

Jim Hawkins

2nd Bristol/Attleboro State Representative

Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: State Representative

Legislative District: 2nd Bristol/Attleboro

Party: Democratic

Website: www.hawkins4rep.com

ActBlue Fundraising: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/hawkins4rep-1>

Twitter: @JimHawkins4rep

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Other Social Media: JimHawkins4rep

Primary: March 6

Election: April 3



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Election: April 3	0
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Introduction: Progressive Mass

About

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

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

Membership

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

How Endorsements Work

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

Sources

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

I. About the Candidate

Jim Hawkins

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

Jim Hawkins: The wisdom is that if you are unhappy with the state of politics, you should run for local office. I have been active in our community in many different roles, and I want to be a voice for the many issues Attleboro is facing. Support for public education will be my first priority. Attleboro was forced to lay off over thirty teachers last year, so my first priority is legislation that provides for fairness in Chapter 70 funding, reforms to the Foundation Budget, and reasonable use of MCAS and standardized testing. My second priority will be support for local, family-owned businesses. Before I was a teacher, I owned a gas station and managed several other businesses. I understand the challenges of these businesses and have taught small business management at Roger Williams University, so I can be a strong voice on their behalf. And my third priority will be a response to the opiate crisis. The budget process will be in process if I am elected, and I will be a strong voice for improved availability of treatment.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

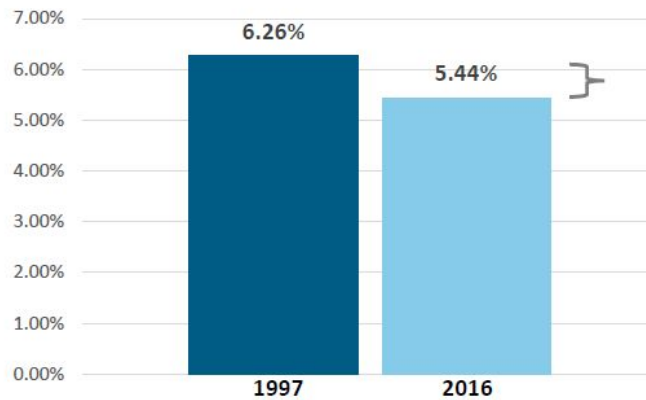
Jim Hawkins: I would bring experience to the role of state representative. I was the political action liaison for the Attleboro Education Association and the Senate District Coordinator for the Mass Teachers Association. I organized meetings with teachers from surrounding school districts and state representatives and state senators to explain the impact of legislation on our public schools. I have had many productive discussions with both Republican and Democratic legislators. For many years, my job for Majestic Honda Wholesale Parts was making cold calls on auto body shops. I enjoyed that job and I became good at approaching people who I did not know and did not agree with me. With over 200 state representatives in the house my voting record will help, but my ability to gain support for issues will be more valuable.

A. REVENUE AND TAXATION

Despite the label of “Taxachusetts,” Massachusetts ranks 22nd among states in terms of state and local taxes as a share of total personal income and below the national average. Between 1977 and 2012, Massachusetts reduced state taxes by more than all but one other state. Because of income tax cuts enacted between 1998 and 2002, Massachusetts is losing over \$3 billion in tax revenue each year. Such cuts to the state income tax have meant increasing reliance on fees, as well as sales, gas, and property taxes, exacerbating the overall regressivity of the system. Regressive taxation strains low- and middle-income families, and reduced revenue collection curtails our ability to invest in vital infrastructure. It also restricts legislators’ ability to pass new and visionary legislation, as there is a continual shortage of funds for existing priorities.

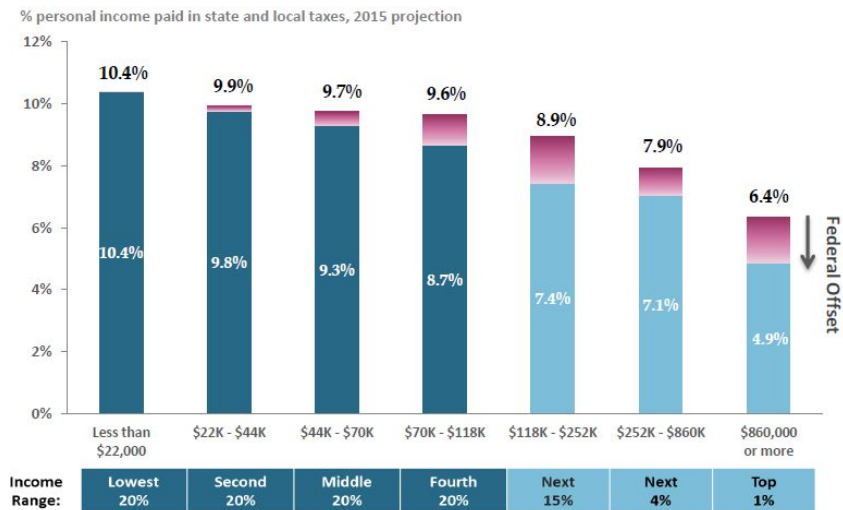
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.

