

Michelle Ciccolo

15th Middlesex

State Representative

Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: State Representative

Legislative District: 15th Middlesex

Party: Democratic

Website: www.michelleciccolo.com

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

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



Primary: September 4

Election: November 6

Contents

Primary: September 4	0
Election: November 6	0
Introduction: Progressive Mass	2
About	2
Membership	2
How Endorsements Work	2
Sources	2
I. About the Candidate	3
Michelle Ciccolo	3
II. THE ISSUES	5
A. REVENUE AND TAXATION	5
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY	9
C. EDUCATION	12
D. HEALTH CARE	17
E. HOUSING	20
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE	23
G. GOOD GOVERNMENT/ STRONG DEMOCRACY	27
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	30

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

Michelle Ciccolo

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

Michelle Ciccolo: At a time when the Federal government is failing us, it is essential for those who believe in good government to step up and lead. I believe that effective local, regional, and state government can make a real and positive difference in people's lives. Having chosen public service as my lifelong career, I have broad and extensive experience on a wide range of issues including improving access to transportation, addressing climate change, promoting public health initiatives, and creating affordable housing. I want to use that experience for greater good to improve the lives of our residents across the Commonwealth. The massive wealth gap that exists in Massachusetts is one of the defining issues of our time. If we don't work to address the inequities in our society, we cannot hope to continue on with prosperity for some, because the inequity, unchecked, will ultimately cause decay and decline for all. Massachusetts should set an example for higher standards in educational achievement, universal healthcare, environmental sustainability, and scientific discovery among other areas where we excel. I am seeking a position in the General Court so that I can work closely with like-minded legislators, advocacy organizations, unions, and residents to enact policies that ensure Massachusetts leads and all our residents prosper.

My top 3 priorities are:

1. Closing the wage gap by improving access to education and technical training, and efficient and affordable transportation to provide access to wider options for work, childcare and education.
2. Public Health, especially fighting for wellness and prevention measures, and quality universal healthcare for all.
3. Ensuring Massachusetts leads the way on environment sustainability, carbon reduction, and climate action.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: As a 3-term past president of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), and First Vice-President of the Massachusetts Selectman's Association on the statewide Mass. Municipal Association Board and gubernatorial appointee to the Local Government Advisory Commission, I have extensive experience crafting, advocating for, and passing legislation. Through my current position as Chair of the Legislative Committee of the MAPC I am very engaged in the legislative efforts underway to improve the lives of the people in this Commonwealth.

By choice, I have committed my entire professional career to public service. From my first job out of college working for then-US Senator John Kerry, to my municipal and regional career which spans more than two decades, I have dedicated my life's work to focusing on improving the lives of others. Following my masters degree in public affairs, I worked as the Assistant Town Administrator and Community Development Director for the Town of Hudson for 20 years. I also started a small consulting firm during that time-frame and now am a small business owner doing consulting for municipalities in the area of planning, community development, and project management. My current

work allows me to help communities with diverse issues such as Affordable Housing, transportation, open space protection, school resource decision making, and capital planning.

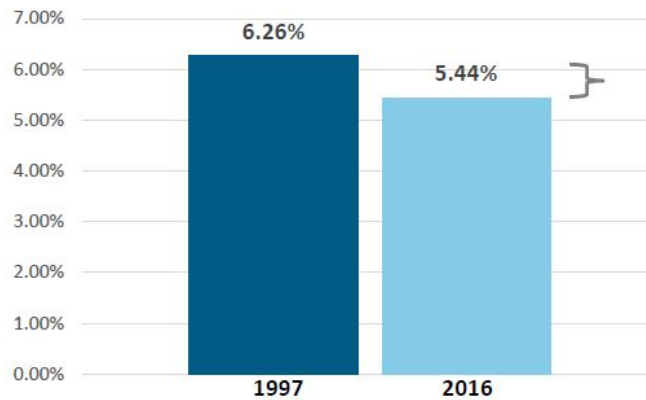
Through my work as a Lexington Selectman and volunteer town-wide elected official for 7 years, I know how to set policy and build consensus among people with differing points of view. I have direct experience in negotiating for education funding, program development, policy development for mental health and wellness, and implementation of localized strategies to combat climate change and cut carbon emissions. I look forward to taking these experiences to the State House to affect real change.

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.

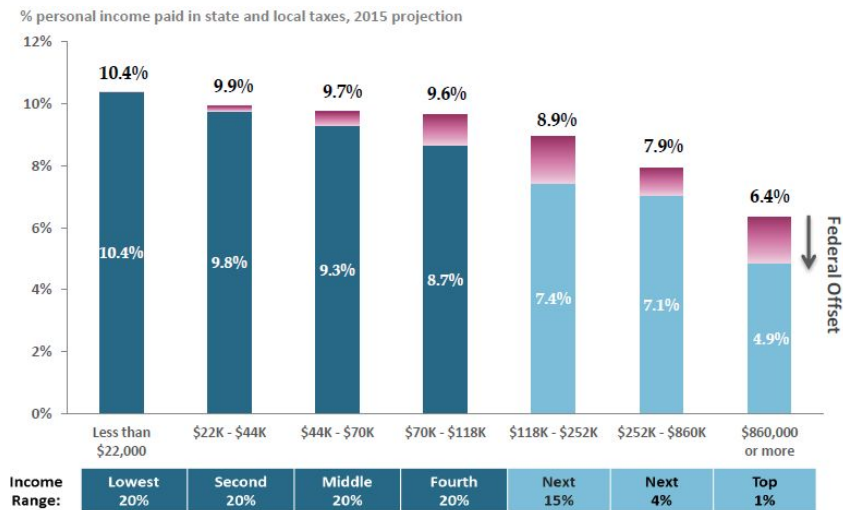
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.

