

Julian Cyr

Cape & Islands

State Senator

Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: State Representative

Legislative District: 18th Essex

Party: Democratic

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Election: November 6

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Introduction: Progressive Mass

About

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

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

Membership

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

How Endorsements Work

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

Sources

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

I. About the Candidate

Julian Cyr

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

Julian Cyr: I grew up on the Cape in my family's local business, where we were able to build a life for ourselves. For too many on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket, those opportunities are slipping away. I'm running for re-election because I am committed to seeing our communities thrive – and I believe that is possible with the right leadership. As State Senator, I intend to prioritize issues of affordability, tackling the opioid epidemic, and preserving and protecting our environment.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

Julian Cyr: "I am the current State Senator and in my past term I have worked diligently for the residents of the Cape and Island District on issue related to health care, the environment, workplace equity, education and racial and social justice.

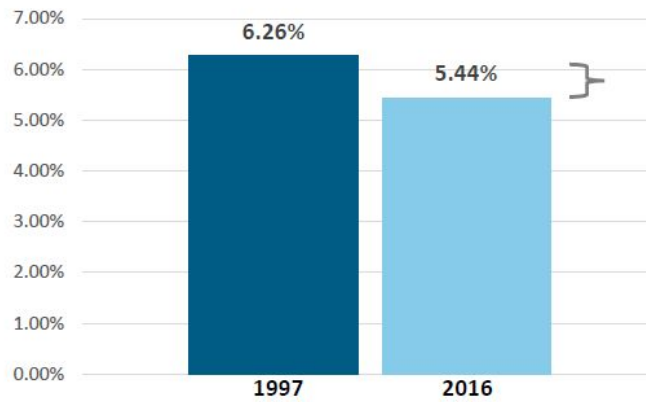
I was born and raised in Truro and grew up in a family that lived the challenges of operating a small business in a seasonal community. My career has provided me with broad experience in public policy, health advocacy, organizing, and social justice. I have worked extensively with the Massachusetts Legislature through two positions at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health: Deputy Director of Government Affairs and Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs for Environmental Health. I also worked closely with the Legislature in my role as Chair of the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth in 2013 and 2014. When it comes to what matters – achieving concrete results on Beacon Hill – I am the best candidate for the job. "

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.

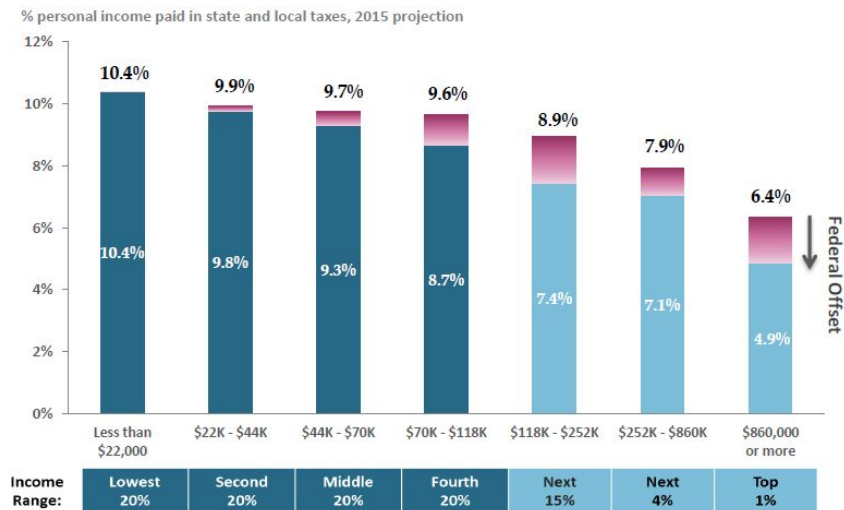
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.

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?*

Julian Cyr: I am committed to building a system that is both fairer and simpler, including tax breaks for lower earners and revenue increases that support the infrastructure investments and services we need to build a Commonwealth. To begin, I will work to elevate the dialogue around revenue in the Commonwealth. We need to move beyond the politically convenient mantra of “no new taxes, no new fees” to a more nuanced conversation about how public investments and services – financed by way of taxes – promote growth, build for a resilient future, and often save taxpayer money in the mid and long term. Deliberate adjustments – such as increases to the income tax combined with decreases in the sales tax – would increase the revenue available for vital services and infrastructure investments while putting more money in the pockets of low-income families and residents. Finally, filing your taxes in Massachusetts should be simple, accessible, and free. I support innovations that expand electronic filing, free filing options, and would support a pilot by the Department of Revenue to explore opt-out tax preparation.

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.).*

Julian Cyr: This session, I filed legislation to give poor seniors a greater exemption on their property taxes and vocally supported revenue-generating expansion of room occupancy tax to short-term rentals. I’ve always been on record as supporting the Fair Share Amendment. Since first running in 2016, I’ve spoken repeatedly in support of making the tax system in this state more progressive from implementing a higher rate on incomes over a million to reducing the dependence on the regressive property taxes, especially on the cape and other areas where the workforce is dependent on seasonal low wage tourist jobs.

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?*

Julian Cyr: Yes.

4. *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?*

Julian Cyr: Yes.

