



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS

statewide, grassroots organizing for progressive change in Massachusetts

2014 STATE RACES ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Date: 2/3/2014

Candidate: Martha Coakley

Office Sought: Governor

Party: Democrat

Web Site: www.marthacoakley.com

CANDIDATE CONTACT INFO

Email:

Mobile Phone: -

Home Phone: -

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFO

Campaign Manager: Tim Foley

Campaign Manager Phone: -

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Campaign Office Phone:

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: Martha Coakley

OFFICE: 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?

I am running for Governor because I believe we are at a critical time here in Massachusetts. As our recovery continues, we have the opportunity to build an economy in the Commonwealth that is better for everyone, not just those at the very top. We already have some of the best public schools in the world, but we have the opportunity to give every child an even better chance to reach their full potential by expanding access to early education and better aligning instruction with workforce needs. And we must continue our work on health care, to improve accessibility and affordability; especially to high-quality mental health care, which is so important to so many families here in Massachusetts.

We need a strong, Democratic leader in the corner office to help our state seize the opportunities that are laid out before us. As Attorney General, I took on the challenges that were important to people in Massachusetts, from opposing DOMA to helping keep thousands of families in their homes by taking on the big banks. My record of leadership on critical issues, and my clear vision for our state, give me the skills and drive to tackle the challenges we will face in the next eight years, both those we can anticipate and those we can't, and to continue to build on the remarkable progress we have made together.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

As I mentioned briefly above, I have spent my life in public service. Shortly after I graduated from law school, I joined the Middlesex District Attorney's office, where I ran the Child Abuse Unit and developed strategies to better address domestic violence; I was then elected District Attorney myself in 1999. In 2006, I had the tremendous honor to be elected the first female Attorney General in Massachusetts, and to be reelected in 2010.

I am proud of the work I have done throughout my career to address the important issues facing people in Massachusetts. From recovering millions of dollars from contractors involved in the Big Dig and taking on banks that knowingly sold risky loans, to holding the EPA accountable for enforcing greenhouse gas regulations and working to better address bullying in our schools, I have worked to make our state a place that is more equal, more fair, and where everyone has the opportunity to build a better life.

I could not have done it alone, however, and my time as AG has shown me the importance of articulating a vision and then building the best team, and working with partners across the state, including local government, businesses, non-profits, and individuals, to achieve our shared goals. This inclusive approach to leadership is even more critical as Governor, because government cannot hope to tackle the major challenges we face alone; I will bring a proven record of inclusiveness to the corner office to help harness all of our collective energy and ideas.

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

Government plays a vital role in the life of every resident of Massachusetts. From the day-to-day responsibilities like repairing roads and ensuring public safety, to taking on the critical challenges of our time including climate change, inequality, and public health.

Government should be there to ensure that everyone is treated equally, that there is a basic level of fairness, and that everyone has the best possible chance to succeed. And we must allow our businesses to grow and incentivize innovative solutions to our greatest challenges, but also make sure competition is encouraged and consumers are treated fairly.

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

1. **Building an economy that creates good-paying jobs and that works for everyone, across every region of the Commonwealth, not just those at the very top. And implementing strategies to reduce the high level of income inequality in Massachusetts, including raising the minimum wage and providing for earned sick time.**
2. **Improving our public education system to give all children, regardless of their income bracket, the best possible chance to reach their full potential.**
3. **Controlling the cost of health care, while maintaining our first-in-the-nation levels of access and quality, and decreasing stigma while improving access to high-quality mental and behavioral health care.**

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?

Rising income inequality is one of the greatest challenges facing our Commonwealth today. Inequality robs people of hope, for themselves and their children, and deprives too many of the opportunity to build a better life. And it's not just the gap that exists today, it's that it has been getting progressively worse; in the last 30 years, those at the top in Massachusetts have seen their incomes grow more than 100%, while those at the bottom have seen no growth whatsoever.

