

Ted Steinberg

13th Norfolk

State Representative



Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: State Representative

Legislative District: 13th Norfolk

Party: Democratic

Website: www.vote4ted.com

Twitter: [@Vote4Ted](https://twitter.com/Vote4Ted)

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Primary: September 4

Election: November 6

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Introduction: Progressive Mass

About

Progressive Needham is a chapter of Progressive Massachusetts, 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. Progressive Massachusetts 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. Learn more at progressivemass.com.

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) unless otherwise specified.

I. About the Candidate

Ted Steinberg

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

Ted Steinberg: Born and raised in Needham, I am running for office to provide the type of leadership our community deserves. As a member of Progressive Massachusetts, I believe in implementing progressive legislation and remain disappointed in our current representatives that balk at the opportunity to enact policies that improve our services, increase equality, and prioritize sustainability. I want to be Progressive Massachusetts' partner in this fight. I will be a representative you can count on not only to support, but also introduce legislation, push the conversation, and pressure leadership for votes knowing the public is on my side. I want to return the People's House to the public.

My first priority is to challenge the culture on Beacon Hill. The centralization of power is antithetical to democratic values. The self-serving pay raise created an incentive to appease our conservative-leaning Speaker, and by getting rid of his term-limits, we now have leadership in the House that can dictate who speaks and on what issues. This structure has enabled a self-protecting culture in our State House, preventing elected officials from truly representing their constituents and reducing our ability to hold them accountable. This is how taxpayer dollars went towards non-disclosure agreements for staffers who brought sexual assault claims. I will not sit idly by as a few entrenched politicians make all the decisions. Rep. DiZoglio's courageous stand against these non-disclosure agreements, which brought the issue into public attention, shows what speaking up on the House floor can do. We must not acquiesce to a State House culture in which speaking out is considered abnormal and a risk to one's political standing. I will be a constant presence on the House floor, forcing the rest of the chamber to address important issues. I will also combat the lack of transparency. With unrecorded votes as the norm over Roll Calls, we do not always know where our representatives stand on the issues. I promise to publish my voting record, explaining what I voted on and why. I will then engage with constituents, both those who agree and those who disagree, to reinvigorate citizen engagement in a community that yearns for the opportunity to discuss solutions to our challenges in productive ways

My second priority is education reform. The people of Needham, Dover, and Medfield want comprehensive education reform. There is a dire need to address overcrowding in our schools - a problem that has persisted since my days as a Needham student. Our area's growth outpaces the attempted remedies. Needham and Medfield are both investing in construction projects to expand existing schools, and Needham is also building a new elementary school. But as soon as the buildings will be ready for students, they will already be at capacity, unable to accommodate the population projections. Massachusetts needs to modernize the funding formula for our schools. We have used the same system since 1993. By amending the formula to allocate proper funding per pupil, and increasing spending for teacher supplies and technology, we can reinvigorate our education system.

Education reform runs deeper than K-12. As the cost of higher education continues to rise, where even our state schools cost up to \$30,000, we must address the tuition hikes. I will start with legislation to implement locked tuition prices, so students pay the same rate for their entire tenure at an institution. I will also write legislation modeled off of the HOPE scholarships used in some southeastern states like

Tennessee and Georgia. This self-sustaining scholarship pays for in-state tuition, then requires graduates to direct a percentage of their subsequent income back into the HOPE fund. The structure ensures less financial burden for graduates, while also incentivizing our state to invest in the success of students.

My third priority is enacting strong environmental policies. The people of Needham, Dover, and Medfield want swift action to combat the effects of climate change. With late, intense winter storms accentuating the need for strong legislative action, I will champion an environmental agenda. First, I will seek to reinvigorate our decelerating solar sector that recently lost 20% of its jobs due to short-sighted action at the State House. I will introduce legislation to increase reimbursement rates for net metering credits and restore subsidies for solar panels on affordable housing and community development projects. Our investment in renewable energy should be widespread. I will fight for an accelerated timeline to achieve 100% renewable energy, and I will also advocate for legislation to recommit to offshore wind power. To address our pollution footprint, I will propose more ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets and impose carbon taxes on corporations.

I believe in good neighbor governance, the kind of open, honest, accessible leadership that is ripe for the moment, and right for us. I look forward to working tirelessly on behalf of Norfolk's 13th district, and I am proud to give voters a progressive alternative in this election.

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

Ted Steinberg: After growing up in this community, I am intimately familiar with the challenges we face. But I also know the best ideas will come from the community. My Needham education taught me empathy. I pride myself on my ability to listen. I am ready to give the people in Norfolk 13 a voice again, and I look forward to addressing your concerns at the State House.

My experience working in multiple State Houses taught me how to navigate bureaucracies on behalf of constituents. Working in the US House of Representatives, I learned how to build coalitions, develop legislation, master legislative rules, and effectively communicate with constituents. As we look for change, it will require agents who understand how to operate from within government institutions with the determination to stand up for our values. Unfortunately, before we will be able to enact the sweeping progressive reform we want, we must change the way our State House operates.

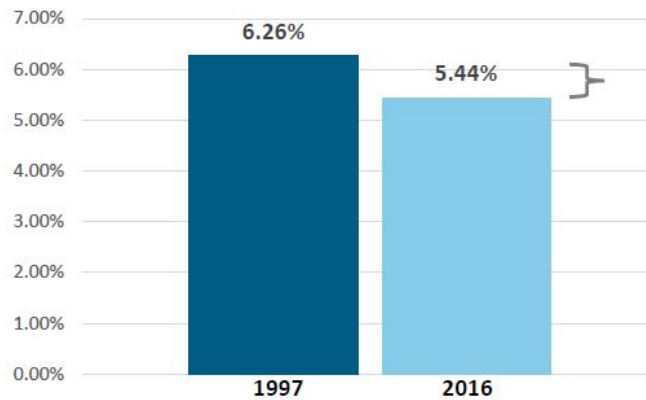
Without ties to the current leadership in the State House, I am prepared to make the changes we wish to see in terms of reforming Beacon Hill's culture and structure. The status quo of inaction and watered-down policy will remain unless we send a message showing our dissatisfaction. We want representatives that will be advocates for the public, not votes for the Speaker's agenda. I will be that advocate.

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.

