

Jimmy Tingle

Statewide

**Lieutenant Governor
of Massachusetts**



Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts

Legislative District: Statewide

Party: Democrat

Website: <https://www.jimmytingle4mass.com/>

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Primary: September 4, 2018

Election: November 6, 2018

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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

Jimmy Tingle

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

Jimmy Tingle: I'm running for Lt Governor of Massachusetts to help shape, articulate, and deliver a message to voters about a Democratic Party which I believe is positive, progressive, and passionate. My top three priorities are:

(1) Healthcare as a human right: Working for single payer healthcare system with a "public option" as a stepping stone to Medicare for All by allowing the middle class to buy into MassHealth thereby expanding their benefits, reducing their premiums and increasing the operating revenue of MassHealth. Single payer, "Medicare for All" is the ultimate goal provided the public and business community support it and it is sustainable. Private insurance must still be available for those who want it

(2) Addressing the Substance abuse and opioid crisis with special emphasis on criminal justice reform and re-entry programs.

3) Improving and expanding transportation while reducing our carbon footprint. Including mass transit, auto, bicycle, pedestrian, ride sharing, electric and driverless cars, carpooling, etc. East/West public transit and North/South rail link

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

Jimmy Tingle: I have 30 years of experience as a professional comedian, commentator, theatre producer, small business person and democratic activist. I earned a master degree in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and have honed the communication skills necessary at 60 Minutes and MSNBC to communicate a compelling, progressive and inclusive message on behalf of Massachusetts democrats and unenrolled voters regarding our issues, our values, our message and our candidates.

I can help articulate and promote a newly elected democratic governor's agenda to the public, the legislature and to the municipalities in a persuasive and respectful way.

Aside from my professional experience my background and education have also uniquely prepared me for public service. I was born and raised in the culturally diverse city of Cambridge, Mass. My father bought our home with the GI Bill in the 1950's and my mother still lives there at age 90.

I attended Cambridge Public Schools and UMass Dartmouth. My brother Garrett and sister Ruth are public school teachers and my brother Robert is a union carpenter and general contractor. My personal experience with substance abuse as a family disease and my 29 years of continuous sobriety also uniquely qualify me to help address the opioid and substance abuse crisis facing Massachusetts. My experience as theatre producer/owner in Davis Square, Somerville (Jimmy Tingle's OFF

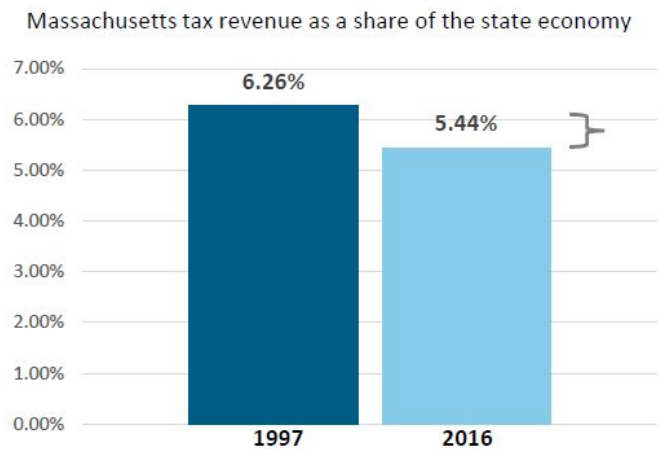
BROADWAY) afforded me the opportunity to witness first hand how the both the arts and public transportation can contribute to the economic health of a community. Bringing hundreds of people into Davis Square per week our theatre won Best Alternative Theatre by Boston Magazine in 2007 and Business Neighbor of the Year 2006, Powder House Awards from the Somerville Chamber of Commerce. The extension of the Red Line into Davis Square, Somerville demonstrated the role public transportation can play in transforming a neighborhood lacking in investment into a destination spot of multiple entertainment and dining choices.

I would bring to the LT Governor's office an entrepreneurial work ethic and life experience that would benefit the cities, towns and citizens across the state of Massachusetts. My job would be to help communicate the Governor's agenda to the legislature, general public and municipalities around the state and act as an ambassador for our progressive platform.

