See above.

7. **Sex Education.** *Do you support requiring public schools that teach sexual health education to provide age-appropriate, medically accurate information that is inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities that hat includes the effective use of contraception?*

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

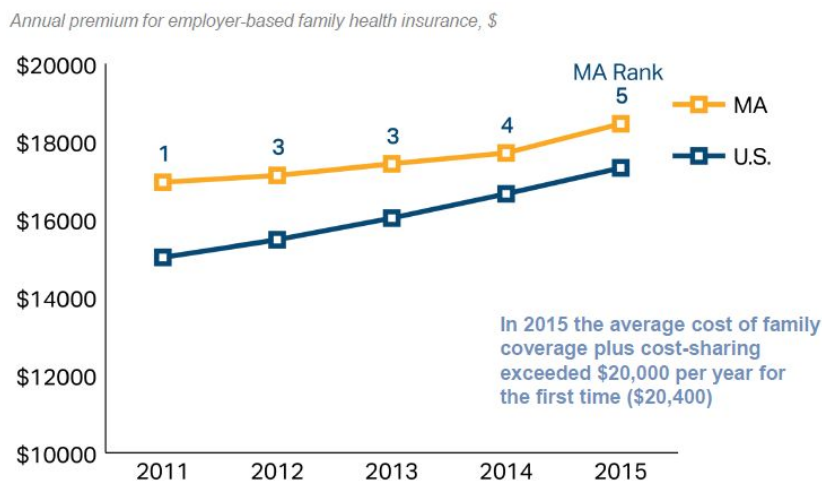
9. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** *Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?*

**Michael Gatlin:** No. The state however should honor its obligations to our kids and (and adults) by paying a much larger share of the costs of the system, and by making financial aid more available.

## 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.*

**Michael Gatlin:** Health care is a basic human right. I believe that, despite a lot of lip service, very little has actually been done to reign in health care costs. The cost of a procedure should not be dependent on the location at which the procedure was performed. Access is a function, in part, of cost. I believe that service providers should be held to a higher level of responsibility for outcomes. I understand that guaranteeing a result is unrealistic and even unfair, but I believe greater access to information about physicians and institutions should be available to consumers of those services.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** This has been a talking point throughout my campaign.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes. Government has no right to control a woman's body or her personal health care decisions.

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?

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?

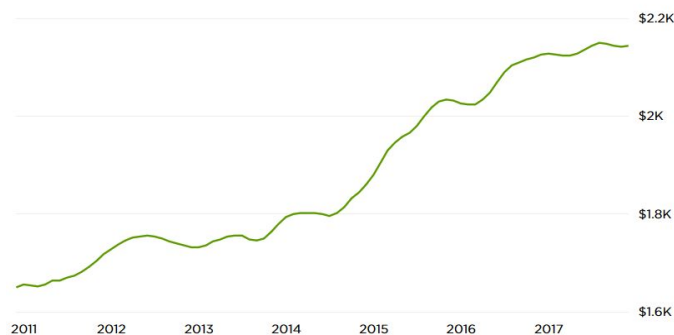
**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

## 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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** Greater access to reliable public transportation is a key component here. We also need to take a look at a method of making housing available to service industry workers. Many of the people who work in our restaurants and shops cannot afford to live in the communities in which they work. There have been some initiatives in, I believe Lawrence, and also in New Orleans (for artists). We need to look at this issue as I believe it is a growing problem with very little attention being paid. Just having an income is not the whole story, as that income may not adequately pay for housing.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** This has been an issue I have worked on as a volunteer, even to the point of traveling to New Orleans with my kids to help repair storm damaged houses after Katrina.



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

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

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

b. *The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?* **Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes. So long as the local community retains the ability to make local decisions and is not mandated to act in a particular fashion.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?

**Michael Gatlin:** I think this is a complex problem that requires more discussion than is realistic here. General I do, but it's a little more complicated than that.

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?

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

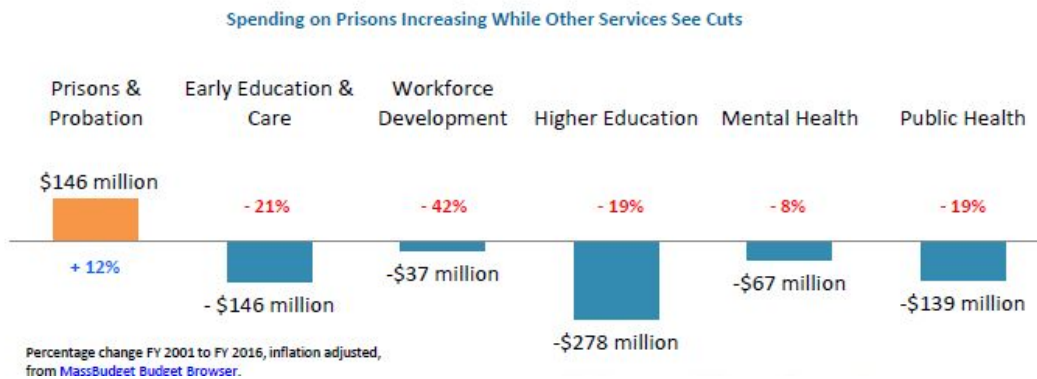
8. **Combating Speculation.** Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to impose a graduated tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?

