



**PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2020 LEGISLATIVE
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

Date: June 18, 2020

Candidate: Carmine Gentile

Office Sought: Representative, 13th Middlesex District

Party: Democratic

Website: www.carminegentile.com

Twitter: @CarminelGentile

Facebook: facebook.com/carminegentileforstaterep

OVERVIEW

We view our questionnaire as an educational resource, for both candidates and voters, on progressive approaches to the issues. It provides candidates the opportunity to address a number of important issues beyond the surface talking points, which progressive voters find extremely valuable when making a decision.

Our Questionnaires starts with an "About You" section and ends with an opportunity for you to include additional remarks beyond what we asked.

The bulk of our questionnaire is focused on the issues outlined in our [Progressive Platform](#), which also inform our [Legislative Agenda](#). We are interested in your overall philosophy as well as your views on specific policy and legislation.

Each section features charts or graphs (with links to sources) that illustrate one or more facets of the issue under discussion.

We encourage you to expand your answers beyond "yes/no" in the additional comments space provided on the form, but please keep answers < 150 words.

Issue Subsections:

- A. Revenue and Taxation
- B. Jobs and the Economy
- C. Education
- D. Health Care
- E. Housing
- F. Racial and Social Justice
- G. Good Government and Strong Democracy
- H. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

*Our questionnaire is comprehensive and will take time to complete. Please develop your answers in a separate document before inputting them into the submission form.
(progressivemass.com/questionnaire)*

I. About You

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

CG: In the House I have fought for better public health and removing financial barriers to receiving health care for all, improved pre-K- 12 public education and free public higher education. I have fought to protect the environment and transition the Commonwealth to a fossil fuel free future no later than 2050. I have presented legislation for a 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to undo the campaign finance harm wrought by the Supreme Court's Citizens United vs. FEC decision and serve on the Citizens Commission Concerning a Constitutional Amendment for Government of the People. My voting record demonstrates commitment to progressive values. My top three legislative priorities are: 1) crafting annual and supplemental budgets that meet the needs of every resident; 2) energy/environmental legislation to substantially eliminate the use of carbon fuels and safeguard our environment; 3) protecting the civil rights of immigrants and deconstructing institutional racism (which will ultimately be impossible unless we get big dark money out of politics by passing a 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution stopping further harm from Citizens United vs. FEC).

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

CG: For more than five years I have served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives advocating for budgets that meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents and working with other legislators, stakeholders, advocates and constituents to pass progressive legislation such as the omnibus criminal justice reform bill (which included the content of a bill I had filed to create a statewide system to store, analyze, provide the testing status online in real time of sexual assault test kits for prosecutors, police and survivors) and the transgender civil rights bill. Prior to election to the House I served on several town boards and committees, and currently serve on a Council on Aging, Housing Trust, and statewide commission for national and state campaign finance reform.

3. What do you view as the biggest obstacles to passing progressive policy at the state level?

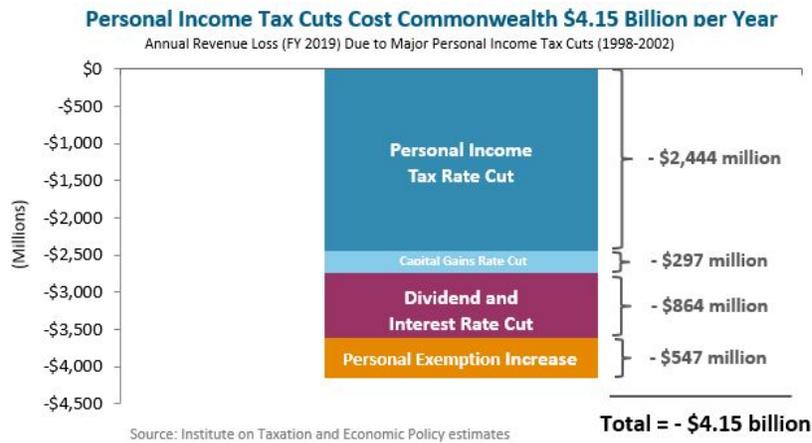
CG: Progressives make up a vocal minority in the House and Senate. However, our numbers are increasing. Nonetheless, until we are able to regulate campaign finance to eliminate big money and big dark money from elections within our state and nationally, our democracy is threatened. Continued failure on the part of progressives and others in both major political parties to have 34 states get behind a 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution and have 38 states ratify it to return to the Congress and the States the authority to reasonably regulate campaign spending by natural people and regulate or prohibit such spending by juridical entities will continue to corrupt our democracy. Without a 28th (and perhaps 29th) Amendment to stop the harm that Citizens United vs FEC has wrought these past ten+ years, progressive policy at the state and federal level is impeded and would ultimately become impossible. The clock is ticking.

