

## Voter Information

### How to Register:

Register online or print mail-in voter registration form [here](#).

**Deadline to register:** August 24th, 8pm

*Already registered?* Confirm your registration [here](#).

### How to Vote

<p><i>In person on election day:</i></p> <p><b>When:</b> September 1st, 7am - 8pm</p> <p><a href="#">Find your polling place</a></p>	<p><i>In person early voting:</i></p> <p><b>When:</b> August 22nd - August 28th</p> <p>Cambridge early voting locations and hours will be posted <a href="#">here</a> one week before the election.</p> <p>Early voting hours and location elsewhere in MA can be found <a href="#">here</a> one week before the election.</p>	<p><i>Voting by mail:</i></p> <p>Due to COVID-19, all registered MA voters are able to vote by mail</p> <p>Applying for mail-in ballot:</p> <p><b>When:</b> Submit your application ASAP! Application must be received by August 26th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you are already registered to vote, you should have received a ballot application in the mail</li><li>• You can download the mail-in ballot application <a href="#">here</a></li><li>• Mail, email, or fax application to your local election office (find contact info <a href="#">here</a> and see below for contact information for Cambridge)</li></ul> <p>Returning mail-in ballot:</p> <p><b>When:</b> ballots must be received by September 1st at 8PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ballots will be sent to you with pre-addressed envelopes with postage</li><li>• In Cambridge, drop-boxes will also be available for ballot return. Locations TBD (check for updates <a href="#">here</a>).</li></ul>
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### Cambridge Election Office Contact Information:

- Email: [elections@cambridgema.gov](mailto:elections@cambridgema.gov)
- Mail: Cambridge Election Commission, 51 Inman Street, Cambridge, MA 02139
- Fax: 617-349-4366

### Somerville Election Office Contact Information:

- Email: [elections@somervillema.gov](mailto:elections@somervillema.gov)
- Mail: 93 Highland Ave., Lower Level, Somerville, MA 02143
- Fax: 617-625-5643

### Boston Election Office Contact Information:

- Email: [election@boston.gov](mailto:election@boston.gov)
- Mail: 1 City Hall Square, Room 241, Boston, MA 02201
- Phone: 617-635-8683

### Want to get more involved?

Sign up on the [MITvote Interest Form](#) if you would like to receive reminders about voting deadlines and voting-related events, or are interested in helping to register voters in your community and plan voter turnout efforts with MITvote.

[Join the External Affairs Board](#) of the GSC if you're generally interested in political advocacy.

### Primary Candidate Information for Cambridge Ballots:

MA has a semi-closed primary. If you are registered with a party, you must vote in that party's primary. If you are not registered with a party, you can vote in any party's primary.

**Note:** This voter guide focuses only on **races in select Cambridge, Somerville, and Boston districts** where many graduate students live. To determine which races will be on your ballot, and for a complete list of candidates and elections, **find your sample ballot [here](#)**.

### Find your candidates

To determine the races on your ballot, you can enter your address [here](#) for a full list of races on your ballot and the associated candidates. Full maps of house, senate, and governor's council district boundaries can be found [here](#). If you live in graduate student housing on campus, the races on your ballot are listed below.

Address	State Representative	State Senate	Governor's Council
Sidney-Pacific	26th Middlesex Mike Connolly (D-Inc.)	26 - Middlesex and Suffolk Sal N. DiDomenico (D-Inc.)	6th District Terrence W. Kennedy (D-Inc)
Ashdown House, Edgerton House, Tang Hall, Westgate, The Warehouse	18th Suffolk Michael J. Moran (D-Inc.)		
Graduate Tower at Site 4, 70 Amherst	2nd Suffolk Daniel J. Ryan (D-Inc)		

If you have feedback on this voter guide, please email [gsc-eab-state@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-state@mit.edu).

\*\*The GSC does not endorse any party or candidate\*\*

## Policies Glossary

The GSC External Affairs Board (EAB) selected polling questions for candidates about topics pertinent to graduate student well-being or to the [GSC policy platform](#). This glossary describes some of the important policy issues and why they were highlighted.

## Bike Safety and Public Transit

### Increased MBTA funding

About 20% of MIT graduate students rely on public transit as their primary [method to commute](#) to and from MIT, and an additional 22% use it as their secondary transportation method. Frequent delays and incidents such as trains catching fire threaten the safety and interrupt the lives of the graduate student body.

According to the 2023 [Capital Needs Assessment and Inventory](#), approximately 64% of MBTA assets (facilities, signals, tracks, vehicles, etc.) are out of a State of Good Repair (SGR), meaning they have exceeded their optimal lifespan and now require frequent and costly repairs. It is estimated that \$24.5 billion would be needed to replace all assets currently out of SGR. This does not include the cost of decarbonization, expansion, modernization, or other improvement projects. We asked candidates about

their support for increased state funding to address this MBTA maintenance backlog. The GSC released a statement on the MBTA capital investment plan linked [here](#).

### **North-South Rail Link**

The [North-South Rail Link](#) would join North Station, along with northern Commuter Rail lines, to South station, along with southern Commuter Rail lines. In doing so, it would facilitate regional travel; relieve rapid transit crowding; encourage greater use of public transit over driving to reduce fossil fuel dependence; and shorten commutes for those living farther from the city center, which is expected to ease the housing shortage. The anticipated cost of the link, depending on the construction plan used, is between \$12 billion and \$21 billion.

### **Bike Lanes and Protected Intersections**

About 33% of graduate students bike as their primary means of commuting to MIT, and 22% use it as a secondary commute method. With recent [tragic cyclist deaths](#), the GSC considers bike safety a critical topic for graduate student wellbeing. Therefore, we asked candidates whether they would prioritize creation of additional bike lanes and protected intersections.

### **Voting Rights**

#### **Noncitizen Voting**

Because 41% of MIT graduate students and 11% of MIT undergraduates are international, the GSC firmly supports “Allowing international students to vote in municipal elections.” H.671 and S.415 would allow local governments in Massachusetts to choose to open voting in municipal elections to non-citizen residents. The Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville City Councils have expressed interest in permitting noncitizen voting before, but these requests need to be approved by the state legislature.

#### **Same-Day Voter Registration**

Same-day voter registration is considered particularly important for [voter engagement among students and renters](#) because these populations move more frequently and may not remember to update their voter registration in advance. The GSC supports “Policies and programs that protect and promote the voting rights of students” and “Policies and programs that maximize access to the polls for students eligible to vote.”

### **State Legislature Transparency**

The GSC firmly supports “Policies that increase the ease of access to public records, including affordable access and increased online availability of public documents.” Massachusetts is considered to have [one of the least transparent state legislatures](#) in the US. Voters often don’t know how their representatives vote on key issues. The State House only reports how members vote (a so-called “**roll call vote**”) on the floor or in committee when 16 representatives request it, a high bar that is rarely achieved. Otherwise, neither individual votes nor how wide the margin on a decision was is recorded; this is called a “**voice vote**.” Testimony related to committee reports is not published, meaning the public cannot easily find out which experts, interest groups, or members of the public came to support or oppose a bill. The Speaker of the House has considerable leeway to rapidly advance bills to a legislative hearing and vote if they want those bills to pass; at times, less than 24 hours’ notice has been given, which does not even give legislators time to read through changes or request amendments.

Bill [S.1963](#) seeks to “provide sunlight,” or increase transparency within the state government by addressing some of these challenges. This bill would make committee votes and committee testimony in the State

House to be public; require a one week notice for legislative hearings so that representatives have time to read the bill and hear from constituents; and apply public record law to the Office of the Governor.

## Housing

The Affordable Homes Act seeks to address the Massachusetts housing crisis by investing in public housing, housing repair and stabilization, and grants for constructing affordable private housing. The GSC EAB released a [statement](#) about the Affordable Homes Act. The following is an excerpt from that statement:

*Estimated housing costs for MIT graduate students are about 40% of doctoral research assistant stipend levels<sup>1</sup>, making us “rent burdened” as defined by federal standards<sup>2</sup>. This likely aggravates issues like food insecurity, the next highest expense, which affected graduate students most commonly attribute to “cost of food”.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, cost of living is a significant source of stress and distraction for graduate students<sup>4</sup>, with over 60% of students dissatisfied with the cost of housing.<sup>5</sup>*

We asked candidates whether they support the following key provisions of the Affordable Homes Act highlighted in our statement:

- The authorization of a \$1.5 billion investment in public housing and the allocation of \$425 million to a housing stabilization and investment trust fund.
- The allocation of \$800 million to an affordable housing trust fund.

## Immigration

Massachusetts previously guaranteed shelter to low-income homeless families and pregnant people for an indefinite period of time under the state’s [“right to shelter”](#) law, established in 1983. This year, for the first time, the Healey administration [capped the number](#) of participating families at 7,500 in response to growing numbers of homeless families amid the housing crisis and migrant families in need of temporary shelter. The state has also instituted a nine-month limit for stays in the state shelter system. The [new system](#) allows applications for two 90-day extensions considered based on factors such as recent childbirth, disabilities or medical conditions, veteran status, or risk of domestic violence. We asked candidates whether they support reinstatement of the original right-to-shelter system.

## Climate and Sustainability

Young people will bear the brunt of climate change and environmental degradation in their lifetimes. Therefore, the GSC supports “Efforts to protect the environment” and “Measures that enable the MIT community and all individual members to decrease their carbon footprints.” We asked candidates about bills designed to reduce plastic waste and combat climate change.