Massachusetts tax revenue as a share of the state economy



This 13.1% decline in tax revenue has led to deep budget cuts and ongoing budget challenges.

Massachusetts state and local taxes are regressive.



* Percentages shown inside bar are net effective tax levels after factoring in federal offset. Percentages above bars show tax levels before federal offset.

Source: Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy.

1. *What principles do you bring to considerations of state revenue and tax reform (individual and corporate)? How should we raise more revenue to adequately fund our communities for the future?*

Jim Hawkins: I cannot profess to be a tax expert. But I worry that much of the present tax system is regressive and places a bigger burden on low income individuals. And I am concerned that tax loopholes for the larger companies cost us needed revenues and do not provide anything in return. It is, of course, the smaller companies who provide the most jobs in the commonwealth.

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

Jim Hawkins: I organized a signature drive with teachers in my district for the “millionaire’s tax” ballot question initiative.

3. *Progressive Taxation. Currently, Progressive Massachusetts is working on a constitutional amendment to increase the income tax on income over \$1 million by 4% (Fair Share Amendment, sometimes referred to as the “Millionaire’s Tax”), which will be on the 2018 ballot. Do you support this ballot question?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I organized a signature drive with teachers in my district for the “millionaire’s tax” ballot question initiative.

4. *Sales Tax Holiday. It has been demonstrated over and over that the annual sales tax holiday does not serve its intended purpose of increasing sales, but rather just shifts sales to the weekend of the holiday. Would you oppose efforts to extend the sales tax holiday?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

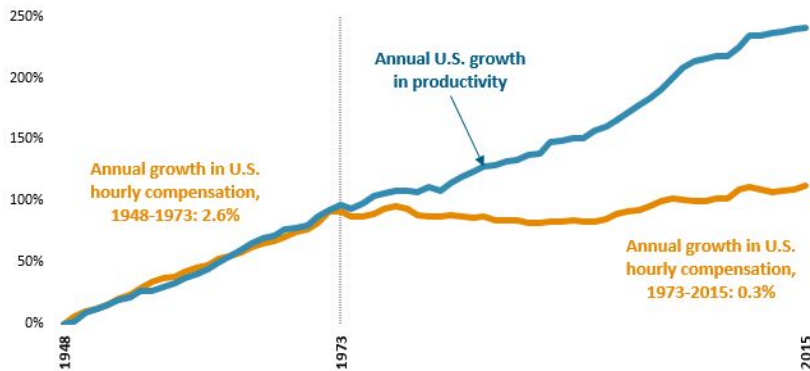
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

The Massachusetts economy has continued to grow and recover from the Great Recession, but the gains have not been shared equally. According to various measures of income inequality, Massachusetts now ranks as one of the top ten most [unequal states](#). We are one of the most expensive states in the country for [health care](#), [housing](#), and [child care](#), all of which strain wages. Most MA workers do not have access to paid medical leave, and only a small fraction have access to paid family leave--gaps that force people to choose between their (or their family's) health and their job.

Productivity has grown significantly since the 1970s, but it is not being reflected in higher wages.

A Large Gap Has Opened Between Wage and Productivity Growth Since 1973

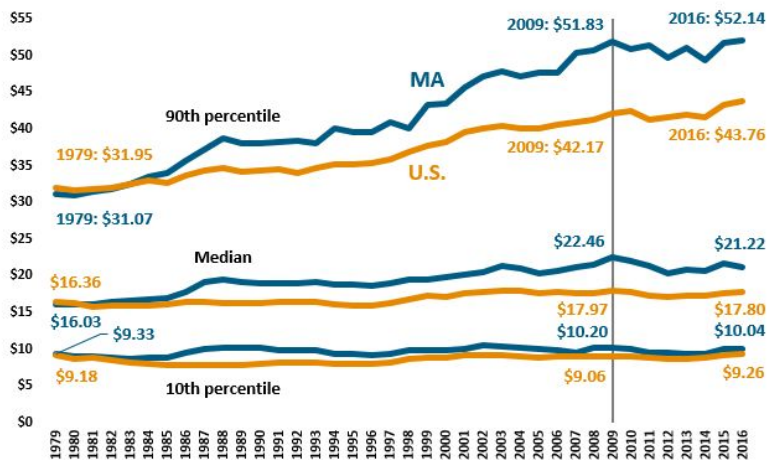
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of unpublished Total Economy Productivity data from Bureau of Labor Statistics' Labor Productivity and Costs program, wage data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Cost Trends data, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis' National Income and Product Accounts
 Note: Wages are the inflation-adjusted average hourly compensation of private-sector production/nonsupervisory workers.

