



**PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2021 LEGISLATIVE
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

Date: 1/29/2021

Candidate: Alicia DelVento

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Email questions to elections@progressivemass.com.

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

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. The bulk of the questionnaire consists of “yes/no” questions. Please consider “support” to mean an intent to co-sponsor relevant legislation, join sign-on letters for it, submit testimony on its behalf, etc., as appropriate.

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

I. About You & Your Policy Approach

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

My story began right here in Winthrop and Revere, in a family of community activists and hard-working union Democrats. I am a proud product of public education – from K-12 in Winthrop to college at the University of New Hampshire – and have experienced firsthand how a strong, well-funded education system changes lives. Many of my family members and closest friends are now teachers, nurses, and essential workers, and I witness them giving tirelessly for the benefit of us all. This community is where I learned the value of hard work and where I developed my desire to fight for bold, compassionate policies that help my friends and neighbors.

With a B.S. in Health Administration & Policy and a Master's in Public Health, I would champion legislation that fosters healthy communities. First and foremost, we must confront how our current public health crisis has exacerbated many of our state's challenges and inequalities, from healthcare to education, climate, transportation, and economic opportunity. I view the challenges facing us as connected through the need for a holistic, equitable approach to the health of the people of the Commonwealth, intertwined with everything we fund and legislate.

I am running because we need a fighter on Beacon Hill – someone who can roll up her sleeves and get to work on day one.

Priorities:

1. Healthcare and COVID-19, including: Combatting the pandemic and equitably distributing vaccines; improving our longer term public health infrastructure through community partnerships, and increased funding for health centers.
2. Public education, including: Increasing Chapter 70 funding; fully funding the Student Opportunity Act so chronically underfunded schools get the support they deserve; passing legislation to fund public higher education.
3. Protecting workers and the right to organize -- particularly for frontline workers -- as our workforce still endures COVID-19.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

I have the most experience working with the current legislature and am confident in my relationships and ability to build coalitions. With my public health background, having worked for the House of Representatives for the past four years with the Chair of Healthcare Financing, the Chair of House Ways and Means, and the Chair of State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, I know I can hit the ground running.

3. What do you view as the main job(s) of a state legislator?

A state legislator's main job is to fight day in and day out for all of their constituents, especially those made vulnerable by systemic racism, barriers to education and healthcare, and lack of access to their fair share of our Commonwealth's considerable capital. As a community organizer, I would take those skills and lead with and in the community through collaboration and listening to and acting upon what my constituents say they need. If elected, it is important to me that I keep an open-door policy as a full-time legislator.

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

I feel the biggest obstacle to passing progressive policy is coalition-building within the legislature. I have seen contested policy pass both chambers, but only through broad support across the body. I think that some lawmakers can get hung up on the labels of what style of legislation ("progressive," "pragmatic," etc.) polls well in their district, so I would want to speak candidly with them about what is best for their constituents. I also believe that building public support across a wide spectrum of stakeholders is essential.

5. How would you grade the Legislature's performance in the last legislative session?

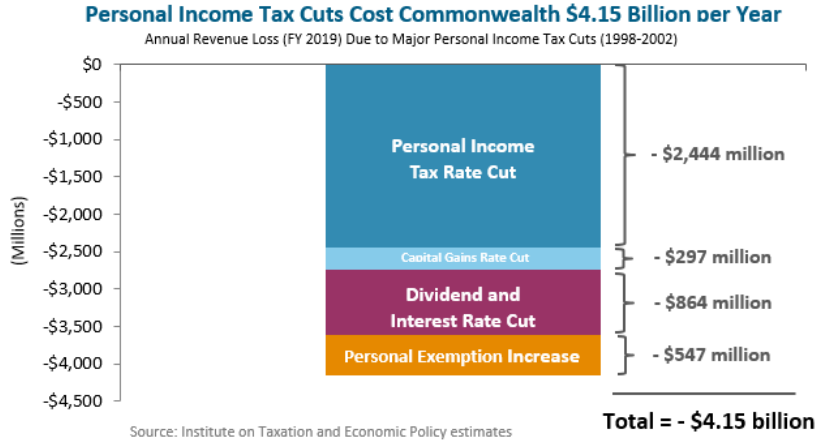
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II. The Issues

