



**PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2020 LEGISLATIVE
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

Date: 8/3/2020

Candidate: Adam Gomez

Office Sought: State Senate - Hampden District

Party: Democratic

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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?

I was called into politics as a grassroots activist and organizer with Neighbor to Neighbor, a member organization led by people of color, women, immigrants, low-income, and the working-class that focuses on economic, racial, and environmental justice. I am running for State Senate to be a strong voice for the Hampden District.

The top three priorities for my district are Education, Health, and Economic Development. I have advocated for the Fund Our Future Initiative that passed the Cherish act and will continue to push to pass the Promise Act to ensure our schools get the funding they need for our children to thrive. I will be a proud advocate for a single-payer healthcare system that is affordable and inclusionary to the many sectors of our communities. I have witnessed too many families fall into debt, and worse, make healthcare decisions based on their bank accounts and not what's best for them.

Economic Development - Generating money for communities of color, and green-job infrastructure and promoting a green economy. I will work on infrastructure development, such as East to West Rail, and ensure access to affordable transportation within my district.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity? I currently serve as the Vice President of the Springfield City Council, where I'm now on my third council term. As a city councilor, I also serve as the chair of Economic Development and hold positions on the committees for Casino Oversight, Finance, and Environment and Sustainability. I have always been a champion and fighter against injustice, traveling often to our Statehouse and D.C. to advocate for social, climate, and economic issues.

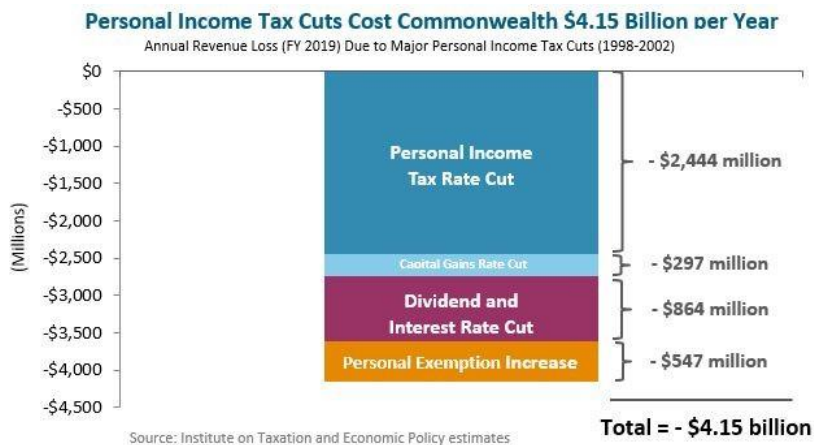
3. What do you view as the biggest obstacles to passing progressive policy at the state level? Our state delegation, because many are conserva-dems so I will have the challenge of building and strengthening progressive coalitions within the state house.

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.

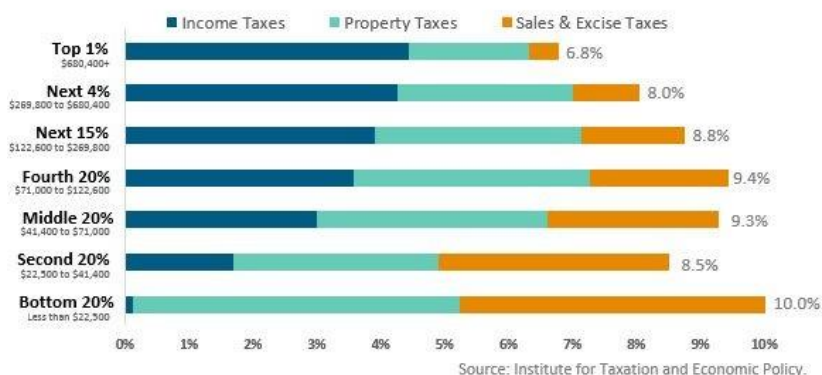
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.



Massachusetts state and local taxes are regressive.