Wages For Most MA Workers Have Stagnated Since Great Recession

Real Value of Hourly Wage for Selected Wage-Earning Groups in MA and U.S., 1979-2016 (2016\$)



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey data (deflated using CPI-U-RS).

1. **Share your personal values and principles on job growth and the economy.**

How can we improve the economy and economic security for all people? How do we grow the number of good-paying jobs in the Commonwealth? How do you view wealth and income inequality, and what would you do about it, if anything?

Jim Hawkins: Income inequality is really the “elephant in the other room” I have read that it is worse than it was just before the Great Depression. Making taxes more progressive would certainly help, but alone that is not the answer. Improving the job market for middle-class workers would be critical in combating income inequality. IBEW Local 103 has made a big investment in job training for the solar and wind industry. This is certainly a growth industry with jobs that cannot be shipped overseas like so many technology jobs. Both the closed Somerset power plant and the city of New Bedford are ideal locations and easily accessible by workers. And we cannot afford to starve public schools of the adequate funding to provide new programs in the face of a changing job market.

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

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

3. **Increasing Wages.**

Jim Hawkins: I organized signature gathering efforts by teachers and volunteers in my district for the minimum wage ballot question.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I organized signature gathering efforts by teachers and volunteers in my district for the paid leave ballot question.

5. **Wage Theft.** *Do you support legislation to hold businesses responsible for the wage violations of their subcontractors when the work they do is substantially connected to the company's operations?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

6. **Youth Jobs.** *Do you support greater reinvestment in youth employment and vocational training*

programs?

Jim Hawkins: Yes. At Attleboro High School, I worked with teachers in the vocational programs to present activities that combined the academic curriculum with vocational.

7. **Privatizing Public Services.** *In 2015, the MA Legislature, urged by Governor Baker, voted to waive the so-called Pacheco Law for the MBTA. The Pacheco Law contains strong safeguards to ensure that state services are not privatized when doing so would harm workers and state revenue. Do you support reinstating the Pacheco Law?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I believe this happened following a brutal winter. I have no idea how privatizing saves money unless it's paying workers less or restructuring management. Restructuring management could be done without privatizing and then no harm to workers. Privatizing MBTA workers makes no more sense to me than privatizing the parking lot at Horseneck beach does.

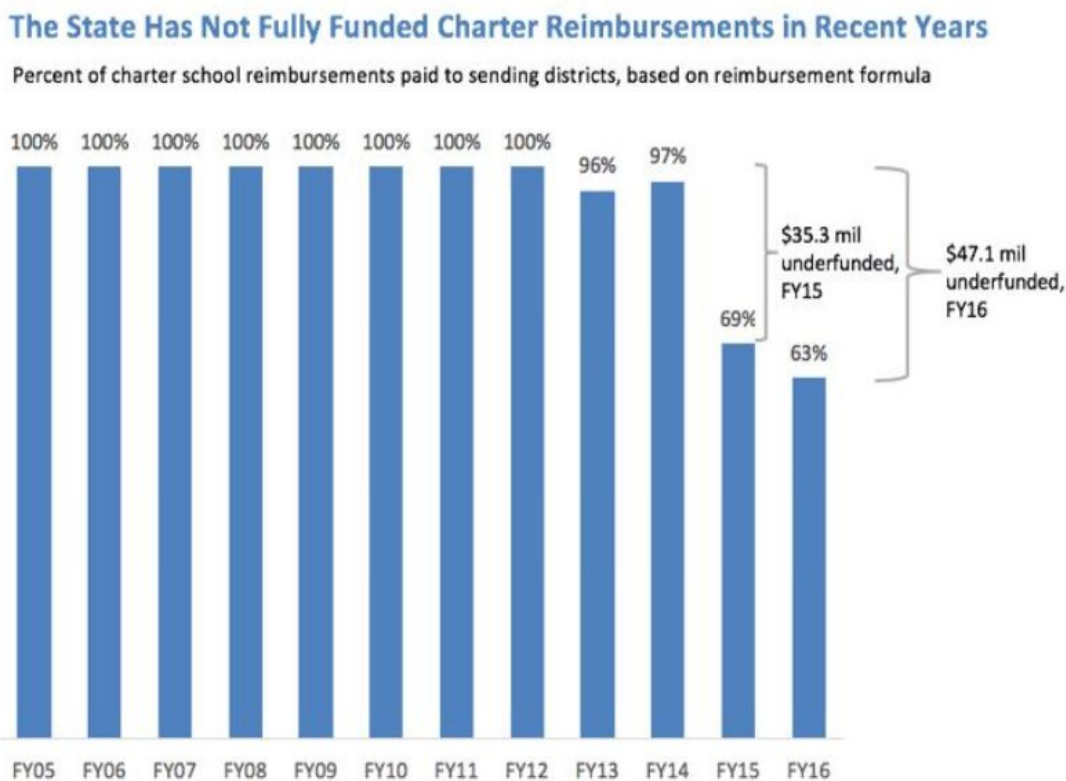
8. **Economic Democracy.** *Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I have read that CEOs in this country typically earn several hundred times what an average worker does in the same company. Employee ownership is as fair as exorbitant CEO pay is immoral.

