

Sean Garballey

23rd Middlesex

State Representative

Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: State Representative

Legislative District: 23rd Middlesex

Party: Democratic

Website: www.garballey.com

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

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



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
Sean Garballey	3
II. THE ISSUES	4
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	20
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	22
III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	25

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

Sean Garballey

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

Sean Garballey: I am running for the House of Representatives to continue fighting to move Massachusetts forward by embracing a bold progressive vision.

1.) Adopting a single-payer healthcare system in Massachusetts

2.) Passing my legislation An act to transition Massachusetts to 100% renewable energy

3.) Passing my legislation to have the Commonwealth assume the 5 billion dollar ""legacy Big Debt"" off the MBTA and create a comprehensive plan to pay it down. Only by addressing this debt will we be able to invest in public transportation and build a 21st transportation system worth of the residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

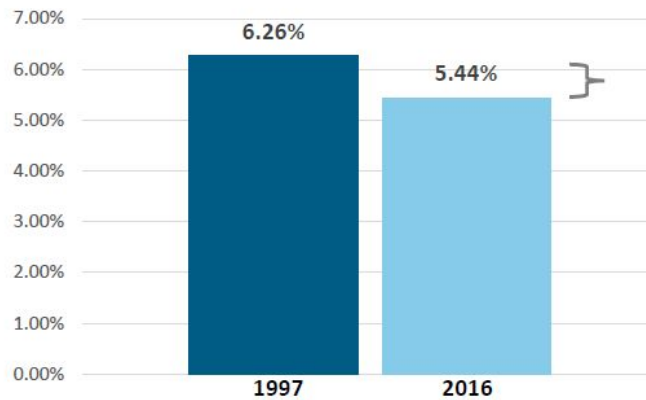
Sean Garballey: Serving as a State Representative since 2008, I have been an independent voice fighting for progressive change, and successfully taking on powerful interests on Beacon Hill benefiting the people of my district and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I have been a champion for working families at the State House, whether taking on health insurance companies to provide insurance coverage for hearing aids for kids, standing up to the Trump administration to make sure that 172,000 children in Massachusetts didn't lose health insurance coverage, or championing and getting passed in the House a progressive paid family and medical leave policy I will always fight for progressive values.

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.

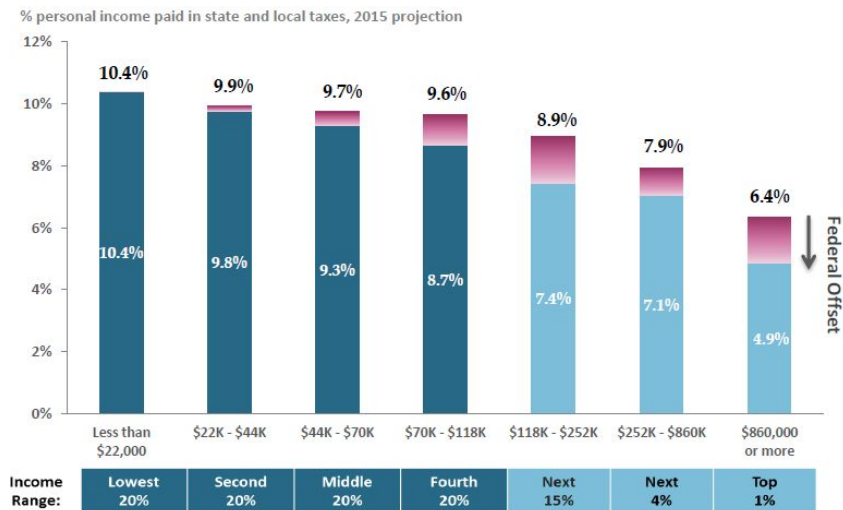
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.

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?*

Sean Garballey: The two principles that I apply in the discussion of raising revenues include whether or not the revenue source is progressive and if that revenue source is adequate. With the Massachusetts Supreme Court's decision to remove the millionaires tax ballot question from the November ballot the legislature must have a comprehensive debate on increasing revenue. As a State Representative I am currently involved in discussions with my colleagues on potential revenue options and how to build support within the legislature to get this passed.

