



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS

statewide, grassroots organizing for progressive change in Massachusetts

2014 STATE RACES ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Date: 1/31/2014

Candidate: Deborah Goldberg

Office Sought: Treasurer

Party: Democrat

Web Site: www.debgoldberg.com

CANDIDATE CONTACT INFO

Email:

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CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFO

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Campaign Office Phone: Available on Feb. 7, 2014

**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: Deborah Goldberg

OFFICE: Treasurer

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 Treasurer because for me improving economic security and empowerment for everyone in Massachusetts is more than just a policy; it's a personal mission. I believe the office of Treasurer provides a unique opportunity to increase transparency within our government, wage equity within the office and financial literacy for women, our youth and minorities.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

I believe I can effectively serve the Commonwealth as Treasurer because of my diverse background in both the public and private sectors.

I am a businessperson, who worked at a company that was unusual in its commitment to people. I learned early on that you can run a good business and still make sure that it is about providing equal opportunity for everyone. I worked at Stop and Shop, first as a retail clerk (UFCW 1445), then onto executive positions within the company.

I then served six years on the Brookline Board of Selectmen the last two as its Chair, where I led initiatives to revitalize Brookline's commercial areas and increase the availability of affordable housing. I was one of the first local leaders to bring policy budgeting to the forefront and led a team to evaluate and institute fiscal policies that helped meet the needs of the schools and all town services.

In addition, I have devoted my time and energy to numerous non-profits and institutions throughout the state, including Adoptions with Love, The Greater Boston Food Bank, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, Boston College, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and the Center for Collaborative Education.

I am also the Massachusetts Senate President's appointee to the Treasurer's Commonwealth Covenant Fund, providing tuition reimbursement to graduates in need, who attended state colleges and are working in science technology, engineering, and math fields.

As Treasurer, I will use my business skills and finance background to promote policies that are fiscally responsible and economically innovative, protecting taxpayers' dollars, increasing financial growth, and using the unique opportunities within the Treasurer's office to promote economic empowerment and economic stability.

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

I believe that our government should reflect our values. Core among this, should be to make life easier and provide opportunity to those who need it most. That is why as Treasurer I will use the bully pulpit of the office to bring about progressive change and a sense of social justice to our business community. For example, we should invest in socially responsible businesses and use our investment power to elevate more women and minorities onto the boards of these businesses, because, like government, our businesses will be more successful if they represent those they serve.

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

The overarching theme of my campaign will be economic stability and empowerment. My top three priorities that are directly related to this are:

- 1) To establish a comprehensive and robust financial literacy program to reach those most susceptible to the type of predatory practices that nearly caused our economy to collapse just a few short years ago.
- 2) Ensuring pay equity and wage equality - This is more than just a fairness issue to me. It is a family issue and strong families will lead to a stronger Commonwealth!
- 3) Increase transparency within the Treasurer's office - We have taken steps within the office, but there is more to do. Every taxpayer should feel confident that we are investing and spending their dollars openly, honestly and with the utmost professionalism.

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?

My campaign is about economic security and economic empowerment. In the Treasurer's office I can continue my advocacy and testimony around issues like the minimum wage and paid sick leave. But I also intend to promote additional investment in local businesses through our community banking partnership by improving the existing program. I will also focus upon establishing wage equality because women's issues are family issues, and intend to provide comprehensive financial tools and training to women, immigrants, and minorities all of whom are at risk.

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).

Both in my business life and my non-profit and public service I have focused on programs around job creation, and education and training that leads to jobs.

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

PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS – ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

CANDIDATE: Deborah Goldberg

OFFICE: Treasurer

2014

Raising the wage to at least \$10.50/hour: Yes
Indexing automatic yearly increases to inflation: Yes
Increasing tipped wages to 60% of the minimum wage: Yes

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

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

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

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

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

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.*

Our public schools and teachers are being undermined when they have one of the most difficult jobs in our country. Education is the key to upward mobility and economic advancement and too many initiatives today interfere in the basic work of teaching. They scapegoat teachers and our schools, particularly in poorer communities, where teachers are working with kids whose lives outside the school have incredible difficulties that interfere with learning.

I understand parent's desire for school choice and the idea of standards but not the way it is applied today. There is no such thing as a one size fits all standardized test. Charters take funding from the public schools but do not have to work with the same population. We need to support the structure of our public school system and give them the resources they need.

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 a Selectman, I opposed and helped lead a resolution against the MCAS as the sole standard of graduation and was the only candidate in the 2006 cycle that supported Mayor Scott Lang of New Bedford when he awarded diplomas to kids who passed New Bedford High School's standards but not the MCAS.

I am on the Executive Committee of the Center for Collaborative Education (CCE), which has since 1994 worked on the PILOT school initiatives and continues works with the public schools and seeks to increase justice and opportunity for all learners through a wide range of programs.

I also fought against the ballot question that eliminated ELL programs in Massachusetts.

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

I chaired the Strategic Planning process for CCE with the development of mission and focus. Our stated mission and vision reflects my beliefs in what education should achieve and so, I have copied it here:

The mission of the Center for Collaborative Education (CCE) is to transform schools to ensure that all students succeed. We believe that schools should prepare every student to achieve academically and make a positive contribution to a democratic society. CCE partners with public schools and districts to create and sustain effective and equitable schools.

We fulfill this mission in four primary ways:

- Building understanding with the larger public that innovative schools can increase opportunity and justice for every student.

- Creating effective models of urban education, district redesign, and leadership development.
- Providing onsite coaching, professional development, and networking opportunities for educators.
- Conducting research that documents school progress and student results.