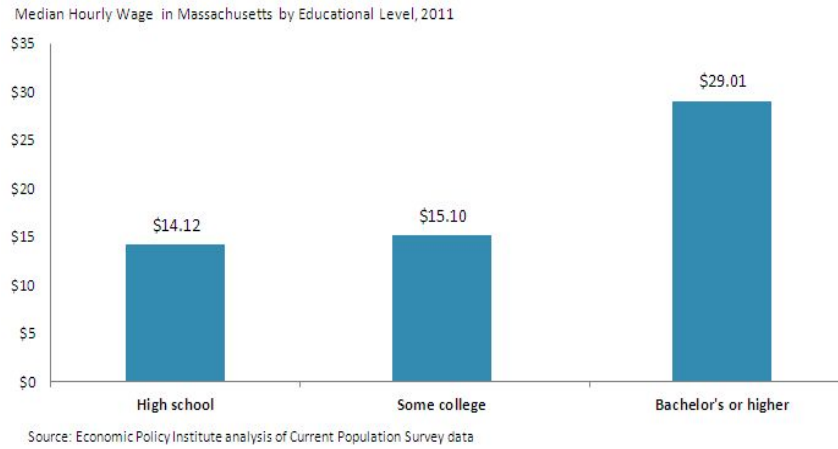
C. EDUCATION

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

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

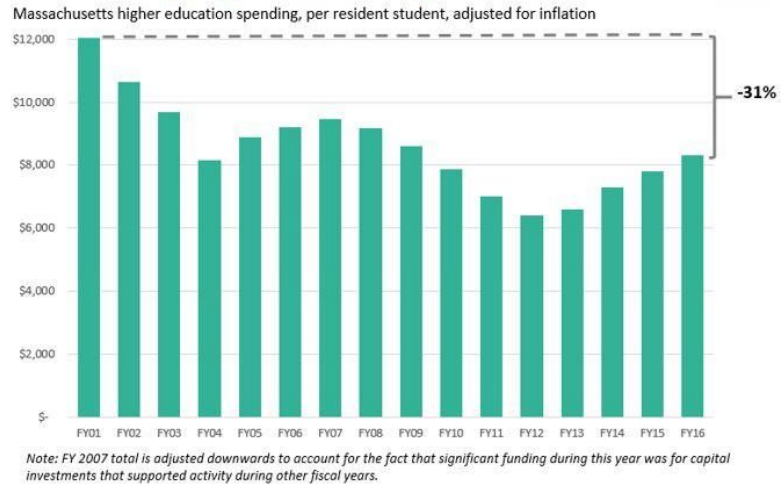


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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

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



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

Jim Hawkins: Public education is offered to every child regardless of social, economic, ethnic, or any other measure. And Massachusetts schools are some of the best in the country. We serve high-achieving students as well as those who struggle. It should be the great equalizer and prepare every student for success.

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

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

3. ***Achievement Gaps. What would you do to address persistent racial and economic achievement gaps in education?***

Jim Hawkins: One of the good things that MCAS does is to point out these gaps. Rather than penalizing school districts where these shortfalls occur, I would work to improve health and mental health resources and reduce class sizes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

5. ***Standardized Testing. Do you oppose the use of high-stakes testing for such things as student promotion, high school graduation, teacher evaluation, and the evaluation of schools and districts?***

Jim Hawkins: Yes. High-stakes testing should be used to adjust curriculum and resources to address weaknesses. But a student who can't focus on a test with perhaps an IEP but does all the assigned classwork and gets consistently good grades after twelve years should never be denied a diploma because of a standardized test. I was a tenth grade math teacher, so my students took MCAS math. My students always did well, but was I being fairly compared to a teacher who had honors students? And I was tenth grade, which means they had nine math teachers before me. It just doesn't belong on a teacher evaluation. And I think of the prestigious Boston Latin being dropped to a level two because a handful of parents opted out of MCAS. These punitive measures have nothing to do with the mission of standardized tests.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes. Chapter 70 funds were designed to equalize the learning opportunities between wealthy communities and low-income communities. It has failed at that. Part of the reason is that it relies partly on the Foundation Budget. The Foundation Budget was designed in the early 1990s before computers, special ed reform, or MCAS. Recent costs include added expenses for ELL students after the passage of the Unz initiative, the costs of sending special education students for out-of-district services, the unpredictable costs of transporting McKinney Vento students and more. Massachusetts needs to be realistic about what it costs to educate our students.