A. REVENUE AND TAXATION

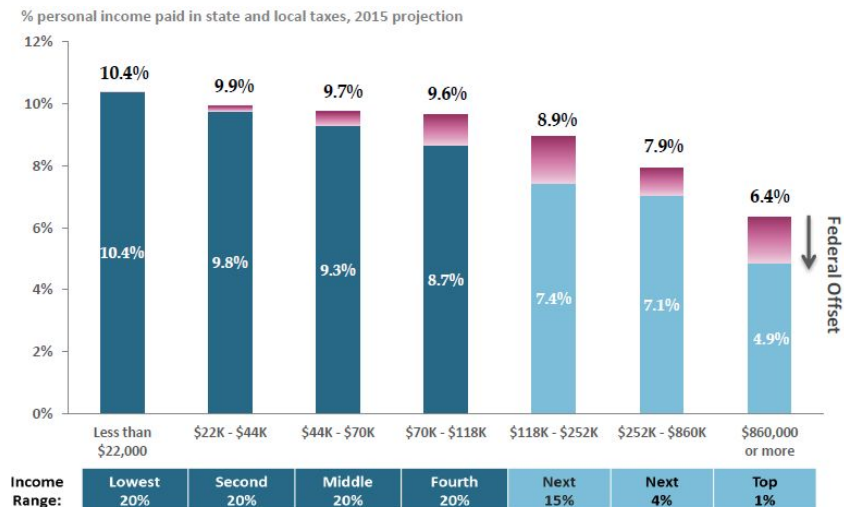
Despite the label of “Taxachusetts,” Massachusetts ranks 22nd among states in terms of state and local taxes as a share of total personal income and below the national average. Between 1977 and 2012, Massachusetts reduced state taxes by more than all but one other state. Because of income tax cuts enacted 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.



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?*

Jimmy Tingle: I am a strong supporter of the Millionaire's Tax, which would raise revenue by adding a 4% tax on incomes over 1 million dollars. My support for the Millionaire's Tax comes from my belief that the middle class needs and deserves a break, and that the wealthiest among us should do their part to support important education and infrastructure programs. I would encourage creativity in raising revenue such as tolls coming into Mass at every opportunity, increasing the gas tax, the alcohol tax and the state being more entrepreneurial by retaining ownership and leasing public land. Also using state funds to repair old buildings and infrastructure with organized labor training and teaching young people the skills of the trades and putting people to work. I would consider implementing an import tax in Massachusetts for companies who moved offshore yet sell their goods and services here in Massachusetts (Need to check legality of this idea)

I advocated for the passage of the expanded Bottle Bill ballot initiative which I saw as environmentally important but also a revenue enhancer for the state and the consumer with a 5 cent deposit for plastic bottles and cans. (see article below WBUR Cognoscenti)

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.).*

Jimmy Tingle: I advocated for the expanding the Bottle Bill to include a 5 cent deposit on plastic containers like bottled water.

<http://www.wbur.org/cognoscenti/2014/11/03/vote-yes-on-ballot-question-two-bottle-bill-jimmy-tingle>

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I support the Fair Share Amendment.

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: It depends on the state of the economy that particular year. If it helps consumers that's good if we cannot afford the loss of tax revenue that's bad--depends on the year and our financial health.

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I support this measure.

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I believe all employees should receive a living wage and good benefits, especially when the state is helping them out with tax credits.

7. **Federal Tax Overhaul.** *The Dec. 2017 Republican tax overhaul disproportionately and negatively affects the ways that states like Massachusetts raise revenue. What proposals do you support to blunt this impact and its exacerbation of the regressivity of our existing tax code?*

Jimmy Tingle: * Need to do more research * Gas tax, Alcohol tax; Transponders/tolls on autos entering Massachusetts; Innovative entrepreneurship with the state investing in revenue producing projects and new technologies that the state would own and be entitled to a proceed of the profits the same way venture capital firms do.

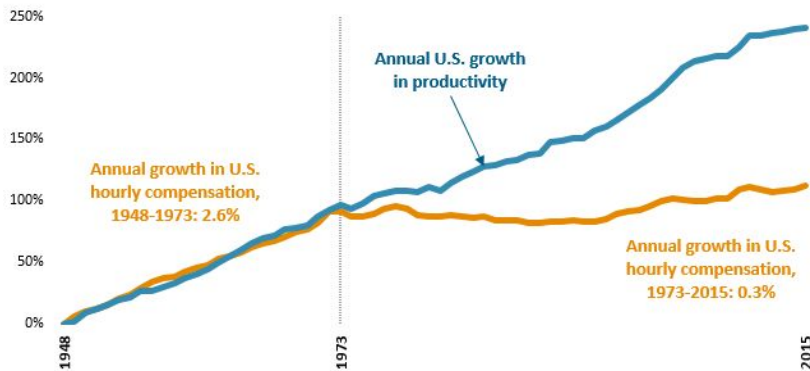
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

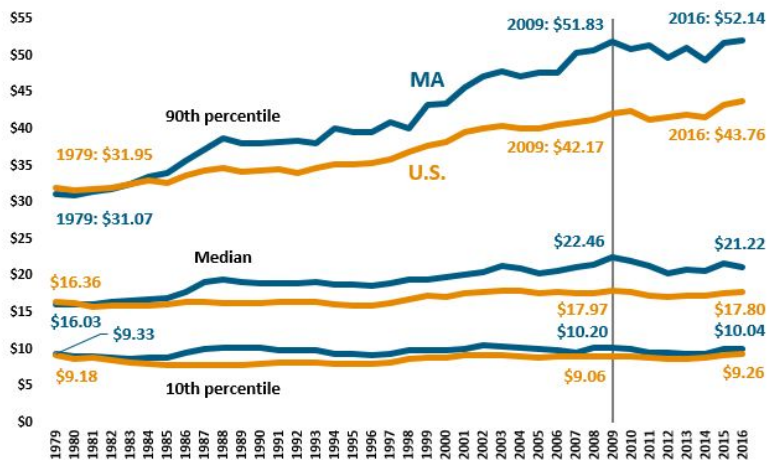
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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? Which sectors do you see as having the greatest potential? How do you view wealth and income inequality, and what would you do about it, if anything?

