

Katie McBrine

Plymouth & Norfolk State Senate

Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: State Senator

Legislative District: Plymouth & Norfolk

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

Katie McBrine

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

Katie McBrine: My political identity has been shaped by my experience as a pediatrician, and my disgust with the broken health care system inspired me to run for office. As a physician, my responsibility is to care for my patients and their families. Regrettably, I spend inordinate time in an unending back-and-forth with insurance companies. I've experienced countless negotiations about coverage. We rely on an insurance protection regime, rather than provide care. The state needs my "Prescription for Change."

Health, broadly defined, is the central issue of my campaign—reforming the health care system, enhancing the well-being of families and communities, including solving the opioid crisis, and preserving our environmental legacy. As state senator, my top priorities will be: (1) implement a single-payer health care system; (2) modernize the transportation system through investment in public transit; and (3) restore equity to and emphasize teaching and learning outcomes throughout the PK-16 education system.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

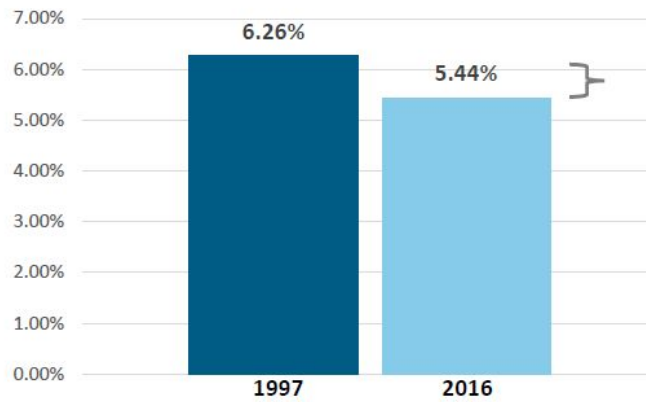
Katie McBrine: As a pediatrician and as a mom, I understand the challenges that professionals and families face every day—the frustrations with health care companies; the travails of a neglected transit system; the desire for a clean environment and a healthy, vibrant community; the striving for economic security and educational opportunity. My knowledge of health care is the central feature of my campaign, but "Prescription for Change" means much more: public health is among the most salient issues for us to build a fair and prosperous state. To achieve these urgently-needed changes, we need officials with knowledge of health care and other critical sectors, people who can listen to experts and residents alike, bring constituencies together, and forge effective and just policy solutions.

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.

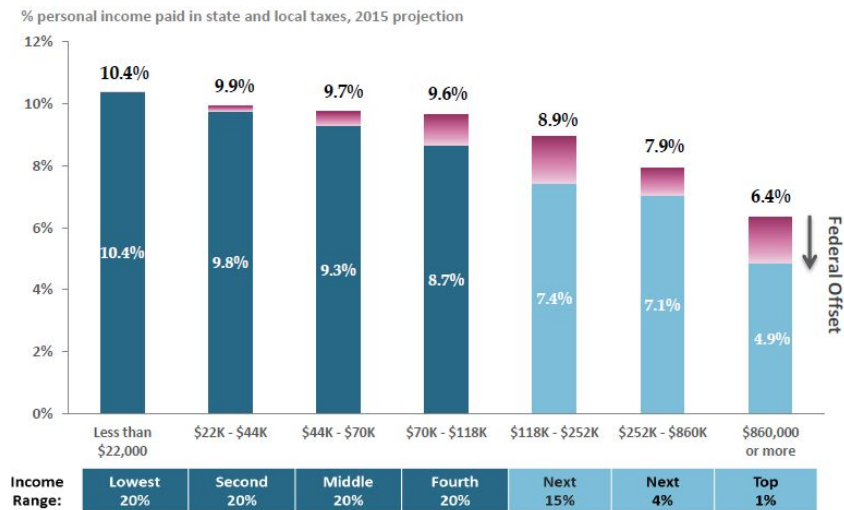
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.

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?*

Katie McBrine: The fundamental principle governing tax policy should be equity. Communities are too reliant on property taxes, and we must reform zoning as a way to generate new housing options even as we protect the character of cities and towns. As for spending, we must adopt an investment mindset when it comes to public assets.

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.).*

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. The Fair Share Amendment was deemed unconstitutional, but it is good policy. I am committed to crafting legislative solutions that restore equity to the tax system. At the same time, Beacon Hill must identify fiscal remedies if we are to have a modern infrastructure and ensure educational opportunities for all. The state's competitiveness, quality of life, and economic prosperity are in the balance. Students, commuters, and the business community deserve and demand immediate, comprehensive action.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. There ought to be a transparency requirement when public resources are invested in private enterprise. I do not believe that disclosure will either deter companies from locating in Massachusetts or undermine our state's competitiveness.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. Yes, we must identify legislative mechanisms that promote corporate citizenship. I see organizations and shareholders alike mobilizing around the principle of corporate responsibility, and I hope that Beacon Hill can contribute by elevating corporate action, not in a punitive way, but as a constructive partner. At the heart of the matter, though, is the decline of unions (more below), which has stifled entry into the middle class. Massachusetts, and the businesses that call the it home, can do better.