7. **Charter Schools.** Last November, Massachusetts voters overwhelmingly rejected a ballot initiative to lift the cap on charter schools given the millions of dollars it would have siphoned away from public schools.

a. *Would you support keeping the cap on charter schools?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

Charter Schools were originally designed as incubators for new ideas to share with public schools, but that never happened. What did happen is that charter schools siphon funds from the public schools who can least afford it. Charter schools lack the guidance and accountability that comes from elected school committees in public schools. And it makes no sense that a charter school can make a discipline problem student return to the sending schools and, in some cases, not refund the cost. There are still unfilled slots for charter schools, so there is no need to raise the cap. For the “no on two” ballot question I presented to school committees in two towns, and organized phone banks, door to door, and both lawn sign placement and sign holdings.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

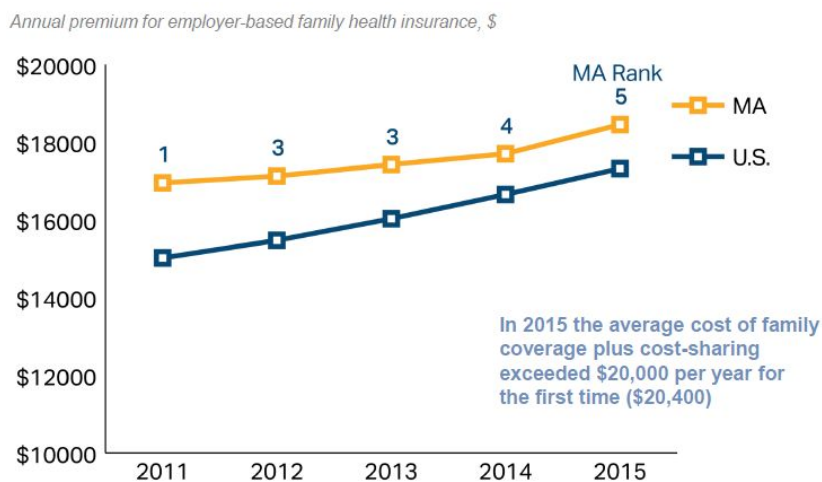
9. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** *Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. A Bachelor's degree is barely the equivalent of a high school diploma a generation ago. And now even students in state colleges graduate with staggering debt. This is wrong.

D. HEALTH CARE

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

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



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

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

Jim Hawkins: My personal value is every person should have access to quality affordable health care. Group insurance is cheaper because the risk is lower with more people. We need to expand that so everyone in the commonwealth has insurance and then the risk would be lower and the resulting costs would be lower. Mass Health has taken us in the direction but not far enough.

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

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

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes. Not only would this benefit low-income people, but it would benefit self-employed professionals who do not have access to group plans. There is much lobbying against single payer, but we would all benefit if it became law.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes. Especially in cases of medically necessary life or death abortion, there is no reason to make an already painful experience worse.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes. Many low-income people cannot afford dental care and, as a result, their physical health is compromised. This idea would be useful in combating this problem.

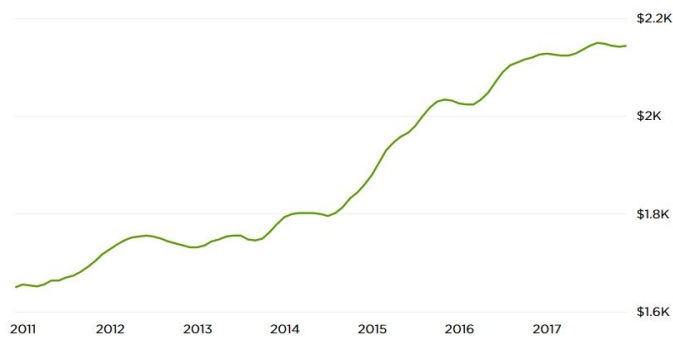
6. **Prescription Drug Pricing.** *Would you support a drug transparency law, like the one recently passed in California, that requires pharmaceutical companies to publicly justify steep price increases?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

E. HOUSING

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

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



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

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

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

Jim Hawkins: For many years twice a week I delivered cartons of donated food to the homeless in Providence, and I was awarded NSFRE Partner in Philanthropy for doing that. So I am passionate about issues of homelessness. Currently, many cities are dealing with homelessness by getting homeless people housing before they have a job. Then jobs are easier to get and keep. We need to focus on public transportation if we want to link housing to jobs.