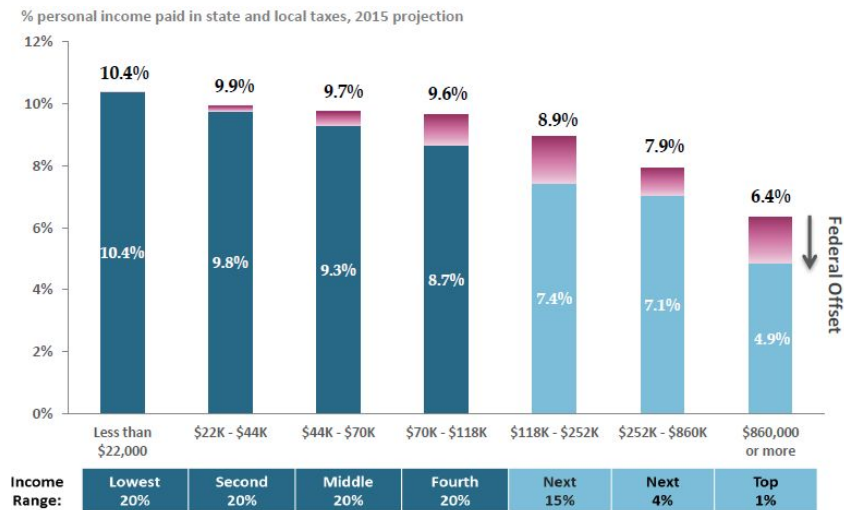
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.

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?*

Ted Steinberg: As the State House refuses to institute new revenue-raising measures, simultaneously delaying the implementation of others, it's our communities that suffer. The state must raise its revenue. We have an insufficient public transportation system, overcrowded classrooms that still use the funding formula from 1993 (which means we are investing in technology at the same rates as we did almost 30 years ago), shortages in healthcare spending, and still the legislature will not even consider new measures. There are innovative solutions to raising revenues without hurting the taxpayers' pockets. We should increase corporate taxes, implement pollutant taxes, support a well-regulated marijuana industry to collect sales taxes, and offer tax deductions on donations to the Commonwealth.

Budgets reflect priorities. Our State House found room in the budget for their own pay raises, but then approved cuts for MassHealth. I will prioritize a budget that provides proper services for the public.

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.).*

Ted Steinberg: Beyond my general outspoken advocacy, I wrote a piece published in the Boston Globe advocating for new sources of revenue and increased spending on crucial services.

Link: <http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/regionals/west/2018/02/02/should-any-increases-major-state-taxes-table-state-budget-talks-for-next-year/7oNPmhQFr1h82yjHz2h0RL/story.html>

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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I very much support the Fair Share Amendment. Massachusetts's flat income tax creates a regressive system. I support progressive taxation that redistributes wealth into important programs and services. The Millionaire's Tax will increase funding for education and infrastructure.

When increasing taxes, it's necessary to have a plan outlining where the money will go and what it will pay for. Redistribution of wealth can coexist with responsible spending, and it is clear the Fair Share amendment does this well.

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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I do not support the Sales Tax Holiday. The Commonwealth loses much needed revenue without increasing consumer activity.

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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Absolutely. I support these disclosures for transparency's sake and to hold our corporations accountable. Tax breaks are meant to serve a social benefit. We should make it easy to monitor their efficacy, whether the organization is supposed to fulfill a social purpose – educational programming, local job stimulation, etc. – or just supply employee benefits.

I also support repealing tax credits and requiring companies to pay back-taxes if they fail to uphold their obligations as entities receiving 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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Definitely. I believe all companies, whether they receive tax credits or not, should pay a living wage and provide proper benefits to employees. This also means not circumventing requirements with contracted workers and part-time employee plans.

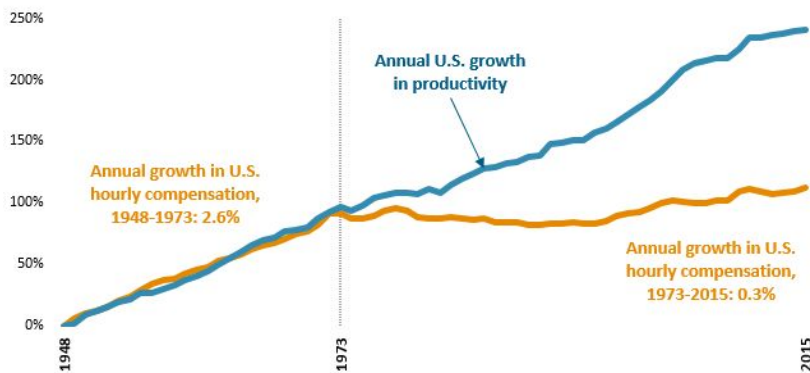
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

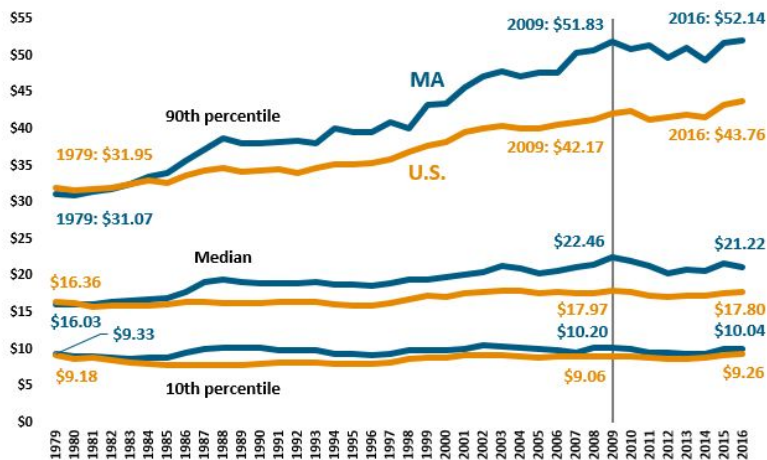
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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?

Ted Steinberg: To improve the economy and labor force stability, we want more than just jobs, we want well-compensated jobs. Paying a livable wage and providing benefits must be considered a cost of doing business. We cannot allow corporations to circumvent requirements to properly compensate their employees. This means prohibiting contracted employees from overtaking the work of a full-time employee and reducing incentives for companies to only hire part-time employees.

To increase good-paying jobs, we should enforce our compensation laws and invest in promising industries that will propel us into the 21st century like renewable energy. Investing in sustainable, renewable energy will create jobs, bolster our economy as a whole, and allow for increased spending on other areas of need like education and healthcare – areas where insufficient funding perpetuates opportunity gaps. Equal access to education and healthcare will reduce that gap.

Education technology is also promising, accommodating all learning styles.

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

3. **Increasing Wages.**

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I am a vocal supporter. A fulltime job should provide a livable wage. An economy in which someone has to work two, three, and sometimes four jobs to support a family is unsustainable.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Absolutely. As a bartender, I felt first-hand the issues with the tipped minimum wage. The structure makes little sense, allowing for daily compensation below the minimum wage, so long as each pay period amounted to the minimum wage rate. If I made \$15 an hour one day, I could be working below minimum wage the next day. That is unacceptable.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Definitely. Part of creating a modern minimum wage is ensuring it remains modern for years to come. We do not want to be back in this position in a couple years. Our minimum wage should grow with inflation.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Absolutely. No one should be forced to decide between taking family or medical leave and paying the bills. We owe it to our workers to protect their jobs and livelihood when extenuating circumstances and emergencies arise.