It is absolutely essential that the expenditure budget is constantly analyzed to make sure that the Commonwealth's spending matches our common priorities. Corporate tax breaks were established decades ago with returned promises of job creation that have not been realized. The individual tax cuts from the 1990's created major revenue shortfalls and important services were eliminated. We must reevaluate the tax cuts that were implemented in the 1990's.

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.).*

Sean Garballey: As a member of the House of Representatives and as a member of the progressive caucus, I have led the effort to pass the Fair Share Amendment. I have been an active voice in the legislature for addressing individual and corporate tax reform. I was one of the few democrats in the House of Representatives who stood with Governor Patrick and voted against the proposal by legislative leadership because it was regressive and inadequate in addressing our transportation and educational needs.

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?*

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: Yes. I have consistently voted against this question when it has come before the House of Representatives.

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?*

Sean Garballey: 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?* **Sean Garballey:** Yes.

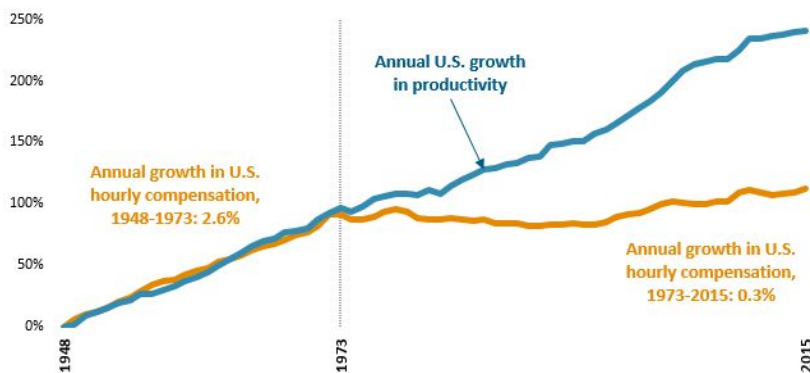
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

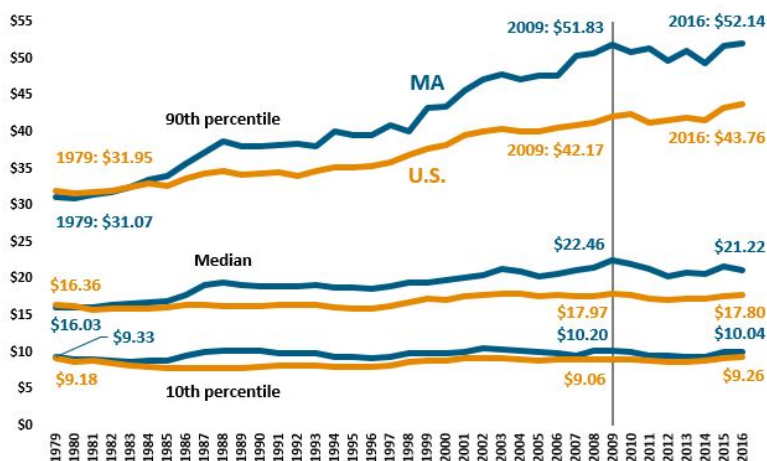
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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?

Sean Garballey: As legislators our role is to work to improve the quality of life for the people of the Commonwealth. I have worked for and voted in favor of increasing the minimum wage. I recently worked for and voted in favor of increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and the most progressive paid family and medical leave policy in the country. I am the only candidate in this race who has voted in favor of the Fair Share Amendment in the House of Representatives. I will now lead effort to pass progressive revenue. We must pass single payer in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and support the most vulnerable citizens in our state.

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.).*

Sean Garballey: I have been one of the main cosponsors of increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and passing Paid Family Medical Leave. These are two critical policies that I was proud to vote in favor of. I have filed legislation called an act ensuring an adequate living wage and this legislation would increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. I have also filed legislation entitled an act Establishing Just Schedules for Employees. This is a piece of legislation I have been working on with Senator Elizabeth Warren to protect part time workers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

3. *Increasing Wages.*

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

Sean Garballey: Yes.

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

Sean Garballey: Yes.

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

Sean Garballey: Yes.

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

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: 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?

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: Yes.