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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: I believe in a graduated income tax and will work to make Massachusetts' tax system more progressive and fair. If we are able to provide adequate new revenues, I would support lowering the sales tax since that is a regressive tax. However, at this juncture, I oppose the ballot question to reduce the sales tax down to 5% and would continue to do so until we can approve alternative revenue sources because fundamentally we need new revenues in the system to pay for our statewide needs.

With the recent significant federal corporate rate cuts, it is only a matter of time before key federal programs are cut (like Medicaid) and Massachusetts must be ready to make up those cuts in services with funding from state revenues. Thus, I believe we should modestly raise the corporate income tax rate but do so in a creative way. Until we have a living wage in Massachusetts, I think we could couple an increase in the corporate rate with a tax credit back to employers who both pay a living wage and voluntarily cap executive pay so the gap between the top earners and the bottom rank and file is not so stark.

I would also explore an increase in the personal income tax rate if it is combined with significant increases in the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and increases in the personal exemptions so those at the bottom and middle income brackets experience little to no increases in State taxes.

Some additional new revenues that I support include:

- Regional Ballot Initiatives for Transportation financing - targeted to the specific transportation project
- A tax on sugary drinks (with revenue dedicated to the defunded wellness and prevention trust fund). This would help improve health outcomes and generate modest new revenue.
- An increase in the CPA Deeds fee to recapitalize the Community Preservation Act (which funds Affordable Housing, Open Space land protection and Recreation, and Historic Preservation).
Regulating and taxing Sports Gambling
- Closing the loop on 3rd party on-line retailers so sales tax is collected on ALL on-line sales
- A modest capital gains tax on private university endowment investment income on endowments over \$500 Million. These funds should be dedicated towards making college more affordable perhaps by allowing tax deductions of the principal (in addition to interest) on people's college loans.
- A stormwater management utility fee to help protect the water quality of our rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, and other water bodies and to defray the significant local costs of maintenance of our stormwater system. A fee based system would encourage sustainable design and construction and help ensure that new development and repurposed sites be constructed using best management practices for stormwater.

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.).*

Michelle Ciccolo: As the Chair the Legislative Committee at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and as its former President for 3 terms, for numerous years, I have been actively engaged in advocating for and promoting concepts around creative revenue sources and promoting progressive

taxation. With my active enthusiasm and endorsement, my committee has taken votes in support of the Fair Share Amendment, and we have brought that measure to the full Executive Committee of MAPC for a supportive vote. In addition, while on the Board of the Mass. Municipal Association, I have been one of the members encouraging staff and fellow Board members to take votes against the Sales tax holiday and reduction, and in favor of the Fair Share amendment.

In addition, to the votes mentioned above, the MAPC Executive Board and Legislative Committee have developed an extensive white paper on Transportation Finance which identifies a myriad of new funding sources and taxes including a gas tax which we have recommended. As an active, engaged member of this organization, I have been a vocal supporter of identifying and promoting new revenues for Transportation. I have testified at various hearings in support of many of the concepts we have been promoting through our work. Here is the Transportation Finance Reform piece we developed while I was President of MAPC which is still in use as a guiding document today:

<http://www.mapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/MAPC-Transportation-Finance-Recommendations-MARCH-22-2013.pdf>

MAPC also has an extensive Equity Agenda which I was pleased to vote in support of and bring to the full Executive Committee for its endorsement. That equity agenda lays out other progressive principles of revenue and taxation and can be found here: <https://equityagenda.mapc.org/> While the website has not yet been updated, the Draft was approved as a final document at a recent meeting this spring 2018.

Separately, and in my capacity as the Vice Chair of the Lexington Board of Selectmen, I have been developing local-option legislation that would allow cities and towns to create transit betterment districts and raise revenue locally through an equitable formula that combines a property tax betterment fee with state, and local funding to allow for the expansion of transit services. I can share the draft of that legislation should anyone be interested.

I have also been working with a number of colleagues and our local committee to develop senior property tax relief legislation, adapted from the Sudbury Home-Rule legislation that would give cities and towns more flexibility in supplementing the statewide senior tax circuit breaker program. This measure would help keep low and moderate income seniors in their homes.

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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

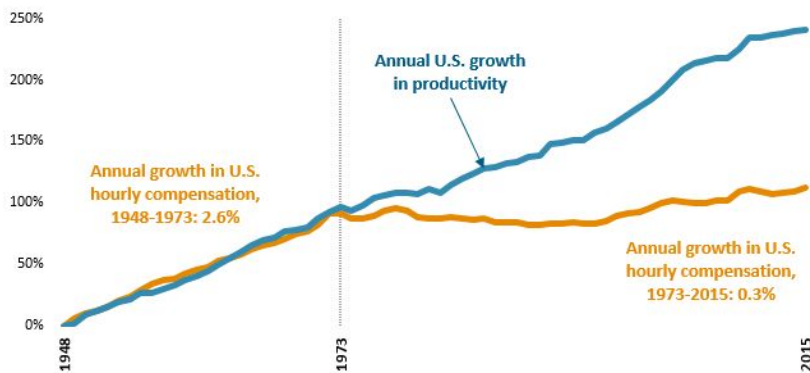
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

