

PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS 2020 CONGRESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE



Date: February 7, 2020

Candidate: Rep. Joe Kennedy III

Office Sought: Massachusetts Senate

Party: Democratic

Website: kennedyforma.com

Twitter: @joekennedy

Facebook: @JoeKennedyIII

Other Social Media: Instagram: joekennedyiii

Email questions to elections@progressivemass.com.

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

I. About You

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

I'm running for US Senate because we are in a moment where literally everything we believe in is on the line, and we need leaders who will match the urgency of this moment. Particularly here in Massachusetts – which is not a swing state – I believe our U.S. Senate seat comes with extra opportunity and obligation. It's about a lot more than signing onto good bills or taking good votes. It's about being in Massachusetts all the time, so the people here know there is someone fighting for them. It's about paying particular attention to those our system has failed – the marginalized, the vulnerable, the sick, and suffering – because that is the basic responsibility of government. And at a time when the stakes could not be higher for the Democratic Party – for the people and the causes we care about – a Senator from Massachusetts should be defining the terms of our biggest national debates, traveling the country to rebuild the party infrastructure and win back the seats we've lost, and building the new coalitions we need to actually pass progressive reform.

My top 3 priority pieces of legislation will be:

- **Comprehensive mental health reform:** *Over the past several years I have been working on a full-scale overhaul of our mental and behavioral health system to ensure every single person in our country has the care they need. I would bring this effort to the U.S. Senate and work to introduce such reform immediately.*
- **Climate:** *No matter who has control of the Senate, House, or Presidency come January 2021, I believe climate must be our first order of business. There are significant efforts underway to craft a comprehensive plan of action that puts meat on the bones of the Green New Deal. I will champion those efforts in the Senate. My particular focus is justice for frontline communities -- I am helping lead those reforms in the House and will continue to in the Senate.*
- **HR1 & Democracy Reform:** *At a time when so many Americans rightfully feel like our political system isn't working for them, the Democracy reforms contained in HR1 are absolutely essential to any kind of progressive reforms. I'll fight to bring these to the U.S. Senate, as well as prioritize key structural reforms like ending the filibuster and the Electoral College.*

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

From my time as a Peace Corps volunteer to my endless hours as a legal aid volunteer in Boston Housing Courts to my time as an Assistant District Attorney, I have spent my entire career dedicated to helping those that our system -- and our laws -- lets down and leaves behind. These are the people most at risk today, facing a President who takes pleasure in marginalizing the already marginalized. They need someone who will do more than acknowledge their struggle, but who will show up in the trenches to fight for the basic dignity our country is supposed to offer everyone. I am deeply committed to that fight.

As a Member of the House of Representatives since 2013, I'm proud of the record I've built showing up for my constituents, listening to their concerns, and passing legislation -- under presidents of both parties -- to help them. We have set the bar for accessibility, hosting open office hours in each of the 34 cities and towns I represent every single cycle. We have jumped into local fights -- from compensation for former nuclear workers in Attleboro suffering from cancer to the development of offshore wind on the South Coast, the burden of climate change already impacting local municipalities, and the opioid epidemic wreaking havoc on families across the Commonwealth. And I've worked with colleagues across the aisle to pass legislation that directly touches the lives of MA families, from major legislation to rebuild our domestic manufacturing industry to critical health care reforms that expand the number of people with access to mental health care and education policy that ensure kids from places like Fall River and Taunton have the same opportunities as kids from Brookline and Newton.

I have never shied away from jumping into the biggest issues of the moment, particularly under the Trump Administration, from offering a 'moral capitalism' platform to help rectify the profound inequities in our modern economy to authoring major civil rights legislation to combat the right's pervasive use of religious liberty as a tool for discrimination, to helping lead our Party's national fight against Trumpcare, Medicaid cuts, and Republicans' all-out war on access to health care.

Finally, at a time when the number one threat to progressive reform is a lack of political power for the Democratic Party -- not just in the Senate and Presidency, but in our courts and statehouses across the country -- I am tremendously proud of the time, energy and resources I have put into the battle for our Party's future. I have traveled the country to help Democrats win back the House, worked to rebuild a deep and diverse bench of talent by supporting candidates in every corner of the U.S., supported local state parties in their efforts to drive voter turnout, and showed up in places like West Virginia and rural Pennsylvania, where Democrats haven't had a sustained presence in a long time.