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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I do. We must continue to hold our employers accountable and ensure they pay fair wages.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I do, but I also do not want this to substitute learning environments that stimulate intellectual curiosity. Our youth should learn important, necessary vocational skills, just as they should learn more financial literacy, civics education, and lessons in consent. I would hate to see this take the place of history, STEM, foreign language, or art.

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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I support the Pacheco Law. Governments are not meant to run like businesses. Governments should not prioritize profits over people. Businesses look to cut costs and minimize spending. Privatizing services like the MBTA will not enhance the output. Quality of service will suffer along with the quality and quantity of jobs provided. To enhance our services, we need new sources of revenue and increased investment.

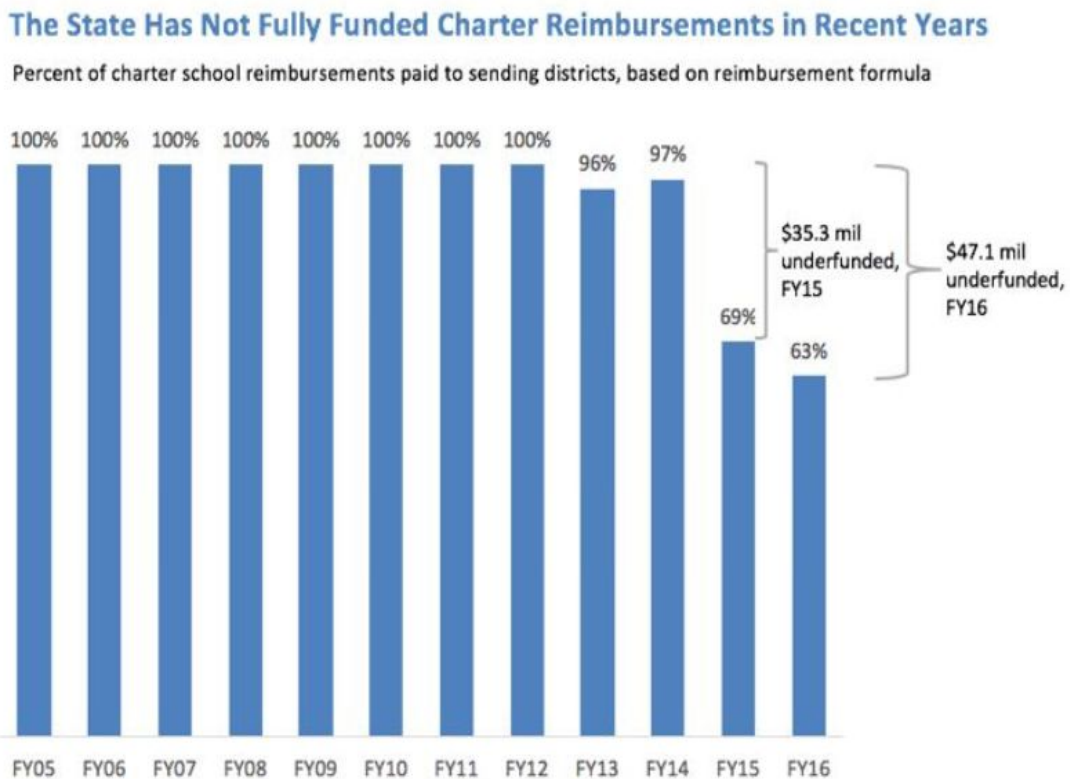
8. **Economic Democracy.** *Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?*

Ted Steinberg: I support this in theory. I will want to speak with more members of the business community before committing to a position. I would love to speak with members of Progressive Massachusetts about this as well.

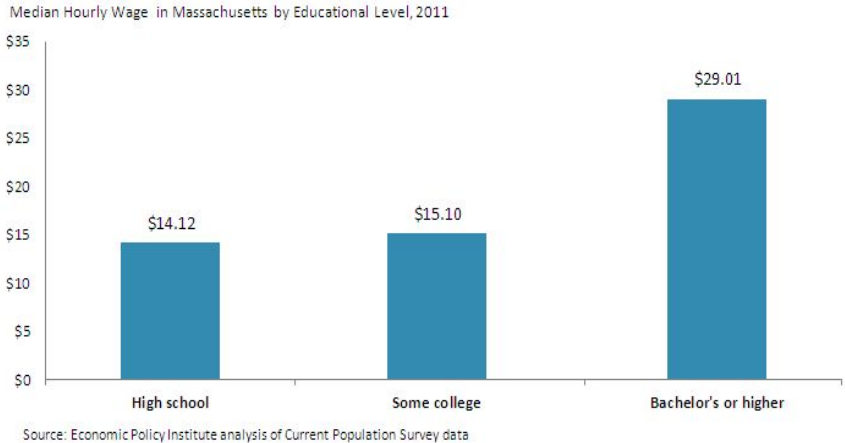
C. EDUCATION

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.

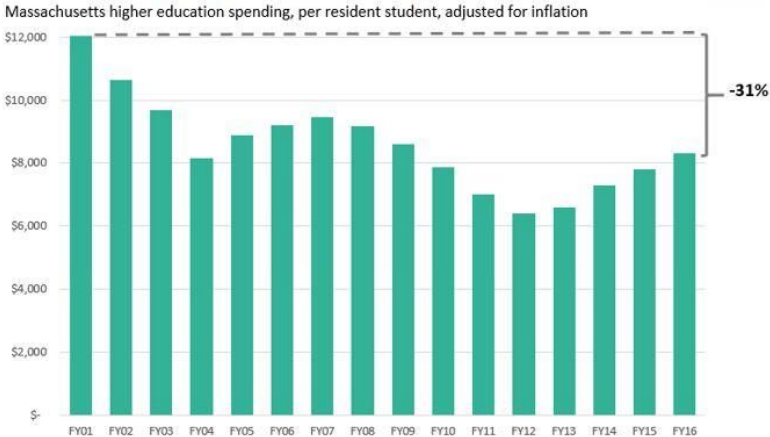


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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?*

Ted Steinberg: Education is the backbone of society and the conduit for social mobility. We must invest in our future leaders' success to prepare them to face 21st Century challenges.

While Massachusetts touts some of the best schools in the country, our system contributes to the growing opportunity gap. Education should be an equalizer, yet our outdated funding formula lets zip code dictate the likelihood of success. A rising tide lifts all boats. It's time for our schools to lift up all students.

Education reform must extend into higher education. The cost of college and graduate school should not deter people from obtaining an education. We cannot let tuition cost more than expected salaries. In the short term, we need to lock tuition prices so students can at least pay the same rate for their tenure at an institution. Long term, we need self-sustaining scholarship funds modeled after HOPE Scholarships.

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

Ted Steinberg: "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid." My teachers and mentors in this community saw that I was a fish. And they encouraged me to swim. Education has the power to truly shape a child and enable them to follow a passion. While studying Public Policy in Los Angeles, I taught debate and public speech to at-risk youth, encouraging these young, energetic fish to swim.