A. Revenue and Taxation

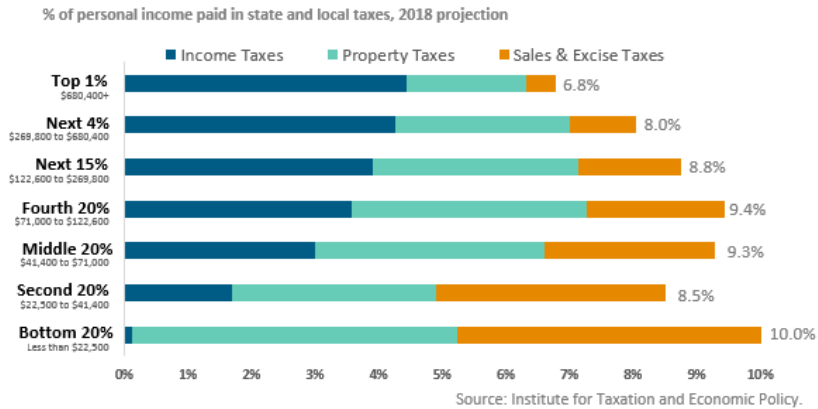
Between 1977 and 2016, Massachusetts [reduced state taxes](#) by more than all but two other states. Because of income tax cuts enacted between 1998 and 2002, Massachusetts loses over \$4 billion in tax revenue *each year*--\$4 billion that is not invested in our roads, bridges, schools, parks, and services, all of which have historically been part of why MA is a great place to live. Such cuts to the state income tax have meant increasing reliance on fees, as well as sales, gas, and property taxes, exacerbating the overall regressivity of the system. Regressive taxation strains low- and middle-income families, and reduced revenue collection curtails our ability to invest in vital infrastructure. It also restricts legislators' ability--and willingness--to pass new and visionary legislation, as there is a continual shortage of funds for existing priorities.

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



Massachusetts state and local taxes are regressive.

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



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

I fully support the Fair Share Amendment and am deeply committed to working with community advocates to restructure our tax code and ensure a fair economy for everyone.

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?](#)
 - b. [Repealing any tax break that does not provide the intended benefits in a cost-effective manner?](#)
 - c. [Establishing sunset dates for all tax breaks so that they must come up for periodic review?](#)

(all the above)

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? \(The corporate minimum tax is currently only \\$456.\)](#)
 - b. [Imposing a tax on the portion of corporations’ US profits that are shifted to offshore tax havens?](#)
 - c. [Raising the corporate tax rate from 8% to 9.5% \(where it stood in 2009\)?](#)
 - d. [Raising the tax on long-term capital gains from 5% to 8.95%, in line with states like New York and Vermont?](#)
 - e. [Levying a modest tax on university endowments greater than \\$1 billion?](#)

(all the above)

B. Jobs and the Economy

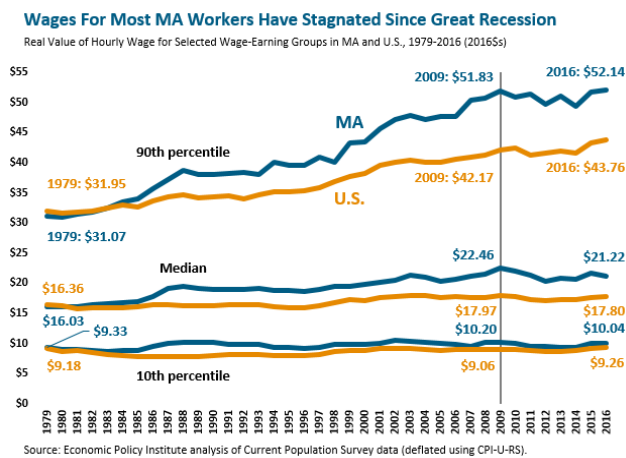
Massachusetts ranks as one of the top ten [most unequal states](#), as the gains from economic growth have disproportionately benefited the already well-off. Compounding this, we are one of the most expensive states in the country for [health care](#), [housing](#), and [child care](#), all of which 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.).

