



**PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2021 LEGISLATIVE
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

Date: 10/13/2021

Candidate: Anthony D'Ambrosio

Office Sought: State Senate

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Email questions to elections@progressivemass.com.

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.

*Each section contains open-ended questions and YES/NO questions. **If the question is a YES/NO question, please answer either YES or NO.** Feel free to expand your answers beyond this 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 am running for State Senate because it is time for a new generation of outsiders to upend business as usual on Beacon Hill. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted life as we knew it in virtually every way imaginable. It laid bare all of our society’s vulnerabilities and inequities, as well as the ways in which our leaders were failing in their obligations to Massachusetts residents. I am unafraid to shake things up and ask the tough questions. That’s why I am running for State Senate.

My 3 core priorities are:

Education

Education is an issue of pivotal importance to me. My father was an immigrant to this country from Italy, and my mother is the daughter of Italian immigrants. Both of my parents benefitted tremendously from their experiences in East Boston, Revere, and Winthrop public schools, which

propelled them to good colleges and jobs. It is not an overstatement to say that neither I nor anyone else in my immediate family would be where we are today without the support of the public school systems in this district. My immense gratitude to these schools is why I ran for School Committee in Revere.

We need several statewide initiatives to best support Massachusetts students after this most disruptive year of their lives and set them up for long-term success.

I am a proud supporter of universal childcare and pre-kindergarten (pre-K) education. Over the past year, I have spoken with dozens of Revere parents who had to make the tremendously difficult decision to quit their jobs—sacrificing half or even the entirety of their household income—in order to provide care and educational support to their suddenly homebound children. The Covid-19 pandemic has only underscored the need for a universal childcare and pre-K program in Massachusetts that goes further than current proposals by recognizing and integrating into the economy the unpaid labor already provided by parents and caregivers.

Funds are needed NOW to remediate the aftermath of Covid-19, not in 3 years. As preparations for full-time, in-person schooling begin, funds must be made available to ensure that students, teachers, and parents are kept safe. Additional resources must also be made to support students who may have fallen behind academically due to remote learning.

We need to promote equity in school districts so that no child is left behind or disadvantaged. I was proud to spearhead the creation of the first ever Revere Equity Advisory Board that brought together parents, teachers, students, and other community stakeholders to develop creative solutions to address educational inequities. To aid municipalities and ensure the best educational opportunities for all students, including students with disabilities and English language learners (ELLs), funds for educational equity initiatives should be included in the state budget.

We must make mental health resources readily available to all Massachusetts students. Youth mental health issues and substance abuse have spiked during the pandemic, creating a crisis for many families. As a member of the Revere School Committee, I led the implementation of a districtwide mental health audit to determine how Revere Public Schools could better support our students. We need to make state funds available so that every school district in the state can conduct such mental health audits. Similarly, we must make more public health resources available to municipalities and school districts for the purpose of combatting the mental health crisis impacting our children.

Finally, we need to dramatically expand internship and apprenticeship programs for the Commonwealth's high schools and community colleges. Connecting Activities, the largest statewide apprenticeship program for students provides opportunities for a mere 3.6% of the nearly 300,000 public high school students in Massachusetts each year. This is unacceptable. All Massachusetts students should have the opportunity to gain real-world job experience for the benefit of their futures and our 21st century state economy.

Energy and Environmental Justice

There are several environmental concerns that acutely impact this district. We are blessed with numerous waterfronts and beaches that attract visitors from around the world. To preserve our beautiful coastal areas, reduce litter, and protect local marine wildlife, we must fund the placement of more trash and recycling bins at our public beaches. Additionally, the state should expand the COASTSWEEP clean-up program to keep our coastlines free of debris and provide more environmental volunteer opportunities for students and other community members.

The 1st Suffolk and Middlesex district faces unique air, noise, and water pollution challenges from Boston Logan International Airport and the Saugus Wheelabrator incinerator and unlined landfill. Children in our district who live close to the airport or Wheelabrator are more likely to suffer from

asthma and other respiratory conditions than children living elsewhere. For the health and safety of our district's residents, we must hold both the airport and Saugus Wheelabrator accountable to state pollution standards and be unafraid to enact penalties when such standards are violated.

The contamination of our water systems with PFAS from factories, landfills, construction sites, and even firefighting materials presents another environmental challenge for Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has recently adopted new regulations requiring public water systems to test for PFAS. This was an important first step; however, if such tests show that PFAS is present in public water systems, the state should make funds available to municipalities that will have to make costly repairs to their water systems in order to prevent PFAS contamination. The costs of such repairs should NOT be passed onto Commonwealth residents in the form of higher water and sewer rates.

Equity must be an important consideration in any statewide environmental policy, as injustices disproportionately impact working-class families and people of color in our district.

Transportation

Strong transportation infrastructure is vital to our district. As a daily user of the Blue Line, I understand the importance of regular and reliable T service, including early-morning and late-night service. I support expanding T accessibility and resisting calls to restrict T hours, as such restrictions disproportionately impact our district's workers. The \$4 million recently secured to connect the Newbury/Rockport Commuter Rail with the Blue Line is a huge victory for the district. We need to encourage more such investments from the federal and state governments to make public transportation more convenient for and accessible to all Massachusetts residents.

