



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS

statewide, grassroots organizing for progressive change in Massachusetts

2014 STATE RACES ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Date: 3 February 2014

Candidate: Jonathan S. Edwards

Office Sought: Lieutenant Governor

Party: Democrat

Web Site: www.edwardsformassachusetts.com

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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.

CANDIDATE: Jonathan Edwards

OFFICE: Lieutenant Governor

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?**

Each town in Massachusetts is looking for a partner in the next administration that understands their daily challenges, knows how local government works, and wants to work with them to solve their problems and implement their respective visions.

The Lieutenant Governor needs to be the partner that implements a vision. Too often, critically important public policy doesn't happen because it isn't effectively marketed at the local level. Too often, we fail to create working relationships with municipalities because we don't know their officials and civic leaders well enough to find a comfort zone to truly affect change.

Thus, we often miss opportunities to implement progressive policies because we don't take the time to truly build the critical relationships and people in the Administration don't understand how a policy would be received. The administration needs to know the value proposition to sell to cities, towns and regions.

As a four-term, member of the Whately Board of Selectmen, the President of the Franklin County Selectmen's Association, a member of the Pioneer Valley Climate Change Advisory Board, and the Pioneer Valley Knowledge Corridor Consortium, I have a hands on understanding of how government works and how to effectively solve a problem and sell a policy. I know how to build consensus, form collaborative partnerships and work towards policy implementation. People trust me to do the right thing.

I am running for Lieutenant Governor because those are the skills and experiences necessary to help residents across Massachusetts understand and embrace progressive policy goals.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

As an elected local official I have a list of experiences that I will utilize every day as Lieutenant Governor. An example is my work to fix and continually improve our regional senior center. This gives me insights into the critical needs of our state's senior citizens and what must happen to meet the needs of an aging population in a state where 25% of our residents will be over 60 years old within 10 years.

I have dealt firsthand with the critical importance of effective and efficient health care delivery. Under my leadership, my town worked with other towns in the region to create a regional ambulance service that for the first time delivered 24 hour/7 day per week EMT level service to each resident in our region and is now a service that is being looked at as a cutting edge way to improve emergency services delivery in other towns across the state.

Further, with 25 years of marketing and management experience, I know how to be a good leader while building a business or an organization. And because I am an accomplished marketing professional, I know how to create consensus around critical issues we face in Massachusetts.

As a father and husband, I understand the challenges that working families face across this state. The Lieutenant Governor needs to understand the challenges of families and also know how policies will affect families across the state.

These are the skills that are essential to being an effective Lieutenant Governor.

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

Government can and should be a facilitator to improve the lives of people across the state. Tackling the greatest challenges in the state requires Government to develop a vision for the state and effectively lead us toward that vision. Only government can answer the question, "what kind of a state do we want to be"?

State government is the only entity that can forge consensus and build working relationships to for society. Working with stakeholders, government can and should determine how to satisfy our healthcare needs. Government can and should do the same for our societal social values, environmental justice, economic justice, how we treat our communities of color, etc.

A perfect example of the role for state government is how it has been an effective leader on many social justice issues in Massachusetts. We are a national leader on reproductive rights because of government vision. We were first in the nation to establish the rights of gay marriage and that vision was a catalyst for other state's to do the same. Finally, government has crafted a vision for the finest K-12 educational system in the country.

Simply, vision requires vocal and decisive leadership. Only state government is designed to provide that type of big picture vision and leadership. It cannot act alone and must always act in collaboration with all stakeholders to reach consensus and "buy-in." But creating and leading on a vision is the best possible role for government and I will embrace that role as Lieutenant Governor.

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

1) Build a blueprint to expand the middle class while simultaneously working to increase the minimum wage. These actions need to happen simultaneous in order to ensure that we begin to realize great pay equity across Massachusetts. Our goal must be to work toward economic justice and that can only happen with both a higher minimum wage and an expanded middle class that have access to sustainable jobs for all, most notably communities of color. One without the other will not maximize the potential of the Massachusetts economy. Success in this priority will also set the stage for other progressive agenda items that the next administration must champion.

2) Mandatory pre-k education in every public school in Massachusetts should be the highest educational priority for the next administration. Every student in Massachusetts, regardless of family economic status must be prepared for Kindergarten.