As the daughter and granddaughter of union members, the right to organize is deeply rooted in me and is one of my core values. I was proud to stand with the Winthrop Teacher's Union in 2019 when the School Committee would not negotiate a fair contract.

As a Representative, I would walk picket lines with both public and private sector employees, vouch publicly and privately for workers, including their employers, and defend the rights to organize and collectively bargain. I support extending Massachusetts' minimum wage and paid family and medical leave to all. In regards to the pandemic, I support ensuring that workers who contract COVID-19 are covered by workers' compensation, securing hazard pay that recognizes frontline workers and promoting transparency around allocation and standards of PPE.

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. **Emergency Paid Sick Time.** Would you support providing ten additional work-days of job-protected paid sick time for immediate use during the COVID-19 outbreak?
Yes
6. **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
7. **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
8. **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

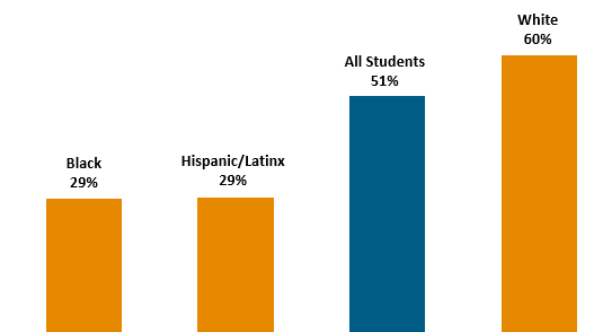
The promise of public education has always been as a gateway to opportunity and mobility for all, regardless of economic circumstances, a cornerstone of the American dream for all residents. Although our public education system gets high marks overall, it remains one of the [most unequal](#) in the country. 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 reflective of resource gaps.

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

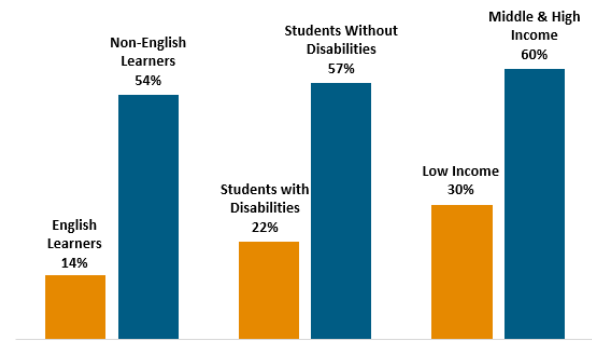
Share of MA 4th Graders Proficient on the 2017 NAEP Reading Exam, by Student Race, all students



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2017

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

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

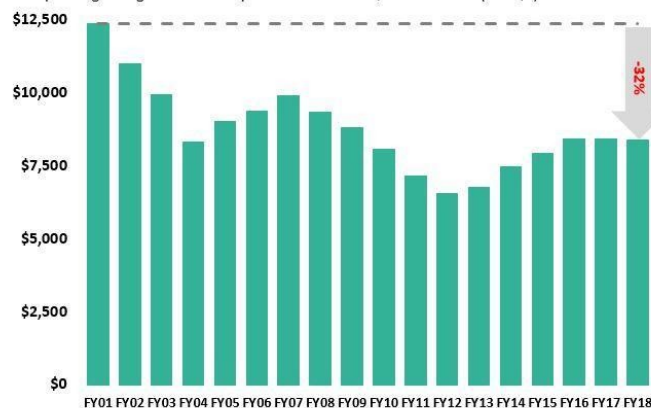


Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2017

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

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

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



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

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

For far too long, because of budget cuts and no fault of their own, our public schools in Winthrop and Revere have not had the resources they need. To fix that, I will advocate for increased Chapter 70 funding so that our teachers can get paid what they deserve, our students can learn in a social-emotional learning environment that sets them up for success, and because we simply can't allow the past to stand in the way of our children's future. I will also fight to make high-quality child care and early education available to all working families. As the product of the Winthrop Public Schools, I am deeply committed to bettering our school systems and working to close the achievement gap. I was proud to have been a house staffer when the Student Opportunity Act passed. Prior to my time with the state legislature, I worked with the Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership as an intern two summers in a row, working on after-school and out-of-school time policy.