We should embrace innovative technological solutions to solve long-standing transportation problems. To start, we must upgrade and spread awareness of the MBTA's apps so that residents can access MBTA schedules, delays, and digital payment options on the fly from their phones. Additionally, MassDOT should work with municipalities to roll out "smart parking" tools that reduce traffic and allow drivers to receive real-time updates of parking availabilities near their location.

All transportation decisions should be made with community input, environmental considerations, and a commitment to equity.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

I have been blessed with a world-class education and entrusted with analyzing major financial decisions in both the public and private sector. From my experiences managing the Revere Public Schools budget of over \$100 million, to evaluating multi-billion dollar deals in the technology industry, I will bring a fresh, new perspective to the State Senate and help prepare our Commonwealth for the 21st Century.

I am a graduate of Yale University and received my Master's Degree from the University of Cambridge. I graduated near the top of my class and received several academic and leadership honors.

I have significant experience working with public school children and have taught on disability and mental health issues.

As a Community Health Educator, I worked directly with children and school administrators on developing new strategies to overcome the many psychological and physical challenges that children face today.

I served as the leader of Dwight Hall, a 3,500-person non-profit organization that provides community-based services, ranging from early childhood education to youth homelessness relief.

Finally, I am currently serving as an elected member of the Revere School Committee. During these years, I have worked “hands-on” to provide better educational and social services to children in need.

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

I believe that the role of a state legislator is to develop common sense solutions and bold proposals that can make the lives of working families better. We are in unprecedented times that require new leaders who are beholden to no one except their constituents. For far too long, insiders have passed laws and regulations that benefit the connected few. I am an outsider who will vote for what is best for my constituents, not what “leadership” wants.

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

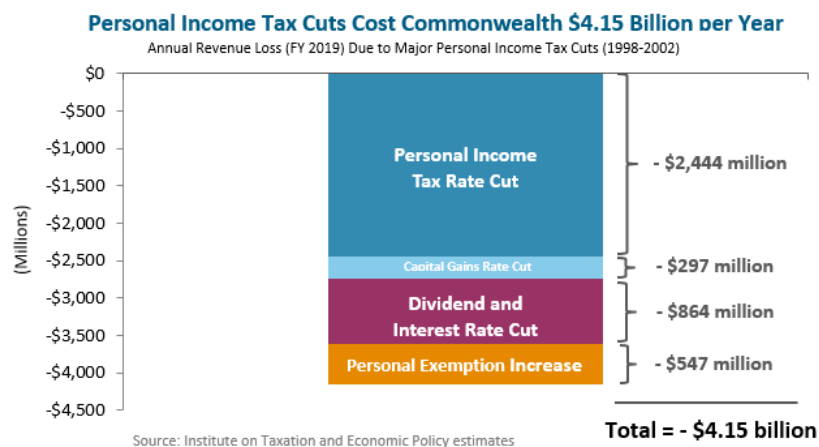
Political insiders who are unwilling to be bold in their proposals and continuously cave to “leadership” and lobbying from big businesses.

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.

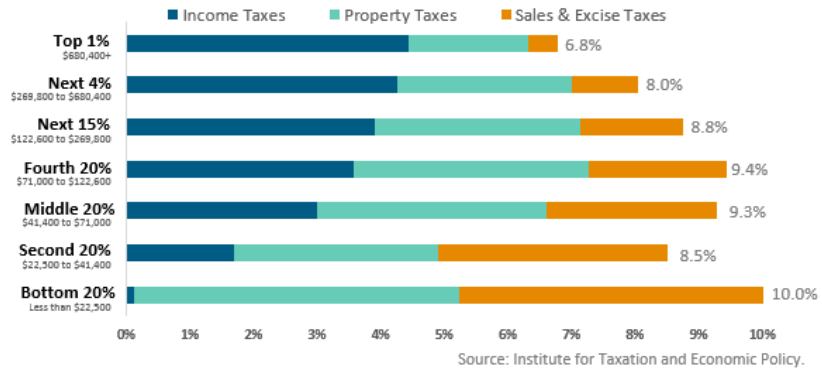
Declining revenues have meant drastic cuts, limiting our ability to invest in our communities and future economic stability.



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 am running on a platform of jobs and infrastructure for a 21st century Massachusetts. At the state level, we need to support the creation of good jobs that pay a livable wage, include quality health insurance, and offer paid family and sick leave.

As a financial analyst of technology companies, I had a front-row seat to the ways in which our economy is changing and automating. To support the Commonwealth's residents during this transition, we should provide workers with the tools and training necessary to succeed in new jobs, while also reigning in the excesses of Big Tech companies. Specifically, we need to revise portions of the state tax code in order to disincentivize companies from classifying employees as independent contractors.