3) I will ask the Governor to put me in charge of a task force that will work towards the end of unfunded mandates placed upon local governments. This is a critical to the ability of municipalities to effectively function and provide necessary services to their residents. Unfunded mandates on local government adversely affect municipal ability to help those most needy in our communities. This will also achieve a stronger bond between state and local government and ensure that local governments are an ally of state government to initiate other progressive policies.

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?

Job growth and closing the pay equity gap are at the foundation of almost every other initiative that our state should pursue in the next administration. Simply, without an expanded middle class and a jobs revolution we cannot expect to increase education funding, continue to improve health care, expand our transportation infrastructure, etc.

We must work quickly with the legislature and other stakeholders to increase the minimum wage.

But increasing the minimum wage alone is not the answer to a thriving economy. We must simultaneously expand our middle class and bring back our manufacturing sector. I will work closely with *Communities of Color* from across the state on their top priority of “sustainable jobs” for their population. For too long, communities of color have experienced increasing unemployment even during times of economic growth.

We must also do a better job matching the skill needs of employers with job training programs. We must work closely with leaders of different industries to better understand their skill needs and subsequently match those needs with an employee base that is trained to match specific jobs. There are too many jobs leaving the state because employers don’t see workers with the correct set of skills. We must train those workers and then be the matchmaker for current and new employers.

Finally, we must do a better job keeping companies here in Massachusetts that are born in Massachusetts. Too many are going to other states rather than expanding in our gateway cities or in Western Massachusetts.

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).

As a political and professional leader on expanding use of clean energy and energy efficiency, I have firsthand experience with how clean tech has been an economic engine since the middle of the last decade. And, I know for a fact that clean tech is at the foundation of the next jobs revolution in Massachusetts.

As a Selectboard member from Whately, I led my town’s effort become a Green Community and a Solarize Massachusetts town. These initiatives weren’t just for the betterment of our environment; they were also done with the knowledge that good, high paying jobs were found with clean energy and energy efficiency. Further, Whately was one of the first communities in the state to create a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) program for cities and towns that have private land owners build solar farms on their property. Our cutting edge work fostered expanded solar farm construction in Whately and other communities across Massachusetts, continuing to build a jobs base for clean tech.

Finally, I have served on the Pioneer Valley Sustainable Knowledge Corridor Advisory Board for the past several years. In this capacity, I have worked collaboratively with other leaders and regional planners to build a region that will be an economic engine for the entire state by taking advantage of our institutions of higher education and other regional assets to grow economic opportunity for people up and down the Connecticut River Valley.

3. **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 has been far too low for far too long. But I do not support policy that will obfuscate our responsibility as leaders to continually work to pull our working poor out of poverty. Indexing the minimum wage to inflation potentially gives state leaders and stakeholders the ability to look the other way and not deal with a host of issues that affect our working poor population. We are leaders that should tackle the difficult challenges we face and indexing the minimum wage simply risks allowing us to think we have done our job, pat ourselves on the back and ignore other perpetual problems.

4. **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**

One of the single most pressing issues we face in Massachusetts is increasing the minimum wage and if this can be achieve by a balance with a reduction in the premiums paid by employers for unemployment insurance than it should at least be on the table as part of negotiations.

But that does not mean I favor cutting unemployment compensation. I want to lessen the insurance burden on companies, working to increase corporate births and expansion in Massachusetts. The cost of maintaining the current unemployment compensation levels and also finding money in the state budget to offset the disastrous federal cuts to long-term unemployment compensation needs to be found in the

general state budget. We must not let our unemployed citizens slip through the cracks and we must pick up after parts of the federal government that lack compassion for the long-term unemployed.

However we need to find more creative ways to pay for these vital benefits other than maintaining unemployment compensation insurance that is among the highest in the nation and keep Massachusetts companies from expanding here in the state. If we can increase the minimum wage and keep growing Massachusetts companies operating in the state and expanding our middle class, we should do so as it will help our working poor and expanding middle class on so many different levels.

As the next Lieutenant Governor, I will be a leader to realize all of the above and I will help find money to pay for vital unemployment compensation that maintains our current benefit levels. We simply must be creative with our solutions.

5. **Earned Sick Time.** Do you support requiring businesses with more than 11 employees to provide earned, paid sick time to their employees?
Yes No
6. **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
7. **Employee-Owned Businesses.** Do you support legislation to foster and develop employee ownership of businesses in Massachusetts?
Yes No
8. **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

This is a strong and creative piece of legislation. Economic development is regional, by nature. An example is our work in Western Massachusetts on the Pioneer Valley Sustainable Knowledge Corridor. We are crafting a regional brand to attract specific types of industries and companies that take advantage of the unique assets of our region. This legislation would be a strong partner to this effort by allowing us to foster that growth and invest in a future for our region.