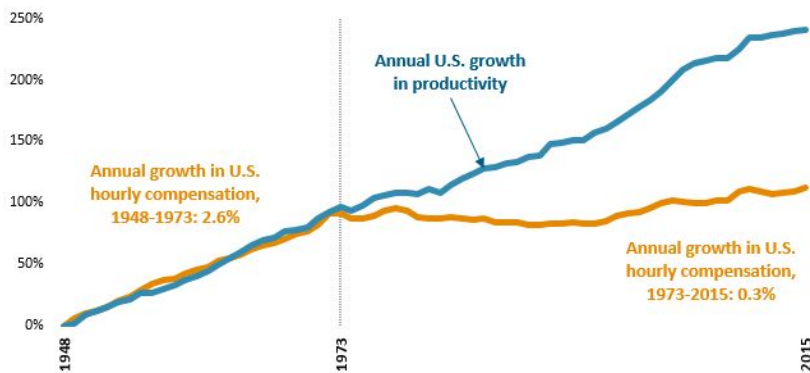
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

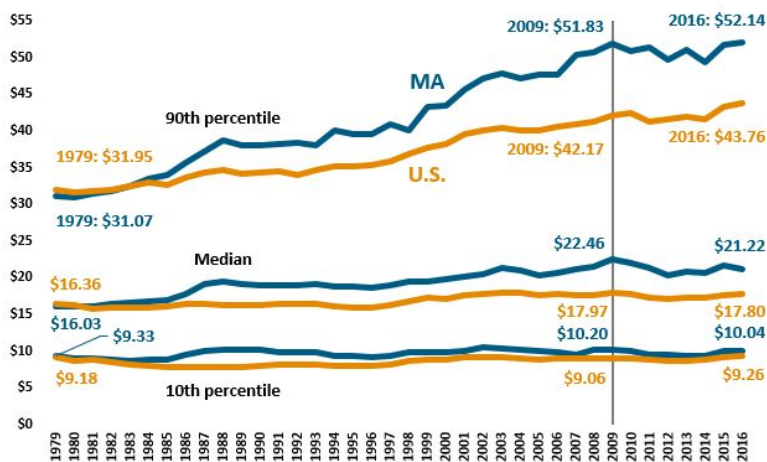
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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?

Katie McBrine: I am coming from a background of working minimum wage paying jobs, and service industry jobs. Currently minimum wage is not a wage anyone can live on and it doesn't matter to me what the job is, if someone is working 40 hours a week they should be able to afford a home and essentials. As far as sectors of growth, encouraging people to go into the trades is crucial, not only financially for younger people, but because the current workers are going to be retiring soon.

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

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

Katie McBrine: Yes. It is unconscionable and unjust that tipped workers must toil as they do and still not earn a livable wage. The recent "grand bargain" legislation was a modest first step for tipped workers (though damaging to those who work overtime and some state employees). I will advocate for these vulnerable workers to ensure that they receive a sufficient wage and are not forced to surrender tips to employers.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. My highest priorities as far as employment benefits are is to ensure that the provisions of the paid family and medical leave legislation are carried forward effectively (and are refined where needed) as well as to guarantee a livable wage for tipped employees and state employees. I recognize that most advanced industrial nations guarantee paid vacation, and that Americans are overworked, which is in itself a health issue. I will explore whether and how a paid vacation policy can be implemented, because family well-being can coexist with business productivity.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. As state senator, I will oppose any anti-union legislation and will also support measures which encourage and incentivize union membership.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. The collective bargaining rights of state and municipal employees are inviolate, and I will protect their ability to negotiate as fair and equal partners.

7. *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?

Katie McBrine: Yes. Janus is a lamentable ruling in a long line of judicial and legislative decisions aimed at steadily eroding unions and undermining popular support for the labor movement. I hope that Congress will craft a legislative response.

- 8. *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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. Beacon Hill should not tolerate wage theft, especially where public funds are at issue, and the Attorney General should enforce every existing law to protect subcontractors from unscrupulous companies.

