

**PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2020 CONGRESSIONAL
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**



Candidate: Herb Robinson

Office Sought: Representative in Congress, 4th District

Party: Dem

Website: herbrobinson.us

Twitter: @HerbWRobinson

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/herbie.robinson>

Email questions to elections@progressivemass.com.

I. About You

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

I am running to provide voters a unique opportunity to change the way business is done in Washington. Currently, representatives spend 30 hours per week fundraising (according to 60 minutes). It's no wonder nothing happens. If I can win this election with only doing 100 hours of fundraising, it has the potential to initiate a paradigm shift in Washington, because I'm pretty sure very few other reps actually want to do 30 hours of fundraising per week – somebody just has to be a leader and make the first move. Frankly, the job will suck compared to the job I have, now; so, I don't want to do it, but I will do it if I can change the way Washington does business.

My highest priority will be campaign finance reform. We can't get anything done when the government is fundamentally broken. This is a bipartisan issue: It's broken for everyone.

Next priority will be the Green New Deal – Not as one big piece of legislation, because that will be too hard to implement in a finite amount of time (I have a lot of experience actually implementing things and huge projects never get done).

My other biggest priority is a Medicare for All option – rolled out incrementally in the ACA regions with the lowest insurance company participation given the highest priority.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

I have around 40 years experience solving problems in private industry. 8 Years ago, I ran against Joe Kennedy in the primary. I was promoting raising taxes on people who make more than a million dollars a year. I was also calling for "an all hands on deck effort similar to the mobilization for World War II" to reduce oil consumption. I provide leadership, not an echo chamber.

I have an Electrical Engineering degree (Cornell). This gives me the ability see through a lot of the BS used to promote some technologies (like Nuclear Energy). It also means I have the technical training and practical experience to make a real contribution to the Green New Deal team. In my professional life, I have been writing complex software for decades. There are similarities at the management level with crafting legislation: For example, attempting to create a huge project all at once (thinking Green New Deal) is a lot more difficult than implanting it in stages.

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

Money. The more money a candidate raises, the more they owe to those big \$ donors they spend 30 hours per week talking to. That's why Democrats are willing to beat up Republicans once in a while with the minimum wage, but aren't willing to index it to inflation. The more money a candidate raises, the less likely they are to do anything to support a progressive agenda.

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?

New tax brackets for high income earners: I'm throwing out 40% at \$600K, 49% at \$1.2M, 70% at \$2.4M and 91% at \$4M. This is a proposal to give people an idea where I stand.

I support eliminating special capital gains tax rates on most stock and all real estate (except for the current exemption for one personal residence, once in a lifetime): With the proviso that one can adjust the "basis" for inflation, because it's not fair to tax inflation. I would keep special lower capital gains rates for IPO stock that provides American jobs (stock that is actually investing in growth). I would also have extra low capital gains tax rates to provide investment in renewable energy, carbon reduction and new, energy efficient modes of transportation.

I will support a wealth tax if there is a practical and fair way to implement it. I say fair, because if we mess it up, we could end up with something the ultra-rich could avoid.

I support the return of an inheritance tax (on amounts over something like \$5M).

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?

- a. And eliminate the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers?

I support making sure tipped workers make at least minimum wage when the tips are included in what they make (per shift, not per pay period). I could also get behind only partially including tip money in that equation. In other words, pay plus 75% of tips must reach minimum wage.

- b. And index the minimum wage to inflation?

I support an \$18 minimum wage. When we continue to ask for \$15, we are not taking into account that it's been around 4-6 years and inflation has been at work. This is perfect example of how even the best intentions can be neglectful – and why indexing the minimum wage to inflation is imperative.

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?
- 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.)

Yes and 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?

Yes.

