

Dave Murphy

**Hampshire, Franklin
& Worcester**

State Senator



Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: State Senator

Legislative District: Hampshire, Franklin & Worcester

Party: Democratic

Website: www.DaveMurphyforSenate.com

Twitter:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/davemurphyaw

Other Social Media: www.linkedin.com/in/davemurphyus

Primary: September 4

Election: November 6

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Introduction: Progressive Mass

About

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

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

Membership

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

Dave Murphy

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

Dave Murphy: I am running for the State Senate to continue Senator Stan Rosenberg, Representative Ellen Story, Peter Kocot, John Scibak and Stephen Kulik’s legacies of effective, progressive leadership. We need someone in the Senate who understands the district and knows how to get things done on Beacon Hill. My top 3 priorities are to secure the districts’ budget priorities; to increase funding for education from pre-kindergarten through college; and to promote high-quality, affordable health care for all with a single-payer system.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

Dave Murphy: I worked for Governor Mario M. Cuomo in New York City and then for Senator Edward M. Kennedy on Capitol Hill. When I worked for Senator Kennedy, I dealt with criminal justice policy and acted as the Senator’s primary liaison to Massachusetts mayors and law enforcement officials. I traveled throughout the Commonwealth meeting with mayors, police chiefs, district attorneys and other law enforcement officials. In 1994, I took time off from the Senate and worked on Senator Kennedy’s campaign in the district. Then, I worked as a Special Assistant at the U.S. Department of Justice on implementation of the Brady Handgun Control Act, during the Clinton Administration. While at Georgetown Law, I worked for Robert S. Mueller in the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Homicide Unit.

After law school, I clerked for the Justices of the Massachusetts Superior Court, and worked at a Boston law firm. Then, Senator Stan Rosenberg helped me get my first job on Beacon Hill as General Counsel to Senator Harriette L. Chandler and later as General Counsel to Senator Mark Montigny, where we worked to expand access to health and dental care for the disadvantaged, and successfully fought and defeated the effort to ban gay marriage in the Commonwealth. With Senator Montigny, I worked on Health Care Reform and he secured a \$56 million amendment to the Senate bill to expand access to MassHealth for a million people. By matching the funding in the more progressive House bill, we made the issue non-conferenceable, and it was included in law. I also drafted the bill that would later become the Massachusetts Anti-Human Trafficking Act.

After five years in the State Senate, I worked for five years as the Legislative Director of the Department of Children and Families. At DCF, I worked with Ellen Story, John Scibak, Marty Walsh, Paul Donoto, Karen Spilka, Michael Rodricks, Stan Rosenberg, and other Representatives and Senators to help protect children throughout the Commonwealth. In addition, I took the lead on enactment of the Child Welfare Reform Act and the Anti-Human Trafficking Act for the Governor’s Office.

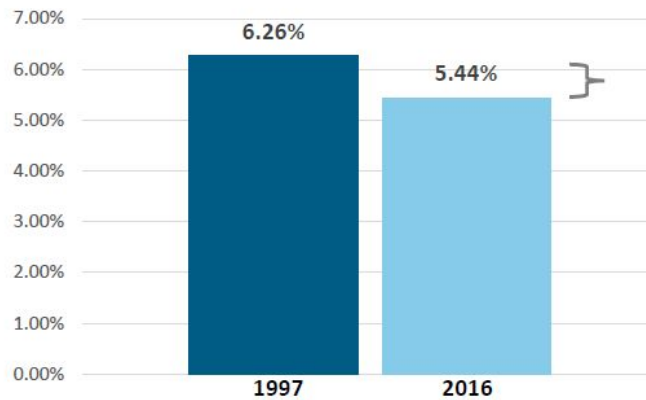
I have dedicated most of my adult life to working to improve the lives of the people of Massachusetts. I learned how to navigate the legislative process from Senator Kennedy. I have the experience, the knowledge, and the personal relationships to be the most effective advocate for the district in the State Senate, and I want to fight for you.

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.

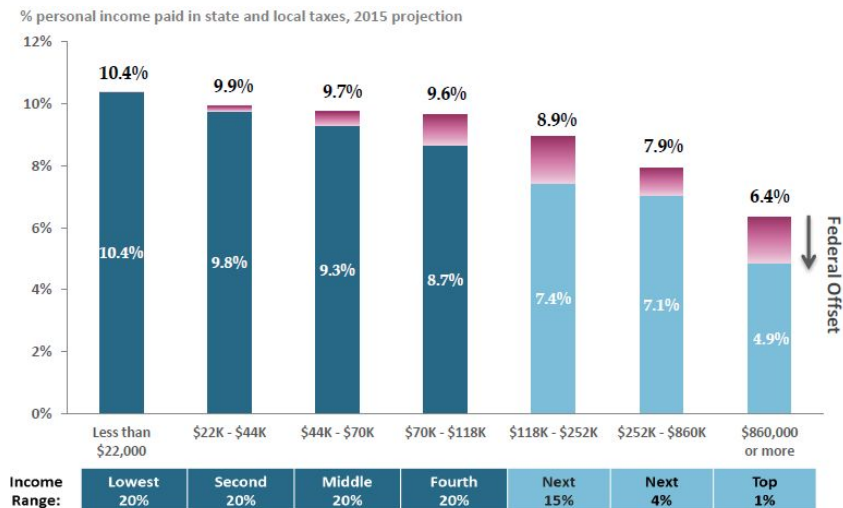
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.