For all of these reasons, I believe I am equipped to deliver the leadership Massachusetts needs in this moment.

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

The biggest roadblock to progressive reform on the federal level is not a lack of policy solutions but a lack of political power -- and the structural barriers that have been built into our systems to exclude diverse voices and protect the interests of the wealthy and powerful. Efforts to restrict voting rights and access to the ballot box disadvantage and disenfranchise the diverse voices that make up the progressive coalition, stalling action on progressive policies. Campaign finance laws allow the wealthy and powerful to have disproportionate sway over our elections, too often keeping out candidates more representative of the progressive voices they seek to serve. An undemocratic Electoral College system undervalues the voices of a progressive majority in selecting our president. And finally, rules in Congress like the filibuster are taken advantage of to block progressive policies that a vast majority of Americans support, like action on the climate crisis and common-sense gun safety.

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?

I support a progressive tax system in which the wealthy pay their fair share. I believe we need a wealth tax, along the lines of what Senator Warren has proposed, to tax the fortunes of ultra-millionaires and raise revenue for critical programs that will help millions of Americans, like universal child care, Medicare for All, and a Green New Deal. At the same time, we should raise top marginal tax rates on income, expand the Earned Income Tax Credit, and create a more progressive tax scheme to close our growing income inequality gap. We should simultaneously consider extending capital gains, strengthening the estate tax, and closing loopholes that corporations and the wealthy have designed to evade responsibility.

B. Jobs That Pay a Living Wage

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

Yes – I am a cosponsor of the Raise the Wage Act, which raises the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour and eliminates the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers. I also support indexing the minimum wage to inflation. Along with fighting for this in Washington, I have joined the local advocates in Massachusetts pushing these reforms at the state level.

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

Yes, I support both of the above.

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, I am a cosponsor of the FAMILY Act to create a comprehensive national paid leave program and the Healthy Families Act for paid sick leave.

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

Yes, I support all of the above. I am a co-sponsor of several pieces of federal legislation to protect unions, strengthen collective bargaining rights, and protect against employer interference. I am also proud to have secured the majority of union support in this race so far.

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

I believe we need to restructure our economy to prioritize workers over corporate profits. In addition to rebuilding worker rights, we also must crack down on corporate consolidation, collusion, and anti-competitive behavior that limits workers’ choice and voice. We also need to invest more in educating and training our workforce, and the federal government needs to do more to provide basic public services that every family needs, like child care and health care.

Last year I offered a comprehensive [moral capitalism platform](#) that goes into great detail about how I view the economic challenges of this generation and what kind of solutions are necessary.

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 believe healthcare is a universal right and I am a cosponsor of the Medicare for All Act of 2019 in the House. I did not sponsor the original House version of M4A because of concerns around its failure to repeal the Hyde amendment and cover long-term care. I sat with Rep. Pramila Jayapal to work through these concerns when the bill was being reintroduced this Congress and was proud to sign on as a co-sponsor after those changes were made.

2. **Prescription Drug Prices.** Prescription drug prices in the US are consistently higher than in other countries. Which policies would you support to lower the cost of prescription drugs?
 - a. Allowing Medicare to negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies?
 - b. Allowing patients, pharmacists, and wholesalers to buy low-cost prescription drugs from Canada and other industrialized countries?
 - c. Allowing the federal government to manufacture lower-cost generic versions of prescription drugs when the market does not offer them?

I was a cosponsor of and voted for HR.3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, which gives Medicare the ability to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies and reins in drug prices. I am also a cosponsor of Rep. Doggett’s “Medicare Negotiation and Competitive Licensing Act” which would not only allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices, but would allow the Secretary of HHS to issue competitive licenses, undercutting a name brand’s patent exclusivity.

I support exploring every option to lower costs for patients, including initiatives to allow patients to import lower-cost prescriptions from facilities in Canada and other industrialized countries that meet high patient safety standards and with a high level of oversight, as well as initiatives to allow the federal government to manufacture lower-costs generics when the market doesn’t offer them.

- 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, I support repealing the Hyde Amendment. I also believe we must codify abortion rights into federal law to protect them in the event that the courts overturn Roe v. Wade.