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

Jim Hawkins: See above.

3. Funding. Do you support increasing funding for affordable housing production (especially low-income

housing units) and the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

4. **Housing Preservation.** Currently, certain property owners who guarantee affordable rents have been incentivized by subsidized mortgages via the 13A program. However, many of the contracts under 13A are set to expire in 2019. Do you support giving cities and towns the authority to require such apartments to remain affordable?

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

6. **Zoning Reform.** Would you support legislation to upgrade Massachusetts's zoning laws to encourage more affordable housing and transit-oriented, walkable development and to promote inclusionary zoning practices?

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

7. **Combating Speculation.** Do you support imposing a graduated tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

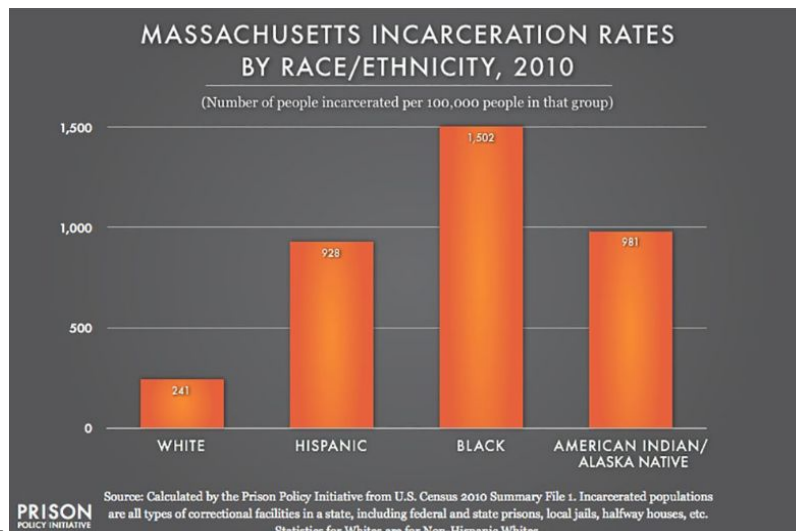
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

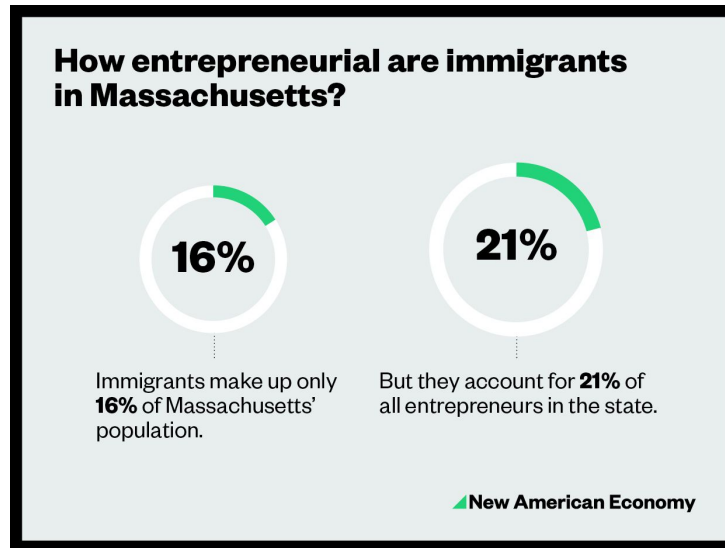
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all” into crisis. We support a judicial system that does not disproportionately target communities of color and the poor, that does not criminalize public health issues such as addiction, that reorients away from ineffective and costly ‘tough on crime’ policies. A comprehensive approach to reform must be taken in all aspects of the criminal justice system.

Spending on prisons has increased while other services have been cut.



Significant racial disparities exist in incarceration in Massachusetts





1. *Please share your personal values and principles regarding Racial and Social Justice.*

Jim Hawkins: I must admit my own weakness first. As a teacher on the first day of school, I know what my first reaction was to a person of color who might be in my classes. That reaction may have only been for a fleeting moment but I know what that first reaction was. People of color suffer a disadvantage that I will never understand. It's almost as if they are running in a 5K race and they have to start a quarter mile behind the starting line.

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

Jim Hawkins: I have been involved with the Attleboro SURJ (Stand Up for Racial Justice) since it began last year.