The Center for Collaborative Education seeks to influence the larger public's view on education to better support change that fosters democratic and equitable schools. CCE seeks to create autonomous and flexible schools in which:

- Equity and diversity are embedded in all practices,
- Teaching and learning are purposeful, challenging, and have value beyond school,
- Assessment demonstrates the competence of students in multiple ways,
- Students and teachers know each other well,
- Democratic values are nurtured and modeled,
- Decisions are made as close to the learner as possible, and
- Collaborative practices improve teaching and learning.

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

Yes

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

Yes

5. **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

CANDIDATE: Deborah Goldberg

OFFICE: Treasurer

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.

I believe in universal health care and also the public option and mandate that the federal government did not incorporate into health care reform. I believe that part of our problem with the economics and costs of the federal program come from the compromises in the federal bill. Massachusetts got it right.

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 Lt. Governor in 2006 and since I have been a vocal advocate for health care reform and worked with elected leaders on the messaging and persuasion campaign around health care reform.

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

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

Public option takes control away from the insurers most of whom are for profits. Health care is a right and should not be a for profit business.

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

In 2006, I promoted the idea of forcing competition between the insurers in order to lower costs and deductibles. I believe lower deductibles allow people to seek care more readily and avoid catastrophic situations. In addition, we need to cover maintaining wellness not just acute situations.

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

Coverage for mental health should be as expansive as other health care issues. The limits of coverage merely touch the surface of what people truly need. Poor mental health also causes poor physical health. It only makes sense that we take a more comprehensive approach to mental health care. As Treasurer, I can continue to promote my positions through testimony and advocacy.

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

As a private individual I have helped promote programs in Holyoke, Lawrence, and Boston.

In Holyoke, a program I helped sponsor was education and outreach around access to proper care and how to avoid SID's in young Latina women.

In Lawrence I helped get funding for a Latino Nursing program that begins training of young people as early as in high school and prepares them for going into the nursing field. This program is through the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center. In both cases we were using culturally sensitive training and empowering people within their own communities to promote better health for themselves and their peers.

In Boston, I helped spearhead a program with two Tufts researchers, who do mainly community based research to develop vocational training that mitigates obesity in immigrant groups. We trained a group of women in nutrition and also taught them how to become personal fitness trainers. The results have been life changing and we are hoping to scale this project up.

These are just three examples of things I have done.

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
8. **Pharmaceutical companies.** Do you support prohibiting pharmaceutical companies from including direct-to-consumer drug advertising as tax-deductible expense?
Yes
9. **Bulk prescription programs.** Do you support establishing a bulk prescription drug program that would provide lower cost prescription drugs for public employees?

Yes. This was one of my platform in 2006.

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

Yes

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?

Again, in my 2006 race for Lt. Gov. I was a strong advocate for increased affordable housing and the need to tie job creation, job training, transportation, and housing into a comprehensive program that coordinated all efforts instead of housing in one place, jobs in another, training elsewhere etc...which rendered each program ineffective in attacking inequality of opportunity.

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

I think the best example of my advocacy was that as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen I promoted affordable housing in my own neighborhood and withstood the anger of my neighbors some of whom have never rebuilt their relationship with me.

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?

I am not sure – I do not know enough about this. Brookline Housing Authority is so well run and works so well for people that I would not want to endanger that. On the other hand, we have seen incredible abuse in other communities. Obviously something has to be done.

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?

I believe the Governor, Legislature and local communities need to do a lot more to reduce the cost of housing in MA! I support that effort.

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

Support every proposed program.

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

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?*

The misnomer of the title Taxachusetts has continued unwarranted for years. Yes, we are a very expensive state to live in but more of that comes from the regressive nature of our taxation beginning with 2 ½% and onward, tagging increased fees onto everything and using parking meters to raise revenues. When Mike Dukakis was Governor he created a tax amnesty for evaders (tax evasion is not a victimless crime) and was able to provide additional funding. I would like to look into that kind of program to potentially help fund the unfunded pension liability to remove that liability from the budget and free up more funds for spending on services.

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).

In Brookline we have a residential tax exemption that shifts the tax rate burden to above the median. It is a public policy position that gives a complete exemption from the first \$100,000 and helps those in more moderate housing. The exemption was under attack and I supported the continuation of it as good public policy.

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

Yes

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

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

Yes

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

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

Yes

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

PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS – ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

CANDIDATE: Deborah Goldberg

OFFICE: Treasurer

2014

No

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

Yes

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

Yes

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.

It is with my values and my experience of how to run a business with a conscience that I bring to the role of Treasurer. I will use my business skills and finance background to promote policies that are fiscally responsible and economically innovative, protecting our state's resources, our people's resources, and increasing financial growth, with a strong focus of especially strengthening the retirement security of our seniors. I will also increase investment in local communities by making more state funds available to small business owners throughout the state. And, very importantly, make sure we empower everyone, particularly women, young people, immigrants, and people of color with a robust state-wide financial literacy program which will prepare those most at risk from situations such as the predatory practices of the sub-prime mortgage crisis that nearly caused our economy to collapse just a few short years ago.

I intend to use the role of the Treasurer as a bully pulpit and an example of progressive values. Additionally, not only will I push for the things I believe in, my internal staff will be a reflection of the diversity of our culture, as it should be.

That's why I'm running for Treasurer of Massachusetts. It would be an honor to be your Treasurer. But I can't do it alone. I hope you will join our team, vote for me as a delegate in June and I would very much appreciate your vote on September 9th in the Democratic Primary.