



**PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2021 LEGISLATIVE
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

Date:

Candidate: Valentino Capobianco

Office Sought: State Representative, 19th Suffolk District

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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?

I have spent my entire professional career working to make our community a better place. As a member of the Winthrop School Committee for the last four years, I have led the charge for strong public schools. As the Chief of Staff for Senator Paul Feeney and as a Legislative Aide for Speaker DeLeo, I have worked to make sure that constituent issues are taken care of, and that our community gets what it needs from its elected officials.

I am running for State Representative to continue these fights. We must work to keep workers and small businesses on their feet as we ride out this pandemic, we need to ensure that every student in our public schools gets an exceptional education that prepares them for the 21st century, and we have to make sure that every person has access to quality, affordable healthcare

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

Growing up, I was involved in every campaign possible in Winthrop; holding signs early in the morning, talking to voters, and making sure people got to the polls and cast their ballot. Those experiences led me to work in Government, first for Speaker DeLeo's then later in the Middlesex Sheriff's Office and most recently for Senator Feeney, and decide to run for positions on the Winthrop School Committee and Democratic State Committee.

My family and our experience in Winthrop form the foundation of my candidacy and who I am. My mother, a registered nurse who specializes in substance abuse treatment, instilled in me compassion for people going through a difficult time and a willingness to lend a hand and help them get back on their feet. My father, a state employee, taught me the importance of active civic engagement in my community. My Grandfather, who was without question the biggest influence in my life aside from my parents, was an immigrant to this country, a victim of child labor, and somebody who didn't have the opportunity to get an education. Through his dogged persistence and perseverance through the worst kinds of adversity, he was able to build a successful small business and a better life for his family that followed. Noni's most valuable lesson wasn't about hard work though, it was about standing up for what's right and always fighting for the underdog.

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

I fundamentally believe that the most important duty of a State Representative is to serve their constituents. To me, that means that whenever a constituent calls it's my job to take the call, listen to the concern, and then do everything I can to resolve the issue. It is my promise to the voters and residents of this district that I will be an open, honest, and accessible State Representative just as I was a Legislative Aide, School Committee Member, and Chief of Staff.

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

The biggest obstacle to passing progressive policy at the state level are representatives who do not hold progressive values and progressives who do not have an understanding of how the legislative process works. I believe that with my experience in government, I will be ready on Day 1 to champion progressive causes like Covid relief, strong public schools, and quality, affordable health care.

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

They made some significant progress this year, but there is still much to do. I was happy to see the passage of the Roe Act - it’s a great piece of progressive legislation, and enshrines essential protections on reproductive rights into state law.

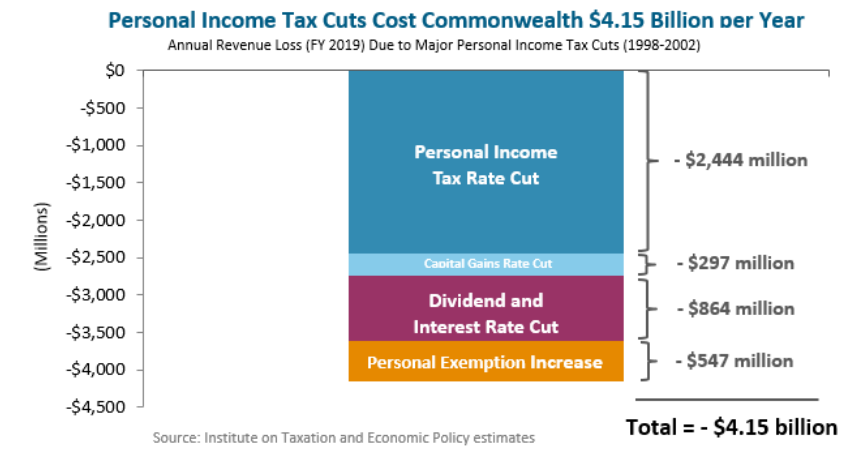
However, we have also seen some setbacks. I was frustrated that the Legislature was not able to act quickly enough on the passage of Senator Barrett’s Climate Change Bill, which stymied them from being able to override Governor Baker’s veto. We cannot afford a delay on this issue, and as a State Representative, I will support the reintroduction of Senator Barrett’s bill, vote for it on the House floor, and will work to override the veto should Governor Baker try to block it again.