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

% of personal income paid in state and local taxes, 2018 projection



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

Collected signatures in 2017 with Raise Up for the Millionaires tax. I worked on passing a Hotel/Motel tax to create more revenue and implemented a more equitable tax on Marijuana. As chair of Economic development, that oversees the Community Preservation Fund, I would like to file an ordinance on participatory budgeting before my leaving city council and entering the state senate

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?
 - a. Collecting and publicly disclosing information about the benefits to the state from any tax break? **Yes**
 - b. Repealing any tax break that does not provide the intended benefits in a cost-effective manner? **Yes**
 - c. Establishing sunset dates for all tax breaks so that they must come up for periodic review? **Yes**
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")? **Yes**
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?
 - a. Raising the corporate minimum tax for larger companies? (The corporate minimum tax is currently only \$456.) **Yes**
 - b. Imposing a tax on the portion of corporations' US profits that are shifted to offshore tax havens? **Yes**
 - c. Raising the corporate tax rate from 8% to 9.5% (where it stood in 2009)? **Yes**
 - d. Raising the tax on long-term capital gains from 5% to 8.95%, in line with states like New York and Vermont? **Yes**
 - e. Levying a modest tax on university endowments greater than \$1 billion? **Yes**

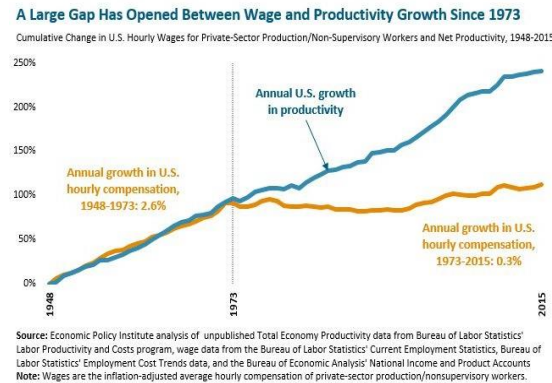
B. Jobs and the Economy

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.

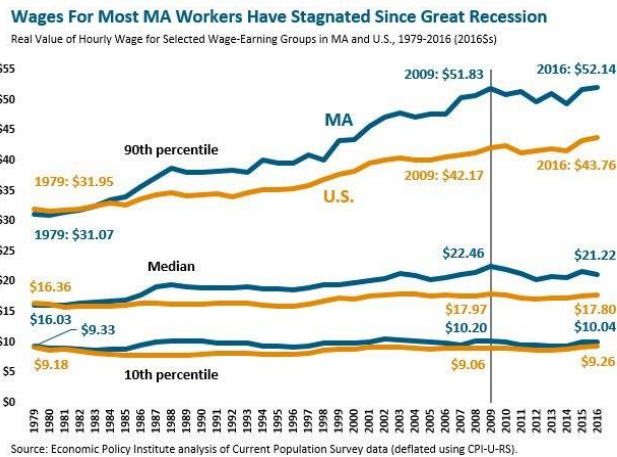
In recent decades, unions have been under attack. However, unions played -- and continue to play -- a pivotal role in

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.



Wages for most MA workers have remained stagnant since the Great Recession.



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.).

The Springfield city council passed the Responsible Employment Ordinance, TIFF, and HDIP preventing wage theft, and ensuring market rate housing builds include affordable housing development and that unions are hiring at a good rate, and staffing diversely.

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

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? **Yes**

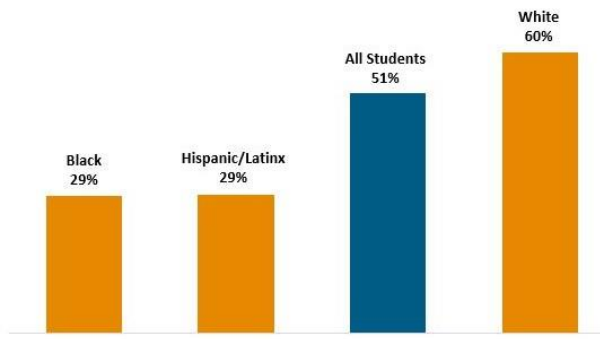
C. Education

The promise of public education has always been as a gateway to opportunity and mobility for all, regardless of economic circumstances, a cornerstone of the American dream for all residents. 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 for Youth of Color in 4th Grade Reading