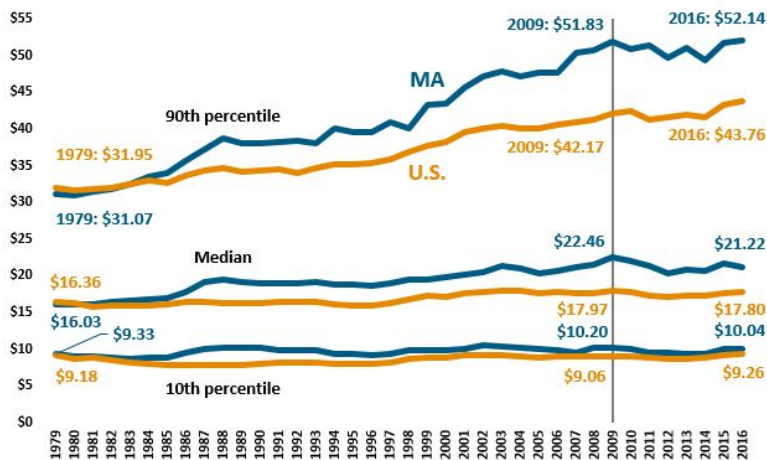
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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?

Michelle Ciccolo:

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

3. Increasing Wages.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

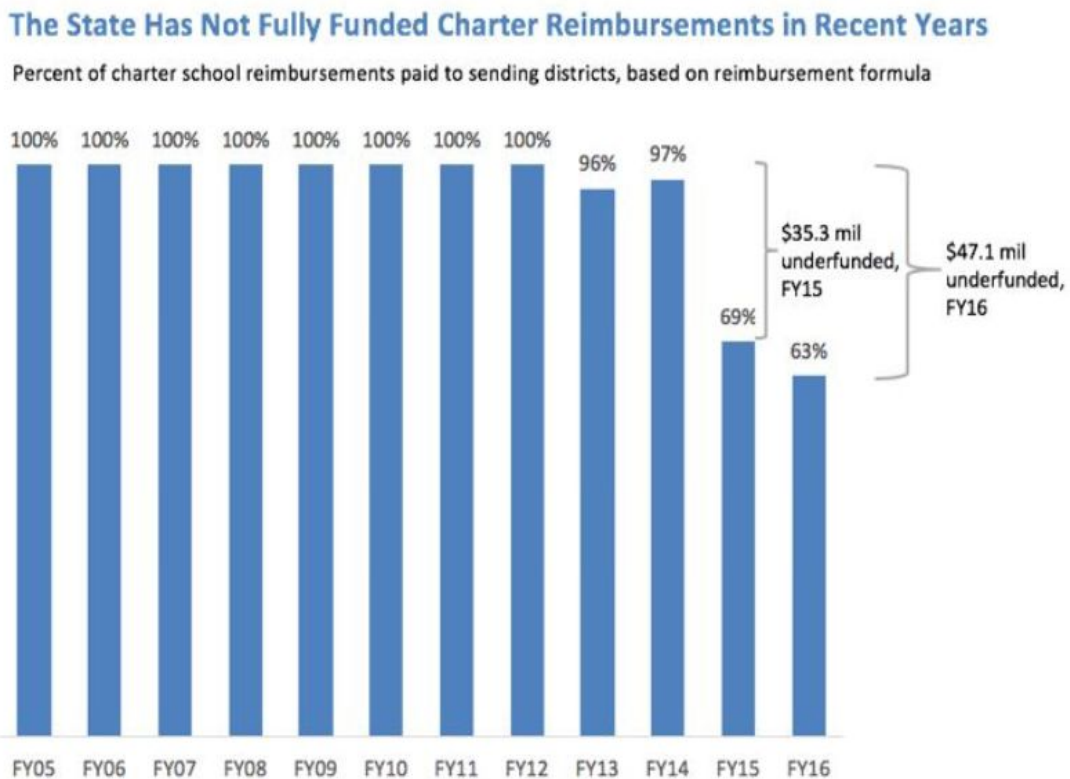
9. ***Economic Democracy.** Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?*

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

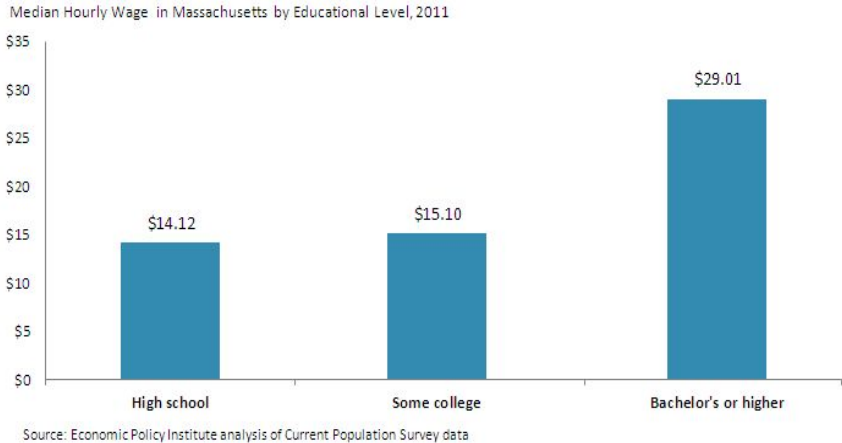
C. EDUCATION

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.