II. The Issues

A. Revenue and Taxation

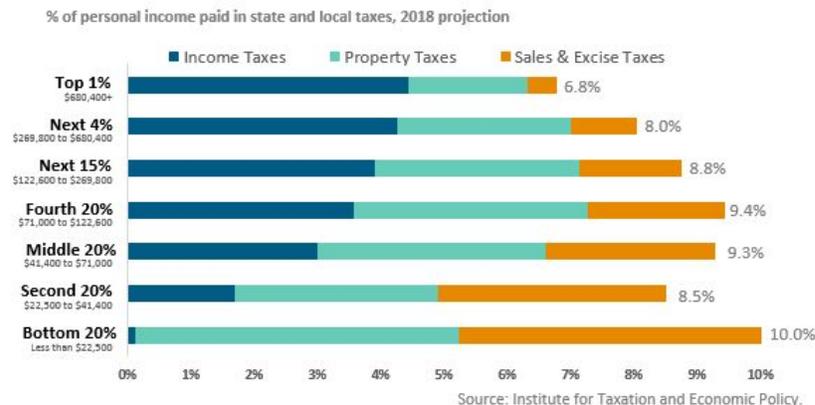
Between 1977 and 2016, Massachusetts [reduced state taxes](#) by more than all but two other states. Because of income tax cuts enacted between 1998 and 2002, Massachusetts loses over \$4 billion in tax revenue *each year*--\$4 billion that is not invested in our roads, bridges, schools, parks, and services, all of which have historically been part of why MA is a great place to live. 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--and willingness--to pass new and visionary legislation, as there is a continual shortage of funds for existing priorities.

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



Massachusetts state and local taxes are regressive.

Highest Income Taxpayers Pay Smaller Share of Income in State and Local Taxes



- 1. Please explain your principles and proposals as relate to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).**

CG: I have voted for the so-called "millionaire's tax" in constitutional convention in order to place it on the ballot and allow voters to raise about \$2billion/year by raising the tax rate 4% on income after the first one million dollars. I have advocated placing a tax on offshore profits of multinational corporations (GILTI) as other states have done which would bring \$450Million annual revenue and also having sales tax payments be paid directly to DOR when credit card purchases are made - raising additional \$500Million in FY2021 (with no tax increase). Together with Representative Mike Connolly and progressive advocates I obtained MTA support to propose a modest raise in capital gains taxes (MA at 5%, NY 8.8%, CA 13%).

- 2. Corporate Tax Breaks. Corporate tax breaks cost Massachusetts more than \$1 billion in foregone revenue each year. Companies can secure access to such tax breaks due to political connections whether or not the promised benefits ever materialize. Which of the following accountability steps would you support?**

- Collecting and publicly disclosing information about the benefits to the state from any tax break?
- Repealing any tax break that does not provide the intended benefits in a cost-effective manner?
- Establishing sunset dates for all tax breaks so that they must come up for periodic review?

- 3. Fair Share.** Would you support 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")?

CG: Yes.

I already have voted for it and will again.

- 4. Progressive Revenue.** Massachusetts will not see new revenue from the Fair Share Amendment until 2023, but we have unmet needs now (and will still even with the Fair Share Amendment). Which policies would you support to make a more progressive tax code?
 - Raising the corporate minimum tax for larger companies? (The corporate minimum tax is currently only \$456.)
 - Imposing a tax on the portion of corporations' US profits that are shifted to offshore tax havens?
 - Raising the corporate tax rate from 8% to 9.5% (where it stood in 2009)?
 - Raising the tax on long-term capital gains from 5% to 8.95%, in line with states like New York and Vermont?
 - Levying a modest tax on university endowments greater than \$1 billion?

CG: Probably on (c). Yes on (e) if the money is dedicated to public higher education.

B. Jobs and the Economy

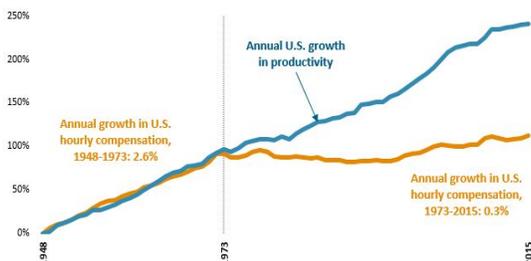
Massachusetts ranks as one of the top ten [most unequal states](#), as the gains from economic growth have disproportionately benefited the already well-off. Compounding this, we are one of the most expensive states in the country for [health care](#), [housing](#), and [child care](#), all of which strain wages. A strong economy depends on strong wages, as workers spend and help local economies thrive. Although the recently passed minimum wage increase will eventually lift the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, this is [still not a living wage](#) for many.

In recent decades, unions have been under attack. However, unions played -- and continue to play -- a pivotal role in creating a strong middle class. With weaker unions (or no unions at all) come weaker social and economic rights and an imbalanced economy.

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 remained stagnant since the Great Recession.

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. Please explain your principles and proposals as relate to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).

CG: I have voted for the so-called "millionaire's tax" in constitutional convention in order to place it on the ballot and allow voters to raise about \$2billion/year by raising the tax rate 4% on income after the first one million dollars. I have advocated placing a tax on offshore profits of multinational corporations (GILTI) as other states have done which would bring \$450Million annual revenue and also having sales tax payments be paid directly to DOR when credit card purchases are made - raising additional \$500Million in FY2021 (with no tax increase). Together with Representative Mike Connolly and progressive advocates I obtained MTA support to propose a modest raise in capital gains taxes (MA at 5%, NY 8.8%, CA 13%).

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

CG: Yes.

3. **Wage Theft. Do you support holding businesses responsible for the wage violations of their subcontractors when the work they do is substantially connected to the company's operations?**

CG: Yes.

Yes, if the business knew or reasonably ought to have known that the subcontractor had engaged in or was engaging in such unfair and deceptive practices.

4. **Overtime. Would you support updating MA's state overtime law to restore overtime pay protections to low- and moderate-income salaried workers when they work more than 40 hours a week?**

CG: Yes.

5. **Fair Scheduling. Many workers in the service sector face irregular working hours, making it difficult to plan for other life events. Do you support providing workers the right to 14 days advance notice of hours and the right to request specific hours without retaliation from the employer?**

CG: Yes.

6. **Unions. Since the 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?**

CG: Yes.