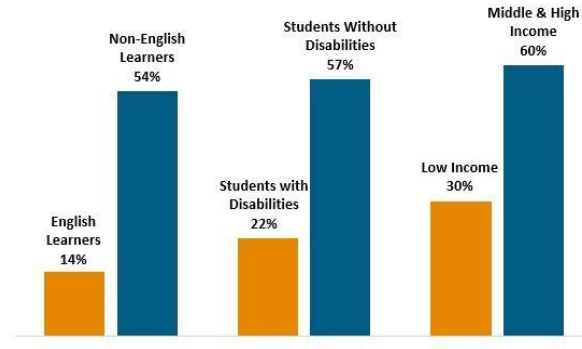
Share of MA 4th Graders Proficient on the 2017 NAEP Reading Exam, by Student Race, all students



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

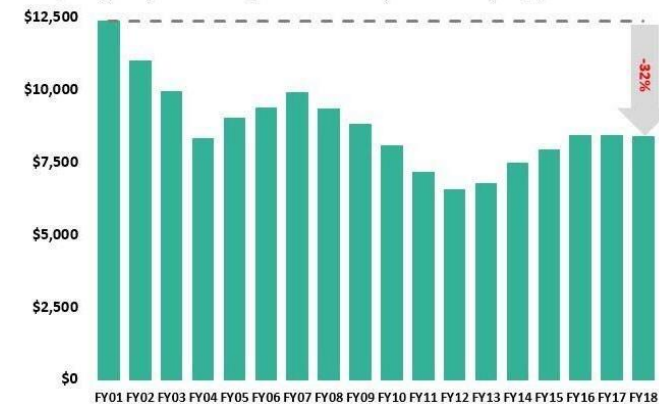


Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2017

Massachusetts has significant achievement gaps reflective of resource gaps. 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.).

I believe every child should receive a world class education at that right now Hampden County is severely underfunded and has been so for quite a long time. I have fought to pass the Promise Act and plan to work on Cherish act as Senator along with working with the MTA to ensure we get equitable participation of Chapter 70 funds. As a city councilor I have worked on establishing four new schools in Springfield, Brightwood Lincoln (which will be two schools in one) and in 2022 the building of De Berry and Homer schools. I have been an advocate for Springfield's empowerment zone partnership, which was created to ensure each school, and every educator within those schools, enhance individual and collective knowledge and action for creating just and equitable schools through an unprecedented partnership between the Springfield Public Schools, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and the Springfield Education Association (SEA). The Springfield Empowerment Zone Partnership (SEZP) ensures that each individual school has the necessary autonomy and flexibility to create the best educational environment for its students, and I will continue to expand this within my district.

2. **Universal Pre-K.** Do you support creating universal, free Pre-K, accessible to any resident of Massachusetts, integrated into the public school system? **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?
As Senator I will pressure the Governor to fully fund the Student Opportunities Act, and will work with my colleagues in ensuring this gets done, and our most vulnerable students are not left behind. I will use my experience as the City Council Chair of Economic development to think of monetary solutions to fully fund our new formula.
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.) **YES, ABOLISH MCAS!**
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.
 - a. Do you support keeping the cap on charter schools? **Yes**
 - b. 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? **Yes**
7. **Higher Education Access.** Do you support granting in-state tuition and financial aid to undocumented students? **Yes**
8. **Debt-Free College.** Do you support making tuition (and mandatory curriculum fees) free at public colleges and universities? **Yes**