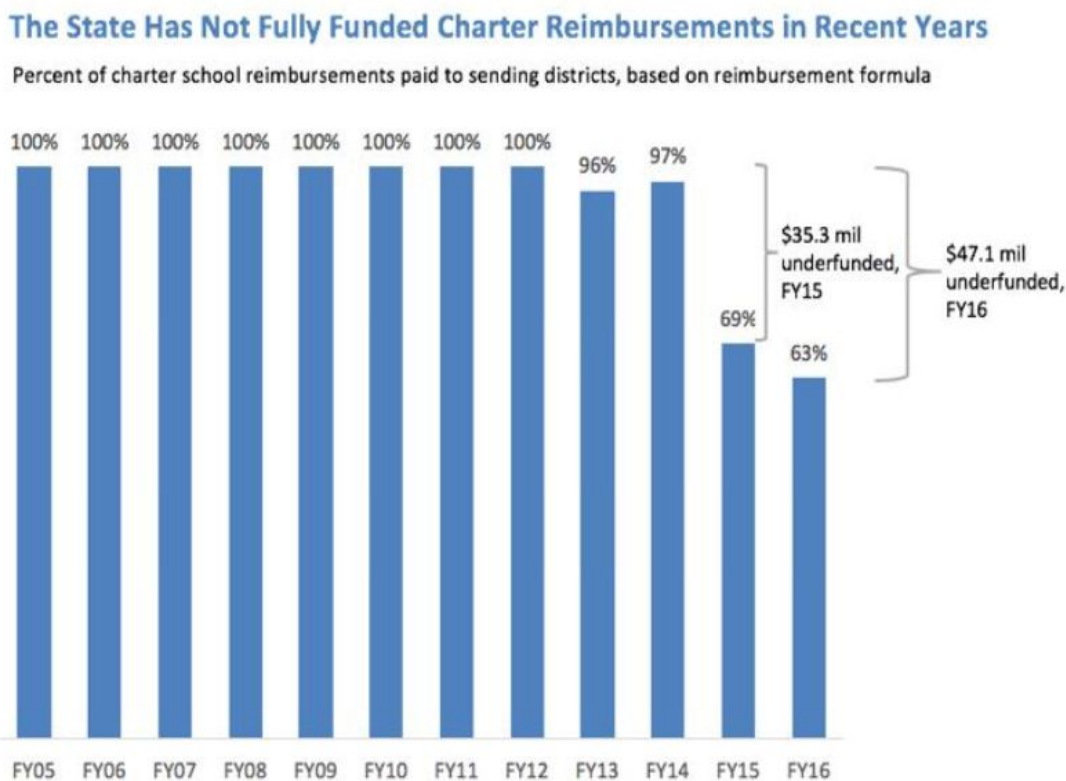
9. **Economic Democracy.** *Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?*

Sean Garballey: Yes.

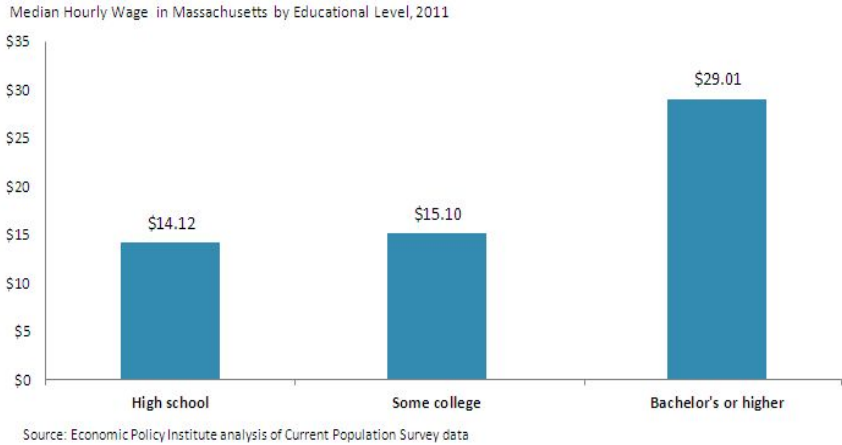
C. EDUCATION

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.