2. **Corporate Tax Breaks.** Corporate tax breaks cost Massachusetts [more than \\$1 billion in foregone revenue](#) each year. Companies can secure access to such tax breaks due to political connections whether or not the promised benefits ever materialize. Which of the following accountability steps would you support?
 - a. Collecting and publicly disclosing information about the benefits to the state from any tax break? **YES**
 - b. Repealing any tax break that does not provide the intended benefits in a cost-effective manner? **YES**
 - c. Establishing sunset dates for all tax breaks so that they must come up for periodic review? **YES**
3. **Fair Share.** Would you support a constitutional amendment to increase the income tax on income over \$1 million by 4% (Fair Share Amendment, sometimes referred to as the "Millionaire's Tax")? **YES**
4. **Progressive Revenue.** Massachusetts will not see new revenue from the Fair Share Amendment until 2023, but we have unmet needs now (and will still even with the Fair Share Amendment). Which policies would you support to make a more progressive tax code?
 - a. Raising the corporate minimum tax for larger companies? (The corporate minimum tax is currently only \$456.) **YES**
 - b. Imposing a tax on the portion of corporations' US profits that are shifted to offshore tax havens? **YES**
 - c. Raising the corporate tax rate from 8% to 9.5% (where it stood in 2009)? **YES**
 - d. Raising the tax on long-term capital gains from 5% to 8.95%, in line with states like New York and Vermont? **YES**
 - e. Levying a modest tax on university endowments greater than \$1 billion? **YES**

B. Jobs and the Economy

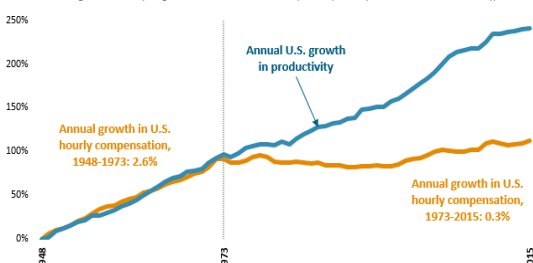
Massachusetts ranks as one of the top ten [most unequal states](#), as the gains from economic growth have disproportionately benefited the already well-off. Compounding this, we are one of the most expensive states in the country for [health care](#), [housing](#), and [child care](#), all of which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

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

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

A Large Gap Has Opened Between Wage and Productivity Growth Since 1973

Cumulative Change in U.S. Hourly Wages for Private-Sector Production/Non-Supervisory Workers and Net Productivity, 1948-2015



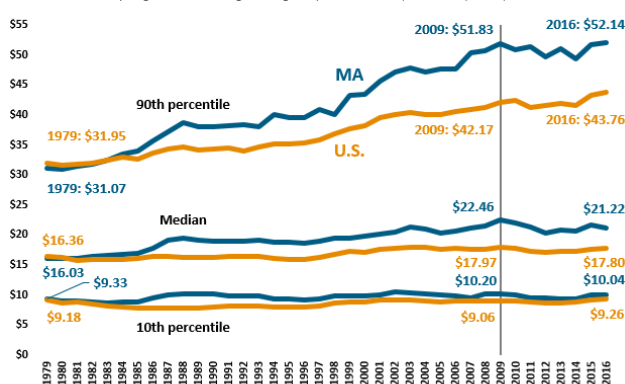
Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of unpublished Total Economy Productivity data from Bureau of Labor Statistics' Labor Productivity and Costs program; wage data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics; Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Cost Trends data; and the Bureau of Economic Analysis' National Income and Product Accounts

Note: Wages are the inflation-adjusted average hourly compensation of private-sector production/nonsupervisory workers.

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

Wages For Most MA Workers Have Stagnated Since Great Recession

Real Value of Hourly Wage for Selected Wage-Earning Groups in MA and U.S., 1979-2016 (2016\$)



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey data (deflated using CPI-U-RS).

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 running on a platform of jobs and infrastructure for a 21st century Massachusetts. At the state level, we need to support the creation of good jobs that pay a livable wage, include quality health insurance, and offer paid family and sick leave.

In all economic development efforts, we must fully support workers' rights and the right to organize. Organized labor offers enormous benefits to Massachusetts workers and is one of the most powerful tools to combat wealth inequity.

I am a proud supporter of universal childcare and pre-kindergarten (pre-K) education. Over the past year, I have spoken with dozens of Revere parents who had to make the tremendously difficult decision to quit their jobs—sacrificing half or even the entirety of their household income—in order to provide care and educational support to their suddenly homebound children. The Covid-19 pandemic has only underscored the need for a universal childcare and pre-K program in Massachusetts that goes further than current proposals by recognizing and integrating into the economy the unpaid labor already provided by parents and caregivers.

Unsurprisingly, lack of universal childcare and pre-K has disproportionately impacted female parents and caregivers. Women comprised 80% of people who exited the labor market in September of 2020—when virtual schooling restarted for most students in the United States. These job losses resulted in the lowest percentage of U.S. women in the workforce since 1988. The disparities are even more stark for women of color. While pandemic recovery efforts have prompted job gains, even the most optimistic economists do not project a return to pre-pandemic levels of employment for women until at least 2024. Two-thirds of surveyed Massachusetts employers cite lack of childcare as a primary barrier to re-entry into the state's workforce.

This is unacceptable. No one should ever have to choose between caring for their child and putting food on the table. I firmly believe that universal childcare in Massachusetts is fundamental to achieving gender equity in the state, expediting our state's recovery from Covid-19, and making our state more resilient in the face of future disruptions.