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?*

Dave Murphy: I support a progressive tax structure that will increase revenues and provide sufficient funds to meet the complex needs of the Commonwealth. I support a Constitutional amendment to allow the Legislature to implement a graduated income tax. The rich and corporations should pay their fair share. Trickle down economics has been debunked by every serious economist for a generation. The last time we tried to amend the Constitution to allow for a graduated income tax was during the midterm elections in 1994, when Democrats took a beating on “Black Tuesday”. I believe that the 2020 presidential election year is the year to pass this amendment so that we can fix the structural deficit in the state budget to allow us to invest in education, a single-payer health care system, clean technology, transportation, and infrastructure. Massachusetts has the ability to lead the nation in the new economy, but we have to invest in our future.

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.).*

Dave Murphy: When I worked for Senator Kennedy on Capitol Hill, I initially worked for his Legislative Assistant on appropriations. Senator Kennedy fought for economic justice and fair tax policy during the Clinton Administration, and as staff members, we supported his work. When I was General Counsel to Senators Chandler and Montigny, we fought to increase revenues for essential services for everyone in the Commonwealth, and worked for a more fair and equitable tax policy. We also fought against corporate tax breaks. At the Department of Children and Families, I advocated for almost \$1 billion in funding to protect children throughout the Commonwealth. During the 10+ years I worked in state government, I worked on 12 State budgets. Our efforts were always to provide for the middle class, the vulnerable, the disadvantaged and to fight for economic justice.

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?*

Dave Murphy: Yes. Unfortunately, the SJC ruled that the ballot question is unconstitutional. I understand that Members of the Legislature intend to submit a legislative amendment to the Constitution to implement a millionaire’s tax. While I support that effort, I favor a broader amendment to the Constitution to give the Legislature the flexibility to implement a graduated income tax.

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?*

Dave Murphy: Yes. I understand the the Legislature is working on a “grand bargain” with advocates and the business community to implement a permanent sales tax holiday. While I oppose the sales tax holiday, I am interested in what proposals come out of the Legislature and where the advocacy community will stand on any proposals.

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?

Dave Murphy: Yes. Absolutely. I also support eliminating corporate tax breaks and rescinding tax breaks offered to companies that fail to meet the requirements for receiving those 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?*

Dave Murphy: Yes.

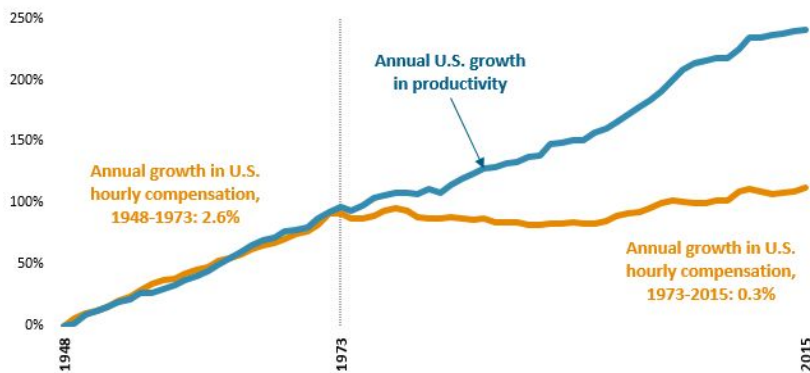
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

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

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

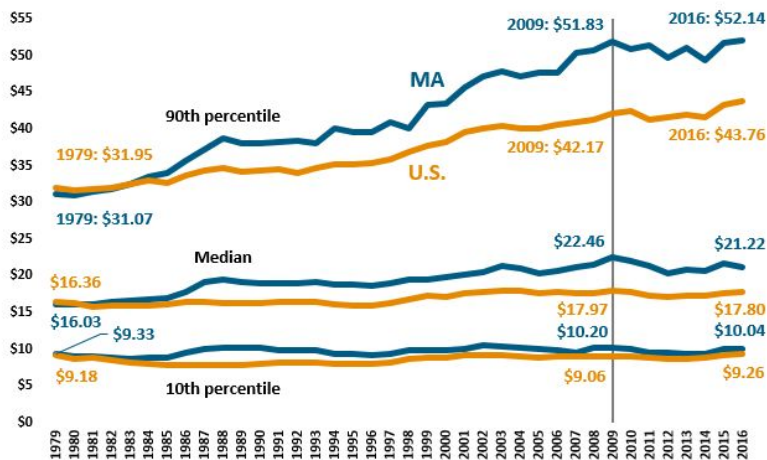
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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

Wages For Most MA Workers Have Stagnated Since Great Recession

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



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

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

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

Dave Murphy: Income stratification is the gravest threat to our democracy. The richest 1% now control 40% of the nation's wealth and have more than the bottom 90% of Americans. Our economy depends on a health middle class and consumer spending. Without that, our economy will implode and we will witness the fall of the American "empire". Income stratification is the direct result of unfair and regressive tax policy where the super rich get richer and the rest of society fight over the scraps under the table. I believe that we as a society succeed when people who work hard and produce revenue share in that wealth in the form of good jobs with high wages, benefits and ownership in the companies and products we build up.