- 4. Opioid Crisis.** An essential part of addressing the opioid crisis, safe consumption sites allow medical professionals to respond to overdoses and engage participants in medical and behavioral health services. Would you support the legalization of SCSs?

Yes, I support the legalization of safe consumption sites to fight the opioid epidemic.

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

Access to health care and mental health care have been my priorities in Congress. I have introduced a slew of bills to reform our badly broken mental health system, including legislation to [strengthen mental health parity](#), [expand mental health coverage for children and pregnant women](#), [increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for behavioral health providers](#), [protect mental health care for kids in Medicaid](#), [ensure equity in addiction treatment](#), and [strengthen prescription drug monitoring](#). I have [urged federal authorities to review the impact of insurance mergers on mental health care](#) and [pushed my Congressional colleagues to expand the scope of their mental health reform efforts](#). In Massachusetts, I worked with the local community to [establish Bristol County as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking area](#), securing critical federal resources to help combat the opioid epidemic.

Beyond behavioral health care, I have focused sharply on health care equity – fighting to [protect a program that helps safety net hospitals afford prescription drugs](#), introducing a proposal to attach a [‘health care score’](#) to every piece of legislation (that would measure any loss of coverage resulting from proposed bills), arguing for [increased community health center funding](#), and helping [launch the Black Maternal Health Caucus](#) with my colleagues.

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.

Through funding, I believe the federal government should incentivize states to enact localized policies to integrate schools and create equal opportunity for students. I support increasing federal public school funding to eliminate disparities in the quality of education our students receive, too often determined by the zip code they grow up in. This funding should be targeted to prioritize low-income students, students of color, and students with disabilities, for whom an equitable education has been out of reach. Federal funds can reward voluntary state efforts to integrate schools by race and socioeconomic status, as well as prohibit policies to intentionally or unintentionally exacerbate segregation. I have also passed legislation to increase access to STEM and career-technical education, crucial education pathways to career fields in which communities of color and low-income communities are traditionally underrepresented.

Because the inequities in our education system start even earlier, I believe it's critical that we invest in universal child care and early education for children ages 0-5. Our current system, funded by property taxes, is inequitable, offering better early education opportunities to wealthier, often whiter, families. The quality of early education children receive at such a young age is incredibly important in laying the foundation for their future opportunities -- which is why investing in a universal, equitable system is critical to level the playing field. And finally, because school segregation is intrinsically linked to housing segregation, I support policies to protect and strengthen the Fair Housing Act, prohibit exclusionary zoning policies, and provide grants to first-time homebuyers in formerly redlined and segregated areas.

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, I support a hold on public funds used for charter school expansion until we have more data.

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

Yes, I do support this.

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, I support prohibiting the use of standardized testing as a primary factor in these high-stakes decisions -- I have deep concerns about the failure to consider other significant factors in such important decisions.

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?

I support wiping out the vast majority of student debt, which is burdening an entire generation. I am a cosponsor of Senator Warren & Rep. Clyburn's Student Loan Debt Relief Act, which would provide debt relief to 95% of student borrowers and help close racial wealth gaps considerably.

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?

I believe we need to make higher education affordable for all families, in addition to erasing the student debt that already burdens too many. I support free tuition at public colleges and universities for those who can't afford it.

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, I support establishing a national just cause eviction standard that protects tenant rights.

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

I support state efforts to end exclusionary zoning practices and repeal prohibition on rent stabilization policies, as well as federal efforts to incentivize states to do these things. I would be hesitant to tie all federal housing and transportation funding to these requirements because of the potential negative impact on low-income communities in red states whose leadership is unlikely to act on such requirements.

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

Yes, I support the repeal of the Faircloth Amendment.

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

I support a massive federal investment in affordable housing, which is why I'm proud to co-sponsor legislation to invest \$500 billion over 10 years to increase our affordable housing supply. I believe we also must be deliberate about taking on systemic racial discrimination in our housing markets. The legislation I support creates a down payment assistance program for families in formerly redlined and segregated areas.

The challenges we face are about more than affordable housing -- they're about housing that's affordable for all families. To that end, I believe we must take on factors like unreliable transportation, crumbling infrastructure, discrimination in housing, and state and local zoning rules that drive up the costs of housing and construction. We also must shore up assistance for families facing eviction, which is why I have advocated for establishing a federal right to counsel in eviction cases and am the founder of the Congressional Access to Legal Services Caucus which has fought to increase funding for legal assistance in all civil cases.

