

Terry Ryan

First Middlesex

State Senator



Endorsement Questionnaire

Office Sought: State Senator

Legislative District: First Middlesex

Party: Democratic

Website: <https://www.terryryan4masenate.com/>

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Primary: September 4

Election: November 6

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Introduction: Progressive Mass

About

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

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

Membership

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

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

Terry Ryan

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

Terry Ryan: I have lived, worked, and served the people of this district my entire life. I know this district and our state are facing serious challenges, and we need a serious problem solver. As state senator, I will work tirelessly to represent the interests of the hardworking individuals and families of the First Middlesex District.

My top three priorities:

- (1) Economic development: We need to create economic opportunities by providing proper education and training, embracing new technology, and fostering an environment to attract and expand new businesses.
- (2) Healthy communities: We must address key factors to improve our communities' health, ensuring affordable and innovative healthcare, protecting the environment, and eradicating the opioid addiction crisis.
- (3) Student success: We must ensure that all schools have equitable resources to give our students the tools they need to succeed, from technology to nutritious food to optimal – and safe – learning environments.

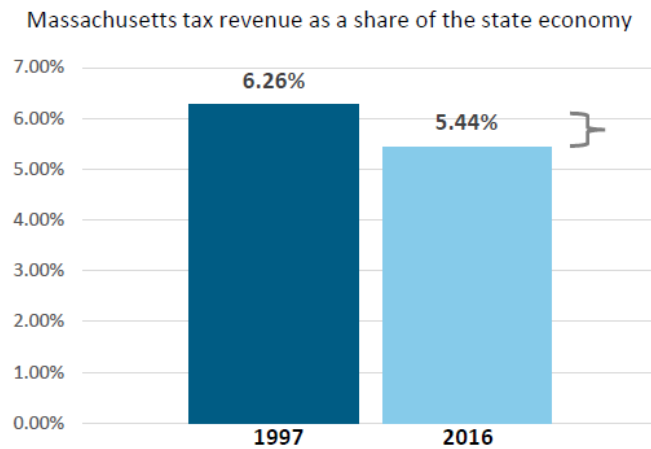
2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

Terry Ryan: I am a problem solver at my core. From my experience in the high-tech industry to my role as a public servant on the Westford School Committee, I have earned a reputation as a collaborator with the temperament and skills to bring people together and work tirelessly to reach common-sense solutions.

A. REVENUE AND TAXATION

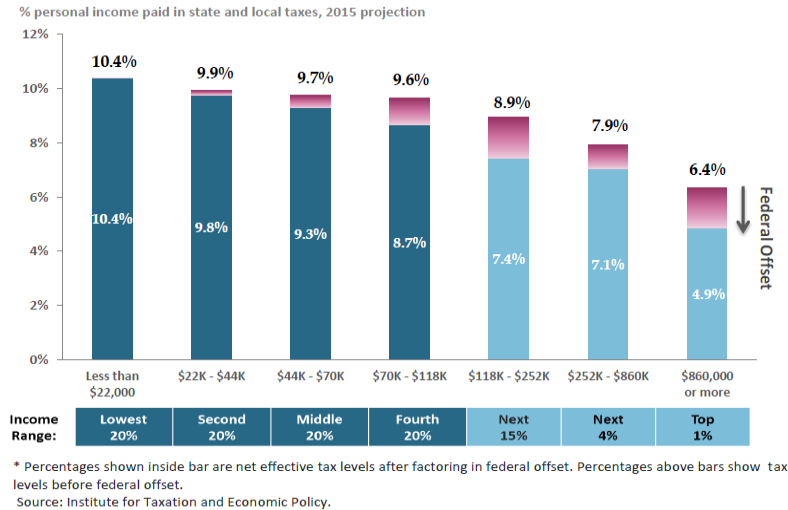
Despite the label of “Taxachusetts,” Massachusetts ranks 22nd among states in terms of state and local taxes as a share of total personal income and below the national average. Between 1977 and 2012, Massachusetts reduced state taxes by more than all but one other state. Because of income tax cuts enacted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



This 13.1% decline in tax revenue has led to deep budget cuts and ongoing budget challenges.

Massachusetts state and local taxes are regressive.