3. *Trans Accommodations. In 2016, Massachusetts passed legislation to prevent discrimination against transgender individuals in public accommodations. Conservatives are seeking to repeal the bill on the 2018 ballot. Will you advocate for the protection of this legislation?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

4. *LGBTQ Youth. Our neighboring states of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Vermont ban the use of harmful conversion therapy practices for minors. Do you support banning the use of conversion therapy in Massachusetts?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

5. *Sentencing Reform. Which of the following steps to combat mass incarceration in the Commonwealth do you support?*

- a. *Eliminating mandatory minimum sentences related to drug offenses*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

b. *Raising the felony threshold for theft from \$250 to \$1500*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

c. *Raising the age of criminal majority from 18 to 19*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

d. *Promoting community based alternatives for sentencing individuals who are primary caretaker of a child*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

e. *Limiting the role of School Resource Officers, to curb the school-to-prison pipeline*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

f. *Eliminating or reducing fees and fines that hinder reentry efforts and turn jails into debtors' prisons*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

g. *Increasing investment in education and job training programs for the formerly incarcerated*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. It makes no sense that such a high percentage of our population is incarcerated. And it makes no sense that such a high proportion of those incarcerated are there for drug and alcohol related crimes and not violent crimes.

6. **Solitary Confinement.** *Do you support limiting the use of solitary confinement to no more than 15 consecutive days, and eliminating the use of solitary confinement for at-risk populations, including pregnant women, LGBTQ people, those with mental illness, and those under age 21 or over age 65?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

8. **Black Lives Matter.** *Since 2016, in response the Black Lives Matter activists' illumination of criminal justice system abuses, conservatives have pushed a myth of a "war on cops." States such as Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Kentucky have advanced "Blue Lives Matter" legislation, making law enforcement a protected class under hate crime statutes. In November 2017, the MA Legislature followed suit, creating a new "superpenalty" and mandatory minimum for assaulting a police officer. Would you oppose such policies, which would disproportionately punish minority communities and contribute to an overly carceral state?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I would oppose such superpenalties. I think the first part of this discussion is to recognize that part of a police person's job involves being in chaotic and life threatening situations. We need to recognize their bravery and sacrifice. However, police are affected by the same racial biases that we all are. We have seen damning videos and data shows that these incidents are significant. We must work hard on training first responders for the safety of innocent citizens and well as their own safety. And there should be more body cams so we can understand why some of these regrettable

situations occur.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

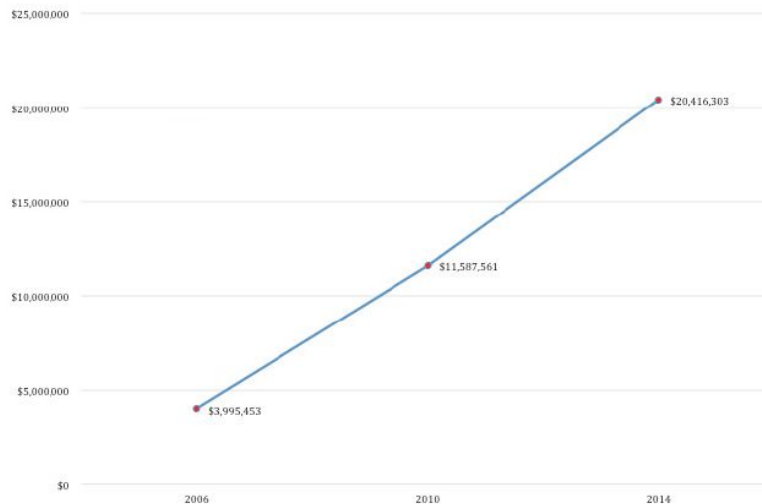
Jim Hawkins: Yes. For everyone's safety, we need to do whatever we can to eliminate untrained drivers on the road.

G. GOOD GOVERNMENT/ STRONG DEMOCRACY

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

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

Figure 1: MA Independent Expenditure Totals



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

Jim Hawkins: Everyone should have the right to vote, and we should never create barriers that might keep some people away from voting.

2. *Please indicate work you personally have done to promote transparency, campaign finance reform, legislative rules reform, and access to voting.*
3. *Power and the Legislature. If elected, would you support efforts to dilute the amount of power held by leadership in your respective branch of government? For example, would you support a rule change allowing committees to appoint their own chair, instead of leadership?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I support efforts to dilute the amount of power held by leadership. As a Senate District Coordinator for MTA I have heard about this over and over from the legislators we worked with.

4. *Transparency.* Massachusetts is one of only two states where the governor's office claims to be completely exempt from the public records laws. Do you support ending that exemption? ?