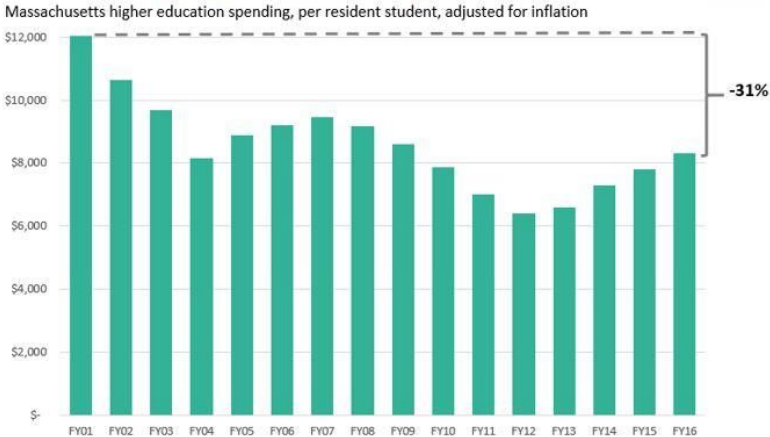


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: As a public school parent, I know that great schools are the key to success for our communities and our region. As State Representative, I will place a high priority on investing in our public schools to ensure that every child across the Commonwealth has access to a great education and the opportunity it brings. While Massachusetts does well in education compared to other states, there are deep inequities and disparities among our cities and towns and there are areas clearly in need of improvement.

Because the ability to support educational services through local property tax varies greatly across our cities and towns, it is critical for us to fix the statewide education funding formula (Chapter 70). I believe we need to fully implement the comprehensive recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission which details out the deficiencies in the current spending formula. I will continue to support and advocate to fully fund Special Education, METCO, School Transportation, education-related employee benefits (health insurance and retirement costs), and programs for English Language Learners.

There are also a number of innovative approaches under consideration to help close the achievement gap. For instance, the recent Budget Amendment 888 offered by Rep. Paul Tucker of Salem proposes to create a new pilot program to fund summer learning opportunities in low income communities. This is the type of targeted approach that I would support as a means of closing the achievement gap.

With 95% of communities in Massachusetts now offering all-day kindergarten (with 56 districts charging tuition), I would advocate to restore the state's kindergarten grant funding program (cut from the FY 2017 state budget) and work to ensure that needy families are provided free tuition associated with all-day kindergarten. I will also fight for the creation of a universal Pre-K program in Massachusetts and for widely available vocational and technical programs. Finally, I believe we should strive to provide needs-based free and affordable options for college. I will work closely with parents, teachers, and community stakeholders to advocate effectively for these important educational programs.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: Lobbying is a routine and important activity of the municipal and regional boards and committees that I have served on or headed. My gubernatorial appointment to the Local Government Advisory Commission involved considerable advocacy as well. I have pushed strongly for the recommendations of The Foundation Budget Review Commission and for Chapter 70 aid and Unrestricted Local General Government Aid (through which much funding is provided for ancillary school related bonding and employee benefits).

As past President of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and current Chair of its Legislative Committee, I have encouraged, provided input into, and voted in support of its State of Equity Policy Agenda and implementation recommendations. More on that effort can be found here:

<http://www.mapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/State-of-EquityPolicy-Agenda-FINAL-tagged.p>

[df](#). I am also a member of the Leadership Circle of the Mass. Budget and Policy Center which dedicates a significant portion of its research to early childhood education and child welfare.

Having personally benefited from attending a well-regarded public school system, I have maintained a lifelong belief in the importance of excellence in education. As a Lexington Selectman, I have worked to ensure that our local public schools receive the funding they need to thrive. During my time working as Assistant Town Administrator for the Town of Hudson, I worked closely with the Hudson Public Schools to prioritize investments in public education for new schools and an increasing share of the total municipal funding pie. Personally, I have been an active supporter of and volunteer in the public schools where both of my sons attended.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: 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**?*

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

b. *Would you support legislation to bring **greater accountability and transparency to charter schools**, such as by requiring them to adhere to the same disclosure and disciplinary standards as public school districts?*

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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

undocumented students?

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

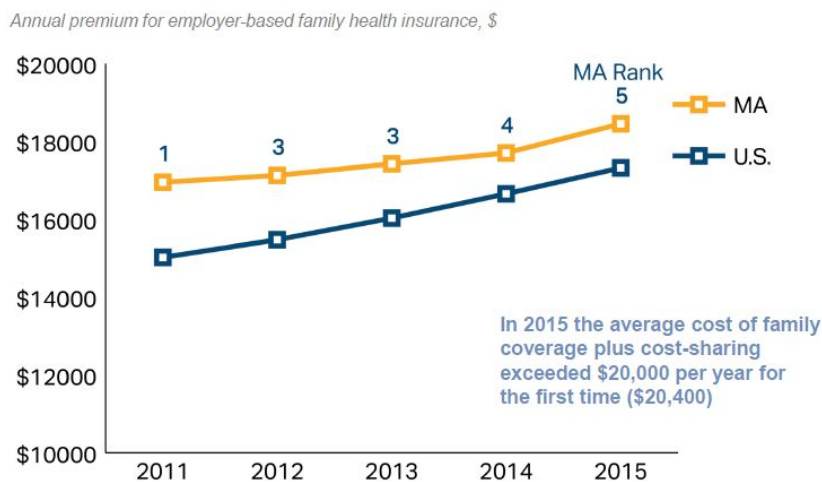
9. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** *Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?*

Michelle Ciccolo: 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.*

Michelle Ciccolo: We must invest in prevention programs, both in physical and mental health to keep our residents healthier and, over the long term, to help lower our costs. We must institute comprehensive policies that make it easier for people to be healthy. More State funding should be directed to programs that emphasize wellness, with education aimed at improving nutrition, measures to encourage physical activity, and strong preventive efforts to vaccinate and screen for diseases so they can be treated early. Preventative efforts must also be focused on reducing substance abuse.

We must support programs and policies that ensure equal access to reproductive healthcare for all people. We must improve the very low wages of home care workers, and create a student loan repayment pilot program for licensed, certified social workers working in areas of high need. We need to be prepared, with legislation in place, to provide healthcare continuity for our most vulnerable residents in the event of federal cuts to our Medicaid funding.

