



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS

statewide, grassroots organizing for progressive change in Massachusetts

2014 STATE RACES ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Date: 03 Feb 2014
Candidate: TONY DANG
Office Sought: STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 13TH SUFFOLK DISTRICT
Party: DEMOCRAT
Web Site: WWW.VOTETONYDANG.COM

CANDIDATE CONTACT INFO

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**RETURN COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 5:00PM, BY EMAIL ONLY
RETURN QUESTIONNAIRE AS (1) WORD FILE AND (2) PDF.**

E-mail completed questionnaire to deborah@progressivemass.com.

Please be in touch with Executive Director Deborah Shah with questions, at 917-922-7947 or by email.

Please compose your answers directly in the document, underneath the question. Limit answers to 250 words or fewer. No attachments.

I. About You

1. Why are you running for office?

We need someone in the legislature who understands the people in my district and who will take action and work hard on our behalf. The best person to represent us is someone who has shared the same struggles of the people of this district. This race is about the well-being of my community, from Dorchester to Quincy. I have faced the challenges of being an immigrant, having to fit in while still appreciating my culture, and struggling to make ends meet financially. Despite many obstacles, I educated myself, found a great job, and made many friends in a wonderful community and state where opportunity knocks every day for those who work hard, have faith, and keep hope.

My goal has always been to give back to the U.S. for the priceless opportunity I have received to live freely and to start over again by escaping a war-torn country. That was a major factor in my enlisting in the Army Reserve and serving in Afghanistan. Like so many other immigrants, I am in awe of, and hold the most profound respect for, the right to live here and to call the U.S. my home. I take nothing for granted. I cherish the freedom to think for myself, to make my own life decisions, and to fulfill my deepest dreams. That is why I am running for this seat. This race is not merely a contest for me—it is the completion of a journey I began as a very young boy.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

I graduated from the Boston Latin School, served in the Army Reserve, and am now a police officer for the MBTA Transit Police Department. I have always been active in my community. In fact, my involvement led me to work to elect Marty Walsh Mayor of Boston. I believe in what he stands for: hard work and determination. He is a self-made man who served his community day to day and often in ways that escaped the public eye. His idea of public service—to help people—is exactly the way I act in my own neighborhood.

That campaign resonated with me. I learned the difficulties that come with running for public office. I saw firsthand the results of what can come from honest effort and commitment. I learned that my community's values and struggles are resolvable, but a pro-active government is needed. Programs must be funded that support the needs of ordinary men and women. I quickly understood that I could do more. I was inspired to run for office.

Recently, I was nominated to the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club. I want to give back and support critical organizations like that for the future of my community. I am a strong advocate of programs for youth that help them develop their skills and emotions in positive ways.

I also sit on the Asian-American Commission which advises the state legislature about Asian-American issues. Immigrant issues are among my chief concerns.

I am a newcomer, but one with purpose.

3. What do you think is the proper role of government in Massachusetts residents' daily lives?

The role of the government in the daily lives of residents is to be pro-active on their behalf. It should never be so far removed and insignificant that people are left with less than minimum wage jobs and no sick leave, women lose their right to choose, members of the LGBT communities are discriminated against, children from low socioeconomic communities go without early childhood education, and seniors and students cannot find safe and affordable housing. The government of Massachusetts cannot be absent when young people are left to their own devices and pick up guns because not enough viable programs to develop their talents and abilities are available. The role of the government is not to sit on the sidelines as stock piles of e-waste contaminate the landscape or service workers are treated as dispensable objects, left without benefits or jobs at the whim of contractors.

Rather, the government must face these, and other, issues directly. It must structure its tax and budget systems so that appropriate funding and legal protection is given to all citizens. In the process, workers must retain their right to unionize and collective-bargain. In recent years, attempts have been made to reduce the scope of the government's power to serve citizens. While I do not advocate huge, cumbersome bureaucracies, I do support a government in which people actively participate for their own well-being and their voices are heard and acted upon in a pro-active manner. That's why I am running for this office.