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:
- Prohibiting “right-to-work” laws at the state level?
 - Requiring employers to recognize a union when a majority of workers in a bargaining unit sign valid authorization cards?
 - Prohibiting employers from interfering with unionization efforts, such as by compelling worker attendance at anti-union meetings?
- (a) *I was a member of Local 132 or the American Federation of Musicians when I was a student at Cornell and have followed the music industry since. I personally witnessed “right-to-work” laws destroy a union and completely stagnate musicians’ wages for more than 40 years. I definitely support ending “right-to-work” laws where constitutionally possible.*
- (b) *Yes.*
- (c) *I don’t believe we could stop employers from compelling worker attendance to anti-union meetings (free speech) as long as it’s during work hours and they pay. It should definitely not be allowed if the employers are not paying.*

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 support universal health care as a right. I do not believe single payer “Medicare for All” is a long-term solution capable of achieving that goal. I predict that any single payer system will eventually look like the VA health care system. It’s also not necessary to have a single payer in a country the size of the United States. In fact, creating a single entity that large is more likely to fail than several smaller ones. The single payer Medicare model also doesn’t do anything significant to reduce costs, which is something we need to do if we want first class health care for everyone. That’s because we are just replacing the corporate insurance companies with a huge government run insurance company. The simplistic claim is that cuts out all the insurance company profits, but that isn’t as much as you would think, because most companies with more than a few hundred employees self-insure and hire the insurance companies to manage the plans (so the insurance companies don’t actually skim 20-30% off the top, they just get a management fee). Also, the largest insurer is Blue Cross, which is a non-profit. The big problem is the adversarial relationship between the payers and the*

providers: Both sides hire large staffs to try and get more money out of the other side. That's the relationship that has to be restructured. I'm thinking along the lines of organizations like the old Harvard Community Health plan from the 1990's in Mass.

The other huge problem is adoption of whatever new plan you come up with. The reality is the people react emotionally (aka irrationally) when you force a change in health care on them. I saw this 30 years ago when the company I worked for was bought out by a larger company. The larger company came in and basically said, "All your benefits are changing." I looked it over and the new plan was pretty much like the other one, but some people just went ballistic – They were standing up in a company presentation with 500 people in the room and screaming at the personnel department! In the political world, this translate into: "Mess with health care in a hurry and you lose the house" – for a long, long time. In 2008, we passed the ACA in a hurry with marginal support and lost the house big time. We lost the house until the Republicans tried to do the same thing. We may have never gotten back the house if the Republicans hadn't messed up. A very wise former VP at my company said there are three kinds of people in the world:

- 1 People who learn from other people's mistakes.*
- 2 People who learn from their own mistakes.*
- 3 People who never learn.*

I at least try to be in the first category.

I do support a single payer option for the ACA: Rolled out incrementally in the areas that need it most. If it works out, maybe more than 25% of the general public will support giving up their insurance for Medicare for All. If we get a 60-70% buy-in from the general public, I will back whatever plan they buy into.

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?
 - b. Allowing patients, pharmacists, and wholesalers to buy low-cost prescription drugs from Canada and other industrialized countries?
 - c. Allowing the federal government to manufacture lower-cost generic versions of prescription drugs when the market does not offer them?

I support all three. Medicare should be buying drugs the same was the Fed Government buys literally everything else: By competitive bid or on a "lowest price charged" basis (I would exclude third world countries from the "lowest price charged" calculation to encourage drug price assistance if the companies wanted to do that). The "lowest price charged" policy requires vendors to sell to the government at the lowest price they charged any other purchaser AND to refund the government the difference if they charge anyone less in the future (my sister worked for a Fed purchasing department for a while) they also pay slower than molasses as a matter of policy.

I question whether allowing the government to manufacture generics would be successful, but it would be worth a try.

- 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?

Yes.

- 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?

Yes. I support decriminalization of all drug use. That doesn't mean I support freely available hard drugs, but they should be available for as long as they are needed under responsible medical supervision for anyone who is addicted.

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.

I am open to suggestions on this one, because I don't know all the answers. I have personally experienced the inequality in a minor way: When I was accepted to Cornell, my high school guidance counselor advised me not to go because no one from the hick town I grew up in could possibly pass succeed at a first-rate University. I ignored him and graduated in the top quarter of my class in the Electrical Engineering school (at Cornell). I was lucky that my parent encouraged and inspired me to better things.