**Michael Gatlin:** No. Given the variance in property values between communities, I'm not convinced of the wisdom of this type of legislation. There are a lot more properties of this type in Lexington than there are in Grafton, and the housing needs of the municipalities may vary greatly. I need some convincing here.

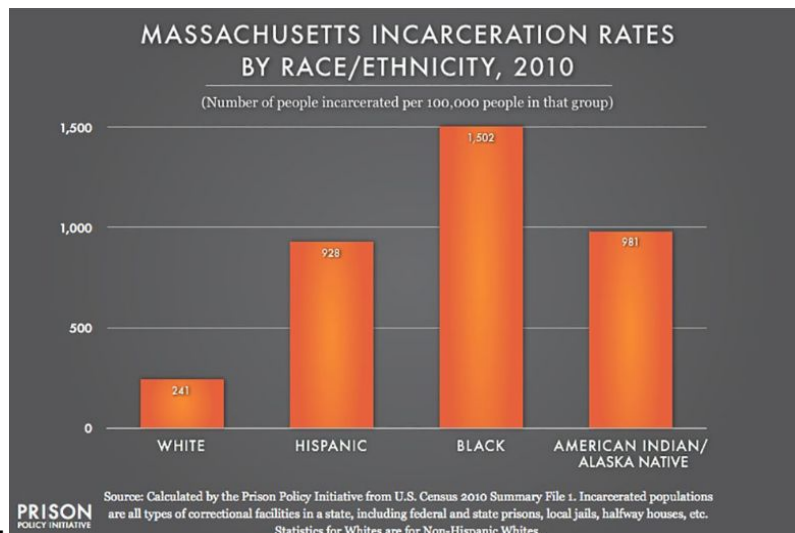
# F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

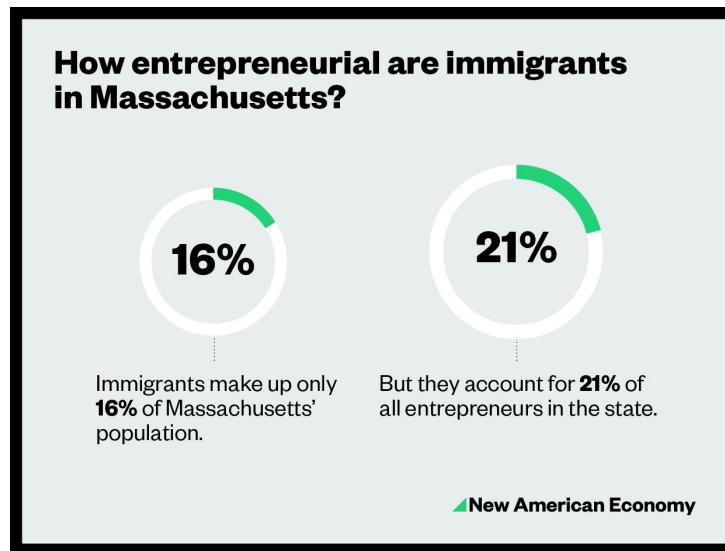
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

**Michael Gatlin:** We need to have a criminal justice system which is truly blind to race, age, ethnicity and sexual preference. This requires not just a neutral system of laws but greater training and more discipline with respect to law enforcement. To the extent that law enforcement uses deadly force at a higher rate against black suspects than white one, we don't need more laws or more training, we need better hiring practices, better evaluation practices, and more firings and prosecution of law enforcement officers who engage in racism.

This is not a situation which requires more laws, it is a situation that requires all of us to be better people.

Having said that, the penal codes must be updated and judges must be evaluated, as part of the nomination process, to ensure that they are sensitive to the needs, value and dignity of all minority, racial, sexual or ethnic communities.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** In the mid 80's when the AIDS epidemic first surfaced, I established the MetroWest AIDS Consortium to ensure the availability of and access to all types of treatment for AIDS victims and their friends and family. It was one of the first such consortiums outside of Boston.

I have always been a fighter for the rights of minorities and will continue to be.

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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** 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)?*

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes. **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?