II. The Issues

A. Revenue and Taxation

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

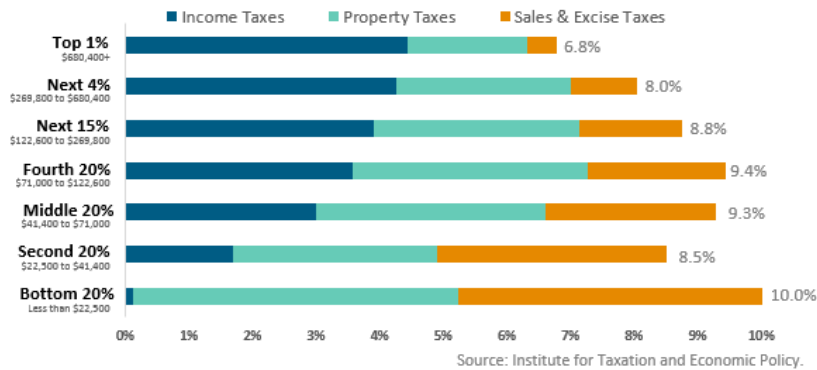
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.



Massachusetts state and local taxes are regressive.

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

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



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

I wholeheartedly support progressive taxation and I will co-sponsor the fair share amendment. I will not hesitate to support proposals that ask the wealthy and corporations to pay more so that we can better support regular people.

2. **Corporate Tax Breaks.** Corporate tax breaks cost Massachusetts [more than \\$1 billion in foregone revenue](#) each year. Companies can secure access to such tax breaks due to political connections whether or not the promised benefits ever materialize. Which of the following accountability steps would you support?
 - a. Collecting and publicly disclosing information about the benefits to the state from any tax break?

Yes

- b. Repealing any tax break that does not provide the intended benefits in a cost-effective manner?

Yes

- c. Establishing sunset dates for all tax breaks so that they must come up for periodic review?

Support

3. **Fair Share.** Would you support a constitutional amendment to increase the income tax on income over \$1 million by 4% (Fair Share Amendment, sometimes referred to as the "Millionaire's Tax")?

Yes

4. **Progressive Revenue.** Massachusetts will not see new revenue from the Fair Share Amendment until 2023, but we have unmet needs now (and will still even with the Fair Share Amendment). Which policies would you support to make a more progressive tax code?
 - a. Raising the corporate minimum tax for larger companies? (The corporate minimum tax

is currently only \$456.)

Yes

- b. Imposing a tax on the portion of corporations' US profits that are shifted to offshore tax havens?

Yes

- c. Raising the corporate tax rate from 8% to 9.5% (where it stood in 2009)?

Yes

- d. Raising the tax on long-term capital gains from 5% to 8.95%, in line with states like New York and Vermont?

Yes

- e. Levying a modest tax on university endowments greater than \$1 billion?