This legislation would better allow Western Massachusetts and other regions of the state to build an economy that fits best with their assets and challenges they respectively face.

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.*

If we are to realize the jobs revolution that is at the foundation of my campaign, than we must increase our investment in public education. But this is not just an economic issue, but also a moral one. We are leaving too many children behind and not giving them the fundamental tools necessary to achieve their own dreams and aspirations. When students and families from our Communities of Color or other economically disadvantaged groups and regions don't see a chance to improve their lives, they will give up.

This isn't the practice life for any of us. It is the only one we get and if the state doesn't fully invest in a student or a family, we are stealing the absolute potential of someone's 'only life.' That is unconscionable. When we maintain policies that preserve economic injustice, we should simply be ashamed of ourselves. Public policy and solutions to community and statewide challenges are not and must not be cookie cutter. Solutions should be unique to regions to take advantage of regional strengths and better address regional challenges.

As Lieutenant Governor, I will be a leader in the effort to:

- Mandate with phase-in of full day pre-k education, starting in urban centers and using proven systems such as Appletree
- Fully fund special education from the state budget
- Expand public/private partnerships to introduce and/or enhance job training in our public schools
- Develop regional programs to grant badges to our workforce demonstrating job training and skills within specific workforce sectors

Finally, while I am opposed to school vouchers, I am supportive of charter schools, especially for our urban youth who may feel that their current school options are not meeting their needs. These children have only one life and we must give them options. However, I also believe that if a charter school is not meeting minimum standards, they should be quickly shut down.

I also do not believe that No Child Left Behind has succeeded in closing our education gap or working to close the economic gap. Race to the Top has only succeeded marginally better and that our current system overly relies on standardized testing as a method to gauge education success.

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).

Though I have worked hard to maximize education funding during my tenure as a Whately Selectman, I don't feel my experiences are relevant for this question.

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

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

See answer above. This is one of my highest priorities as the next Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor.

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

Yes No

Higher education in the 21st century is as important to our success as an adult as was a high school education in the 20th century. To not move our education system to one that treats higher education the same as public elementary and secondary education is keeping our students in a 20th century education system, trying to prepare them to be 21st century adults.

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

As mentioned previously, I believe that special education should be fully funded through the state budget. Local funding of special education is not in the best interest of special education and it creates a competition between SPED funding levels and mainstream education funding levels.

Overall, the entire Chapter 70 funding formula needs to be re-evaluated. It is confusing and very inconsistent. Simply, it is one of the factors that leads to education inequity across the state.

Finally, we need to re-evaluate charter school reimbursements and transportation costs that are pinching local school budgets across the state. As stated previously, I am a supporter of charter schools but we should always look to ensure that funding and reimbursement formulas work for equally for district and charter schools.

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.

Health care is a basic human right. It is that simple, but it also isn't really that simple. It isn't that simple because unfortunately, a discussion of health care and how to pay for it is perhaps the topic that tears apart our community more than any other in today's policy dialogue.

We want the finest healthcare available, but we don't seem to be able to come to a consensus that we need to pay for that healthcare. But we must.

In order to be able to afford the morally correct policy of universal coverage we must continue to work to make health care affordable. As a state we don't maximize the effective systems of wellness or preventative care programs. We still have too high a reliance on emergency room care.

But we must achieve better health outcomes, as that is one of the best solutions to rising health care costs.

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

As a member of my Board of Selectmen for 10 years, I have worked hard to maintain health care premium coverage at the highest possible level. While surrounding communities have dropped their premium payments to 60%, Whately has maintained its coverage at 75% and encouraged employees to take advantage of wellness programs.

Professionally, when I was Vice President of the marketing firm, SmartPower, we prided ourselves at our long-standing policy of providing 100% healthcare premium coverage because we understood that a healthy employee is a more productive and happy employee. This is a principle that I would carry with me as Lieutenant Governor.

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

Yes	No
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What role might a Public Option play, in your view?

I believe that a public option is the next step towards Single Payer Insurance. As mentioned above, the health care debate is tearing at our state and country's ability to have discussions on any public policy issue. If we want to ultimately realize a Single Payer Insurance system, we must be methodical in our next steps.