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?*

Terry Ryan: I believe the state should have fair taxation policies for individuals and businesses that provide required services to its citizens, allow us to invest in our future, and help the commonwealth continue to grow in a way that benefits all of us.

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.).*

Terry Ryan: As a former member of the Westford School Committee, I recognize and understand the need to be fiscally responsible to tax payers, while providing the best education possible to the students. This requires innovation, long term vision, and a concern for the taxpayer.

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?*

Terry Ryan: I support the ballot question, assuming the proceeds will go specifically to education and infrastructure projects within the state. However, if the court rules that the ballot initiative cannot direct the recipients of the revenue, I would look for a legislative agreement to ensure this. I would not support the ballot question if the tax revenue goes directly into the state general fund.

4. *Sales Tax Holiday. It has been demonstrated over and over that the annual sales tax holiday does not serve its intended purpose of increasing sales, but rather just shifts sales to the weekend of the holiday. Would you oppose efforts to extend the sales tax holiday?*

Terry Ryan: Yes.

5. **Corporate Tax Breaks & Disclosure.** Do you support the state's collecting and publicly disclosing the information about the benefits actually provided by corporations receiving tax credits?

Terry Ryan: Yes.

6. **Corporate Tax Breaks & Wages.** Do you support requiring any company receiving tax credits from the state to pay a living wage and provide good benefits to all its employees?

Terry Ryan: Yes.

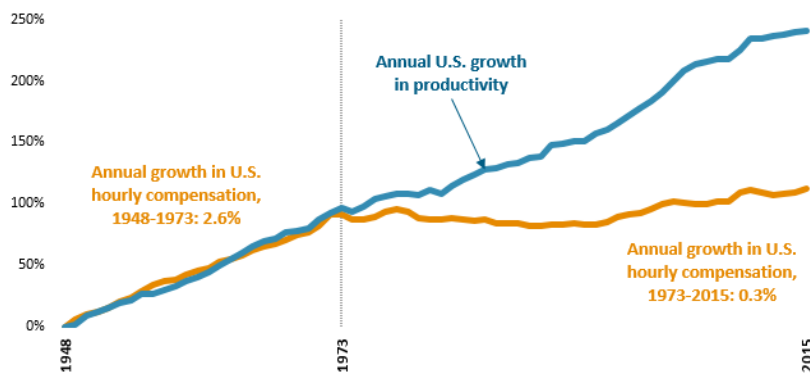
B. JOB GROWTH AND THE ECONOMY

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

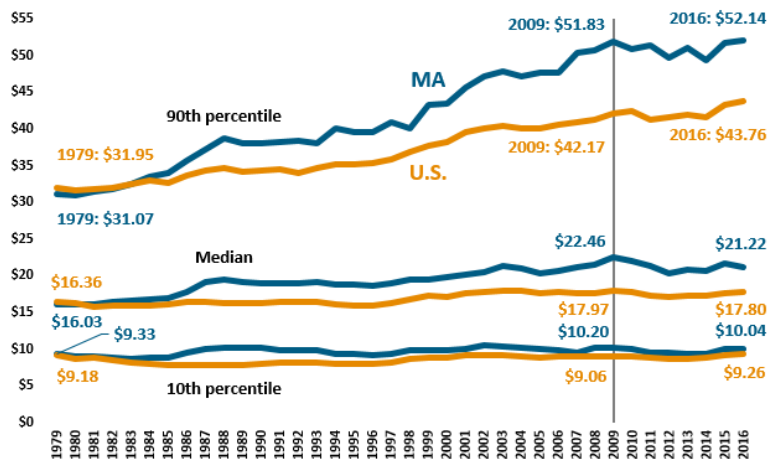
Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



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?

Terry Ryan: One of my priorities in the Massachusetts Senate will be creating economic opportunity in our communities, and that includes ensuring that every individual can gain the education and training they need to support themselves and their families. Funding vocational schools and resources such as the Massachusetts Workforce Development Board will help close the skills gap that threatens the future success of our economy. We also need to foster an environment to attract and expand business opportunities and create good quality jobs, recognizing that there is no cookie-cutter, one-size-fits-all solution. We must provide conditions and incentives to the large and small businesses that create jobs and drive our economy.