To improve economic security and fight income inequality in the Commonwealth, we need to raise the minimum wage to a living wage and stimulate growth from the bottom up, not the top down. Trickle down economics clearly does not work. I strongly support tax and other policies that lead to higher wages for all and higher taxes on the wealthy and corporations. This problem is fixable. We just need politicians with the guts and the political will to do something about it for the good of society.

We also need to support Union Labor and the rights of all workers to collectively bargain to ensure their welfare and livelihood. Workers are the backbone of our economy and society and we should strive to empower them to help themselves and their families.

We have some of the brightest minds and institutions of higher education in the world in Massachusetts. The state and the nation that leads in clean technology will lead the world in environmental sustainability and in economic growth. The state needs to partner with higher education, the financial sector and business to make Massachusetts a Global leader in clean, renewable technology. We need to invest in education, transportation, affordable housing and infrastructure to ensure that we are strong today, tomorrow, and for future generations.

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.).

Dave Murphy: As a member of Senator Kennedy's staff, we fought to bring billions of federal dollars back to Massachusetts, to invest in education, to clean up Boston Harbor, to fund the Big Dig, to provide alternative to incarceration and programs to help people succeed. We also worked with Higher Education, the healthcare sector, financial institutions, small businesses, labor, and the Department of Defense all in an effort to provide high-quality jobs in Massachusetts, to boost our economy and to have a positive impact on the people of the Commonwealth.

As Legislative and Budget Director to Senators Chandler and Montigny, it was my job to help bring billions of dollars to our districts to invest in workers, to provide for the needy, to help lift people up, to provide good wage jobs, and to allow people to help themselves and their families to succeed. As General Counsel on the Joint Committee on Bonding, I worked to pass billion dollar bond bills to invest in transportation, infrastructure and long-term economic development. We also promoted minority and female owned business with access to funds to help them succeed.

3. *Increasing Wages.*

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

5. *Unions -- Part I.* If workers in Massachusetts make the decision to unionize, would you be willing to publicly support a union-organizing drive and discourage management from fighting their decision?

Dave Murphy: Yes. I will always stand with workers, labor and fight for their right to organize and collectively bargain. I will stand with unions on the picket line and in the jailhouse, if necessary to help them improve their lives and the lives of their families.

6. *Unions -- Part II.* Since 2010 election, a number of states have rolled back the collective bargaining rights of public workers as part of a well-funded, nationwide assault on unions led by wealthy, conservative donors. Would you oppose any effort to roll back the collective bargaining rights of state or municipal employees?

Dave Murphy: Yes. Absolutely.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes. Of course I do.

8. *Mandatory Arbitration.* Would you support legislation to prohibit the use of mandatory arbitration provisions in employment contracts, i.e., requirements that an employee forfeit the right to sue the employer for discrimination, nonpayment of wages or other illegal conduct?

Dave Murphy: Yes. Absolutely. As a business attorney and litigator, I find arbitration to be more expensive and equally as burdensome as going to court. I always favor the right to go to court over arbitration, and I have settled a number of cases as through mediation, to avoid the high cost of litigation.

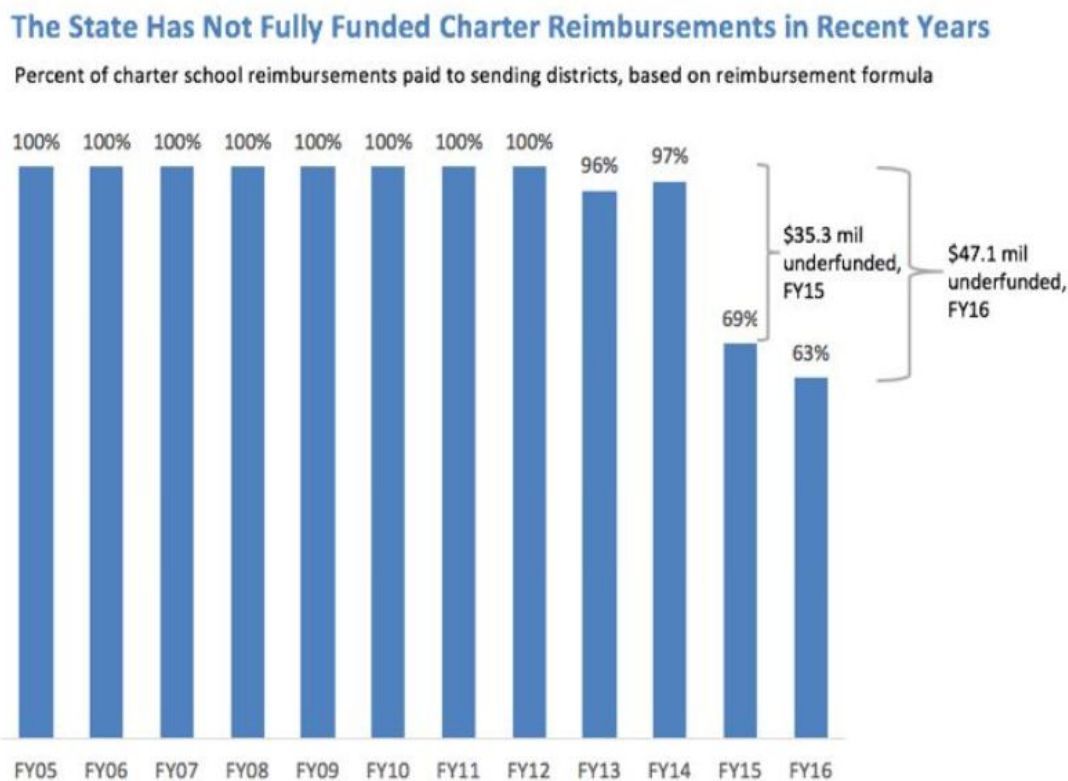
9. **Economic Democracy.** *Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?*