[H.3237](#) and [S.2135](#) would prohibit natural gas system expansion. [S.2830](#), designed to reduce plastic waste and single-use plastics, has already passed in the Senate and is awaiting a decision from the House. It would prohibit restaurants from automatically giving customers disposable plastic utensils and straws, ban retail stores from providing disposable plastic bags, and create a program for recycling large plastic items. [S.2829](#) has also passed in the Senate; this bill would ban “competitive electric suppliers” and promote uptake of renewable energy. The bill would streamline the permitting process for renewable energy projects, instruct the Department of Public Utilities to consider environmental impacts surrounding new

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ovc.mit.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/AY2023-Stipends-FAQ.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.federalreserve.gov/econres/notes/feds-notes/assessing-the-severity-of-rent-burden-on-low-income-families-20171222.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://ir.mit.edu/2023-grad-ess>

<sup>4</sup> <https://ir.mit.edu/2019-grad-ess>

<sup>5</sup> <https://orgchart.mit.edu/system/files?file=reports/20180808-Chancellor-MIT-VC-Housing-Report.pdf>

natural gas infrastructure, and give the Board of Building Regulations and Standards more power to regulate carbon emissions that come from building materials.

## **Policing and Public Safety**

### **Police Interactions Pertaining to Immigration Status**

The GSC firmly opposes “Any actions that would result in the deportation or detention of students enrolled at MIT, including undocumented students, or would limit the future admission of undocumented students.” Bill [S.1510](#) would provide protections for undocumented students and community members. The bill would prevent law enforcement officers from asking about immigration status except when it is explicitly required by state or federal law. It would also require a written consent form for interviews about immigration status that informs people in custody about their right to legal representation and their right to refuse the interview.

### **Educational Rights for Incarcerated Students**

The GSC firmly supports “Efforts and policies to achieve equality in the legal system, especially as it pertains to vulnerable and disadvantaged communities” and “Efforts that reduce, or compensate for, barriers to education for all students, especially underrepresented populations in higher education”. Bills [S.1542](#) and [H.515](#) seek to ensure incarcerated youth retain the same access to education as anyone else in Massachusetts. They include provisions to ensure that incarcerated students receive credit towards graduation requirements for secondary school courses they complete while in correctional facilities; that they are permitted to enroll in Massachusetts public institutions of higher education if qualified; and that they receive the individual educational support they need, such as translation services for English Language Learners or disability support services.

## **Questions for the Candidates**

### **Bike Safety and Public Transit**

1. Do you support increasing state funding for the MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
2. Do you support construction of the Rail Link between Boston’s North and South Stations?
3. Do you support creation of additional bike lanes and protected intersections?
4. Are there any transit-related bills in the State House that you support? What is your plan to increase funding for MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?

### **Voting Rights**

1. Do you support Bills H.671 and S.415 aiming to permit non-citizen residents to vote in Massachusetts Municipal Elections?
2. Do you support implementation of same-day voter registration?

### **State Legislature Transparency**

1. Do you support Bill S.1963: An Act to provide sunlight to state government?
2. Do you support making Legislative Committee Votes public in the Massachusetts House of Representatives?
3. Do you support the use of voice votes, instead of a roll call vote, on legislations in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate?

### **Housing**

1. Do you support the authorization of a \$1.5 billion investment in public housing, the allocation of \$425 million to a housing stabilization and investment trust fund, and the allocation of \$800 million to an affordable housing trust fund through the Affordable Homes Act?

2. What aspects of the Affordable Homes Act do you view as most critical for low-to-mid income Massachusetts residents, including graduate students? Would you like to share any other thoughts on methods to address the housing crisis in Massachusetts?

### **Climate and Sustainability**

1. Do you support acts H.3237 and S.2135 to prohibit natural gas system expansion?
2. Do you support S.2830 to reduce plastic waste and single-use plastics?
3. Do you support S.2829 to ban “competitive electric suppliers” and increase uptake of renewable energy?

### **Immigration**

1. Do you support the reinstatement of Massachusetts Right-to-Shelter Law?

### **Policing and public safety**

1. Do you support S.1510 to protect those in the Commonwealth from unreasonable police inquiry about immigration status?
2. Do you support S.1542 and H.515 to ensure educational rights for incarcerated youth?

### **Other**

1. Is there anything else you would like graduate student voters to know?

# Candidate Responses (Y/N)

## State Representative: Contested Races

Topic	Question	25th Middlesex		27th Middlesex		30 - 1st Suffolk	
		Marjorie C. Decker (D-Inc.)	Evan MacKay (D)	Erika Uytendhoeven (D-Inc.)	Kathleen M. Hornby (D)	Jay D. Livingstone (D-Inc.)	Lisa Jeanne Graf (D)
<b>Bike safety + transit</b>	Support increased \$ for MBTA?	Candidate did not respond to request	Y	Y	Y	Candidate did not respond to request	Y
	Support Rail Link?		Y	Y	Y		Y
	Support more bike lanes?		Y	Y	Y		Y
<b>Voting</b>	H.671 and S.415: Support voting for non-citizen residents?		Y	Y	Y		Abstain
	Support same- day voter registration?		Y	Y	Y		Y
<b>State legislature transparency</b>	S.1963: Support state govt transparency?		Y	Y	Y		Y
	Support making committee votes public?		Y	Y	Y		Y
	Support voice votes?		N	N	N		N
<b>Housing</b>	Support Affordable Homes Act \$ allocations?		Y	Y	Y		Y
<b>Climate + sustainability</b>	H.3237 and S.2135: Support prohibiting natural gas system expansion?		Y	Y	Y		Y
	S.2830: Support reducing plastics?		Y	Y	Y		Y
	S.2829: Ban "competitive electric suppliers" and encourage renewables?		Y	Y	Y		Y
<b>Immigration</b>	Reinstate MA right-to-shelter?		Y	Y	Y		N
<b>Policing + public safety</b>	S.1510: Protections from police inquiry about immigration status?		Y	Y	Y		N
	S.1542 and H.515: Support education rights for incarcerated		Y	Y	Y		Y

	youth?						
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### State Representative: Uncontested Races

**Note:** Daniel Ryan (2nd Suffolk), Michael Moran (18th Suffolk), Christine Barber (34th Middlesex), Aaron Michlewitz (3rd Suffolk), David Biele (4th Suffolk), John Moran (9th Suffolk), Chynah Taylor (7th Suffolk), Sam Montaña (15th Suffolk), and Adrian Madaro (1st Suffolk) were contacted but did not fill out the form.

		<b>26th Middlesex</b>
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Mike Connolly (D-Inc.)</b>
<b>Bike safety + transit</b>	Support increased \$ for MBTA?	Y
	Support Rail Link?	Y
	Support more bike lanes?	Y
<b>Voting</b>	H.671 and S.415: Support voting for non-citizen residents?	Y
	Support same- day voter registration?	Y
<b>State legislature transparency</b>	S.1963: Support state govt transparency?	Y
	Support making committee votes public?	Y
	Support voice votes?	Y
<b>Housing</b>	Support Affordable Homes Act \$ allocations?	Y
<b>Climate + sustainability</b>	H.3237 and S.2135: Support prohibiting natural gas system expansion?	Y
	S.2830: Support reducing plastics?	Y
	S.2829: Ban “competitive electric suppliers” and encourage renewables?	Y
<b>Immigration</b>	Reinstate MA right-to-shelter?	Y
<b>Policing + public safety</b>	S.1510: Protections from police inquiry about immigration status?	Y
	S.1542 and H.515: Support education rights for incarcerated youth?	Y



## State Senate: Contested Races

		25 - 3rd Suffolk		30 - 1st Suffolk	
Topic	Question	Lydia Edwards (D- Inc.)	Jeanna Tamas (R)	Nick Collins (D- Inc.)	Juwan Skeens (D)
<b>Bike safety + transit</b>	Support increased \$ for MBTA?	<b>Candidate did not respond to request</b>	<b>Candidate did not respond to request</b>	<b>Candidate did not respond to request</b>	Y
	Support Rail Link?				Y
	Support more bike lanes?				Y
<b>Voting</b>	H.671 and S.415: Support voting for non-citizen residents?				Abstain
	Support same- day voter registration?				Y
<b>State legislature transparency</b>	S.1963: Support state govt transparency?				Y
	Support making committee votes public?				Y
	Support voice votes?				N
<b>Housing</b>	Support Affordable Homes Act \$ allocations?				Y
<b>Climate + sustainability</b>	H.3237 and S.2135: Support prohibiting natural gas system expansion?				Y
	S.2830: Support reducing plastics?				Y
	S.2829: Ban "competitive electric suppliers" and encourage renewables?				Y
<b>Immigration</b>	Reinstate MA right-to-shelter?				N
<b>Policing + public safety</b>	S.1510: Protections from police inquiry about immigration status?				N
	S.1542 and H.515: Support education rights for incarcerated youth?				Y

## State Senate: Uncontested Races

**Note:** Sal N. Domenico (26- Middlesex and Suffolk), Cynthia Stone Creem (17- Norfolk and Middlesex), and Liz Miranda (29 - 2nd Suffolk) were contacted but did not fill out the form.

		<b>27 - 2nd Middlesex</b>	<b>28 - Suffolk and Middlesex</b>
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Patricia D. Jehlen (D- Inc.)</b>	<b>Will Brownsberger (D- Inc.)</b>
<b>Bike safety + transit</b>	Support increased \$ for MBTA?	Y	Y
	Support Rail Link?	Abstain	N
	Support more bike lanes?	Y	Y
<b>Voting</b>	H.671 and S.415: Support voting for non- citizen residents?	Y	N
	Support same-day voter registration?	Y	N
<b>State legislature transparency</b>	S.1963: Support state govt transparency?	Y	N
	Support making committee votes public?	Y	Y
	Support voice votes?	Abstain	Y
<b>Housing</b>	Support Affordable Homes Act \$ allocations?	Y	Y
<b>Climate + sustainability</b>	H.3237 and S.2135: Support prohibiting natural gas system expansion?	Y	N
	S.2830: Support reducing plastics?	Y	Abstain
	S.2829: Ban "competitive electric suppliers" and encourage renewables?	Y	Y
<b>Immigration</b>	Reinstate MA right-to-shelter?	Y	N
<b>Policing + public safety</b>	S.1510: Protections from police inquiry about immigration status?	Y	Y
	S.1542 and H.515: Support education rights for incarcerated youth?	Y	Abstain

## Governor's Councillor: All Races

**Note:** Terrence W. Kennedy (District 6) is running an uncontested race and was contacted but did not fill out the form.