Addressing the growing problem of inequality begins with raising the minimum wage for every worker in Massachusetts. Currently, we are asking full-time, minimum wage workers to survive on less than \$17,000 per year; that is wrong. We need to raise the minimum wage, on its own, and we need to do it now. It also means providing earned sick time so that workers don't lose their jobs or critical wages because they are ill or have to take care of a sick family member.

In the longer term, ensuring broad-based economic prosperity in Massachusetts means creating good jobs and giving workers and young people the skills to fill not only new jobs, but also the thousands of jobs currently going unfilled in Massachusetts. This starts with making our business environment more competitive, including reducing high health care and energy costs, in order to attract and retain good jobs in the Commonwealth. It also means doing a better job aligning curricula our K-12 system, voc. tech. schools, community colleges, and colleges and universities with workforce needs to give workers a clear path into the middle class.

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 Attorney General, I have worked to ensure every worker gets a fair wage for a day's work by enforcing our wage and hour laws. Overall, our office has recovered more than \$30 million back for workers in wages they were rightfully owed.

I also worked to level the playing field for businesses by creating the first division in the Attorney General's Office specifically designated to support the needs of the business community and help them navigate the regulatory landscape, an effort that has empowered businesses to grow and create thousands of good jobs.

3. **Minimum Wage.** Do you support:
- | | | |
|---|------------|----|
| Raising the wage to at least \$10.50/hour: | <u>Yes</u> | No |
| Indexing automatic yearly increases to inflation: | <u>Yes</u> | No |
| Increasing tipped wages to 60% of the minimum wage: | <u>Yes</u> | No |

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

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

I support businesses paying their employees a living wage; at this point, our focus should be on raising the minimum wage for everyone in Massachusetts. Going forward, I will consider support for any proposal that will help us eliminate income inequality.

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

Yes No

I am supportive of this concept, and will review any proposed legislation when I am Governor.

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

I am supportive of this concept, and will review any proposed legislation when I am Governor.

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.*

I am proud to be from Massachusetts, where our students routinely lead the world in academic achievement, but there are still far too many young people who are left behind and not given the opportunity to realize their full potential. If we want to ensure the long-term success of our Commonwealth, and give every resident the opportunity to thrive, it is critically important to improve our public education system so that every student has the best possible chance to succeed.

There are a number of steps we can take to create real improvements in educational outcomes for every student:

1. **We need to provide universal access to high-quality early education, because we know that the foundation for success is laid early;**
 2. **We need to extend the school day and school year, because schools need the flexibility to incorporate more time for targeted instruction, student enrichment, and professional development;**
 3. **We need to work together with educators, industry leaders, and non-profits to better align school curricula with workforce needs and give students hands-on experiences; and**
 4. **We need to do more to make higher education accessible for every young person.**
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).

As Attorney General, we identified unfair and deceptive practices in the for-profit college industry. At a time when students are going further and further into debt, we brought actions against multiple for-profit colleges and proposed regulations to help students receive the benefits of their education that they were promised.

During my time as Attorney General and District Attorney, I have worked closely with coalitions of teachers, principals and school personnel to develop strategies to address bullying and help ensure a safe learning environment for our kids.

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

In addition to the steps I mentioned above (universal access to early education, extended learning time), I believe it is critical that we provide schools with dedicated support counselors who can help students deal with out-of-school issues that can negatively impact their academic achievement, including hunger, homelessness, and violence.

In places where student achievement consistently lags behind, cities like Springfield, Lawrence, and Fall River, too many students are dealing with challenges associated with poverty and violence that make it nearly impossible to succeed in school. Giving students a

resource in school whose only job is to help them deal with the challenges they face outside of school has a range of positive effects: it will enable students to focus more attention on school, it will take the burden off of teachers, many of whom currently serve as de-facto social workers, and it will improve outcomes in other areas, including health and violent crime.

