

**PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2020 CONGRESSIONAL
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**



Date: February 7, 2020

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

I. About You

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

I am running for office to pass a progressive agenda that ensures that everyone, no matter where they come from, has the same opportunity to succeed in a safe and healthy environment. Some of my top priorities include:

- Passing a Green New Deal that will create jobs and grow our economy and save our planet for future generations.
- Ensuring the health and wellness of all Americans through Medicare for All
- Reducing gun violence by enacting aggressive gun control measures, including universal background checks, assault weapons ban, and mandatory licensing for firearms.
- Immediately providing pathways to citizenship for the entirety of the 11 million undocumented individuals in the United States, dismantling President Trump's deportation army and draconian enforcement practices, and making our immigration system more accessible to those looking to immigrate to the United States.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

As a life-long public servant, my leadership is defined by hard work, standing up for what I believe, and the commitment to giving everyone a voice in our democracy. My experiences growing up as a boy from Malden and the values that I learned at the kitchen table have given me the compassion and humility to see the challenges faced by other marginalized communities. The policies that I fight for are aimed at ensuring that every child and person has the same opportunity to succeed in a safe and healthy environment.

I began my career as a fighter for the working class when I was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1973, before being elected to the United States Congress three years later. In 2013, I became a United States Senator, and have spent the last six years fighting to democratize access to opportunity through comprehensive health care, dignified work for all, and access to quality education.

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

The biggest barriers that we face today are a White House administration that is determined to roll back protections for our most vulnerable communities, and a Republican-held Senate that prevents progressive legislation from being heard or passed.

In 2020, we must flip the presidency and the Senate and fight for our shared progressive values. The future of our democracy is dependent on it.

II. The Issues

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

A. An Equitable Tax System

1. What does a progressive tax system look like? Which specific proposals would you advocate for?

The American dream is becoming harder and harder to attain, and the gap between the wealthy and everyone else has only become worse, not better, over time. Income inequality is at its highest levels in a generation. We need a tax code that ensures that the wealthiest in our society pay their fair share and that we help lift up those who actually need help and promote progressive values through the tax code.

That is why I fought against the Trump tax bill giveaways of \$1.5 trillion for corporations and the wealthiest Americans, at the expense of workers and communities. I opposed the Bush tax cuts of 2001 and 2003, which gave away trillions of dollars to the wealthiest Americans and add \$5.6 trillion to deficits from 2001 to 2018. Republicans have repeatedly used those deficits in many attempts to cut crucial social safety net programs for working families. I support the wealthy paying their fair share through proposals like the “Buffet Rule” to ensure that millionaires cannot pay less in taxes than middle-class families. I believe that we should close loopholes that benefit the rich like taxing carried interest as traditional income and make the estate tax more progressive so that ultra-wealthy families cannot pass fortunes from one generation to the next without paying their fair share of taxes.

We should expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for more working class households by increasing the maximum benefits by roughly 25 percent and expand benefits for childless workers. We should allow working families to keep more of their hard earned tax dollars by boosting the value of the Child Tax Credit (from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per child) and making that money fully refundable for the poorest Americans and allowing families to access this money through monthly payouts, rather than through tax returns.

I have been fighting against predatory tax filing companies like TurboTax, who lobby our government to keep taxes complicated and use their relationships with the IRS to rip off low income tax filers. I support forcing the IRS to create and operate free tax preparation and filing software for all taxpayers, saving individuals and businesses valuable time and frustrations. I have been working to fund critical programs like Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) grants to help low and moderate-income individuals to maximize their tax returns and savings.

And our tax system must do more to reduce the problem of extreme wealth concentration by the richest Americans. Simply asking the ultra-rich to pay their fair share by taxing their wealth, would provide investments in our future and work to combat the rise of income inequality in America.