		District 3		District 4		
Topic	Question	Marilyn Petitto Devaney (D- Inc.)	Mara Dolan (D)	Christopher Iannella (D-Inc.)	Stacey Borden (D)	Ronald Iacobucci (D)
<b>Bike safety + transit</b>	Support increased \$ for MBTA?	Candidate did not respond to request	Y	Candidate did not respond to request	Candidate did not respond to request	Candidate did not respond to request
	Support Rail Link?		Y			
	Support more bike lanes?		Y			
<b>Voting</b>	H.671 and S.415: Support voting for non-citizen residents?		Abstain			
	Support same-day voter registration?		Y			
<b>State legislature transparency</b>	S.1963: Support state govt transparency?		Y			
	Support making committee votes public?		Y			
	Support voice votes?		Y			
<b>Housing</b>	Support Affordable Homes Act \$ allocations?		Y			
<b>Climate + sustainability</b>	H.3237 and S.2135: Support prohibiting natural gas system expansion?		Y			
	S.2830: Support reducing plastics?		Y			
	S.2829: Ban "competitive electric suppliers" and encourage renewables?		Y			
<b>Immigration</b>	Reinstate MA right-to-shelter?		Y			
<b>Policing + public safety</b>	S.1510: Protections from police inquiry about immigration status?		Y			
	S.1542 and H.515: Support education rights for incarcerated youth?		Y			

## Candidate Responses (Full)

These are the full responses the candidates gave to our survey, which we sent out to all through their contact channels.

### State Senate

#### Will Brownsberger (28)

##### Transit

1. Do you support increasing state funding for the MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
  - a. Yes. This is a top personal priority.
2. Do you support construction of the Rail Link between Boston's North and South Stations?
  - a. No. The NSRL project will never have environmental benefits sufficient to outweigh its environmental harms.
3. Do you support creation of additional bike lanes and protected intersections?
  - a. Yes. This is a top personal priority for me.
4. Are there any transit-related bills in the State House that you support? What is your plan to increase funding for MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
  - a. The core issue is funding! And I'm all bout that..

##### Voting Rights

5. Do you support Bills H.671 and S.415 aiming to permit non-citizen residents to vote in Massachusetts Municipal Elections?
  - a. No. Voting is an inalienable attribute of citizenship.
6. Do you support implementation of same-day voter registration?
  - a. No. Only possibly for Presidential elections. Otherwise it is not practical or reflective of the communications systems we have.

##### State Legislature Transparency

7. Do you support Bill S.1963: An Act to provide sunlight to state government?
  - a. No. This bill focuses on a lot of issues which are extraneous to true transparency.
8. Do you support making Legislative Committee Votes public in the Massachusetts House of Representatives?
  - a. Yes. The senate has voted to do so.
9. Do you support the use of voice votes, instead of a roll call vote, on legislations in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate?
  - a. Yes. Sometimes. Lots of votes are trivial and roll calls are time consuming.

##### Housing

10. Do you support the authorization of a \$1.5 billion investment in public housing, the allocation of \$425 million to a housing stabilization and investment trust fund, and the allocation of \$800 million to an affordable housing trust fund through the Affordable Homes Act?
  - a. Yes. I support a larger investment in these categories.
11. What aspects of the Affordable Homes Act do you view as most critical for low-to-mid income Massachusetts residents, including graduate students? Would you like to share any other thoughts on methods to address the housing crisis in Massachusetts?
  - a. Long run issue is zoning reform to build more housing. So, glad we did the ADU language.

##### Climate and Sustainability

12. Do you support acts H.3237 and S.2135 to prohibit natural gas system expansion?
  - a. No. I'm all for getting off gas, but these bills offer a simplistic approach that will not work.
13. Do you support S.2830 to reduce plastic waste and single-use plastics?
  - a. Abstain. I lean to support, but devil is in details.
14. Do you support S.2829 to ban "competitive electric suppliers" and increase uptake of renewable energy?

- a. Yes.

### **Immigration**

- 15. Do you support the reinstatement of Massachusetts Right-to-Shelter Law?
  - a. No. We have to be real about what we can do.

### **Policing and public safety**

- 16. Do you support S.1510 to protect those in the Commonwealth from unreasonable police inquiry about immigration status?
  - a. Yes.
- 17. Do you support S.1542 and H.515 to ensure educational rights for incarcerated youth?
  - a. Abstain. Not sure what this does.

### **Other**

- 18. Is there anything else you would like graduate student voters to know?
  - a. I've given honest answers based on good understanding of the legislation and a realistic approach. I know that not all my answers are what people want to hear, but my heart is in the right place on all these issues.

### **Patricia D. Jehlen (27)**

#### **Transit**

- 1. Do you support increasing state funding for the MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
  - a. Yes. It's great that, after decades of work and support by thousands of people, we have the GLX and Community Path. We need to focus more on increasing reliability and availability of buses. Free fares on buses would increase ridership, increase efficiency through shorter dwell time, and save SOME of the \$1 billion for the new fare system and more savings from its operational cost including enforcers.
- 2. Do you support construction of the Rail Link between Boston's North and South Stations?
  - a. Abstain. Of course; always have supported in concept! Want to understand where it fits in priority list.
- 3. Do you support creation of additional bike lanes and protected intersections?
  - a. Yes.
- 4. Are there any transit-related bills in the State House that you support? What is your plan to increase funding for MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
  - a. I worked for the Fair Share Amendment, which is a start. But there is incredible and short-sighted resistance to any form of taxation. I'll support whatever has a chance and is fair.

#### **Voting Rights**

- 5. Do you support Bills H.671 and S.415 aiming to permit non-citizen residents to vote in Massachusetts Municipal Elections?
  - a. Yes. If they're local option.
- 6. Do you support implementation of same-day voter registration?
  - a. Yes.

#### **State Legislature Transparency**

- 7. Do you support Bill S.1963: An Act to provide sunlight to state government?
  - a. Yes. Bill co-sponsor.
- 8. Do you support making Legislative Committee Votes public in the Massachusetts House of Representatives?
  - a. Yes.
- 9. Do you support the use of voice votes, instead of a roll call vote, on legislations in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate?
  - a. Abstain. There are thousands of voice votes a year, and fewer roll calls. I don't understand the question. Everything doesn't have to be roll called.

## Housing

10. Do you support the authorization of a \$1.5 billion investment in public housing, the allocation of \$425 million to a housing stabilization and investment trust fund, and the allocation of \$800 million to an affordable housing trust fund through the Affordable Homes Act?
  - a. Yes. I also want immediate solutions: local option rent stabilization, TOPA, transfer fee; plus small property acquisition. Acquisition by nonprofits of existing naturally occurring affordable housing, and making it permanently affordable is half as expensive, much faster, and more environmentally friendly than construction. Obviously we need NEW housing, but it will take many years and billions of dollars to build. In the meantime, renters and potential homeowners are being priced out by huge corporations buying up many properties.
11. What aspects of the Affordable Homes Act do you view as most critical for low-to-mid income Massachusetts residents, including graduate students? Would you like to share any other thoughts on methods to address the housing crisis in Massachusetts?
  - a. Funding for low-income housing. A lot is directed outside metro area where many graduate students live. We need short-term solutions as mentioned above. I also support any means of getting universities to provide more student housing on campus if they're increasing enrollment.

## Climate and Sustainability

12. Do you support acts H.3237 and S.2135 to prohibit natural gas system expansion?
  - a. Yes.
13. Do you support S.2830 to reduce plastic waste and single-use plastics?
  - a. Yes. Just passed Senate.
14. Do you support S.2829 to ban "competitive electric suppliers" and increase uptake of renewable energy?
  - a. Yes. Passed senate twice this year.

## Immigration

15. Do you support the reinstatement of Massachusetts Right-to-Shelter Law?
  - a. Yes. It's still in law.

## Policing and public safety

16. Do you support S.1510 to protect those in the Commonwealth from unreasonable police inquiry about immigration status?
  - a. Yes. Cosponsor.
17. Do you support S.1542 and H.515 to ensure educational rights for incarcerated youth?
  - a. Yes.

## Other

18. Is there anything else you would like graduate student voters to know?
  - a. Always glad to hear from constituents. You may want to visit [electpatjehlen.org](http://electpatjehlen.org) to read newsletter archives, many about housing, and sign up for newsletter.

## Juwan Skeens (30)

### Transit

1. Do you support increasing state funding for the MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
  - a. Yes. As a candidate for Massachusetts State Senator, I am deeply committed to improving our transit system and supporting our community's needs. The MBTA employs approximately 2,750 people and serves around 800,000 riders each month. I am dedicated to meticulously reviewing every MBTA budget line item to identify what is working well and what needs improvement, making necessary adjustments to enhance efficiency and service quality.
2. Do you support construction of the Rail Link between Boston's North and South Stations?
  - a. Yes. I strongly support expanding our transit system to ensure all residents have access to transportation, preventing disconnection and limiting opportunities for living, working, and recreation

within Greater Boston. I will collaborate with Representative Moulton to call for a new study on the rail link between North and South Station to determine the best solution. Additionally, I will proactively advocate for diverse revenue sources, both internal and external to our state budget, before implementing new projects.