I am running for State Representative as a champion of public education, and I am dedicated to creating social-emotional learning environments that sets students up for success. I will: champion afterschool, out-of-school, community-linked and extended programming to mitigate summer learning loss and other socioeconomically driven disparities; support funding and infrastructure that grants students and teachers the technology (and training) needed for learning during COVID-19 and beyond, with emphasis on underserved communities; and support providing mental health resources for students and teachers.

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. However, the legislation to do so -- the Student Opportunity Act -- did not include funding for this promise, and the state is already behind on its commitment. What steps would you take to make sure that the state keeps its promise to teachers, students, and parents?

As a community organizer, I would be committed to standing with and in community to ensure that our state fully funds the Student Opportunity Act. This includes building and joining existing coalitions to pressure the administration to ensure fully funding our schools.

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 - students are so much more than their test scores. It is time to reevaluate how we use standardized testing.

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. I would work to pass the Cherish Act.

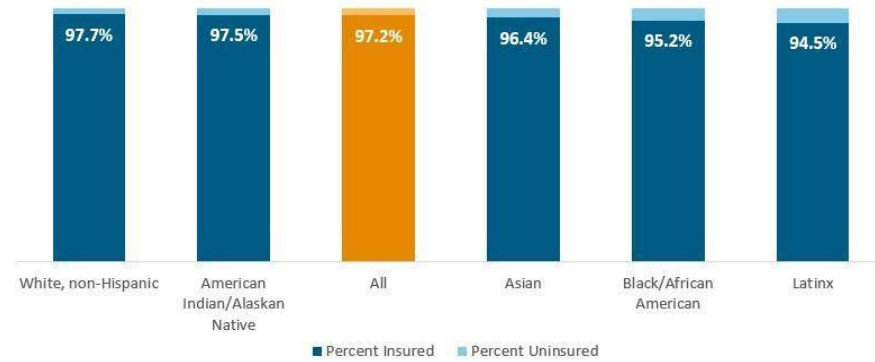
D. Health Care

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

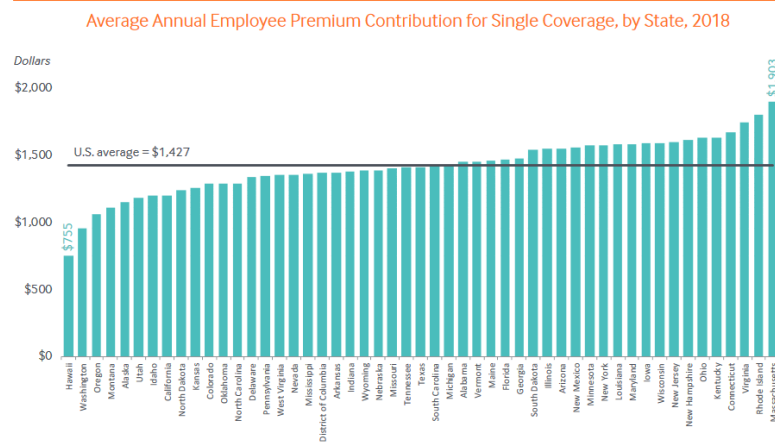
Percent with health insurance in Massachusetts, by race, 2017.



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.).

With a Degree in Health Management and Policy and as a current Masters in Public Health candidate, I have committed myself to creating a just and equitable healthcare system. I was proud to work on the nation's leading tobacco control legislation, which was signed into law last fall. The tobacco control legislation is directly aimed at curbing the vaping epidemic and finally combating the issue of mint and menthol cigarette addiction, especially in poor and communities of color. Working on this legislation allowed me to see hands-on the importance of preventative health policy and how it not helps the health of our communities

and those who care for them.

I support:

- Fully funding the Medicaid (MassHealth) program
- Increasing support for community health centers, safety net, and community hospitals
- Behavioral health funding
- Expanded coverage for veterans and seniors
- A nurse / mental health professional in every school
- State support of reproductive care, including the right to accessible abortion, sexual and maternal health and education, and closing the maternal mortality gap.