4. If elected, what would be your top three priorities?

Given the district I will represent, the 13th Suffolk, my legislative priorities are: (1) public safety; (2) the need to ensure equity for women in all legislative actions, especially the writing of law; and, (3) the need to fund public education, increase workforce development programs, and reduce tuition costs at state universities. These three issues directly impact the daily lives of the people in my district. A recent increase in gun violence has both residents and police officers worried. I have been advocating strong youth development programs, either similar to Mayor Walsh's Building Pathways which offers pre-apprenticeship opportunities, or is more creative programs dealing with the arts—from music to theater art. Safeguarding the rights of women, particularly working single moms is also a major issue. The latest attempts to change existing laws regarding a woman's right to choose are of grave concern to me, especially. But, also, issues related to minimum wage and paid sick leave are directly related issue for women as well. Finally, working- and middle-class residents will lose critical opportunities for a community college or university education if nothing is done to address poorly planned increases to tuition at state public institutions of higher learning. In particular, community colleges offer significant re-training programs for working adults needing to "skill up" in a rapidly changing workplace.

II. The Issues

Please compose your answers directly in the document, underneath the question. Limit answers to 250 words or fewer. No attachments.

Our questionnaire is focused on economic justice and inequality, as outlined in our Shared Prosperity Agenda (forthcoming). We are interested in your overall philosophy and approach to the components of the Shared Prosperity Agenda, as well as your views on specific policy and legislation.

In each section, **Question 1** seeks your overall view, values, principles and priorities. You do not need to address each item embedded in these first questions; they are suggestions.

In each section, **Question 2** asks about your advocacy experience; you may leave it blank if appropriate—we do not expect candidates to have a record on every issue. Current or former elected officials: please outline your leadership roles, as opposed to simply your voting record.

Additional questions seek your position on specific policies and legislation. At a minimum, please answer “yes” or “no”; you may also provide an explanation of your positions, as appropriate.

A. Job Growth and the Economy

The Massachusetts economy has continued to grow and recover from the Great Recession, but the gains have not been shared equally. Poverty levels continue to increase, while the minimum wage loses value every year. Massachusetts now ranks 8th in the nation for income inequality.

1. Share your personal values and principles on job growth and the economy.
How can we improve the economy and economic security for all people? How do we grow the number of good paying jobs in the Commonwealth? How do you view wealth and income inequality, and what would you do about it, if anything?

To improve the economy in Massachusetts, a stringent review and analysis of the current state expenditures and budget are necessary. That is where priorities are established. While it is true that we can grow the number of good paying jobs by attracting new businesses to the Commonwealth, we can also go far in ameliorating unfriendly work environments for service, and other workers (e.g., security workers), who are hired on a contractual basis without appropriate, equitable benefits or job security. Since words are limited here, let me say that we need a fundamental re-setting of economic priorities in this state so that workers are not the least consideration when targeting funds. Training for new types of “green” jobs is another area in which the state should seek to add good jobs to the economy. Wealth and income inequality can best be addressed by improving the work conditions of working- and middle-class workers. While those at the top continue to benefit from enormous revenue gains by their businesses and companies, workers are losing their opportunities for economic security through low wages, forced overtime, no sick leave, and no opportunity for training, to name just a few of the issues I intend to address as state rep. On the one hand, a free marketplace sounds ideal; on the other, it disproportionately and adversely affects working people due to poor, or no, regulation. Laws must protect workers who, after all, are the major force behind any revenue growth in industry.

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2. *Optional/As Applicable:* Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on job growth and the economy (legislation, community work, published writings, etc).

3. n/a

4. **Minimum Wage.** Do you support:

Raising the wage to at least \$10.50/hour: **Yes** No

Indexing automatic yearly increases to inflation: **Yes** No

Increasing tipped wages to 60% of the minimum wage: **Yes** No

The minimum wage is, perhaps, THE major issue facing many of the residents of my district. The need to achieve these three goals is paramount.

5. **Unemployment Insurance and Minimum Wage.** As of January 2014, the legislature is negotiating a bill that would pair an increase in the minimum wage with cuts to unemployment insurance. Do you oppose this effort?

Yes No

It is unjust to think about cutting unemployment insurance for those still seeking work as a result of the Great Recession in order to increase the minimum wage for others who are working at substandard wages at present. This type of ill-conceived policy simply pits one group of disadvantaged people against another group of disadvantaged people.

6. **Earned Sick Time.** Do you support requiring businesses with more than 11 employees to provide earned, paid sick time to their employees?

Yes No

This issue is actually one I have spoken publicly about and is a plank in my campaign platform.

7. **Job Creation and Standards.** A "Job Creation and Quality Standards Act" would require corporations that receive any kind of public benefits (grants, tax expenditures procurement contracts) to, in turn, pay a living wage (\$15 per hour plus benefits) to full-time employees. Do you support such legislation?

Yes No

For all of the reasons I have been stating throughout this questionnaire, I unequivocally support legislation such as the "Job Creation and Quality Standards Act." Public monies or incentives should bring direct benefits to workers.