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

I am steadfastly committed to providing access to high quality pre-k for every child in the Commonwealth. When it comes to pre-K, we should have two primary goals: 1) providing universal access and 2) ensuring a consistent level of quality across all pre-k programs.

We need to explore all available options to realize these two goals, including expanding the state voucher program to give the thousands of low-income children currently on waitlists the resources to enroll in high-quality pre-k, developing strategies to better assure the quality of private pre-k programs, and formally integrating pre-K into our public school system.

5. **Universal higher education.** Do you support a program that provides free, publicly funded higher education for every student who wants it?
Yes No

Cost should not be a prohibitive barrier for anyone who wants to go to college.

I will encourage proposals about how we could significantly reduce the cost of higher education, or make it free even. I believe, right now, we need to focus on concrete ways of reducing costs, including bringing more transparency to high executive salaries at non-profit colleges and universities, increasing funding for grants and other forms of student assistance, and pushing for federal action to further decrease the long-term costs of student loans. I also believe we should explore programs that provide loan forgiveness for public service.

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

I believe our first priority should be to increase funding for Chapter 70 (the overall pool of money that is distributed to schools and districts based on the formula). I also believe that we need to examine the funding formula, both to make it more transparent and to determine if it still adequately addresses the needs of schools. After all, the formula has not been updated in two decades even though, over that same time period, schools and districts have seen tremendous changes in student demographics, educational requirements, and best practices.

We must also work together with teachers, administrators, businesses, and the non-profit community to find other innovative solutions to improve our schools and give them more resources, including realignment of our spending priorities.

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.

Massachusetts remains a national leader in health care access and quality; as a result of the Commonwealth's first-in-the-nation health reform legislation, 98% of Massachusetts' residents have health insurance, people come from all over the world to be treated at our hospitals, and we are on the cutting edge of medical research.

However, we still face challenges. Health care costs are too high for families and businesses in the Commonwealth, and they continue to grow, although we are bending the cost curve. Costs associated with health care consume nearly half of our state budget, dramatically reducing the funding available for critical programs in other areas. And barriers to access remain, especially for those struggling with mental and behavioral health problems.

Government needs to work with our partners on the federal level, the business community in Massachusetts, non-profits, and consumers, as it did in passing our landmark health reform, to develop strategies for reducing costs while improving health outcomes and maintaining access for everyone.

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

When I took office, I created the Health Care Division in the Attorney General's Office in order to help our office advance the mission of promoting quality, affordable health care.

Our office undertook the first investigation of its kind to understand the cost drivers of health care in the Commonwealth. Our report demonstrated a clear link between the market power of providers and high costs, and that report helped shape the Commonwealth's health care cost containment legislation passed in 2010 and 2012.

We also have been aggressive in ensuring that insurers offer mandated coverage to all our citizens, including behavioral health treatment.

3. **Single Payer and Public Option.** Do you support moving Massachusetts to Single Payer insurance?
Yes No

Not at this time.

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

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

Our first priority should be making the strategic investments in prevention and primary care that will save money and lives in the long-term.

Today, the United States spends hundreds of billions annually to treat preventable diseases; for example, health care costs associated with smoking, hypertension, and diabetes totaled nearly \$150 billion last year alone. Despite this, only about four cents of every dollar we spend on health care goes towards public health and prevention. By increasing our

investment in proven prevention strategies, we can dramatically lower long-term health care costs while improving health outcomes.

In addition, we need to bring more transparency to our health care system and reduce waste, fraud and abuse.

As Attorney General, I have a record of working on both of these issues. For the last three years, my office has released an annual report on health care expenditures, which allows consumers and policy makers to make more informed decisions about cost-effective health care. And, by tackling fraud and abuse in our Medicaid system, our office has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for Massachusetts' taxpayers.

Finally, we need to increase the use of tiered and limited networks. We have begun that process and the next Governor must continue that important work.