Jimmy Tingle: Educational opportunity is one very important component to closing the income inequality gap. Educational opportunities starting with early childhood education, K-12, low-cost or free college and technical and trade education. Reducing the barriers to entry so young people can follow their instincts and areas of interest without incurring thousands in loans and debt. We need plumbers, electricians, carpenters as well as scientists and engineers and teachers. Promoting the ARTS in schools so people can follow their dreams be it filmmaking, writing, acting, etc., again without incurring debt. If more people were able to do what they love to do, we would have happier and more productive workforce. As a young comic just starting out there was NO barrier to entry for my entire generation of aspiring comics such as Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld--just open mic nights, which were free and where people could develop their crafts. I think we need expanded opportunities for all of our industries and the educational institutions that support those industries.

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I support raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I support indexing the minimum wage to 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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I support initiatives to make paid family medical leave a reality. I believe employers should be required to offer ample time to those employees who must take off time to address serious health issues or to take care of a newborn or sick family member. No one should have to choose between their paycheck and the wellbeing of themselves or their family members.

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. Massachusetts is listed among states with the most income inequality, making it necessary that businesses are held accountable for wage violations. Subcontractors deserve just compensation for the amount of time and work they have dedicated to a business. Wage violation is a common problem that spans all industries. Holding businesses responsible will increase transparency between workers and employers to ensure that both are on the same page and that workers are not

taken advantage of.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I support greater reinvestment in youth employment and vocational training programs. I believe that providing them job opportunities will help them realize the satisfaction of earning their own money. They will gain knowledge and skills they can later apply to their future careers. By committing to our youth, we are committing to a better future for America.

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. It is important that the jobs of government employees are being protected and they are being paid a livable wage, especially if their payment is drawn from state funds. Reinstating the Pacheco Law would return certain protections for union employees and ensure that their voices are being heard. This statute also safeguards taxpayers from additional expenses that may come with privately contract work.

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes.

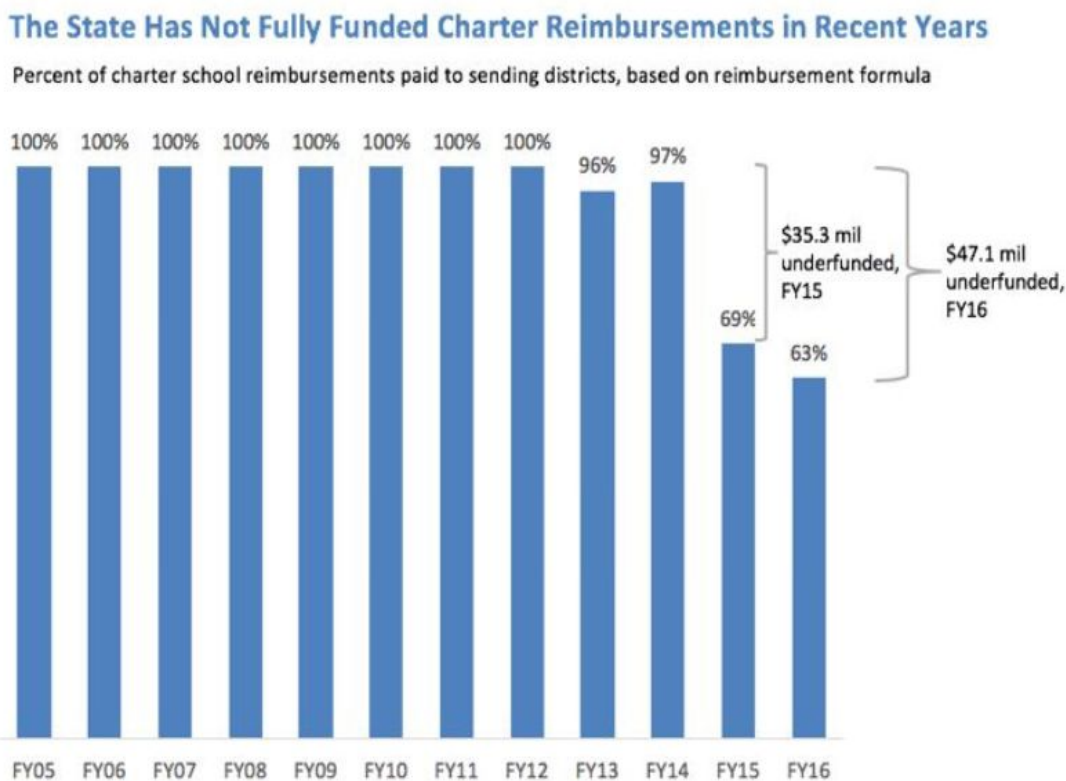
9. **Cannabis Industry.** *What is your vision for how the new state cannabis law should be implemented, and what steps would you take to ensure equitable access to opportunities for communities of color in the new industry?*