Dave Murphy: Yes. Absolutely.

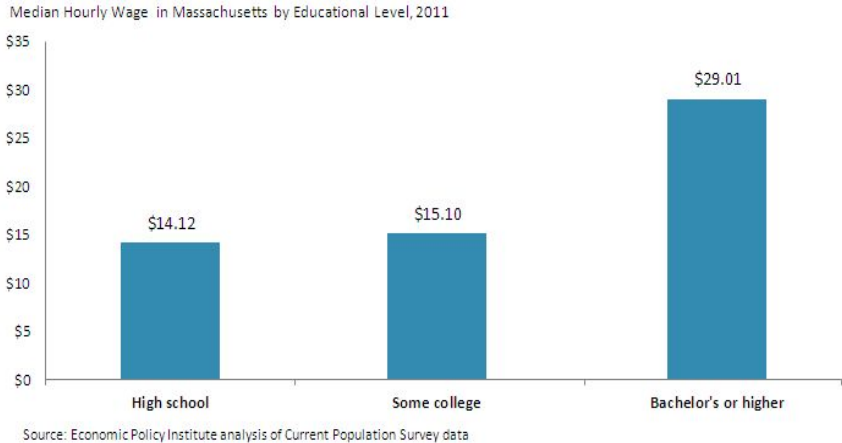
C. EDUCATION

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.

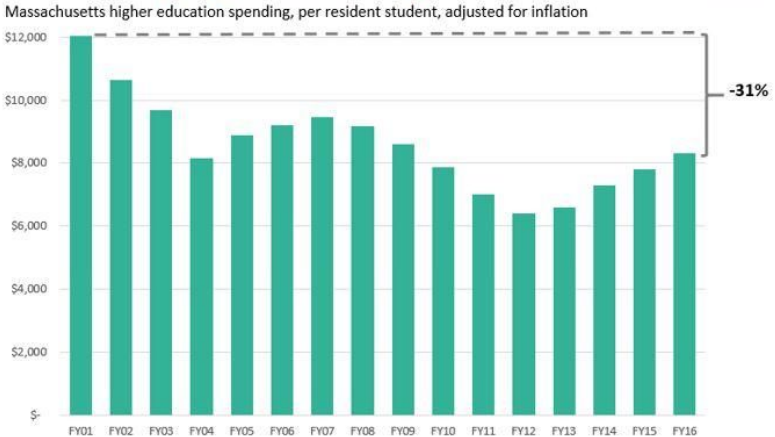


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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?*

Dave Murphy: Education is the great equalizer in our society. No matter where you come from, if you get a good education, you can achieve your full potential and succeed. Quality public education lifts people out of poverty, and enables them to become productive members of society. Public education is the most important factor in enabling young people to succeed, and it is critical to the future of our economy and the long-term sustainability of our democracy. We have it backwards in this country, we should pay our teachers what we pay athletes and entertainers because they perform the most valuable function in our society.

Quality education is not about teaching to a standardized test and achieving high test scores, it is about teaching our children and young people how to think critically, how to learn and instilling in them a love of lifelong learning. I think about the teachers who inspired me and made a critical difference in my education and in my perception of myself as an intelligent learner. I know that many really smart students do not perform well on standardized tests, because I was one of them. Standardized tests can demoralize teachers and students who are making great strides in the classroom and serve to further marginalize communities of color and the economically disadvantaged. We need to replace high-stakes testing with a curriculum that gives flexibility to teachers and makes administrators accountable for their students' educations.

I also oppose the expansion of charter schools. I served on the Natick School Committee for seven years, and in my experience, charter schools siphon much-needed funding from already tight budgets. We should focus on improving and investing in the public education system that we have in place.

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

Dave Murphy: As the Legislative and Budget Director for two State Senators, I was responsible for overseeing a broad range of policy issues, including education. We worked to try to improve the funding formula and how that impacted various districts, and we fought for increased education funding as our top priority.