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.).*

Terry Ryan: During my time on the Westford School Committee, I collaborated with the teachers' union to increase their salaries. Westford teachers were being paid lower than those of surrounding towns, and together, we won the fight for equitable pay. As Director of the Merrimack Valley Small Business Center in Lowell, I worked every day to help entrepreneurs start or expand their small businesses. As senator, I will fight to preserve, protect, and create the jobs that are the backbone of our economy.

3. *Increasing Wages.*

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

Terry Ryan: In general, I believe minimum wage and other ballot questions should be resolved at a legislative level and not as a ballot question. This is the responsibility of elected officials in office. When done correctly the legislative process allows for collaboration and considerations essential to such a complex issue. If the legislators do not do their job, however, then I support citizens' efforts to move ballot questions forward. I 100 percent support the goal of increasing wages, but we need to work on the implementation of such increases so that local small businesses can comply. As Director of the Small Business Center, I know firsthand that this would impose a hardship on many local businesses that employ fewer than ten employees, but I am confident that these obstacles could be overcome.

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

Terry Ryan: As with the minimum wage, I believe this issue should be resolved at a legislative level and not as a ballot question due to the complexity of this issue.

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

Terry Ryan: I support indexing the minimum wage with the assumption that it would be based on an agreed baseline amount and a careful consideration of its impact on our local businesses' ability to plan for the future.

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

Terry Ryan: In its current form, I do not support a blanket teen minimum wage. I do, however, support a teen minimum wage for new teen employees entering the workforce, teaching the necessary skills and responsibilities as they join the workforce. This could be based in part on total hours worked, the type of company that is hiring the teen, and other factors. We want to ensure that employers cannot exploit a teen minimum wage simply to increase profits.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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?*

Terry Ryan: Yes. I would oppose a rollback on employees' bargaining rights.

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?*

Terry Ryan: 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?*

Terry Ryan: Yes. Employees must have the right to sue an employer that participates in inequitable, illegal conduct.

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?*

Terry Ryan: Yes.

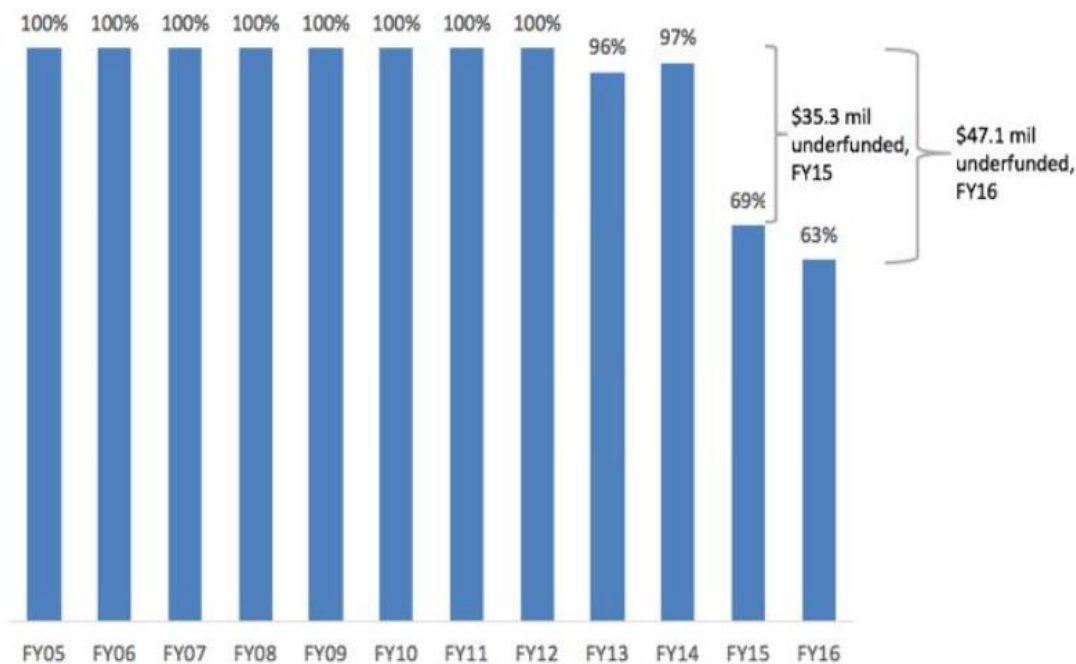
C. EDUCATION

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.