2. **Single Payer.** Do you support legislation to enact a single payer health care system in Massachusetts, which would guarantee health insurance as a right?
 - a. We have to ensure that everyone has access to healthcare by expanding the MassHealth program and therefore creating a quasi-single-payer system.
3. **Reproductive Rights.** In Massachusetts, women under sixteen 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. As the first woman to hold the 19th Suffolk Seat, reproductive care and choice policy would be a priority. While working for the House of Representatives, I saw firsthand how policies like the ROE Act help people across Massachusetts.

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. I believe in a care centered approach to addiction.

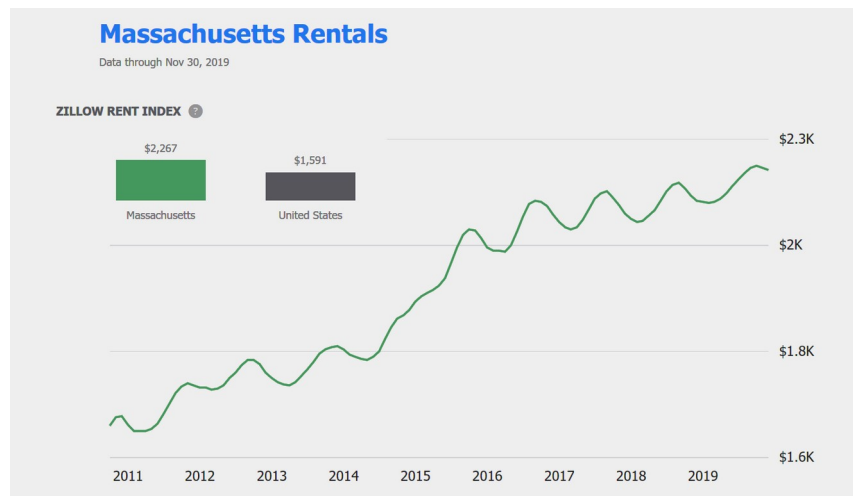
5. **Pandemic Response.** How would you evaluate the state's response to the Covid-19 pandemic?

Despite being one of the wealthiest states in the country and the epicenter of healthcare, we continue to neglect and enact policies that are disproportionately harming communities of color, those who are differently abled, and the elderly. The rollout of the vaccine in Massachusetts has been inaccessible to those who need it most -- not enough vaccination sites, much less sites in neighborhoods primarily populated by people of color, unclear communication, and a bulky, confusing system for registration. The first COVID-19 death in the Commonwealth was in my district, and since then, over half a million people in Massachusetts - our friends and neighbors - have been infected by the virus. Even as deaths spike, the Governor continues to allow unsafe practices instead of increasing emergency relief to small businesses. That is unacceptable.

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.).

Having been raised in this community, I am keenly aware of the current displacement affecting the 19th Suffolk. While working for the House of Representatives, I was proud to have worked hand-in-hand with CDCs on smart and accessible affordable housing projects.

I applaud the recent codification of the city of Boston's Inclusionary Development Program, requiring developers to include income-restricted housing in new developments or pay a raisable fee, allowing the city to control development money, to use it for job preparedness training, to help those who are affected by the housing crisis, and to put those dollars back into the communities whose homes these developments affect. Overall the state should continue increasing funding for affordable housing.

I also support expanded tenants rights, affordable housing vouchers, an eviction moratorium for the duration of COVID-19, and income-restricted housing.

2. **Affordable Housing Funding -- I.** 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. **Affordable Housing Funding -- II.** Would you support doubling the current Deeds Excise Tax (from \$4.56 per \$1,000 to \$9.12 per \$1,000), upon the sale of real property in Massachusetts, to create a new funding stream to be split evenly between affordable housing and climate resiliency?
Yes
4. **Tenant Protections.** Would 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
5. **Eviction Moratorium.** Tens of thousands of families across Massachusetts are now facing eviction following the October 17 expiration of our state's eviction moratorium. Would you support extending the moratorium?
Yes
6. **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.