Every child has the potential to do amazing things. An equitable education system, that accommodates all learning styles, will allow more future leaders to reach their full potential. It takes a commitment to education from our elected officials – I am committed.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I worked on Universal Pre-K legislation as part of my job in the Pennsylvania State House. I look forward to bringing it to Massachusetts. Studies show that participating in Pre-K is a strong indicator of future success for a student, and the benefits extend to the families. With new children safe at school, parents will have more opportunity to work without having to pay for childcare out of pocket. Universal Pre-K adjusts our education system to fit modern needs.

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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Absolutely. I remember, even going back to my days at Hillside Elementary, my teachers would spend significant time focusing on MCAS. During these lessons, we would get the dreaded answer "that's not on the test." Teaching to a standardized test hinders student

intellectual curiosity and imposes misguided pressures on our teachers.

There is value in learning standardized testing skills. Standardized tests are still used for higher education admissions, certification exams, etc. But they should not be the root of our curricula and definitely not the guiding force in evaluating teacher performance. The best teachers adjust to the various learning styles of students. Standardized tests do not account for that.

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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I very much support this reform. Our budget formula has not been updated since 1993. Over the past 25 years, our education priorities have shifted. We should update the categories used to determine Foundation Enrollment, increasing equity across school districts. We should fix the circuit breaker funding formula to reward schools that provide Special Education rather than incentivize sending children to other districts. In an increasingly bi-lingual world, we must continue our investment in ELL and other language programs. All of this reform must come with newfound investment to reduce class sizes. Crowded classrooms and schools beyond their capacity diminish the returns on education. Students thrive with individualized attention. Massachusetts should invest in the resources to reduce student-teacher ratios.

Reforming Chapter 70 will also update our ability to equitably add technology to the classrooms, ensuring students that cannot afford their own laptops have the same opportunities for interactive research.

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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I was proud to vote for the cap.

- 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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I support this legislation. While Charter Schools can benefit the overall educational landscape with specialized curricula tailored towards student needs, we must hold them accountable in areas of disclosure and discipline, areas where many Charter Schools struggle, leading to low retention rates for minority students.

Increased accountability should extend to how Charter Schools can improve our public schools. Charter Schools are meant to generate productive competition. We can only ensure Charter Schools will make our public schools better if we force Charter Schools to share their curricula and prohibit

copyrighting that material.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Immigration status should not be a barrier to education. We must practice what we preach; we are a nation of immigrants.

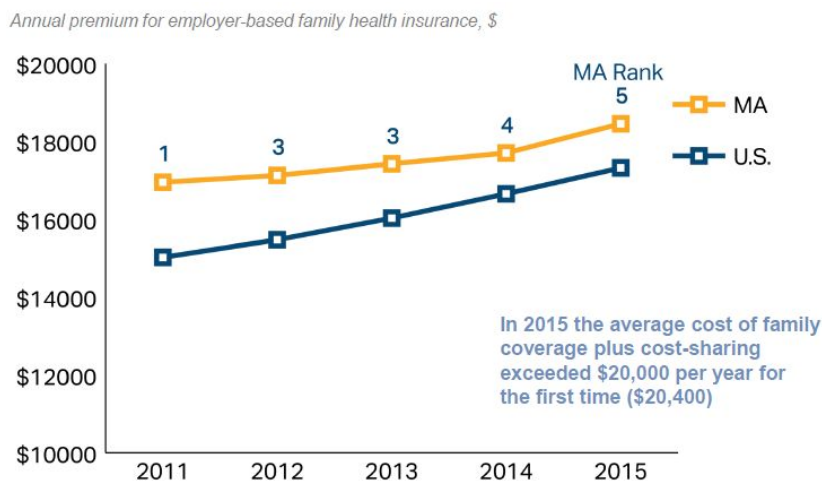
8. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** *Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?*

Ted Steinberg: Not entirely. I believe we should make community college free. And I believe we should invest in a pay-it-forward system that limits the burden placed on students. I will introduce a scholarship modeled off the self-sustaining HOPE Scholarships we see in some southeastern states. Under this plan, the student does not start paying for college until after they graduate. When they finish school, a percentage of their income (with the rate determined by length of payment plan) goes back into the HOPE Scholarship fund. With a monetary commitment proportional to their subsequent income, students will not face daunting debt upon graduation and this model encourages the state to invest in its students – as students succeed, the state gets more funding and schools rise in the rankings. Initial funding can come from redirecting money away from state lottery payouts.

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.*

Ted Steinberg: Healthcare is a human right. And “access to healthcare” is not the same as receiving healthcare. We need to make medical treatment affordable and accessible for all communities. It is time for a Single Payer system. No one should have to choose between paying the bills and going to the doctor. A healthy society benefits all of us, it should be a priority to keep people healthy.

We need creative ways to get healthcare into vulnerable communities. I will introduce legislation creating student loan repayment programs for medical professionals and social workers serving in areas

of high need.

For the opioid crisis, old solutions will not solve persisting problems. We need to modernize our approach, investing in better, safer pain-killing alternatives. We need to treat individuals who are addicted to the high of opioids differently than those who have a dependency on painkillers, and invest in long-term pain management.

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

Ted Steinberg: Whether it was organizing Gabby Giffords’s nine states in nine days Protect All Women Tour – which brought together community leaders, elected officials, and law enforcement to address the correlation between firearms and domestic violence – or writing questions for Congressman Boyle to use while defending Cecile Richards as she testified to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in 2015, I have and will continue to push forward new legislative solutions, and defend those that exist, related to healthcare.

At the University of Southern California, one of the schools targeted by the 2014 Department of Education Title IX investigations, I pioneered the first Sexual Assault Policy Task Force to rewrite the school’s code of conduct, modifying language to reduce stigma for claimants, and changing the investigation operations to diminish conflict of interest for school investigators.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I have made implementing Single Payer a focus of my candidacy. If we want to mitigate the costs of healthcare and our high premiums, we should enact Single Payer healthcare.

Supporting Single Payer means more than just introducing legislation then leaving it out to dry, not even mentioning the policy during speeches and community reports. It means pushing public conversation through town hall events and op-eds, holding hearings, lobbying for a vote on the House floor, and meeting with stakeholders to create financially viable solutions.

Single Payer will never happen unless we are all in. I am all in for Single Payer, as it represents the best path forward to fix our broken health insurance system. I will make sure I do at least one thing every day that brings us closer to enacting Single Payer.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Of course! We must remain vigilant to protect a woman’s right of autonomy and choice.

I vehemently oppose “Right to Know” (informed consent) laws, TRAP legislation, 20-week bans, and any proposals attempting to cut access to abortion.

I will introduce legislation that strengthens Massachusetts’s abortion rights. I will introduce legislation to allow women aged 16 and older to consent to abortion, fixing a burdensome loophole that forces

young women to go to our neighboring states. I will introduce legislation that requires our schools teach courses in consent, healthy relationships, and safe sexual practices (with an age-appropriate curriculum) because we need a more proactive approach against the epidemic of sexual assault and rape, especially on college campuses. I will introduce legislation that repeals unconstitutional, out-of-date anti-abortion laws.