2. **Fair Wages.** Do you support eliminating the subminimum wage for tipped workers in support of one fair wage? **YES**
3. **Wage Theft.** Do you support holding businesses responsible for the wage violations of their subcontractors when the work they do is substantially connected to the company's operations? **YES**
4. **Overtime.** Would you support updating MA's state overtime law to restore overtime pay protections to low- and moderate-income salaried workers when they work more than 40 hours a week? **YES**
5. **Fair Scheduling.** Many workers in the service sector face irregular working hours, making it difficult to plan for other life events. Do you support providing workers the right to 14 days advance notice of hours and the right to request specific hours without retaliation from the employer? **YES**
6. **Unions.** Since the 2010 election, a number of states have rolled back the collective bargaining rights of public workers as part of a well-funded, nationwide assault on unions, led by wealthy, conservative donors. Would you oppose any effort to roll back the collective bargaining rights of state or municipal employees? **YES**
7. **Mandatory Arbitration.** Would you support legislation to prohibit the use of mandatory arbitration provisions in employment contracts, i.e., requirements that an employee forfeit the right to sue the employer for discrimination, nonpayment of wages, or other illegal conduct? **YES**

C. Education

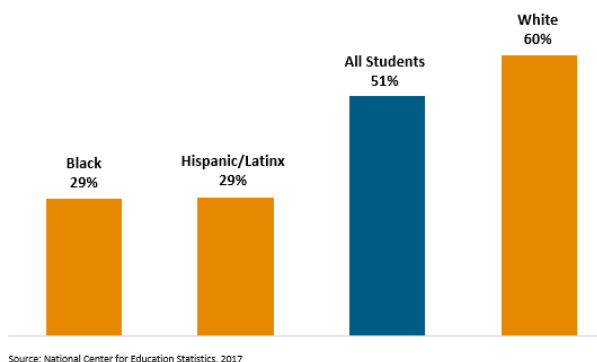
The promise of public education has always been as a gateway to opportunity and mobility for all, regardless of economic circumstances, a cornerstone of the American dream for all residents. Although our public education system gets high marks overall, it remains one of the [most unequal](#) in the country. Powerful corporate interests are promoting false solutions and working to undermine public schools, teachers, and unions. These groups invest millions of dollars to promote the expansion of privately run charter schools, which siphon money from our public K-12 districts while largely excluding students with the greatest needs. Costly, mandated standardized test results are used to label schools as “failing” and justify these privatization schemes.

Most of the [fastest-growing occupations](#) require education beyond a high school diploma, but Massachusetts has been disinvesting from public higher education for the past two decades. This has led to higher tuition costs, putting students at risk of long-term debt or making higher education out of reach for them entirely.

Massachusetts has significant achievement gaps reflective of resource gaps.

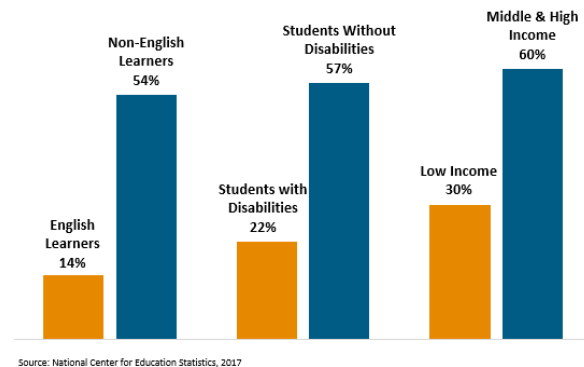
Massachusetts Has Significant Achievement Gaps for Youth of Color in 4th Grade Reading

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



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

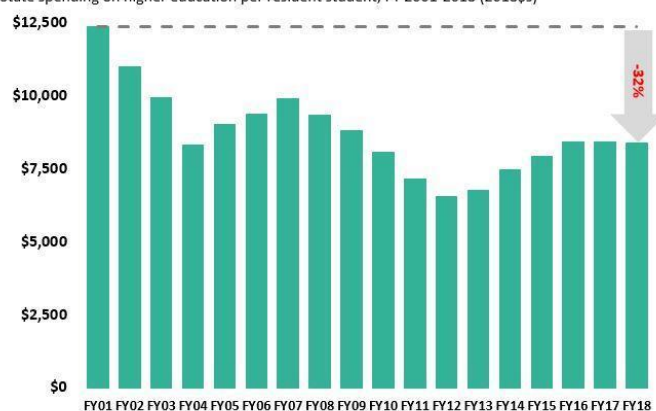
Share of Mass. 4th Graders Proficient on the 2017 NAEP Reading Exam, by Student Category



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.

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We need several statewide initiatives to best support Massachusetts students after this most disruptive year of their lives and set them up for long-term success.

First, funds are needed NOW to remediate the aftermath of Covid-19, not in 3 years. As preparations for full-time, in-person schooling begin, funds must be made available to ensure that students, teachers, and parents are kept safe. Additional resources must also be made to support students who may have fallen behind academically due to remote learning.

Second, we need to promote equity in school districts so that no child is left behind or disadvantaged. I was proud to spearhead the creation of the first ever Revere Equity Advisory Board that brought together parents, teachers, students, and other community stakeholders to develop creative solutions to address educational inequities. To aid municipalities and ensure the best educational opportunities for all students, including students with disabilities and English language learners (ELLs), funds for educational equity initiatives should be included in the state budget.