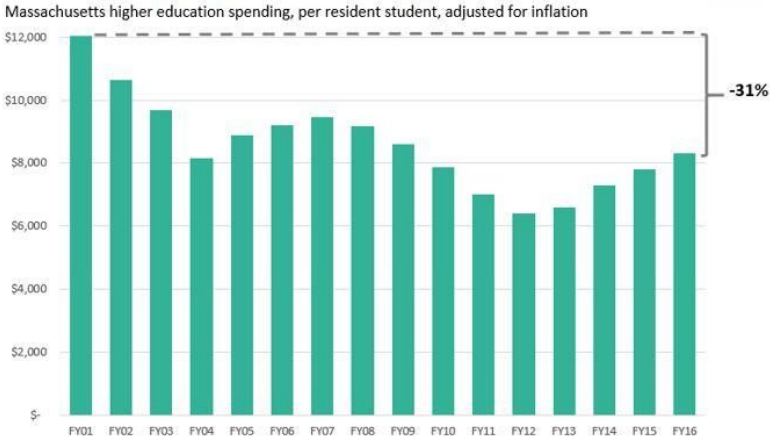


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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?*

Sean Garballey: As a former School Committee member and as someone who attended a public school and a public university I believe public education is absolutely essential for the future of our Commonwealth. We must provide universal Pre-K in the Commonwealth. The legislature must fully implement the recommendations from the Foundation Budget Review Commission. I am the Chair and co-founder of the Public Higher Education Caucus. We must provide tuition free higher education for students across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. During my time in the House of Representatives I have voted against all efforts to raise the cap on charter schools. We must invest in our public schools.

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

Sean Garballey: I currently serve as the Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on Higher Education, and before elected to the House of Representatives, I served as a member of the Arlington School Committee. I played an active role in passing the Foundation Budget Review Commission, and now I am working to fully implement the recommendations. I am the author of the 50/50 legislation. I filed and worked with my colleagues to pass this critical piece of legislation. This legislation mandated that at least 50% of a students education in public higher education would be funded by the state. In passing this law fees and tuition were not increased for two years. This provided a large appropriation increase in supporting public higher education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I have also filed legislation to mandate that every child born in Massachusetts have a college savings account created.

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

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: Yes.

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

Sean Garballey: Yes.

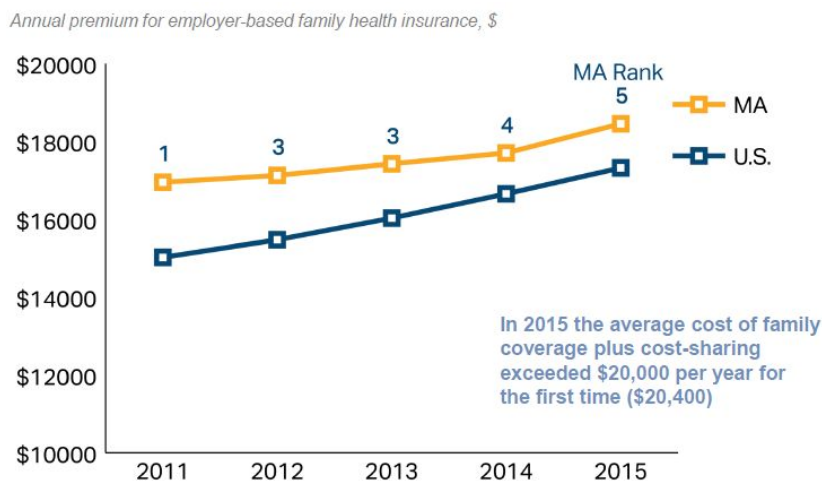
- 9. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?*

Sean Garballey: 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.*

Sean Garballey: The Massachusetts legislature must enact single payer health care legislation. Due to my work in the area of health care policy over the last decade I am strongly supportive of passing single payer Massachusetts. I am proud to have been endorsed by the Massachusetts Nurses Association in this election and I look forward to working with them and other constituencies to pass this legislation and to put patients first in health care policy.

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

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

Sean Garballey: During my time in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, I have led the effort against insurance companies in making sure they provide health insurance coverage to the most vulnerable constituencies in the Commonwealth. I filed and passed legislation that mandated insurance companies would have to cover hearing aids for children. This was a critical reform and now no child goes without hearing aids in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I have also led the fight to mandate that health insurance companies provide coverage for children with protein disorders, mental health needs, and for people who live with multiple sclerosis. I have also filed legislation to make sure that 170,000 children in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts don't lose health insurance coverage if the Republican party in Washington decides to defund the Children's Health Insurance Program.

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

Sean Garballey: Yes.

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

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: Yes.