5. *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?*

Julian Cyr: Yes.

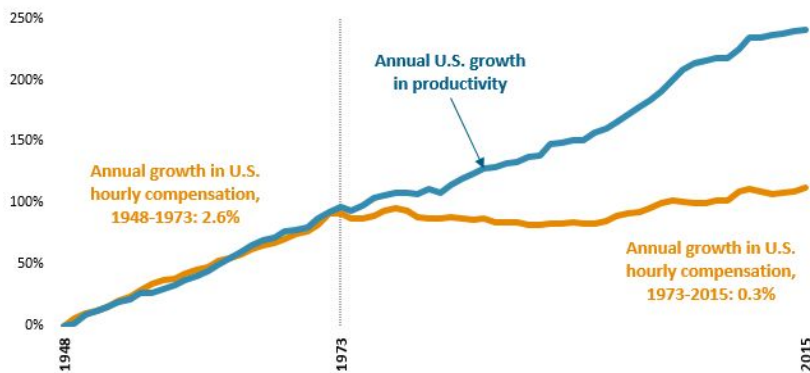
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

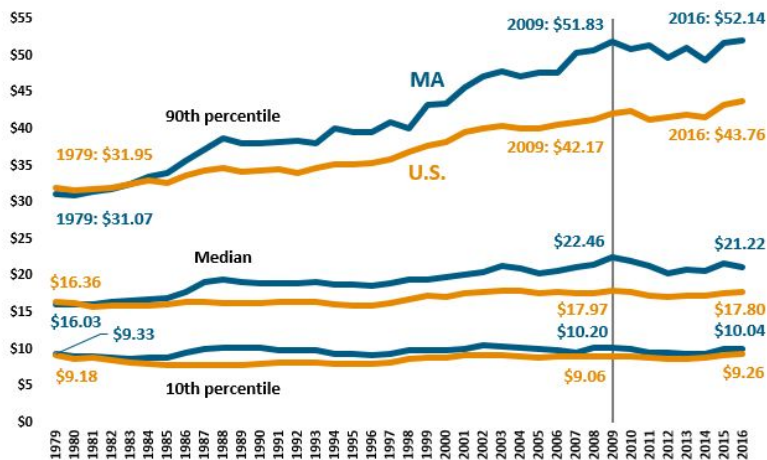
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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?

Julian Cyr: Broadly, I believe the role of government in our economy is to provide a level playing field, ensure the safety and reliability of the products we produce and buy, and protect workers from exploitation and health risk.

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.).*

Julian Cyr: Broadly, I believe the role of government in our economy is to provide a level playing field, ensure the safety and reliability of the products we produce and buy, and protect workers from exploitation and health risk.

3. Fair Wages. *Do you support eliminating the subminimum wage for tipped workers in support of one fair wage?*

Julian Cyr: Yes. Growing up, I worked 14 summers in my family's restaurant, most of which I waited on tables and relied on the tipped wage. As a tipped front-of-the-house employee, I made far more than my colleagues who worked an hourly wage in the back of the house (e.g. in 2006 I made an avg of \$30 an hour while a line cook made \$12). I believe that tips can be a powerful earning tool for some employees – but I believe that all should have access to a consistent minimum wage.

4. Paid Vacation Time. *The US is the only advanced economy that does not guarantee workers paid vacation time. Would you support legislation to require that employers provide at least 10 days of paid vacation time per year?*

Julian Cyr: Yes.

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?*

Julian Cyr: Yes.

5. 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?*

Julian Cyr: Yes.

6. **Unions -- Part III.** *In the 2018 Janus ruling, the US Supreme Court banned unions from collecting "fair share fees," i.e., fees that workers whose workplaces are they choose not to join the union. Would you support legislation authorizing unions to charge non-members for the specific costs incurred for representing a non-member in a grievance or arbitration case?*

Julian Cyr: Yes.

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?*

Julian Cyr: Yes.

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

Julian Cyr: Yes.