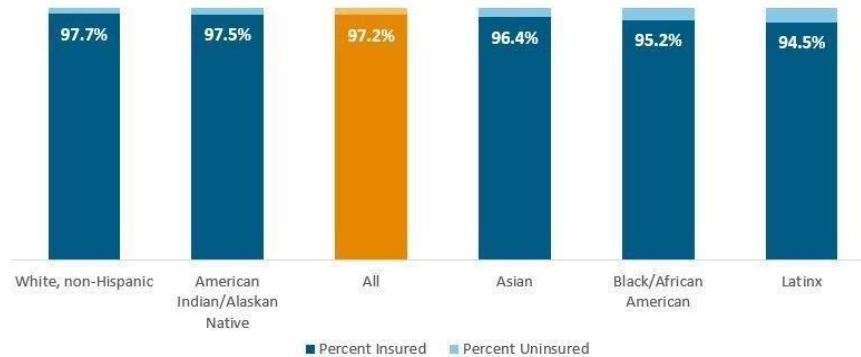
D. Health Care

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

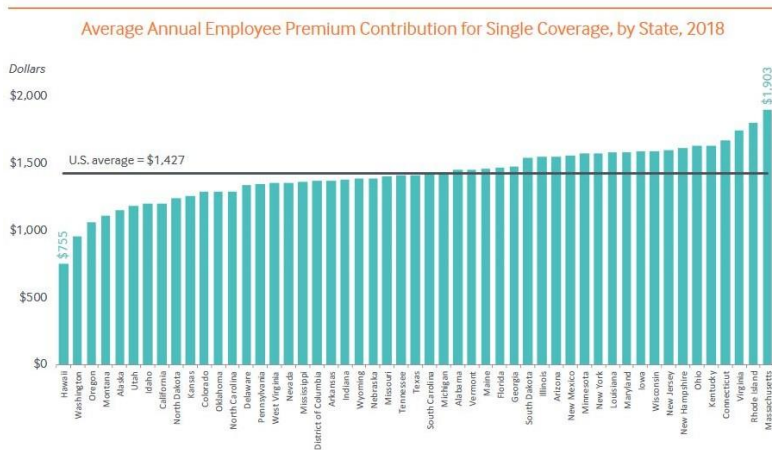
Percent with health insurance in Massachusetts, by race, 2017.



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.).

I believe healthcare is a human right and that no one should be forced to make a decision on their health based on their economic wealth. I have pre-existing health conditions and have had my fair share of surprise medical billing, and high prescription costs. As senator, I will be vocal with my stance on Medicare for All, and will champion legislation that combats surprised medical billing and high healthcare related costs. As a city councilor, I have lobbied Congressman Neal on

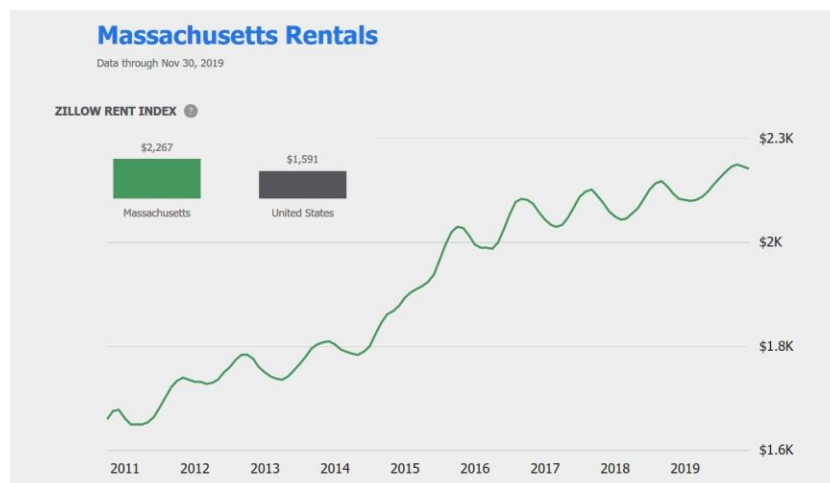
the issue, and have worked with local organizations on educating constituents on this issue.