We must work towards the creation of a single payer health insurance system in Massachusetts that guarantees access, is publicly administered, and lowers the cost of health care. Such a system must be phased in carefully and deliberately to ensure service quality, and, importantly, to reduce disruption and displacement of workers currently employed in the private health insurance industry.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: I am passionate about the need to address public health and wellness. This generation has a shorter life expectancy than its parent's generation, primarily due to obesity, diabetes, and heart disease along with the growing opioid crisis. We must reverse this trend. For that reason, I have been active in the movement promoting better health and wellness and have personally engaged on a number of statewide commissions aimed at improving community health. I have focused on creating the opportunity for safe bicycling and walking for decades through my leadership in developing the Assabet River Rail Trail and in my more recent work helping to create the State-wide Complete Streets Program. While President of MAPC, I conceived of the idea of creating complete streets legislation to provide an incentive for cities and towns to improve bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure which would be modeled after the Green Communities Program. After I helped to get this legislation passed by working with our state-wide partners (WalkBoston, MassBike, CLF, T4MA, Mass. Public Health Association), I also participated on MassDOT's implementation working group. As of 2017, even as a relatively new initiative, more than 150 municipalities in Massachusetts were already participating in this program, involved in either training, or policy creation, or capital project Implementation.

For several years while the committee was active, I was also an appointed member of the Healthy Transportation Compact Advisory Council under Governor Deval Patrick's Administration. This entity was constituted to provide advice and guidance to the Departments of Health and Human Services, MassDOT, Public Health and Energy and Environmental Affairs. We met for approximately two years until Governor Baker's administration began.

While in Hudson, I spearheaded Hudson's involvement in the Middlesex County Transformation Grant which was a partnership of MAPC and the Mass. Department of Public Health. Through this effort, a sizeable grant of approximately \$1.5 million was received from the Federal CDC through the Affordable Care Act. Thirteen communities were awarded funds to address healthy eating, active living, and substance abuse avoidance. Leading the Hudson team we formed the "Metrowest Moves" initiative modeled after the statewide Mass-in-Motion program and actively worked to develop local strategies to improve nutrition, promote physical activity, and support smoking cessation.

I also served on the Department of Public Health, Built Environment Working Group Community of Practice which addresses infrastructure and best practices for municipalities to follow to promote walking and bicycling. I occasionally continue to participate when time allows. I was also a member of the Act Fresh team effort of the Mass. Public Health Association which was promoting healthy food access.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

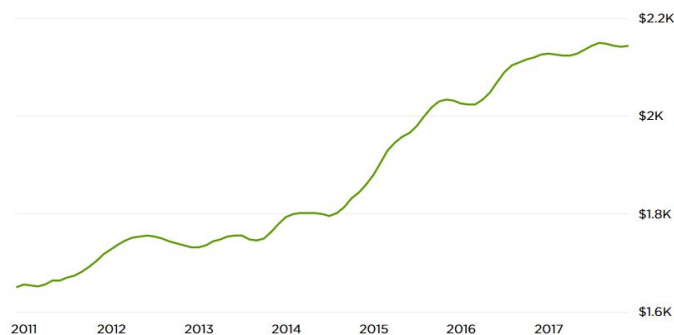
6. *Prescription Drug Pricing.* Would you support a drug transparency law, like the one recently passed in California, that requires pharmaceutical companies to publicly justify steep price increases?

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?

Michelle Ciccolo: With housing prices among the highest in the nation, Massachusetts has a two-fold housing problem of both supply and demand. At a time when the Federal Government is cutting back on its traditional housing support programs like CDBG and HOME, it is essential that we develop funding, zoning, and procedures to support housing creation. As a regional planner, I was a 3-term President of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and continue on with that organization as the Chair of its Legislative Committee. For nearly two decades we have been advocating for zoning reform and other land-use measures, and affordable housing legislation.

If elected, I will work to ensure that the provisions of the Housing Choice legislation will be adopted to help cities and towns implement zoning changes. In addition, I would proactively support the Housing Bond Bill and other measures currently working their way through the Legislature in support of housing creation. Finally, I would work through the state budget process to fund 40S adequately to support payments to cities and towns who create multifamily housing, providing separate payments for

any new school children residing in the new overlay districts.

The City of Woburn currently has 8.7% subsidized housing per the most recent SHI published numbers by DHCD in September 2017. If elected, I will help Woburn to implement the goals it established for itself in its 2016 Housing Production Plan. Some of those goals involved adopting or modifying new zoning ordinances, and the Housing Choice legislation mentioned above would benefit the City if passed as that law allows a simple majority to approve zoning ordinances that support smart-growth and housing related changes.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: As a career professional who served for 20 years as the Assistant Town Administrator and Community Development Director for the Town of Hudson, I have been at the forefront in advocating for Affordable Housing issues. This includes both the creation and preservation of affordable housing. With my assistance, we built four “over-55” housing developments for seniors. One of the projects was also a mixed use affordable development. My knowledge in this area would be a benefit to Woburn. Because of my work initiating and creating the 5- town MAGIC Regional Housing Services organization, I was honored by the Metro West Collaborative Development, Inc. with the 2014 Community Leadership Award. I also helped to oversee the creation and work of Hudson’s Affordable Housing Trust Fund. I note that Woburn’s Housing Production Plan recommends Woburn considering whether or not they should convert their Housing Stabilization Fund to a formal Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund, so my knowledge in this area could be of some assistance to Woburn if it chooses to implement a Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

I also served as a member of the Lexington Housing Partnership from 2013-2014. As a Selectmen, I have been actively engaged in advocating for municipal affordable housing development and we have seen some success in building and preserving affordable housing in recent years. Given the complexity of housing development, which requires a regional approach and partnership with the state and private developers, having a legislator who understands how the housing system works would be a major advantage to the community.