I think the biggest problem with unequal education is the "you cannot succeed" message that student in poor neighborhoods receive from their parents, some of their teachers and most school administrations. I'm still looking for the solution to this problem.

Standardized testing (the New York State Regents Exams, in particular) definitely improved my education. Nobody likes it, but when used correctly (see below), it works.

- 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?

Yes. Unless we can find a way to properly evaluate charter school performance against public schools, I don't think we should fund them at all. The measurement problem is that charter schools get to cherry pick the best students – this makes it nearly impossible to measure them against public schools who must take all comers.

3. **Charter School Accountability.** Do you support requiring that charter schools comply with the same transparency and accountability requirements as public schools?

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?

I support prohibiting mis-use of standardized testing. When used correctly, standardized testing is extremely important for improving the quality of education and ensuring that all students have access to an equal education. However, rule #1 of quality control (which we take very seriously in the software industry) is that you measure to find areas that need improvement, not to penalize. So, the right way to do it is that when a school has low scores, the school gets more resources – the school does not get closed or penalized. Likewise, when a teacher doesn't measure up, they need to get the help they need to improved their performance.

I grew up in a small, poor, farming town in Upstate New York. Not the place where you expect to find great schools. But New York State had standardized testing. Everyone complained about it (students and teachers). In my freshmen year at Cornell, I took a biology class and remarked to one of my friends, "This is a really gut coarse: I had all this in high school." She replied, "I didn't have any of this at Wellesley!"

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?

Yes. A huge number of students have been ripped off by diploma mills that tricked them into getting government supported loans for totally worthless degrees. The government did not do due diligence on approving these institutions; so, I believe the government should make good on not only the debt, but the amount paid into the loan. The justice department should be pursuing the management of these schools, the banks and other financial institutions for fraud to recover as much as possible and put some of these scammers in jail.

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?

Yes.

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?

Yes.

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. I would like to see the replacement be some scheme that mixed low income housing with market rate housing, rather than create new ghettos.

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?

Was for it 8 years ago. Still am.

- b. Repealing mandatory minimums for non-violent drug offenses?

I think all non-violent drug use should be legal for adults. Addicting drugs should be under doctor supervision.

- c. Eliminating cash bail, so that no one is held in jail solely for an inability to pay?

For first time, minor offenses, yes.

- d. Abolishing the death penalty?

Yes. Unless we can figure out how to undo it if we find out a person is wrongfully convicted and I don't see medical technology getting there for a century or so.

- e. Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which has been proven to have significant racial disparities?

I would prefer to eliminate the racial disparities. Perhaps we could come up with an additional sentencing step that is required to specifically address the issue – brainstorming here...

- 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?
 - b. Requiring that incarcerated individuals be paid for their work at a rate no lower than the federal minimum wage?
 - c. Restoring Pell Grant access to prisoners?
 - 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 to all.

- 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 military weapons from the federal government to state and local law enforcement?
Partially. I would only allow such transfers to departments that have training and professional standards at the level required by the FBI for their own agents.
 - b. Eliminating qualified immunity, which allows law enforcement to violate people's constitutional rights with impunity?
No. It's not fair to officers who are hired at low wages and not properly trained to do their job. I would be in favor of establishing a national standard for the level of training required before officers get qualified immunity. I would be in favor of dropping any sort of immunity for state and local governments who fail to train their police officers to do a safe and professional job.
 - c. Restricting the use of civil asset forfeiture by police departments and prosecutors' offices?

Yes.

In general, there is a huge problem with Police: Lack of adequate training – it's dangerous for the general public AND the police officers. I would use every lever I can to provide the highest level of professional training we can for police officers.

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?
No. They broke the law and that is a slap in the face to all the wonderful immigrants who follow the rules – I'm married to a naturalized US Citizen and I guarantee you, that is how it would be taken. I would, approve of permanent residence with no path to citizenship.
 - c. Repealing the three-year, ten-year, and permanent bars of reentry for undocumented immigrants?
If they leave voluntarily, yes.
 - 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?
According to PolitiFact, the daily bed quota is the number of beds ICE was required to maintain, but they are not required to fill them. Apparently, ICE was appearing to treat it as a quota and, according to PolitiFact, the quota language was dropped in 2017 and 2018. If the language has crept back in after 2018, I would get rid of it.