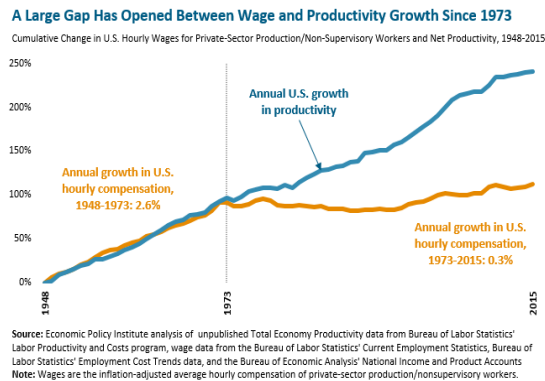
Yes

B. Jobs and the Economy

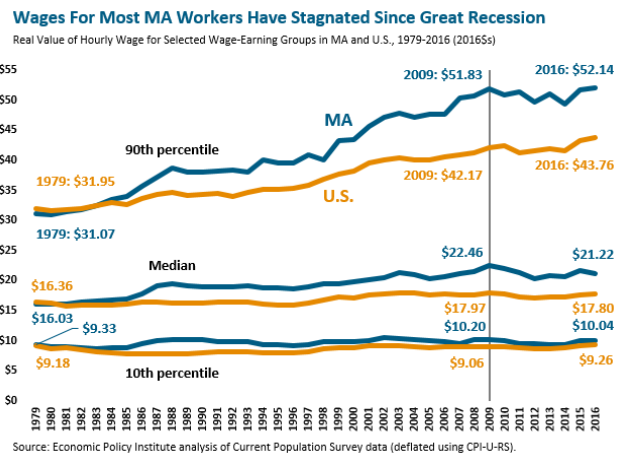
Massachusetts ranks as one of the top ten [most unequal states](#), as the gains from economic growth have disproportionately benefited the already well-off. Compounding this, we are one of the most expensive states in the country for [health care](#), [housing](#), and [child care](#), all of which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

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

Productivity has grown significantly since the 1970s, but it is not being reflected in higher wages.



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



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

I come from a blue-collar, working-class family and our story is a testament to how the labor movement has and does help real people. My father, mother, and grandfather were all union members and as State Representative I will fight to make sure that the organizations and systems they benefited from are not only defended but made stronger and that the laws of our Commonwealth put the needs of working people first ahead of the demands of corporate greed.

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

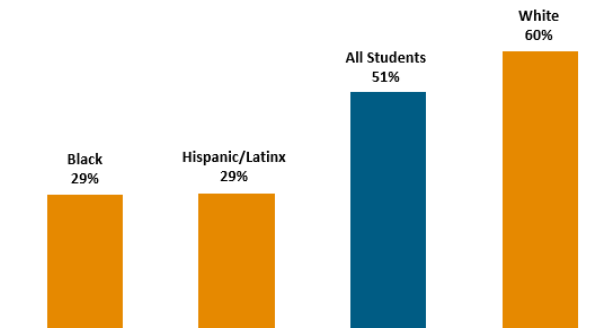
The promise of public education has always been as a gateway to opportunity and mobility for all, regardless of economic circumstances, a cornerstone of the American dream for all residents. Although our public education system gets high marks overall, it remains one of the [most unequal](#) in the country.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

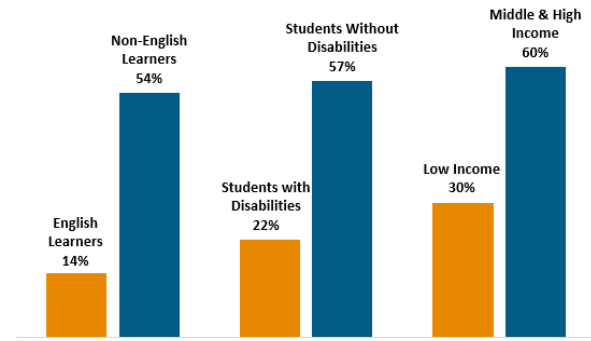
Share of MA 4th Graders Proficient on the 2017 NAEP Reading Exam, by Student Race, all students



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

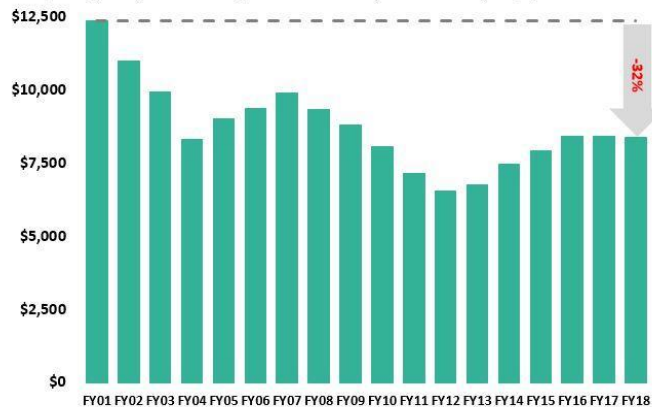


Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2017

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\$s)



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.).

