

Tami Gouveia

14th Middlesex

State Representative

Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: State Representative

Legislative District: 14th Middlesex

Party: Democratic

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Primary: September 4

Election: November 6

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Introduction: Progressive Mass

About

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

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

Membership

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

How Endorsements Work

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

Sources

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

I. About the Candidate

Tami Gouveia

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

Tami Gouveia: I am running for the 14th Middlesex District because I believe that powerful special interests are robbing middle class and low-income families of their right to a healthy, sustainable future. Our Constitution made a promise that all people will have opportunities to succeed. I will fight every day on Beacon Hill to make this promise a reality for middle class and working families throughout the Commonwealth who for too long have been left out of in the cold by their elected officials.

When elected, my top three issues will be income inequality, climate justice, and the influence of dark money on policymaking and elections. These issues impact all individuals in our Commonwealth and hinder our ability to keep Massachusetts at the forefront in policy and quality of life.

I am committed to standing up for the many ways in which people from diverse backgrounds can work together to create the just, free, sustainable, and equitable future to which we all aspire. As the State Representative of the 14th Middlesex District, I will continue fighting for the issues that impact families most, whether that is ensuring benefits and living wages for all residents, passing single payer health care, increasing access to addiction prevention and treatment services, ensuring access to a quality education and affordable housing, addressing our failing transit system, or preserving our environment while increasing jobs in a greener economy.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

Tami Gouveia: As a progressive Democrat, I have built a solid reputation as an effective advocate for social change, and I have worked to solve many of society's most challenging problems. I am the only candidate in this race who has negotiated legislation with lawmakers to protect youth from the devastation of addiction, secured funding to address the opioid crisis, and conducted environmental health policy research to support the passage of bills at the state level.

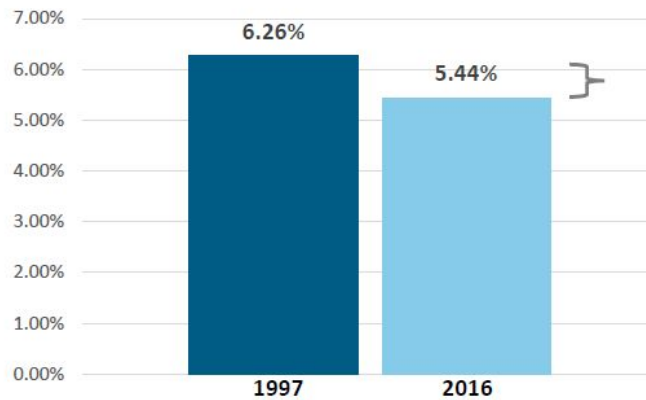
In addition to on-the-ground experience with legislative efforts, I have strong organizing and coalition building experience. As the founder of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Women's March on Washington, I mobilized 10,000 individuals to descend on the nation's capital to protest the Trump Administration's policies. This initial movement created a groundswell of activists who are fighting for progressive causes and working hard to get Democratic candidates elected into office throughout the state and country.

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.

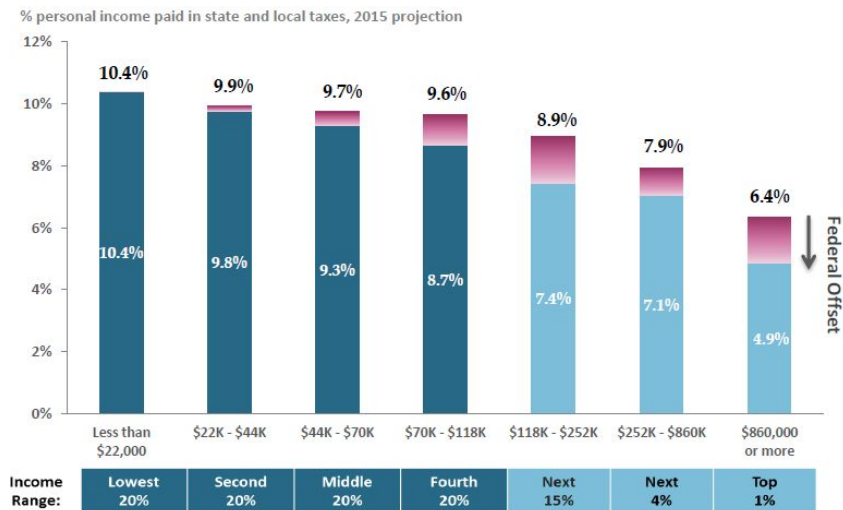
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: As a Commonwealth, we are engaged in a social contract and have a moral commitment to invest in aspects of society that are considered common goods -- education, transportation, jobs creation, recreation, and so on. A fair tax system is necessary to ensure that we can make good on these promises so that everyone has equitable opportunities to thrive. I believe that every Massachusetts resident should pay his/her/their fair share of taxes, which means taxes should be progressive and not regressive.