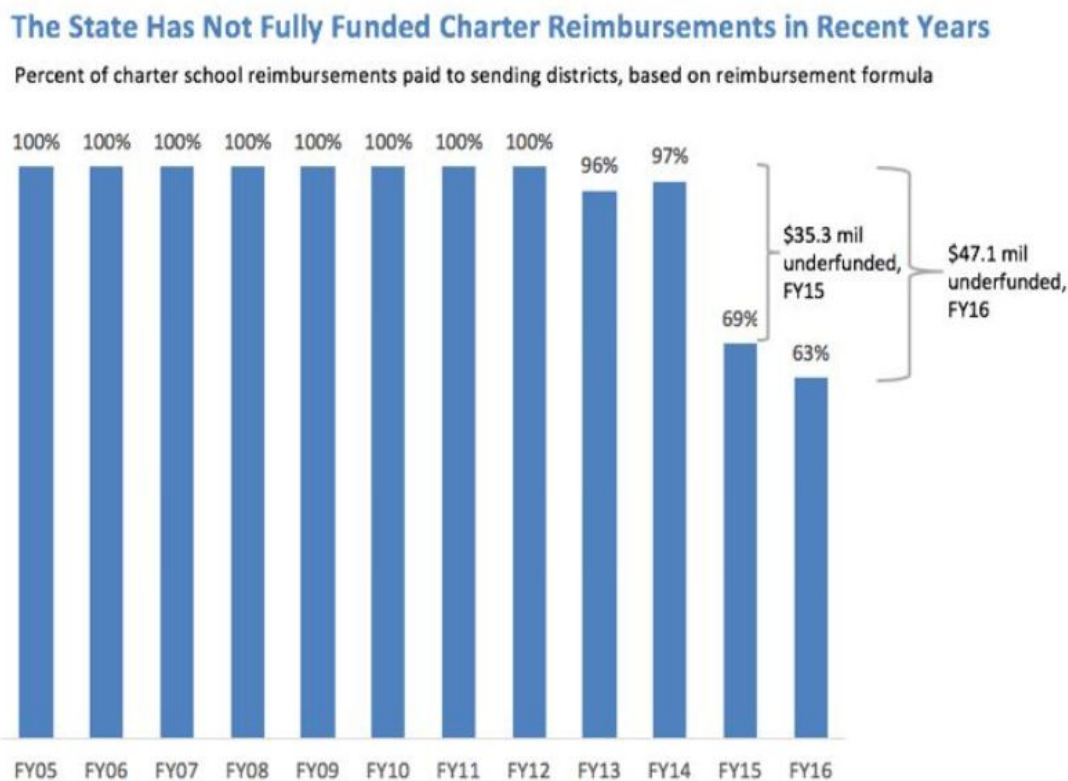
9. **Economic Democracy.** *Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?*

Julian Cyr: Yes. Yes, I would support legislation encouraging employee ownership so employees have a stake in their company and opportunities for advancement and growth. In fact, I have been the lead sponsor to reestablish the state program that promote employee ownership (e.g. secured \$250,000 in FY18 and \$50,000 in FY19).

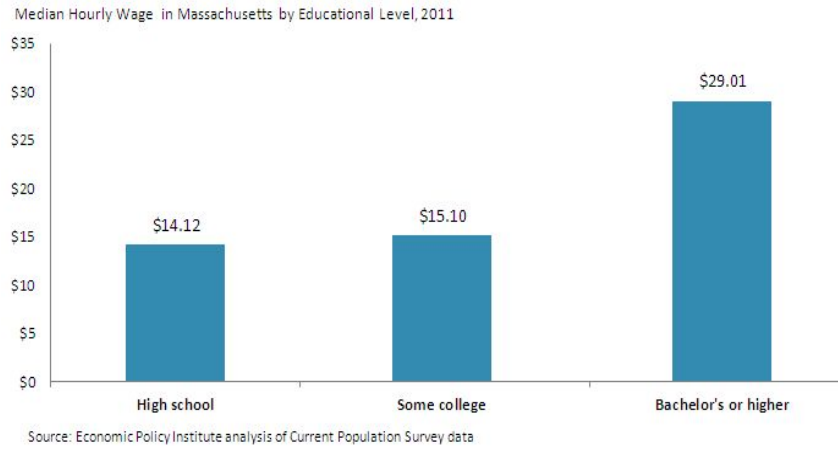
C. EDUCATION

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.

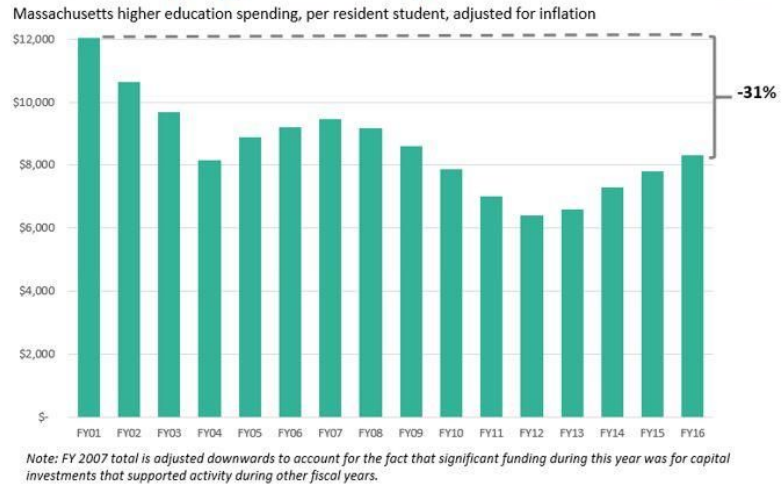


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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?*

Julian Cyr: I got my start in political organizing as a high school student when I led a successful student-driven effort to avoid significant budget cuts that would have resulted in the lay-off of 40 staff positions. Standing with educators is important to me – many members of my large extended family are public school teachers. Strategic investments in public education – from early education to post-secondary – are vital not only to the success of our students, but also to the success of our communities. I am eager to improve the health, academic outcomes, and long-term success of all students, including marginalized students experiencing multiple challenges related to their race, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, and family income. The existing achievement gap is unacceptable and by building programs that provide opportunity to our most marginalized students, we can work to close it.

Addressing these issues require skilled public school personnel who are fairly compensated and have adequate time to perform the many tasks required in their jobs, including lesson planning and other services that teachers are often expected to conduct in their “spare time”. It also requires policy makers to really listen to the voices of students, parents, and teachers – a practice to which I am fully committed.