The short answer is yes. However, there would be exceptions. For example, arbitration terms. If we are going to realize racial justice and maintain accountability for bad behavior we need to sanction racist behavior, misuse of force, and other bad behavior by employees whose wrongful behavior harms others whether because they have a different skin color or otherwise. Too often employees do not suffer reasonable disciplinary sanctions because the arbitration provisions in their contracts eviscerate the ability of management to hold them to account. There can be no change without accountability.

7. **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?**

CG: Yes. Yes and in all adhesion contracts as well.

C. Education

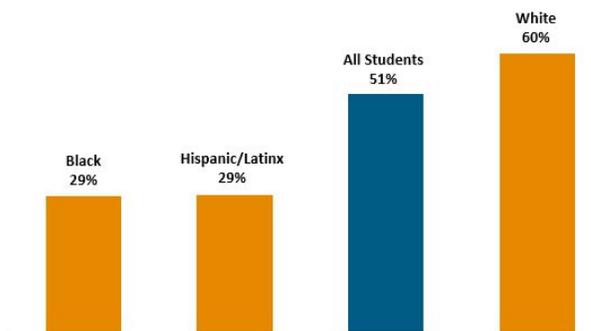
The promise of public education has always been as a gateway to opportunity and mobility for all, regardless of economic circumstances, a cornerstone of the American dream for all residents. Although our public education system gets high marks overall, it remains one of the [most unequal](#) in the country. Powerful corporate interests are promoting false solutions and working to undermine public schools, teachers, and unions. These groups invest 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. Costly, mandated standardized test results are used to label schools as “failing” and justify these privatization schemes.

Most of the [fastest-growing occupations](#) require education beyond a high school diploma, but Massachusetts has been disinvesting from public higher education for the past two decades. This has led to higher tuition costs, putting students at risk of long-term debt or making higher education out of reach for them entirely.

Massachusetts has significant achievement gaps reflective of resource gaps.

Massachusetts Has Significant Achievement Gaps for Youth of Color in 4th Grade Reading

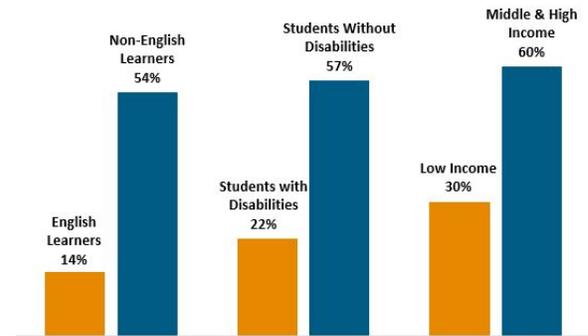
Share of MA 4th Graders Proficient on the 2017 NAEP Reading Exam, by Student Race, all students



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2017

Massachusetts Has Significant Achievement Gaps for Disadvantaged Youth in 4th Grade Reading

Share of Mass. 4th Graders Proficient on the 2017 NAEP Reading Exam, by Student Category

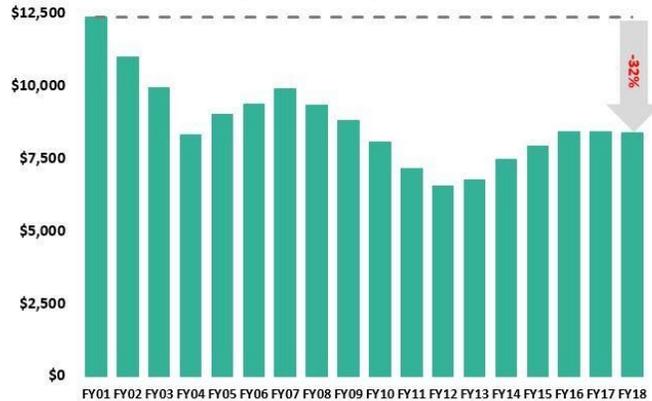


Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2017

Massachusetts has been disinvesting from higher education and shifting the cost burden onto students.

Per Student, MA Has Cut Higher Ed Funding by 32 Percent Since FY 2001

State spending on higher education per resident student, FY 2001-2018 (2018\$)



Note: FY 2007 total is adjusted downwards to account for the fact that significant funding during this year was for capital investments that supported activity during other fiscal years.

- 1. Please explain your principles and proposals as relate to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).**

CG: I have co-sponsored legislation to have moratoriums on MCAS and other high stakes testing for three years and most recently for four years. I have not voted to allow expansion of charter schools beyond the current statutory framework.

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

CG: Yes.

- 3. Equitable Funding. In 2019, Massachusetts updated its 25-year-old education funding formula and committed to \$1.5 billion more in investment in public schools. How will you make sure the state follows through with this promise?**

CG: I have advocated with other legislators to increase revenue (as was done in the last three recessions) and dedicate that revenue to a bond bill to substantially offset the \$6billion or more revenue shortfall caused by the COVID-19 induced recession. We can raise new revenue in a progressive manner that costs working families zero (e.g. a GILTI tax on multinational corporations' offshore profits as other states have done could bring us \$450 annual revenue. Take that revenue and dedicate it to pay off a bond bill of \$4.5Billion for education prek-12 and higher education.

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

CG: Yes.

- 5. Charter Schools. In 2016, MA 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 school districts.**

- Do you support keeping the cap on charter schools? **Yes.**
- Would you support legislation to bring greater accountability to charter schools by

requiring them to adhere to the same disclosure and disciplinary standards as public school districts? **Yes.**

6. **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 and includes the effective use of contraception?