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.).*

Tami Gouveia: I have advocated for the Fair Share Amendment by collecting signatures during signature drives and encouraging others to become involved in the campaign.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I support the Fair Share Amendment. This amendment will allow the Commonwealth to adequately fund schools, transportation infrastructure, and higher education -- all critical components to ensure a thriving community and equitable society.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: 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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I believe there should be transparency surrounding corporations that receive tax breaks.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. We must hold companies accountable, especially when they promise to support local economies in exchange for tax breaks. Requiring companies who receive tax credits is not only an issue of social justice; it is an economically sound policy. As wages increase and we support good benefits for all, employees have greater buying power and make purchases and investments in the local economy. Additionally, companies that receive tax breaks, while providing their workers unjust wages, must be brought into the public light so that legislators and voters can make more informed decisions in future situations.

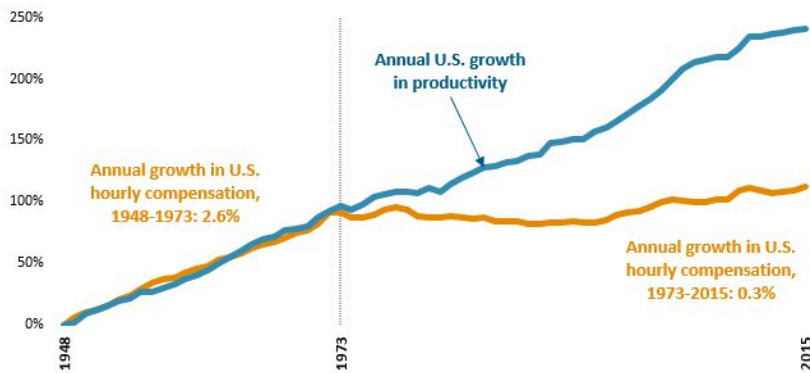
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

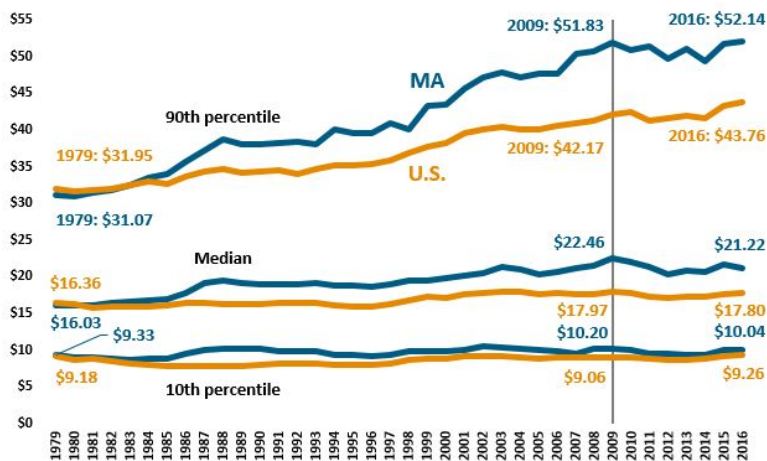
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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?

Tami Gouveia: I do not believe our state can continue to thrive and move toward a vibrant, equitable future unless we close the gap on economic inequality. Economic inequality is caused by many confounding policies--the cost of health care, lack of affordable housing, unaffordable child care, union busting, suppressed wages, the list goes on. To address these intersecting issues, I will work to pass: (1) Medicare For All; (2) a living wage (above the current fight for \$15 minimum wage); (3) paid family leave so that individuals do not have to choose between affording necessities or caring for a loved one; (4) the Millionaire's Tax, and; (5) investing in green jobs and climate justice. I will also work to strengthen and maintain a social safety net for our communities' most vulnerable populations, by advocating for passage of the Safe Communities Act and increasing investments in education, mental health services, and infrastructure.

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.).*

Tami Gouveia: I organized Senator Eldridge's Senatorial District for the 2013/2014 Raise Up MA campaign to increase minimum wage to \$15 and secure earned sick time. I have also collected signatures for the Raise Up MA campaign on the \$15 minimum wage and Paid Family and Medical Leave campaign. Last year, I advocated on Beacon Hill for the the Pregnant Workers' Fairness Act that went into effect in April of this year.

3. Increasing Wages.

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

Tami Gouveia: Yes.

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

Tami Gouveia: Yes.

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

Tami Gouveia: Yes.

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

Tami Gouveia: 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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I have collected signatures for the Raise Up MA campaign for Paid Family and Medical Leave. No person should face economic sanctions for taking time to care for a family member, or for needing time to support their health.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. Unions make our economy stronger and they ensure that workers are treated with dignity and justice. As a state legislator, I would be proud to stand in support of unions in Massachusetts.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. Efforts by the state to curb collective bargaining rights for any worker, public or private, are antithetical to the just, progressive values we hold.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: 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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. The #MeToo movement has highlighted just how harmful these clauses are in cases of sexual harassment and discrimination. Time and time again, such clauses have been used to cause harm to workers. As a State Representative, I would happily pass legislation to prohibit the use of such unethical practices.