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

Julian Cyr: In the State House, I have sponsored legislation aimed at increasing the access to quality education for all students. S223 worked to create a commission on regional school district foundation budgets to modernize the process and ensure resources are most effectively distributed. I also sponsored legislation supporting universal pre-kindergarten access (S221), commissioning studies on vocational education (S265), and addressing the needs of children with dyslexia (S294). Quality education means that all students are able to learn and grow in a safe, affirming environment. During my tenure as Chair of the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth, the Commission partnered with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to produce a guidance on supporting transgender students that is not only making a difference to students and school personnel across the Commonwealth, but has also been cited by the Obama administration as a national model.

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

Julian Cyr: Yes. Research is incredibly clear that investing in early childhood education and care programs provides significant long-term benefits, especially for low-income children. This is a public policy initiative that simply makes sense. I strongly support it and have sponsored legislation in favor of it.

4. *Standardized Testing. Do you support a three-year moratorium on the high-stakes uses of standardized testing, as proposed by S.308? (High-stakes" uses include high school graduation, teacher evaluation, and assigning ratings to schools.)*

Julian Cyr: Yes. I believe that the reliance and frequency of standardized testing has not served all students well, particularly those from vulnerable and left behind communities. I do support S308, however our education system has been increasingly reliant on these tests, and I'm not optimistic that a moratorium could be realized.

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?

Julian Cyr: Yes. A funding structure that underestimates the real level of spending is not sustainable. I support making adjustments so that key educational improvements – such as full-day kindergarten, smaller class sizes, special education, and school-based technology – are funded with adequate resources for success.

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?

Julian Cyr: Yes.

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

Julian Cyr: Yes. I believe it is extremely important that students learn the importance of sexual health and that it is presented in an inclusive manner. I have led on these issues since before joining the Senate and was a champion in passing the Healthy Youth bill in the Senate in fall 2017.

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

Julian Cyr: Yes. Higher education is increasingly vital to success in a wide variety of careers – a trend that is no less true for undocumented students. I strongly support legislation permitting undocumented students access to financial aid and in-state tuition where relevant.

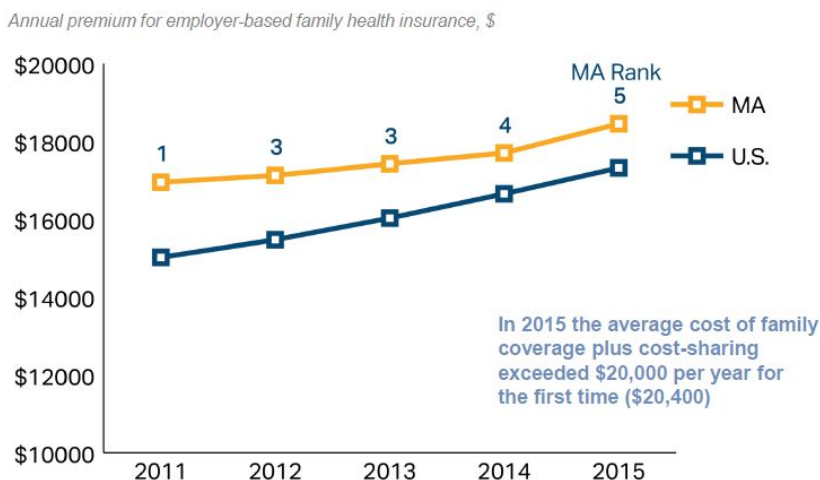
9. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?

Julian Cyr: Yes. I support providing at least two full years of post-secondary education free of charge to all Massachusetts high school graduates through our system of public and community colleges and universities.

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.*

Julian Cyr: Health care needs to be financed and delivered as a basic right and in a way that stresses health prevention and early intervention rather than catching everything only when it becomes catastrophic. Given the aged population on Cape Cod and elsewhere special efforts need to be put in place to allow seniors to age comfortably in place. Insurance needs to provide adequate treatment durations for opioid and other addictions and the state needs take steps to put in place the continuity of transitional care and services needed. For this effort to be successful, as a Commonwealth we need to move towards a single payer system.

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

Julian Cyr: I am a member of the Public Health Committee in the State House and have sponsored a number of pieces of legislation aimed at expanding healthcare with a particular focus on mental health and at risk populations. I sponsored legislation S641 aimed at eliminating racial and health disparities, S1097 to prevent adolescents substance abuse, and S1081 authorizing public health workers to pursue new measures to reduce harm and stigma for people affected by substance use disorder. Additionally, I sponsored S1182 resulting in a study on the safe treatment of pain and S1224 that focused on improving treatment for alzheimer's and dementia. I also sponsored S1169 to expand access to dental care.

My background in public health stems from an early age – I started a sexual health initiative as a college student at NYU and later worked as a harm-reduction counselor for the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod. While at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, I made key contributions to legislation to improve healthcare quality and control costs. For instance, I helped create a Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund, prioritizing evidence-based community health strategies that focus on prevention. More recently, I testified in front of the state’s Joint Committee on Health Care Financing to speak about the importance of a single payer system for the LGBTQ community.