Jimmy Tingle: I believe that allowing equitable access for all to this industry is important to its growth and success. I would work with the Cannabis Control Commission to ensure that the industry is regulated to promote safe and responsible practice. I also believe profits from this industry and the alcohol industry could be earmarked for substance abuse treatment. The same with casinos and gambling addiction.

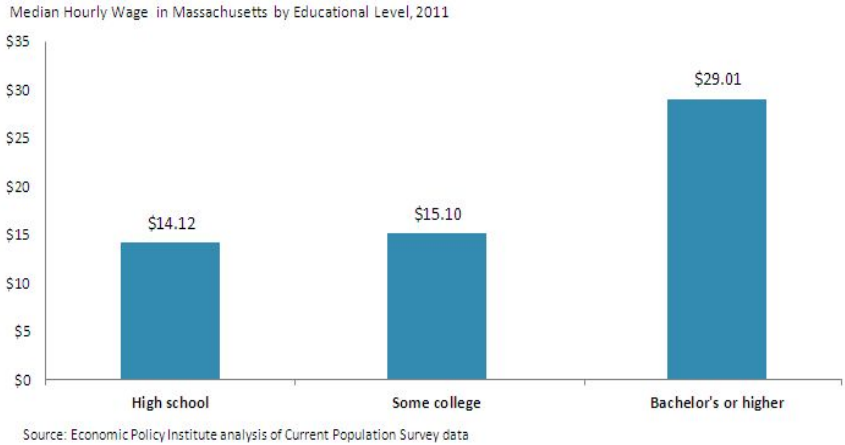
C. EDUCATION

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.

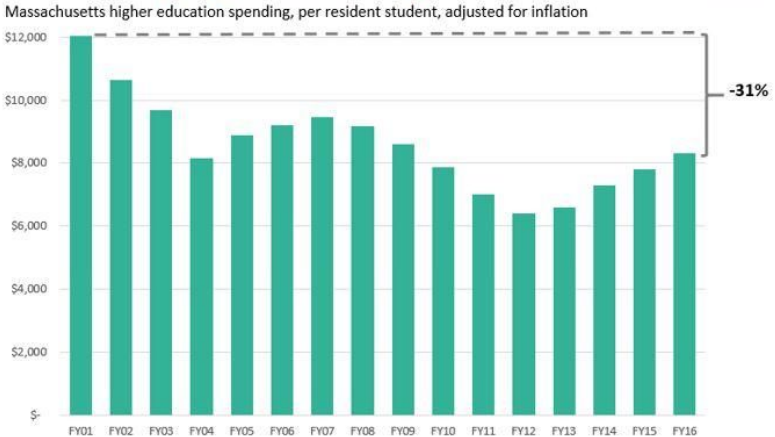


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Educational opportunity is very important component to closing the income inequality gap and helping people to fulfill their human potential. Educational opportunities starting with early childhood education, K-12, low-cost or free college and technical and trade education. Reducing the barriers to entry so young people can follow their instincts and areas of interest without incurring thousands in loans and debt. We need plumbers, electricians, carpenters as well as scientists and engineers and teachers. Promoting the ARTS in schools so people can follow their dreams be it filmmaking, writing, acting, etc., again without incurring debt. If more people were able to do what they love to do we would have happier and more productive workforce. As a young comic just starting out, there was NO barrier to entry for my entire generation of aspiring comics such as Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld--just open mic nights, which were free and where people could develop their crafts. I think we need expanded opportunities for all of our industries and the educational institutions that support those industries.

Private education and charter schools are fine with respect to parental choice too as long as the tax payers are not being required to fund them and funding for public education is not reduced. My son for example went to BC High Jesuit school because of my strong belief in their spiritual mission of social justice and "men for others" but as parents we paid for it.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Set up scholarship in my parents name at my alma mater UMASS Dartmouth, have done several fundraisers and events on behalf of public schools and scholarships.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Early childhood education, strong K-12 education, far lower costs for college and technical education

More funding, not less, is often the determining factor when it comes to public education and closing the achievement gap. Many students need MORE funding and attention not Less funding and attention. Tutoring is a highly effective way to engage students one on one in a more relaxed and less competitive atmosphere. Lower student /teacher ratio has also proven to be effective in giving more students more individual attention. I am a strong supporter of career centers, more affordable or free higher education and furthering adult education. I believe everyone should have the tools available to them to learn. It is so unfortunate in our society that frequently minorities are the ones who suffer economically simply because they couldn't afford to go to college or further their careers. It is a tragedy when learning is postponed or not possible due to finances. I am going to do everything I can to close that gap and make sure everyone has access to higher education.