8. **Employee-Owned Businesses.** Do you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts?

Yes No

In theory, I support this idea. I realize it is a controversial and slippery issue, however, so careful attention must be paid to the process in which such legislation can be written, passed, and implemented.

9. **Co-ops, Benefit Corporations, Community Banks.** Do you support legislation that would encourage the formation of cooperatives and/or benefit corporations and the development of community banks?

Yes No

After witnessing the collapse of the banking industry and Wall Street, this is an idea which must be pursued.

B. Education and Workforce Development

Public education has always been a gateway to opportunity and mobility for all, regardless of economic circumstances, a cornerstone of the American dream for all residents. However, the soaring price of higher education over the last several decades has made access to this opportunity increasingly out of reach, at the very moment when higher education makes a greater difference to one's economic future. Meanwhile, powerful corporate interests have been steadily undermining public school teachers and unions and siphoning money from our public K-12 system.

1. Please share your personal values and principles regarding public education and workforce training. *What value does public education and workforce development have in improving our economy as well as in addressing matters of economic justice? What measures should the Commonwealth take on these issues? You might address, for example, charter schools, school vouchers, standardized testing and federal programs like No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top.*

The development of a highly skilled, well educated workforce is essential. We can argue about the pros and cons of "globalization," but we have to continue to prepare young people and adults for a complex and quickly changing work environment. Massachusetts public community colleges have educated machinists, EMT workers, LPNs, medical lab technicians, and firefighters. These kinds of skills-building educational opportunities can be expanded. They can be partnered with public high schools. Central to the program offered by community colleges is the need for strong literacy development and English proficiency, not to mention an even greater emphasis on mathematical thinking and high tech abilities.

Public education is under attack today in Massachusetts. While charter schools continue to be managed by businesses and their employees denied the right to collective-bargain, the educational system grows weak and undemocratic. Society fails itself. Standardized testing programs, if left unassessed, can do more harm than good. I do not believe that a "one size fits all" approach to education is viable in the 21st century. In my own multicultural, multilingual district, young people should have equal access to an excellent education, but the values that undergird that education can no longer simply represent the values and beliefs of one part of society while ignoring, or worse, denigrating others.

For students who are under prepared for existing workforce development programs, often from low socioeconomic communities, the necessity to build their literacy skills is obvious. The kinds of programs needed must be supported by the state.

2. *Optional/As Applicable:* Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on education and workforce development (legislation, community work, published writings, etc).

n/a

3. **Achievement gaps.** What would you do to address persistent racial and economic achievement gaps in education?

A specific place to begin is with early childhood and kindergarten program, the latter of which should be a full-day program. Children who come from particular racial and/or economic backgrounds should be given equal access to quality education at early ages. That is where the achievement gap begins. But the gap continues through elementary, middle, and high school—all of which need appropriate funding so that all students, regardless of background or the school they attend, have equal access to top-rate teachers, up-to-date and sufficient materials, and safe, clean state-of-the-art equipment. Mentoring programs for middle and high school students can also help to close racial and economic achievement gaps.

I had the benefit of graduating from the Boston Latin School, but not every young person in my community will have that opportunity. However, that should never mean that the quality of education available at a school like Latin cannot or should not be available across the school district—and across the state. Some of the same achievement gaps that are found in Boston schools may also be found in other urban school districts, such as Springfield, Worcester, Fall River, and Brockton, for example. The state must come up with a comprehensive education strategy—designed by educators—that will address specific grade-level achievement gaps among racial and ethnic groups as well as among low income communities.

4. **Universal Pre-K.** Do you support creating universal, free Pre-K, accessible to any resident of Massachusetts, integrated into the public school system?

Yes No

Yes, I do support creating universal, free Pre-K, accessible to every child in Massachusetts and I have stated this publicly.

5. **Universal higher education.** Do you support a program that provides free, publicly funded higher education for every student who wants it?

Yes No

This is a high-level goal, an ideal situation. In theory, I support trying to achieve such a lofty goal, but I realize that it is also an economic issue that has to compete against other equally desirable goals. How do we achieve such a goal and then sustain it, financially? That is what we must address.

6. **Funding Structure.** Do you support changes to the Chapter 70 Education formula, including the Foundation Budget, to incorporate proper state funding for ELL students, Special Education students, transportation costs, charter school reimbursements to sending schools, and class size reduction?