- 9. *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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. Mandatory arbitration is an under-handed tactic that is being used in employment contracts, by banks, and others who capitalize on an imbalance of power (and, related, we need to examine non-compete agreements)

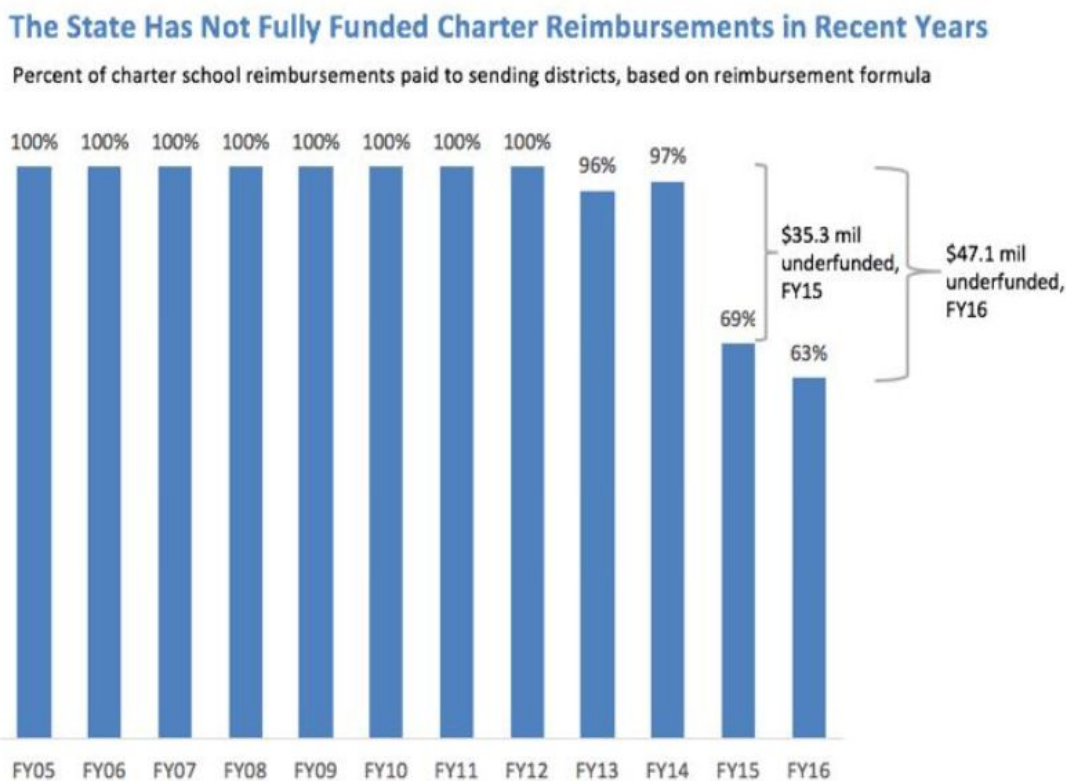
- 10. *Economic Democracy.*** *Would you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts and encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. Massachusetts has incubated biotechnology firms and green energy companies with public investment, ensuring that these industries become well-established components of a diverse and durable state economy. We can do the same by nurturing specific forms of ownership and do so across sectors – in agriculture and energy especially – that pushes competition and creativity.

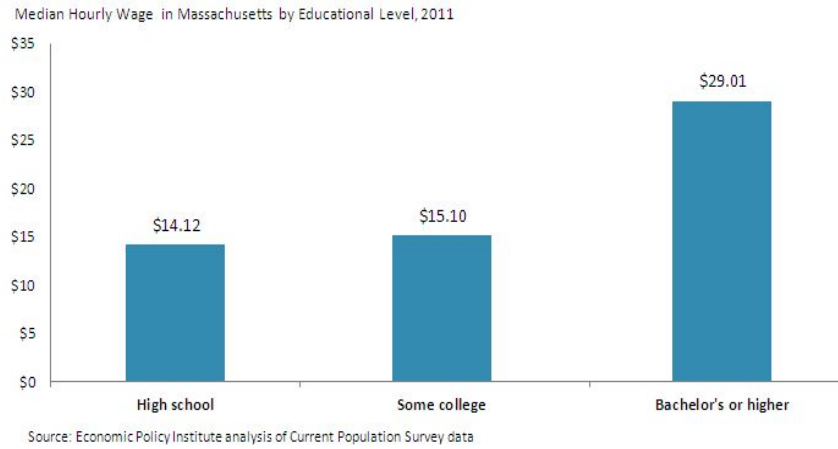
C. EDUCATION

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.

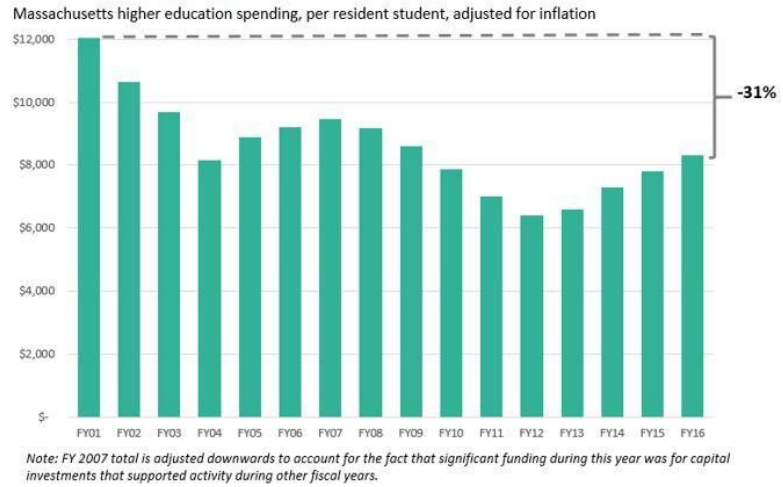


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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?*