Third, we must make mental health resources readily available to all Massachusetts students. Youth mental health issues and substance abuse have spiked during the pandemic, creating a crisis for many families. As a member of the Revere School Committee, I led the implementation of a districtwide mental health audit to determine how Revere Public Schools could better support our students. We need to make state funds available so that every school district in the state can conduct such mental health audits. Similarly, we must make more public health resources available to municipalities and school districts for the purpose of combatting the mental health crisis impacting our children.

Finally, we need to dramatically expand internship and apprenticeship programs for the Commonwealth's high schools and community colleges. Connecting Activities, the largest statewide apprenticeship program for students provides opportunities for a mere 3.6% of the nearly 300,000 public high school students in Massachusetts each year. This is unacceptable. All Massachusetts students should have the opportunity to gain real-world job experience for the benefit of their futures and our 21st century state economy.

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?* **YES**
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**
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. **Anti-Racist Education.** Do you support the creation of a Commission for Anti-Racism and Equity in Education, which would ensure that ethnic studies, racial justice, decolonizing history, and unlearning racism are taught at all grade levels using a critical approach and pedagogy that is age-appropriate? **YES**
8. **Higher Education Access.** Do you support granting in-state tuition and financial aid to undocumented students? **YES**
9. **Debt-Free College.** Do you support making tuition (and mandatory curriculum fees) free at public colleges and universities? **YES**

D. Health Care

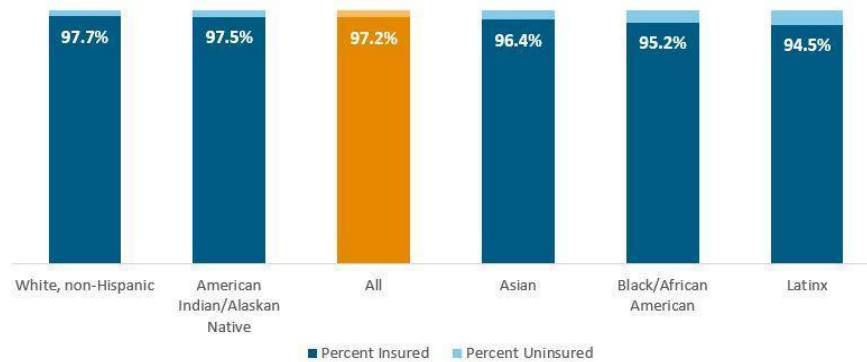
Massachusetts has led the way in providing near universal health insurance coverage, with [97% of the state](#) having health insurance. But until that is 100%, we haven't reached truly universal coverage or

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

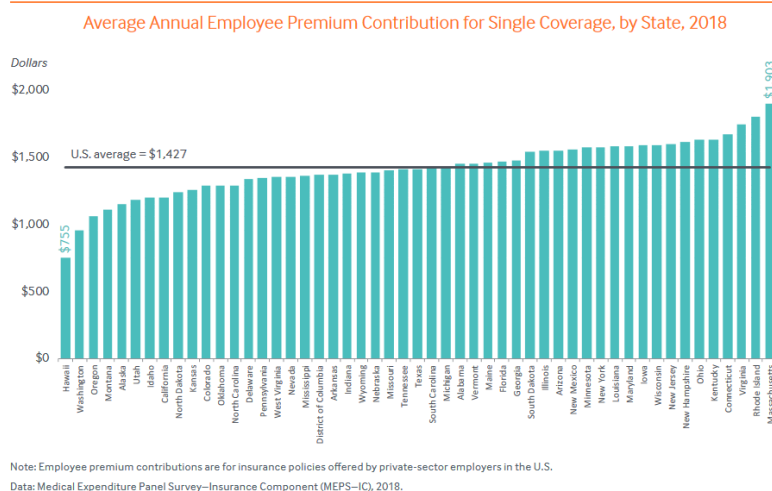
Percent with health insurance in Massachusetts, by race, 2017.



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.



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.).

Coming off the Covid-19 pandemic, the Commonwealth is facing some of its largest public health issues in a century. Covid-19 has claimed the lives of nearly 20,000 Massachusetts residents. Our elderly residents have been uniquely impacted, but new variants have led to a spike in hospitalizations and complications among young people.

It is critical that we make accurate information about vaccines, potential boosters, and new variants available to everyone, with extra care given to overcome language barriers and Internet accessibility issues. Mobile vaccination clinics, late-night and early-morning vaccination hours, and community outreach are all critical means of providing equal vaccine access to everyone in the Commonwealth. The more people are vaccinated, the safer we all are. Additional state funds must be deployed for this purpose immediately.

Mental health issues, substance use, and self-reported loneliness have all spiked during the pandemic. More than 41% of American adults have reported an increase in anxiety and depression since the start of the pandemic. One-in three Covid-19 survivors has been diagnosed with a brain or mental health disorder within 6 months of diagnosis. These numbers are staggering. They speak to the immense health challenges the virus presents and the unprecedented ways in which the pandemic has disrupted our everyday lives.

Everyone in Massachusetts who would like to speak to a licensed mental health counselor should be able to do so. We need to make state funds available for more mental health resources in schools, veterans' groups, community centers, and other high-impact organizations. Comprehensive mental health education and resilience training should be part of the Commonwealth's curriculum framework, and the state government should partner with our amazing research universities to encourage more students to enter the mental healthcare profession. Additionally, we must make broadband Internet affordable and reliable for all so that people can access digital therapy and substance use disorder treatment appointments. Further, virtual connections—while no replacement for in-person interactions—can begin to chip away at social isolation.