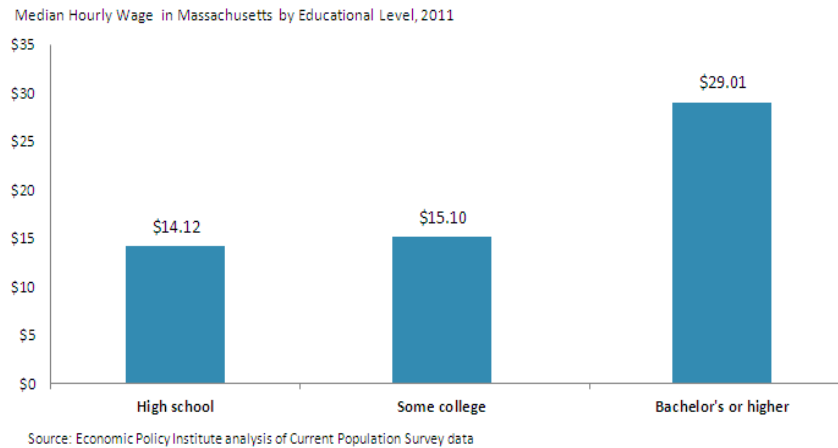
The state hasn’t been living up to its responsibility to fully fund our public schools.

The State Has Not Fully Funded Charter Reimbursements in Recent Years

Percent of charter school reimbursements paid to sending districts, based on reimbursement formula

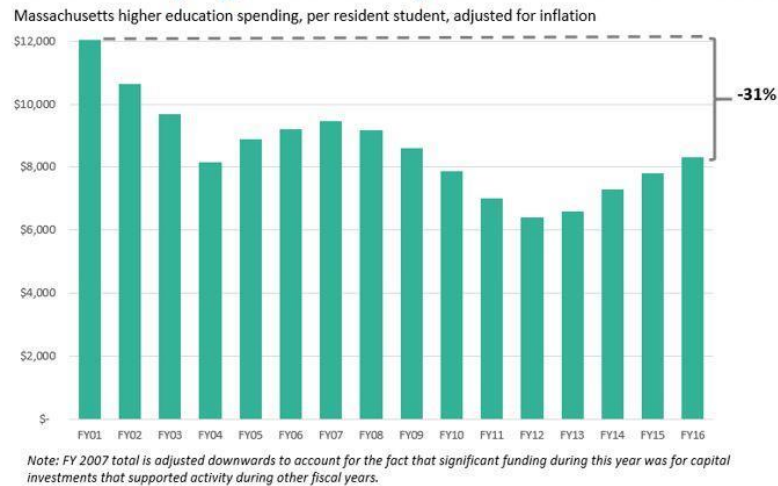


Higher educational attainment leads to higher wages.



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?*

Terry Ryan: The son of an engineer and a public-school teacher, I was raised in Lowell by hardworking middle-class parents who instilled in me an incredible work ethic, as well as a commitment to public service and giving back. I have lived those values my entire life. On the state level we must ensure that our communities have sufficient funding to give our students the tools they need to succeed, from technology to nutritious food to optimal – and safe – learning environments. Every student should feel safe walking into school each morning, and every parent should feel comfortable knowing their children are in a safe environment. We need to ensure that every Massachusetts resident has access to an affordable, high-quality degree program while we work to reduce the burden of student debt that is crippling our graduates.

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

Terry Ryan: I served on the Westford School Committee from 2012 to 2018. As chairman during my final year on the Committee, I focused specifically on reducing stress and anxiety for students and improving school safety. Under my leadership, the Committee implemented Challenge Success Programs, made school infrastructure improvements, and increased resources for students, including providing Chromebooks for freshman at Westford Academy.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes. Research shows that pre-kindergarten is beneficial for our children, especially those who may be socioeconomically disadvantaged. Implementing universal pre-kindergarten would allow for early growth and incorporation of skills that will help children throughout their lifetime.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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?*

Terry Ryan: 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?*

Terry Ryan: 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?*

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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

Terry Ryan: I would favor providing financial aid to Green Card holders who are currently on a path to citizenship.