3. Do you support creation of additional bike lanes and protected intersections?
  - a. Yes. As we expand our transit system, prioritizing additional bike lanes and protected intersections is crucial. Reducing blind spots for drivers and ensuring safe passage for pedestrians and cyclists will help prevent collisions and fatalities. We will assess areas of need on a case-by-case basis, as bike lanes are not necessary on every street. Furthermore, there must be shared insurance and enforcement accountability for electric or gas vehicles, bikes, and scooters that exceed Boston's speed limits.
4. Are there any transit-related bills in the State House that you support? What is your plan to increase funding for MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
  - a. As a candidate for State Senate, I firmly support several key transit-related bills in the Massachusetts State House that aim to enhance our public transportation system and improve the quality of life for our residents. I am an advocate for the Transit Infrastructure Investment Act (H.3519), which seeks to secure dedicated funding for the maintenance and expansion of the MBTA. Additionally, I support the Regional Transit Authority Funding Act (H.3520) to ensure equitable distribution of resources across all transit systems in the state.  
  
To increase funding for the MBTA, particularly its Rapid Transit System (the T), I propose a multi-faceted approach. This includes advocating for increased state budget allocations, exploring public-private partnerships, and leveraging federal infrastructure grants. By promoting policies that encourage sustainable urban development and increased ridership, we can generate additional revenue streams. Moreover, I will champion measures to ensure financial transparency and accountability within the MBTA, ensuring that every dollar is efficiently used to enhance our transit infrastructure, reduce delays, and improve overall service for our residents.

### **Voting Rights**

5. Do you support Bills H.671 and S.415 aiming to permit non-citizen residents to vote in Massachusetts Municipal Elections?
  - a. No. As a candidate and legislator, I will prioritize the needs and well-being of U.S. citizens while also supporting migrants who pursue proper U.S. citizenship to access the benefits they deserve. It is essential to ensure that all citizens have access to employment opportunities, healthcare, education, and social services that contribute to their quality of life. Simultaneously, I am committed to advocating for policies that assist migrants in their journey to citizenship, recognizing their contributions and helping them integrate fully into our society. By supporting both U.S. citizens and aspiring citizens, we can foster a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous community for everyone.
6. Do you support implementation of same-day voter registration?
  - a. Yes.

### **State Legislature Transparency**

7. Do you support Bill S.1963: An Act to provide sunlight to state government?
  - a. Yes.
8. Do you support making Legislative Committee Votes public in the Massachusetts House of Representatives?
  - a. Yes.
9. Do you support the use of voice votes, instead of a roll call vote, on legislations in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate?
  - a. No.

### **Housing**

10. Do you support the authorization of a \$1.5 billion investment in public housing, the allocation of \$425 million to a housing stabilization and investment trust fund, and the allocation of \$800 million to an affordable housing trust fund through the Affordable Homes Act?

- a. Yes.
11. What aspects of the Affordable Homes Act do you view as most critical for low-to-mid income Massachusetts residents, including graduate students? Would you like to share any other thoughts on methods to address the housing crisis in Massachusetts?
- a. Affordable Homes Act Amendments (150 and 214): I endorse these amendments to enable cities and towns to adopt rent caps, establish a statewide ban on no-fault evictions, and create a foreclosure protection program.
  - b. Housing Bond Bill Amendments: I support the creation of a Small Properties Acquisition Fund to help non-profits preserve affordable housing, the Tenants Option to Purchase Act (TOPA), and the establishment of a Community Land Trust (CLT) Acquisition and Development Program.
  - c. As a State Senator, I am committed to transformative housing policies that ensure affordability and inclusivity. I advocate for amending the Inclusionary Development Policy to increase on-site affordable housing requirements from 13% to 60% across Boston, significantly enhancing housing accessibility. Removing the income cap from BHA and HUD programs will broaden eligibility and support more families in need. Additionally, I will work to amend Boston Zoning and the Article 80 process to foster community transparency and developer accountability. I also support the Community Preservation Act projects like 872 Morton Street, which includes the Life Skills Training & Wellness Center (LSTWC) and the Steven P. Odom Serenity Garden (SPOSG), to provide essential services and create enriching community spaces.

#### **Climate and Sustainability**

12. Do you support acts H.3237 and S.2135 to prohibit natural gas system expansion?
- a. Yes.
13. Do you support S.2830 to reduce plastic waste and single-use plastics?
- a. Yes.
14. Do you support S.2829 to ban “competitive electric suppliers” and increase uptake of renewable energy?
- a. Yes

#### **Immigration**

15. Do you support the reinstatement of Massachusetts Right-to-Shelter Law?
- a. No. I will advocate for a reinstatement of the Right-to-Shelter law, especially given today's skyrocketing housing prices and the arrival of migrants. It is imperative to prioritize the needs and well-being of U.S. citizens, particularly our veterans and homeless residents, ensuring they access the benefits they deserve. The right to shelter must include men with children, in addition to prioritizing women facing high-risk pregnancies, families with members who have a tracheotomy or an infant, and families at risk of domestic violence.

#### **Policing and public safety**

16. Do you support S.1510 to protect those in the Commonwealth from unreasonable police inquiry about immigration status?
- a. No. As a candidate and legislator, I will prioritize the needs and well-being of U.S. citizens while also supporting migrants who pursue proper U.S. citizenship to access the benefits they deserve. It is essential to ensure that all citizens have access to employment opportunities, healthcare, education, and social services that contribute to their quality of life. Simultaneously, I am committed to advocating for policies that assist migrants in their journey to citizenship, recognizing their contributions and helping them integrate fully into our society. By supporting both U.S. citizens and aspiring citizens, we can foster a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous community for everyone.
17. Do you support S.1542 and H.515 to ensure educational rights for incarcerated youth?
- a. Yes.

#### **Other**

18. Is there anything else you would like graduate student voters to know?



- a. I am asking voters should support my campaign for State Senate because I have deep roots in our community and a proven track record of dedicated service and leadership. Growing up in Boston, with my family owning property in Dorchester for over 50 years and being an active member of Christ Temple Church of Personal Experience in Roxbury, I understand the unique challenges and strengths of our neighborhoods.

As a graduate of Boston Public Schools, where I excelled as a Junior Varsity Debate Champion and served as Senior Class President, I have demonstrated leadership and a commitment to excellence from a young age. My experience as a Neighborhood Liaison to District 4, working alongside then Boston City Council President Andrea Campbell, equipped me with valuable insights into local governance and the needs of our communities. During this time, I actively engaged with residents, businesses, and nearly 20 civic associations monthly, connecting them to essential city, state, and federal resources.

Since July 2020, my role as a Community Organizer for the Redefining Our Community (ROC) Neighborhood Association has further solidified my commitment to our community. Leading initiatives such as managing the Norfolk Street Bridge and directing the Life Skills Training and Wellness Center, I have demonstrated my ability to drive meaningful change and address local issues effectively. My recognition as a Community Hidden Hero and my nomination to the Codman Square Neighborhood Council underscore my dedication and impact.

As your State Senator, I will bring this extensive experience and deep community connection to the state level, advocating for policies that directly benefit our neighborhoods. My campaign is built on a foundation of listening to and empowering our community, ensuring our voices are heard and our needs are met. Together, we can create a brighter future for the First Suffolk District, and beyond.

## **State Representatives**

### **Mike Connolly (26th Middlesex)**

#### **Transit**

1. Do you support increasing state funding for the MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
  - a. Yes. We deserve a world class public transportation system. I have been a leader in the fight to dedicate more revenue for the MBTA by calling on the super-wealthy and big corporations to pay more of their fair share in taxes. This fight continues.
2. Do you support construction of the Rail Link between Boston's North and South Stations?
  - a. Yes. I've been active in the effort to advocate for the N-S Rail Link.
3. Do you support creation of additional bike lanes and protected intersections?
  - a. Yes. I am proud of all the efforts we've made to advance bike and pedestrian safety improvements in recent years — but we cannot go back now — we must do even more to achieve the goal of vision zero.
4. Are there any transit-related bills in the State House that you support? What is your plan to increase funding for MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
  - a. I am the lead sponsor of several transit-related bills; including legislation to make public transportation free and to ban hostile architecture at MBTA stations. To increase funding for the MBTA, I have proposed somewhat increased taxes on the very wealthy and on big corporations.

#### **Voting Rights**

5. Do you support Bills H.671 and S.415 aiming to permit non-citizen residents to vote in Massachusetts Municipal Elections?
  - a. Yes. I am the lead sponsor of this bill in the House, H.671.
6. Do you support implementation of same-day voter registration?
  - a. Yes. I voted in support of SDR when the matter was put to a floor vote on January 27, 2022.

## **State Legislature Transparency**

7. Do you support Bill S.1963: An Act to provide sunlight to state government?
  - a. Yes. I am a co-sponsor of this bill.
8. Do you support making Legislative Committee Votes public in the Massachusetts House of Representatives?
  - a. Yes. I have voted in support of rules changes that would make this change.
9. Do you support the use of voice votes, instead of a roll call vote, on legislations in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate?
  - a. Yes. Voice votes are a common way for many legislative bodies to efficiently move through non-controversial business. There's nothing inherently wrong with that. The problem comes when big, controversial items are passed without any recorded roll call. That doesn't happen that often, but when it has, I have stood in opposition to such inappropriate voice votes.