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

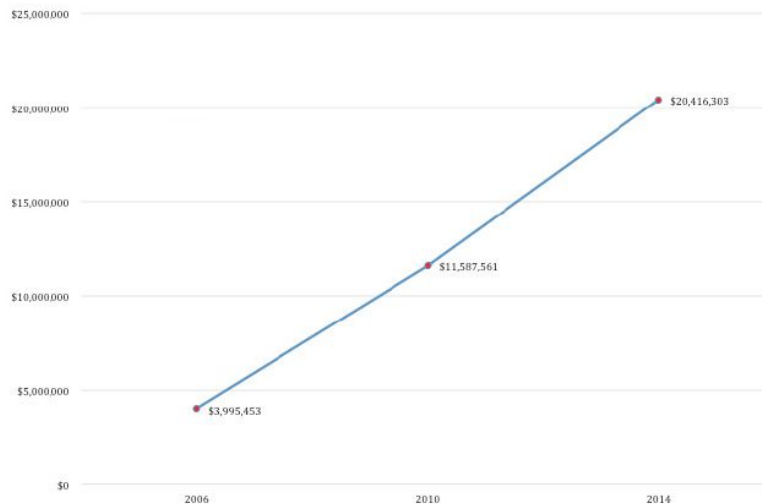
# G. GOOD GOVERNMENT/ STRONG DEMOCRACY

---

*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.*

**Michael Gatlin:** Mass. should significantly shorten voter registration requirements, even to allowing same day registration. We should also enact so called "tiered-voting" in which voters get to make a second and third choice of candidates.

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

**Michael Gatlin:**

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?

**Michael Gatlin:** To be honest I need to study the issue more closely. I do believe the process should be open but I am not prepared at this point to offer an opinion beyond that core value.

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?

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** 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"?

**Michael Gatlin:** No.

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

a. Election day voter registration

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

b. Automatic voter registration

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

d. No-fault absentee voting

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

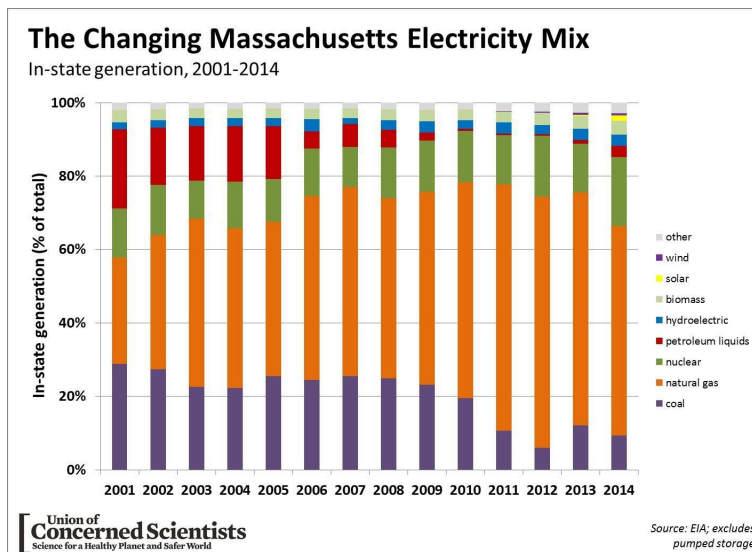
# H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

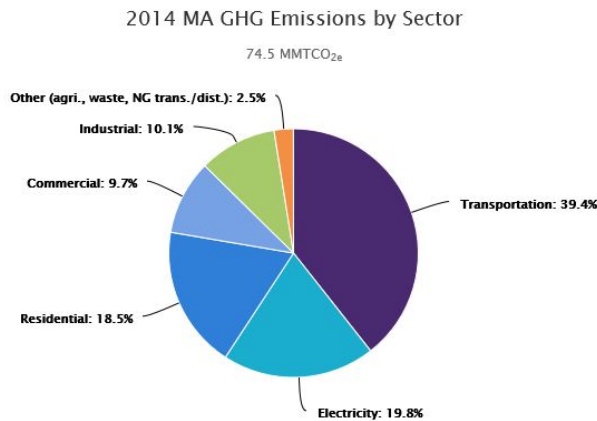
Public transit must play a role in decarbonizing our transportation system, as well as advancing complementary goals of equity and inclusion. However, Massachusetts politicians have lost their understanding of public transit as a public good that benefits all residents and businesses in Massachusetts,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

**Michael Gatlin:** I believe that Environmental Protection, with all that terms implies, is one of the most crucial issues facing our planet. I believe that we can and should be focusing, at a very accelerated level, on availing ourselves of and encouraging the growth of solar, wind, and tidal energy. They are cleaner, they will eventually be cheaper, and they will create local jobs.

We need to take steps to protect and even restore environmental features such as tide marshes as a protection against rising sea levels. We need to eliminate construction on the shore line

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

**Michael Gatlin:** I work very closely with the MWRTA in Framingham to increase access to public transportation.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** No. I believe those levels are too low and have the effect of just kicking the can down

the road. We must be more aggressive. Environmental damage at a lessening rate is still environmental damage.

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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** 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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes. I also believe those utilities should be placed underground. I understand the costs but I believe that the danger and expense of repairing downed power lines resulting from severe storms argues in favor of such costs.

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

**Michael Gatlin:** No. Yes ,but only after the MBTA is forces to do things like collect tolls from 100% of its passengers. Despite a Globe article last fall, and despite promises from Keolis, fares are still not being collected if "the car is too full". After the MBTA does its jobs in matter like this, I will be very receptive to finding other revenue sources.

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?*

**Michael Gatlin:** Yes.