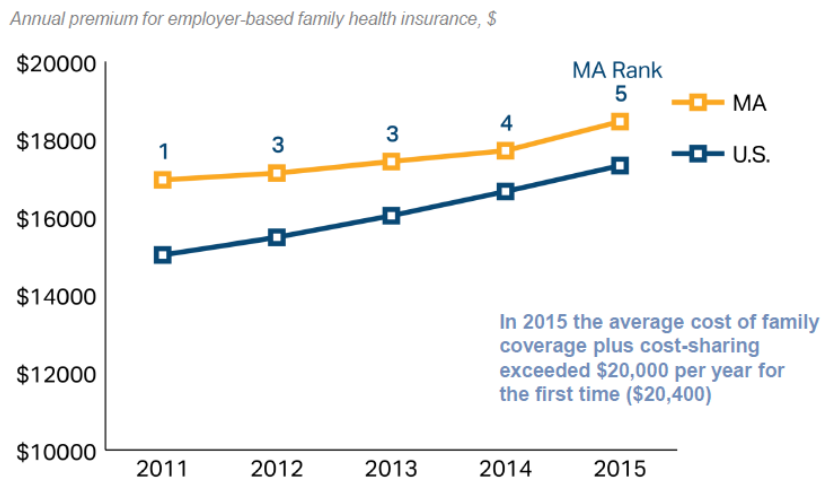
9. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** *Would you support making tuition free at public colleges and universities?*

Terry Ryan: Yes. Access: I would favor providing financial aid to Green Card holders who are currently on a path to citizenship. 9. Tuition-Free Higher Education: I do not believe at this time that the state can afford to provide free tuition. While a tuition-free higher education is an important goal for Massachusetts, I believe we must first examine the reasons behind the rapidly increasing cost of higher education in relation to inflation. I would sponsor legislation to obtain such data from public and private institutions. Along with the questions on funding, there is the question of how we select recipients of the benefit. While tuition-free higher education may not be feasible at this time, we must start working on the process of changing our higher education tuition system, because the current system is not sustainable for students or for most schools.

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.*

Terry Ryan: I believe healthcare is a right. We need to provide quality healthcare to all residents at a fair cost, while driving innovation and efficiency in the medical 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.).*

Terry Ryan: As the father of a child with epilepsy, I've experienced firsthand the importance of affordable healthcare and of healthcare innovation to save lives and improve how people with chronic health conditions live. Massachusetts is a leader in healthcare and I will work to drive innovation, efficiency and availability to all residents.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes. Health insurance is a right and we can work towards a single payer healthcare system in Massachusetts.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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?*

Terry Ryan: Yes.

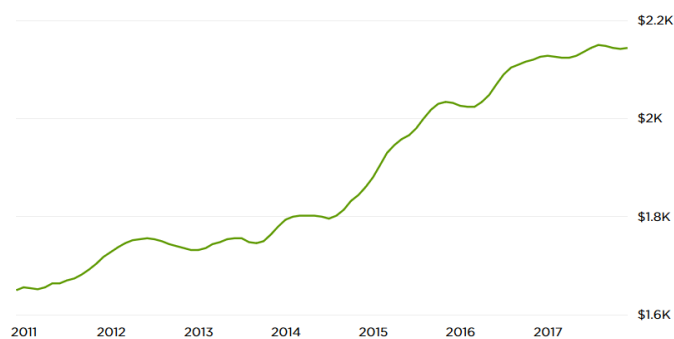
6. ***Prescription Drug Pricing.** Would you support a drug transparency law, like the one recently passed in California, that requires pharmaceutical companies to publicly justify steep price increases?*

Terry Ryan: 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?

Terry Ryan: Affordable housing is an essential need and a building block to obtaining all other goals in life. As a state senator, I will find innovative housing solutions that are aligned with transit systems, employment opportunities, and a sustainable environment.

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

Terry Ryan: As a member of the Westford School Committee, I worked with the Westford Housing Authority to link the housing units' septic system to the school system's operations. Collaborating with the Housing Authority reinforced the interconnected nature of public services, critical to the well-being

of the community.

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

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

Terry Ryan: Yes.

b. The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program?

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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

Terry Ryan: 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?

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes.