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

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

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

b. *The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?*

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

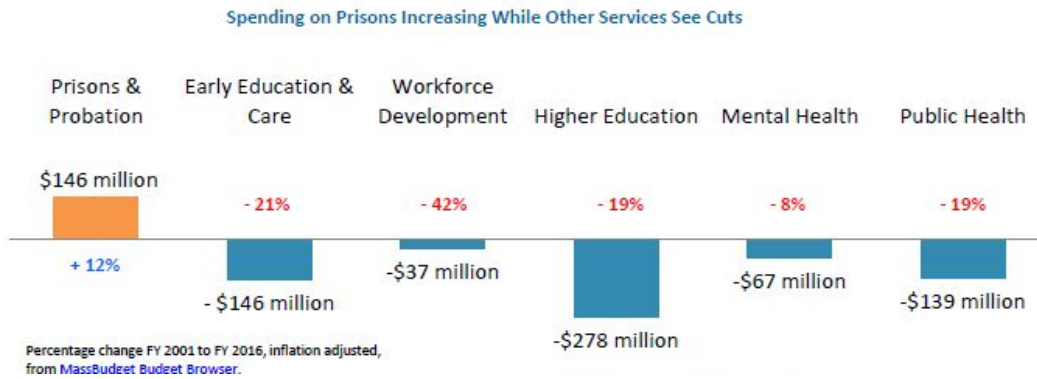
8. **Combating Speculation.** Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to impose a graduated tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

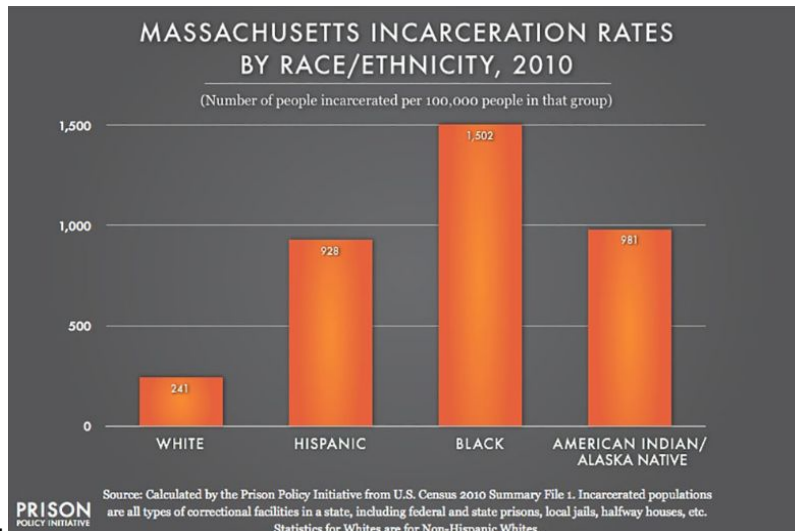
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

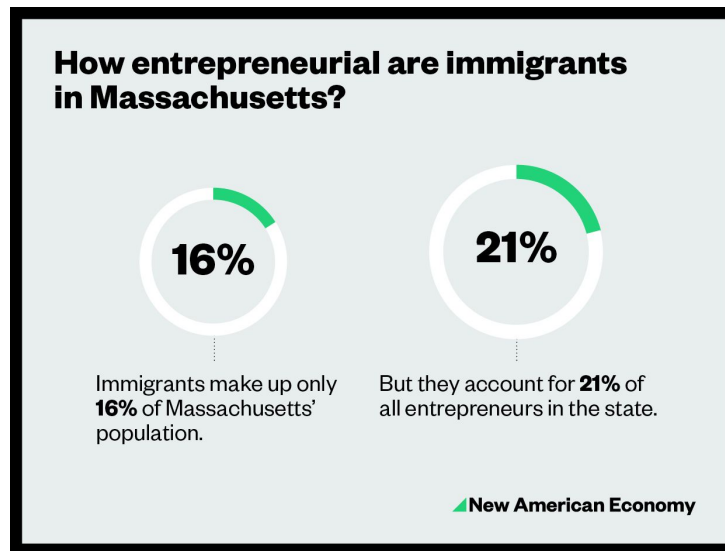
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

Michelle Ciccolo: Massachusetts leads when we support justice and equality for all our neighbors – regardless of their gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identification, or immigration status. We must embrace our political, cultural, ethnic and religious differences because our diversity makes us strong. As a Commonwealth, we must stand up for our values and push back on the regressive efforts coming out of Washington. This includes fighting for our inalienable civil rights, reproductive freedom, LGBTQ rights, the reduction of gun violence, progressive taxation, fair labor standards, a living wage and protection of the environment.

There is conclusive and compelling data that our criminal justice system disproportionately impacts African American and Latino youth, resulting in extreme social injustice. This system must be completely remade with a focus on restorative justice, jail diversion programs, community policing to prevent violence, and the elimination of mandatory minimum sentences for minor drug infractions. The new Criminal Justice Reform legislation is a good first start. It is not yet clear to me if the legislation accomplishes all it needs to, nor if there will be adequate resources to implement major change. Thus, if elected, I will push to monitor the data and outcomes to understand the performance of the new criminal justice system and be prepared to enact funding and improvements to the legislation where needed.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: In Lexington, as a member of the Board of Selectmen, I support the strong stand we take to denounce any acts of hate, hostility, or discrimination. When we see such acts, we encourage our Police Department to investigate and when possible to actively prosecute. A year ago, the Lexington Board of Selectmen issued an Inclusivity Proclamation to make it clear to the Community what our values are and who we want to be, as a welcoming inclusive community: (https://www.lexingtonma.gov/sites/lexingtonma/files/uploads/inclusivity_proclamation_-_2017.pdf). I was proud to make this statement. However, we recognized this was a first symbolic step and a comprehensive ongoing effort needs to be undertaken. As a member of the Board of Selectmen, I have actively sought out and met with various groups in our community to invite them to participate in our

