

**PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2020 CONGRESSIONAL
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**



Date: 2/9/20

Candidate: Ben Sigel

Office Sought: Congress - 4th Congressional

Party: Democrat

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Email questions to elections@progressivemass.com.

Questionnaire Responses (excepting sections labeled CONFIDENTIAL) will be published on our website.

I. About You

1. Why are you running for office? And what will your top 3 priority pieces of legislation if elected?

We are living in a time when our country and our communities are more divided than ever, and where disparities in access to opportunities are wider than ever. The very fabric of our country requires fresh leadership and a renewed commitment to shared values.

I am running for Congress in **Massachusetts 4th Congressional District** because I have the experience to bring our communities together to make real lasting change and ensure that the wheels of justice turn for all of us, not just a privileged few.

Making real lasting change is never easy. Creating opportunities that lift up our neighbors is hard work. Through my non-profit advocacy and community work and as a father of 4 children, I have witnessed how powerful a community can be when it is united. **NOW** is the time for us to stand together and act. **NOW** is the time to say **NO MORE** to the hatred and bigotry that is dividing our country. That is the type of community where I want to live and raise my children. That is the type of community we all deserve. I am ready, willing and able to unite our community to strengthen all those within it.

I am proud of the life that my wife and best friend for over 20 years, Gabrielle and I have built. Together, we have raised 4 beautiful children in Brookline. Like most working families in the 4th Congressional District, we have faced financial burdens with significant childcare costs, student loan debt, and mortgage and car payments. However, I also recognize how lucky I am to have had mentors and advocates providing me with opportunities others were not afforded. I have dedicated my adult life to building, connecting and strengthening different communities, ensuring all of us have access to the same opportunities, and that no one is discriminated against based on who they are, who they love, how much money they earn, or where they live.

I am building an open, welcoming and inclusive movement to unite our community to deliver real lasting change. Together, **We The 4th** will tackle the biggest issues facing our community and our country, including

- Fighting for universal coverage for ALL American to obtain high-quality affordable healthcare
- Working for social and economic justice, including combating climate change
- Ensuring equitable access to high-quality public education from early childhood to higher education
- Increasing economic opportunities to eliminate the inequality gap
- Enacting comprehensive and compassionate immigration reform
- Combating the rise of hatred, bigotry, and anti-Semitism in ALL forms against ALL people

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

My father believed in the importance of giving back to our country and the value of public service. He worked for over 40 years in nonprofit organizations and the federal government,

including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, where he helped oversee public housing authorities in Taunton and Fall River. After retiring, he continued his passion for public service by working as a substitute teacher at Braintree High School.

My mother dedicated her life to caring for others through her work as a skilled nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Lahey Clinic, and then through her work caring for my and my brother as a stay-at-home mom. In both of these roles, she was compassionate and empathetic in providing her patients and her family with the support and confidence they needed

As one of the few Latino and Jewish kids in my public school system, I experienced first-hand the effects of intolerance and prejudice. I quickly realized that these incidents were based on false pretenses and ignorance. This realization drove me to work to bring people together, build bridges and strengthen his community.

After college, I decided to fight for progressive ideals by working for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, under Congressman Martin Frost, **as Deputy Finance Director for the West Coast, working with Democratic candidates in their attempt to win back the House of Representatives.** When Congressman Frost rose in leadership to become Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I joined his staff as Task Force Coordinator, directing and coordinating Members of Congress in creating and promoting a national Democratic agenda and helping organize national policy retreats and weekly policy meetings.

I went on to receive a *Juris Doctorate cum laude* and a *Masters in Business Administration* from American University, where I also worked as a research assistant for current Maryland Congressman Jamie Raskin. Following law school and business school, my wife and I moved to Brookline in 2003, where I worked at several law firms as a civil litigator, including for the last eight years at Mintz Levin. **Most recently, I served as Mintz Levin's Director of Client and Community Relations – Special Counsel,** where I focused on deepening and expanding the law firm's relationships with its clients and prospective clients and assisting the law firm with better collaboration across its offices and practice areas.

Ever since I moved to Brookline, I have been driven and passionate about strengthening the communities in our district. **I have served on the boards and committees of over a dozen local, national and global nonprofit organizations whose missions aligned with my passion for community building.** I helped create the Young Jewish Leaders Council under Combined Jewish Philanthropies, which for the first time, brought together all 40+ young Jewish adult organizations in the Greater Boston area to network, collaborate, share best practices, build skills and strengthen the community. I also helped create the young leadership division of the American Jewish Committee – ACCESS – both in Boston and nationally, which launched national Jewish-Latino and Jewish-Muslim taskforces for young adults.