During my five years on the Winthrop School Committee, I have formed close relationships with educators, parents, and students. I am proud of the work that we have accomplished together. I was an early supporter of both Winthrop's Worth It campaigns to build a new Middle/High School and the Miller Field Athletic Complex. Despite Betsy DeVos and a pandemic, we were able to pass budgets that focused on student academic achievement and allowed no teacher layoffs. I am the only candidate that has been involved in the opening of the new Middle/High School, Miller Field, and serving as an elected official during this pandemic.

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?

I would start by ensuring the Student Opportunity Act is fully funded. The Student Opportunity Act is an essential tool to combating public school inequality.

The legislature must also work on creating additional revenue streams for education and increase State funding to public school systems. I support a Fair Share Amendment, taxing profits moved to offshore havens, and increasing the corporate tax rate as a means to generate revenue for education. I also support increasing the Capital Gains Tax, and placing a tax on university endowments valued over \$1 billion.

As a member of the Winthrop School Committee, I know first hand how reliant municipalities are on property taxes to fund education. However, this creates a system where students in affluent communities attend schools that are better funded than their peers in poorer communities. Furthermore, as schools in poorer communities continue to be underfunded, property values fall as parents who are able to leave sell their homes in order to move to a better school district. This leads to even less public school funding in these communities, and traps their residents and school system in a regressive downward spiral. Creating new State revenue streams to aid these communities is essential to stopping this vicious cycle.

Simply put, we cannot afford to shortchange our children, and every child in Massachusetts deserves access to a world class public education.

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

Yes. Too much time is spent teaching to a test - Students should be focused on learning, not on filling in bubbles on a Scantron sheet. Furthermore, low test scores are too often used to scapegoat teachers in grossly underfunded school systems. We need to find the courage and political will to tackle things like income inequality, poverty, and inequitable school funding head on, rather than just pass the buck to teachers trapped in an impossible situation.

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?

I was a strong opponent to 2016's question 2 and was proud to stand with teachers unions on this issue. I have not changed my position.

<https://winthroptranscript.com/2016/08/19/teachers-fight-to-limit-charter-school-expansion-in-district/>

- b. Would you support legislation to bring greater accountability to charter schools by requiring them to adhere to the same disclosure and disciplinary standards as public school districts?

Yes.

6. **Sex Education.** Do you support requiring public schools that teach sexual health education to provide age-appropriate, medically accurate information that is inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities and includes the effective use of contraception?