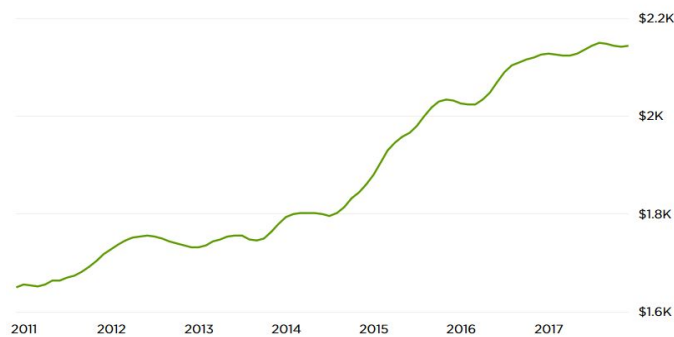
6. **Prescription Drug Pricing.** *Would you support a drug transparency law, like the one recently passed in California, that requires pharmaceutical companies to publicly justify steep price increases?*

Sean Garballey: 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?

Sean Garballey: State investment in affordable housing is critically important because it is one of the proven ways to stabilize individuals and families. We must do everything we can to reduce homelessness and poverty. We must work to increase housing opportunities. This includes increasing funding for rental subsidy programs and funding capital programs. I also support zoning reform in the Commonwealth that will lead to more housing production.

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

Sean Garballey: During my time in the House of Representatives, I was the lead sponsor to an amendment to increase the appropriation for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program. This increase in funding allowed for hundreds of more rental vouchers to be available for families.

”

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

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

Sean Garballey: Yes.

b. The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?

Sean Garballey: Yes.

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

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: Yes.

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

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: Yes.

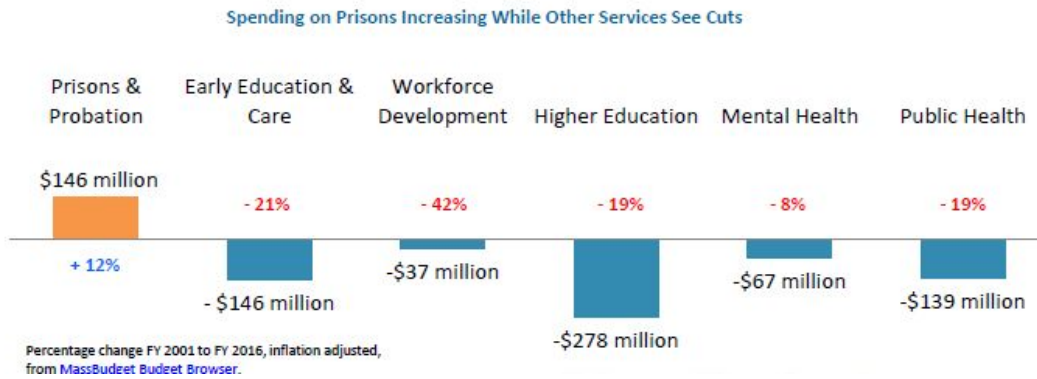
8. Combating Speculation. *Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to impose a graduated tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?*

Sean Garballey: Yes.

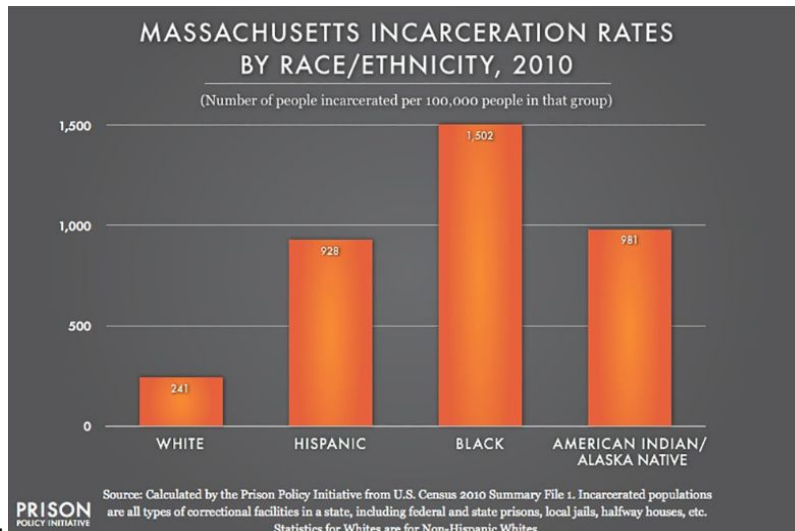
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