I have proudly served as the President of the Hispanic National Bar Association in New England for the last 18 months, helping advance the interests of the Latino legal community and advocating on issues of importance to Latinos locally and nationally. In addition, I have been instrumental in advancing diversity and inclusion initiatives within Mintz Levin as a member of its Diversity Committee and the Steering Committee for the Minority Attorney Affinity Group, within the broader legal community as a member of the Boston Bar Association's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and within the greater Boston community through such organizations as Get Konnected!

As a result of my dedication and commitment to community building, I have been honored with several awards and recognitions from different nonprofit organizations. Most recently, I was recognized by the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys with their Corporate Social Responsibility Award, the National Hispanic Bar Association with the Regional President of the Year Award, and Get Konnected! named me one of the 50 Most Influential Attorneys of Color in Greater Boston and 100 Most Influential People of Color in Boston. Due to this work bridging divisions and unifying communities, I was also recognized by the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts with their K'lal Israel Award and by Combined Jewish Philanthropies with their Ben Gurion Society Leadership, Circle of Excellence, Young Leadership and Chai in the Hub Awards.

3. What do you view as the biggest barriers to progressive policy on the federal level?

President Trump, a Republican Senate, and the in-fighting we have in the Democratic Party. We need to unite as a party and as a country so we can tackle progressive policies at the Federal Level.

II. The Issues

Our questionnaire is based on our [Progressive Platform](#): Shared Prosperity, All Means All/Racial and Social Justice, Good Government and Strong Democracy, and Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection.

A. An Equitable Tax System

1. What does a progressive tax system look like? Which specific proposals would you advocate for?
 - a. A progressive tax system to me is a system that shares the burden of taxes in a way that does not inhibit the potential for growth for lower income earners. My campaign is about ensuring government works for all of us and not just the privileged few. To that end, I will fight to reverse the damaging Trump Tax cuts.

Multinational corporations should not be paying 0% in federal income tax while the workers for those same corporations have to pay. I will push to raise the corporate tax level back closer to the levels it was at before the 2017 GOP Tax

Bill and use those funds to invest in our community to help all Americans. I also will push to tax capital gains at the same rate as basic income.

B. Jobs That Pay a Living Wage

1. **Minimum Wage.** The gap between productivity and wages has grown dramatically since 1973. Moreover, the federal minimum wage remains stuck at \$7.25—what it was in 2009. Would you support legislation to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour?
 - i. Yes
 - b. And eliminate the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers?
 - i. Yes
 - c. And index the minimum wage to inflation?
 - i. Based on Pew Research data, the minimum wage reached its peak purchasing power in 1968, when it reached \$10.15 in 2018 dollars. Since then the purchasing power for an individual earning the minimum wage has decreased consistently. This is unacceptable. There needs to be a mechanism for raising the minimum wage without constant Congressional approval. I am concerned in indexing to inflation however, as health care and housing can outpace the rate of inflation, ensuring a minimum wage will never be a true living wage in many places in our country.
2. **Retirement Security.** With the decline of pensions and other defined-benefit retirement plans in the workplace, retirement is becoming more insecure, and seniors are having to work longer just to stay afloat. Would you support legislation to....
 - a. Increase the benefits provided by Social Security?
 - i. Yes.
 - b. Raising the cap on earnings that are taxed for Social Security? (Currently, only earnings up to \$118,500 are subject to the payroll tax.)
 - i. Yes.
3. **Paid Leave.** The US is the only industrial nation without paid family leave. Would you support federal legislation ensuring that workers can take up to 12 weeks of paid leave for a pregnancy, the birth or adoption of a child, to recover from a serious illness, or to care for a seriously ill family member?
 - a. I support gender neutral Paid Leave, for both Family and Medical, however 12 weeks is not long enough. With 4 children, I have witnessed first hand the position my family was in when my wife had to return to work for 2 of our children in under 3 months because she had no paid family and medical leave and we could not afford her not working anymore. No one should be forced with that choice. I support paid family and medical leave starting at 18 weeks.
4. **Union Rights.** Unions play a key role in building a strong middle-class; however, unions have been under attack in recent years. Would you support the following efforts to strengthen the role of unions in our economy:
 - a. Prohibiting “right-to-work” laws at the state level?