### **Housing**

10. Do you support the authorization of a \$1.5 billion investment in public housing, the allocation of \$425 million to a housing stabilization and investment trust fund, and the allocation of \$800 million to an affordable housing trust fund through the Affordable Homes Act?
  - a. Yes. We passed the House version of the Affordable Homes Act in June; it included a \$2 billion investment in public housing, \$425 million for the housing stabilization fund and investment trust fund, and \$800 million to the affordable housing trust fund.
11. What aspects of the Affordable Homes Act do you view as most critical for low-to-mid income Massachusetts residents, including graduate students? Would you like to share any other thoughts on methods to address the housing crisis in Massachusetts?
  - a. One aspect of the Affordable Homes Act that I view as particularly important is a spending authorization for a social housing pilot program. Social housing — i.e. publicly-financed, publicly-owned mixed income housing — offers tremendous potential to help address the ongoing housing emergency. It's a concept I've worked to advance on Beacon Hill and in our community. I have also long been active in efforts to push the MIT Administration to build more affordable graduate student housing, and I am also a longtime supporter of lifting the statewide ban on rent control.

### **Climate and Sustainability**

12. Do you support acts H.3237 and S.2135 to prohibit natural gas system expansion?
  - a. Yes. I am a co-sponsor of these bills.
13. Do you support S.2830 to reduce plastic waste and single-use plastics?
  - a. Yes.
14. Do you support S.2829 to ban “competitive electric suppliers” and increase uptake of renewable energy?
  - a. Yes.

### **Immigration**

15. Do you support the reinstatement of Massachusetts Right-to-Shelter Law?
  - a. Yes. I voted No on a legislative package that derogated the Right-to-Shelter Law.

### **Policing and public safety**

16. Do you support S.1510 to protect those in the Commonwealth from unreasonable police inquiry about immigration status?
  - a. Yes.
17. Do you support S.1542 and H.515 to ensure educational rights for incarcerated youth?
  - a. Yes.

### **Other**

18. Is there anything else you would like graduate student voters to know?
  - a. I am always available to engage with you questions and ideas or on issues that are important to you.

## **Lisa Jeanne Graf (8th Suffolk)**

### **Transit**

1. Do you support increasing state funding for the MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
  - a. Yes.
2. Do you support construction of the Rail Link between Boston's North and South Stations?
  - a. Yes.
3. Do you support creation of additional bike lanes and protected intersections?
  - a. Yes.
4. Are there any transit-related bills in the State House that you support? What is your plan to increase funding for MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
  - a. Support includes Bill S.2217 "An Act relative to setting deadlines to electrify the MBTA commuter rail" and Bill H.3675 "An Act to create a net-zero transportation financing commission."

### **Voting Rights**

5. Do you support Bills H.671 and S.415 aiming to permit non-citizen residents to vote in Massachusetts Municipal Elections?
  - a. Yes.
6. Do you support implementation of same-day voter registration?
  - a. Yes.

### **State Legislature Transparency**

7. Do you support Bill S.1963: An Act to provide sunlight to state government?
  - a. Yes.
8. Do you support making Legislative Committee Votes public in the Massachusetts House of Representatives?
  - a. Yes.
9. Do you support the use of voice votes, instead of a roll call vote, on legislations in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate?
  - a. Abstain. All types of voting should be accessible to those with disabilities and also transparent to the public.

### **Housing**

10. Do you support the authorization of a \$1.5 billion investment in public housing, the allocation of \$425 million to a housing stabilization and investment trust fund, and the allocation of \$800 million to an affordable housing trust fund through the Affordable Homes Act?
  - a. Yes.
11. What aspects of the Affordable Homes Act do you view as most critical for low-to-mid income Massachusetts residents, including graduate students? Would you like to share any other thoughts on methods to address the housing crisis in Massachusetts?
  - a. The affordable Homes act benefits low-to-mid income Massachusetts residents by building and renovating more housing, although many of these benefits will take time to be appreciated. A benefit that will help right away is landlords now having to cover broker fees. Also sealing evictions records in specific cases, can be beneficial for some individuals to more easily secure housing.  
I have experienced the benefits of mixed income cooperatives. They offer little investment, but allow for a comfortable quality of life since monthly payments are based on income. I would like to see more development of cooperatives, community housing, rooming houses, tiny houses, and more transition of commercial space to residential or live work/spaces.

### **Climate and Sustainability**

12. Do you support acts H.3237 and S.2135 to prohibit natural gas system expansion?
  - a. Yes.
13. Do you support S.2830 to reduce plastic waste and single-use plastics?
  - a. Yes.
14. Do you support S.2829 to ban "competitive electric suppliers" and increase uptake of renewable energy?

- a. Yes.

### **Immigration**

15. Do you support the reinstatement of Massachusetts Right-to-Shelter Law?

- a. Yes.

### **Policing and public safety**

16. Do you support S.1510 to protect those in the Commonwealth from unreasonable police inquiry about immigration status?

- a. Yes.

17. Do you support S.1542 and H.515 to ensure educational rights for incarcerated youth?

- a. Yes.

### **Other**

18. Is there anything else you would like graduate student voters to know?

I just completed a graduate degree from Suffolk University this spring with a Masters in Public Administration and a LEND fellowship with a focus on disability policy. While in school, I took a part time substitute gallery attendant job, at the MIT LIST Center.

### **Evan MacKay (25th Middlesex)**

#### **Transit**

1. Do you support increasing state funding for the MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?

- a. Yes. Absolutely! This is one of my key campaign goals. We need to prioritize adequately funding our public transportation system. It is harmful and counterproductive to our climate justice goals that our state is so reliant on automobiles, which have such an impact on GHG emissions. Part of this is because we do not have a functioning and reliable MBTA. The current status quo, in which the MBTA regularly breaks down, derails, or fails to arrive on time, is not acceptable. We must greatly increase state funding for the MBTA, particularly the T.

I support a system of progressive taxation that will generate new state revenue for equitable transportation investment and other facets of a just transition. Although voters passed the Fair Share Amendment in 2022 to tax the rich in order to invest in education, infrastructure, and transportation, politicians the very next year gave tax cuts to large multistate corporations and the rich instead of fully funding and electrifying the T and investing in our next generation. Against the objections of advocacy groups and progressive legislators, my opponent voted for this tax giveaway. Public transit will play an essential role in decarbonizing our transportation systems, and it will positively impact the lives of people in our community every day. We need 100% electric-powered, free, reliable public transportation as soon as possible, and we need our state legislators to prioritize allocating the funds to make it happen.

Full electrification of the T would have many benefits—reducing emissions, making service more efficient and reliable, and even reducing travel times—but it is impossible to implement unless our government starts providing the proper funds.

2. Do you support construction of the Rail Link between Boston's North and South Stations?

- a. I do! Construction of the Rail Link would greatly increase commuter rail capacity, enabling many more people to be less reliant on cars. I also support the electrification of the Commuter Rail that is a precondition for this.

3. Do you support creation of additional bike lanes and protected intersections?

- a. Yes—people should not be at increased risk of injury or death because they cannot afford a car and can't depend on our MBTA. Creating additional bike lanes and protected intersections is essential. In just the last six weeks, we have had two tragic and preventable deaths in my district due to lack of safe cycling infrastructure. In order to truly move away from overreliance on cars, we must have safe and reliable alternatives. My opponent has actively opposed the creation of additional bike lanes and

protected intersections within our community. In addition to supporting cycling safety infrastructure, I have given testimony to MassDOT on the importance of regulations of large trucks which sadly are responsible for a disproportionate amount of injuries and deaths of pedestrians and cyclists. To the maximal extent possible, trucks should have side guards (lateral protective devices), convex mirrors, crossover mirrors, and backup cameras

4. Are there any transit-related bills in the State House that you support? What is your plan to increase funding for MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
  - a. Here in Massachusetts, we have a huge problem with disinvestment in our public transportation. This has been going on for decades, with lawmakers perpetually kicking the can down the road and refusing to fund our transit systems like the essential public goods that they are. Lack of investment in a functioning, safe, and reliable MBTA compounds existing crises such as congestion, housing, and climate change. Many people also don't know that our MBTA right now is saddled with debt from the Big Dig.  
<https://actonmass.org/post/2024/02/15/nobodys-favorite-public-transit-what-went-wrong-with-the-mbta/>

There are a number of transit-related bills in the State House right now that I support. H.3392 would set deadlines to electrify the commuter rail, which is currently powered by diesel locomotives that create harmful emissions and are less reliable than electricity. H.3392 also prioritizes electrification of the commuter rail through environmental justice corridors.

H.3139 would set deadlines for the electrification of school buses and public fleets, while also creating programs to encourage electrification of private vehicles. H.3366 would require all vehicles purchased for Regional Transit Authorities to be electric, with a goal of 100% electrification by 2035. Alongside this bill, I support H.3272, "An Act to increase regional transit accessibility in the Commonwealth," which would support increased funding and a move towards 7-days-a-week service for RTAs and eliminate profitability as a performance measure for transit agencies—when it comes to getting around, we should be prioritizing peoples' needs, not profits.

In order to solve this crisis, we must champion better bus infrastructure to make our streets safer and more accessible for all users; push for progress on the quality of Red Line service, including eliminating slow zones; commit to an electrified transportation system, from bus to commuter rail, by 2030; make sure Cambridge residents have a voice and a seat at the table for future transportation decisions through measures such as establishing a Cambridge seat on the MBTA board; and above all, deliver stable and sufficient funding to the MBTA. I am a big proponent of progressive revenue. My opponent, by contrast, claimed to support a billionaire's tax yet voted against an effort in the middle of the pandemic to tax the rich to make sure essential workers were not left behind.  
<https://x.com/ProgressiveMass/status/1326240072518295552?s=20>

As state representative, I will champion legislation to ensure that Cambridge has a seat on the MBTA board. I will work with both the T and the city of Cambridge to realize transit signal priority across all bus routes in the city, and dedicated bus lanes on our busiest routes. I'll push the T to realize 30-minute service on the Fitchburg Line, a new stop at Alewife, and a fully accessible Porter Square station within the decade. I also support the early conversations happening regarding regional ballot initiatives for transportation funding.