Katie McBrine: As a product of public schools, I am grateful. If Massachusetts truly values education, then Beacon Hill has to invest in its public institutions. We must envision a PK-16 pathway, and make educational opportunity accessible to all. The state may be home to some of the country's best schools and the world's leading higher education institutions, but outcomes are uneven and access is not shared widely. By prioritizing investment in public education, my aim is to make the state more appealing to families seeking good communities, attract businesses who need skilled employees, strengthen the workforce through career preparation, and fill critical needs in vital occupations.

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

Katie McBrine: Yes. Early childhood education is a critical factor in educational success, and Massachusetts must envision a pathway originating with a strong, accessible, and integrated PK program.

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.)*

Katie McBrine: Yes. I think we need to look into high-stakes testing and fully understand the implications and ramifications for students and children.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. The state must modernize its approach to school funding, and I commend and support Senator Chang-Diaz for her impassioned, well-reasoned, and justified approach to Chapter 70 reform.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. I agree with and respect the will of the voters in rejecting a lift on the cap. The push by people for charter schools indicates a real need to address problems in our public schools, so for me, the votes for lifting the cap represent a mandate to reform chapter 70. In addition, I

support bringing greater accountability to existing charter schools.

- 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?*

Katie McBrine: 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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. I care about this so much I actually lobbied the current state senator, my now opponent, in favor of this bill in 2016. He voted no. As a pediatrician, I rely on research to treat and counsel my patients and their families. Children are savvy, empathetic, and curious. Our schools must utilize the most rigorous, science-based curricula to educate students on issues of sexual health.

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

Katie McBrine: Yes.

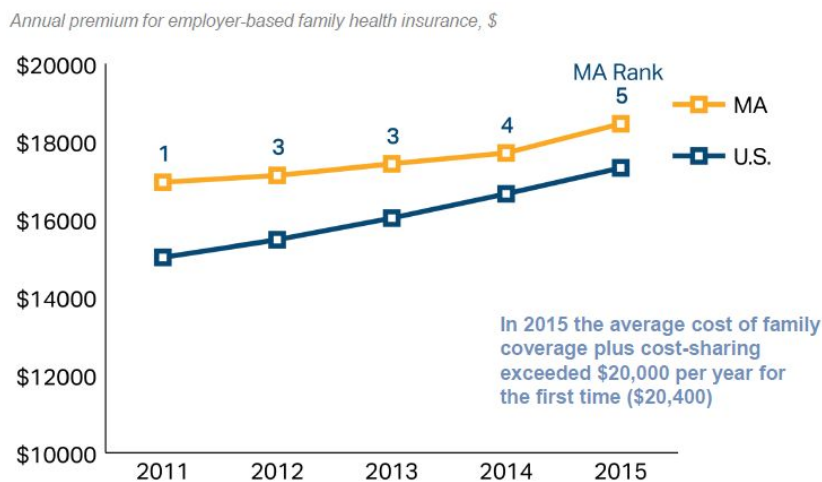
- 9. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. Massachusetts must retain homegrown talent by alleviating the burden of high-cost tuition, and we especially have to incentive attendance at state community colleges and public 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.*

Katie McBrine: Massachusetts is the healthiest state in the nation, and yet, we can still do a whole lot better. We have a raging opioid epidemic, middling funding for women's health services, and an increasingly underinsured population. Most of us live within driving distance of some of the most advanced medical facilities and best-trained clinicians in the world, but that doesn't mean we can afford to visit either when the need arises. Costs keep rising, and our patchwork system of insurance companies and public services can't keep up. As a pediatrician, I know firsthand how impossible this situation has become for working families across our state. As a partner in my practice at HealthCare

South, I also know that the cost to businesses is much too high and continues to rise rapidly year after year. We can't keep going like this. Healthcare is a human right. We must protect and expand access to healthcare for ourselves and for our children.

Besides the opioid crisis, there is one issue — mental health — that deserves to be mentioned here. Mental illness continues to be a mounting public policy issue. The Department of Public Health reported that Massachusetts experienced a 40% increase in suicides between 2004-2014. Sadly, these figures do not include unsuccessful self-harming. Depression, trauma, and other mental health issues are treatable. First and foremost, we must decrease the prejudice and discrimination that surrounds mental illness. To talk about mental health conditions is to minimize the fraught terrain that comes with these intimate, personal battles. We must fund mental health programs and research, and the programs that are available must be promoted widely, if sensitively. As an advocate for a single-payer system, I believe that by covering everyone, we will enable patients to visit health care professionals sooner who can then diagnose and treat earlier. Finally, we should be encouraging more practitioners to enter the field.