- i. Yes
- b. Requiring employers to recognize a union when a majority of workers in a bargaining unit sign valid authorization cards?
 - i. Yes
- c. Prohibiting employers from interfering with unionization efforts, such as by compelling worker attendance at anti-union meetings?
 - i. Yes

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

C. Quality, Affordable Health Care

1. **Medicare for All.** Would you support the creation of a single payer/“Medicare for All” health insurance system in the country that would guarantee health care as a right?
 - i. My goal is universal access to coverage for all Americans to obtain high-quality, affordable health care.
2. **Prescription Drug Prices.** Prescription drug prices in the US are consistently higher than in other countries. Which policies would you support to lower the cost of prescription drugs?
 - a. Allowing Medicare to negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies?
 - i. Yes
 - b. Allowing patients, pharmacists, and wholesalers to buy low-cost prescription drugs from Canada and other industrialized countries?
 - i. Yes
 - c. Allowing the federal government to manufacture lower-cost generic versions of prescription drugs when the market does not offer them?
 - i. I do not think the government should be getting into the business of manufacturing prescription drugs. It is not our expertise and we should leverage our position to get private companies to manufacture lower-cost alternatives.
3. **Reproductive Rights.** Would you support repealing the Hyde Amendment, which bars the use of federal funds to pay for abortion except to save the life of the woman, or if the pregnancy arises from incest or rape?
 - a. Yes and I would move to codify Roe v Wade.
4. **Opioid Crisis.** An essential part of addressing the opioid crisis, safe consumption sites allow medical professionals to respond to overdoses and engage participants in medical and behavioral health services. Would you support the legalization of SCSs?
 - a. Yes, as a short term tool, however we need to develop a comprehensive proactive plan on combating the opioid crisis.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

D. Quality, Free Publicly Funded Education

1. **Education Equity.** More than six and a half decades out from the *Brown vs. Board* Supreme Court ruling, our public education systems remain highly segregated and unequal. Please name three policies you would advocate for in order to address this.
 - a. Universal Pre-K - we need to give access to all students at an early age to ensure all students are exposed to the same learning tools as the more privileged students who can currently afford Pre-K.
 - b. Investing in diverse teachers and diverse leaders in the education system. We must do a better job teaching culture competency to both teachers and students. This will help all students and will help eliminate stigmas, biases, hatred and anti-semitism.
 - c. Better support for English learners, from pre-k through adult education.
 - d. Increasing college affordability, access and completion, too many lower income and people of color can not afford higher education because the jobs they would get afterwards would not be sufficient to pay off the debt. Furthermore, too many students are leaving college early losing the options available from receiving a college degree while still facing crippling debt.
 - i. Increase programs that promote accessibility to get into and complete college. Affordability is the problem, we need to attack student debt. We need to make colleges more affordable based on income level so they can leave school debt free.
 - ii. If people need to take out student loans, they need to be lent money at the same level that any bank could lend money at. Further we need to simplify student debt payments to be tied for all payers to a percentage of their income.
 - iii. Based on income, we need to cap the amount public higher education costs.
 - iv. We need to make Community Colleges, Technical and Vocational schools more affordable and cap the amount it costs to attend these institutions based on income
 - e. In addition, the housing policies of the past have played an extreme role in the segregation of our schools. Unfortunately, while policies like redlining have been exposed, the insidious intent of the past is still prevalent in our society today. Affordable housing for lower income residents and minorities are too often packed into certain communities who then all attend the same low performing and underfunded school districts. I believe we need to build communities that have a wide array of housing opportunities for all income levels that are inclusive of all Americans.