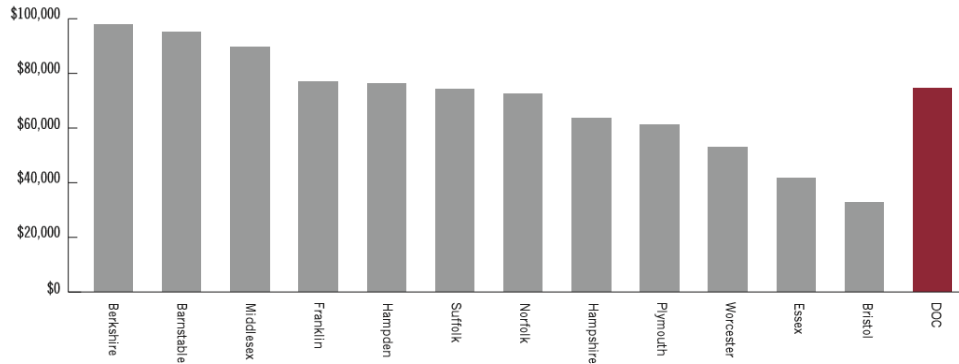
Imprisonment by Race/Ethnicity (2014)	
White imprisonment rate (per 100,000)	81
Black imprisonment rate (per 100,000)	605
Hispanic imprisonment rate (per 100,000)	351

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.).

I completely agree that “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.” All data shows that Black and Brown people face continued barriers and racism within all systems of our society including in policing, our healthcare system, and our education system. We must stop having law enforcement be the go-to for historically entrenched poverty and public health challenges. As a Master’s in Public Health candidate I am keenly aware of the jarring health inequities Black and Brown people face, especially when combined with disproportionate incarceration rates. I am committed to working with and in the community to increase transparency and oversight of police and investing in affordable housing, care for unhoused people, addiction services, and community policing models. I also want to defer to and uplift the voices of those most affected.

2. **Police Accountability.** The 2020 police accountability legislation passed by the Massachusetts Legislature contained a number of steps forward, but important measures were left out. Would you support legislation to do the following?

- a. Eliminating qualified immunity for state and local police and correctional officers so that individuals whose constitutional rights are violated can have their fair day in court?

We have to continue to reform our criminal justice system to ensure it provides redress opportunities, especially when individuals’ constitutional rights are violated, including ensuring due-process.

- b. Banning facial surveillance technology, which is well-documented to be both inaccurate and racist?
Yes
 - c. Requiring a vote by a local legislative body (city council, town meeting) before a municipality can acquire military equipment?
No→ I would feel more comfortable having a definition of military equipment.
3. **Sentencing Reform.** The 2018 criminal justice reform bill was an important first step in reducing mass incarceration. However, in our “liberal” state, incarceration rates remain much higher than they are in other countries, and sentencing laws can be even more punitive than those in states viewed as conservative. Which of the following reforms would you support?
- a. Eliminating mandatory minimums for opioid-related offenses
Yes
 - 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?
I’m open to the concept but would be interested in seeing the cited research that is underpinning the question.
 - 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?
No
4. **Solitary Confinement.** In Massachusetts, prisoners can be sentenced to 10 years of solitary confinement—per infraction. The UN defines holding someone in solitary confinement for more than 15 days as torture. Do you support limiting the use of solitary to no more than 15 consecutive days?
Yes
5. **Prison Visitation.** Maintaining connections with friends and family outside prisons is one of the most important factors in ensuring successful reentry. In March 2018, the DOC severely limited the ability of prisoners to receive visits and the rights of family and friends to visit their loved ones in prison. ([Read more on this here.](#)) Do you favor ending these restrictions?
Yes
6. **Prison Profiteering.** While Massachusetts does not have private prisons, the DOC invites private companies to profit off of the families of prisoners by price gouging inmates who have no alternatives but to buy from the sole providers of goods in prisons. Do support ending the price gouging of inmates for necessary items and requiring DOC to adequately supply inmates with the basic requirements necessary for life to keep in contact with their families and maintain good health and hygiene?
Yes
7. **Safe Communities Act.** Do you support the Safe Communities Act, which limits local and state police collaboration with federal immigration agents, bars law enforcement and court personnel from inquiring about immigration status, and ensures due process protections?
Yes