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

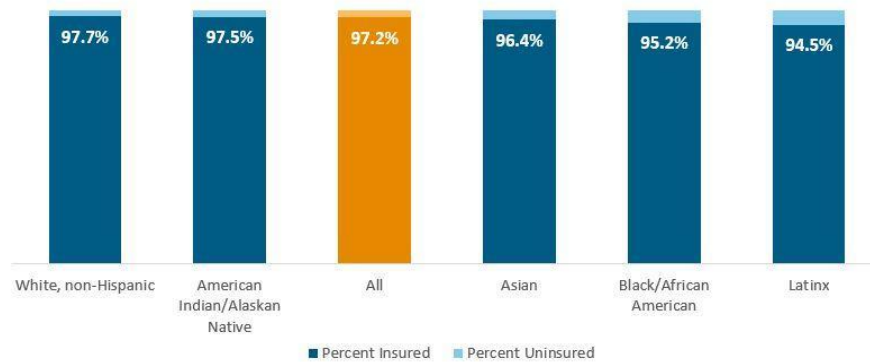
D. Health Care

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

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

Barriers to health insurance coverage remain for some

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

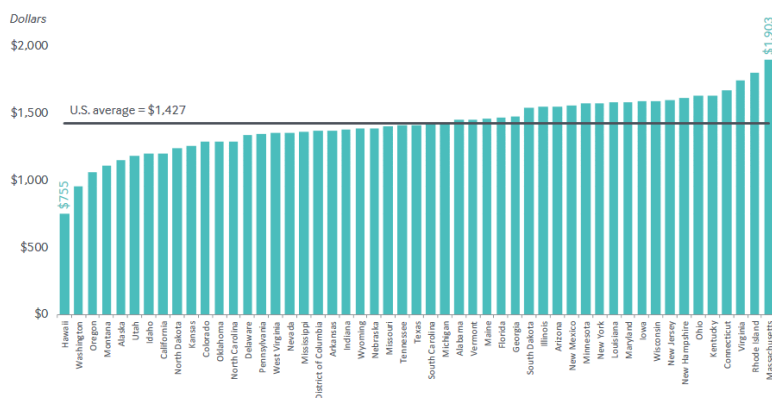


Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

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

MA has the highest health insurance premiums in the US.

Average Annual Employee Premium Contribution for Single Coverage, by State, 2018



Note: Employee premium contributions are for insurance policies offered by private-sector employers in the U.S.

Data: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey—Insurance Component (MEPS-IC), 2018.

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

I am the son of a drug rehabilitation nurse and I know first hand the issues that my Mom faced day in and day out in the health care system. I will work to make sure that all facets of our system work for those that need any type of care and those working to provide it.

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?

Yes. In addition to fighting for a single payer health care system at the state level, I want to make sure we adequately fund our existing state plan and obligations as we work towards that goal.

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, I will continue the fight for reproductive justice for all. The ROE ACT was a huge step forward but there is still a lot we can do to make critical reproductive health care accessible to all, particularly marginalized communities who have not equally benefited from access to date. One additional proposal I support on this topic is the option for health care providers to provide consultations for medical abortion via telehealth, removing the unnecessary barrier that requires a person to be treated in office. The need for this change has become all too apparent during this pandemic.

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 could support the legalization of Safe Consumption Sites, but have some concerns with the implementation. I have heard stories from those with both professional and personal experiences who feel these sites would save lives, particularly of their sons and daughters. I have also watched mayor Marty Walsh's position on the issue change from strong opposition to full support. As long as proper medically guided supervision is provided and the sites are set up in a way to not encourage additional drug use due in part to predatory behavior I would likely support SCSs.

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

Let's be clear, the Covid pandemic is a result of a complete failure in leadership by the Trump Administration. They flat out abdicated their duty to lead during one of the biggest public health crises in a generation. I am happy to see new leadership at the federal level. However, that does not mean we can let our leaders off the hook for their slow response in Massachusetts.

. The delayed response and inability to contain the outbreak lead to tragic and unnecessary loss of lives at facilities like the Holyoke Soldiers Home.

Similarly, given that Massachusetts is a global biotech hub, the slow rate of vaccination is flat out unacceptable. I strongly support Senator Lesser's emergency legislation to create a

centralized system for scheduling appointments.

Furthermore, we need to replicate what we have seen work in other states. For Example, in Colorado, distribution centers are required to report how many doses they have in stock and have administered on a nightly basis. Furthermore, the expectation has been set that all doses received must be administered within 72 hours or else they will be shipped to a center that is quickly administering the vaccine and needs more doses.

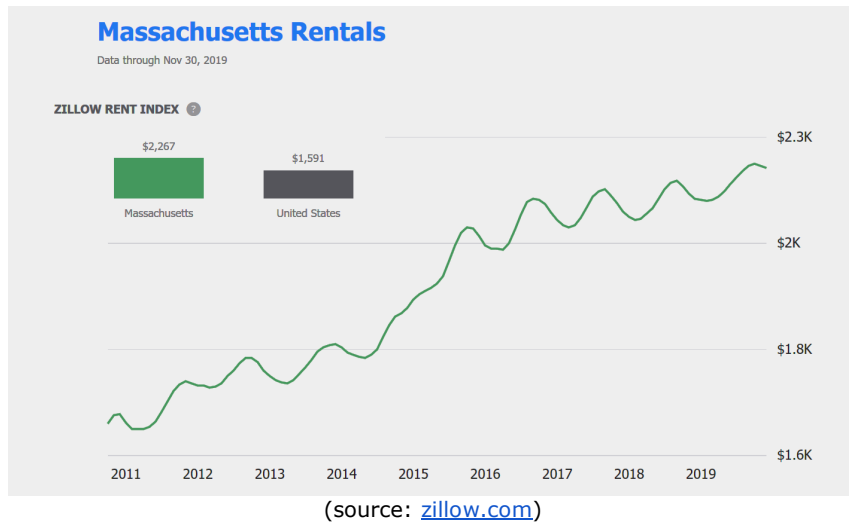
South Dakota has had a lot of success in working with providers to identify who is eligible to receive a vaccine and ensuring that providers proactively reach out to these individuals to set up an appointment.