Yes No

Yes, I support changes to the Chapter 70 Education formula, including the Foundation budget. One of the biggest losses suffered in recent years in Massachusetts was the abolishment of bilingual education programs. Now, ELL students are left at the mercy of underfunded schools in which needed teachers or assistants who speak the same first language are either gone completely or who appear only occasionally. But the same is true for Special Education students—including autistic children—transportation costs, charter school reimbursements, class size reduction, etc. All of these matters need appropriate state funding that is sustained.

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Education is one of my three legislative priorities as indicated in my campaign platform. The development of a highly skilled, well educated workforce is essential not only in the future, but now. Young people do not have powerful lobbies and influential friends. Their education is an easy target for those who want to divert funding to other projects. While there are many legitimate needs that the government should pay attention to, none is more legitimate and important than the education of our youth. If we do not provide all of our young people—including ELL students and special needs students—with the same, and even better, quality education than we received, we are setting them up for lifelong failure and not for success. “Business as usual” is no longer acceptable when it comes to the education of our young people.

C. Health Care

Massachusetts has led the way in providing near universal health care insurance coverage. However, we still spend an oversized portion of public and private money on health care, without necessarily achieving better health outcomes.

1. Please share your personal values and principles regarding health care insurance, delivery and outcomes.

It is true that Massachusetts has led the way in providing near universal health care insurance coverage. I would like to see the state progress toward a single-payer system to make healthcare more affordable and equitable at the same time. In addition, the state should take a good look at countries like Canada and Japan, which offer universal, affordable healthcare with excellent delivery and very positive health outcomes. It seems that in countries such as these, preventative medicine and education, which begins at very young ages, has much to do with the development of “health conscious” people. In the U.S., perhaps the major health issue facing our youth today (tomorrow’s adults) is obesity. A major strike against this condition can be made through solid health education in school with practical preventative follow-up through doctor’s visits. In Massachusetts, we can do better, but we must be willing to think outside the box, be innovative, and take bold steps. The health of our citizens should be a principal concern of a pro-active government.

2. *Optional/As Applicable:* Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on health care (legislation, community work, published writings, etc).

n/a

3. **Single Payer and Public Option.** Do you support moving Massachusetts to Single Payer insurance?

Yes No

Since single-payer refers to the funding source and not the delivery aspect of healthcare insurance, I support its implementation. It must have careful oversight and auditing.

What role might a Public Option play, in your view?

A public option would give people the choice to have government-sponsored healthcare. As this is the kind of option that many public officials and their staff members across the U.S. have, I see no reason why ordinary citizens should not have access to the same kind of option.

4. **Costs and Quality.** What steps would you take to lower health care costs while maintaining or improving health outcomes?

Health care costs can be lowered by developing a payment schedule for medical procedures that is consistent across medical institutions and hospitals AND that has been lowered to reasonable costs depending on the procedure. Doctors’ salaries can be uniformly regulated as they are in other countries and, of course, pharmaceutical companies must be brought under stringent regulation both in their R&D costs as well as the cost of their products. The last issue is critical.

5. **Mental Health.** What steps would you take to address the gap in affordable mental health services?

The adoption of a sliding scale payment schedule for mental health services can be adopted and should be worked into the overall healthcare insurance coverage of all citizens.

6. **Health disparities.** What steps would you take to reduce racial and income disparities in health outcomes?

Where racial and income disparities in health outcomes exist, more attention and care must be given to those people who are most affected. Greater and equitable—also, convenient—access to health education must be provided to people currently excluded from such access.

7. **Standards of care and cost.** Do you support establishing a state panel of experts (such as the Affordable Care Act's IPAB/"Independent Payment Advisory Board") to recommend high-value and cost-effective services?

Yes No

This is a matter of common sense.

8. **Pharmaceutical companies.** Do you support prohibiting pharmaceutical companies from including direct-to-consumer drug advertising as tax-deductible expense?

Yes No

Yes, I do. As I indicated above, more oversight and regulation must be placed over pharmaceutical companies. They should not be given tax incentives as their annual revenues are often excessive.

9. **Bulk prescription programs.** Do you support establishing a bulk prescription drug program that would provide lower cost prescription drugs for public employees?

Yes No

Again, this is a matter of economic justice as well as common sense.

Do you support establishing this same program for *all* Massachusetts residents?

Yes No

As with a public option for health insurance, I believe that any health benefits available to public employees should also be given to all citizens who, after all, are paying the taxes that employ such workers.