As a member of the Natick School Committee, I fought to reduce kindergarten class sizes, to increase funding for education, and worked to hire a new superintendent and to build a \$90 million high school with half of the money coming from the State School Building Assistance Program.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes. Absolutely.

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?*

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes. Absolutely.

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**?

Dave Murphy: Yes. Absolutely.

- 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?

Dave Murphy: Yes.

7. **Sex Education.** Do you support requiring public schools that teach sexual health education to provide age-appropriate, medically accurate information that is inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities that hat includes the effective use of contraception?

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

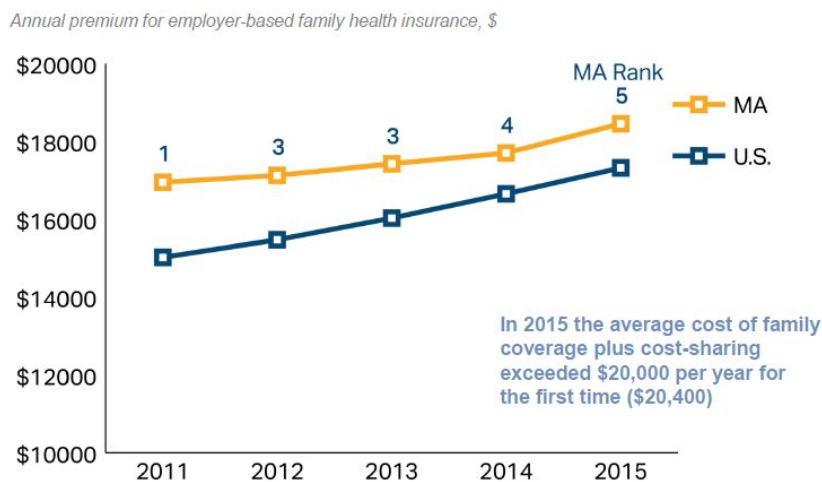
9. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?

Dave Murphy: Yes.

D. HEALTH CARE

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

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



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

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

Dave Murphy: I strongly support single payer health care and the “Medicare for All” bill. It is time that we recognize health care as a right for everyone rather than a privilege for the select few that can afford it. By supporting the “Medicare for all” bill, we can effectively lower health care costs while ensuring access to quality care for all. It is a sensible step forward and if elected, I will work to make it law.

People should not have to choose between visiting the ER and buying food for their families. We also

need to work on other legislation that can increase access to quality, affordable healthcare, by reducing the administrative hurdles in healthcare that increase cost but fail to improve access or quality. We need to do much more to decrease the cost of skyrocketing prescription drug prices by increasing price transparency and holding pharmaceutical companies accountable when they hike prices beyond inflation. The state can do much more to decrease costs, focus on primary care and preventative care, and improve outcomes for patients.

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

Dave Murphy: As General Counsel to Senator Chandler and Senator Montigny, I acted as Legislative Director, Budget Director and Committee counsel for two of the most active and proactive Members of the Legislature on the issue of healthcare quality and access. In Senator Chandler's office I worked on increasing access to medical and dental care, particularly for seniors and the poor. In Senator Montigny's office, we passed a bill to provide coverage for seniors in the Medicare Part D "donut hole" that otherwise would have left thousands of seniors without access to their necessary prescription medications. We worked on healthcare reform and my boss sponsored and secured a \$56 million amendment in the Senate Healthcare Reform bill to expand access to Medicaid/MassHealth. At that time, to our knowledge, it was the largest amendment ever passed in the Legislature. Securing the amendment matched the House bill and made that issue non-conferencable and part of the final bill signed into law.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes. Absolutely.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes. Absolutely.

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?*

Dave Murphy: Yes.

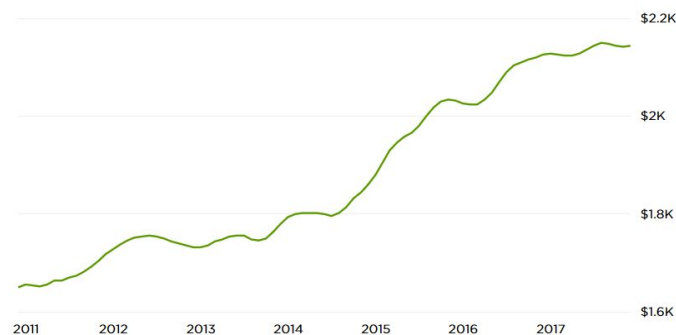
6. *Prescription Drug Pricing. Would you support a drug transparency law, like the one recently passed in California, that requires pharmaceutical companies to publicly justify steep price increases?*

Dave Murphy: Yes.

E. HOUSING

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

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



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

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

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

Dave Murphy: I believe that all people should be able to afford a place to live, and that no more than 1/3 of their salary be dedicated to housing. We need to expand affordable housing programs in Massachusetts and work with the private sector to build more affordable housing, including more starter and entry level homes. Being able to afford an apartment is great, but owning a home builds wealth. We need to explore innovative ideas and solutions to provide affordable housing for everyone in the Commonwealth, including housing the homeless, offering them treatment and employment opportunities. I have seen programs in New York City that are miraculous and should be emulated in the Commonwealth. The recent trend of luxury apartments being built in cities and suburbs is counterproductive. High rent keeps people poor as they spend increasing large percentages of their income on housing.