4. *Universal Pre-K. Would you support creating universal, free Pre-K, accessible to any resident of*

Massachusetts, integrated into the public school system?

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. The time period that Pre-K spans over in a child’s life is a crucial developmental period. All children should have access to early education so that each child has an equal shot at excelling in the classroom. Preschool and kindergarten should no longer be a luxury, rather, early education should be seen as a necessity.

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

Jimmy Tingle: There should be a regulated higher standard for the achievement levels of students, teachers, schools, and districts. However, this is not to say that MCAS promotes the correct standard. MCAS pressures teachers to teach to the test, which doesn’t help the students grow and creates an environment that values a score over other important learning opportunities. Standardized testing also reportedly causes more students to drop out of high school, and the minimum threshold for proficiency raises each year, which unfairly labels schools as incompetent. The MCAS also caters to those students and schools who are more socioeconomically well off, which makes the playing field uneven for students who live in economically depressed districts. If we continue to enforce the use of standardized testing, we must first make comprehensive changes to the test itself and the system in which it operates.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I support changes that will help level the playing field of districts throughout Massachusetts. Lynn and Boston do not even come close to the benefits that Wellesley and Winchester consistently have. On average, the majority of ELL students within the state go to schools in districts that are either underfunded or districts that do not allocate more money to the needs of those students. Class sizes must also be reduced in schools that, on average, score lower than their counterparts. Extra-curricular programs can’t be forgotten with all the funding that must go towards children and schools that especially need extra help. Extracurriculars are an important part of the curricula and should be treated as such.

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

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I support keeping the cap on charter schools because it ensures that struggling public schools are able to receive the funding that they need.

- 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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I think that both charter schools and public schools should be held to the same disclosure and disciplinary standards especially since both receive funding from the state. Charter schools should be required to demonstrate that their academic standards match those of public

schools to ensure that students are receiving an adequate education.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. Those undocumented students, like those who are citizens, deserve the right to pay in-state tuition costs. Undocumented potential students and their families come to the US and more specifically the state of Massachusetts to better themselves and our collective community. Why would we hinder their efforts to do so? By giving undocumented students the financial aid they deserve, we create a more educated and better society.

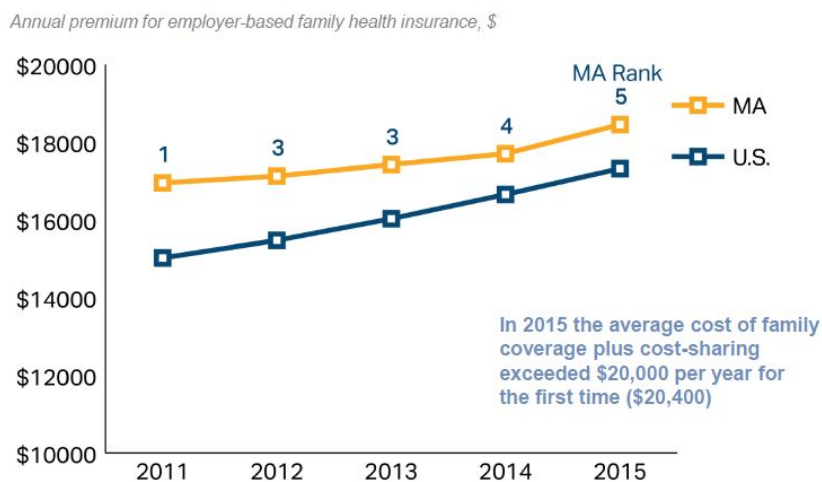
9. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** *Would you support making tuition (and mandatory curriculum fees) free at public colleges and universities?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. Universal higher education helps to solve other critical global issues. The outcomes of a universal higher education system would include a healthier environment, more scientific innovation, and a stronger economy. While it is a lofty idea, universal higher education is something that we should strive for.

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.*

Jimmy Tingle: Everyone should have access to quality, affordable healthcare. As someone with a personal connection with substance abuse, I know how the system does not always work in the best interest of those in need. I would work tirelessly to expand affordable and efficient access to Massachusetts' world class healthcare facilities so that all our citizens can get access to the care they need.

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

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

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I would support legislation to enact a single payer healthcare system provided it has public support and is sustainable. Private insurance should also be a choice if citizens prefer that option. I also envision a Public Option” as a stepping stone to single payer. Allowing middle income earners who do not qualify economically to “buy into” MassHealth. Reducing their premiums, increasing their benefits and building up the revenue in MassHealth.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I support women’s right to choose, and would support all legislation that eases access to safe abortion care.