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

Katie McBrine: I am running for state senate.

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

Katie McBrine: Yes. Universal health insurance is the only way forward to a sustainable system which will make healthcare affordable, accessible, and fair. The time to start planning for it is right now. In Massachusetts, we have the opportunity to move away from the bloated, wasteful, inefficient system of private insurance. We can lead the nation toward a bright future where insurance premiums disappear, patients no longer face financial barriers to care such as co-pays and deductibles, and patient care is left to the healthcare professionals and their patients to decide. In order to combat the opioid epidemic, we have to improve access to addiction treatment. Single-payer is an option, Medicare-for-all — there are many ways to get to this and we have to start working on it now.

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

Katie McBrine: Yes. I will be a forceful, unrelenting advocate for women's health and reproductive rights.

- 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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. My pediatric practice relies on assistants, and I know that their training, compassion, and skills are indispensable to patient-focused care. The same philosophy applies to dental care, which is a basic requirement for good health.

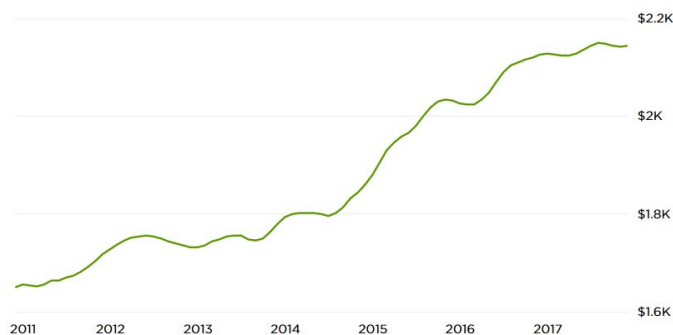
- 6. **Prescription Drug Pricing.** Would you support a drug transparency law, like the one recently passed in California, that requires pharmaceutical companies to publicly justify steep price increases?*

Katie McBrine: 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?

Katie McBrine: Like health care, housing is a fundamental right. I intend to approach the problem of unaffordable housing by listening to stakeholders and coming up with plans which can be supported by the state.

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

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

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

Katie McBrine: Yes.

b. *The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?*

Katie McBrine: Yes.

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

Katie McBrine: Yes.

A sustainability and livability agenda has to include affordable housing, especially in downtown areas. I strongly believe that we must embrace veterans, people with disabilities, and seniors, who add vitality and diversity. At the same time, the state can encourage smartly-located and -constructed housing stock, which is in short supply. The South Shore can be welcoming without closing out low- and moderate-income families. Public policy ought to nourish a dynamic, desirable, accessible region. The CPA is a powerful tool, and the state has neglected its responsibility in providing matching funds, especially as more community participate in the program.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes.

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

Katie McBrine: 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?*

Katie McBrine: I am unfamiliar with the Jim Brooks Stabilization Act, but I support reasonable legislation to provide basic protections for tenants.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. The state can be an active, constructive partner with cities and towns. Localities know best, and master plans are invaluable. The state must work collaboratively with community leaders, commuters, farmers, and other stakeholders. Legislative and regulatory remedies that modernize the zoning code, mitigate the housing crunch, and encourage conservation are achievable. Priority must be placed on reclaiming derelict or unused parcels, especially in high-density districts. Downtown revitalization, which attracts workers and visitors, is a key driver of growth.

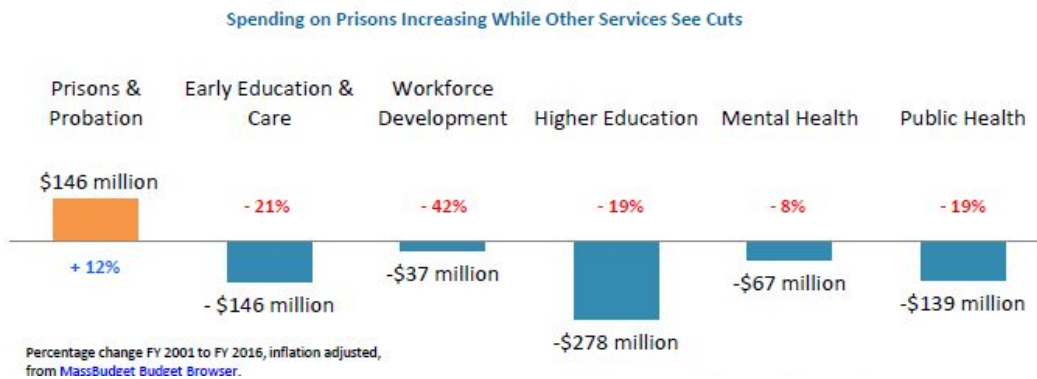
8. **Combating Speculation.** *Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to impose a graduated tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?*

Katie McBrine: Yes.