I want to keep Massachusetts on the forefront of the battle for reproductive rights. It starts with strong 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?*

Ted Steinberg: I support this in theory, but would like to speak with more industry experts before committing to a position on this. I would love to discuss the impacts and specifics more with members of Progressive Massachusetts as well.

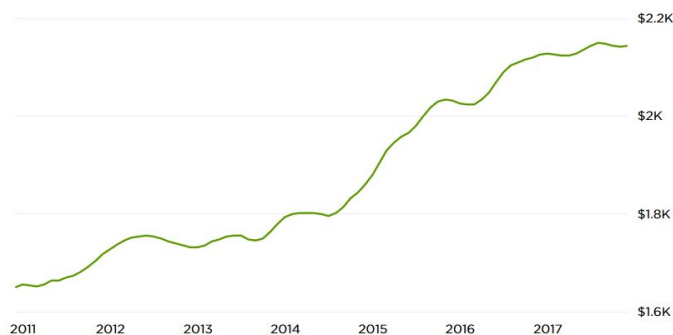
6. ***Prescription Drug Pricing.** Would you support a drug transparency law, like the one recently passed in California, that requires pharmaceutical companies to publicly justify steep price increases?*

Ted Steinberg: **Yes.** Absolutely. I worked closely with Senator Ed Hernandez who introduced SB 17 in the California State House. Companies should not be in the healthcare field to exploit those who need medical care. Forcing companies to justify drug price increases is a huge win for patients' rights as we look to even the playing field in the healthcare industry.

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?

Ted Steinberg: Massachusetts must address the shortage of affordable housing. Chapter 40B is a good start, but when towns can maintain affordable housing rates below 1%, the problem falls to other factors. Dover circumvents 40B by having no access to public transportation, and minimal access to major highways. Medfield lobbied to scrap an affordable housing project despite their 7% affordable housing rate. To increase efficacy of 40B, while simultaneously reducing pushback from those who do not see the inherent benefits of providing housing to those who need it, it will take increased transportation spending to extend access to more suburban areas. We should connect these communities to commuter rails and T stops with buses and shuttles. It may be difficult to reduce the distances for job opportunities, but we can make public transit the resource it should be.

For our rising homeless population, we should increase investment in housing voucher programs.

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

Ted Steinberg: As a consultant for affordable housing properties, I am intimately familiar with the challenges facing these developments. In my current job with Yardi systems, I help these properties comply with local and federal laws and fair housing requirements. I then look for creative ways to adjust their screening criteria to fill their occupancies, and help maintain resident retention. The biggest challenge for these properties, other than accommodating the years-long waiting lists, is helping residents access job opportunities with limited access to personal vehicles. I have advocated for diversified investment in our transportation system to include new access to trains, but also more long-distance bike lines, carpooling platforms, and other methods of travel that can connect people to employment opportunities.

3. **Funding.** Do you support increasing funding for affordable housing production (especially low-income housing units) and the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Absolutely. As property values continue to outpace economic growth, the shortage in available, affordable housing stock will only intensify. We should utilize all options to help people afford shelter. Increasing funding for affordable housing production should be coupled with other local investment. Merely providing housing is not enough. The Massachusetts Rental Voucher program is successful in providing a subsidy for a specific property, but we need more comprehensive, holistic solutions.

Increasing funding for affordable housing production through a transit-oriented planning lens is the best path forward. With housing units close to public transportation, or supplying ways to connect these developments with public transportation, we will address housing needs in areas that otherwise cannot support affordable housing units. Many suburbs that have not met the 10% 40B threshold have the space to support affordable housing units. We must also supply the proper infrastructure.

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?

Ted Steinberg: Yes. We cannot afford to lose the affordable housing units, and without pressure to keep the units affordable, developers will likely transition to market rate housing.

I worry that some municipalities will not require the units to remain affordable. We will need to develop incentives for the communities to want affordable housing units. By directing transportation investment towards affordable housing units, we will strengthen the efficacy of these developments while also providing tangible benefits for the town. Localities should want to attract affordable developments. Our State House should look for ways to gain town support rather than fight local boards. Investment in transportation will also address the concerns of residents who are fearful of decreased property values.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. First and foremost, banks should always act in good faith, regardless of the circumstance.

We should attack the issue of foreclosures from multiple angles. We should certainly push banks to pursue alternatives. Whether the solution is to refinance or create other alternative payment plans, we should try to limit foreclosures, as they hurt residents in both the short term and long term, impacting their immediate housing needs and jeopardizing their ability to get loans in the future.

We also need to protect the rights of those tenants who face illegal foreclosures. In the 189 th Session, the House voted to let banks clear titles of illegally foreclosed homes while also limiting litigation rights against banks that have engaged in illegal foreclosure practices. Banks will continue to take advantage of people if our State House keeps easing regulation and reducing accountability for their shady practices.

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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. We should be encouraging local boards to upgrade zoning by offering increased investment and cooperation in transit-oriented planning measures. The holistic approach to affordable housing, that includes enhanced infrastructure, will lead to more cooperation and less local resistance to affordable housing developments. Communities support investments into complete streets. Pairing grant funds with 40B and affordable housing developments will sweeten the pot for localities. It will also mitigate the barriers that prevent affordable housing developers from targeting more isolated, suburban communities that remain well below the 10% threshold.

We should also encourage inclusionary zoning, but we must prohibit discriminatory practices that require separate entrances and limited access to facilities for residents in affordable units.

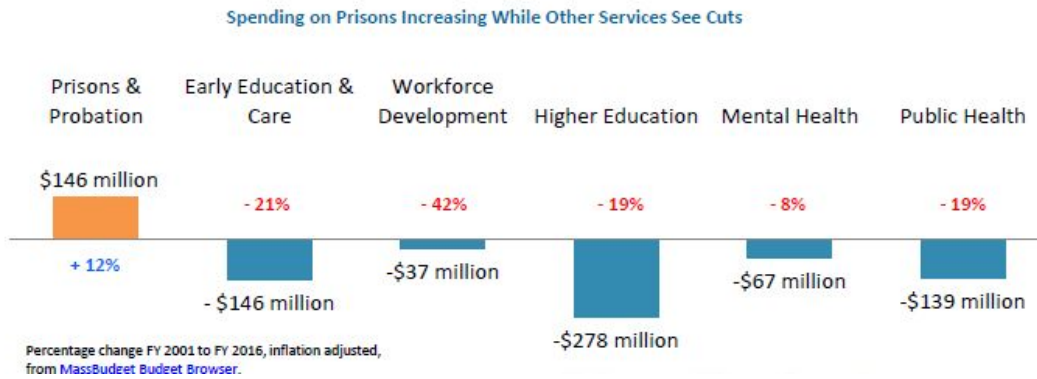
7. ***Combating Speculation.** Do you support imposing a graduated tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I would want to work out more of the details on tax rates, but I would approach these conversations from the position of finding ways to make it work. Vancouver recently enacted a real estate tax on properties over \$3 million. I will want to continue to analyze the effects. I definitely support using these taxes on affordable housing trust funds.