## **Voting Rights**

5. Do you support Bills H.671 and S.415 aiming to permit non-citizen residents to vote in Massachusetts Municipal Elections?
  - a. Yes! Lack of citizenship should not prevent residents from having a say in the decisions that affect their lives. Unlike my opponent, I would co-sponsor this legislation. We struggle already to engage our community in municipal elections; if a resident wants to learn more about our school committee and

council and make their voice heard on election day, they should be able to do so. We should not allow right-wing Republicans like Mitch McConnell to determine our municipal electorate by blocking a pathway to citizenship and confronting immigrant rights.

6. Do you support implementation of same-day voter registration?
  - a. Yes. Our representatives' refusal to pass same-day voter registration is a hindrance to democracy and participation in our civic process. Same day voter registration has been stalled in the State House for years, with most representatives in opposition. When same-day voter registration has been implemented in other states it has boosted participation, particularly among young people, students, people of color, renters, and new citizens.

My opponent voted against same day voter registration in 2020:  
<https://malegislature.gov/RollCall/191/houseRollCall181.pdf>

### **State Legislature Transparency**

7. Do you support Bill S.1963: An Act to provide sunlight to state government?
  - a. Yes. support this bill and the full Sunlight Agenda! The steps outlined in S.1963, such as requiring all recorded committee votes to be posted on the state legislature's website within 48 hours of a vote and requiring committee hearings to be scheduled at least a week in advance, are common sense and long overdue to provide sunlight to our state government.

My opponent repeatedly voted against our efforts for anti-corruption and accountability in our state government.

8. Do you support making Legislative Committee Votes public in the Massachusetts House of Representatives?
  - a. Yes. I wholeheartedly support this. My opponent is staunchly opposed—in fact, she's voted against making legislative committee votes public three separate times in the past few legislative sessions.

This is despite the fact that 94% of our district instructed her to support public committee votes.  
[https://electionstats.state.ma.us/ballot\\_questions/view/7417/](https://electionstats.state.ma.us/ballot_questions/view/7417/)

To learn more about why this issue is important and how MA ranks dead last in government transparency, visit [www.ActOnMass.org](http://www.ActOnMass.org)

9. Do you support the use of voice votes, instead of a roll call vote, on legislations in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate?
  - a. No. In line with the previous question's answer on the importance of accountability and transparency, I do not support the use of voice votes over roll call votes. Voice votes are imprecise and the results of a vote are often predetermined, as shown in this video. Roll call votes enable us to see who voted for or against a bill so that we can hold our representatives accountable when they do not vote in accordance with our values.

People in MA should be able to see how our legislators are representing us, yet the status quo prefers secrecy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfIRK0RWOZ4>

### **Housing**

10. Do you support the authorization of a \$1.5 billion investment in public housing, the allocation of \$425 million to a housing stabilization and investment trust fund, and the allocation of \$800 million to an affordable housing trust fund through the Affordable Homes Act?
  - a. Yes—I support all these measures and think we should go even further to address the housing crisis.

11. What aspects of the Affordable Homes Act do you view as most critical for low-to-mid income Massachusetts residents, including graduate students? Would you like to share any other thoughts on methods to address the housing crisis in Massachusetts?

- a. The aspects of the Affordable Homes Act that I view as most critical for low-to-mid income Massachusetts residents are:
- i. \$800M proposed to create and preserve affordable housing for households whose incomes are not more than 110% of the median area income
  - ii. \$100M set aside for mixed-income housing (for households earning up to 120% of the area median income)
  - iii. \$50M for the Momentum Fund to accelerate development of mixed-income multifamily housing
  - iv. Inclusionary Zoning By Simple Majority, such that municipalities can pass inclusionary zoning ordinances and bylaws by a simple majority vote rather than a 2/3 majority
  - v. Tenant protections in existing public housing
  - vi. Eviction sealing, so that no-fault evictions do not adversely affect people's ability to find housing in the future
  - vii. The addition of language to create a new social housing pilot program—this is a promising step forward for social housing!

The percentage of people in Cambridge and in Massachusetts who are experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity is increasing rapidly. We need to raise wages and cap rents—it is not enough for working-class people's hard-earned raises to be passed along to landlords, who are increasingly corporate and often don't even live in our state.

I support allowing rent control throughout Massachusetts. I helped collect signatures for the rent control ballot question, using this as an opportunity to talk about the housing crisis within my community and in our workplaces. I have advocated for rent control through conversations and discussions within my union. I am strongly in favor of lifting the statewide ban on rent control and enabling towns and cities to stabilize rent in the way that is best attuned to their local housing needs. By contrast, my opponent did not even co-sponsor H2103 until she had a progressive challenger.

I support the implementation of a real estate transfer fee as a means to fund the building of more affordable housing units. I think that this is a fantastic way to reduce systemic inequality, including the racial wealth gap, while simultaneously providing much-needed funds for affordable housing. My opponent does not co-sponsor H.2747. I'm alarmed that in MA, one in every five homes sold to an investor from 2004 to 2018. Tenants coming together with a right of first refusal can help confront this. <https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/homes-for-profit/>

My union's Housing Working Group has tabled and organized around affordability and availability of housing, including housing from our employer and the unfortunate company-town status quo that many people live in. In my union contract we were able to win the elimination of a fee that Harvard used to charge to low income students who couldn't afford to pay all their rent up front and thus paid monthly. However, Harvard admin continued to assess that fee. It was through grassroots housing and labor organizing that we identified the ways they were ignoring our contract, we fought back, and we won.

International students face unique housing challenges and we can't leave them behind. In addition to the Affordable Housing Overlay in Cambridge, I support the creative brainstorming for a Student Housing Overlay and efforts to promote more units and affordability of graduate housing.

### **Climate and Sustainability**

12. Do you support acts H.3237 and S.2135 to prohibit natural gas system expansion?

- a. Yes. We should not continue to invest taxpayer money into the expansion of a natural gas system that will soon be rendered obsolete as we transition to renewable energy sources. This is harmful to our communities and our environment, and it's a waste of time and money.

My opponent has not cosponsored this legislation.

13. Do you support S.2830 to reduce plastic waste and single-use plastics?
  - a. Yes! I have rallied for this legislation.
14. Do you support S.2829 to ban “competitive electric suppliers” and increase uptake of renewable energy?
  - a. Yes. This is a crucial time for climate action in Massachusetts. We are far past the point at which drastic action needs to be taken in order to prevent an environmental catastrophe. The state representative in my district will have a great deal of influence on upcoming climate decisions that affect not only the city of Cambridge, but the entire state. We need a state representative who will agitate for renewable energy and, even more crucially, someone who will actually vote in favor of making the switch to 100% publicly owned renewable energy sources.

Energy storage is essential to the Green transition. Investments in Energy storage solutions and R&D increase our grid’s efficiency and reliability. Especially as we transition away from fossil fuels, which are better at operating at constant production levels, we must find ways to ensure that renewable energy supplies will match up with demand. Grid energy storage has the added benefits of keeping prices stable and helping us be more prepared for emergencies. I listen to advocates on these and all issues. Overcoming the “duck curve” has come up numerous times at the doors. We need to tackle the storage challenge in our shared efforts to move towards sustainability and renewable energy.

I support efforts to increase renewable energy even when it is not profit maximizing in the short term. The Build Public Renewables Act from NY is an example of visionary energy and climate policy and I think we should be moving in that direction. <https://publicpowerny.org/legislation/>

Additionally, one reason that MA lags behind peer states on energy and climate policy is due to the back room deals that our politicians strike with fossil fuel interests. To learn more about how anti-corruption and transparency efforts overlap with climate and environmental policy, check out this report. <https://ibes.brown.edu/sites/default/files/MA-CSSN-Report-1.20.2021-Corrected-text.pdf>

## **Immigration**

15. Do you support the reinstatement of Massachusetts Right-to-Shelter Law?
  - a. Yes—the recent decision to roll back the right to shelter in Massachusetts is enormously harmful to some of our state’s most vulnerable populations and residents. I feel frustrated and angry that here in MA, we somehow always have more money to put toward prisons and policing, yet we don’t have enough to make sure that families with young children and pregnant people can stay housed. After voting for tax cuts for corporations and the rich in 2023, my opponent voted to roll back the Right-to-Shelter, disproportionately harming unhoused families and pregnant people. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s411GSQcWK1iBZxS5lyBr-0EEEPMeAVz/view>

## **Policing and public safety**

16. Do you support S.1510 to protect those in the Commonwealth from unreasonable police inquiry about immigration status?
  - a. Yes. Local law enforcement and government agencies cooperating with DHS and ICE makes everyone in our community less safe. I support the Safe Communities Act (S1510), which our legislature has failed to pass for four consecutive legislative sessions. I would also support measures aimed at preventing police and court officials from asking about immigration status, requiring written and informed consent prior to any ICE interrogation, prohibiting Massachusetts entities from donating state employee time to ICE, and prohibiting police and court officials from initiating contact with ICE about a person’s pending release from police and/or court custody.



My district overwhelmingly supports immigrant rights, yet my opponent doesn't co-sponsor the Safe Communities Act. I have testified in support of the Safe Communities Act.

In 2017 and 2018 I was part of a multi-faith effort to support an undocumented family seeking sanctuary in a church in my district. As volunteer allies we would take turns sleeping at the church in case there were overnight visits from agents of the carceral state.