D. Housing

In the last ten years, the need for affordable housing has increased, while funds for affordable housing have decreased, federal and state. Currently there is a 10-year waiting list for a rental voucher, and the average rent for a two bedroom apartment requires a wage 50% higher than the median Massachusetts wage. Half of families in Greater Boston alone pay over 30% of their income in housing and utilities costs—and 25% of households pay *more than half* their income to housing. This is unsustainable. It has led to expanding economic inequality, increased homelessness, and damage to our economy, as talented workers often leave the state for less expensive regions.

Please share your personal values and principles regarding affordable housing.

How would you ensure that there is suitable housing for all who need it, within reasonable distance of job opportunities? How would you address the need to link housing, jobs and transportation? How would you tackle homelessness?

Affordable housing is a major issue for me. Whether we consider seniors, young couples, or students, there are far too many people whose housing needs are ignored. In recent years, as the national economy fell apart, the most defenseless took a staggering hit as they saw rising rents. The percentage of renters rose from 31 to 35 in 2012. In turn, rents rose. We must find practical, fair ways to address the rent situation. One thing we can do immediately is to increase the percentage of affordable units within housing developments.

Those who need affordable housing also need convenient public transportation. That means that affordable housing units have to be found in developments that are adjacent to public transportation. At the same time, when planning to construct mixed housing, developers must ensure that sufficient parking space is made available.

Many times, seniors are hurried off to elder care housing when they might only need to find safe, conveniently located, and affordable housing.

For affordable home purchases, the best options possible should be considered by building partnerships between the public sector and the private sector. Partnering between the government and banks is a logical step. Cutting through bureaucratic red tape to “fast track” developments in areas of most need and thinking about mortgage rates as income-based are two promising possibilities.

Homelessness can be tackled, to some degree, by increasing the availability of transitional housing. This is also an issue that affects victims of domestic violence who become homeless as a result.

Optional/As Applicable: Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on housing (legislation, community work, published writings, etc).

n/a

1. **Housing Authorities.** Governor Patrick has proposed consolidating the Housing Authorities to six regional authorities, from the current 242 authorities. The legislature appears reluctant to agree to this reform, in part because it would reduce local control. What is your position?

I understand the Governor’s point as it would lead to greater efficiency and lower costs. To that extent, I support his proposal. On the other hand, I am also sensitive to the need for greater local control. All things being equal, and given the major social issues I have addressed throughout this document, I would support the Governor’s proposal for the reasons he has stated. Funding is

desperately needed in other areas.

2. **Affordable Housing.** What would you do to increase the number of affordable housing units in the State? What would you do to ensure that no low-income family has to spend more than 50% of their income on housing and related expenses; and that fewer than a quarter of families spending more than 33% of income on shelter?

I have stated above that I think mixed housing developments should increase the percentage of affordable housing units. Further, to ensure that no low-income family has to pay more than 50% of its income on housing, some form of state-regulated rent control must be put into place. The same is true for families spending more than 33% of their income on shelters. As I wrote several times above, the government must be pro-active on behalf of its citizens, especially the most vulnerable.

3. **Temporary Housing Transitions.** What would you do to move homeless families and individuals out of motels and shelters and into permanent housing?

This is a complicated question to which there is no single, or simple, solution. I believe it is directly tied to the issues I addressed previously about minimum wage, job training, and mental health. All of these factors are connected. Currently, social workers in the state face enormous case load burdens and lack of compensation for engagement with family members of those they treat. Yet who among us more than social workers have a role to play in the transitioning of homeless families? As a state rep, I would make it a priority to look into this matter and to work with professionals in order to propose effective legislation to address these issues holistically and in a fiscally solvent manner.

4. **Regulation Reform, Development and Preservation.** Would you support reforms to update our outmoded zoning, subdivision, and planning laws, in such a way as to encourage balanced development and land preservation?

Yes No

The kinds of reforms that are needed in this case—to redirect how we zone our jurisdictions—need to be addressed as one major issue with smaller components. Since the goal is balanced development and land preservation, we must look carefully at where these are not happening now, determine the causes, and work to ameliorate them. At that same time, we must begin to apply what we learn from this process to yet to be zoned or planned spaces to see that appropriate decisions are being made. In some cases, I believe planning decisions should incorporate discussion among local officials, residents, and businesses, but also state officials when appropriate. I am concerned about e-waste, which is directly related to this matter, long term. That is the kind of issue that requires state participation in the decision-making process.