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

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

Dave Murphy: When I worked for Senator Montigny, we worked on a comprehensive Ch. 40B affordable housing bill. Affordable housing was a top priority for both Senator Chandler and Senator Montigny, and as General Counsel, I was responsible for working to implement all of their legislative priorities.

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

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

b. The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

6. Tenant Protections. *Would you support legislation, such as the Jim Brooks Stabilization Act, that requires landlords to provide a reason when seeking to evict a tenant, like failure to pay rent, damaging property, or breaking a lease; informs tenants of their rights under state law; and increases data collection on eviction?*

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

housing trust funds?

Dave Murphy: Yes.

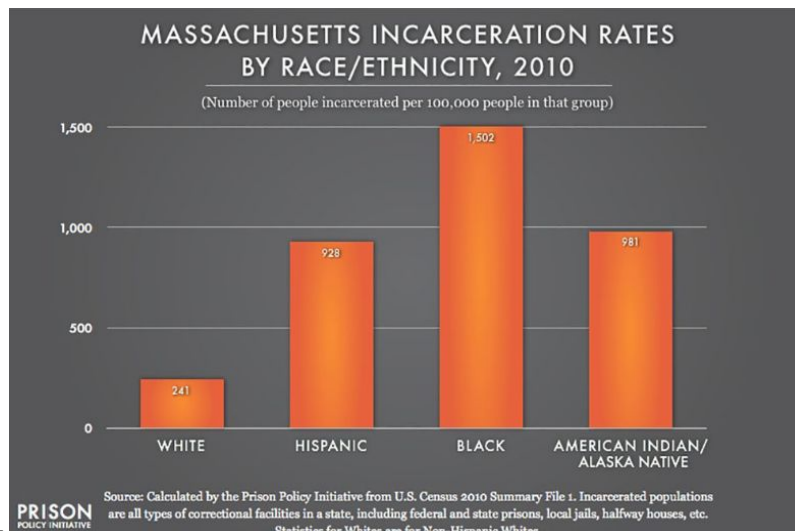
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

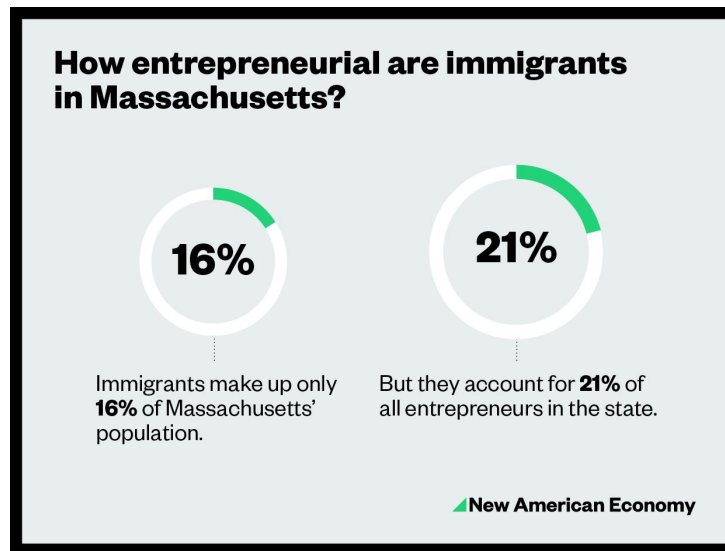
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

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



Significant racial disparities exist in incarceration in Massachusetts





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

Dave Murphy: As a Latino from Cali, Colombia, adopted by an American family, I have had a unique perspective on racism in our society. This nation was founded on the ideal that “all men are created equal”. Equality of opportunity and equal justice under law are the bedrock principles of America. As a nation, however, we often fall short of these ideals. We need to constantly work to live up to the ideals upon which this nation was founded. I have spent my life working to promote awareness and understanding among people of different backgrounds, advocating for strong public education that will enable every individual to reach their full potential, fighting against intolerance and indifference, standing up for the oppressed, the downtrodden, the marginalized and disenfranchised and fighting against the institutionalized racism, sexism, gender bias, homophobia and intolerance that only serve to weaken the fabric of our society. I know that we are strengthened by our diversity; that society does better when we all prosper; and that everyone deserves to have the opportunity to work hard, to use their God given gifts to succeed and excel. I am tremendously grateful for the opportunities that I have been given as a poor kid from Cali, and we all have a responsibility to work to do our part to help our fellow human and to make our little piece of the world better. No issue is more important to me than Justice.

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

Dave Murphy: In college I worked to increase awareness on issues of race and justice. In Senator Kennedy’s office we worked to provide opportunities to people of color and we fought for crime prevention programs that provided low-cost alternatives to incarceration and programs to prevent criminal activity in the first place.