CG: YES.

Age appropriate medically correct information. I have supported legislation to accomplish this.

7. **Higher Education Access.** Do you support granting in-state tuition and financial aid to undocumented students?

CG: YES.

That have lived in Massachusetts meeting the same requirements as other in-state students, yes.

8. **Debt-Free College.** Do you support making tuition (and mandatory curriculum fees) free at public colleges and universities?

CG: YES.

Yes and I have filed and re-filed legislation to accomplish this and co-sponsored others' bills as well.

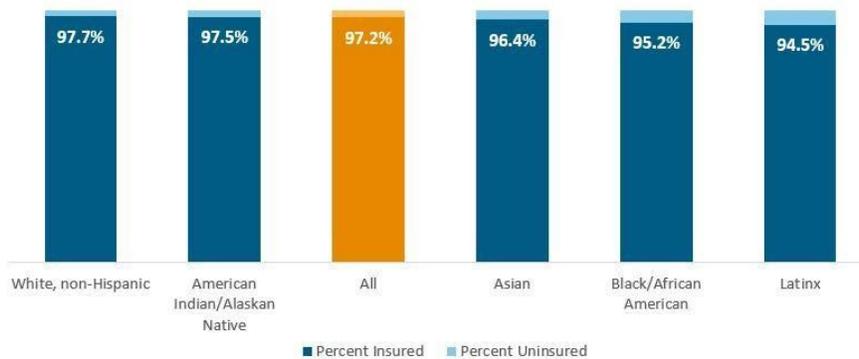
D. Health Care

Massachusetts has led the way in providing near universal health insurance coverage, with [97% of the state](#) having health insurance. But until that is 100%, we haven't reached truly universal coverage or tackled critical barriers to accessing care. Disparities in insurance coverage and health care access continue to exist along income, racial, and education lines. Premiums continue to rise, and high deductibles mean that many do not get the health care they need -- or suffer from long-lasting debt if they do. We still spend an oversized portion of public and private money on health care, but without necessarily achieving better health outcomes.

We have yet to achieve truly universal coverage, with continued disparities along racial lines.

Barriers to health insurance coverage remain for some

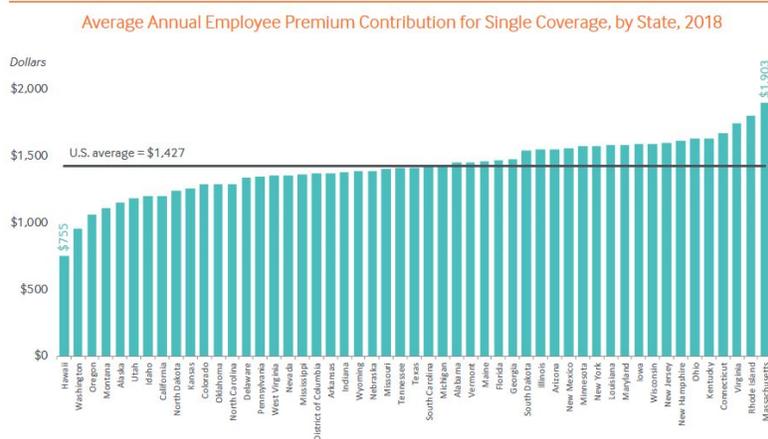
Percent with health insurance in Massachusetts, by race, 2017.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

*Note: Use particular caution when considering the American Indian/Alaskan Native data, because of small sample sizes. This chart does not include Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander because the sample was too small and therefore was not included in the Census Bureau's data.

MA has the highest health insurance premiums in the US.



Note: Employee premium contributions are for insurance policies offered by private-sector employers in the U.S.
Data: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey--Insurance Component (MEPS-IC), 2018.

1. **Please explain your principles and proposals as relate to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).**

CG: I have co-sponsored health care for all legislation (essentially free health care for all), sponsored legislation to reduce the cost of prescription drugs, and co-sponsored legislation to lower health care costs.

2. **Single Payer. Do you support enacting a single payer health care system in Massachusetts, which would guarantee health insurance as a right?**

CG: YES.

3. **Reproductive Rights. In Massachusetts, women under eighteen seeking an abortion must obtain parental consent or judicial authorization. This can lead to young women going out of state, or risking their lives and health with illegal or self-induced abortion. Would you support repealing this restriction?**

CG: YES.

In the many thousands of judicial hearings that have occurred in the absence of parental consent exactly one ended in denial. I am familiar with the Probate and Family Court having practiced there for many years. To continue the current practice of requiring a judicial hearing ignores the fact that physicians exercise due diligence in informing their patients of procedures and take their patient's age, physical and mental health, self-awareness, and understanding into consideration. Physicians' due diligence coupled with the fact that judicial consent is virtually never withheld make continuing to require it a wrongful impediment to women's reproductive health care.

4. **Harm Reduction. 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?**

CG: YES.

In Canada safe consumption sites have substantially diminished overdose deaths while having no significant adverse consequences.