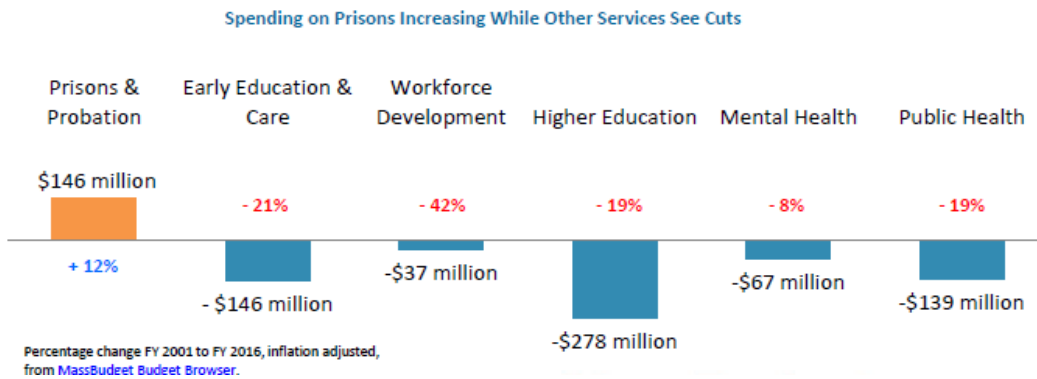
8. Combating Speculation. Would you support legislation to allow cities and towns to impose a graduated tax on private real estate transactions over \$2.5 million, with the money allocated to affordable housing trust funds?

Terry Ryan: Yes.

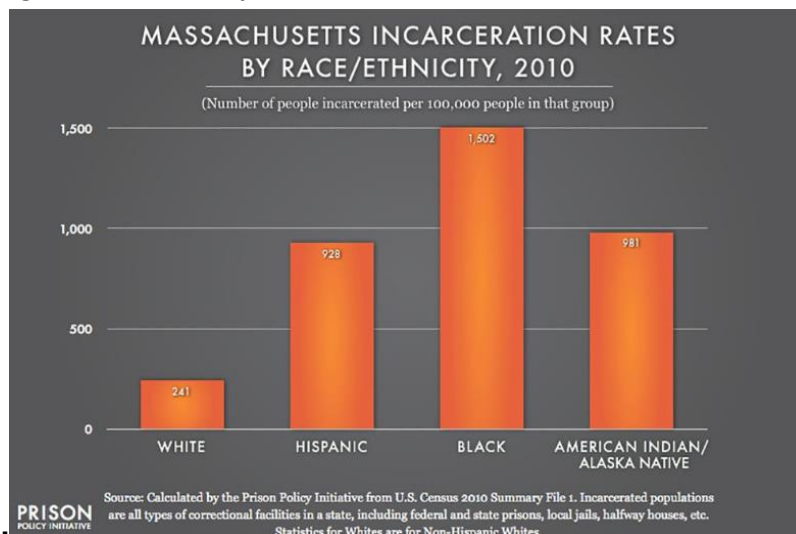
F. RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

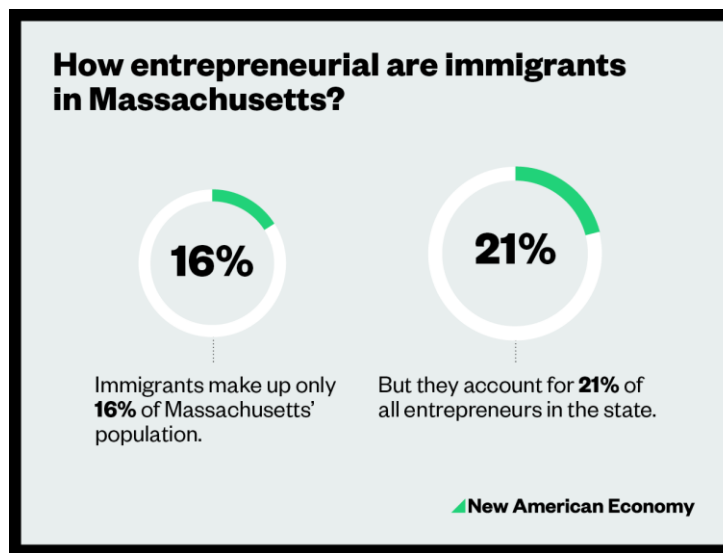
Massachusetts must continue to strive to be a state that welcomes and embraces all of its residents and combats prejudice and discrimination of all kinds. The social and economic costs of mass incarceration and the policies that created it, in particular, have put our aspirations of “justice for all”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

Terry Ryan: Today, and all my life, I have taken a stand for equality and justice. There is no place for prejudice and discrimination in our communities or in our state. I have instilled this in my children and I have stood for this as a member of the School Committee.