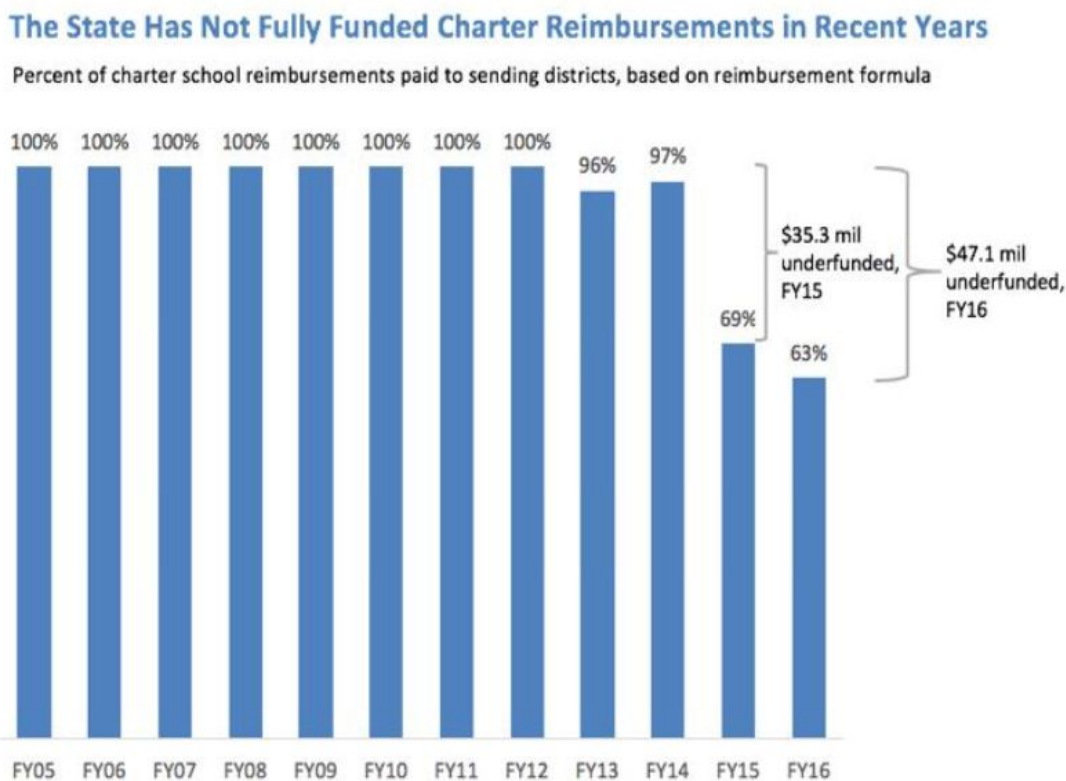
9. **Economic Democracy.** *Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes.

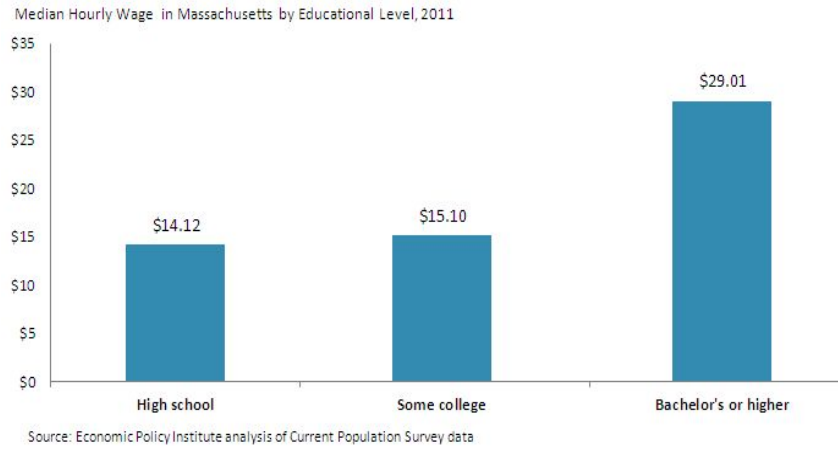
C. EDUCATION

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.

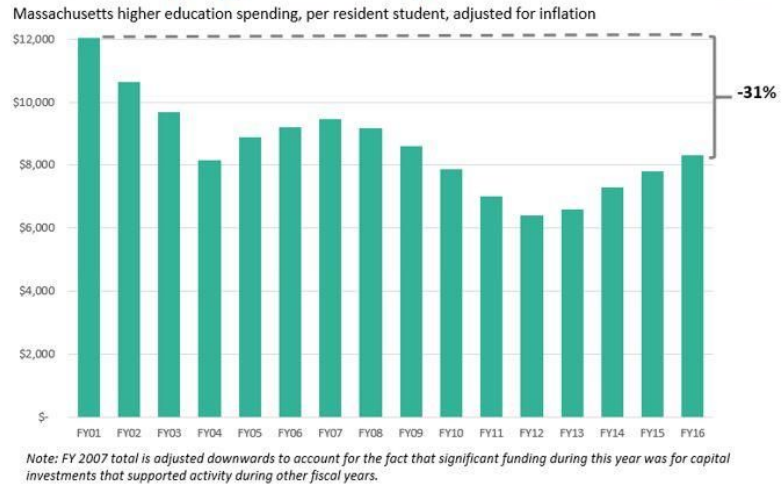


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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?*