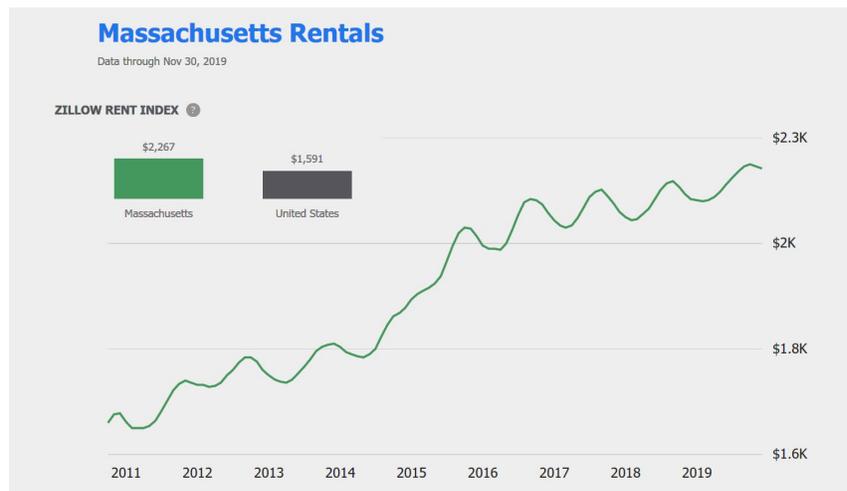
5. **Pandemic Response. How would you evaluate the state's response to the Covid-19 pandemic?**

CG: Better than a great many other states but we could have and should have done more earlier. We failed to keep our nursing home residents safe. While our numbers have come down a great deal, this remains a work in progress.

E. Housing

Massachusetts has a lot to offer, but that does little if people can't afford to live here. The [US News & World Report's annual state rankings](#) put Massachusetts at #41 in housing affordability (and #43 in cost of living). A worker earning minimum wage in Massachusetts would have to work [91 hours a week](#) to afford a modest one-bedroom rental home at market rate (and 113 hours for a modest two-bedroom). 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. 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.

Monthly median rents have gone up by more than one-third since 2010, outpacing income growth.



(source: zillow.com)

- 1. Please explain your principles and proposals as relate to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).**

CG: On the Housing Committee I supported legislation to allow cities and towns more opportunity to build multifamily housing. I serve on the Sudbury Housing Trust to make affordable housing available, provide needs based grants for housing repairs, provide RAFT assistance and work with other communities to support affordable housing. I co-sponsored HD5166 to place a one-year moratorium on residential evictions and foreclosures after the COVID-19 emergency period.

- 2. Funding. Would you support legislation that would allow cities and towns to impose a fee on real estate transfers to generate revenue for affordable housing, with the ability to create local exemptions as appropriate?**

CG: YES.

I support the ability of cities and towns to choose to use this tool to create more affordable housing.

- 3. Tenant Protections. Do you support passing enabling legislation to provide municipalities with the authority to implement rent-stabilizing regulations, just cause eviction protections, stronger condominium conversion and foreclosure protections, anti-displacement zones, and options to help tenants manage the upfront costs of leasing an apartment?**

CG: YES.

I support giving municipalities the tools to choose from to provide housing to new residents and to protect current residents. An important way to challenge the scourge of homelessness is to prevent families and individuals from losing the homes they already have.

4. **Zoning Reform/Housing Production. Do you support requiring cities and towns to allow multifamily housing to be built as of right within 1 mile of transit stations?**

CG: Depends. If a city or town has a sewer system to accommodate development, it would make a great deal of sense to allow multifamily housing as of right within walking distance of a transit station. However, in towns without sewer systems or those portions of any cities which do not have sewers and rely on wells for potable water it would only be feasible in conjunction with the creation of package sewage treatment plants.

5. **Eviction Sealing. Today, when a tenant exercises their legal rights in housing court, it creates a permanent record. Eviction records create lasting stigma, are error prone and impair access to stable housing. Would you support legislation to seal eviction records so that both tenant and landlord could move on with their lives after three years?**

CG: 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.

Mass incarceration in Massachusetts has proven socially and economically destructive, breaking apart communities across the state. From 2011 to 2016, [spending on prisons](#) grew faster than any other part of the Massachusetts budget, while funding for necessary services languished. The average cost per year to house an inmate in the Massachusetts Department of Corrections is [more than \\$60,000](#), money that could be better reinvested into the communities that have suffered from decades of misguided and racially discriminatory “tough on crime” policies. To achieve “justice for all,” we need a judicial system that does not disproportionately target communities of color and the poor and that does not criminalize public health issues such as addiction. The April 2018 criminal justice reform bill made strides forward, but there is more work to do.

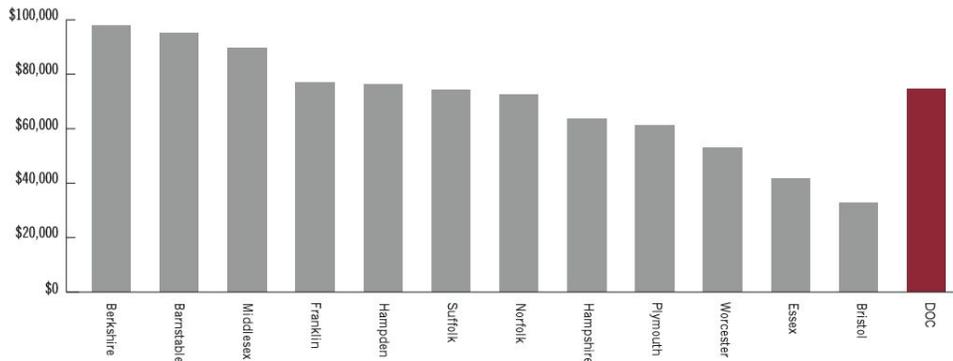
Immigrants make up 16% of Massachusetts’s population; however, demagoguery against, or indifference to, immigrant populations has historically been a mainstay of Massachusetts politics. As the Trump administration in Washington ramps up a xenophobic mass deportation agenda, it is important for states like Massachusetts to take leadership in protecting and advancing the rights of our immigrant communities and making clear that all are welcome.