Including a Public Option and implementing it correctly to make it an affordable and cost-effective coverage mechanism is the best way to show doubters of a Single Payer system that the government can effectively provide health care.

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

1. Expand the ability of employers to work together to increase buying power through larger group purchases.
2. Provide tax incentives for employees who take advantage of wellness programs.
3. Provide tax incentives for employees to have regular preventative care checkups.
4. Learn and implement best practices through data analysis of what keeps health care dollars lower in other states and what drives up health care costs across the country.
5. Work with medical institutions to maximize general practice physicians, especially in more rural parts of our state. This will expand preventative coverage and care and drive down health care costs.

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

Mental health coverage and care needs to mirror that of traditional health care coverage and care. Further, we need to have a statewide dialogue on mental health and remove the stigma of mental health diseases that too often prevent patients from seeking out low-cost care, at the expense of human and economic consequences down the road.

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

As a state we need to better address the reasons for not only health care coverage disparities but also health care delivery disparities. We need to build health care awareness into our social services, worker training programs, and civic and non-profit programs and initiatives. We need to expand the definition of who is a stakeholder on effective health care to include social service agencies such as CDCs, the United Way, the NAACP and other groups.

Further, we need to tackle the challenges of nutrition and physical fitness that divide along racial and income lines. The model embraced by the Obama Administration in this regard would be a good starting point for the state.

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 the solution type that is discussed in the above answer.

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

Yes No

Simply, because I worry that this will result in nothing other than a reduction in general awareness for those communities most in need of maximum amounts of information.

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

I support it for all employees, not just public employees.

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

Yes No

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.

1. 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?

We must increase the volume of and access to affordable housing. We must build what people need and historically we don't adequately assess the needs of different population segments. Even a 15' x 20' room, including a small galley kitchen is going to meet the needs of some of our population segments and it will be a lot better than what they currently have. In a state with as much prosperity and opportunity as we have in Massachusetts, we cannot tolerate current homelessness levels. We must also increase affordability to reduce the battle between paying for housing and other basic human necessities.

Simply, we need to be creative and we must no longer sweep the homeless and affordable housing problem under the rug, but rather we must face it and create a dialogue that builds solutions.

We must also break down the silos that exist between agencies. Linking affordable housing with jobs and transportation, while simultaneously encouraging regional cooperation will create more effective affordable housing policy, save money, and also provide critical tools to expand the productivity of those receiving housing assistance.

Finally, as discussed previously, we must address the inadequate mental health care in Massachusetts to help reduce homeless. Though it is not the only reason for homelessness, data exists to show that those with various mental health challenges do represent a significant percentage of our homeless population. This is another area where we must break down service delivery silos.

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

As a member of my Board of Selectmen I have worked closely with the Housing Committee to ensure we build more affordable housing in town and that it is placed along public transportation routes, where those needing affordable housing can more easily get to their jobs, stores, banks, etc. Further, as the Chair of the Board of Oversight for our regional senior center, I have worked with area leaders to build consensus around the creation of a regional affordable housing solution. Small towns must work together on this issue to ensure the best possible affordable housing opportunities and my commitment to consensus building has fostered open dialogue with area councils on aging and others.

2. **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 am in support of the Patrick Administration proposal to consolidate Housing Authorities but the regional administrative structures should be one per county, as opposed to the current proposal of six

across the state. Doing so would save on administrative costs and allow the money to be better spent on direct assistance. Further, this proposal would increase regional cooperation on affordable housing implementation.

However any legislation should require local property management that reports to the regionalized administrative system. This legislation should also require a state-of-the-art online functionality so that recipient of affordable housing can process the application and other requirements online as opposed to going to housing authorities in person. This will further alleviate the need for the current 232 administrative offices across the state.

3. **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?

Housing experts from across the state indicate that there is a great need for studio apartments to satisfy some of our affordable housing needs. Unfortunately, developers currently do not build these units, as they are non-economical for their business. A tax incentive would make it more economical for these units to be built. I would also build consensus that these units be built in community-style campuses or buildings with shared facilities and services, while also placing them in town centers and in areas with strong public transportation systems. This will allow residents to easily get to their places of employment and have efficient access to critical services such as groceries, healthcare and retail.

We must also allow veterans housing vouchers to be used with two or more bedroom apartments. This is currently not possible. The limited income of some veterans is not efficiently used when we require vouchers to be used in single individual/family dwellings. We must encourage the sharing of expenses and provide systems for cost-effective service delivery for those needing affordable housing.