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

Terry Ryan: In October 2017, I was Chairman of the Westford School Committee as we presented and approved a transgender policy for the schools. This was an important measure for our community and supported and praised by the students.

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?*

Terry Ryan: Yes. I would advocate to protect legislation that protects transgender individuals.

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?*

Terry Ryan: Yes. Conversion therapy is a harmful practice that has the potential to traumatize our LGBTQ youth. Members of the LGBTQ community need no conversion, as they have no a disorder. There is never justification for the practice of conversion therapy, and I strongly support its ban in Massachusetts.

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?

Terry Ryan: Yes. Implementing mandatory minimums for opioid-related offences is a harmful practice because it requires those suffering from addiction to be imprisoned instead of allowing them to go to a rehabilitation facility to fight their disease. Criminalizing addiction has only created larger problems in the past and we must not continue to make the same mistakes.

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?*

Terry Ryan: Yes. I do support raising the age of criminal majority. Research shows that the US has high recidivism rates and increasing the age of criminal majority so that young offenders have greater access to resources that would prevent this is viable solution.

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)?*

Terry Ryan: I would consider the elimination of the charge but not with a four-year difference.

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?*

Terry Ryan: Yes. I do support limiting the use of solitary confinement to 15 consecutive days.

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

Terry Ryan: 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?

Terry Ryan: Yes. I do support a vote on any potential transfer of military equipment.

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?

Terry Ryan: 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?

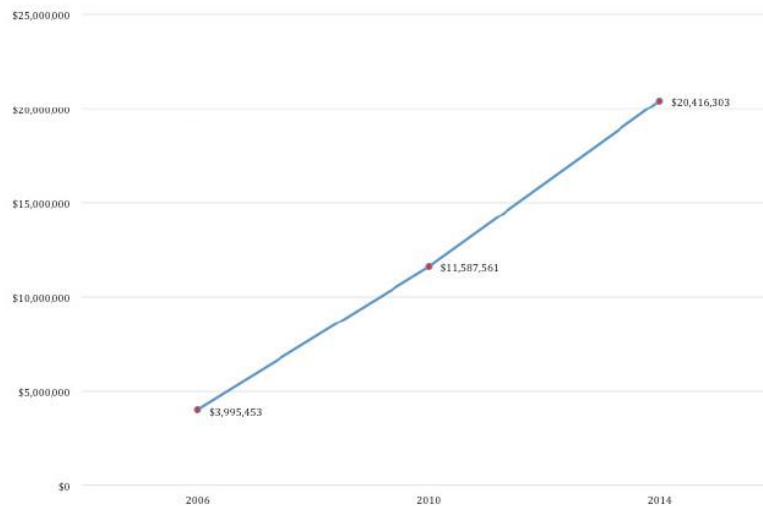
Terry Ryan: Yes.

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.*

Terry Ryan: Unfortunately, engagement of the electorate is difficult and made worse with the cynicism of each voter. I believe in true campaign finance reform with a focus on the candidate and the issues, rather than the money. As elected official, I have always encouraged others to run for office as a means of civic engagement and to understand the candidate-side of the process.

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

Terry Ryan: By focusing my campaigns on the people, not the money, I have been successful in two campaigns for the Westford School Committee. I was also a former candidate for the 3rd Congressional District where money is a driving force.

3. **Power and the Legislature.** *If elected, would you support efforts to dilute the amount of power held by leadership in your respective branch of government? For example, would you support a rule change allowing committees to appoint their own chair, instead of leadership?*

Terry Ryan: Yes. I would.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes. Ending this exemption would improve accountability of elected officials.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes. The ability to run for office is extremely limited and creating a public financing system for state elections has the potential to introduce a more inclusive and diverse body of candidates.