- 2. Single Payer.** Do you support enacting a single payer health care system in Massachusetts, which would guarantee health insurance as a right? **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? **Yes**
- 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? **Yes, if equitably distributed within the district, avoiding wards that already have methadone clinics, or other similar services to avoid stigmatizing certain times.**
- 5. Pandemic Response.** How would you evaluate the state's response to the Covid-19 pandemic?
When it comes to anything west of 495, we get the crumbs of what's being distributed for relief. Recently we had to advocate for free testing sites in Western Mass, something that should not be necessary when the Hampden district has been one of the hardest hit areas, with places like the Holyoke Soldiers Homes which has had rampant high cases and mortality rates. In my opinion the state's response has been a slow reaction, and less of the mixture of fast action and deliberate forethought on future effects of those actions. We need to ensure that coming out of this, the people have the support they need to get back to living a healthy, happy life. This includes cancelling rent and mortgages, prohibiting Landlords and mortgagors from implementing late fees, raising rent when renewing leases during the pandemic, and reporting missed or late rent payments to credit agencies if tenants can prove the non-payment was due to COVID-19 hardship and to guarantee legal counsel to tenants who face eviction and supporting the survival of small business.

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](https://www.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.).
I believe in holding cheaters accountable, like Springfield's Silverbrick Developers and I also believe that everyone deserves to have a safe and affordable home. As the Resident Services Coordinator and Property Manager for the Veterans Outreach Center of Massachusetts Inc., housing homeless Veteran's is a housing priority of mine. I've been a part of home-city housing efforts where we have created millions of dollars of affordable housing. I've supported first time home buyers programming, and funding it 100%. As a city councilor I am looking into mix use market rate housing that would include affordable housing and support Springfield's Tiny Homes Initiative developed by local housing activists.
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? **Yes**
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? **Yes**
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? **Yes**
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? **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.

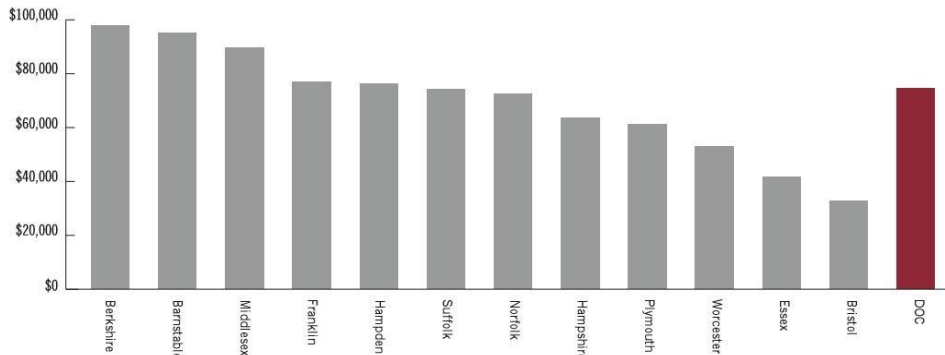
Imprisonment by Race/Ethnicity (2014)	
White imprisonment rate (per 100,000)	81
Black imprisonment rate (per 100,000)	605
Hispanic imprisonment rate (per 100,000)	351

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)