Tami Gouveia: High-quality, universal public education is one of the most critical ingredients to economic justice and a strong economy. As a parent of two children in the public school system, I know firsthand the incredible impacts teachers have on our youth and believe we should support our teachers through meaningful pay, benefits, and loan forgiveness. College should be free and accessible to every resident, regardless of their income, age, or status. It is essential that we continue funding arts, music, and recreation, but also place investments in teaching our youth 21st century skills.

2. *Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on public education?*
3. *Universal Pre-K. Would you support creating universal, free Pre-K, accessible to any resident of Massachusetts, integrated into the public school system?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. Pre-K has been demonstrated to have incredible impacts on children’s long-term educational, health, and behavior outcomes. Additionally, early childhood educational experiences should never be restricted based on geographic or socio-economic status, as they are currently. We must expand Pre-K in Massachusetts so that every child has the opportunity to benefit from such programs.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. While I think it is important to measure the effectiveness of individual schools and districts, our current system of high-stakes standardized testing fails to do so and it stifles creativity and innovation among students and educators. We must develop evidence-based measures that embrace innovation, support students’ learning needs, and that inspire curiosity and a commitment to lifelong learning in every child.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. There should be no such term as an “underserved” student. Our Commonwealth’s teachers, parents, and resource staff work incredibly hard to serve every child, yet they are often understaffed and overworked. As a legislator, I will work to ensure that schools and employees are given the funding to be able to continue and strengthen this work.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. Charter schools siphon funds away from other public school students, have

not created the promised opportunities to inform education programming across the Commonwealth, and provide inconsistent supports and resources for low-income students and students with disabilities. In addition, charter schools are not accountable to taxpayers, voters, and school committees.

- 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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. We must ensure that charter schools providing quality education and are accountable to taxpayers and the same disclosure and disciplinary standards as other publicly funded schools.

- 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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes.

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

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I support our Commonwealth's Dreamers and, as a State Representative, I will work to ensure that Dreamers have access to equal opportunities and are protected from deportation during this period of nationalism and xenophobia.

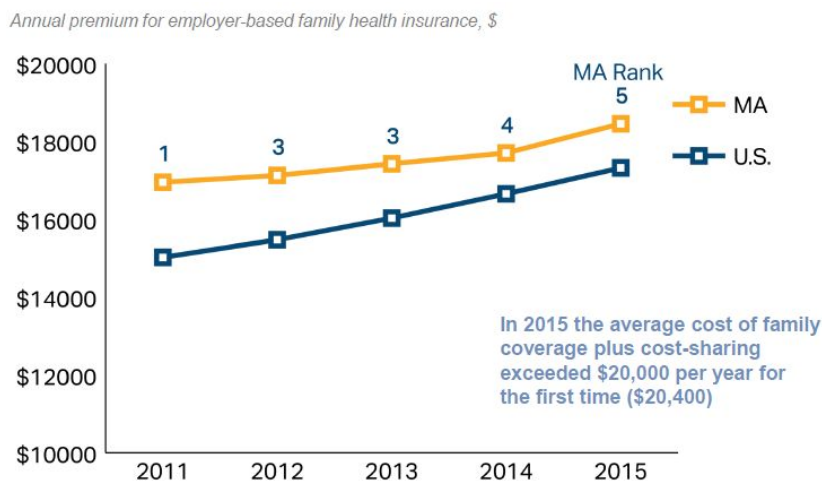
- 9. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. As the parent of two teenagers who plan to go to college, and as someone who has high student loan debt myself, I know how incredibly stressful and impossible paying for higher education can be for most families in the Commonwealth. We must do everything to make public higher education accessible to students.

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.*

Tami Gouveia: I believe that healthcare is a right, not a privilege. Health care should be affordable, accessible, and culturally competent. Debt due to medical bills should not exist. To solve the problem of health care disparities and debt, we must pass single payer health care while also making investments in all areas of society that impact health and health outcomes. This includes opportunities for lifelong learning, safe neighborhoods, humane housing, reliable transportation, arts and recreation, meaningful work and opportunities to build wealth, a healthy environment, etc. It is essential that we provide more funding for resources and education to medical practitioners regarding culturally competent care in

servicing immigrant populations and English Language Learners. Racial discrimination and language barriers too often negatively impact the health outcomes of people of color and immigrants; it is critical that we address these disparities and the inequitable access to societal conditions that contribute to these disparities.