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

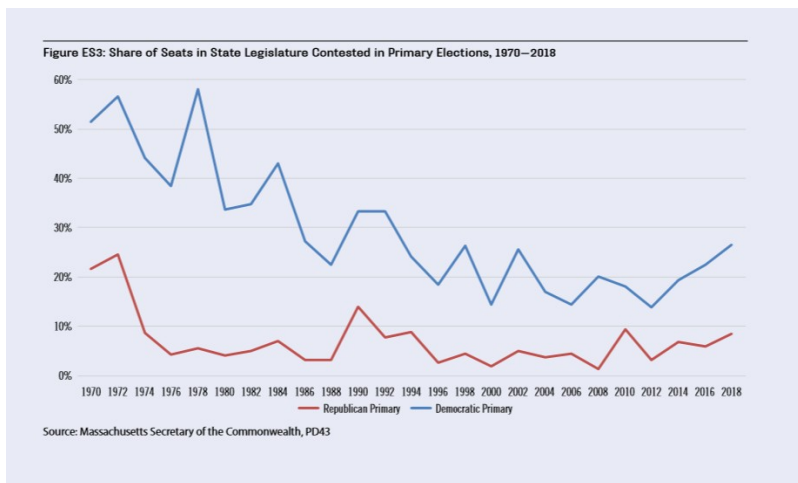
Yes

G. Good Government and Strong Democracy

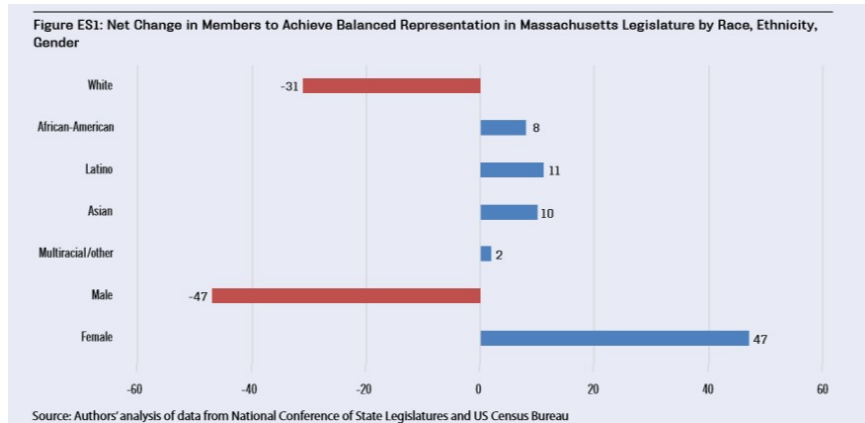
A strong democracy depends on a transparent and representative government and an engaged public. Too often, however, we see centralized, unaccountable power and barriers to participation. An undemocratic, centralized power structure on Beacon Hill makes it easier for lobbyists to target the top and undermine 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 support a fair and transparent government process. As a member of Winthrop's Charter and Ordinance Review Committee, I am deeply committed to a people-powered government. If elected, I would work with colleagues to establish a fair and accessible legislature.

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 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?
No, I believe that we need to reform our campaign financing system to make sure that big money cannot buy elections.
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, i.e., eliminating the 20-day voter registration cutoff?
Yes
 - b. The expansion of early voting to municipal elections and primaries?
Yes
 - c. The expansion of opportunities to vote-by-mail (namely, mailing every eligible voter a ballot)?
Yes
 - d. Ending the disenfranchisement of prisoners serving with felony convictions (Their right to vote was taken away by ballot twenty years ago)?
Yes

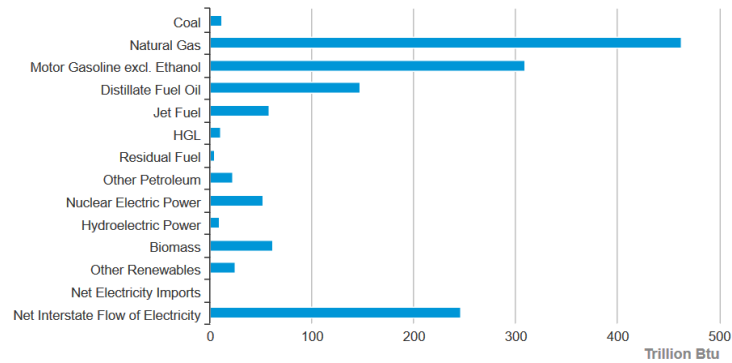
H. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

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.