17. Do you support S.1542 and H.515 to ensure educational rights for incarcerated youth?
  - a. I support this legislation. My opponent does not co-sponsor this. I developed my politics through opposition to mass incarceration, particularly the foster care-to-prison pipeline. I have advocated against mass incarceration and for improving jail and prison conditions in MA for the past decade. We should be doing everything we can to ensure that youth who interact with the carceral system are able to successfully transition into an adulthood that does not involve going back to prison.

## Other

18. Is there anything else you would like graduate student voters to know?
  - a. I know many people don't follow our MA state legislature super closely. There are so many things to follow, and it's sometimes tough to follow our state legislature because it is the least transparent of all fifty states. For people who don't follow MA state politics closely, I recommend these two videos which give a bit of an overview of some of the obstacles in our state:
    - i. How Do Your Reps Vote?
    - ii. Lack of Transparency in the Massachusetts Legislature

My opponent has been a particular thorn in our efforts for transparency and democracy. She votes against making committee votes public again and again and again, completely out of step with our district (in a recent non-binding ballot question, 94% of our district voted that committee votes should be public).

Why does my opponent fight so hard to keep her votes hidden? It's because she is much more conservative than her rhetoric. When we are able to get votes on the record, she has a more conservative voting record than the median state house Democrat.

In the context of this opaque state government, civic consciousness around the state legislature is low, leading to many uncontested elections. Although there are six state reps and three state senators who represent Cambridge, there is only one election. Even if you live outside the boundaries of this district that politicians drew for themselves, you can still volunteer, spread the word, and think of which of your friends live in my district who you could talk to.

## Erika Uyterhoeven (27th Middlesex)

### Transit

1. Do you support increasing state funding for the MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
  - a. Yes. As a longtime rider/commuter of the T, I am deeply concerned with MBTA funding and it has been one of my top priorities to advocate for as much funding as possible both to fix the \$24.5B backlog in repairs and to expand the network and fully cover operations. While it is shocking how high the backlog has grown since 2019, the figure has partly increased thanks to better management that has done a much better job assessing the state of repair and have been more proactive about advocating for more funding (which has been a huge shift since the agency was under Gov. Baker and his team's leadership). We have taken significant steps towards this thanks to the funding coming from the Fair Share Amendment, which brought in \$476M. But there is much more work to be done and I'll continue to advocate for more funding.
2. Do you support construction of the Rail Link between Boston's North and South Stations?

- a. Yes.
3. Do you support creation of additional bike lanes and protected intersections?
    - a. Yes. Since taking office, I have had regular meetings with local advocacy groups and experts, including Somerville Transit Equity Partnership (STEP) and Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets (SASS) on how we can improve bicycle, pedestrian and public transit infrastructure in Somerville. We have also had regular community strategy meetings with advocates, city electeds, city staff, and the entire Somerville state delegation to push the state administration, including MassDOT, DCR, and the MBTA to fulfill our transportation priorities including additional bike lanes and protected intersections.
  4. Are there any transit-related bills in the State House that you support? What is your plan to increase funding for MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
    - a. There are several bills that I support regarding the MBTA, including electrifying all public transit, increased funding so that we can have a safe, reliable, and free public transportation system that will reduce the number of cars on the road, the North-South Rail Link, and expanding the current MBTA and commuter rail lines.

Even before taking office, I have advocated for a more progressive tax system. What makes a tax system fair is for us to remove regressive taxes and put in place progressive taxes. Simply put, a tax is regressive if the share of income paid in that tax decreases as income increases. In other words, a regressive tax exacerbates income and wealth inequality by making the poor poorer and the rich richer. A tax is progressive if the share of income people pay in that tax increases as income increases.

We must both educate the public on this inequity and fight with the same unrelenting conviction as our opposition does, to turn our taxation system right-side up to a progressive taxation system so we can fully fund our schools, public transportation, affordable housing, infrastructure, and livable climate for all.

There are many options to make the Massachusetts tax system more fair and I'm proud to have filed several pieces of legislation and amendments to do so. In addition to filing a bill to make the estate tax more progressive (see question 2 for more), I filed legislation on taxing the GILTI (or global intangible low-taxed income), eliminating fares for the MBTA (which is one of the most regressive tax in the form of fares paid for by working people), and taxing wealthy nonprofits (ie. PILOTs) and charitable organizations that have abused the tax code without contributing fairly to the neighboring community or public.

### **Voting Rights**

5. Do you support Bills H.671 and S.415 aiming to permit non-citizen residents to vote in Massachusetts Municipal Elections?
  - a. Yes. I filed the Somerville home rule petition, HD3745, with Rep. Connolly that would allow legal voting rights in municipal elections for non-citizen residents of the city of Somerville.
6. Do you support implementation of same-day voter registration?
  - a. Yes. I have been a huge advocate for same-day voter registration. In my first session as Representative, I gave a speech on the floor of the House about the need for same-day voter registration. I also spoke about the need for same-day voter registration on GBH news (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Hsivf0SMhM>). Without same-day voter registration, our state continues to disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of voters. With 21 states and DC already implementing SDR, there is a great deal of evidence that this will increase voter turnout by 4% to 12% and that this will overwhelmingly impact Black, Brown, AAPI, immigrant, and indigenous communities, low-income communities, and young people.

### **State Legislature Transparency**

7. Do you support Bill S.1963: An Act to provide sunlight to state government?

- a. Yes. As a cofounder of Act on Mass, transparency has been a top priority for me before becoming a legislator and as a legislator. I have worked hard with fellow State Representatives to make the rules of the State House more transparent so voters know how their representatives are voting, and worked to increase accessibility and lift all voices and make them heard in the State House so that policy reflects the progressive values of Somerville and Massachusetts.

In addition, to filing and supporting campaigns for more transparency in the rules. I have also filed legislation to ensuring the same open meeting law in the legislature as is required in all other legislative bodies in the state (ie. city council, town meeting, and school committee) and have supported legislation to extending public records law to the Governor and the Legislature.

8. Do you support making Legislative Committee Votes public in the Massachusetts House of Representatives?
  - a. Yes. I have organized around these issues prior to taking office and have filed amendments to make these changes in the House rules debate.
9. Do you support the use of voice votes, instead of a roll call vote, on legislations in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate?
  - a. No. I believe roll call votes provide voters more transparency and allows them to make more informed decisions when it comes to supporting candidates.

## Housing

10. Do you support the authorization of a \$1.5 billion investment in public housing, the allocation of \$425 million to a housing stabilization and investment trust fund, and the allocation of \$800 million to an affordable housing trust fund through the Affordable Homes Act?
  - a. Yes. For too long policymakers have prioritized the interests of developers over residents, turning the places we call home into investment commodities for profit. Over the past decade, Somerville has had the steepest increase in housing pricing in Massachusetts—we are truly on the front lines of the displacement crisis, and this crisis has spread across the entire state and country, while deep pocketed investors have bought up real estate for profit. Tragically, investors driving up housing costs have pocketed all the gains we won for the working class through increasing the minimum wage because so much of the gains in wages have simply been funneled into paying for housing.

Housing is the most expensive purchase we will ever buy or pay out monthly from our wages. Exposing renters and homeowners alike to the systematic risk of wild price fluctuations is not only inhumane and destructive to our communities, it is a market failure. Yet cities in Massachusetts are prevented from taking action in solving the housing crisis: In 1994, the real estate industry funded a ballot question to ban rent control, which narrowly passed by winning 51% of the vote. Massachusetts needs to end the ban on rent control and give cities all the tools they need to address the housing crisis.

We can stop heartbreaking displacement and make affordable housing a guaranteed right for all by putting people first over profit.

11. What aspects of the Affordable Homes Act do you view as most critical for low-to-mid income Massachusetts residents, including graduate students? Would you like to share any other thoughts on methods to address the housing crisis in Massachusetts?
  - a. I have worked consistently and vociferously on advocating for systemic solutions to our housing crisis. This includes fighting to end the ban on rent control and put in place policies that give municipalities the tools they need to address the affordable housing crisis, including: tenants opportunity to purchase (or TOPA), the real estate transfer fee to fund permanently affordable housing, and deep investments into public housing and social housing. I will continue to work with my local community organizers, municipal leaders, and fellow legislators to make these policy goals a reality.

## Climate and Sustainability

12. Do you support acts H.3237 and S.2135 to prohibit natural gas system expansion?
  - a. Yes.
13. Do you support S.2830 to reduce plastic waste and single-use plastics?
  - a. Yes. We need to take steps to reduce the amount of plastic out there. As a member of the Zero Waste Caucus, I have cosponsored and supported many bill to reduce plastic waste and single-use plastics.
14. Do you support S.2829 to ban “competitive electric suppliers” and increase uptake of renewable energy?
  - a. Yes. The Massachusetts State House has the power and responsibility to do our part to stop the climate crisis. Without action, over 90,000 homes in Massachusetts are at risk of flooding due to sea level rise. We now have only 8 years to drastically reallocate our resources and restructure our society to save our future.

As our nation struggles to address the climate crisis, we must be national leaders by passing a Massachusetts Green New Deal. This means getting to 100% renewable energy by 2030 by investing in public transportation, conservation and restoration of critical infrastructure, and sustainable and affordable housing.

The Massachusetts Green New Deal must empower the environmental justice communities who have been most impacted by climate change and the workers most affected by the transition to a green economy. This means passing taxation or carbon pricing that is equitable and ensuring that any worker displaced by the shift away from fossil fuels receive full income and benefits as they transition to alternative work. The Massachusetts Green New Deal will stimulate economic growth, strengthen labor unions, and provide long-lasting benefits for all.

## Immigration

15. Do you support the reinstatement of Massachusetts Right-to-Shelter Law?
  - a. Yes. I recently joined progressive House members and voted against a bill that significantly limited the Right-to-Shelter law, limiting it to a 9 month long stay for most homeless families. For 40 years this law required the state to quickly provide shelter and other necessities to homeless parents, children, and pregnant women. We voted against it because it severely rolls back our responsibility as a state to provide shelter as a right.