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

Julian Cyr: Yes. Consistent coverage options that are easily accessible for individuals at varying income levels are the best way to ensure marginalized populations can get the health care that they need. Single payer is the best way to provide that. I filed an amendment to establish a so-called single-payer benchmark during the Senate’s health care debate in Nov 2017; it was adopted in a bipartisan vote 35-3. I have been endorsed by Mass-Care.

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

Julian Cyr: Yes. I staunchly support the right to choose and would welcome efforts to improve access to safe abortion care and related services. Currently, services in the Cape and Islands region are non-existent, making this issue one of particular importance. In the State House I voted to repeal the state-level law prohibiting abortion (2260).

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?*

Julian Cyr: Yes. I do support the authorization of dental therapists as a pathway to expand access to dental care to a larger portion of Massachusetts and have sponsored legislation along a similar vein.

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?*

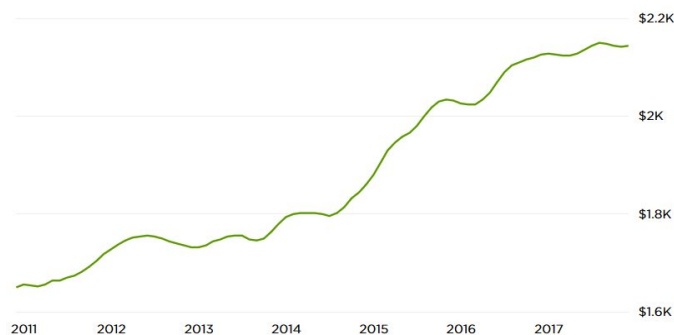
Julian Cyr: Yes. Yes, if pharmaceutical companies are raising prices of potentially life-saving drugs,

they should be mandated to disclose their reasons in an effort to make healthcare more accessible.

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?

Julian Cyr: As Senator for the Cape and Islands, I need to ensure that young people have a chance to raise families in our towns, and that seniors can stay in the communities that they have built. Affordable housing is perhaps the biggest piece of this puzzle. I support incentivizing the development of rental housing available to residents across the income spectrum; establishing tax-free savings accounts for first time homebuyers; and building the type of modern infrastructure necessary to connect affordable housing with regional transportation and economic hubs.

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

Julian Cyr: In the State House, I am a member of the Joint Housing Committee and worked to facilitate equitable and accessible housing. LGBTQ youth, like many others in the Commonwealth, experience homelessness at disproportionate rates. As Chair of the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth, I

supported a pilot project to assist homeless young people in accessing the IDs they needed to apply for state services, obtain employment, and enroll in educational programs. While more affordable housing is ultimately the answer, I also support – and have supported – efforts to prevent and address homelessness among at-risk populations.

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

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

Julian Cyr: Yes.

b. The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?

Julian Cyr: Yes.

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

Julian Cyr: Yes.

Funding for housing programs is critical, and I support restoring or increasing funding to programs that repair existing public housing, create new units of affordable housing, and maintain a strong Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program. I am eager to partner with existing advocates in the Legislature and community-based organizations to make this a reality. We also need to focus on expansion of housing for middle income residents, especially in communities like mine where high property values are making affordable housing options difficult for poor and middle class families who don't qualify for traditional state support.

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?*

Julian Cyr: Yes. I also sponsored the amendment to the Senate FY19 budget to increase funding to the Tenancy Preservation Program; it was adopted into the final Senate budget and made it through conference.

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

Julian Cyr: Yes. I support banks communicating with homeowners and seeking alternatives before foreclosure proceedings begin.

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?*

Julian Cyr: Yes. Tenants' rights are important and they should be informed of them upon arrival and if evicted, should be given a reason. Increased data collection will help to better explain issue areas and

inform solutions. See prior response on Tenancy Preservation Program.

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?*

Julian Cyr: Yes. The Commonwealth's zoning laws are antiquated – this is all too visible on the Cape and Islands. I support revisions that would modernize existing laws and give our towns the tools they need to thrive. This is a critical issue for my district. I served on the Senate's internal working group on zoning reform and intend to push for zoning reform when we reconvene in January 2019.

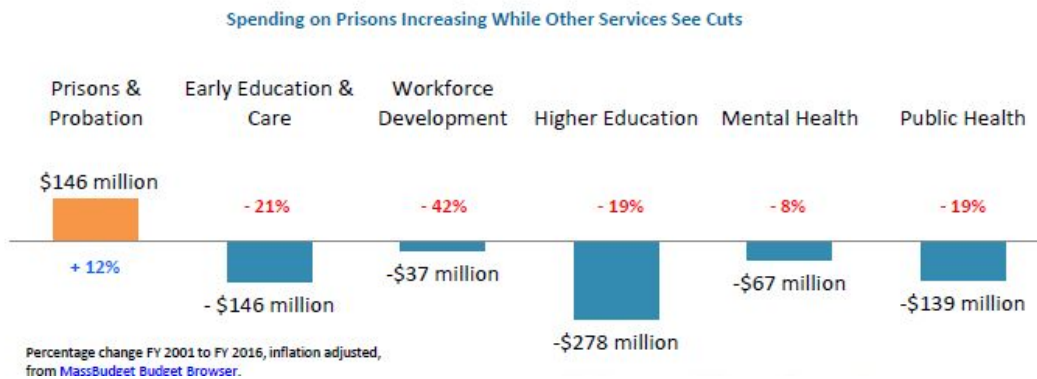
8. **Combating Speculation.** *Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to impose a graduated tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?*

Julian Cyr: Yes. I am the lead co-sponsor of a home rule bill filed by Rep. Dylan Fernandes that would allow Nantucket to establish a .05% surcharge on home sales over \$2 million dedicated to affordable housing.