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?
- Legalizing marijuana? – *Yes, I support this.*
 - Repealing mandatory minimums for non-violent drug offenses? – *Yes, I support repealing mandatory minimums for non-violent drug offenses.*
 - Eliminating cash bail, so that no one is held in jail solely for an inability to pay? – *Yes, I support eliminating cash bail.*
 - Abolishing the death penalty? – *Yes, I support abolishing the death penalty.*

- e. Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which has been proven to have significant racial disparities? – *I support eliminating the sentence of life without parole for juveniles and in all nonviolent cases, and heavily restricting the use of this sentence in all other cases.*
 - f. Barring the federal government and state and local jurisdictions from contracting with private corporations to run prisons and detention facilities? -- *Yes, I support banning all private prisons.*
- 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? – *I support prohibiting companies from charging for these services, in addition to banning private, for-profit prisons.*
 - b. Requiring that incarcerated individuals be paid for their work at a rate no lower than the federal minimum wage? – *Yes, I support this.*
 - c. Restoring Pell Grant access to prisoners? -- *Yes, I support this.*
 - 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, I support this.*
- 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?

I support this.

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

I support heavily restricting qualified immunity in cases when an officer is found to have violated constitutional rights.

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

I support restricting the use of civil asset forfeiture.

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? -- *I support and have voted for the DREAM Act.*
 - b. A path for undocumented immigrants to gain US citizenship? – *Support.*
 - c. Repealing the three-year, ten-year, and permanent bars of reentry for undocumented immigrants? -- *Support*
 - d. Decriminalizing border crossing? -- *I support decriminalizing border crossings.*

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? -- *Support*
 - b. Ending the practice of family separation? -- *Support*
 - c. Ending ICE's daily bed quota? -- *Support*
 - d. Imposing a moratorium on the construction of new detention facilities? -- *Support*
 - e. Abolishing ICE – *I believe ICE & CBP need to be completely rebuilt, from top to bottom, to root out abusive practices and create new agencies built around our values as a nation. I do believe we need some federal immigration authority to ensure that does not fall on local law enforcement, which would have devastating consequences for trust and safety within immigrant communities.*

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

I support ending the Trump administration's cruel deportation policies, and restricting deportations to only high-risk, convicted criminals and individuals who pose serious, credible threats. I also support eliminating the use of expedited removal proceedings and guaranteeing due process through hearings and access to legal counsel for those facing deportation.

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?

The US has historically been a safe haven for refugees from around the globe seeking a better life. It's absolutely critical that we restore our role as the global leader in resettling refugees. I am a proud co-sponsor of legislation to prevent any president from setting a cap below 95,000 in a given year. That number should be an absolute minimum -- annual admission numbers should vary in response to global events and refugee needs. Our refugee admission policies should be guided by our nation's ideals of compassion toward those who arrive on our shores seeking a better life for their families.

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

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, I am a co-sponsor of the Equality Act.

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, I am a cosponsor of HR.40 to create a commission to study reparations.

3. **Sexual Harassment.** Would you support legislation to end the use of forced arbitration clauses in sexual harassment cases?

Yes, I would support this.

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?

- b. Banning high-capacity magazine ammunitions?
- c. Requiring a license to purchase a gun?
- d. Limiting the number of guns an individual can buy to one per month?
- e. Repealing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, which shields the gun industry from lawsuits?

I support and advocate for all of the above.

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

I. Good Government and Strong Democracy

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

Yes, I voted for HR1 in the House and would advocate for its passage in the Senate.

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 I do, and I also support restoring voting rights to all who have been released from incarceration.

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, I support the ballot initiative to adopt ranked choice voting.

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

Yes, I support public financing of Congressional elections.

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

Yes, I would support a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United and allow limits on corporate political spending.

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

I'm proud to have been the first candidate in this race to call for and to sign a People's Pledge -- a signed commitment to keep outside, dark money out of this election. Taking this pledge would make sure Massachusetts voters are the ones driving this election, rather than special interests.

To be effective, the People's Pledge requires all candidates to take it. That's why I've continued to call on my opponent, Senator Markey, to join me in signing the Pledge -- the same Pledge he signed and advocated for in his previous race for Senate -- and committing to keeping dark money out of this race. I'm disappointed in his failure to sign on to date, particularly as news has broken that his allies are actively trying to organize a Super PAC on his behalf.