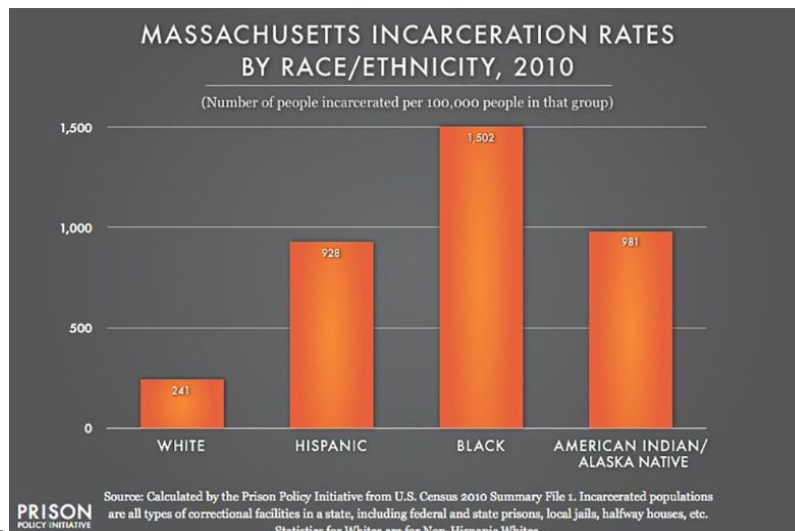
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

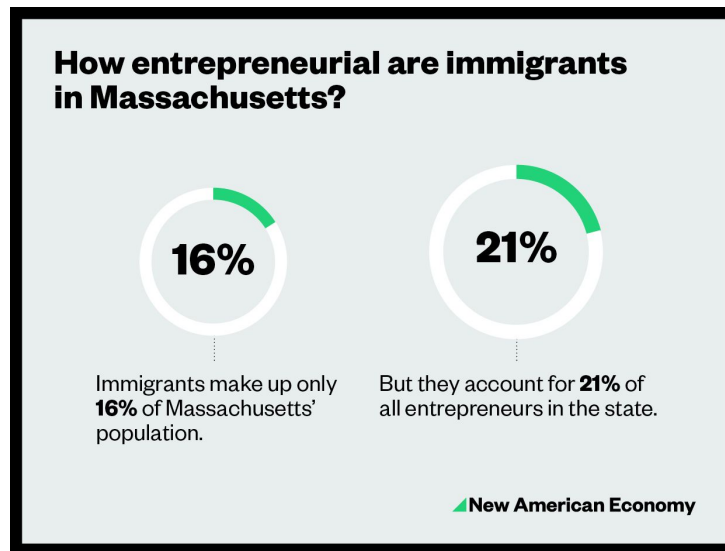
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

Katie McBrine: We are at an inflection point, where the forces of hatred and bigotry are gathering strength, just as they have at other moments in our history. Those of us who are fighting back with moral righteousness are demonstrating that Americans values for equality, inclusion, and diversity remain unbroken. However, Americans of conscience, also have a responsibility to recognize that institutional structures continue to harm people of color. Our culture casually, sometime subconsciously, paints those who are different as “the other”; the voting system suppresses and disenfranchises; the criminal justice system doles out disproportionate punishment; the economic system fails to provide a livable wage; housing and education policies reinforce tribal bias; environmental policies are unjust. We must reform these systemic obstacles if we are to realize our country’s promise.

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

Katie McBrine: I advocated for the passage of a welcoming statement in my hometown of Hingham to indicate to all comers that they would be welcomed. I also strongly support the passage of Safe Communities. I have also attended multiple rallies in support of our immigrant neighbors.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. As best as we know, there has not been a single reported incident in public restrooms involving transgender residents. This is because opponents are engaged in the same demonization that those who reject immigrants, people of color, and other members of the LGBTQ community. Transgender residents are entitled to the same rights and privileges as every other Bay Stater, and I will reject any legislative action that undermines their constitutional rights.

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?

Katie McBrine: Yes. The recently-passed ban on conversion therapy in the Senate affirms the state's commitment to science-based public policy, and I will utilize every legislative tool to protect the civil rights of as well as the bully pulpit to show our support and love for LGBTQ+ youth.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. "The criminal justice system needs to become more humane when it comes to opioid offenses. In others words, we should emphasize treatment over incarceration. Victims of addiction should not be criminalized, though we should not be lenient with drug dealers. I will work with and empower police chiefs, but a comprehensive statewide approach is needed. I have proposed a nine-part plan to intensify our efforts across the board and approach the opioid problem from many directions:

- (1) End the stigma of addiction
- (2) Dismantle healthcare siloes and reintegrate mental healthcare with physical healthcare, including treatment for addiction, mental health, and bodily ailments, so that no one with health insurance goes without coverage for any medical need, and work in earnest toward creating a single-payer universal healthcare system to relieve families of the burden of finding and paying for the care of loved ones
- (3) Reorient our justice system away from incarceration and towards treatment
- (4) Invest sufficient funds in treatment facilities, targeting cities and regions with high volume addiction needs
- (5) Study whether medical facilities for monitoring safe injection are desirable and feasible
- (6) Support social workers, mental health counselors, first responders, and other front-line care providers and provide them with resources to carry out their duties, and push for new recruits and new training
- (7) Intensify coordination with neighboring states' law enforcement agencies to end drug trafficking
- (8) Force the pharmaceutical industry to be a constructive partner 9. Provide research-based education for children and adults

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. As a pediatrician, I see too many 18 and 19-year-olds who are not adults. Why are

we treating non-adult brains as adult brains?