2. **Charter School Funding.** The NAACP has proposed a moratorium on public funds for charter school expansion until a national audit has been completed to determine the impact of charter growth in each state. Do you support such a moratorium?
 - a. I need to do more research. I need to continue to better understand the moratorium issue better. As Congressman, I will always push for a strong public school system for our children, especially since I was a public school student myself and my kids are currently public school students, but first I need to see how this moratorium will affect students today.
3. **Charter School Accountability.** Do you support requiring that charter schools comply with the same transparency and accountability requirements as public schools?
 - a. Yes
4. **High-Stakes Testing.** Do you support prohibiting the use of standardized testing as a primary or significant factor in closing a school, firing a teacher, or making any other high-stakes decisions?
 - a. Yes
5. **Student Loan Debt.** Student loan debt is holding back the economy, as graduates are unable to make important long-term investments in their future. Presidential candidates have put forth various schemes to forgive student loan debt. Do you support doing so, and what would your ideal scheme look like?
 - a. My ideal scheme would take income into account not only for loan repayment, but also for the cost of college itself. If you have the means to pay for college you should pay, however, if you do not have the means to pay we need to create a system that will still allow you to attend college and leave with as little debt as is reasonable. Creating access to opportunities for all is a vital part of my platform, it will help the individual students but also our community and economy as a whole. I still have significant student loan debt today so I know what a financial burden it carries.

The amount you would need to pay back in student loans per month would be dependent on your income level. While we do currently have income based repayment plans, I would push to make this the main system in repayment and to expand education on this option. Many key jobs in our society can not support a recently graduated student with six figures in loan repayments at 6+% interest rates. We need to incentive graduating students to pursue these types of jobs, like social workers, teachers, and doctors in rural communities. We also must ensure that students can receive loans at the same lower rates that banks receive loans.

6. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** More and more jobs are requiring a college degree, but the cost of higher education has been growing faster than wages, contributing to a ballooning student debt burden. Would you support legislation to guarantee free tuition at public colleges and universities?

- a. Pursuant to my answer above, I believe that we need to create a system that allows for all students to attend public college (including vocational and community colleges) regardless of their means. I will push for a system that allows for lower costs or no costs for lower income Americans so they can have the same access as more privileged students.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

E. Affordable, Decent Housing

1. **Tenant Rights.** Would you support legislation to establish a national just cause eviction standard, which would limit the grounds upon which a landlord may evict a tenant?
 - a. I need to do more research
2. **Inclusive Communities.** Federal funding can be a major source of leverage in shaping state and municipal policy. Would you support legislation to tie transportation or housing funding to...
 - a. Ending exclusionary zoning practices? Yes
 - b. Repealing state prohibitions on rent stabilization policies? Yes
3. **Public Housing.** Would you support the repeal of the Faircloth Amendment, which bans HUD from funding the construction or operation of new public housing units beyond the total that existed in 1999? Yes

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

My dad worked for many years at HUD helping to oversee the affordable housing in Fall River and Taunton. I believe strongly that we should be building more affordable units, and build them in different communities to promote diversity and inclusion.

F. A Fair and Efficient Criminal Justice System

1. **Ending Mass Incarceration.** The past few years have seen a growing recognition that the “tough on crime” legislation passed in the 1980s and 1990s has had a devastating impact on communities of color and has not improved public safety. Which of the following proposals do you support?
 - a. Legalizing marijuana? Yes
 - b. Repealing mandatory minimums for non-violent drug offenses? Yes
 - c. Eliminating cash bail, so that no one is held in jail solely for an inability to pay?
Yes

- d. Abolishing the death penalty? Yes
 - e. Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which has been proven to have significant racial disparities ? Yes
 - f. Barring the federal government and state and local jurisdictions from contracting with private corporations to run prisons and detention facilities? Yes
- 2. Prison Conditions.** In addition to having incarceration rates that far [outpace](#) those of other countries, the US is known for violating both domestic and international law in the conditions of its prisons. Which of the following steps would you support to emphasize the rehabilitative, as opposed to punitive, nature of the system and protect basic rights?
- a. Preventing companies from charging prisoners unreasonable fees for banking and telecommunications services? Yes
 - b. Requiring that incarcerated individuals be paid for their work at a rate no lower than the federal minimum wage? Yes
 - c. Restoring Pell Grant access to prisoners? Yes
 - d. Limiting the use of solitary confinement to no more than 15 consecutive days, beyond which it is defined as torture by the United Nations? Yes
- 3. Police Accountability.** Lax or nonexistent systems of accountability and perverse incentives at the federal, state, and local level, combined with a legacy of systemic racism, too often lead to law enforcement neither enforcing the law nor keeping the public safe. Which of the following steps would you support to promote a more humane, community-focused policing?
- a. Prohibiting the transfer of [certain](#) military weapons from the federal government to state and local law enforcement? Yes
 - b. Eliminating qualified immunity, which allows law enforcement to violate people's constitutional rights with impunity? Yes
 - c. Restricting the use of [unreasonable](#) civil asset forfeiture by police departments and prosecutors' offices? Yes

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

G. A Humane Immigration System

1. **Comprehensive Immigration Reform.** The approximately 12 million undocumented immigrants in the US are important contributors to strong economies and strong communities. Due to political and economic instability abroad, as well as a labyrinthine

and discriminatory immigration bureaucracy at home, this number could very well continue to grow. However, comprehensive immigration reform legislation has remained elusive in Washington. Which of the following policies would you support?