E. Revenue and Taxation

Because of income tax cuts and the effects of the recession, Massachusetts has lost nearly \$3 billion in revenue over the last 12 years. We now collect less revenue than 21 other states, and our tax revenue is below the national average. Since 1982, local aid has dropped 58%. Cuts to the moderately progressive state income tax has meant increasing reliance on fees, sales, gas and property taxes, exacerbating the overall regressiveness of our revenue. Regressive taxation strains low- and middle-income families, and reduced revenue collection curtails our ability to invest in vital infrastructure.

1. What principles do you bring to considerations of state revenue and tax reform (individual and corporate)? *How should we raise more revenue to adequately fund our communities for the future?*

Tax breaks for the highest earning bracket within the state should not be given, and the corporate tax rate could be raised from 8% to 8.75%, for example. The state income tax could also be raised slightly. At the same time, the state must look carefully at, and reconsider, the status of non-profit organizations and the tax exemptions they have been given in Massachusetts historically. With the exception of religiously affiliated institutions, it is possible to consider an equitable tax schedule for non-profit organizations. But this will take careful and studied discussion among all concerned parties.

2. *Optional/As Applicable:* Please indicate work you personally have done to advance your principles on revenue and taxation (legislation, community work, published writings, etc).
3. **Tax Rates for Upper Incomes.** Do you support increasing income taxes on the wealthiest residents of Massachusetts?

Yes No

I believe it is probable to introduce a progressive tax structure within Massachusetts. However, the government must also continue to evaluate whether their spending is effective.

4. **Automatic Tax Decrease Triggers.** Do you support halting the automatic decrease in state tax when Massachusetts state revenues grow four quarters in a row?

Yes No

It seems that this is a matter of common sense. Budgets and expenditures that are planned and implemented while state revenues grow must be sustained when those revenues remain static or decrease. A fluctuating state tax leaves the entire fiscal obligations of the state unguarded and prone to failure, as we have seen too often.

5. **Capital Gains.** Do you support increasing the capital gains tax (with safeguards to protect seniors)?

Yes No

To be honest, even though I have said yes, this is an issue I need more time to consider. Besides safeguarding seniors, there are other issues I want to be better informed about.

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6. **Progressive Taxation.** “An Act to Invest in Our Communities” was designed to raise significant revenue while making our tax code more progressive, but it has not passed the legislature. Would you support a renewed effort to pass this or similar legislation?

Yes No

Yes, I would support “An Act to Invest in Our Communities” and I have stated this publicly before.

7. **Corporate Tax Breaks.** Do you support eliminating or substantially reducing corporate tax breaks?

Yes No

I believe I have addressed this issue above.

Do you support repealing or significantly reducing the Film Production Tax Credit?

Yes No

This is an issue I also want to study further. On the one hand, it is tempting to reduce the Film Production Tax Credit within the Commonwealth; on the other, I want to ensure that film producers, as a result of such a reduction, do not start looking elsewhere to produce their films.

8. **Clawbacks and Transparency in Corporate Tax Breaks.** Do you support increasing corporate tax break transparency and clawback provisions?

Yes No

These are important matters which many people are unaware of. But, just as I am running a transparent and accessible campaign, and intend to serve as a state rep in that manner, I expect transparency in the matters of corporate tax breaks and clawback provisions, the latter of which adversely affects employees.

9. **Graduated Income Tax.** Would you support a state constitutional amendment creating a Massachusetts progressive income tax?

Yes No

Yes, I support a progressive income tax in Massachusetts and stated so above in E(3).

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IV. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Please compose your answers directly in the document, underneath the question. Limit answers to 250 words or fewer. No attachments.

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

As an immigrant, a veteran, and a police officer, I am not tied to a “business as usual” approach. I am not trying to impress anyone.

I run for this seat to bring my NEW FACE, NEW STYLE, and NEW VOICE into the political arena. That is where important decisions are made every day that impact people’s lives on every level—neighborhood safety, affordable housing, education, women’s status and rights, and LGBT persons’ security. And I know there are other issues, too.

I am proud to come from a district that was home to Susan B. Anthony because, just as she was, I am a fighter. I am not the product of powerful political endorsements. I don’t have a pedigree that says “approved” by the elite. I cannot show you a list of public policies I have helped to write. Although I have lived my life in Dorchester since immigrating as a very young child, I am a newcomer to politics. I’m a rookie.

But that is what makes me the best candidate for this job. I am like every other person in my district who knows what happens when bad government policies come about through “business as usual.”

The election this time is very different. It’s about the need people have for a new face in the crowd, a new voice in the State House, and a new style in the district. This time, it cannot be “business as usual.” I am the progressive voice in this race.