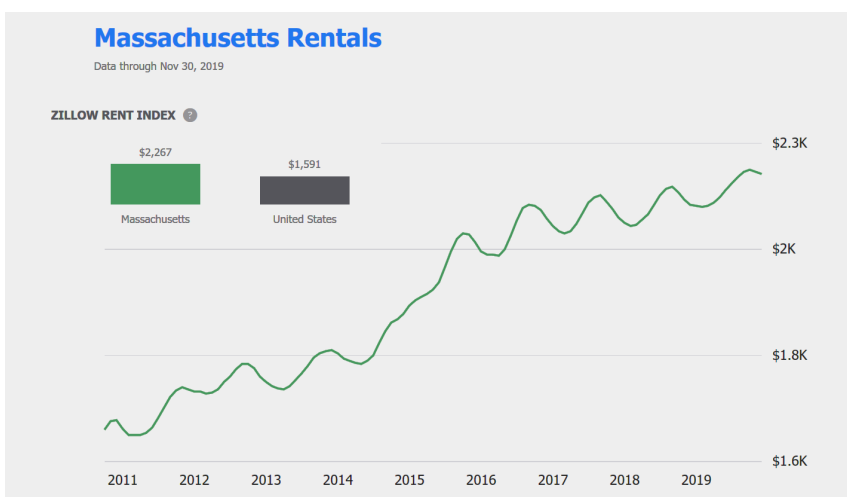
I am pro-choice and firmly believe in a woman's right to choose what is best for her body. I believe in equitable access to reproductive health services; age-appropriate, comprehensive sex education; and free contraception and protection for students.

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**
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**
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**
5. **Pandemic Response.** How would you evaluate the state's response to the Covid-19 pandemic? The Governor has failed time and time again during this pandemic. He has been late on a series of decisions and it would appear that he was forced into action several times by municipalities, the Federal Government, advocacy groups and businesses throughout the state.

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.).

We must make housing affordable by easing old zoning laws and employing innovative “smart growth” policies to free up real estate that can be used to build more housing. In promoting housing development, we must ensure that the district’s residents reap the benefits of mixed-income neighborhoods without being displaced or priced out.

I support housing stabilization initiatives that eliminate housing insecurity and make home ownership a realistic possibility for all Massachusetts residents. Simply put, we need more affordable housing to sustain our families and fuel our economic growth into the 21st century. Without more affordable housing, we will not be able to sustain the economic growth required for a prosperous Commonwealth.

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**

NOTE: In a 12/9/21 candidate forum, he answered NO to this question. [Video link here](#)

5. **Eviction Prevention.** Tens of thousands of families across Massachusetts are now facing eviction following the expiration of our state's eviction moratorium. Would you support a moratorium on all evictions due to COVID-19-related nonpayment? **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.

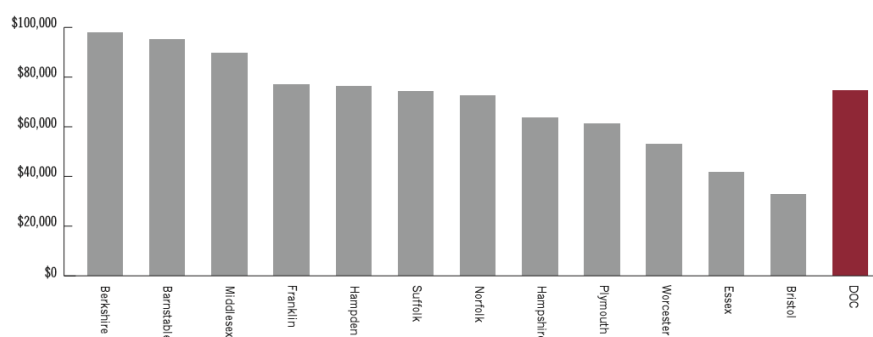
Immigrants make up 16% of Massachusetts's population; however, demagoguery against, or indifference to, immigrant populations has historically been a mainstay of Massachusetts politics. As the Trump administration in Washington ramps up a xenophobic mass deportation agenda, it is important for states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

Racial justice is both a moral imperative and a practical necessity if our Commonwealth hopes to live up to its full promise.

I support comprehensive state criminal justice reform to stop mass incarceration, which disproportionately impacts people of color, in the Commonwealth. The legalization of adult-use marijuana in Massachusetts was the first step in undoing the damage caused by the prejudicial War on Drugs. However, the state's cannabis licensing program has not lived up to its equity goals, and entrepreneurs of color continue to be disadvantaged. We must make deep reforms at the state level to our licensing, financing, and Covid-19 recovery programs so that entrepreneurs and small business owners of color have equal access to and are fairly considered

for economic development opportunities.

To promote educational equity, I support the apportionment of state funds for the creation of equity advisory committees in all school districts, similar to the one I spearheaded in Revere. Such committees solicit community feedback to make critical changes to curriculum, disciplinary practices, and resource allocations that help close the opportunity and achievement gaps in schools.