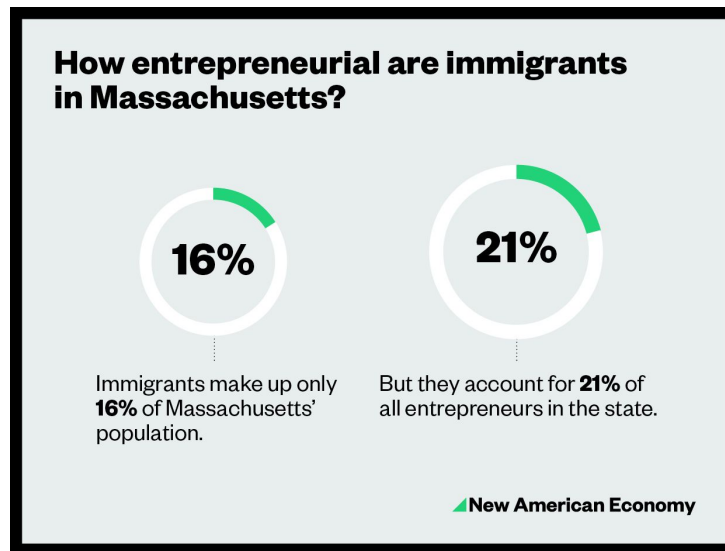
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

Sean Garballey: I am absolutely committed to racial and social justice and have worked in the legislature to make sure these values and principles guide us in the matters we debate and pass.

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

Sean Garballey: " During my time in the House of Representatives, I have led the effort within the progressive caucus to pass comprehensive criminal justice reform. I was on the steering committee within the progressive caucus in trying to pass the Transgender Equal Rights legislation and the public accommodations legislation.

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?*

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: 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?

Sean Garballey: 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)?

Sean Garballey: 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?

Sean Garballey: Yes.

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

Sean Garballey: Yes. It

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?

Sean Garballey: 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?

Sean Garballey: Yes.

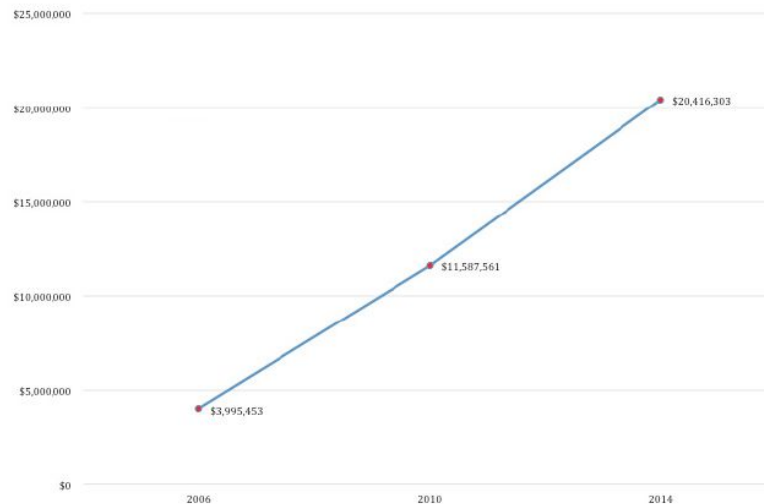
12. **Safe Driving Act.** Would you support the Safe Driving Act, which would remove immigration status as a barrier to applying for a license or learner's permit? **Sean Garballey: Yes.**

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.*

Sean Garballey: In my current role as a State Representative, I am guided by my belief that government should be accountable and open. I believe strongly that the legislature needs to always act in the public's best interest and not in the interests of powerful lobbying groups on Beacon Hill. I have been active in the legislature on important reforms involving money in politics, ethics, and in voting and elections and will continue to be a lead voice on these matters.

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

Sean Garballey: I took on a leadership role within the House of Representatives last session with the

goal of passing the most comprehensive public records reform legislation. I was a strong voice in support of ethics reform and led the advocacy efforts in the House of Representatives in passing the Disclose Act. I also filed the online voter registration and was able to get it passed as part of the election reform legislation. I strongly support same day voter registration and voted in support of automatic voter registration.

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?*

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: Yes.

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

Sean Garballey: 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"?*

Sean Garballey: Yes.