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)?*

Katie McBrine: No. Not at this time. It depends on the degree of difference in age, and how young the participants are who are covered by the law. I would have to look at the specifics before signing on.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. Solitary confinement is inhumane for all incarcerated individuals, and especially for at-risk populations. While this method may be a necessary deterrent in certain situations, its disproportionate application for at-risk populations gives too much license for abuse.

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

Katie McBrine: Yes. In medicine, when someone dies, we hold a Morbidity and Mortality conference to review what happened, and learn from our mistakes. I believe all professions could learn from this practice.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. Community relations and trust are undermined by hardened police forces. I will explore ways to standardize the transfer of weaponry, vehicles, and other supplies consistent with our values and best policing practices.

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?*

Katie McBrine: 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?*

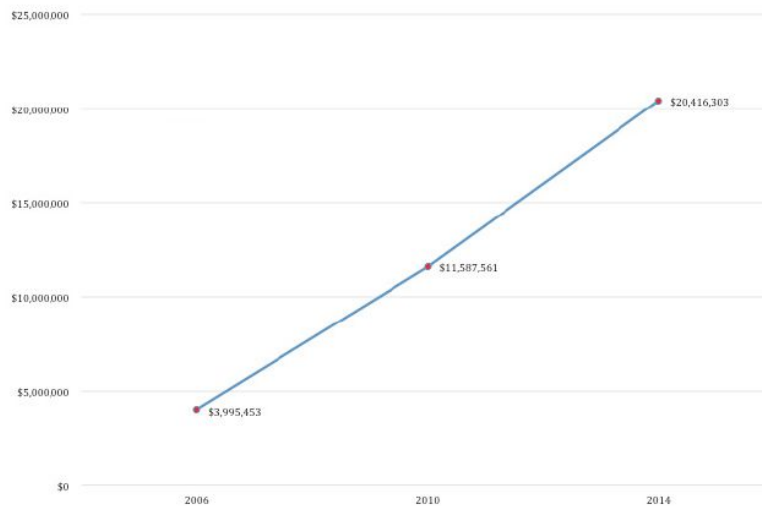
Katie McBrine: Yes.

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.*

Katie McBrine: Ethics and principles certainly seem in short supply these days. The decades-long campaign to denigrate government appears to have degraded confidence in our elected officials. Fueled by dark money, special interest influence, and disenfranchisement, voters cannot be blamed for being disenchanted. But, this state of affairs is among the reasons I chose to run for office. I still view government, imperfect as it is, as an agent for social good. Reforms are needed, to be sure, in order to restore faith in the political system, and we must remain ever-vigilant against the erosion of democratic norms. I remain hopeful that we can not only restore what may have been lost, but initiate a new era of good governing.

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

Katie McBrine: I pledge to explain every vote on my website and make clear my reasons for voting for or against or supporting legislation. I believe it's important to know what our legislators are doing.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes.

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

Katie McBrine: Yes.

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

Katie McBrine: Yes.

I will certainly advocate for more decentralized legislative agenda-setting and decision making in concert with my colleagues to ensure that transparency and well-paced deliberation become the norms on Beacon Hill.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes.

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

Katie McBrine: Yes.

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

Katie McBrine: Yes.

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

for state elections?

Katie McBrine: Yes. I am intrigued by Seattle’s publicly-financed elections, and will consider similar approaches that engage voters, ensure accountability for elected officials, are not financially burdensome to residents, and lead to clean elections.

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"?*

Katie McBrine: Yes.

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

a. *Election day voter registration*

Katie McBrine: Yes.

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

Katie McBrine: Yes.

c. *No-fault absentee voting*

Katie McBrine: Yes.

d. *Universal voting-by-mail*

Katie McBrine: Yes.