- d. Imposing a moratorium on the construction of new detention facilities?
This would have to be combined with less incarceration or it could backfire and result in horrible detention conditions.
- e. Abolishing ICE?
No. I would be open to restructuring it.
- 3. **Ending Mass Deportations.** Would you support a moratorium on deportations until a comprehensive immigration reform bill is passed?
Yes, but in all fairness, the comprehensive reform would probably be easier to get passed.
- 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?
In general, I would say levels around where they were in the Obama Administration; however, I think we need to respond to crises as well.

A missing piece in the refugee debate is that the UN should be doing something to alleviate the conditions that create refugees in the first place.

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 magazines (for ammunition)? *Yes.*

- c. Requiring a license to purchase a gun? *I would require some sort of control over purchases that would include mandatory safety training (with a test) and background checks. I'm not sure I would call it a license.*
- 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.

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.
I haven't looked up the act, but based on your description, 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?
No opinion. I definitely believe voting rights should be restored after incarceration and should not depend in any way on paying fines.
3. **Ranked Choice Voting.** Do you support the 2020 ballot initiative to adopt ranked choice voting for state, county, and (non-presidential) federal elections?

I really like ranked choice voting, but speaking as a computer professional, I am also wary. Normally, one uses computers to process ranked choice results and computers can be hacked and can have bugs: This means one must always do random manual checks on the system, which could be difficult with ranked choice voting. So, I'm for it if the verification issues can be worked out and are required to be in place.

4. **Campaign Finance -- Part I.** Do you support public financing of Congressional elections?

Yes. I am pledging to do no more than 100 hours of fundraising per year; so, I am probably hanging my ability to get re-elected on passing campaign finance reform. We cannot get anything else done if we don't fix the money problem!

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. I also support re-instating a slight variation of the Fairness Doctrine as in interim solution. My variation of the fairness doctrine would be to require any entity other than an FEC registered committee (PAC, etc) to pay for the opposing viewpoint to be aired.

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?

Yes.

I would be part of a team working on the Green New Deal. I would focus on the following.

Doing it as separate legislative initiatives, because it has been my experience that huge projects are much more likely to fail than incremental steps.

This is a rather unusual case where private industry is actually ahead of Congress! I would encourage more of that by expanding existing tax incentives for EVs, weatherization, carbon free heating, etc. I would also restructure Capital Gains tax so that special capital gains taxes would only be available for IPO stock that creates American jobs. I would make the rates extra low for Green Energy IPOs. In the government arena, I would make funding available for electrification of public transportation and greening of public buildings (which could include some new construction). I would expand funding of NREL with an emphasis on carbon-neutral fuels.

I would also prioritize making sure that fossil fuel workers are trained to the new Green jobs created by these programs.

I would make sure that affirmative action applied to all jobs. And of course increase the minimum wage.

I would Provide remediation for communities affected by the Climate Crisis and Make sure that all communities have equal access to the remediation.

I already discussed paying for the Green New Deal with tax rates similar to those used by FDR and Dwight Eisenhower.

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. I think that's aggressive, but worth trying for.
 - b. Putting a price on carbon emissions and investing the revenue in clean energy and green infrastructure?
Yes. The new investment must include retraining for fossil fuel workers.
 - 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 would oppose new pipelines unless there was massive transitional need or some compelling safety issue (which seems unlikely).
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?

Personal passenger vehicles, yes. I think we have to wait and see how Tesla’s semi-truck does before we try it for all vehicles. It is possible that we will need to use carbon neutral fuels for vehicles that are in use 24/7 (at least with current battery technology).

7. **Public Transportation.** What would be your top priorities for federal reinvestment in transportation and infrastructure if elected?

Electrifying commuter rail. Creating a national transportation survey that figures out where people need to go and when -- making the data available for all so that public and private entities can plan a new transportation system that is useable by more people than commuter rail and subways.