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I support the authorization of dental therapists in Massachusetts because it would ensure greater access to dental care. It will act as an alternative for those whose conditions do not necessitate a dentist’s expertise. It would also expand the job opportunities for those seeking employment in the field of dental care.

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I would support a drug transparency law in Massachusetts. By requiring pharmaceutical companies to publicly justify steep price increases allows the public to have a better understanding of what they are paying for. It ensures that each price increase is just, and that the company is not taking advantage of its customers. This statute would also give the public more information, allowing them to make more informed decisions regarding their choice of pharmaceutical company.

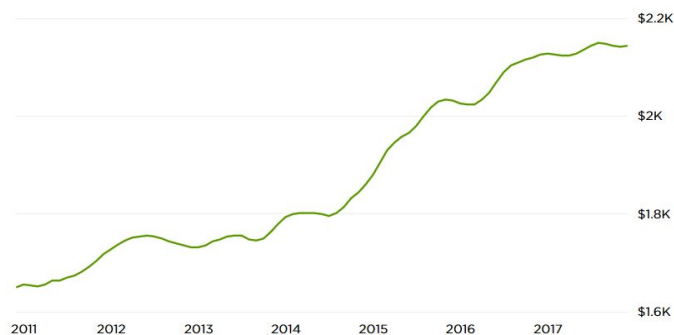
7. **Mental Health.** *What will you do to build a comprehensive mental health care system that includes sufficient funding for the Department of Mental Health and an effective and expanded mental health training and response program for first responders and police?*

Jimmy Tingle: Work with the Governor and legislature and municipalities to expand access and affordability of Healthcare and allow more people to buy into MassHealth

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?

Jimmy Tingle: Housing like healthcare is a Right. I would encourage 10-20% affordable housing statutes in cities and towns across the commonwealth for new development and maybe use tax incentives to property owners to rent at below market prices to those people in need.

We need an overall plan for the commonwealth that expands public transportation, increases affordable housing and allows cities and towns to encourage businesses to locate in their districts through incentives like reduced taxes or other more innovative and attractive methods yet to be determined.

Addressing homelessness requires a More comprehensive approach that includes more individual attention. It is very complicated issue. On the obvious side of the equation there are often issues with mental illness, need for Substance abuse treatment, job training, more individual attention, housing they can live independently in. helping them to find work, community support, family support.

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 affordable housing production (especially low-income housing units) and the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. As a Lt. Governor, I will make sure that this region receives the state funding necessary to meet the demands of its residents. By continuing to seek out and develop underutilized land in our community, we can tackle homelessness, provide affordable housing, and increase the amount of money coming into the state of MA..

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?

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. Because Massachusetts is such an expensive state to live in, I believe it is important that cities and towns have the authority to require apartments remain affordable even after contracts under 13A expire. It is clear that the need for affordable housing is great and I believe that providing Massachusetts residents with options for affordable housing will reduce economic inequality and lead to future economic prosperity for the state.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I support the requirement for banks to discuss alternatives to foreclosure with homeowners. A home is a valuable to a family and taking that away without seeking any other alternatives does not honor our commitment to our citizens. Foreclosure should be the last possible option. If banks proactively negotiated with homeowners, they would likely reach a conclusion other than foreclosure that would preserve the interests of both the homeowners the banks.

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?

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. Transit-oriented and walkable communities are an important catalyst to economic development. I am strongly in favor of any reforms at a state or local level that facilitate affordable housing and growth of local business.

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?

Jimmy Tingle: Not Sure need more information

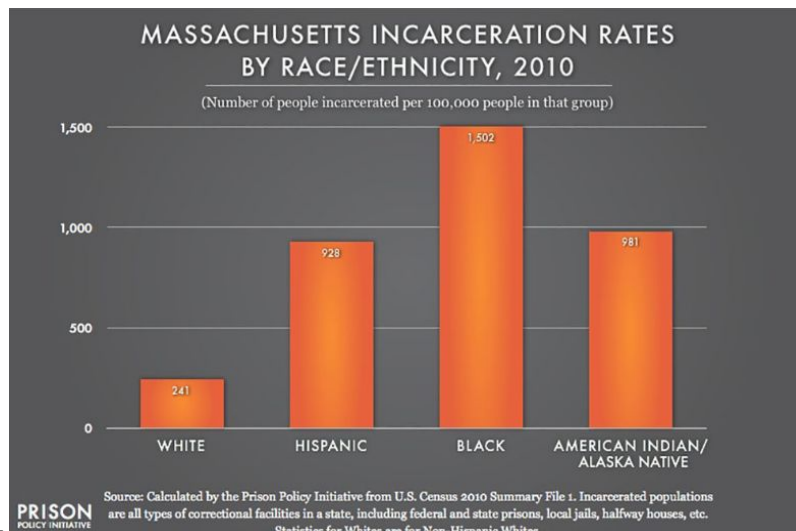
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