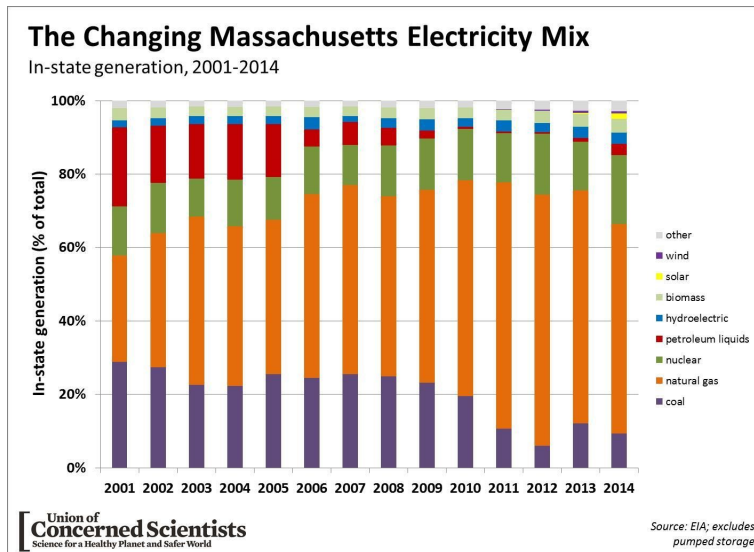
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

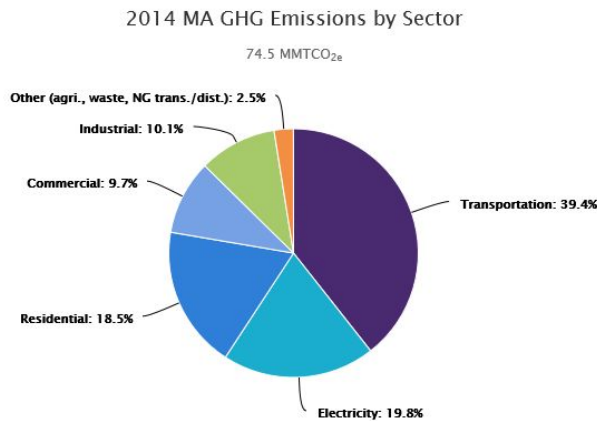
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and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

Katie McBrine: The natural environment is a complex system. If we are to plan for both today and future generations, we must conduct careful, thoughtful, research-based decision making. Science is at the center of my professional life, and I will rely on the state's experts in government, academia, and industry to craft sound, forward-thinking policies.

In some cases, we know what needs to be done, such as in constructing sea barriers to protect our coastal communities. Other adaptive techniques must be employed for critical natural assets like marshes and basins and man-made infrastructure like the electrical grid. We must gather data in specific areas we know to be polluted. In our district, it is critical that we install an air quality monitoring system to monitor the toxic pollutants currently emitted by existing industry in the Fore River Basin. We must also thwart the installation of the proposed compressor station and responsibly decommission the Pilgrim Nuclear Power plant. Finally, adequate investment in state environmental programs are essential if we are to provide healthy alternatives for families and attract tourist and generate income from our parks and special places.

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

Katie McBrine: Yes. I have attended rallies in support of the environment, and donated to environmental causes.

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

Katie McBrine: No. In some cases, single-use plastic straws are necessary. I support educating people about more sustainable options for single-use shopping bags.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. Solar power is important because it is localized and decentralized. We should remove any barriers to installation and promote its use among all residents.

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?

Katie McBrine: Yes. We cannot slow-walk our renewable energy production, and I will press for an increase in the Standard to 3% annually.

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?

Katie McBrine: Yes.

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

Katie McBrine: Yes.

I will do all that I can to ensure that environmental justice is a guiding principle for legislating and rulemaking.

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

Katie McBrine: Yes. With so many leaks currently wasting this resource and so much opposition to new sitings (including in Weymouth, where I have vehemently opposed the proposed compressor station), we do not need any new pipelines.

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

Katie McBrine: Yes.

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

Katie McBrine: Yes.

A carbon pricing regime is the best tool to cut carbon emissions and fund necessary investments in green energy and technologies, clean transit, and sustainable construction.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. Hingham owns the electric utility, and it is great.

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

Katie McBrine: Yes. A modern transportation system is a symbol of great cities and connected communities. Regrettably, we have become complacent to the interminable delays, the visible wear and tear, and the antiquated approaches. Livability is an essential characteristic of quality of life, and as state senator, I will champion a dynamic, reliable, and resilient mass transit sector. We all know that the emphasis on cars is at the root of the region's infrastructure inadequacy. We devote already-limited resources to roads for single-rider auto use, discouraging volume options. The result is that the public transit infrastructure is depleted and woefully underfunded, which is why I supported the Fair Share Amendment to invest in public transportation. Now, we must commit to finding other ways to make the necessary investments. The transportation sector, including the MBTA and RTAs, is a public good, and I will reject any efforts to privatize services or operations. My goal is to ensure equitable distribution of service and maintenance.

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?*

Katie McBrine: Yes. I want to encourage municipalities to be creative with funding, including pressing the State House for investments.

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.

Katie McBrine: When elected, I'll be the only physician in the State House. I'll be one of a few women. I'll be one of the few Democrats who fully embraces the MassDems platform. I am the only Democrat in my race, and my district has been Republican held for more than 20 years. It's time for a Prescription for Change.