We must also combat racial wealth inequity by closing the digital divide and making Massachusetts the first state in the nation to offer affordable, reliable broadband internet for all residents. People of color in Massachusetts disproportionately lack access to a reliable Internet connection, which is critical to success in the 21st century economy. Additionally, we must build more pathways to homeownership for people of color in Massachusetts, who have historically been excluded from home financing opportunities. We must likewise safeguard tenants' rights and take swift and decisive action against discriminatory landlords.

Anti-discrimination laws must be rigorously enforced in every context, and we must make real efforts to increase the representation of people of color at all levels of government in the Commonwealth.

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? **YES**

NOTE: In a 12/9/21 candidate forum, he answered NO to this question. [Video link here](#)
 - 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. **Alternative Crisis Response.** Do you support creating a grant program through the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to increase the availability of non-law-enforcement, unarmed community-based response options for calls to 911? **YES**
4. **Sentencing Reform.** The 2018 criminal justice reform bill was an important first step in reducing mass incarceration. However, in our "liberal" state, incarceration rates remain much higher than they are in other countries, and sentencing laws can be even more punitive than those in states viewed as conservative. Which of the following reforms would you support?
 - a. Eliminating mandatory minimums for opioid-related offenses? **YES**
 - b. Raising the age of criminal majority from 18 to 21, in line with research that shows that young offenders served by a juvenile system are much less likely to reoffend and more likely to successfully transition to adulthood? **YES**
 - c. Decriminalizing consensual sexual activity between adolescents, by creating an exception to the statutory rape law for youth close in age? **YES**
 - d. Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which is costly and has been shown to be racist in its application? **YES**
5. **Solitary Confinement.** In Massachusetts, prisoners can be sentenced to 10 years of solitary confinement—per infraction. The UN defines holding someone in solitary confinement for

more than 15 days as torture. Do you support limiting the use of solitary to no more than 15 consecutive days? **YES**

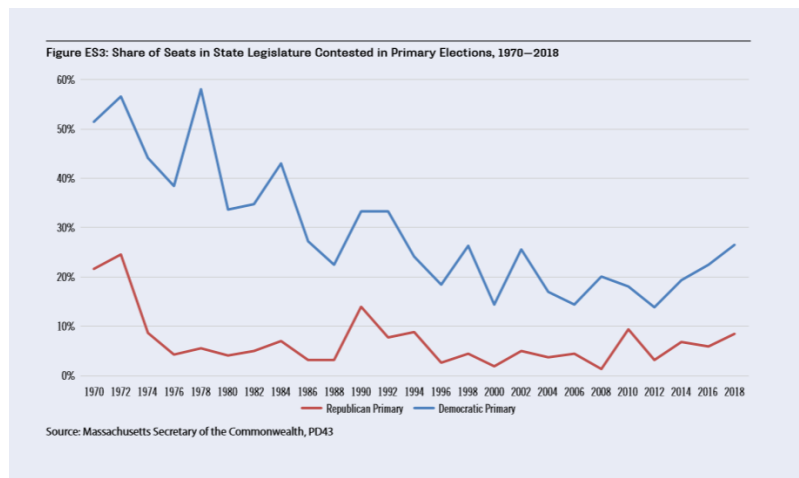
6. **Prison Visitation.** Maintaining connections with friends and family outside prisons is one of the most important factors in ensuring successful reentry. In March 2018, the DOC severely limited the ability of prisoners to receive visits and the rights of family and friends to visit their loved ones in prison. ([Read more on this here.](#)) Do you favor ending these restrictions? **YES**
7. **Prison Profiteering.** While Massachusetts does not have private prisons, the DOC invites private companies to profit off of the families of prisoners by price gouging inmates who have no alternatives but to buy from the sole providers of goods in prisons. Do support ending the price gouging of inmates for necessary items and requiring DOC to adequately supply inmates with the basic requirements necessary for life to keep in contact with their families and maintain good health and hygiene? **YES**
8. **Safe Communities Act.** Do you support the Safe Communities Act, which limits local and state police collaboration with federal immigration agents, bars law enforcement and court personnel from inquiring about immigration status, and ensures due process protections? **YES**
9. **Work and Family Mobility Act.** Do you support removing immigration status as a barrier to applying for a license or learner's permit? **YES**

G. Good Government and Strong Democracy

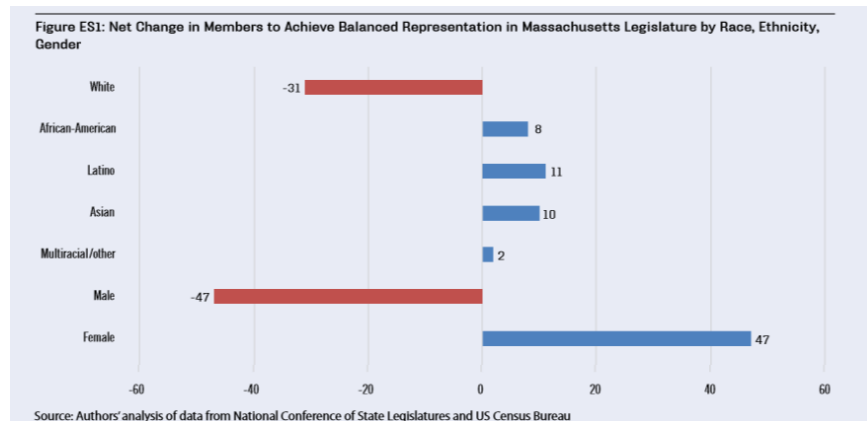
A strong democracy depends on a transparent and representative government and an engaged public. Too often, however, we see centralized, unaccountable power and barriers to participation. An undemocratic, centralized power structure on Beacon Hill makes it easier for lobbyists to target the top and undermine the system. Despite recent reforms, a weak public records system stymies government accountability: MA is one of only two states where all three branches of state government claim to be exempt. A strong democracy requires an engaged electorate, but voter turnout in midterm elections, and especially local elections, remains low. Although election modernization legislation in 2014 and 2018 helped brought much-needed reforms, we still lag behind states in New England and around the country in making voting accessible (Maine, for instance, has allowed for Election Day Registration since the 1970s).