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

The above solutions around increased studio apartments and regionalizing service delivery are two actions that homeless and affordable housing advocates indicate would begin to help with this transition. We must find ways to build more housing in Massachusetts. And this housing must be located in community centers with access to services that we all need to lead our lives.

Motels and shelters are administratively easy solutions, but they are not sustainable solutions. They allow us to claim we are tackling the challenge, without truly working toward a solution that is effective or efficient. A large part of this solution is an increase in the volume of housing that drives costs down and increases access.

5. **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

This is another example of the need to break down service delivery silos. We must build consensus and work with cities and towns on the above issues. It is precisely why our next Lieutenant Governor must have extensive experience and relationships with local government and planning authorities. Outdated zoning bylaws is an issue that impacts so many challenges we face in this state, not the least of which is affordable housing and homelessness.

As the next Lieutenant Governor, I have the experience and ability to work closely with local officials, advocates and regional planning agencies to solve these problems, which in turn will have a very positive impact on improving the lives of the homeless and others in need of affordable housing.

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?*

I will look seriously at the need to increase our state's income tax rate. However, I will do so simultaneously with an extensive overhaul of state spending through a transparent zero-based budgeting process that will be driven by the Executive Office of Administration & Finance. I will ask the Governor to have me serve as the official liaison with the Secretary of A&F on this process. This process will allow the administration to better demonstrate the need for increased revenues and show the voters of Massachusetts that we are spending their dollars in the most efficient manner.

As a resident of Western Massachusetts and a leader in my community I see firsthand the increased reliance on property taxes and a rising gas tax. As is well documented, the impact of these taxes on seniors and low-income populations is sometimes catastrophic to their respective lifestyles.

Massachusetts' leaders must revamp our tax structure to be more equitable and to reduce the burden on cities and towns to provide the services the state cannot afford because of the current tax structure. But we must do so in a way that does not make the state less business friendly. We must work with all stakeholders to create the value proposition for increasing our revenue stream and understand how to do so in a more equitable manner. I don't think that anyone can say what that structure will ultimately look like, but we must embrace the dialogue so we can move toward a solution.

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).

As a member of the Whately Board of Selectmen for ten years, I have been vocal about the lack of local aid provided to cities and towns by the state. Every time they cut a program because of a lack of ability or willingness to pay, cities and towns are forced to increase our property taxes to deliver the services, many of which are mandated by the state. The Romney Administration tried to claim the state could afford tax cuts, but they are not true tax cuts when the responsibilities for payment for the services simply falls to cities and towns. It is a tax cut for the state, but a mandated tax increase for local government. This system lacks equity and is intellectually dishonest.

Further, as I have said repeatedly, raising the gas tax is an undue burden on Massachusetts' residents who live in more rural parts of the state.

We must look at all revenue options, and have leaders who understand and have experienced the challenges of governing because of this inequitable tax structure.

3. **Tax Rates for Upper Incomes.** Do you support increasing income taxes on the wealthiest residents of Massachusetts?

Yes No

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

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

Yes No

I don't support or not support this legislation. Safeguards should exist at certain means thresholds, rather than for a general population. We need to look at the best way to implement a capital gains tax increase, without broad definitions of who should be exempt and who should pay.

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

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

Yes No

I support looking at corporate tax breaks and amplifying what they accomplish or don't accomplish. We need to have dialogue that explains the original intent of the tax break and if it is succeeding in its goal. So, yes I support this but with careful assessment and implementation.

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

See above.

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

Yes No

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 a consensus builder and a Lieutenant Governor who brings 10+ years of elective experience and 25+ years of professional experience to the office, I believe that the progressive agenda is best served by constantly building collaborative stakeholder processes to find a common solution. I also believe, as stated earlier in this document, that the progressive agenda can best be achieved when we have the strongest possible economy and by achieving early successes with parts of the agenda that are more easily attained.

Simply, momentum is a key to furthering our common goals.

Just like I have done in the past, I will sit down and work with people from all perspectives to understand why someone supports a particular policy and why someone does not support that same policy. Understanding the unique positions of all involved will better allow us to achieve success.

I am a progressive candidate who believes that we achieve our agenda when we have a practical implementation plan. Great strides and achievements sometimes take time and we must be patient to move beyond the “do you support” and on to “how can we best implement.” It isn’t a difference in policy objectives, but rather how we attain the policy goals.