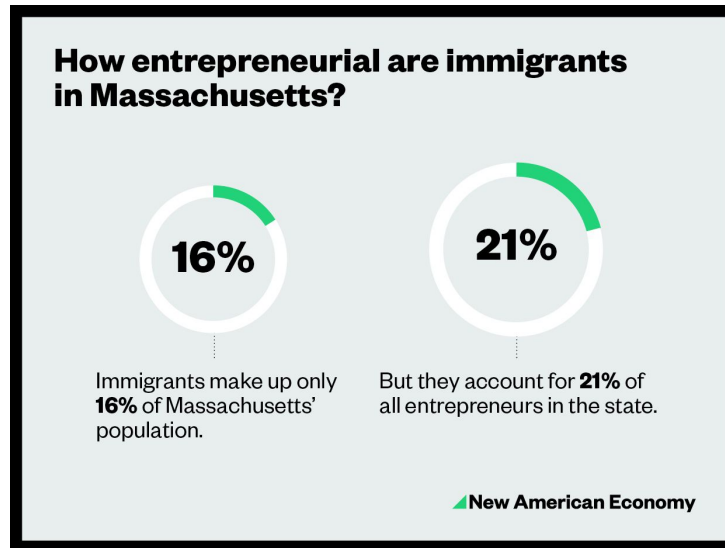
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

Jimmy Tingle: I believe that creating an equal playing field for all races, ethnicities, and genders is an important part of working in government today. Social issues have come to dominate the national conversation, making it imperative for us to identify and eliminate perceived injustices. This means addressing injustices embedded in the justice and education system, being an advocate for minority and oppressed groups, and rectifying the harm that unjust policies have done unto said groups. Education, honest dialogue, willingness to see other people's points of view are all critical to creating a more fair and just society. Engaging publicly with people of goodwill.

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

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I believe that the protection of transgender individuals in all aspects of life, not solely public accommodations, is important. They are just as much of our society as the cisgendered majority, so it follows that we work towards protecting their rights with the same fervor as we would with anyone else.

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. Conversion therapy is an outdated and unethical practice that is rightly banned in our neighboring states. It is not only a violation of LGBTQ rights but human rights as well. I would support the ban of using conversion therapy in Massachusetts.

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*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. It is important that more efforts are made to reintegrate formerly incarcerated individuals back into society.

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. Solitary confinement in extended periods of time has been proven to be harmful to the individual. It is important to note that despite being incarcerated that basic human rights should be honored, especially for at-risk populations.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. In the past five years, there have been many cases of prominent cases of police brutality. I support the establishment of an independent review board for police shootings. As an independent review board, the investigation would not be subjected to certain biases or pressures that one done through the precinct might be.

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?

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I support legislation that would provide judges with discretion to take cases on a case by case basis.

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes.

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

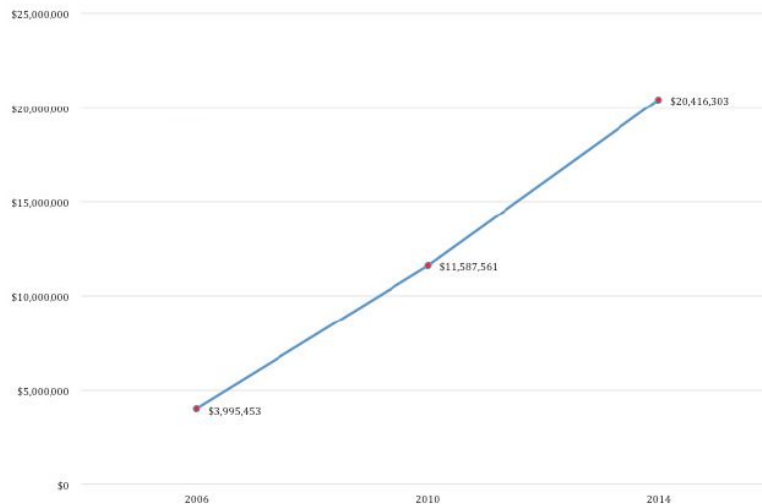
Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I support the Safe Driving Act. Immigration status should not be a barrier to obtaining a driver's license, which many people need to ensure their jobs and economic stability. Additionally, immigration status does not limit how much people can contribute to our community, and everyone living in Massachusetts should have the opportunity to live up to their potential without undue barriers. I also think we need to connect employers to the immigration issue and not put all of the burden on the undocumented. Employers need to come out of the shadows too and support their employees.