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

a. *Election day voter registration*

Sean Garballey: Yes.

b. *Automatic voter registration*

Sean Garballey: Yes.

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

Sean Garballey: Yes.

d. *No-fault absentee voting*

Sean Garballey: Yes.

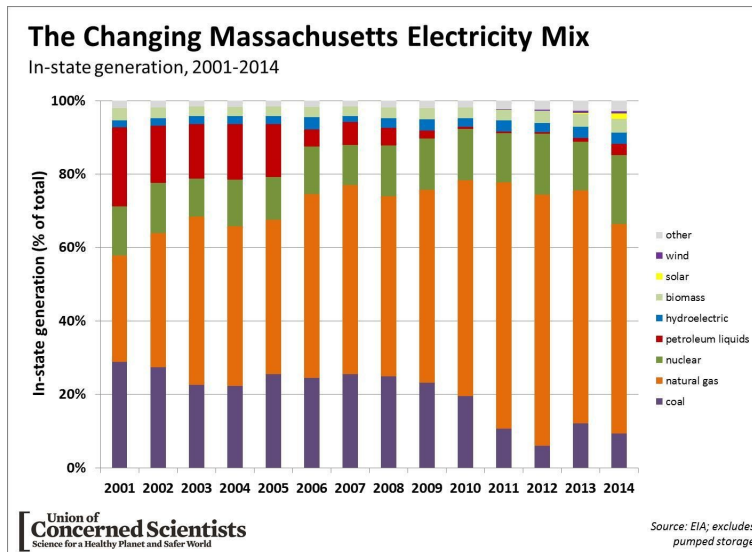
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

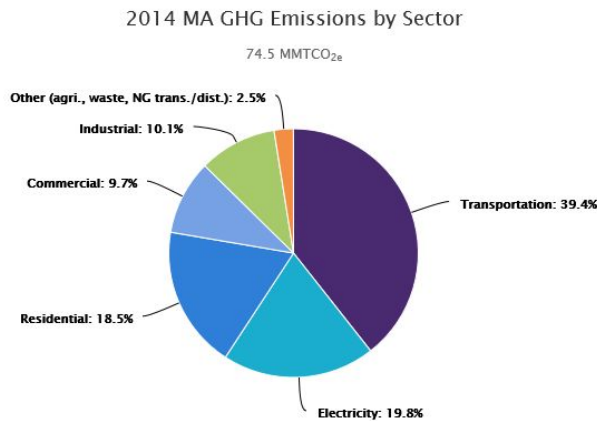
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and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

Sean Garballey: This session I have filed legislation to move the Commonwealth to 100% renewable energy by 2050. It is absolutely essential for Massachusetts to lead the way on combating climate change. This proposal will help combat climate change but also help create jobs in the Commonwealth and invest in our infrastructure. The solutions Project estimates that if Massachusetts moves to 100% renewable energy by 2050 53,490 construction jobs and 37,950 operational jobs would be created. The Commonwealth must also invest in water infrastructure. I have filed legislation that would provide a dedicated revenue source that would support water infrastructure projects in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

Sean Garballey: During my time in the House of Representatives, I worked to pass the Global Warming Solutions Act, the Green Communities Act, and the Oceans Act. I have also filed legislation to ban "fracking" in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and I am the lead sponsor of landmark legislation calling for Massachusetts to move to 100% renewable energy by 2050. As the Chair and founder of the MBTA Caucus I have worked to expand access to public transportation. This includes leading the effort opposing services cuts, working to reduce the cost of The Ride, and working to bring the Green Line Extension to Medford and start the North/South Rail Link project. I have also been working to address the \$5 billion structural debt. The Commonwealth must remove the \$5 billion dollar debt from the MBTA in order to invest in MBTA infrastructure.

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

Sean Garballey: 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?*

Sean Garballey: 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?

Sean Garballey: 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?

Sean Garballey: Yes.

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

Sean Garballey: Yes.

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

Sean Garballey: Yes.

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

Sean Garballey: Yes.

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

Sean Garballey: 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?

Sean Garballey: Yes.

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

Sean Garballey: 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?

Sean Garballey: Yes.

III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Limit answer to 150 words or fewer.

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

Sean Garballey: I have been the most progressive legislator in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and I look forward to serving the people of my district and Massachusetts during the next legislative session.