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

a. *Election day voter registration*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

b. *Automatic voter registration*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

d. *No-fault absentee voting*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

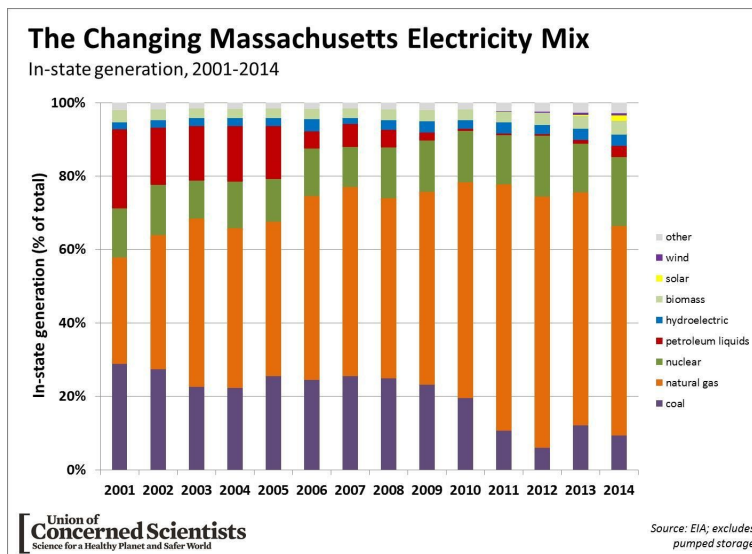
H. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

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

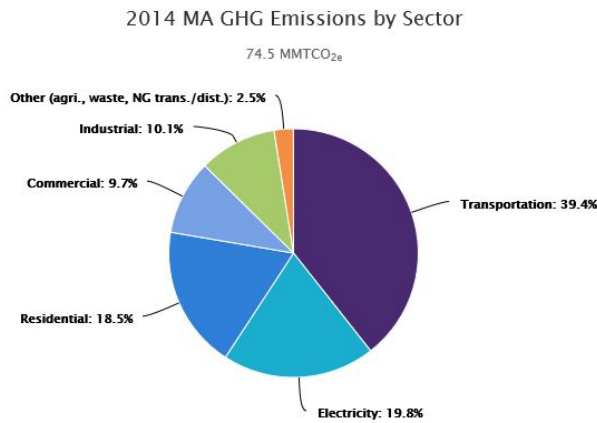
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and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

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

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



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



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

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

Jim Hawkins: It takes so long to clean up our waterways and the air that we breathe that we cannot accept any lessening of the work in those areas.

2. *Please indicate work you personally have done to protect the environment and expand access to public transportation.*
3. *Waste Reduction. Would you support a statewide ban on single-use shopping bags and a requirement that alternatives be more sustainable?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I have not taken shopping bags for years. Maybe it's easier for me since I live in the suburbs, but it does not seem like that big a sacrifice when you consider that those plastic bags stay in the ground forever.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I can't believe the Mass Department of Utilities just put a \$100 charge on solar panels, nor can I believe the federal 30% surcharge on imported solar panels. These actions will cost jobs and slow down our ever so important transition to renewable energy.

4. *Renewable Energy. Do you support a target of at least 50% clean energy by 2030 for Massachusetts, as adopted in California and New York? (Hawaii is committed to 100% renewables by 2045). To accomplish this, would you support an increase in the Renewable Energy Production Standard (the green energy mandate on utilities) by at least 3% each year?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

5. *Environmental Justice. Successive and bipartisan gubernatorial administrations have made verbal commitments to environmental justice (EJ) and Governor Deval Patrick issued an Executive Order on Environmental Justice in 2014 which has not been implemented.*

a. *Would you support implementation of the 2014 EO?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes. I have been going to meetings, holding signs, and I have signs on my lawn for the Citizens Against the Rehoboth Compressor Station (CARCS).

7. **Carbon pricing.**

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

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

Jim Hawkins: Yes.

8. **Public Transit.** *What are your top three priorities for improving access to, and reliability and quality of, the MBTA?*

Jim Hawkins: Where I live in Attleboro, there are two commuter train stations. Even so, traffic is bumper to bumper from the Rhode Island line all the way up rt 95 and onto 128 for most of the day. If the MBTA remains crowded and unreliable, that problem will never go away. Cars at a crawl give off more emissions. Difficult transportation limits access from low income areas to good-paying jobs in Boston. We need to find funds to modernize the MBTA and increase service. Privatizing parts of the MBTA was not the answer.

9. **Regional Transportation Funding.** *Would you support legislation to allow municipalities to place a question on the ballot to raise revenue for local and regional transportation projects?*

Jim Hawkins: Yes.