Significant racial disparities exist in incarceration in Massachusetts.

Imprisonment by Race/Ethnicity (2014)	
White imprisonment rate (per 100,000)	81
Black imprisonment rate (per 100,000)	605
Hispanic imprisonment rate (per 100,000)	351
Racial/Ethnic Disparity in Imprisonment (2014)	
Black : white ratio	7.5
Hispanic : white ratio	4.3
Juveniles in Custody (2015)	
Juvenile custody rate (per 100,000)	66
White custody rate (per 100,000)	22
Black custody rate (per 100,000)	222
Latino custody rate (per 100,000)	172
American Indian custody rate (per 100,000)	0
Asian custody rate (per 100,000)	7

Massachusetts spends large (and growing) sums per inmate -- while still not providing for basic needs.

Figure 4: Estimated expenditure per inmate, FY 2019



Source: MassINC's analysis of Department of Correction Weekly Count Sheets, April 2018, and average House and SWM FY 2019 budget proposals (adjusted upward based on final expenditures, FY 2011 to FY 2018)

- 1. Please explain your principles and proposals as relate to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).**

CG: Last year I completed a five session course, "White People Challenging Racism" to broaden my understanding and awareness of racism in all its forms: ideological, institutional, interpersonal, and internalized. I sponsored a community showing of "the 13th" and discussion with Darrell Jones, a Black man wrongfully convicted who spent decades in Massachusetts prisons. I support each of the four priority bills of the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus and co-sponsored Rep. Liz Miranda's bill HD5128 An Act relative to saving black lives and transforming public safety.

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

CG: YES.

I filed legislation to accomplish this. I filed a bill five years ago, modified it slightly and refiled it three years ago, and refiled it again a year ago, H.2068 An Act relative to establishing an independent review board for police conduct.

- 3. Sentencing Reform.** The 2018 criminal justice reform bill was an important first step in reducing mass incarceration. However, in our "liberal" state, incarceration rates remain much higher than they are in other countries, and sentencing laws can be even more punitive than those in states viewed as conservative. Which of the following reforms would you support?
 - Eliminating mandatory minimums for opioid-related offenses?
 - Raising the age of criminal majority from 18 to 21, in line with research that shows that young offenders served by a juvenile system are much less likely to reoffend and more likely to successfully transition to adulthood?
 - Decriminalizing consensual sexual activity between adolescents, by creating an exception to the statutory rape law for youth close in age?
 - Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which is costly and has been shown to be racist in its application?

CG: Re: (a), judges should have the discretion to fit the penalty to the facts of the case and not be hamstrung by having to issue mandatory sentences. More than one tough sentencing judge has been disgusted with having to hand down a mandatory sentence that she/he believed to be grossly unfair. Re: (c), having represented younger and older youth in such

matters it absolutely makes a great deal of sense. Re: (d), substituting with a sentence for a period of years should work well. As a practical matter a person might or might not end up spending the rest of their life in prison for a murder in the first degree. However, flexibility and discretion are always preferable to arbitrary sanctions.

4. **Solitary Confinement.** In Massachusetts, prisoners can be sentenced to 10 years of solitary confinement—per infraction. The UN defines holding someone in solitary confinement for more than 15 days as torture. Do you support limiting the use of solitary to no more than 15 consecutive days?

CG: Yes.

Torture is never to be condoned.

5. **Prison Visitation. Maintaining connections with friends and family outside prisons is one of the most important factors in ensuring successful reentry. In March 2018, the DOC severely limited the ability of prisoners to receive visits and the rights of family and friends to visit their loved ones in prison. ([Read more on this here.](#)) Do you favor ending these restrictions?**

CG: Yes.

6. **Prison Profiteering. While Massachusetts does not have private prisons, the DOC invites private companies to profit off of the families of prisoners by price gouging inmates who have no alternatives but to buy from the sole providers of goods in prisons. Do support ending the price gouging of inmates for necessary items and requiring DOC to adequately supply inmates with the basic requirements necessary for life to keep in contact with their families and maintain good health and hygiene?**

CG: Yes.

7. **Safe Communities Act. Do you support the Safe Communities Act, which limits local and state police collaboration with federal immigration agents, bars law enforcement and court personnel from inquiring about immigration status, and ensures due process protections?**

CG: Yes.

I am a cosponsor and vocal advocate of the Safe Communities Act.

8. **Work and Family Mobility Act. Do you support removing immigration status as a barrier to applying for a license or learner's permit?**

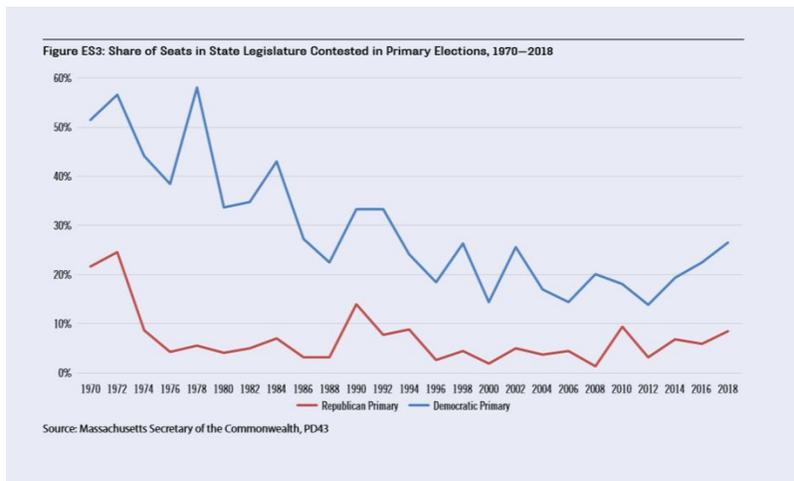
Yes. I am a co-sponsor and vocal advocate of this legislation.