local government. For instance, I was a guest speaker at several forums sponsored by the Indian Association of Lexington and the Chinese American Association of Lexington at which I recruited individuals to volunteer for committees and run for office, especially for Town Meeting and Town-wide offices. Individuals in the community will tell you that they got involved because I personally asked them to participate. As a Selectmen, I frequently speak at other programs such as Citizen's Academy, the very popular and well received program we run to educate the community about their municipal government. I have met with our Human Rights Commission Chair and regularly support the activities of this commission. In the FY2019 budget, just approved by the Town, in response to a goal enumerated by the Board of Selectmen, we approved funding for a brand-new Diversity Taskforce which will report to the Superintendent of Schools and the Town Manager. That group will create a work plan to ensure we are making progress on our inclusivity objectives. This task force is also an outgrowth of our very successful 2020 Vision Committee's community-wide survey on diversity and we are building on the work of the Sub-Committee on Demographic Change which sought to anticipate and understand changes in ethnicity and racial diversity so as to find ways to be inclusive and encourage civic engagement from groups presently underrepresented. Finally, I also serve on the newly created LGBTQ Task Force and have begun attending meetings of LexPride.

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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: 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)?

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?*

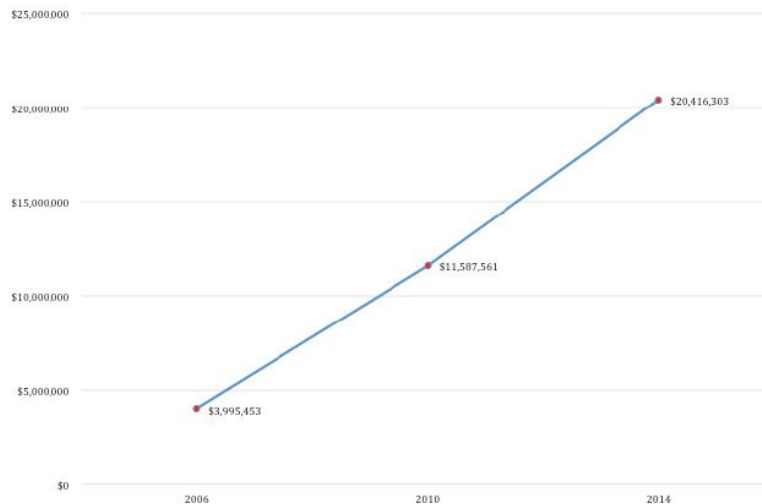
Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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.*

Michelle Ciccolo: Policy-making is a complicated process requiring the establishment of common ground and a shared vision, good data, a detailed nuanced approach, inclusive collaborative dialog, and compromise in order to advance community goals. This is no small order and requires leaders with patience, diplomacy, and a strategic approach – all skills which I believe I have.

Local Government operates under a set of more stringent rules than State Government, including the Open Meeting Law which requires posting of meetings and their agendas 48 hours in advance. I believe this municipal model can serve to inform ways in which we can strengthen democracy at the state level. As someone who has been a practitioner in Community Development, I know firsthand the importance of involving stakeholders in the process. Many of the grant programs through which I obtained funding

for the communities in which I worked, required public hearings and public participation. Over the course of my 25+ years overseeing local projects, I have developed a set of procedures and best practices to engage the public in good process. At one point I had a written 10-step process, and more recently I've developed formal best practices which I tailor to the needs of each project. I have been hired as a consultant by communities such as the Town of Wellesley, to lead them through contentious community decision-making processes. My community also won an award for the Hudson Master Plan (Comprehensive Plan), a project which I oversaw, and which included a robust public participation process.

Having a process in place for community engagement is essential. Access to information, advance notice of meetings, significant community outreach, especially to disadvantaged groups, direct invitations to participate, meeting with stakeholders on their own turf, and other techniques enable people to be heard and to feel included in the process. This approach is lacking at the state level and if elected I plan to bring this perspective and knowledge to bear to develop better dialog and better decision making.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: Access to information is an essential component of government transparency. Consequently, over the past decade I have worked very hard to make information more accessible. In Hudson, where I served as the Assistant Town Administrator and Community Development Director for 20 years, we had a large Portuguese population. Through my efforts, we actively recruited and hired Portuguese speaking staff and translated some of our notices and information booklets to make the information more readily available to our residents. I also increased efforts to get information posted to the Web, back when web-site usage in government was limited. We were ahead of the curve creating government-sponsored Twitter and Facebook accounts and began putting information out through these social media outlets earlier than most municipalities. In Lexington, one goal of the Board of Selectmen that I have been advocating for is to expand access to municipal information for the public and to get more public input. Consequently, in this recent municipal budget, we funded the creation of a Public Information Officer position and will be hiring a person to fill that role come July 1, 2018.

I believe we are in the midst of an important transition. With the increased tools of communication that we have at our disposal, such as email distribution lists, the web, and social media, there is a growing expectation on the part of the public that government should communicate more directly with those they serve. It is of paramount importance that we prepare for this shift in focus and use this opportunity to create a more engaged and participatory democracy. Practicing respectful active listening also helps us to develop better and more appropriate policies tailored to the needs of our constituencies.