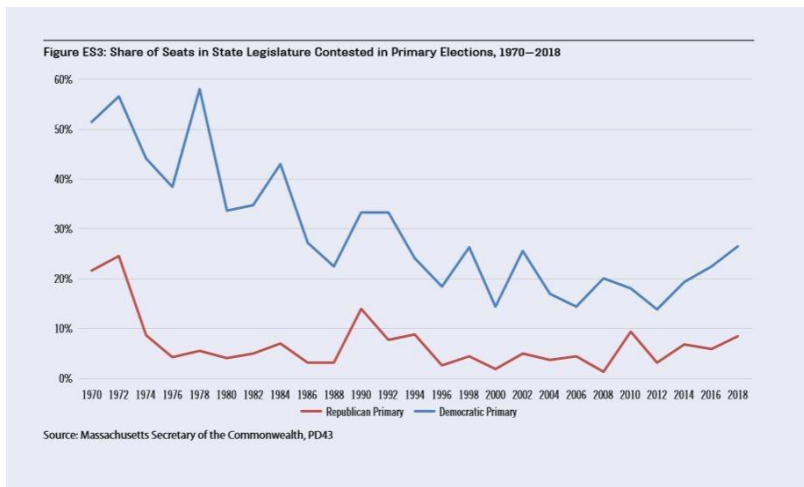
1. Please explain your principles and proposals as relate to this issue, and what work you personally have done to advance them (legislation, community work, published writings, etc.).
The work I do daily is always through the lens of racial equity and social justice. I feel that education is our passport out of poverty and that all people should be treated humanely, and with respect no matter their immigrant status.
When Jobs with Justice worked on The Act Relative to Criminal Justice Reform, I worked hard in lobbying legislatures, working with others to conduct a Jafet Robles Lobby day in honor of my brother who was murdered before he could see the fruits of his organized labor on this issue, and I gave testimony at the hearing based on my own personal experience of being a victim of the school to prison pipeline. I was the lead sponsor for the recently passed Springfield resolution declaring Racism a public health crisis and have urged our state delegation to reform qualified immunity to hold police officers accountable. I have worked with the Pioneer Valley Workers center in lobbying for the Work and Family Mobility Act and have co-sponsored the successful Welcoming Community Trust Ordinance in Springfield back in 2018.
2. **Police Accountability.** Do you support the establishment of an independent review board for police shootings in the Commonwealth? **Yes**
3. **Qualified Immunity.** The doctrine of qualified immunity grants impunity to police officers who violate someone's constitutional rights unless there is an identical situation in case law in which a police officer. Would you support legislation to restrict qualified immunity so that police officers can be held accountable and victims of police brutality can get their fair day in court? **Yes**
4. **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?
 - a. Eliminating mandatory minimums for opioid-related offenses? **Yes, for low-level offense users.**
 - b. 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? **Yes**
 - c. Decriminalizing consensual sexual activity between adolescents, by creating an exception to the statutory rape law for youth close in age? **Yes**
 - d. Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which is costly and has been shown to be racist in its application? **Yes**
5. **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? **Yes**
6. **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? **Yes**
7. **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? **Yes**
8. **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? **Yes**
9. **Work and Family Mobility Act.** Do you support removing immigration status as a barrier to applying for a license or learner's permit? **Yes**

G. Good Government and Strong Democracy

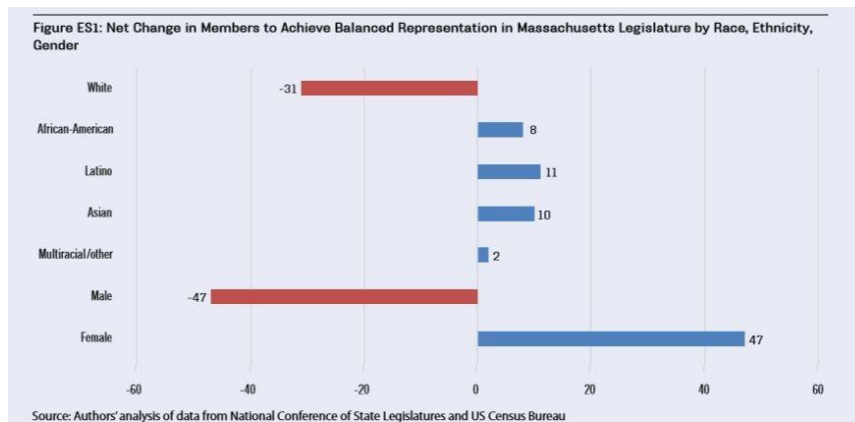
A strong democracy depends on a transparent and representative government and an engaged public. Too often, however, we see centralized, unaccountable power and barriers to participation. An undemocratic, centralized power structure on Beacon Hill makes it easier for lobbyists to target the top and undermine 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.). **I believe our government should be beholden to the people, and only the people, that is why I only accept grassroots donations and have signed the Sunrise pledge to refuse any fossil fuel donations. I believe in transparency and accountability, that is why I signed the Voter's deserve to know pledge.**
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? **Yes**
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...?
 - a. All committee votes, whether taken by electronic poll or formal roll call? **Yes**
 - b. All written testimony submitted for or against bills? **Yes**
 - c. Reader-friendly summaries of bills currently in or reported out of committee? **Yes**
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...?
 - a. Standing for a recorded vote when a colleague asks for one on any amendment which you have co-sponsored? **Yes**
 - b. Making your committee votes available online on your website? **Yes**
5. **State House Culture.** Do you support the creation of an independent commission to investigate and report on complaints of workplace and sexual harassment in the Massachusetts Legislature? **Yes**
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? **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? **Yes**
8. **Voting Access.** Which of the following policies to increase voter participation do you support?
 - a. Election Day Registration? **Yes**
 - b. The expansion of early voting to municipal elections and primaries? **Yes**
 - c. No-fault absentee voting? **Yes**
 - d. Ending the disenfranchisement of prisoners serving with felony convictions (Their right to vote was taken away by ballot twenty years ago)? **Yes**
9. **Ranked Choice Voting.** Do you support the 2020 ballot initiative to adopt ranked choice voting for state, county, and (non-presidential) federal elections? **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? **Yes**