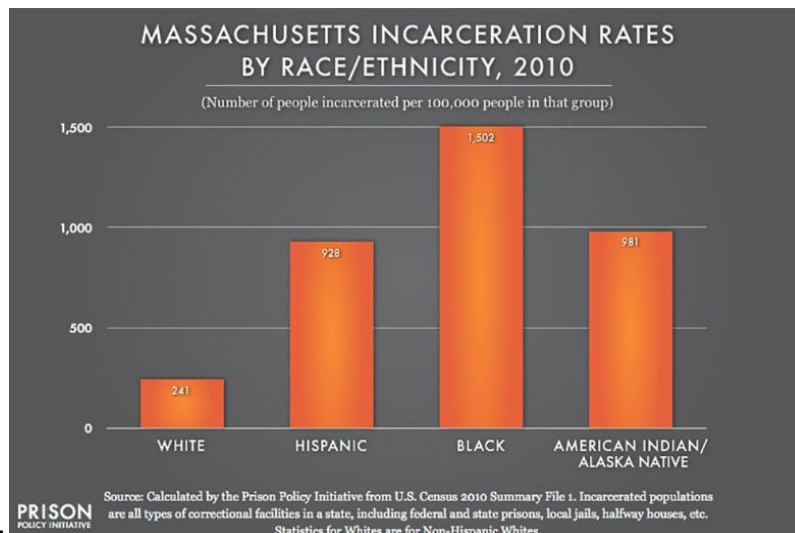
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

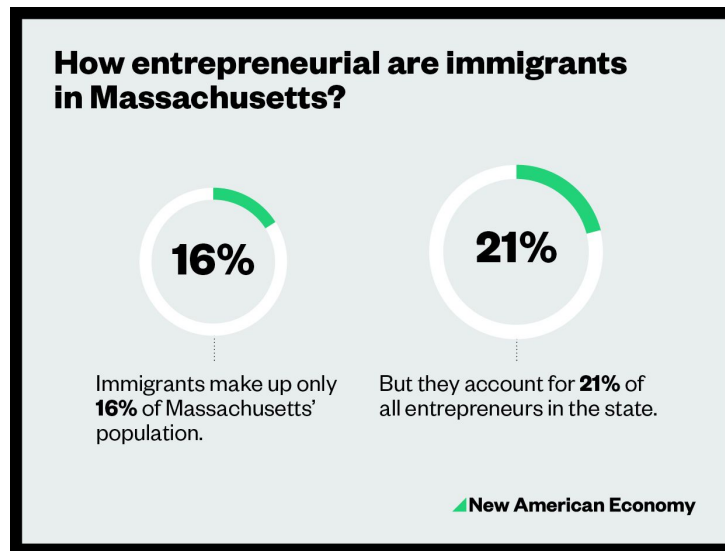
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

Julian Cyr: In a Commonwealth where racial inequities persist, we all lose. Through my background in public health, I have seen race-based disparities in data that impact just about every sector of our society. It is inexcusable that such disparities persist. People of color have fought long and hard to make Massachusetts a better place to live and work. I am committed to supporting and advancing those efforts to make our state safer, healthier, and more just for all residents.

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

Julian Cyr: As a white gay man and ally to transgender individuals and people of color, I believe we can't underestimate the importance of intersectionality. I am committed to putting forth policies that address existing systemic injustices and the ways that those systems interact to keep people of color, LGBTQ people, and other marginalized groups out. In the past, I served on the steering committee of Freedom Massachusetts, the statewide campaign that won the recent passage of nondiscrimination protections in public accommodations for transgender and gender-nonconforming residents. I have also engaged in anti-racism trainings in an effort to expand my own understanding and increase my ability to make change in solidarity with people of color.

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?*

Julian Cyr: Yes. I was on the Steering Committee of Freedom Massachusetts and am a strong supporter of the Yes on 3 campaign. We can not take away the basic human rights of groups of people in Massachusetts or across the country. I was the lead sponsor of an amendment to the Senate's criminal justice bill to provide protections for transgender and gender-nonconforming inmates; that provision is now law.

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?

Julian Cyr: Yes. I was proud to sign on as a co-sponsor to the legislation. ‘Conversion therapy’ an abusive and fraudulent practice that’s premised on an outdated idea that it’s possible to change a young person’s sexual or gender identity. Conversion therapy harms a population already at higher risk for suicidal ideation, violence, unplanned pregnancy, and victimization compared to their non-LGBTQ peers. Massachusetts likes to proclaim itself a leader on LGBTQ issues, yet we’re not leading here. We trail 14 other states and the District of Columbia, which have already outlawed conversion therapy.