## Policing and public safety

16. Do you support S.1510 to protect those in the Commonwealth from unreasonable police inquiry about immigration status?
  - a. Yes. We should abolish ICE and no local or state funds or resources should ever be used to work in conjunction with them.
17. Do you support S.1542 and H.515 to ensure educational rights for incarcerated youth?
  - a. Yes. We have one of the most expensive DOC in the country, it costs almost \$132,000 per year to incarcerate someone, while only a mere 2% of the DOC budget is spent on programming and education. Meanwhile, incarcerated people’s only option for employment pays less than \$3 a day for institutional jobs and less than \$2 an hour for MassCor Industries. Finally, the system does nothing to heal or rehabilitate individuals, and I’ve only witnessed compounding and painful trauma along with medical neglect. As such, I am in the fight to decarcerate and reallocate resources from public safety into systemic solutions including housing, education, and healthcare.

## Other

18. Is there anything else you would like graduate student voters to know?
  - a. I ran for State Representative to reclaim our state government, to make the State House the people’s house. This means implementing progressive taxation to fully fund a Massachusetts Green New Deal, fully fund our public schools, and to stop the gentrification crisis in its tracks, with massive state

investment in public housing. Underlying each of my top 3 legislative priorities is an ethos of all means all and the requirement to raise billions of dollars in additional revenue.

Serving as the State Representative for the 27th Middlesex District has been the greatest honor of my life. I am proud of the accomplishments we've made together and excited to continue the work ahead.

## **Kathleen M. Hornby (27th Middlesex)**

### **Transit**

1. Do you support increasing state funding for the MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
  - a. Yes. This is one of my top priorities. Reliable, sustainable public transit is key to addressing the climate crisis, promoting economic justice, and improving public health.
2. Do you support construction of the Rail Link between Boston's North and South Stations?
  - a. Yes. This is a necessary next step in creating a 21st-century transportation system. We need to move forward so that we can boost job opportunities and housing access, especially when we see so many Massachusetts residents leaving the Commonwealth due to the high cost of living.
3. Do you support creation of additional bike lanes and protected intersections?
  - a. Yes. I'm a year-round cyclist - this isn't just good policy, it's personal.
4. Are there any transit-related bills in the State House that you support? What is your plan to increase funding for MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
  - a. Empower municipalities to impose local and regional fees, shift paratransit costs and bond debt to the Commonwealth, and establish an equitable road usage charge.

### **Voting Rights**

5. Do you support Bills H.671 and S.415 aiming to permit non-citizen residents to vote in Massachusetts Municipal Elections?
  - a. Yes. Government functions best when it is responsive to and held accountable by as many residents as possible.
6. Do you support implementation of same-day voter registration?
  - a. Yes. Same-day voter registration is a great way to increase access to and participation in elections.

### **State Legislature Transparency**

7. Do you support Bill S.1963: An Act to provide sunlight to state government?
  - a. Yes. Voters' trust in state government continues to erode, largely because of how much decision-making happens behind closed doors. We need to establish common-sense reforms to improve accountability from the Governor's office to the Legislature.
8. Do you support making Legislative Committee Votes public in the Massachusetts House of Representatives?
  - a. Yes. I also support restructuring the committee system so that committee members elect their own chairs. Having leadership appoint committee chairs -- which come with large stipends -- is at the core of so many problems at the State House.
9. Do you support the use of voice votes, instead of a roll call vote, on legislations in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate?
  - a. No. There are instances when a voice vote may be appropriate -- for example, a sick leave bank -- but we should have many more roll call votes than we do now.

### **Housing**

10. Do you support the authorization of a \$1.5 billion investment in public housing, the allocation of \$425 million to a housing stabilization and investment trust fund, and the allocation of \$800 million to an affordable housing trust fund through the Affordable Homes Act?
  - a. Yes. We should be investing far more in housing, especially deeply affordable housing. We are facing a housing crisis that has massive repercussions.
11. What aspects of the Affordable Homes Act do you view as most critical for low-to-mid income Massachusetts residents, including graduate students? Would you like to share any other thoughts on methods to address the housing crisis in Massachusetts?

- a. Banning broker's fees and sealing eviction records, as well as ensuring tenant opportunity to purchase. I also believe we should allow municipalities to establish real estate transfer fees and stabilize rents.

### **Climate and Sustainability**

- 12. Do you support acts H.3237 and S.2135 to prohibit natural gas system expansion?
  - a. Yes. We need to be focusing on renewable energy expansion, from offshore wind to solar to geothermal.
- 13. Do you support S.2830 to reduce plastic waste and single-use plastics?
  - a. Yes. Reducing plastic waste is an environmental and public health imperative. I've been working on legislation like the Updated Bottle Bill since 2007.
- 14. Do you support S.2829 to ban "competitive electric suppliers" and increase uptake of renewable energy?
  - a. Yes. This is an environmental issue as well as a public health and economic justice issue. Third-party energy suppliers substantially increase the cost of household electric bills over the long term, and households are far more likely to enter contracts with third party suppliers if they are low-income.

### **Immigration**

- 15. Do you support the reinstatement of Massachusetts Right-to-Shelter Law?
  - a. Yes. We need to protect the right to shelter by investing in emergency assistance, homelessness prevention, and housing access. The administration is choosing to limit access to shelter rather than live up to our commitments.

### **Policing and public safety**

- 16. Do you support S.1510 to protect those in the Commonwealth from unreasonable police inquiry about immigration status?
  - a. Yes. Residents should never have to fear deportation as a result of interacting with the police or court system.
- 17. Do you support S.1542 and H.515 to ensure educational rights for incarcerated youth?
  - a. Yes. Whenever possible, we should divert youth from the carceral system. If youth are incarcerated, we have a responsibility to ensure their access to education.

### **Other**

- 18. Is there anything else you would like graduate student voters to know?
  - a. Elected officials are public servants, first and foremost. As a longtime legislative staffer, I take that responsibility very seriously. I will never put special interests, including party interests, ahead of the needs of my constituents.

### **Governor's Councillor**

#### **Mara Dolan (27th Middlesex)**

#### **Transit**

- 1. Do you support increasing state funding for the MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
  - a. Yes. Reliable, affordable, green public transportation is essential to our economy and quality of life.
- 2. Do you support construction of the Rail Link between Boston's North and South Stations?
  - a. Yes.
- 3. Do you support creation of additional bike lanes and protected intersections?
  - a. Yes.
- 4. Are there any transit-related bills in the State House that you support? What is your plan to increase funding for MBTA, especially its Rapid Transit System (the T)?
  - a. As Governor's Councillor, I would not be able to file legislation but could work with legislators to increase support.

### **Voting Rights**

5. Do you support Bills H.671 and S.415 aiming to permit non-citizen residents to vote in Massachusetts Municipal Elections?
  - a. Abstain. I have not had the opportunity to thoroughly review this proposed legislation. I strongly support voting rights and believe in increasing civic engagement.
6. Do you support implementation of same-day voter registration?
  - a. Yes. Same-day voter registration increases voter participation and strengthens our democracy.

### **State Legislature Transparency**

7. Do you support Bill S.1963: An Act to provide sunlight to state government?
  - a. Yes.
8. Do you support making Legislative Committee Votes public in the Massachusetts House of Representatives?
  - a. Yes.
9. Do you support the use of voice votes, instead of a roll call vote, on legislations in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate?
  - a. Yes.

### **Housing**

10. Do you support the authorization of a \$1.5 billion investment in public housing, the allocation of \$425 million to a housing stabilization and investment trust fund, and the allocation of \$800 million to an affordable housing trust fund through the Affordable Homes Act?
  - a. Yes. The housing crisis is causing us to lose good people and make it harder for people who grow up here to stay here. It is tearing apart the fabric of our communities.
11. What aspects of the Affordable Homes Act do you view as most critical for low-to-mid income Massachusetts residents, including graduate students? Would you like to share any other thoughts on methods to address the housing crisis in Massachusetts?
  - a. It's hard to pick one, but removing barriers and increasing resources to build more homes and increasing protection for tenants should help mid income residents, including graduate students.

### **Climate and Sustainability**

12. Do you support acts H.3237 and S.2135 to prohibit natural gas system expansion?
  - a. Yes.
13. Do you support S.2830 to reduce plastic waste and single-use plastics?
  - a. Yes.
14. Do you support S.2829 to ban "competitive electric suppliers" and increase uptake of renewable energy?
  - a. Yes.

### **Immigration**

15. Do you support the reinstatement of Massachusetts Right-to-Shelter Law?
  - a. Yes. I was very proud of our right to shelter law, which once benefitted my sister and nephew. I have had a lot of homeless clients. The solution to homelessness is housing.

### **Policing and public safety**

16. Do you support S.1510 to protect those in the Commonwealth from unreasonable police inquiry about immigration status?
  - a. Yes.
17. Do you support S.1542 and H.515 to ensure educational rights for incarcerated youth?
  - a. Yes. Absolutely. As a public defender, I know my incarcerated clients long for more opportunity.

### **Other**

18. Is there anything else you would like graduate student voters to know?
  - a. In a time when our federal courts are taking away our rights, we must make sure that our state courts uphold them. I am running to be the first public defender on the Governor's Council, which has the final say on who our judges and Parole Board members are, as well as who is granted a commutation

or pardon. I am the only pro-choice candidate in my race, and I will do everything in my power to uphold and strengthen abortion rights. There is no Republican running. In my race, the Democratic primary will decide who the next Governor's Councillor is. I'm asking for your vote on or before September 3, 2024. Thank you!