If we do not establish an ironclad People's Pledge in this race, we send the message that dark money is allowed in Massachusetts -- which would have devastating consequences for the Democratic Party. From the Mass Fiscal Alliance to outside groups hell bent on blocking progressive reform on climate, education and equality: We know that corporate, conservative interests are ALWAYS going to have the deepest pockets. If, as Democrats and progressives, we open the doors to outside money in our own primaries, we open the floodgates everywhere else.

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 was an original co-sponsor of the Green New Deal and think it is an important statement of values and mission for our climate efforts. But we need to put meat on the bones. We need to pass comprehensive policies to meet the aggressive vision laid out by the Green New Deal resolution. We need to transition to 100% clean energy, decarbonizing sector by sector, starting with transportation, buildings, and electricity. We need to transform our economy to promote clean energy, by building sustainable infrastructure, becoming a world leader in clean manufacturing and technology, and investing in innovation and research. We need to restore our global leadership in fighting the climate crisis by rejoining the Paris Agreement, insisting on strong environmental and labor standards in trade agreements, promoting resiliency around the globe, and protecting communities displaced by the impacts of climate change. Through all of these policy reforms, it is essential that we prioritize jobs and justice for the American people. We must insist on a just transition for the workers and families whose jobs will be impacted, including transition assistance, job retraining, and the promise of unionized, family-supporting jobs in the clean energy economy. And we must prioritize justice for the frontline communities – disproportionately low-income and communities of color – that have borne the burdens of environmental hazards and climate change by giving them a seat at the table, guaranteeing that a significant portion of federal investments in clean energy go to them, and ensuring that all policies prioritize their safety and resiliency.

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?

I support this goal.

- b. Putting a price on carbon emissions and investing the revenue in clean energy and green infrastructure?

I am open to various forms of carbon pricing to create revenue for clean energy and infrastructure, though conscious that it would need to be structured in a way to protect and support the frontline communities that continue to bear the costs of pollution and environmental harm.

- c. Prohibiting new leases for coal, oil, and gas on all federal lands and waters?

I support this.

- d. Opposing any legislation that authorizes, or expedites the permitting or approval of, new fossil fuel pipelines?

I believe the priority of our federal resources, laws, and regulations should be to fast-track renewable energy projects. I would not support legislation to expedite the approval process for new pipelines and believe they must be held to the highest standards of need, safety, health, climate, and community impact.

- 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, I support declaring a Climate Emergency and co-sponsored a resolution in the House to declare a national emergency.

- 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, I support requiring natural gas drillers to disclose chemicals that go into the ground during fracking and closing the "Halliburton loophole." I have co-sponsored the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act to do so.

- 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, I would support legislation to do all of the above.

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

Yes, I believe we must prioritize decarbonizing our transportation sector, the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, including by promoting a transition to electric vehicles.

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

All levels of government must step up to pursue transportation policies that are equitable, accessible, and sustainable. With transportation as the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, we need to take immediate action to reduce congestion, improve public transportation options, and rebuild our crumbling infrastructure. We must improve public transit within our cities to ensure access to jobs, education, health care, and other critical services. That includes not only fixing the T so that it functions reliably, but expanding safe bike lanes, improving bus routes, and increasing shared mobility options. Suburban and rural communities deserve good access to transit, too. I've been a vocal proponent of projects to expand regional access to our Commonwealth's economic hubs, including the East-West rail and the South Coast rail. As we invest in badly needed transportation and infrastructure reforms, we must prioritize the health and safety of the frontline communities that have borne the brunt of the environmental hazards from traffic congestion. And finally, we must guarantee that federal investments in transportation and infrastructure create economic opportunity and good jobs across the Commonwealth, in a way deliberately designed to reduce economic inequality.

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

III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Limit answer to 150 words or fewer.

Use this space to add any other issues important to your vision for Massachusetts or any other matter you think progressive voters should know about your candidacy.

For me, being a progressive is about fighting for a government that treats every person with dignity. That requires being intentional about the places and people our laws have deliberately excluded, intersectional in our approach to remedying injustice in every corner of public policy, and undeterred in our fight for the political power required to turn big ideas into big change. I'm proud of my progressive record to date and deeply committed to the cause moving forward.