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

Tami Gouveia: As a public health social worker, much of my career has been focused on addressing the opioid crisis and youth substance abuse, focusing on interventions that are humane and address roots causes of addiction, rather than castigating those who struggle with addiction. In my current position, I work with communities throughout the US to make their health systems more effective and efficient. For my 10 years as the Director of Programs at the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, I worked with youth so they could advocate on issues specific to their communities, and also conducted needs assessments and identify underlying causes of health and substance use programs. I have also volunteered for domestic violence shelters, testified at the state house on numerous bills that impact health equity, and have served on community committees that sought to expand access to care.

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

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I support the Medicare For All legislation that is pending in the legislature.

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

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I would oppose anti-choice legislation and support legislation to promote reproductive justice. I am particularly concerned by crisis pregnancy centers that use deceptive practices to get women in the door and then use scare tactics and misinformation to discourage a women's choice. I am supportive of legislation that would remove barriers for women under 18 who are currently required by law to seek a parent/guardians consent, even in cases of rape or incest. I have lobbied for PATCH and ACCESS bills and, when elected, will continue to be an advocate for similar legislation.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes.

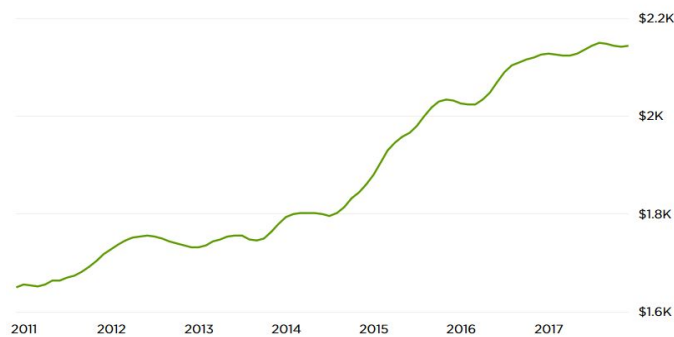
6. **Prescription Drug Pricing.** *Would you support a drug transparency law, like the one recently passed in California, that requires pharmaceutical companies to publicly justify steep price increases?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. As a public health social worker, I have seen firsthand how pharmaceutical companies consistently value profit over health and human prosperity. Greater transparency is a critical step in keeping these companies accountable.

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?

Tami Gouveia: I support increasing mixed-use, mixed-income housing. I believe we should more adequately leverage the Community Reinvestment Act, as well as encourage investment opportunities that have more expansive requirements on developers for creating affordable housing and supporting economies in close proximity. I support Chapter 40B, but believe we must scale up our efforts, especially considering our aging housing and aging population. We must update zoning regulations to make mixed use properties more commonplace and invest in housing that is more central to jobs, recreational opportunities, and daily needs. For people experiencing homelessness, I advocate for a housing first approach. Homelessness is caused by a myriad of factors and I will advocate for mental health services, decriminalization of addiction, support for veterans, and protection of the safety net, while addressing high housing costs.

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

housing (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).

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

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

Tami Gouveia: Yes.

b. The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?

Tami Gouveia: Yes.

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

Tami Gouveia: 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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. A dearth of affordable housing is one of the most severe challenges facing the Commonwealth. Especially as federal housing funding comes under threat with our current presidential administration, it is essential that we preserve and support as much affordable housing as possible. We have had an overreliance on market forces to provide housing to populations across the economic spectrum. Government has an important role in addressing the housing crisis; it is time for us to do better.

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

Tami Gouveia: 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?*

Tami Gouveia: 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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. Massachusetts zoning is sorely outdated and must be updated to meet standards in sustainability and accessibility. I support eliminating barriers to zoning changes and Smart Growth approaches.

8. Combating Speculation. *Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to impose a graduated*

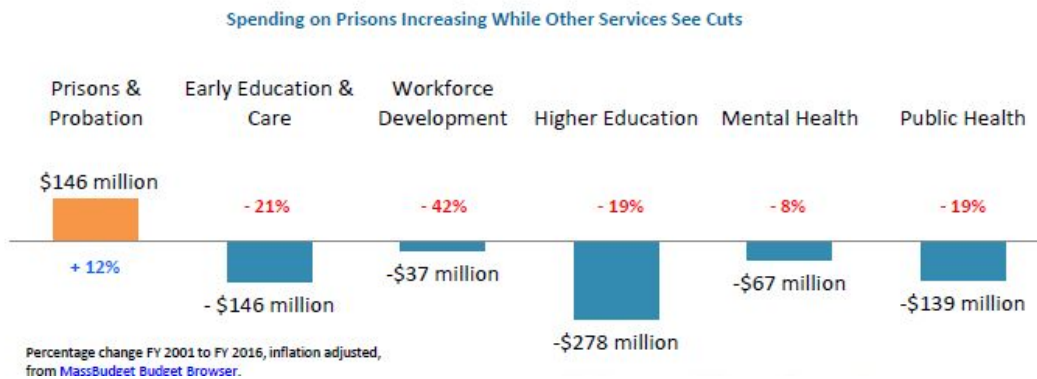
tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?