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?*

Julian Cyr: No. Broadly mandatory minimums are ineffective and I am a strong supporter of the actions we took in criminal justice reform. I did and continue to support provisions that strengthened punishment for the trafficking of large quantities of synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.

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?*

Julian Cyr: Yes. Yes but I think simply raising the age of criminality misses the point. I believe we should treat young adult offenders as distinct from both juveniles and adults. Research increasingly shows that young adults ages 18-26 involved with the criminal justice system have a distinct set of needs/issues/challenges from their younger and older peers. I sponsored language in the Senate’s criminal justice bill to establish a probation program that specifically serves 18-26 year olds in the criminal justice system; that provision is now law.

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)?*

Julian Cyr: Yes. During the Senate’s debate of criminal justice reform, I supported the original more lenient provisions put out by Senate Ways & Means.

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?*

Julian Cyr: Yes.

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

Julian Cyr: 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?

Julian Cyr: 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?

Julian Cyr: Yes. I support the Safe Communities Act. Massachusetts should be a safe state for immigrants and people of all religions. It is imperative that in Massachusetts, we stand up for what's right and do not adhere to policies of discrimination and hatred.

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?

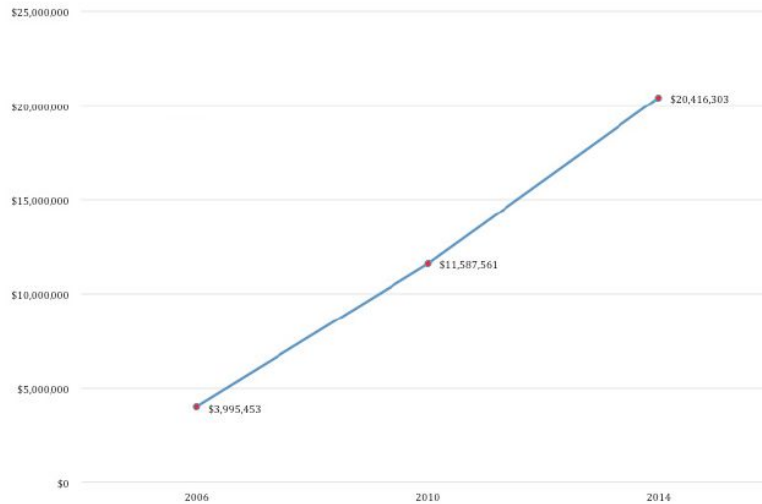
Julian Cyr: Yes. Providing the opportunity to apply for a license or learner's permit – regardless of immigration status – makes the roads safer for everyone and provides undocumented individuals with the paperwork they need to be able to drive to work, healthcare appointments, educational programs, and other critical aspects of daily life. I support these efforts and have stated so publicly.

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.*

Julian Cyr: Ongoing vigilance is always needed to ensure that government is conducted in the daylight, including the work of the Legislature. The same standards of open process need to be followed by those making the laws not only those following them. I am specifically interested in how we can better retain talent among legislative staff; too often, staffers leave Beacon Hill to lobby simply because the pay is too low.

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

Julian Cyr: In the State House, I sponsored legislation S735 promoting political participation as well as

S373 on automatic voter registration and preventing fraud. In my 2016 campaign, we actively conducted voter registration efforts and education of voters about the early voting system that has been put in place with this election. The Cape & Islands District had the highest percentage of early voting in 2016. On legislative transparency, I publicly voiced my support for including the Legislature under the state's public records law in my 2016 campaign. On the campaign trail then and now, I publicly discuss an idea to prohibit electeds and candidates from directly soliciting for financial contributions.

3. **Power and the Legislature.** *Concentration of power in Leadership remains a problem in the MA Legislature and has been a persistent obstacle to progress, and that power is maintained by "process" rules on how decisions are made and which legislation moves forward. Would you support the following rules changes to dilute the amount of power held by leadership in your respective branch of government...?*

a. *Allowing committees to appoint their own chair, instead of Leadership?*

Julian Cyr: No. Under the joint committee structure, this would inherently give an advantage to House members, as they have more members and could outvote Senate members. Given the current political make-up of both chambers, the Senate provides an important progressive check on the House.

b. *Allowing bills to be discharged from a committee if they have majority support in a given chamber?*

Julian Cyr: Yes.

c. *Limiting extension orders to one per bill per committee for a maximum of 1 week in order to prevent needless delay?*

Julian Cyr: I believe that extension orders should be limited, but this current threshold could be impractical; several related bills are often extended when a committee is working on omnibus legislation.

4. **Transparency.** *Too often, decisions that affect millions across the Commonwealth are made behind closed doors with little public input. Indeed, 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. Would you support the following efforts to increase transparency and public accountability...?*

a. *Eliminating the aforementioned exemption?*

Julian Cyr: Having served for 6 years in an agency that was subject to the public records law, I have no problem complying with public record requests; in fact my office complies with public records requests when asked. I do think that certain exemptions should be given to the Judiciary as it relates to certain public records. I support making committee roll call votes publicly available and agree that conference committee should be shared with the public for 24-48 hours before a vote.

b. *Making all committee roll call votes available to the public?*

Julian Cyr: Yes.