During the next few months I am rolling out a new software tool developed by recently graduated Boston University students. The tool is a simplified method for polling constituents to see how they feel about issues of importance to the district. It allows for better decision making and more participation. I believe we should be looking for innovative ways to engage the public and promote greater collaboration.

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?

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: 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"?*

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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

a. *Election day voter registration*

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

b. *Automatic voter registration*

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

d. *No-fault absentee voting*

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

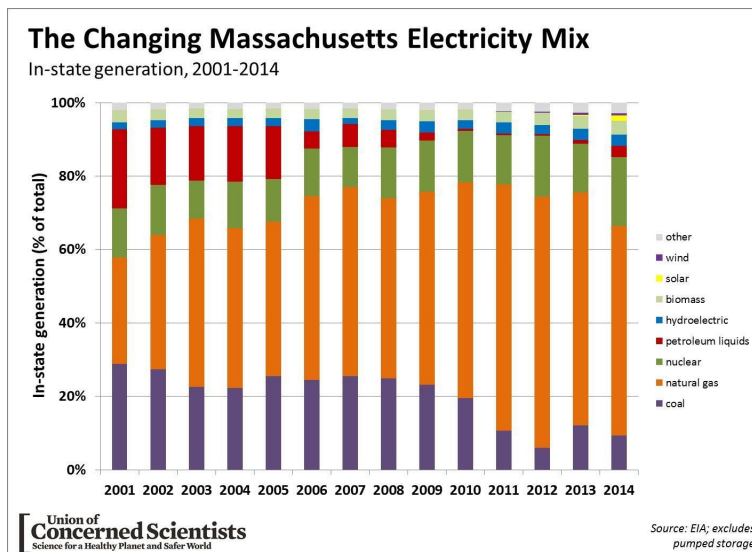
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

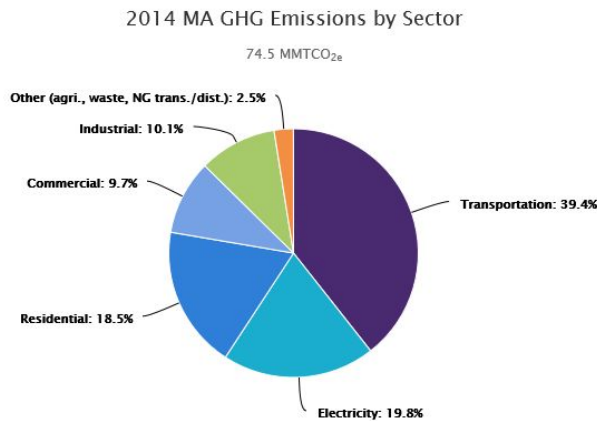
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and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

Michelle Ciccolo: Massachusetts must be a national leader in combating climate change and promoting environmental sustainability. As Selectman, I've worked on local strategies to make Lexington greener and healthier. I've helped other communities that I've worked for win Leading by Example awards from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the environmental arena by spearheading environmental planning and overseeing capital improvement projects for energy efficiency. I've also shepherded large scale solar projects through the process and made policy decisions guiding energy efficiency choices for a number of municipal buildings as both a staff person and an elected official. Whenever I am faced with a decision regarding energy efficiency, I always choose the most efficient option, even if that means paying more up front.

In the Legislature, I will stand firm on the provisions of the Global Warming Solutions Act and push for better planning to ensure we can meet and exceed our targets. I will strongly advocate for important initiatives including raising the cap on solar net metering, retrofitting State facilities and switching our public vehicle fleet to energy-efficient vehicles. I will look for ways to hold energy companies accountable for plugging their leaking gas pipes to reduce this major source of methane pollution. I will push State agencies to help communities set net-zero energy consumption goals. I will oppose efforts to expand gas pipelines, especially those coming from fracking, or being built through pristine lands. I will promote State efforts to work with local communities to prepare for and adapt to the effects of climate change. Climate must be considered in everything that we do because it is the most pressing struggle we face. Getting it wrong is not an option for our planet and we owe it to our children and grandchildren to lead on this issue.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: Meaningful investments in transit and transportation infrastructure must be a priority for Massachusetts. Increased traffic congestion, outdated public transit, and crumbling roads and bridges make getting around the region an increasing challenge and can ultimately damage our economy. Since the transportation sector is a major consumer of carbon (soon to eclipse the building sector), we need to find ways to encourage the greening of our transportation system.

While in Hudson, I served on the Metrowest Regional Transit Authority, and helped to lay the groundwork to create a shuttle to serve that community. While Chair of the MAGIC Subregion of MAPC (the 13 towns in the area north west of Boston), I initiated the first Suburban Mobility Study to evaluate how collaboration can make local shuttle buses more efficient to increase ridership and access to transit. I was an appointed member of GreenDOT, an initiative under Deval Patrick to green up the Mass. Department of Transportation. We advised on improving transit and bicycle and pedestrian mobility. As mentioned earlier, I also served on the Healthy Transportation Compact Advisory Committee which had some overlap with GreenDOT in its mission.

As the initiator of statewide legislation that created the Complete Streets program which is currently expanding bicycle and pedestrian options across the Commonwealth, I will continue to focus on funding capital improvements to public transportation. We need to close the "last mile" transit gap that separates our homes and workplaces from convenient access to public transportation. Bicycling and walking options are a piece of this puzzle. We must focus on using data and technology to improve traffic flow, and we must make real investments in public transportation infrastructure. We must prepare for the inevitable disruptive changes that new technologies and autonomous vehicles will bring so that we can harness the opportunities that they present for real improvements to our transportation systems.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?*

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.

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

Michelle Ciccolo: 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?

Michelle Ciccolo: Yes.