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"?*

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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

a. *Election day voter registration*

Terry Ryan: Yes.

b. *Automatic voter registration*

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes.

d. *No-fault absentee voting*

Terry Ryan: Yes.

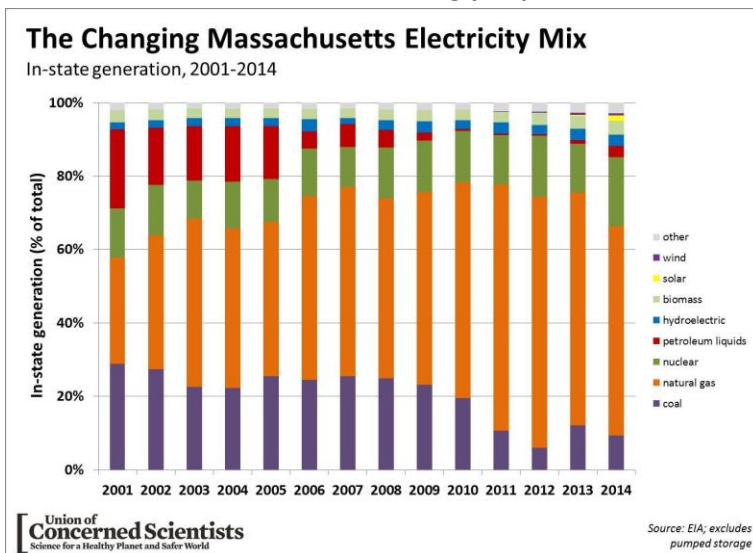
H. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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.

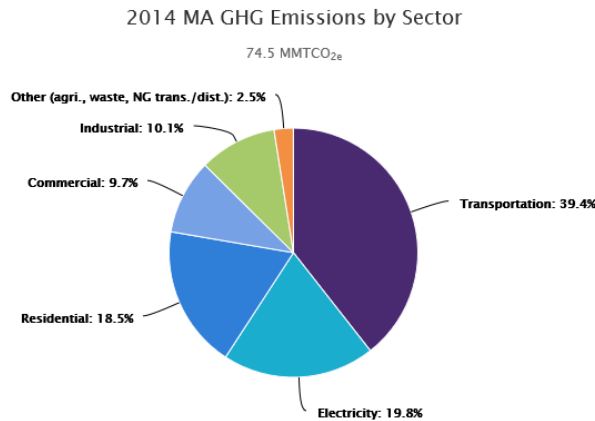
Equity issues loom large, as low-income communities and communities of color are often the most vulnerable to natural disasters and bear the brunt of pollution. In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed an executive order directing all state agencies to devote resources to protect the health, safety, and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

Terry Ryan: When it comes to our environment, there is no Planet B. We must, as a district, as a state, and as a nation address key factors that can improve our health and protect our environment, from reducing greenhouse gas emissions to expanding reliance on renewable energy sources to embracing cleaner forms of transportation. In Massachusetts, less than one percent of our budget goes to environmental protection, and that is not acceptable.

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

Terry Ryan: I have been dedicated to environmental issues in my community for as long as my public service has started, especially as they pertain to the effect and impact that the environment has on our children and in our schools. As the Chairman of the Westford School Committee, I worked with other committee members to update our schools' efficiency programs and reduce our carbon footprint, as well as approve the installation and funding of Water Bottle Refill Stations in schools across the town of Westford. We also approved the replacement of two old boilers at Blanchard Middle School with one high-efficiency boiler and we retrofitted interior and exterior lighting fixtures at various town facilities under the Green Communities grant, saving Westford more than \$28,000 annually in energy bills. Additionally, we worked with National Grid to replace lights in all school parking lots with energy efficient lights, and we promoted the UpCycle Program in all nine public schools in Westford. I also collaborated with Sustainable Westford to get funding to present "Plastic Ocean" to the Westford community at First Parish Church. I was on the Pedestrian Safety Committee which received a Complete Streets grant of \$400,000 which was used to add sidewalks and to improve street identification.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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

Terry Ryan: 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?

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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

Terry Ryan: Yes.

8. **Carbon pricing.**

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

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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

Terry Ryan: 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?

Terry Ryan: Yes.

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

Terry Ryan: 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?*

Terry Ryan: Yes.