We need to replicate these efforts in Massachusetts immediately and we cannot tolerate any further delay by our leaders.

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.



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.).

There must be an expansion of programs that allow rental assistance, low-income housing opportunities, and offer assistance to those facing foreclosure during this pandemic and beyond. These programs protect vulnerable communities from eviction or losing their homes. For rental units, I support government programs to encourage new units in our community. New developments should be transit-oriented and allow easy access to public transportation. I support extending the eviction moratorium during this pandemic.

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.

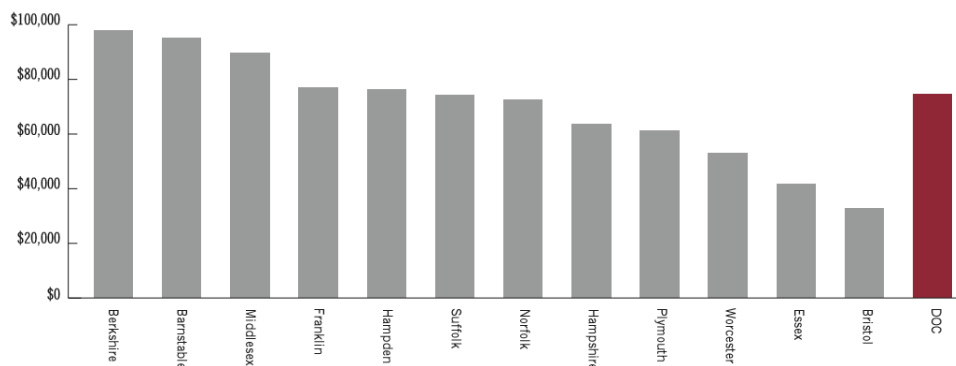
Immigrants make up 16% of Massachusetts’s population; however, demagoguery against, or indifference to, immigrant populations has historically been a mainstay of Massachusetts politics. As the Trump administration in Washington ramps up a xenophobic mass deportation agenda, it is important for states 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.).

My grandfather Ralph Capobianco was a first-generation immigrant from Italy. He was a victim

of child labor and was not able to attend school. He went on to serve his country in WWII and when he returned became a small business owner and worked as a custodian until he was 85 years old. My grandfather instilled a set of values in me that made me the man I am today and inform my views on racial and social justice.

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?

This is not a yes or no question. I'm supportive of the Reform, Shift, + Build Act, and I believe that qualified immunity needs to be adjusted and studied, but not completely eliminated.

- 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?

Yes

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?

Yes

- c. Decriminalizing consensual sexual activity between adolescents, by creating an exception to the statutory rape law for youth close in age?

Yes

- d. Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which is costly and has been shown to be racist in its application?

Yes

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, I support eliminating policies that make local and state officials responsible for the enforcement of national immigration laws