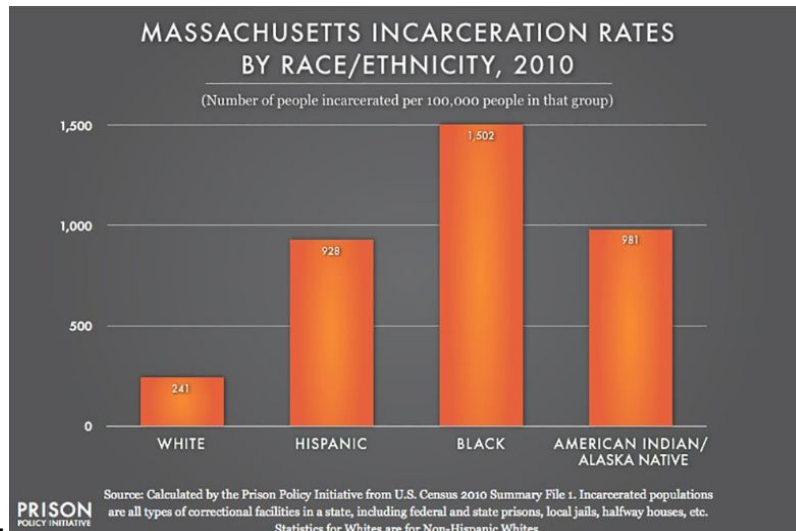
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

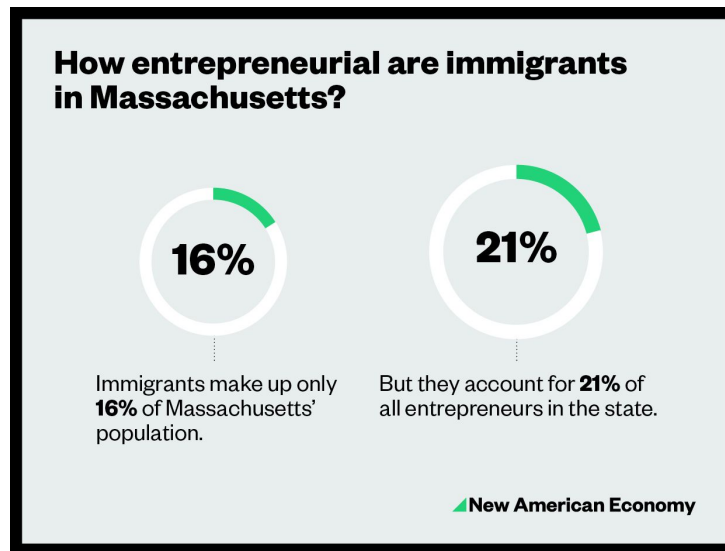
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

Ted Steinberg: Despite our liberal reputation, Massachusetts is not immune from attacks on civil rights, and has many laws on the books that perpetuate inequality. Our Commonwealth has a responsibility to treat everyone equally. We must enact laws that work to protect our vulnerable populations while amending and removing policies that target certain groups (intentional or through disparate impact).

In the Trump era, when dangerous proposals and rhetoric seek to intimidate and strip rights from minorities, we need representatives who will actively support equal treatment under the law. I pledge to be an ally that will fight on the front lines, never backing down in the face of opposition.

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

Ted Steinberg: My first experience in the world of social justice was working for Pride for All (now known as The Safe Zone Project). We conducted educational workshops that created safer, more conscious environments for schools and businesses. We focused on teaching inclusive language and helped organizations examine their codes of conduct, reforming policies that created disparate impacts. Many of our exercises centered around privilege in regards to race, gender, and sexual orientation, challenging the patriarchy's impact on workplace practices. I still consult for The Safe Zone Project.

With this background, and extensive coursework in Gender/Women's Studies at Connecticut College, I entered the world of politics determined to use my privilege as a white, straight, cisgendered male to advocate for disadvantaged populations in a society where white, straight, cisgendered males have the power. I have dedicated my life to using my privilege to make change.

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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I have been and will continue to be vocal in my support of these protections for

the trans community. I have been phone-banking with Freedom MA on Sundays and I am a member of the Progressive Needham Gender Identity working group. We need government officials who will fight alongside our trans family, friends, and neighbors at all times.

When legislators shy away from taking a stand for the transgender community, it sends a terrible message. The 2016 vote showed which representatives truly believe in civil rights for all Americans. Voting on the final passage is not enough. Failing to vote down the amendments that weakened protections, like the proposal that allowed for discrimination in locker rooms, perpetuates the harmful stigma against transgender individuals that has led to higher suicide, harassment, and bullying rates. We need our elected officials to walk the walk when they say they support the trans community.

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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. This is a no-brainer and I'm embarrassed Massachusetts is dragging their feet on this. The practice is inhumane, ineffective, and dangerous.

I will re-introduce this bill and heavily advocate for it to get a vote on the floor. I'm shocked representatives are not making more of a public outcry over conversion therapy and disappointed none of Needham's representatives in the House or Senate are sponsoring this legislation. I will be writing an op-ed piece on this for Pride month.

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*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I support eliminating all mandatory minimums. Pushing for a more rehabilitation-focused justice system means getting rid of any mandatory minimum, that should include drug convictions – even fentanyl. We should not criminalize addiction.

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

Ted Steinberg: I definitely support raising this threshold. I want to continue to study the proper new dollar amount.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I support this. I would like to have conversations about whether or not we should raise this age to 21, staying consistent with the new Criminal Justice Reform bill's provisions on sealing records.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I support much more investment in community-based alternative sentencing. This applies to primary caretakers and the children. Rehabilitation-focused sentencing will lower recidivism rates and reduce burdens on the families of those convicted.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I support this, especially given reports on the inequality of school discipline. Our schools treat white students differently than they do minority students.

Reducing school resource officer responsibilities will contribute to equal protection and equal treatment by race.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I support this. I am happy to see this was in the criminal justice reform bill.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Absolutely. If our criminal justice system is to rehabilitate, it means helping those who have served term get re-acquainted to life outside prison. I want to see more investment in education and training for those still inside our prisons as well.

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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Solitary confinement should only be used for those who pose harm to the rest of the inmate population, and even then, we must continue to reform the practice to reduce its harmful psychological effects, especially for at-risk populations. I support these solitary confinement reforms and call for more. The right to health does not end at the prison gate.