G. Good Government and Strong Democracy

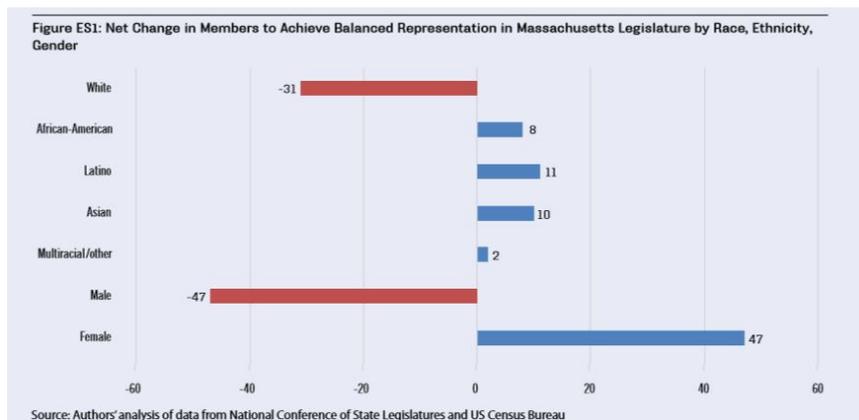
A strong democracy depends on a transparent and representative government and an engaged public. Too often, however, we see centralized, unaccountable power and barriers to participation. An undemocratic, centralized power structure on Beacon Hill makes it easier for lobbyists to target the top and undermine the system. Despite recent reforms, a weak public records system stymies government accountability: MA is one of only two states where all three branches of state government claim to be exempt. A strong democracy requires an engaged electorate, but voter turnout in midterm elections, and especially local elections, remains low. Although election modernization legislation in 2014 and 2018 helped brought much-needed reforms, we still lag behind states in New England and around the country in making voting accessible (Maine, for instance, has allowed for Election Day Registration since the 1970s).

A centralized power system, a skewed campaign finance system, and restrictive voting laws together help create a situation in which our elections are the [least competitive in the country](#).

Our elections have grown less competitive over the past four decades.



Our legislature is not reflective of the population as a whole.



- 1. Please explain your principles and proposals as relate to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).**

CG: The greatest threat to our democracy is the flood of big money and often dark (untraceable) money in our elections. I filed legislation for the legislature to send a resolution to Congress for a 28th Amendment to stop the campaign finance harm being done every day in Massachusetts and throughout the country because of the Supreme Court's Citizens United vs FEC decision. I am the only legislator serving on the Citizens Commission Concerning a Constitutional Amendment for Government of the People. We have met 18 times since May 2019 and continue our work.

- 2. Public Records Law. Massachusetts is one of only two states where the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the Judiciary claim full exemption from the public records laws. Would you support eliminating this exemption?**

CG: Perhaps. Rank and file state representatives have one legislative aide for all purposes, members in leadership positions have more. I would be interested in examining practices in other states to determine what changes would be useful in Massachusetts. We usually lead other states – they look to the example we set. However, sometimes we lag behind and perhaps this is an area where we can do better.

- 3. Legislative Transparency -- Part I. The Massachusetts Legislature lacks many basic transparency measures found in other state legislatures around the country. Would you vote in favor of making the following items available online...?**

- All committee votes, whether taken by electronic poll or formal roll call?
- All written testimony submitted for or against bills?
- Reader-friendly summaries of bills currently in or reported out of committee?

- 4. Legislative Transparency -- Part II. Legislators only vote to change the rules at the start of the legislative session, but all legislators can model transparency on their own throughout the session. Would you commit to doing the following...?**

- Standing for a recorded vote when a colleague asks for one on any amendment which you have co-sponsored?
- Making your committee votes available online on your website?

CG: Re: (a), if it's the member who sponsored it probably yes if not the member who filed it, probably not. I look to having a bill succeed and not to slowing it down by having it voted down. Nonetheless, I remain one of the dozen or 18 or so Democratic members who has and does stand up for rules changes and other votes that the majority has voted down.

Re: (b), I have to confess that my campaign website was not kept up to date for years. I am very available to constituents and others who call, email, or write but it has only recently that I have been updating the campaign website (which staff cannot ethically work on). If I put up a non-campaign website I will certainly consider having staff post my committee votes. I'm proud of them.

- 5. State House Culture. Do you support the creation an independent commission to investigate and report on complaints of workplace and sexual harassment in the Massachusetts Legislature?**

CG: Both the House and Senate have promulgated sexual harassment protocols for reporting, investigating, and adjudicating claims. We also have a Commission Against Discrimination. If a substantial number of members or staff want a commission, I'm happy to work with them. However, I do not know that the State House is different than any similar size group of people working together as regards incidents of sexual harassment or misconduct. I have done a lot

of work to prosecute perpetrators of sexual assault and assist survivors, had sexual assault kit statewide collection, analysis, storage, and reporting status in real time inserted in the criminal justice reform bill and voted \$8million for its initial funding in a supplemental budget, and am ready, willing, and able to do more.

6. **Public Campaign Financing.** Our campaign finance system favors incumbency and discriminates against potential candidates who do not have a ready pool of wealthy donors. Do you support the creation of a robust public financing system for state elections?