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

Jimmy Tingle: I worked on CLEAN ELECTIONS campaign in 1990's and 2002 and was a solid and engaged supporter of the law. I also oppose the Citizens United ruling.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I am a strong believer that there is too much private money in politics. We need to reform our system so campaigns can sustain themselves on public funding, giving voters the ability to control donations so that private funds do not get in the way of democracy. I support legislation that would improve our public financing system for elections.

5. **Voting.** *Do you support the following policies to increase voter participation?*

a. *Election day voter registration*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I support Election Day Registration because our democracy works best when all people can easily vote.

b. *Automatic voter registration*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I would support Automatic Voter Registration. As stated in the previous answer, I firmly believe that we should encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote, and make the registration and voting process as available and hassle-free as possible.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes

d. *No-fault absentee voting*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes

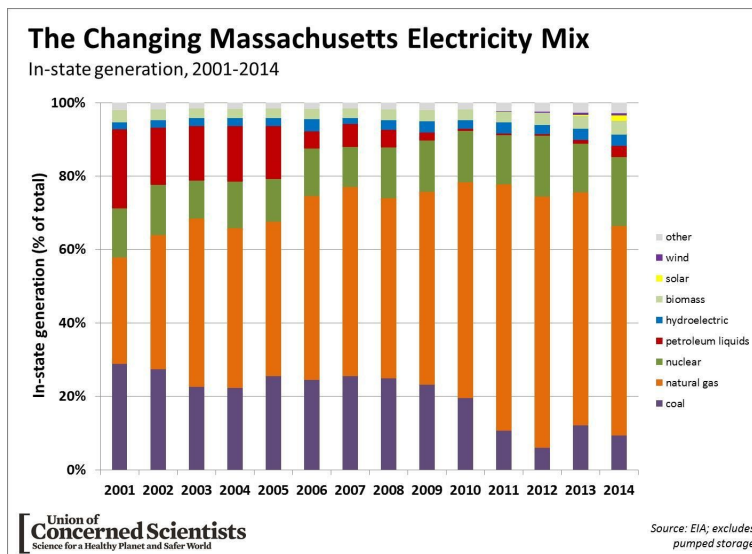
H. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

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.

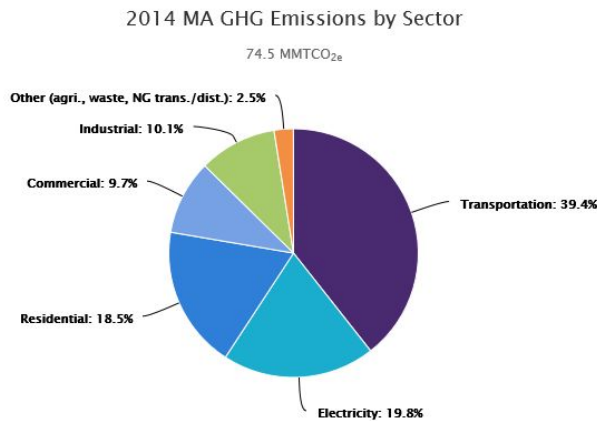
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and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

Jimmy Tingle: I support a carbon-free transportation and energy system as the future of transportation and energy in Massachusetts.

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

Jimmy Tingle: I worked on the bottle Bill legislation 1980's and most recently 2014.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I believe that this ban would be a major step towards integrating more sustainable behavior into daily lives of Massachusetts residents. Single-use shopping bags are a large contributor of non-biodegradable waste that is currently affecting the Earth. This initiative could drastically reduce the amount of waste that is produced.

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. I am a strong advocate for solar and other sources of alternative energy. There is a nonprofit organization called GRID out west that works with local and state government to provide free installation of solar panels for low income homeowners. I would love to see something like that replicated in Massachusetts.

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: 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 implement the 2014 EO?*

Jimmy Tingle: Yes

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. The expansion of gas pipelines throughout the state detracts from our goals of creating a greener state. By investing in solar, wind, and other forms of sustainable energy, we can serve both MA residents and our planet more responsibly.

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes. But we need to figure out right balance so we don't put companies out of business.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Yes.

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

Jimmy Tingle: Expansion to all parts of the state; increasing dependable service; reducing carbon footprint

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?*

Jimmy Tingle: 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.

Jimmy Tingle: I have stood up and spoken out on behalf issues and candidates advocating for improved race relations, gun safety, healthcare, campaign finance reform, LGBTQ rights, environmental sanity and substance abuse, to name a few. I have been heavily influenced by my catholic upbringing, the teachings of MLK and the spiritual principles common to the world's major religions, that focus on "feed the hungry, house the homeless, heal the sick and welcome the stranger." To this I would add, "Fix the T (and our regional transit system)."

I am running for LT Governor to communicate the values of a Democratic Party that is rooted in progress and prosperity for everyone in the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As we work to help everyone fulfill their potential as individuals, we succeed in fulfilling our collective potential as a society.

END QUESTIONNAIRE