Tami Gouveia: Yes.

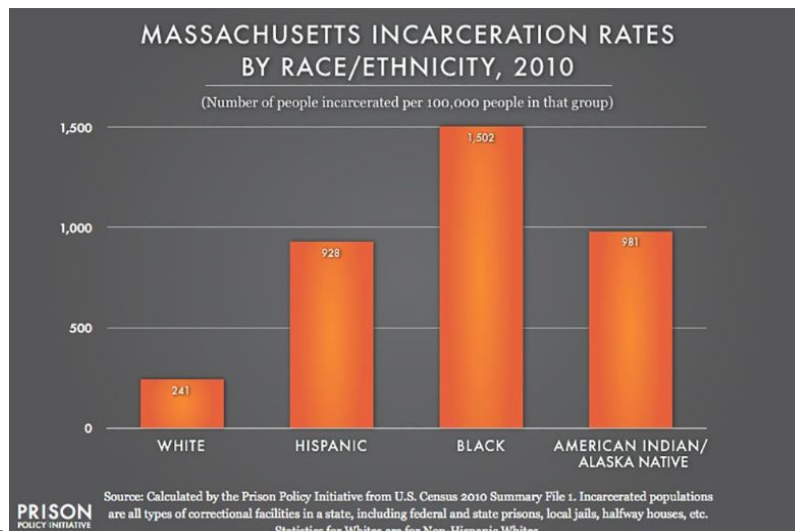
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

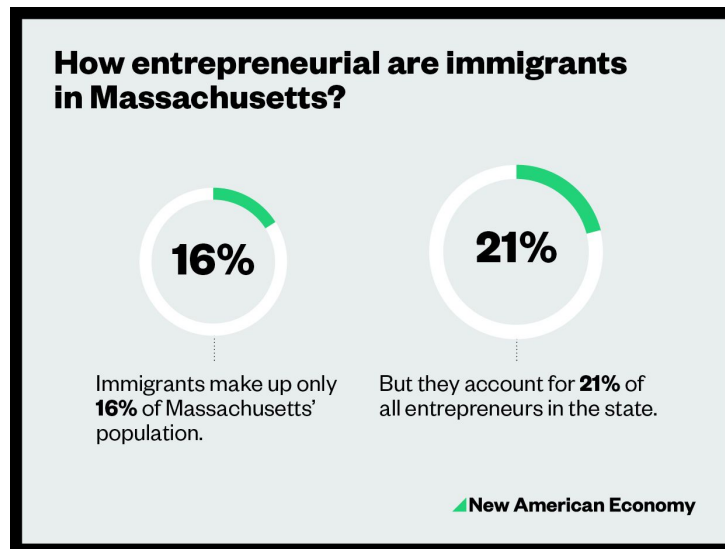
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

Tami Gouveia: Structural inequality is the fuel that grows and undergirds every issue outlined in this questionnaire. I believe our Commonwealth and nation must face how, in particular, structural racism has shaped our housing, criminal justice, health care, employment, and education systems. I believe that legislators must be willing to develop new policies and forms of accountability to ensure that women and transgender people do not live in fear of sexual violence, that communities of color are not over-policed and under-resourced, that every person is able to move through our communities' streets and transportation systems with ease, and that people of all sexualities are treated with dignity, respect, and love.

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

Tami Gouveia: I am the founder and co-leader of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Women's March and led fundraising efforts to provide tickets to over 130 women and allies who otherwise would not have been able to attend our group of 10,000 Massachusetts residents. As a student at Mt. Holyoke College, my studies focused on environmental racism. This lens shaped my 15-plus year career in public health social work. While opioids, tobacco use, intimate partner violence, and pollution impact people of all races and socio-economic statuses, they have a particularly devastating impact on communities of color and low-income communities. My efforts on these issues has always reckoned with this reality and I have continually battled to rehumanize the experiences of those with addictions, and put systems in place that support communities, with the understanding that much of this inequality exists as a result of structural racism.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I will fight to ensure that transgender residents are protected from discrimination and I will work to ensure transgender people are protected and supported in all facets of the law and society. As the mother of a transgender son, I have advocated for my son and supported him in

navigating the reactions of schools, family, friends, healthcare, government, and legal systems. I am proud to support my son in living his truth and will advocate for other residents to be able to safely and courageously do the same. The efforts to repeal protections for fellow citizens are outrageous and hateful. As a legislator, I will do everything in my power to ensure that members of the transgender community can work, go to school, enjoy a meal at a restaurant, and use the bathroom without fear or discrimination.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. Conversion therapy has incredibly negative mental health impacts on those who are subjected to it. We must ban this harmful practice on minors, as well as fund efforts to support LGBTQ youth who may experience bullying, rejection, or homelessness because of discrimination.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I support eliminating mandatory minimums for opioid offenses. I provided testimony against minimum mandatory sentences at the hearing of the Criminal Justice Reform bill last year and that was subsequently signed into law by the governor on April 13, 2018. I was disappointed to see that the law included new minimum mandatories for fentanyl and other opioids. Having worked on solutions to the opioid crisis for the past 10+ years, I know that there are far more effective and humane interventions to reduce opioid use in our communities. As a State Representative, I would support initiatives that curb funding to incarceration and instead put those funds to evidence-based programs for drug treatment and mental health prevention and treatment services.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: 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)?*

Tami Gouveia: 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?