A centralized power system, a skewed campaign finance system, and restrictive voting laws together help create a situation in which our elections are the [least competitive in the country](#).

Our elections have grown less competitive over the past four decades.



Our legislature is not reflective of the population as a whole.



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

I believe transparency and accountability are fundamental to restoring the people's trust in government. At all levels of government, we must push for more transparency and public oversight, not less. I strongly support proposals to make records of committee votes in the Massachusetts House and Senate public and to extend the amount of time that bills are publicly viewable before they are voted on. It was disheartening to see so many state representatives vote against transparency this year, elevating their own fears of being "misconstrued" over the public's legitimate right to be informed of how legislators are acting on their constituents' behalf.

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, with appropriate redactions for privacy as is the case with all public records? **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**

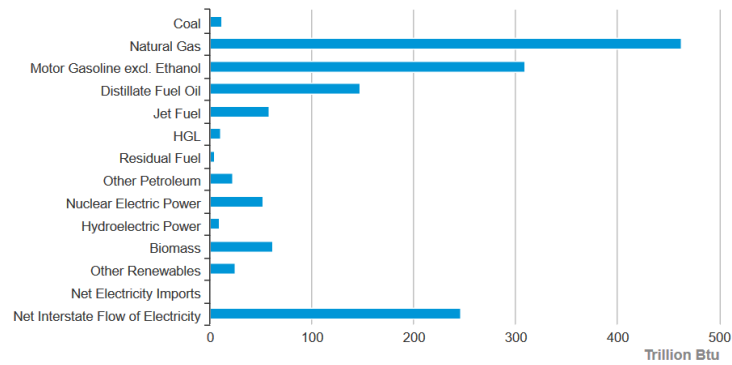
H. Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection

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.

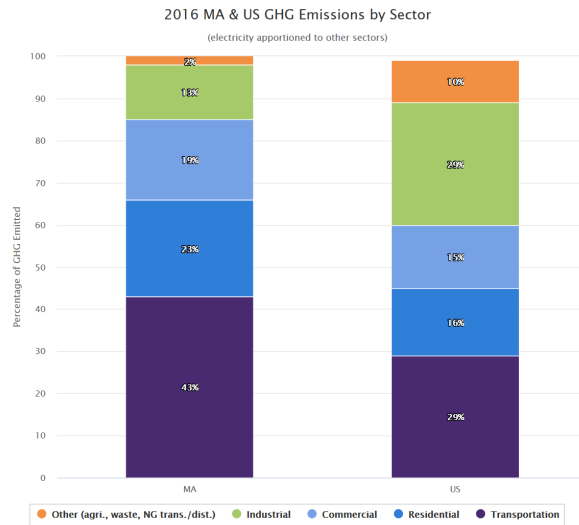
Despite recent progress, Massachusetts is still overwhelmingly dependent on fossil fuels.

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.).

Strong transportation infrastructure is vital to our district. As a daily user of the Blue Line, I understand the importance of regular and reliable T service, including early-morning and late-night service. I support expanding T accessibility and resisting calls to restrict T hours, as

such restrictions disproportionately impact our district's workers. The \$4 million recently secured to connect the Newbury/Rockport Commuter Rail with the Blue Line is a huge victory for the district. We need to encourage more such investments from the federal and state governments to make public transportation more convenient for and accessible to all Massachusetts residents.

We should embrace innovative technological solutions to solve long-standing transportation problems. To start, we must upgrade and spread awareness of the MBTA's apps so that residents can access MBTA schedules, delays, and digital payment options on the fly from their phones. Additionally, MassDOT should work with municipalities to roll out "smart parking" tools that reduce traffic and allow drivers to receive real-time updates of parking availabilities near their location.

All transportation decisions should be made with community input, environmental considerations, and a commitment to equity.

2. **Waste Reduction.** Would you support a statewide ban on single-use shopping bags and a requirement that alternatives be more sustainable? **YES**
3. **Renewable Energy.** Do you support a target of 100% renewable electricity and net zero carbon emissions across all sectors by 2030? **YES**
4. **Rooftop Solar.** Would you support requiring that all new construction be built to accommodate solar energy installations? **YES**
5. **Fossil Fuel Infrastructure.** Do you oppose the expansion of gas pipelines in the state? **YES**
6. **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**
7. **Electrifying Public Transit.** Would you support requiring the MBTA to operate a fully electric bus fleet by 2030 and fully electrifying the commuter rail system by 2035, and requiring RTAs to operate fully electric bus fleets by 2035? **YES**
8. **Free Public Transit.** 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.