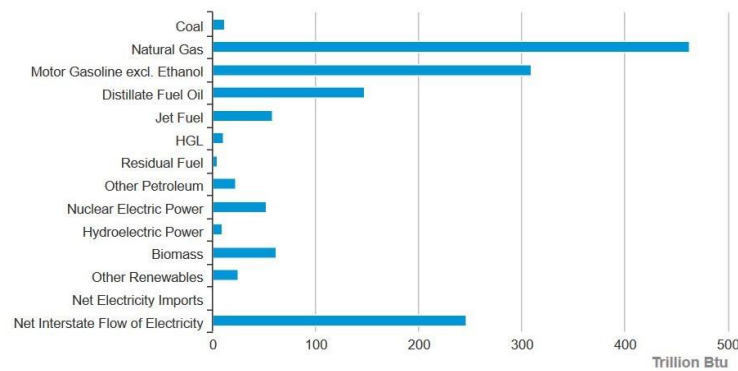
H. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

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.

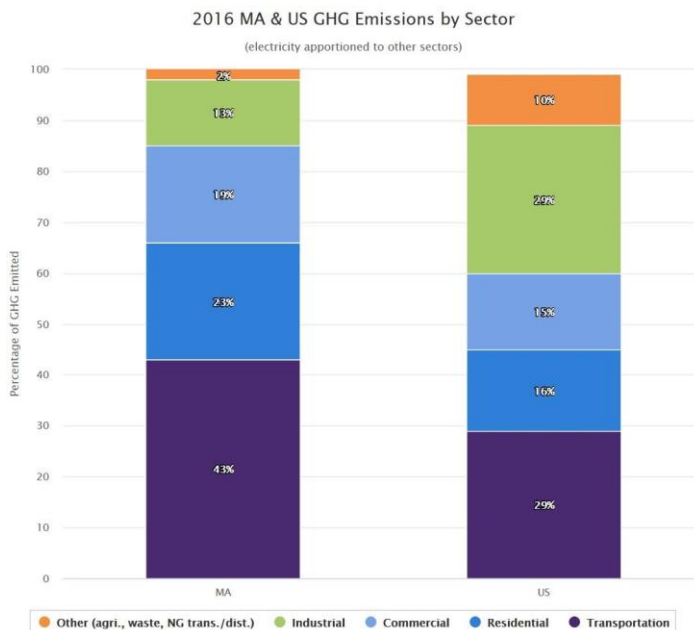
Massachusetts Energy Consumption Estimates, 2017



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.).

Climate change is real and increases water and air pollution, which increases the risk of asthma and other respiratory diseases. The asthma rate in Springfield is the highest in the U.S. at over 18%. Increased temperatures due to climate change lead to increase chances of those with asthma and other respiratory diseases to be triggered. The Hampden District has been hit with category 3 tornadoes, causing \$90 million in damages and lost lives. We've also experienced tropical storm Irene, and record snowstorms of 8-24 inches damaging power lines and impacting safe work travel and loss of business revenue. Although hitting Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, Hurricane Maria has had a significant migratory impact on the Hampden District, increasing our district population.