Tami Gouveia: Yes. Solitary confinement is an abhorrent practice that can cause long-term mental health outcomes. I provided testimony against this practice at the hearing of the Criminal Justice Reform bill last year and that was subsequently signed into law by the governor on April 13, 2018.

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

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I would support this initiative and would work to ensure that it is truly independent. I also support other initiatives, such as further funding and increased requirements for de-escalation training, implicit bias training, and others to help prevent such shootings from happening in the first place.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I would support further transparency and a vote requirement regarding the transferring of such equipment. Not only does the existence of these transfers overpolice communities, but they also drain much needed resources and funds from our schools, mental health services, and more.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I fully support this legislation. I testified at an Acton Board of Selectmen meeting and provided testimony at the state level in support of Safe Communities policies. Immigrants make our communities stronger and current efforts to separate families, and deport undocumented folks, are indicative of the overall racism and nationalism of the White House. The Safe Communities Act will help ensure that undocumented individuals and families are able to seek support when victims of crime and help keep our communities safer.

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?*

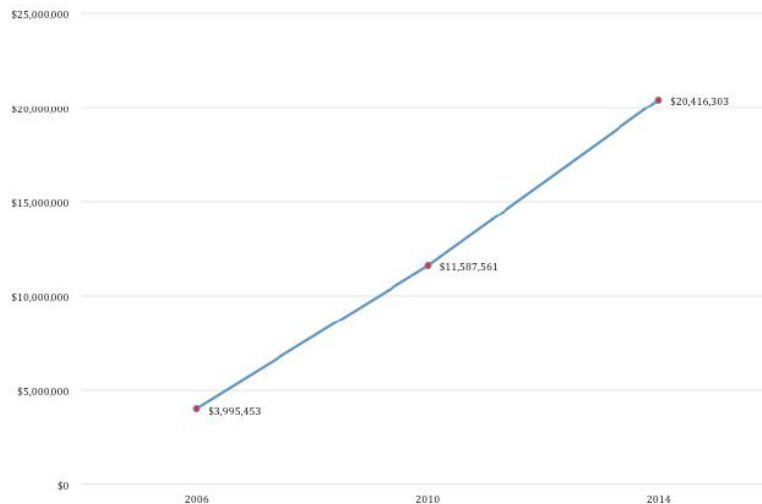
Tami Gouveia: Yes. Undocumented immigrants, like everyone else, need to pick up their kids from school, go to and from work, get groceries, visit the doctor, and more. Especially considering the state of public transport, all of these activities generally require driving. Removing status from license and permit applications will ensure that undocumented immigrants are going through the same safety checks as those with documentation.

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.*

Tami Gouveia: I believe that Good Government and Strong Democracy require the participation of all members of our communities. Our current system favors corporate lobbyists and the financial gains of special interest groups over the interests of Massachusetts residents and the future health and well-being of our communities. Registering to vote and voting should be simplified to encourage greater participation in the political process. Therefore, I support automatic voter registration and same-day registration. As State Representative, I will continue to engage with individuals at the grassroots level to make it easier for residents to engage in government and our democracy.

2. *Please indicate work you personally have done to promote transparency, campaign finance reform,*

legislative rules reform, and access to voting.

Tami Gouveia: I have collected signatures for the American Promise campaign to help overturn Citizens United.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. It is essential that each Representative is able to make decisions and move legislation forward based on their district's needs and to not be restrained by fears of political punishment by entrenched elected officials.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I support efforts to improve transparency. When citizens have access to information, they are more able to hold their elected officials accountable.

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

Tami Gouveia: 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"?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I am more able to run now because my two sons are teenagers and do not require childcare. Even so, as a single parent, I know how challenging it is to care for your children, balance full-time work, and be a full-time candidate. We must ensure that such barriers are not keeping qualified and effective individuals from serving in public office.

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

a. *Election day voter registration*

Tami Gouveia: Yes.

b. *Automatic voter registration*

Tami Gouveia: Yes.

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

Tami Gouveia: Yes.

d. *No-fault absentee voting*

Tami Gouveia: Yes.