B. Jobs That Pay a Living Wage

1. **Minimum Wage.** The gap between productivity and wages has grown dramatically since 1973. Moreover, the federal minimum wage remains stuck at \$7.25—what it was in 2009. Would you support legislation to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour?
Yes
 - a. And eliminate the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers?
Yes
 - b. And index the minimum wage to inflation?
Yes

2. **Retirement Security.** With the decline of pensions and other defined-benefit retirement plans in the workplace, retirement is becoming more insecure, and seniors are having to work longer just to stay afloat. Would you support legislation to....
 - a. Increase the benefits provided by Social Security?
Yes
 - b. Raising the cap on earnings that are taxed for Social Security? (Currently, only earnings up to \$118,500 are subject to the payroll tax.)
Yes

3. **Paid Leave.** The US is the only industrial nation without paid family leave. Would you support federal legislation ensuring that workers can take up to 12 weeks of paid leave for a pregnancy, the birth or adoption of a child, to recover from a serious illness, or to care for a seriously ill family member?
Yes

4. **Union Rights.** Unions play a key role in building a strong middle-class; however, unions have been under attack in recent years. Would you support the following efforts to strengthen the role of unions in our economy:
 - a. Prohibiting “right-to-work” laws at the state level?
Yes
 - b. Requiring employers to recognize a union when a majority of workers in a bargaining unit sign valid authorization cards?
Yes
 - c. Prohibiting employers from interfering with unionization efforts, such as by compelling worker attendance at anti-union meetings?
Yes

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

C. Quality, Affordable Health Care

1. **Medicare for All.** Would you support the creation of a single payer/“Medicare for All” health insurance system in the country that would guarantee health care as a right?
Yes. I am an original co-sponsor of the Medicare for All Act of 2019.
2. **Prescription Drug Prices.** Prescription drug prices in the US are consistently higher than in other countries. Which policies would you support to lower the cost of prescription drugs?
 - a. Allowing Medicare to negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies?
Yes. I support H.R. 3.
 - b. Allowing patients, pharmacists, and wholesalers to buy low-cost prescription drugs from Canada and other industrialized countries?
Yes. I supported an amendment to the budget act in 2017 supporting the importation of drugs from Canada.
 - c. Allowing the federal government to manufacture lower-cost generic versions of prescription drugs when the market does not offer them?
Generic drugs are one way to help introduce more competition and lower prescription drug prices and all reasonable proposals to do that should be considered.
3. **Reproductive Rights.** Would you support repealing the Hyde Amendment, which bars the use of federal funds to pay for abortion except to save the life of the woman, or if the pregnancy arises from incest or rape?
Yes
4. **Opioid Crisis.** An essential part of addressing the opioid crisis, safe consumption sites allow medical professionals to respond to overdoses and engage participants in medical and behavioral health services. Would you support the legalization of SCSs?

Yes

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

D. Quality, Free Publicly Funded Education

1. **Education Equity.** More than six and a half decades out from the *Brown vs. Board* Supreme Court ruling, our public education systems remain highly segregated and unequal. Please name three policies you would advocate for in order to address this.
 - I am a proud supporter of the Head Start program because it levels the playing field and provides low-income children with the early educational opportunities they deserve in order to be successful. I have been an outspoken leader in the efforts to increase federal funding for the Head Start program.