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

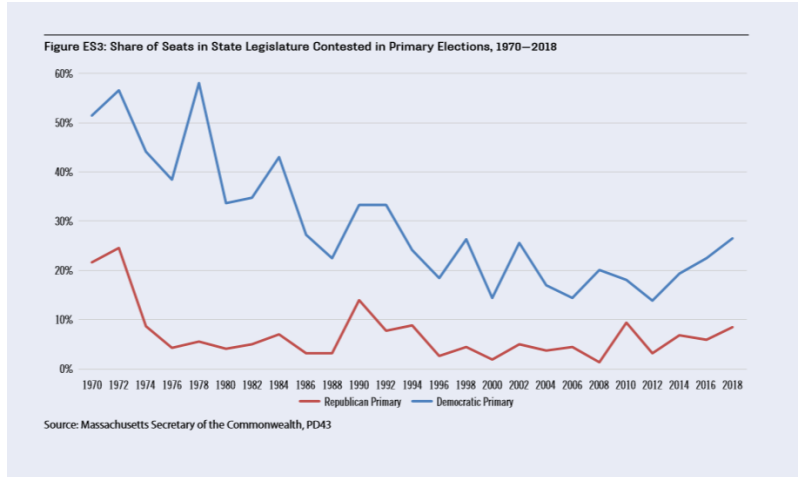
Yes

G. Good Government and Strong Democracy

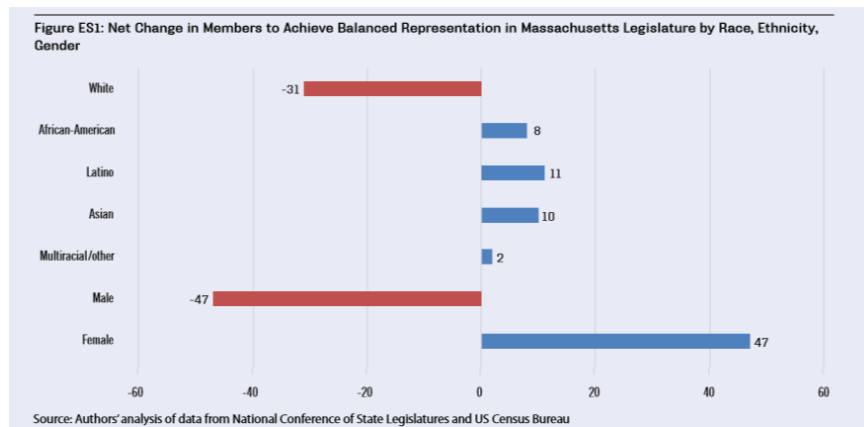
A strong democracy depends on a transparent and representative government and an engaged public. Too often, however, we see centralized, unaccountable power and barriers to participation. An undemocratic, centralized power structure on Beacon Hill makes it easier for lobbyists to target the top and undermine 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.).

As a Chief of Staff in the State Senate, I worked tirelessly to make our office open and accessible. I helped lead one of the strongest cultures of accessibility and constituent service. We aggressively followed up on all constituent matters, and made sure that residents received the attention they deserved from their State Senator.

Furthermore, I took a lead in training staff on answering questions about the specific legislation and the legislative process in regards to the ROE Act. By making sure staff knew exactly what was in the bill and where it was tracking in the legislative process, we were able to communicate clearly and accurately to residents who called our office to inquire about it.

We certainly didn't persuade every caller to agree with the legislation, and, frankly, doing so would have been unethical in our role as public employees. We were, however, able to correct a lot of myths about the legislation that had been perpetrated by right wing media, and paint a clear picture about what the Bill did, why Senator Feeney supported it, and where it was in the legislative pipeline. I was thrilled to see the ROE Act pass, and proud to have played a

small part in the constituent outreach that helped get it over the finish line. This is the culture of openness, transparency, and constituent service that I will bring to the State House if I am elected to the House of Representatives.

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?

Yes

7. **Removing Barriers to Running.** The cost of child care can prove prohibitive to working mothers or fathers seeking to run for office. Would you support legislation to explicitly allow working parents running for office to use campaign funds to pay for child care?

Yes

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

a. Election Day Registration, 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

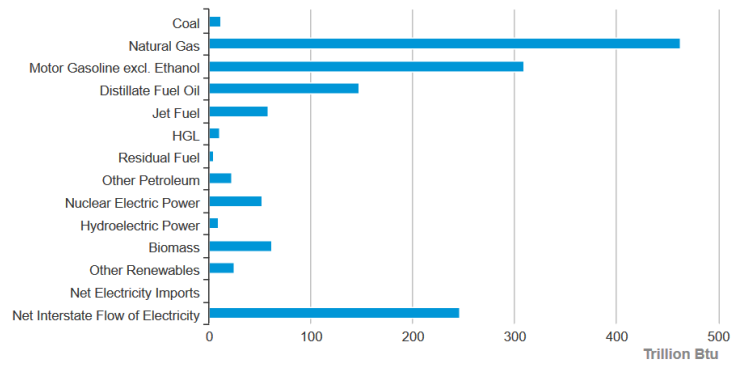
H. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

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.