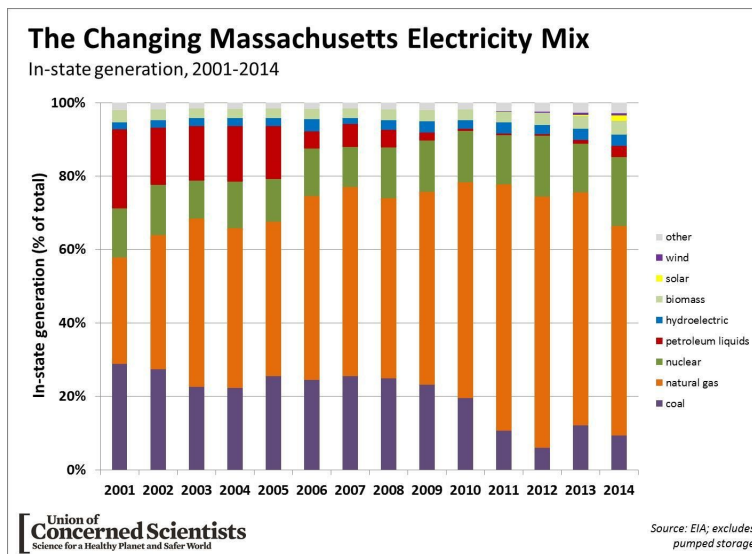
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

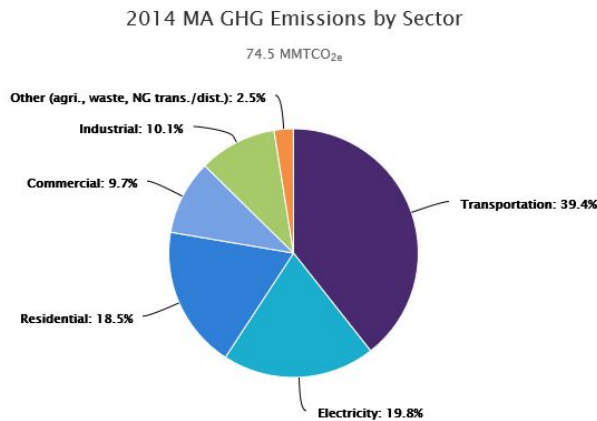
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and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

Tami Gouveia: I believe we need to rapidly transition to 100% renewable energy sources by 2050. Equally important to me is that we have a just transition to a green economy that leaves no Massachusetts resident behind. This immediate challenge is a great opportunity for our state to demonstrate that a green economy can and will be inclusive.

As a State Representative, I will also: (1) divest from fossil fuels and say no to any new fossil fuel projects; (2) provide access to solar and other renewable energy sources to low-income families and those living in multi-unit housing, and; (3) provide incentives and supports for a greener and more sustainable economy, including conservation and energy storage. I will also advocate for divestment of the state's pension plans from fossil fuels.

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

Tami Gouveia: I conducted environmental policy research at the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production which supported the Act for a Healthy Tomorrow, legislation that would substitute toxic components in consumer products with safer alternatives. I also hold a Master's in Public Health focusing on climate change, pollution, and waste impacts on human health and the environment. I have also published research on the links between toxic chemicals in the environment and childhood cancer.

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

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I support efforts to reduce the use of plastic shopping bags and other efforts to prevent such waste. I would support legislation that promotes sustainable alternatives to this commonplace waste.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I support eliminating the net metering cap. Limitations on solar power and community solar only serve to benefit utility companies and present barriers to our swift transition to sustainable alternatives.

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?

Tami Gouveia: 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?

Tami Gouveia: Yes.

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

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I support codifying former Governor Deval Patrick's Executive Order into law. Having studied environmental racism and worked in environmental public health, I have seen firsthand how low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately impacted by pollution and climate change. As a Commonwealth, we must ensure that every person has the right to clean air, water, and green space.

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

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I oppose increasing our dependence on fossil fuels and therefore I would oppose additional or expanded natural gas pipelines. Massachusetts needs to move further away from fossil fuels, not towards it.

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

Tami Gouveia: Yes.

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

Tami Gouveia: Yes.

I support putting a price on carbon economy-wide and based on the amount of carbon pollution emitted. Carbon pricing is an effective policy for correcting market forces that drive demand for low priced fossil fuels up. Carbon pricing has also been shown to be an engine for creating green jobs. Whatever tax or pricing scheme is used, I want to ensure that low-income residents are not unfairly burdened.

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?

Tami Gouveia: Yes. This is something that some residents of Chelmsford are currently discussing and would support if the opted to move forward with it.

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

Tami Gouveia: Yes. I support increasing investment in public transportation agencies, including statewide and regional hubs. In addition to the clear environmental benefits, investment in public transit is also good for local economies and overall health and well-being.

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?*

Tami Gouveia: 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.

Tami Gouveia: I am running for State Representative because I believe that together we can solve the challenges our state faces. Growing up in Lowell, my parents instilled in me a strong sense of duty to always be ready to roll up my sleeves and dedicate myself to fixing the problems I see in our community. This sense of responsibility is what led me to found the Lowell Roundtable on Substance Abuse almost 10 years ago, and it is this same type of tenacity that I will bring as your State Representative. I have seen firsthand the challenges folks in this state face, whether it is the rising cost of medical care or a family member suffering from addiction. I believe we can solve these challenges, that we can support families experiencing them, and as a State Representative I promise to be at the forefront of these efforts.