- I have been fighting to protect E-Rate funding which is critical to funding internet access at schools and libraries, especially in rural areas. The E-Rate ensures that students from working-class and rural neighborhoods can connect to and be afforded all of the opportunities given to students from more affluent communities.
 - I am a cosponsor of Senator Booker's Diversifying by Investing in Educators and Students to Improve Outcomes For Youth (DIVERSIFY) Act (S. 3158). It would increase the maximum TEACH Grants from \$4,000 to \$8,000. TEACH grants provides scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students who commit to teaching a high-need subject in a high-poverty elementary or secondary school for 4 years. The grants serve to reduce the cost barrier for teachers to enter the profession, particularly for teachers at high-poverty schools.
2. **Charter School Funding.** The NAACP has proposed a moratorium on public funds for charter school expansion until a national audit has been completed to determine the impact of charter growth in each state. Do you support such a moratorium?
Yes
 3. **Charter School Accountability.** Do you support requiring that charter schools comply with the same transparency and accountability requirements as public schools?
Yes
 4. **High-Stakes Testing.** Do you support prohibiting the use of standardized testing as a primary or significant factor in closing a school, firing a teacher, or making any other high-stakes decisions?
Yes
 5. **Student Loan Debt.** Student loan debt is holding back the economy, as graduates are unable to make important long-term investments in their future. Presidential candidates have put forth various schemes to forgive student loan debt. Do you support doing so, and what would your ideal scheme look like?
Yes
 6. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** More and more jobs are requiring a college degree, but the cost of higher education has been growing faster than wages, contributing to a ballooning student debt burden. Would you support legislation to guarantee free tuition at public colleges and universities?
Yes

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

E. Affordable, Decent Housing

1. **Tenant Rights.** Would you support legislation to establish a national just cause eviction standard, which would limit the grounds upon which a landlord may evict a tenant?
Yes

2. **Inclusive Communities.** Federal funding can be a major source of leverage in shaping state and municipal policy. Would you support legislation to tie transportation or housing funding to...
 - a. Ending exclusionary zoning practices?
Yes

 - b. Repealing state prohibitions on rent stabilization policies?
Yes

3. **Public Housing.** Would you support the repeal of the Faircloth Amendment, which bans HUD from funding the construction or operation of new public housing units beyond the total that existed in 1999?
Yes

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

F. A Fair and Efficient Criminal Justice System

1. **Ending Mass Incarceration.** The past few years have seen a growing recognition that the “tough on crime” legislation passed in the 1980s and 1990s has had a devastating impact on communities of color and has not improved public safety. Which of the following proposals do you support?
 - a. Legalizing marijuana?
Yes
 - b. Repealing mandatory minimums for non-violent drug offenses?
Yes
 - c. Eliminating cash bail, so that no one is held in jail solely for an inability to pay?
Yes
 - d. Abolishing the death penalty?
Yes
 - e. Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which has been proven to have significant racial disparities ?
Yes
 - f. Barring the federal government and state and local jurisdictions from contracting with private corporations to run prisons and detention facilities?
Yes

2. **Prison Conditions.** In addition to having incarceration rates that far [outpace](#) those of other countries, the US is known for violating both domestic and international law in the

conditions of its prisons. Which of the following steps would you support to emphasize the rehabilitative, as opposed to punitive, nature of the system and protect basic rights?

- a. Preventing companies from charging prisoners unreasonable fees for banking and telecommunications services?

Yes

- b. Requiring that incarcerated individuals be paid for their work at a rate no lower than the federal minimum wage?

Yes

- c. Restoring Pell Grant access to prisoners?

Yes

- d. Limiting the use of solitary confinement to no more than 15 consecutive days, beyond which it is defined as torture by the United Nations?

Yes

- 3. Police Accountability.** Lax or nonexistent systems of accountability and perverse incentives at the federal, state, and local level, combined with a legacy of systemic racism, too often lead to law enforcement neither enforcing the law nor keeping the public safe. Which of the following steps would you support to promote a more humane, community-focused policing?

- a. Prohibiting the transfer of military weapons from the federal government to state and local law enforcement?

Yes

- b. Eliminating qualified immunity, which allows law enforcement to violate people's constitutional rights with impunity?

In a 2018 dissenting opinion, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor warned against judicial decisions that were "transform[ing] the doctrine [of qualified immunity] into an absolute shield for law enforcement officers, gutting the deterrent effect of the Fourth Amendment." I share those concerns. Under current law, the barrier faced by those who seek to hold police officers accountable for misconduct is too high. Congress needs to consider legislation to lower that barrier, including reforming and restricting the qualified immunity defense under 28 U.S.C. section 1983 for law enforcement officers.

- c. Restricting the use of civil asset forfeiture by police departments and prosecutors' offices?