- a. The DREAM Act, which would allow certain US-raised immigrant youth to earn lawful permanent residence and American citizenship? Yes
 - b. A path for undocumented immigrants to gain US citizenship? Yes
 - c. Repealing the three-year, ten-year, and permanent bars of reentry for undocumented immigrants? Yes except in the case of those who pose national security risks or violent offenders.
 - d. Decriminalizing border crossing? Yes
2. **Upholding Rights, Ending Perverse Incentives.** Every day, we hear new unconscionable stories about how the US is treating immigrants at the border, fueled by both bad laws and lawlessness at the federal level. Our immigration system should reflect our values. Which of the following policies would you support?
- a. Ending the practice of family detention? Yes
 - b. Ending the practice of family separation? Yes
 - c. Ending ICE's daily bed quota? Yes
 - d. Imposing a moratorium on the construction of new detention facilities? Yes
 - e. Abolishing ICE? Yes to abolishing the policies that have led ICE to act in a way that harms our undocumented community, while not abolishing the key functions of ICE, such as preventing human and drug trafficking or national security concerns. I would not abolish ICE unless there is a better replacement for these functions.
3. **Ending Mass Deportations.** Would you support a moratorium on deportations until a comprehensive immigration reform bill is passed? Yes with the exception of those that pose national security risks and violent criminals.
4. **Refugees.** In October of 2019, the number of refugees resettled in the US hit zero, and the Trump administration would like to keep it that way going forward, abandoning historic humanitarian commitments. What do you see as the appropriate number of refugees for the US to accept each year? To start we need to return to the levels we were at pre-Trump administration. I will never penalize a person from seeking safe refuge from war or violence in their home countries.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

I would also extend health care coverage to all undocumented residents.

H. A Diverse and Welcoming Society

1. **LGBTQ Rights.** Over the past several years, we have seen numerous states try to deny trans individuals the right to exist in public spaces as well as conservative lawsuits seeking to legalize discrimination against LGBTQ individuals. Would you support legislation to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the Civil Rights Act of 1964?
Yes
2. **Reparations.** Would you support legislation to create a commission to study the impact of slavery on the social, political, and economic life of the US and propose appropriate remedies (such as HR40)? Yes
3. **Sexual Harassment.** Would you support legislation to end the use of forced arbitration clauses in sexual harassment cases? Yes
4. **Gun Violence Prevention.** The US has the largest number of guns per capita in the world--and consequently one of the highest rates of gun deaths. For too long, the federal government has refused to play a constructive role in preventing gun violence. Which of the following proposals would you advocate for?
 - a. Reinstating the federal assault weapons ban? Yes
 - b. Banning high-capacity magazine ammunitions? Yes
 - c. Requiring a license to purchase a gun? Yes
 - d. Limiting the number of guns an individual can buy to one per month? Yes
 - e. Repealing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, which shields the gun industry from lawsuits? Yes

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

We must acknowledge that Gun Violence is a national health epidemic, especially for kids and women. The risk for a woman being murdered in a domestic violence incident increases 500% by the mere presence of a gun in the house. Massachusetts has strong gun control laws, if it works here it should work everything in the U.S. We need stronger background checks, stronger gun licensing laws, banning high capacity magazines, and assault weapons.

I. Good Government and Strong Democracy

1. **Comprehensive Democracy Reform.** Will you commit to voting on HR 1, the For The People Act, as introduced in 2018? Among other things, HR1 (“For the People Act”) contains automatic voter registration, Election Day Registration, the expansion of early voting, the prohibition of partisan gerrymandering, and other vital reforms. Yes

2. **Ending Prison Disenfranchisement.** Currently, Maine and Vermont are the only states that provide full suffrage to the incarcerated. Do you support ending the disenfranchisement for those currently incarcerated? Yes
3. **Ranked Choice Voting.** Do you support the 2020 ballot initiative to adopt ranked choice voting for state, county, and (non-presidential) federal elections? Yes
4. **Campaign Finance -- Part I.** Do you support public financing of Congressional elections? Yes
5. **Campaign Finance -- Part II.** Would you support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United decision and allow limits on corporate political spending? Yes

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

I would push to abolish the Electoral College and make Election Day a national holiday.