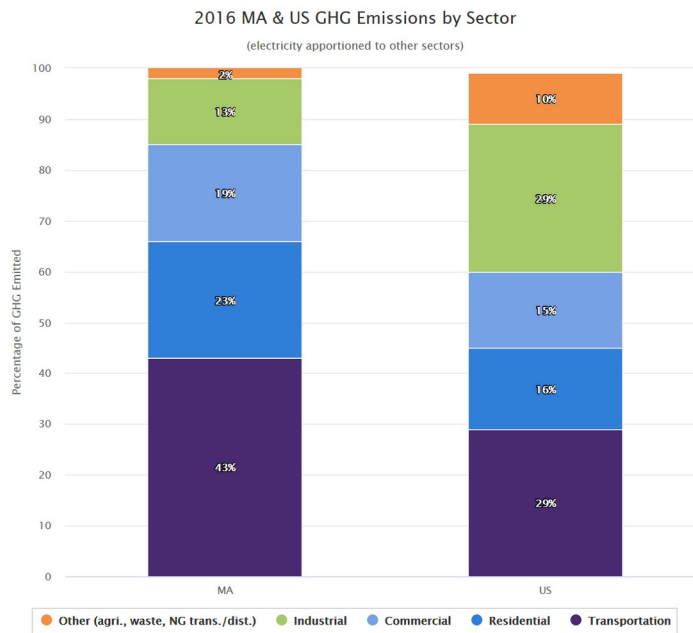
Despite recent progress, Massachusetts is still overwhelmingly dependent on fossil fuels.

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.).

I support transitioning to a transportation system that runs on renewables and

electricity. The transportation system of the future should seamlessly connect multiple modes of transportation, with emphasis on mass transit options like trains and buses that reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. A key concern for me is fighting against increases in the MBTA fees and cuts in the scheduled hours of operation, and securing future dollars to enhance and support our public transportation system.

I support the Green New Deal and was Winthrop's principal community organizer for Ed Markey, a race that proved to be a statewide referendum on the Green New Deal. My district is a seaside community, and our economy and well-being are already being harmed by climate change.

2. **Waste Reduction.** Would you support a statewide ban on single-use shopping bags and a requirement that alternatives be more sustainable?
Yes
3. **Climate Omnibus.** Governor Baker recently vetoed the Next Generation Roadmap bill, which would have set emissions targets, codified environmental justice protections, accelerated the transition to renewable energy, and enabled municipalities to adopt a net-zero stretch code. Would you support re-filing and re-voting for this bill and overriding Baker's veto?
Yes, that is why I called on the Governor to sign the bill early on in this campaign (<https://fb.watch/3kC5-1ziRo/>)
4. **Renewable Energy.** Do you support a target of 100% renewable energy economy-wide by 2045 and 100% renewable electricity by 2035?
Yes, and would like it included in the next climate bill.
5. **Fossil Fuel Infrastructure.** Do you oppose the expansion of gas pipelines in the state?
Yes
6. **Building Codes.** If re-passed, the Next Generation Roadmap bill would allow municipalities to adopt a net zero stretch code to stop the expansion of fossil fuel usage in buildings. Would you advocate for the municipalities in your district to opt in to such a standard?
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 see the challenges facing us as being connected through the need for a holistic and equitable public health approach -- that public health necessitates legislation to protect reproductive rights and bodily autonomy, help immigrants, address racism and poverty, support worker's rights, and expand access to democracy. I am 100% committed to being a champion for working people and progressive policies, understanding that such support is key to ensuring a just and equitable society. As the only woman in this race, I would bring a unique and necessary perspective to the statehouse. My community is built on strong women, and I believe it is time this district sends one to Beacon Hill for the first time.