I believe in abolishing long-term solitary confinement. First and foremost, it is inhumane. The effects on prisoners can, in some instances, amount to torture. Over 20% of jail suicides came from inmates in solitary confinement. Then, for economic considerations, it also costs more, as it costs two to three times more to build supermax prisons than even traditional maximum-security prisons.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Self-regulation perpetuates self-protection and conflicts of interest. Our checks-and-balances should extend to all layers of government – police, the legislature, state agencies, everything. An independent review board for police shootings would be a productive step towards justice and reestablishing positive relations between our police and minority communities.

Opponents argue that others in the police force will have more experience and knowledge as to the training and situational considerations. But an independent review board will be able to conduct an analysis on the efficacy and potential need for reform of our de-escalation and restraint policies as they review the shootings.

Pew Center data shows only 31% of black Americans believe the police hold “officers accountable when misconduct occurs.” We need to enhance our institutions in charge of maintaining accountability, and it starts with creating independent review boards that will not have the pressures associated with judging colleagues.

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?

Ted Steinberg: Yes. As stated in the sentencing reform section, I do not support any mandatory minimums. We should continue to protect those who serve our communities, but not in a way that creates unequal treatment under the law.

Studies show many charges of assault on a police officer are given to those who claim police abuse – especially for minority defendants. We should be looking to places like Philadelphia for inspiration, where prosecutors are focused on justice, not winning cases and pursuing any charges that may stick. Superpenalties will not make our communities, or our public servants, any safer.

- 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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. We should not have to lobby our representatives to support legislation that challenges President Trump’s overreaching, unconstitutional agenda. I will be a vocal supporter advocating for the legislation to get to the floor for a vote. Sponsoring the bill is not enough. We need representatives that will stand up to House leadership and their continued tabling of this legislation. We should pass the bill right away in the next session. Regardless of whether or not amendments are added to the budget that limit spending for collaborating with federal agents and prohibit inquiries about immigration status, our laws should explicitly prohibit both.

- 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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Immigration status should not be a barrier to obtaining a license. That means immigrants, including those without documents, should be able to apply for a license or learner’s permit.

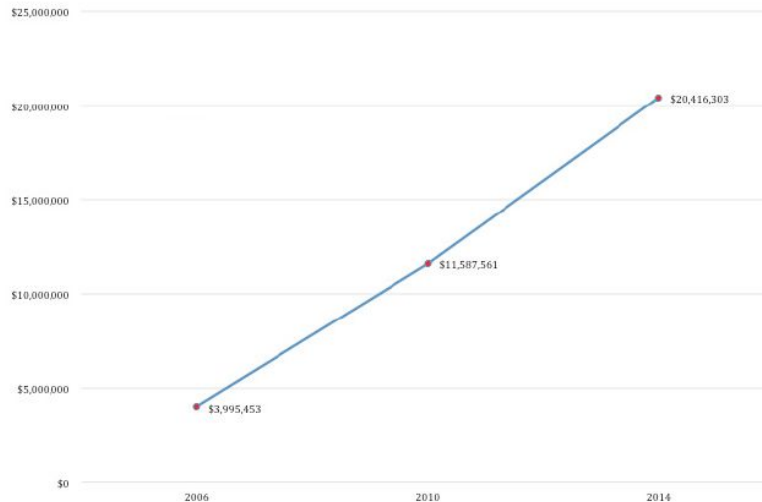
I would have voted against the Governor’s amendment to the REAL ID law in the 198th session.

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.*

Ted Steinberg: Good Government reforms are a foundational pillar of my campaign. If we truly want a government of the people, by the people, for the people, we must return it to the people.

With exemptions for the legislature on open meeting laws, and the tendency for our representatives to hide behind unrecorded voice votes instead of Roll Calls, it is no surprise that the Center for Public Integrity gives Massachusetts an F in Public Access to Information and a D in Legislative Accountability. I support ending these exemptions, making recorded votes the default, and challenging the culture of silence on Beacon Hill.

I will serve as a transparency-centric representative. I promise to publish a detailed voting log that

makes it easy for constituents to see what I did and why I did it, and allow people to come discuss disagreements. No one should wonder where their representative stands on the issues.

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

Ted Steinberg: The majority of my community organizing efforts have focused on promoting transparency, encouraging citizen engagement, and increasing access to voting. I organized routine voter registration drives (predominantly on college campuses and in underrepresented communities), conducted Citizen Engagement 101 seminars (covering how to lobby elected official and build productive coalitions), and provided assistance for Freedom of Information requests.

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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Absolutely. I support the decentralization of power in the legislature. Right now, the Speaker has too much control – representatives speaking their mind on the House floor is considered bold when it should be a norm. For the People’s House to truly represent the public good, we must reduce the leadership’s power. Committees should appoint their own chair, the Speaker should have term limits, and leadership positions should not be accompanied by gross salary hikes.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. This was an issue I also worked on as a staffer in Congress. If we are serious about taking money out of politics, it goes beyond overturning Citizens United.

A public financing system for elections would reduce the correlation between wealth and political influence. It would prevent people and special interest groups from buying support, and it would allow people from lower socio-economic classes to run for office on an even playing field. The barriers to entry for new political candidates in Massachusetts are already burdensome – leading to one of the worst contested race rates in the country. Public financing of elections would eliminate one of the most insurmountable barriers to running for office: the need to fundraise tens of thousands of dollars.

Public financing would also allow our elected official to focus on representing their constituents. With two-year cycles, representatives start fundraising on their first day in office. A public system would alleviate the pressure to focus on building a war chest.

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

- a. *Election day voter registration*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I support it and I will introduce this legislation. Pew Center data shows high rates (around 85%) of voting participation among those registered. Our low turnout rates come from barriers that prevent individuals from registering in the first place. We must get rid of barriers that prevent citizens from getting to the ballot box. Arbitrary timetables for registration deadlines only hinder our ability to create a government that represents the voices

in our communities.

b. Automatic voter registration

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Absolutely. We should make registering people to vote the default to cement the notion that our democratic society values citizen participation. I will introduce this legislation. States across the country are implementing AVR. Massachusetts must be next!

c. Expansion of early voting to “off-year” elections

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Definitely. I support early voting for off-year elections, local elections, any and all elections.

d. No-fault absentee voting

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I support no-fault absentee voting. I propose moving towards mail in ballots. The states with mail-in ballots have some of the highest voting turnouts in the country.