CG: Yes.

7. **Removing Barriers to Running.** 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 child care?

CG: Yes.

I have supported this and continue to support it.

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

- a. Election Day Registration?
- b. The expansion of early voting to municipal elections and primaries?
- c. No-fault absentee voting?
- d. Ending the disenfranchisement of prisoners serving with felony convictions (Their right to vote was taken away by ballot twenty years ago)? While they remain in custody?

CG: Re: (d), probably yes for state and national elections but no for municipal unless their vote was in the municipality from which they were domiciled before incarceration.

9. **Ranked Choice Voting.** Do you support the 2020 ballot initiative to adopt ranked choice voting for state, county, and (non-presidential) federal elections?

CG: Yes.

10. **Election Integrity.** Do you support requiring risk-limiting audits of election results, in which a statistically significant percentage of ballots are hand counted to ensure that the reported winner was the actual winner, preserving the integrity of elections from foreign interference, technological glitches, or simple human error?

CG: Yes.

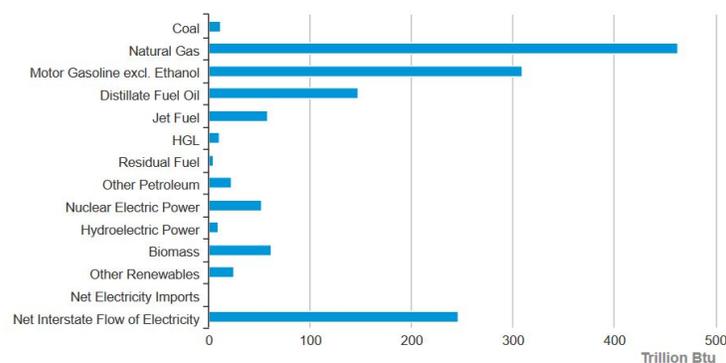
H. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

As a coastal state, Massachusetts will be hit particularly hard by climate change, but we are not responding with the necessary urgency. In order to avoid catastrophic climate change, global carbon emissions need to be [halved by 2030](#) and brought to net zero by 2050. 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.

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 billion](#), and it would need [more than \\$10 billion](#) to bring infrastructure and equipment up to a state of good repair. Regional Transit Authorities that serve communities, including Gateway Cities across the state, face enormous capital needs as well.

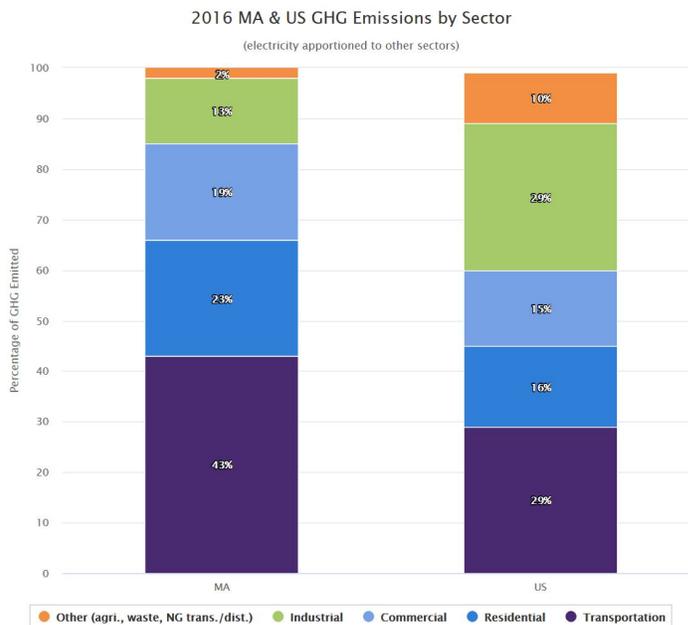
Despite recent progress, Massachusetts is still overwhelmingly dependent on fossil fuels.

Massachusetts Energy Consumption Estimates, 2017



Source: Energy Information Administration, State Energy Data System

Transportation is currently the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in MA.



(Source: <http://www.mass.gov>)

- 1. Please explain your principles and proposals as relate to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).**

CG: I have filed legislation for a moratorium on fracking, another bill to move the building code to net zero requirements, and co-sponsored many or most of the bills filed which would accomplish our transition to a clean renewable energy future.

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

CG: Yes.

- 3. 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?**

CG: Yes.

- 4. Renewable Energy. Do you support a target of 100% renewable energy economy-wide by 2045 and 100% renewable electricity by 2035?**

CG: Yes.

- 5. Environmental Justice. Successive 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. Would you support efforts to codify EJ into law?**

CG: Yes.

6. **Fossil Fuel Infrastructure.** Do you oppose the expansion of gas pipelines in the state?

CG: Yes.

7. **Carbon Pricing.** Do you support imposing a fee on carbon emissions and using some of the revenue to invest in green infrastructure, especially in frontline communities?

CG: Yes.

8. **Public Transportation.** Will you oppose any fare increases to the MBTA or regional transit authorities and work toward the goal of fare-free public transit?

CG: Yes.

I oppose fare increases and support expansion of free fares for persons with low income and some free public transportation on certain routes. However, I do not know that free public transit everywhere for everyone is possible or advisable in the foreseeable future. Educate me otherwise. I'm always ready to listen.

9. **Regional Transportation Funding.** The unavailability of state funds for infrastructure spending has meant the deterioration of regional transportation systems. Do you support allowing municipalities to place a question on the ballot to raise revenue for local and regional transportation projects?

CG: Yes.

I have supported this initiative.