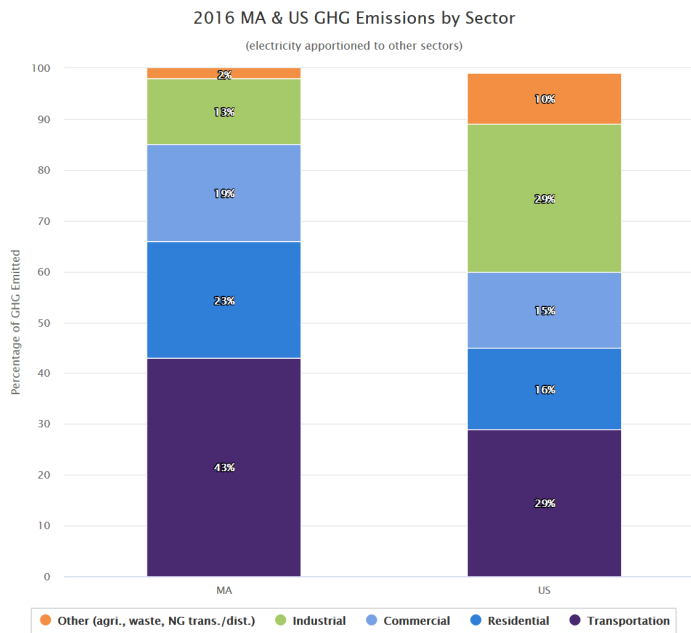
Despite recent progress, Massachusetts is still overwhelmingly dependent on fossil fuels.

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.).

As a former member of the North-South Rail Link working group with former Governor Dukakis and former State Representative John Businger, I know just how great of an opportunity transit holds for our economy. Transportation links communities together and provides new opportunities for jobs in other places. Updating our transportation can be our key to coming closer to a carbon-neutral society.

We must protect our air, water, and natural resources in our community. Large businesses in our community must be held to a high standard of environmental protection. I will advocate for new opportunities to bring clean, reliable, and renewable energy to our community. This will help create well-paying, union-based local jobs, in an effort to promote green infrastructure and reduce carbon emissions.

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, and while I would have liked the opportunity to vote on it I am happy to see this will be addressed before the election.

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

Yes

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, our cities and towns must be aggressive in combating climate change.

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, we must focus on building a transportation system that reduces the number of cars on the streets. Public transit must be affordable and timely for all residents of Winthrop and Revere. This would ultimately help our environment by transitioning away from fossil fuel-intensive modes of transportation. Nothing would be more affordable and accessible than a

well-funded MBTA without fares.

I am proud of my commitment to public transportation and I am proud to have the endorsement of Transport Workers Union Local 2054 because they know I will fight for public transportation, the riders who use it, and the workers who run it.

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 have spent the last decade of my life, my entire professional career, in public service. As a member of the Winthrop School Committee, I fought for strong public schools and increased teacher pay. As a member of the Democratic State Committee, I helped pass one of the most progressive platforms in the country as a member of the Platform Committee in 2018. I worked with IBEW 2222 and signed the first card in an attempt to unionize legislative employees. As a member of the Winthrop Airport Hazards Committee, I successfully helped lobby for environmental mitigation funding to protect our community from noise and air pollution.

I am running for State Representative to deliver Covid Relief to small businesses and workers, fight for strong public schools so that every child has access to a world class public education, and ensure that everybody has access to quality, affordable healthcare. Throughout my career, I have established a track record of results, and I firmly believe that I will be ready on Day on to fight for the progressive change our Commonwealth needs.