Yes

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

G. A Humane Immigration System

1. **Comprehensive Immigration Reform.** The approximately 12 million undocumented immigrants in the US are important contributors to strong economies and strong communities. Due to political and economic instability abroad, as well as a labyrinthine and discriminatory immigration bureaucracy at home, this number could very well continue to grow. However, comprehensive immigration reform legislation has remained elusive in Washington. Which of the following policies would you support?
 - a. The DREAM Act, which would allow certain US-raised immigrant youth to earn lawful permanent residence and American citizenship?
Yes
 - b. A path for undocumented immigrants to gain US citizenship?
Yes
 - c. Repealing the three-year, ten-year, and permanent bars of reentry for undocumented immigrants?
Yes
 - d. Decriminalizing border crossing?
Yes

2. **Upholding Rights, Ending Perverse Incentives.** Every day, we hear new unconscionable stories about how the US is treating immigrants at the border, fueled by both bad laws and lawlessness at the federal level. Our immigration system should reflect our values. Which of the following policies would you support?
 - a. Ending the practice of family detention?
Yes
 - b. Ending the practice of family separation?
Yes
 - c. Ending ICE's daily bed quota?
Yes
 - d. Imposing a moratorium on the construction of new detention facilities?
Yes
 - e. Abolishing ICE?
ICE needs to be dismantled and reconstructed. It has turned into a massive deportation army that is experiencing the worst kind of mission creep under the Trump administration.

We have to separate ICE's public safety responsibilities from its deeply flawed immigration enforcement. It does little more than terrorize law-abiding immigrant families from Lawrence to downtown Boston to the whole rest of our country.

3. **Ending Mass Deportations.** Would you support a moratorium on deportations until a comprehensive immigration reform bill is passed?

Yes

4. **Refugees.** In October of 2019, the number of refugees resettled in the US hit zero, and the Trump administration would like to keep it that way going forward, abandoning historic humanitarian commitments. What do you see as the appropriate number of refugees for the US to accept each year?

I have led the fight in Congress to ensure protections for refugees. I introduced landmark legislation, the Guaranteed Refugee Admission Ceiling Enhancement (GRACE) Act (S.1088), which sets a floor, but not a ceiling, for refugee admissions. The GRACE Act prevents the President from setting refugee admissions at a level below 95,000, — the historical average — while still allowing the President to set the cap above 95,000 if he or she chooses. I would encourage a president to set a level for refugee admissions well above this number, especially because of the attacks the Trump Administration has made on our refugee resettlement program.

This bill has received the backing of every refugee resettlement agency and received an inaugural award from the largest coalition of refugee advocates. This legislation reaffirms our commitment to vulnerable people seeking refuge and safety. It is critical that we prevent the Trump administration, or any future administration from dismantling our refugee resettlement program.

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

I have introduced legislation to enact protections for “climate refugees.” Since 2009, a disaster has displaced an estimated one person every second, with an average of 22.5 million people displaced every year by climate or weather-related events since 2008. Forced migration is increasing in the context of environmental changes and climate-induced disruptions, including weather-related disasters, drought, famine, and rising sea levels. According to the UN International Organization for Migration, by 2050, there may be as many as 200 million climate-displaced persons. This is why I introduced first of its kind legislation to address the growing issue of climate-displaced persons. This legislation would create both a global climate resilience strategy and a new humanitarian program for those who have been displaced by environmental disasters or climate change. Climate-displaced persons often lack any formal protection under domestic or international law. Many individuals do not meet the definition of a refugee under U.S. law, and as such, they cannot access resettlement opportunities in the United States. The humanitarian program for climate-displaced persons will function separately from the U.S. refugee admissions program but will afford the same benefits.

I have led efforts to extend Temporary Protected Status for Haitian nationals in the United States and urging the Trump Administration to maintain TPS for all currently designated countries.