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

Access to quality mental health care is an issue that is deeply personal to me. My brother Edward suffered from depression for most of his life, but he was reluctant to seek treatment because he thought it would lead people to stereotype him. Because he wouldn't seek treatment, he was unable to hold a job or carry on a relationship, and he committed suicide in 1996, when he was 33.

The first priority in Massachusetts needs to be making sure that there is parity in insurance coverage for individuals with mental health needs. We have begun to implement this here in Massachusetts, but our next Governor will have to continue to shine a spotlight on this issue and ensure that insurance companies are not unfairly discriminating against those with mental health issues.

We also need to eliminate the stigma around mental health, and empower people with mental health issues to speak up and seek needed treatment without the fear of losing their job, being ostracized from their community, or otherwise being unfairly discriminated against. This starts with having a Governor who continually brings mental health care into the discussion about how we improve health care, generally, here in Massachusetts; I will do this.

Finally, we need to do more to identify children with mental health issues earlier. Research has shown that 50% of chronic, adult mental health disorders present before the age of 14. Working with schools and health care providers to improve early detection will allow us to connect those in need with critical care much sooner.

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

The tremendous progress Massachusetts has made in increasing access to quality health care sometimes obscures the fact that certain segments of the population still face barriers to care and experience depressed health outcomes. There are a number of changes we can make to achieve parity in health outcomes for everyone in Massachusetts:

- **Increase access to primary care providers, particularly in low-income communities, and increase the percentage of primary care providers accepting subsidized insurance, like MassHealth.**
- **Support prevention programs targeted at the health concerns of specific communities.**
- **Increase public awareness about the existence and root causes of health disparities.**
- **Address the social and environmental conditions that lead to health disparities, including the availability of safe, clean housing, access to fresh, healthy food, proximity to parks and other open spaces, and differences in air quality.**
- **Encourage our non-profits to address this in their community benefits.**

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

I believe it is always important to draw on expert knowledge when tackling complex challenges like health care. As a result of the health care cost containment bill passed in 2012, there are already agencies, both independent and within state government, whose mission it is to advise the Governor on health care policy issues, including the Health Policy Commission and the independent Center for Health Information and Analysis. I would continue to work with these agencies and seek their input as we develop strategies to improve health care in Massachusetts.

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

Yes No

As Governor, I would review this.

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

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?

Everyone in Massachusetts should have access to safe, clean, affordable housing; it is not only a moral imperative for a progressive state like Massachusetts, but access to housing positively affects outcomes in many other areas, including education, health care, and economic growth.

There is no silver bullet to address all of Massachusetts' housing needs, but there are a number of steps we can take now to decrease homelessness, reduce the housing cost burden on lower- and middle-income families, and help keep young people in our state.

It starts with promoting smart-growth development in our Gateway Cities. By expanding existing programs, like the Gateway Cities tax credit and the historical preservation tax credit, and offering incentives for residential and commercial development centered around transportation, we can increase the availability and attractiveness of affordable, market-rate housing in different regions throughout the state, while also growing those cities property tax bases.

Addressing homelessness starts with identifying and addressing the root causes, so that we can catch people and connect them with services before they become homeless, rather than after. This includes increasing access to mental health services; nationally, nearly a quarter of people who are homeless suffer from a severe mental illness. We need to do a better job connecting these individuals with treatment that, both residential and acute, that will allow them to remain in their homes.

There is also a tremendous problem of homelessness among young people, particularly LGBTQ young people. Too often, these young people leave home or are forced out because of their sexual orientation or identification.

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

When the foreclosure crisis hit, our office has been a national leader in taking on the big banks and keeping people in their homes. Through actions against companies like Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, we have recovered more than \$600 million for homeowners and investors in Massachusetts and helped keep more than 30,000 people in their homes.

With funds from the national mortgage settlement, our office established HomeCorps, a first-in-the-nation program that provides direct personal assistance to every distressed borrower in the Commonwealth to deal directly with the banks. Through that program, more than 2,000 people received loan modifications with more than \$54 million in principal reduction.