As Senator, I will push to develop the East to West Rail to help lower travel emissions, ban plastic bags, and put a price on carbon, with provisions for mitigating the impact on lower-income residents and businesses. I'll support conservation actions, such as what successfully accomplished with Bear Hole in West Springfield and sponsor legislation on renewable energy to create a healthy green economy. In addition, I will create spaces to educate our community on the local impact of climate change and how to fight for climate justice. Lastly, I plan to support actions such as closing down our coal plant alongside organizations, like Neighbor to Neighbor, Arise for Social Justice, and others a part of the Springfield Climate Justice Coalition.

2. **Waste Reduction.** Would you support a statewide ban on single-use shopping bags and a requirement that alternatives be more sustainable? **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? **Yes**
4. **Renewable Energy.** Do you support a target of 100% renewable energy economy-wide by 2045 and 100% renewable electricity by 2035? **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? **Yes**
6. **Fossil Fuel Infrastructure.** Do you oppose the expansion of gas pipelines in the state? **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? **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? **Yes**
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? **Yes**

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 was born and raised in the Northend of Springfield and I am raising my three children ages 14, 11, and 3 in the same street I grew up on. My family migrated from the Island of Boriken to find work on the Tobacco fields and raised 9 children, 6 boys and 3 girls. Throughout my 37 years of life, we moved around due to my father's military service. When my father retired, we moved back and settled in Springfield, where we often visited relatives.

I decided to run for office in the summer of 2015. During this time Springfield tried to build a jail in our community and I felt as though my councillor did not truly understand the impact and scope of such a move. As a Neighbor to Neighbor member, I helped to organize and stop that from happening and in this process I was encouraged and supported to run for city council by my fellow members. We ran a successful 80 day campaign to oust a 3 term incumbent. Now that I am a 3 term incumbent who has built multi-level & cross state relationships, I feel empowered to expand my scope of representation and run for the Hampden State Senate District seat.

While on the city council I've learned that constituent services, like Chapter 90 and 70 funds, are essential to the success of our cities. Learning that incarceration was a business and that cronyism took over the direction of how my district operates, I knew that we needed new leadership. Hampden county deserves a senator who isn't complacent on the issues and is unafraid to challenge the status quo.

I was elected to the Springfield City Council in 2015. While on the council I have advocated for the Gerena school & tunnel to be fixed. I've also sponsored the Welcomg Cities Trust Ordinance, ultimately bringing Sanctuary to undocumented individuals within my community. I lead Springfield on banning plastic bags alongside my colleague Jesse Lederman. While also on the council I have been pushing progressive policies that are changing the lives of every day residents of Springfield for the better. Recently, I declared Racism a Public Health Crisis. My resolution was ultimately unanimously co-sponsored and passed by the City Council, urging the Mayor to declare it himself.

As Senator I plan to hold office hours three times a month in different parts of the district and hold town halls frequently, at minimum, quarterly. I want my office to be a place of resource and connection and personal response. In stark contrast to the interactions of an indifferent office visit, a left voicemail or an unanswered email many Hampden constituents experience today. I'm excited to make a difference in the State House, to bring pride to the Hampden District and to create an inclusive plan that demonstrates true grassroots leadership.

“If we don't break up the good ol' boy network within our political factions then the future of our city, state, and country is doomed. These systematic oppressive industries we operate within are not broken but are working how they were intended to. My candidacy recognizes that, and puts people over profits, always. I refuse to take any fossil fuel, or corporate donations, believing that that the public should be the only thing I am beholden to. On September 1, 2020 I will bring the State Senate seat back to the people, including environmental justice reforms with people of color at the table. With my foundation as a member organizer with Neighbor to Neighbor I know how important it is to elect someone who understands the community. Someone who has lived through disparities and has experienced the inequalities of the underserved communities they are to represent. “

I humbly thank you for your endorsement consideration.

Adam Gomez Sr. for Hampden State Senate