I have visited the southern border three times over the last three years to see conditions at ICE and Homeland Security facilities first-hand. I also authored an oversight report to shine a light on all of the ways that the Trump Administration has made our immigration system hostile to immigrants.

H. A Diverse and Welcoming Society

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

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

LGBTQ Issues

I was one of only 67 members in the House of Representatives to vote against the Defense of Marriage Act against when it passed back in 1996.

I authored and introduced the “Gay and Trans Panic Defense Prohibition Act.” This legislation would ban the use of so-called “gay panic” and “trans panic” defenses in federal court. My bill

makes a clear statement that an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity cannot excuse a violent attack against that person. While several states have banned the use of gay and trans panic defenses, this legislation is the first of its kind at the federal level.

In 2015, I successfully fought for the creation of the first ever Special Envoy for LGBTI peoples at the State Department. At my urging, Secretary Kerry created this position and appointed Randy Berry who held the position until November 2017. The Trump Administration has refused to fill this position with a person solely dedicated to these issues despite me repeatedly calling on them to do so.

I introduced the International Human Rights Defense Act to make this position permanent. My legislation was the only foreign policy bill used by the Human Rights Campaign's scorecard to measure the commitment of Members of Congress in promoting the rights of LGBTI people. I have also introduced the GLOBE Act, which outlines a comprehensive vision for U.S. leadership in the promotion of LGBTI rights globally.

I have also introduced a resolution (S.Res.211) with Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) that urged the immediate end to the persecution of the Chechen LGBTI community and called upon Russian and Chechen officials to investigate the violence and protect the human rights of all citizens. The resolution passed the Senate with bipartisan support on October 31, 2017. On May 21, 2018, I led a bipartisan letter to President Trump urging him to hold those accountable in Russia for violating the rights of LGBTI individuals in Chechnya.

In June 2019, the State Department's Undersecretary for Management Brian Bulatao reportedly issued an internal memorandum ordering U.S. embassies to not fly the rainbow pride flag during LGBTQ pride month. In response, I wrote the Secretary of State urging the agency to abandon this hateful internal policy.

Gun Safety

Protecting the safety and security of Massachusetts' schools, streets and communities from gun violence is of the utmost importance to me. I support common-sense gun control reforms, including universal background checks for all firearms sales, reinstating the ban on assault weapons, making gun trafficking a federal crime, prohibiting high capacity ammunition magazines, closing both the "Charleston loophole" and the "boyfriend loophole," and repealing the law that gives gun manufacturers immunity from lawsuit.

In 1994 in the House of Representatives, I was successful in a bipartisan effort to get President Bill Clinton to place an emergency moratorium on the importation of military style assault weapons from China, including the AK-47 and Uzi. At the time, it was estimated that between 425,000 and two million modified rifles had been imported into the United States since 1991, selling for less than \$130 per gun.

More recently, I have introduced the MASS Act, to incentive states to adopt gun licensing standards similar to those in Massachusetts, which has one of the lowest gun death rates in the country. I have introduced the Keeping Gun Dealers Honest Act, which would strengthen accountability measures for gun dealers and equip ATF with the tools to enforce existing law.

In December of 2019, my Gun Violence Prevention Research Act succeeded in breaking a more than 20 year vice grip of the NRA by authorizing \$25 million in funding a year to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for gun violence prevention research. This is the first step in my goal for making NRA stand for “Not Relevant Anymore” in American politics. I know how to take on the NRA and win, and I’m the only person in this race that can say that.

I have introduced the 3D Printed Gun Safety Act, which would prohibit the distribution of “automatic” instructions – digital code – that can be downloaded and programmed into a 3-D printer to produce a firearm.

I. Good Government and Strong Democracy

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

Yes

2. **Ending Prison Disenfranchisement.** Currently, Maine and Vermont are the only states that provide full suffrage to the incarcerated. Do you support ending the disenfranchisement for those currently incarcerated?

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

5. **Campaign Finance -- Part II.** Would you support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United decision and allow limits on corporate political spending?