When I worked for Senator Chandler in the State Senate, we fought against the effort to ban gay marriage in our State Constitution. I worked with a group of progressive Senators and House Members to strategize and to protect the rights of all people. One of the civil rights issues of our time has been the struggle and the victory for marriage equality in Massachusetts and in the nation. I am committed to diversity and am proud to have played a small role in that effort to promote justice for all.

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?

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

5. **Mandatory Minimums.** The landmark criminal justice reform bill passed earlier this year eliminated or reduced a number of mandatory minimums for drug-related offenses; however, it left in place, or expanded, those related to opioids. The opioid crisis in Massachusetts is severe, but it will not be solved by doubling down on criminalization. Do you support eliminating mandatory minimums for opioid drug offenses?

Dave Murphy: Yes.

6. **Juvenile Justice -- Part I.** Ample research shows that teenage offenders served by a juvenile system are much less likely to re-offend and more likely to successfully transition to adulthood. Teenagers in a juvenile system have access to greater educational and counseling services, and they're much less likely to face sexual assault than at an adult facility. Do you support raising the age of criminal majority from 18 to 21?

Dave Murphy: Yes.

7. **Juvenile Justice -- Part II.** Under Massachusetts law, if a high school senior and a high school sophomore have sex – with mutual consent — the senior could be punished by incarceration and then forced to register as a sex offender. In recent years, states have been passing so-called "Romeo and Juliet" laws out of a recognition that such cases only get prosecuted when a parent disapproves of their child's relationship. Do you support the elimination of the charge of statutory rape for consensual sex between youths who are close in age (See H.3065 for reference)?

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

10. **Militarization of Police.** Under the federal 1033 program, the US Department of Defense can transfer excess military equipment to local police departments. Such equipment makes police forces look like occupying armies and exacerbates the impact of overpolicing in communities of color. Meanwhile, communities are often left in the dark about the equipment that local police departments are acquiring. Would you support, at minimum, a requirement that local elected officials vote on any such transfer before it can take place?

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

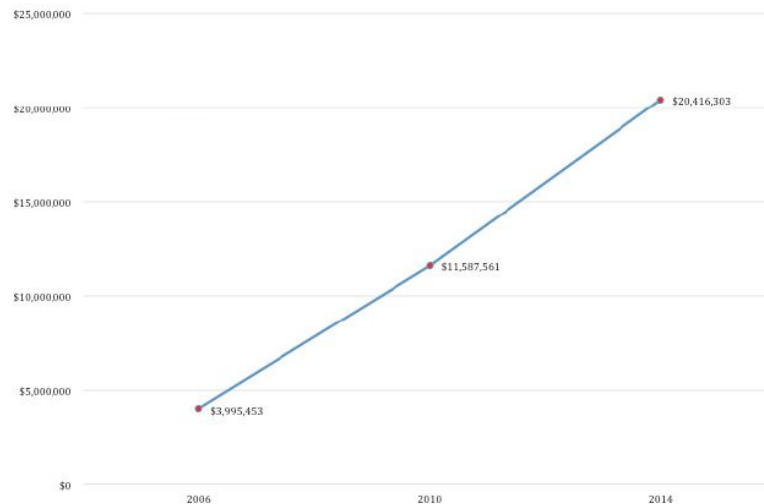
Dave Murphy: Yes.

G. GOOD GOVERNMENT/ STRONG DEMOCRACY

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

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

Figure 1: MA Independent Expenditure Totals



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

Dave Murphy: I support campaign finance reform. We must take big money out of politics by countering the influx of corporate donations and regulating donations from big donors. I also strongly oppose the disastrous Citizens United ruling and believe opening up politics to the money of the corporate world is ruinous to our democracy. The Supreme Court got it wrong. Corporations are NOT people and more money in politics ensures that big corporations and the rich have undue influence in our system of government and that the people, particularly the disadvantaged, are harmed. I support significant public finance of elections and free airtime (on the bandwidths that are owned by the government) to decrease the influence of big money in our political system.

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

legislative rules reform, and access to voting.

Dave Murphy: Both Senator Chandler and Senator Montigny supported the clean elections law in Massachusetts, and we worked on campaign finance reform.

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?*

Dave Murphy: Yes. I favor the way we did it in the United States Senate. Committee Chairs were appointed by seniority.

4. **Transparency.** *Massachusetts is one of only two states where the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the Judiciary claim full exemption from the public records laws. Do you support ending that exemption?*

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

6. **Candidate Diversity.** *The cost of child care can prove prohibitive to working mothers or fathers seeking to run for office. Would you support legislation to explicitly allow working parents running for office to use campaign funds to pay for childcare while the candidate is "performing work or attending events directly related to the candidate's campaign"?*

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

- a. *Election day voter registration*

Dave Murphy: Yes.

- b. *Automatic voter registration*

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

- d. *No-fault absentee voting*

Dave Murphy: Yes.