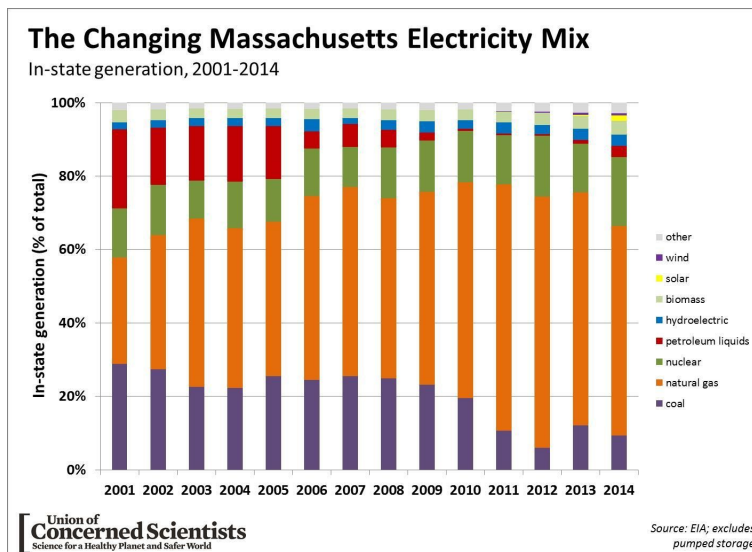
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

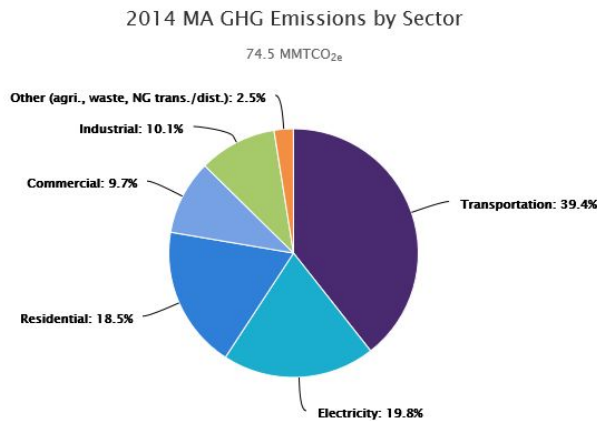
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and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

Ted Steinberg: If sustainability-minded policy is the future, then the future needs to be now. We need swift and immediate action to address the effects of climate change. The conversation has shifted. We must act with urgency to keep our planet habitable.

Massachusetts should be in line with California, New York, and other states that are leading the environmental movement. We should divest pension funds from fossil fuels, promote fuel-efficient vehicles, restore our net metering rates and solar subsidies, and set more ambitious goals for 100% renewable energy. Massachusetts used to be at the forefront, trailblazing clean water regulations and responsible sustainable planning. We have since fallen behind. As the Trump Administration intensifies their attacks on science and climate change mitigation efforts, we must meet them head on with a revamped commitment to environmentally conscious policymaking.

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

Ted Steinberg: While attending Connecticut College in New London, CT, I oversaw our office of sustainability and implemented an action-item focused agenda. We put composting bins in every dining hall, invested over \$50,000 in a new wind turbine that would power the campus, enacted a ban on disposable plastic water bottle usage at all college sanctioned events, and worked with local officials to add new stops for the local bus – reducing student dependency on personal vehicles. Environmental policymaking must be robust and multifaceted. I will bring the same principles, on a much larger scale, to my work in the State House.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Absolutely. While I am encouraged by new waste disposal facilities that can recycle plastic bags, the majority of these single use containers end up contaminated, and clogging our local recycling and transfer station. Considering many communities cannot afford to properly dispose of these plastic bags, a state-wide ban is in order. Only one in every 200 plastic bags gets recycled. These bags litter our oceans from the North Pole down to Antarctica. They are one of the 12 most commonly

found items in ocean clean ups.

Massachusetts must do its part to reduce our pollution footprint. By banning plastic bags – and also eliminating plastic water bottles from government sponsored functions – we will reduce our contributions to overcrowded landfills and limit contamination of groundwater. If we do not ban single-use plastic bags, we will regret it and remember this moment as we continue to clean them up for generations.

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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I absolutely support lifting caps on solar generation and reinstating subsidies for solar power on affordable and community housing. I would have voted against the legislation that implemented these regressive measures in the 189th session. We should be making every effort to encourage investment in renewable energy. Capping renewable energy credits and reducing net metering rates only fortifies our reliance on fossil fuels and stunts the growth of our renewable energy industries. When the Boston Globe reported a 20% reduction in our solar sector, they credited the vote on H3854. Sustainable energy sources will also make affordable and community housing projects more cost-effective in the long term.

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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I would support even more ambitious targets, although I understand the State House is already hesitating on these goals. Pursuing 100% renewable energy must be a priority for our Commonwealth. A yes vote on renewable energy is not enough. Our elected officials should be fighting to get this legislation to the floor. We know we will both want and need to wane off of fossil fuels. Every day we wait only creates more to compensate for. By setting a timeline now, we can develop the necessary infrastructure and ensure cooperation from the business community – an important partner as we look to install a more sustainable society.

I have submitted a letter to the editor to the Boston Herald (to be published on or around Earth Day) advocating for Massachusetts to join the states that have already moved forward with 100% renewable energy timelines.

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?*

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I support implementing this Environmental Justice order and will introduce the legislation to codify it into law. Our government entities should be operating with an environmentally conscious lens, looking for ways to reduce negative impacts wherever possible.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I support requiring Environmental Impact Reports before large-scale development projects to ensure our environment remains in the forefront of our decision-making. It will renew our commitment to sustainable planning. As a legislator, I would work to hold our agencies accountable for Environmental Justice and meet with the designated Environmental Justice coordinators to follow up on progress relating to their mandated strategies.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I will continue to vocally oppose gas pipelines. These dangerous pipelines increase the risk of damaging oil spills, contaminate our land, and maintain our reliance on fossil fuels. We should be doubling down on clean energy and investing in a sector that will propel us towards the future we need.

8. Carbon pricing.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. I do, and I will introduce it. A policy that encourages carbon reduction using fiscal incentives is the best way to get the business community involved in the fight to reduce our footprint. It will also serve as a helpful revenue boost.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Absolutely. I am excited to work out the details.

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

Ted Steinberg: Yes. Of course. The Fair Share amendment is a great start. As is the Ride Share tax that allocates funds to public infrastructure. But we can and should do more.

I do not believe the answer lies in raising costs to ride our public transit. We want to encourage usage. Enticing riders with lower rates should be our strategy moving forward.

10. 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?*

Ted Steinberg: No. I support more funding for regional transportation systems, but I do not support doing so in this way. Regional transportation requires coordination among all entities involved and significant state investment. Our district, and other localities in the Metro West area, should not have to fund this ourselves. Further, given the economic disparity among communities, our transportation system would likely mimic the inequalities found in across school systems.

I support investment in high speed rail, both across state lines and to connect eastern and western Massachusetts. This investment should come from the State House.

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.

Ted Steinberg: In this hyper-polarized political climate, we need more respectful, civil discourse. We may not always agree, but we should always be able to discuss policy. I sincerely ask you to give me a call (339-225-2399), I would love to talk about politics and your vision for the Commonwealth. If you agree with me and want to discuss strategies to advocate, give me a call. If you disagree with me and want to talk through our differences, give me call. Even if you do not plan on voting for me, give me a call. We make our country better when we engage in productive conversation. Right now, people do not always feel comfortable discussing politics, particularly with those who disagree. That needs to change, and it starts with a phone call.