Yes

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

J. Sustainable Infrastructure & Environmental Protection

1. **Green New Deal.** Do you support the concept of a Green New Deal? If so, what should it look like?

Yes, I co-authored the Green New Deal Resolution with Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez.

2. **Transitioning to Clean Energy.** We need to rapidly decarbonize our economy if we are to keep global warming within safe levels. Which of the following policies would you support to accelerate that transition?
 - a. Setting a goal of 100 percent clean energy generation and use by 2035?

The Green New Deal, which I co-authored with Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, calls for a 10-year mobilization with the goal of meeting 100 percent of our power demand through clean, renewable and zero-emissions energy sources.
 - b. Putting a price on carbon emissions and investing the revenue in clean energy and green infrastructure?

The United Nations has called climate change an existential threat. The Green New Deal calls for a response equal to the magnitude of the crisis. The Green New Deal does not rule out putting a price on carbon emissions but it calls for putting justice at the center of our response. We have to address the climate crisis in a way that repairs the historic oppression of frontline communities who have borne the worst brunt of our fossil fuel addiction and will bear the worst impacts of climate change. The Green New Deal calls for developing our response through transparent and inclusive consultation, collaboration and partnership with frontline and vulnerable communities.
 - c. Prohibiting new leases for coal, oil, and gas on all federal lands and waters?

We need to end our addiction to fossil fuels and we need to begin that immediately. That is why the Green New Deal calls for transforming our economy, society and democracy with an historic 10-year mobilization with the goal of achieving net zero emissions. I have also led the fight in the Senate to protect our oceans, especially off of New England, our public lands and most pristine wild places, like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from being handed over to the fossil fuel industries.
 - d. Opposing any legislation that authorizes, or expedites the permitting or approval of, new fossil fuel pipelines?

I led the fight in the Senate against the Keystone XL pipeline. I led the opposition to the new and massively unneeded Kinder Morgan natural gas pipeline in Massachusetts. The Green New Deal calls for achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through an historic 10-year mobilization.
3. **Climate Emergency.** With rising temperatures and sea levels threatening significant harm to Massachusetts' coast, ecosystems, public health and well-being, do you support declaring a Climate Emergency to drive an aggressive response?

Yes

4. **Clean Water.** Would you support legislation to require natural gas drillers to disclose the chemicals that go into the ground during the hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) process and to close the so-called “Halliburton loophole,” which prevents the EPA from conducting rigorous oversight?

Yes

5. **Environmental Justice.** Would you support legislation to codify environmental justice into law; require federal agencies to address environmental justice through agency actions and permitting decisions; and strengthen legal protections against environmental injustice for communities of color, low-income communities, and indigenous communities?

Yes

6. **Electric Vehicles.** Would you support legislation to phase out the sale of gasoline- or diesel-powered vehicles by 2030?

The Green New Deal, which I authored with Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, calls for an historic 10-year mobilization with the goal of net zero emissions. The Green New Deal also calls for overhauling transportation systems in the United States to remove pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector as much as is technologically feasible, including through investment in zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and manufacturing; clean, affordable, and accessible public transit; and high-speed rail.

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

I introduced the Generating Resilient, Environmentally Exceptional National (GREEN) Streets Act in June 2019. This bill would establish national goals for the federal highway program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help states adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. In 2016, the transportation sector became the largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the United States at 28 percent of total emissions, surpassing electricity generation. Driving currently represents 83 percent of all transportation emissions and that total is rising – despite more efficient vehicles and cleaner fuels – because people are making more frequent and longer trips. This bill would change our transportation system to focus on how to cut down on vehicle miles traveled per person and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

In July 2019, I introduced the Complete Streets Act, which would promote safe and accessible transportation options for multiple modes of travel, as well as for people of all ages and abilities. “Complete streets” can accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit users, not just cars and freight vehicles. The Complete Streets Act would require states set aside a portion of their federal highway funding to create a grant program that will fund “complete streets” projects to make transit routes safer and more accessible. Through this program, eligible local and regional entities can apply for technical assistance and capital funding to build safe streets projects, such as sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, and bus stops. The America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act,

which passed out of the Environment and Public Works Committee on July 30, 2019, included language that states and metropolitan planning organizations shall set aside 2.5 percent of their highway funding for planning of projects that will improve safety and accessibility;