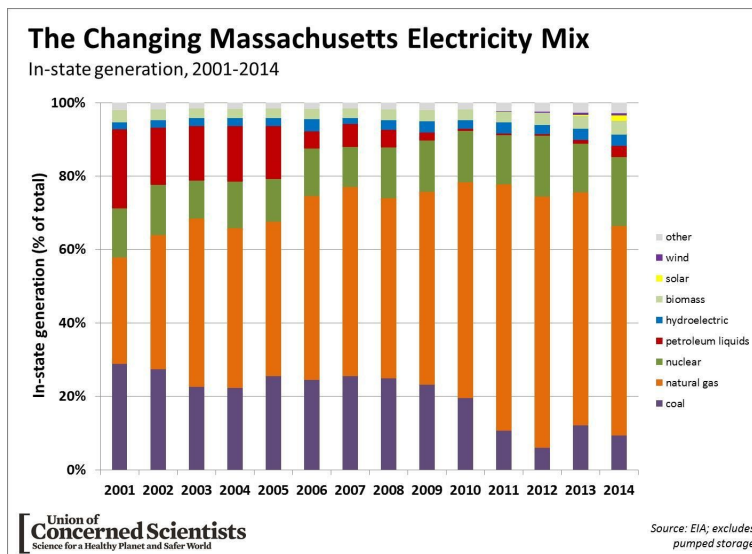
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

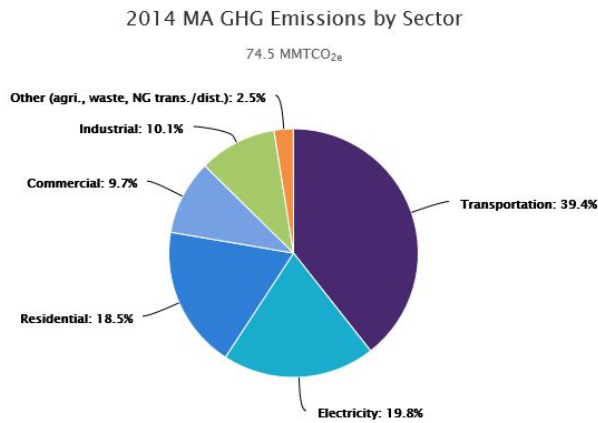
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and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

Dave Murphy: Massachusetts needs a comprehensive infrastructure bill that fixes deteriorating bridges and roads. Such projects will put us at the front of our peers in infrastructure stability. But as we revitalize the Commonwealth, it's essential that we do so in a sustainable manner. In the State Senate, I'll work to make sure that we approach our infrastructure projects with an eye towards environmental protection and the long-term health of Massachusetts and its residents. We need to decrease our dependence on fossil fuels, cut down on waste, and reduce emissions by exploring renewable energy.

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

Dave Murphy: In both Senator Chandler and Montigny's offices we worked on legislation to protect the environment and to expand public transportation and rail access to throughout the Commonwealth.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

9. **Public Utilities.** *Would you support legislation to allow municipalities to purchase their electric distribution utility (the poles and wires that transmit power) and operate a municipal or cooperative electric utility?*

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: Yes.

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

Dave Murphy: 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.

Dave Murphy: I learned how to navigate the Legislative process from Senator Kennedy. He was the greatest Legislator of his time, and the most effective Member of Congress.

I have spent most of my adult life working in Government to help people because the purpose of life is to work to making the world better for ALL people, AND to inspire others to do the same.

I was born in Cali, Colombia and adopted by a family from the United States who were living there at the time. We lived in Cali for three years after I was born. My parents gave me the greatest gift you can give a person – a life of opportunities. They raised me and my siblings with two overriding values: the value of education; and the value of helping people who are less fortunate. My parents inspired me through their example when my father served on the Amherst School Committee, and my mother worked on a number of local campaigns. My mother inspired me when she spent some Saturdays cooking huge trays of food to bring to a soup kitchen to feed people who didn't have enough to eat, despite having 5 young children at home.

When I was 8, my family went back to Cali, Colombia, a city of 12 million. I remember we were walking down the street, and I saw two boys around my age gathering newspapers and throwing them into a big pile on the sidewalk. I asked my father what they were doing, and he explained to me that some people in Colombia are so poor that they cannot afford to keep their children, and that those boys lived on the street and were going to sleep in the pile of newspaper. I looked up at my father like he was crazy, but sure enough, those boys jumped into the pile of newspaper and closed their eyes with smiles on their faces and went to sleep.

That image is burned in the back of my mind. Because to me, that could have been me. And if it was, I know I would have died on those streets as a child. That has motivated me to make the most of the opportunities my parents gave me. I have been very fortunate to obtain an outstanding education, to work for some of the Giants in the Democratic party, to go to the White House and meet the President, and to work to help others have the opportunity to get a good education, to work hard, to achieve their full potential and to succeed.

The driving force of my life is to make a difference. Politics in Washington today is dominated by a man who has no moral compass. A man who stokes the fires of hatred and division. A man, so totally incompetent, unprepared and uninformed that he doesn't know what he doesn't know and is unwilling to learn.

But I still have hope for the future. My children and the next generation will change the world for the better far more than this generation. They are smart, sophisticated, informed, and you believe in equality of opportunity and justice for all people. So, I have hope for the future because I know that together we will make our communities stronger, we will make our State and our nation better and together, we will make the world a better place for future generations.