We also greatly expanded the Abandoned Housing Initiative to assist communities with the abandoned properties in their neighborhoods. Using the receivership statute, our office has helped dozens of communities rehabilitate previously abandoned homes, improving public safety and property values in the neighborhoods.

3. **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?

As Governor, this is something I would explore, along with other opportunities to increase accountability in our housing market.

4. **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?

In terms of physical housing stock, it is important to focus not only on the development of single-family homes, but also on the development of affordable rental housing. State government should work with every city and town in the Commonwealth to ensure that they reach the 10% threshold of affordable housing currently required under Massachusetts' law, and cities and towns should be held accountable. We also need to improve public housing, both in terms of ensuring the quality of housing, and making the administration of the public housing system more efficient and cost-effective.

It is also important to expand financing options for both rental properties and home ownership. Expanding opportunities for second mortgages, both through state and federal programs is critical for many homeowners, and expanding state rental assistance will give more families the opportunity to access stable housing.

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

Again, there is no silver bullet for transitioning individuals and families out of homelessness. One critical element is the provision of supportive services, including employment services, substance abuse counseling, and access to health care.

One potential strategy is to expand the development of "supportive housing," which incorporates affordable, permanent housing with on-site services to help connect residents with jobs, counseling, and health care. By providing these services, we can make it easier for the previously homeless to get back on their feet, and reduce the likelihood that they will fall back into homelessness.

6. **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

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?*

Our first priority for growing state revenue should be growing our state economy, which will increase the amount of money reinvested in local businesses and increase state and local tax revenues.

We also need to examine how our state currently allocates its resources and determine if we are addressing our priorities as cost-effectively as possible and, along with that, identify areas where significant cost savings can be achieved. For example, controlling healthcare spending by 1% would save the Commonwealth nearly \$140 million dollars, money that could be used to fund critical programs in other areas.

If we determine that it is necessary to raise new revenues in order to accomplish our goals, we need to be sure that we are not increasing the burden on those who can least afford it, especially as our economy is only now beginning to recover and so many in Massachusetts are still struggling to make ends meet.

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).

Our office works closely with the Department of Revenue to ensure that the tax laws are uniformly enforced for both businesses and individuals, and to identify and prosecute instances of tax evasion and other violations.

The Attorney General's Office is also unique in that it is a revenue generator for the Commonwealth and its citizens. Through our aggressive enforcement actions combating fraud and abuse, our office has recovered literally hundreds of millions of dollars back for taxpayers and the Commonwealth's general fund. During the last fiscal year alone, our office recovered nearly \$10 for every \$1 in our budget.

3. **Tax Rates for Upper Incomes.** Do you support increasing income taxes on the wealthiest residents of Massachusetts?
Yes No

As our economic recovery continues, part of building an economy that works for everyone is analyzing the fairness of our tax code. It is unfair if those at the top are paying a lower effective tax rate than many of those at the bottom of the income ladder.

I am committed to examining our tax system and exploring all the options we have at our disposal to make it more progressive for everyone. What we cannot be doing is asking those at the bottom, who can least afford it, to be contributing more in taxes.

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 am committed to examining our tax system and exploring all the options we have at our disposal to make it more progressive for everyone.

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

Again, I believe we need to explore every proposal that would make our tax system more progressive, and fairer, for everyone in the Commonwealth.

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

Yes No

Corporations should not be making massive profits while workers still struggle. We need to explore strategies that ensure that everyone pays their fair share in taxes.

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

Yes No

Again, we need to do a comprehensive review of our tax system to ensure that those at the top do not have unfair advantages, and that the burden is not increased on those in the middle, and at the bottom.

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

I am committed to examining our tax system and exploring all the options we have at our disposal to make it more progressive for everyone. What we cannot be doing is asking those at the bottom, who can least afford it, to be contributing more in taxes.

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.