J. Sustainable Infrastructure & Environmental Protection

1. **Green New Deal.** Do you support the concept of a Green New Deal? If so, what should it look like?
 - a. Yes, I believe for the wellbeing of my children and children across the 4th CD we must act now to counter the harmful effects of Climate Change. We must invest in green and renewable energy sources - like we have been doing here in Massachusetts - to ensure that Americans are the leaders of the future in this science. We need strong regulations to ensure new buildings are net zero on emissions. We need to rethink our housing policies to encourage transit oriented housing. We need to rethink our farming infrastructure to promote energy efficiency and to grow forestation to help counter the Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere. We need a strong education plan to teach Americans how they can cut back on emissions in their daily lives. We need to ensure Environmental Justice as well - Climate Change will impact the poor and minority communities hardest of all. We need to invest in those communities, create jobs and ensure they do not bear the brunt of Climate Change.
2. **Transitioning to Clean Energy.** We need to rapidly decarbonize our economy if we are to keep global warming within safe levels. Which of the following policies would you support to accelerate that transition?
 - a. Setting a goal of 100 percent clean energy generation and use by 2035? Yes
 - b. Putting a price on carbon emissions and investing the revenue in clean energy and green infrastructure? Yes
 - c. Prohibiting new leases for coal, oil, and gas on all federal lands and waters? Yes
 - d. Opposing any legislation that authorizes, or expedites the permitting or approval of, new fossil fuel pipelines? I need to do more research on this. I do believe in

lowering our fossil fuel consumption, and recognize the local dangers from pipeline bursts, deforestation and water contamination, but I need to know how this will affect people today, particularly lower income individuals and cannot make a blanket statement of support. I believe in the concept, and will oppose any legislation to expedite any process that could put communities at risk.

3. **Climate Emergency.** With rising temperatures and sea levels threatening significant harm to Massachusetts' coast, ecosystems, public health and well-being, do you support declaring a Climate Emergency to drive an aggressive response? Yes
4. **Clean Water.** Would you support legislation to require natural gas drillers to disclose the chemicals that go into the ground during the hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) process and to close the so-called “Halliburton loophole,” which prevents the EPA from conducting rigorous oversight? Yes
5. **Environmental Justice.** Would you support legislation to codify environmental justice into law; require federal agencies to address environmental justice through agency actions and permitting decisions; and strengthen legal protections against environmental injustice for communities of color, low-income communities, and indigenous communities? Yes
6. **Electric Vehicles.** Would you support legislation to phase out the sale of gasoline- or diesel-powered vehicles by 2030? I believe in pushing towards this goal, however I am concerned about the effect the time period for this legislation could have on lower income and communities of color.
7. **Public Transportation.** What would be your top priorities for federal reinvestment in transportation and infrastructure if elected?
 - a. Ensuring that transportation and infrastructure is equitable and inclusive of all communities. I would work to ensure all communities have a seat at the table in the decision making process on funding, and that those traditionally left out are prioritized. Infrastructure and transportation are connected so closely with opportunities for economic growth.
 - b. Connecting communities in my district and other parts of Massachusetts to Boston, Worcester, Springfield, Providence and other parts of New England with high speed rail or even independent bus lanes. This will allow for growing communities with increased economic mobility.
 - c. South Coast Rail - I would work with all stakeholders to ensure the project stays on time and on budget.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

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.

I believe strongly in combating the hatred, bigotry, white supremacy, domestic terrorism, and anti-Semitism that exists in our society. It is important that we recognize that Trump exacerbates this problem but is not the cause. As Congressman, I will push to promote more community building and increasing public education about how ignorance, stereotypes and prejudice can turn into hatred and even worse. I will also strengthen Hate Crime legislation, and will push for passage of the Non-Profit Security Grant Program and the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act (DTPA) so people from all backgrounds can feel safe. We are stronger when we embrace our diversity and enhance inclusion in all aspects of society.

I would also work to increase economic mobility, as we currently have jobs that are open without people trained to fill the jobs. I would invest in adult vocational training providing training that fits with current workers schedules and creating better jobs that provide living wages.