I reintroduced the Greener Air Standards Mean Our National Security, Environment, and Youth (GAS MONEY) Saved Act in April 2019. This legislation would preserve the benefits of the existing fuel economy and vehicle greenhouse gas emissions standards and the dangerous impacts of the proposed rule released by the EPA and NHTSA last August. The GAS MONEY Saved Act would reinstate the 2012 fuel economy and vehicle greenhouse gas emission standards rule—which was reaffirmed by an extensive technical assessment report in 2016—and prevent EPA Administrator Wheeler from weakening the standards. The United States will consume 500,000 more barrels of oil per day if standards are frozen at 2020 levels. In contrast, the current 54.5 mpg standard will cut oil use by nearly 2.5 million barrels per day by 2030, nearly as much oil as the United States currently imports from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and other OPEC nations combined. Freezing the standards would also cost American drivers an additional \$20 billion in 2025 alone on higher gas spending.

The Obama administration's historic 54.5 mpg standard was partially enabled by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which included fuel economy standards that I co-authored when I was in the House of Representatives.

In May 2019, I reintroduced the Contaminant and Lead Electronic Accounting and Reporting Requirements for (CLEARRR) Drinking Water Act, which would authorize more than \$1 billion in federal funding to help small and disadvantaged communities replace contaminated water infrastructure to comply with Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. The CLEARRR Drinking Water Act also directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide grants for community and research partnerships on drinking water contaminants, establish requirements for electronic reporting of water quality testing results and update the requirements for repeat- or serious-offender water systems

In October 2016, I published a report “The ABC’s of PCBs: A Toxic Threat to America’s Schools,” which detailed the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a class of man-made chemicals linked to cancer and other health problems, that are found in school building materials and equipment across the country. The report details how up to 14 million students nationwide, representing nearly 30 percent of America’s school-aged population may be exposed to PCBs in their schools. My report also found that there are generally no requirements for schools to do testing or inspections to ensure PCB exposures aren’t happening, and that even when exposure is identified, reporting and remediation of PCB hazards are inconsistent and often ineffective. I intend to introduce legislation to provide federal assistance for projects to inspect for and remove PCB hazards from schools.

In May 2019, I issued a white paper outlining a vision for a green and climate-friendly infrastructure legislative package in the 116th Congress. Climate change has amplified existing threats to America's infrastructure. On just America's coasts alone, these threats now pose a risk to approximately \$1 trillion of U.S. real estate. Additionally, the transportation sector is the largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, accounting for 28 percent of U.S. emissions—surpassing even electricity generation. A comprehensive infrastructure package is an opportunity to make investments that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect public health, and help communities adapt to unavoidable climate impacts, and would be a key driver of good-paying jobs throughout the country.

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

I authored the Green New Deal resolution along with my colleague Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. It is time for the sun to set on the dirty energy of the past. The fight for a Green New Deal marks the dawn of a new era of climate action. A Green New Deal is about jobs, and it is about justice. It would be the greatest blue-collar jobs program in a generation and repair the historic oppression of frontline and vulnerable communities that have born the worst burdens of our fossil fuel economy, all while combating the existential threat of the climate crisis. Our Green New Deal resolution calls for an historic ten-year mobilization that will mitigate climate emissions and build climate resiliency. Never before have the interests of all Americans been so united in a single issue: climate change. We need to lift up all workers and all communities to confront this crisis. We have met great challenges before, and to meet the challenge of climate change – the great challenge of our time – we will need to transform our economy, society and democracy through the bold, ambitious action that is called for in the Green New Deal. The Green New Deal isn't just a resolution, it is a revolution.

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.