- c. *Making conference committees more transparent by requiring minutes to be recorded and shared with the public within 24 hours of every meeting?*

Julian Cyr: No. I'm not convinced this would meaningfully improve transparency.

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

Julian Cyr: Yes. I am both disturbed and embarrassed by how much of my time is spent fundraising. We need public campaign financing desperately.

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"?*

Julian Cyr: Yes. As progressives in Massachusetts, we should do everything to encourage people from all backgrounds to run for office so those making the laws represent those who will be affected.

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

- a. *Election day voter registration*

Julian Cyr: Yes.

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

Julian Cyr: Yes.

- c. *No-fault absentee voting*

Julian Cyr: Yes.

- d. *Universal voting-by-mail*

Julian Cyr: Yes.

Voting is one of the most important duties of American citizens and I believe as much should be done as possible to encourage and increase voter participation including all of the methods listed above.

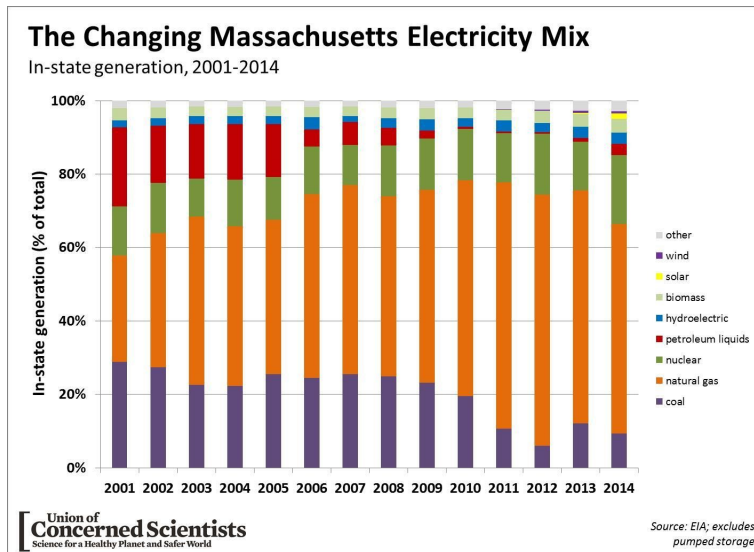
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

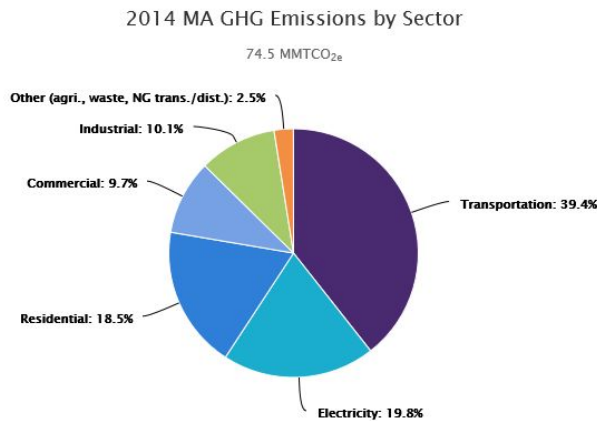
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and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

Julian Cyr: The Cape and Islands is a district uniquely vulnerable to the impact of global warming and environmental degradation. As someone with a background in environmental health, I am passionate about preserving the natural beauty and resources of my region and across the Commonwealth. I believe that with smart policy and strong leadership, we can create solutions that revitalize the economy while protecting our environment for generations to come.

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

Julian Cyr: In the State House, I have worked hard to protect the environment and invest in renewable energy. I've sponsored S1821 to combat climate change and S1846 relative to studies on solar power and the green economy. While at the Department of Public Health, I stood up to Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant to protect Cape & Island residents. I have committed to pushing for swift decommissioning and closure of the plant. As Chair of the LGBTQ Youth Commission, I met with MassDOT to ensure that public transit agencies were aware of the unique needs of LGBTQ youth riding their systems (e.g. how to mitigate frequent harassment; connecting RTA bus lines to youth groups).

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

Julian Cyr: Yes. A ban on single use shopping bags and a switch to sustainable alternatives can be an effective method in reducing pollution and becoming more sustainable as a state.

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?*

Julian Cyr: Yes. I believe that we must approach energy issues through an environmental justice lens. I support efforts to expand solar energy and make it available in all communities.

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?

Julian Cyr: 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?

Julian Cyr: Yes.

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

Julian Cyr: Yes.

I am a strong proponent of EJ — I worked on EJ in both Patrick and Baker Administrations and have consistently supported efforts to further codify EJ in law.

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

Julian Cyr: Yes. I completely oppose energy companies building infrastructure and charging clients for the costs all the while transferring more wealth to corporate interests. However, I don't oppose all construction of interstate gas pipelines if a particular community has a need for pipelines. I want us to reach 100% clean energy, but until we get there, many residents have to rely on fossil fuel, and I want to make sure that all communities have access to energy if they need it.

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

Julian Cyr: Yes.

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

Julian Cyr: 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?

Julian Cyr: Yes.

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

Julian Cyr: 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?*

Julian Cyr: Yes. I have been a frequent sponsor of Senator Lesser's efforts to establish regional revenue for transportation.