



## PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS

Legislative Agenda 2019-2020

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*Dear Legislator,*

**Progressive Mass** grassroots members believe the Commonwealth can and should be the national leader in creating a future where there is shared prosperity and justice for all.

The bills in the agenda would keep Massachusetts moving forward in areas such as education, affordable housing, health care, civil rights, economic and racial equality, climate action, good government, and voting access, while also fighting back against the troubling right-wing corporate agenda of President Trump.

We ask our representatives in the Legislature to ally with us as champions of these bold, progressive priorities to make our Commonwealth the beacon that it can, and should, be.

### Our Shared Prosperity Agenda

- ❑ **Fair Share Amendment (S.16/H.86):** Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to provide resources for education and transportation through an additional tax on incomes in excess of one million dollars (Lewis - O'Day) *Creates a 4% surtax on income above \$1 million to fund education and transportation reinvestment.*
- ❑ **Fully Funding Our Public Schools / PROMISE Act (S.238/H.586):** An Act providing rightful opportunities and meaningful investment for successful and equitable education (Chang-Diaz -- Keefe/Vega) *Fixes our outdated school funding formula to more accurately and equitably distribute resources – giving all schools the funding they need to deliver high-quality education.*
- ❑ **Debt-Free College (S.744/H.1221):** An Act to guarantee debt-free public higher education (Eldridge - Higgins) *Creates a higher education system where every Massachusetts resident has a right to attend any public college or university free of tuition and fees.*
- ❑ **Affordable Child Care & Early Ed (S.288/H.470):** An Act relative to affordable and accessible high quality early education and care (Friedman - Gordon) *Makes high-quality early education and child care affordable and accessible to all Massachusetts families.*
- ❑ **Medicare for All (S.683/H.1194):** An Act establishing medicare for all in Massachusetts (Eldridge - Sabadosa/Garlick) *Establishes a single payer system, in which the state provides health care to all residents as a right.*
- ❑ **Real Estate Transfer Fee & Affordable Housing Funding (S.773/H.1769):** An Act supporting affordable housing with a local option for a fee to be applied to certain real estate transactions (Boncore - Connolly) *Enables cities and towns to assess a fee of 0.5-2% on residential and commercial real estate transactions, with the funds allocated to affordable housing trust funds.*

### All Means All - Agenda for Racial and Social Justice

- ❑ **Safe Communities Act (S.1401/H.3573):** An Act to protect the civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents (Eldridge - Balser/Miranda) *Limits local and state police collaboration with federal immigration agents, bars law enforcement and court personnel from inquiring about immigration status, and ensures due process protections.*

- ❑ **Visitation Rights (S.1379/H.2047):** An Act to strengthen inmate visitation (Chang-Diaz - Decker) *Strengthens and secures the rights of prisoners to receive visits and maintain relationships with their friends and loved ones without unnecessary interference from the state.*
- ❑ **Eviction Sealing / HOMES Act (S.824/H.3566):** An Act promoting Housing Opportunity and Mobility through Eviction Sealing (Boncore - Moran) *Requires the sealing of eviction records in order to combat housing discrimination.*
- ❑ **Comprehensive Reproductive Rights / ROE Act (S.1209/H.3320):** An Act to remove obstacles and expand abortion access (Chandler - Haddad/Livingstone) *Reforms our state's abortion laws so that every person can control their own body, life, and future.*

## Good Government / Strong Democracy

- ❑ **Election Day Registration (S.396/H.685):** An Act relative to election day registration (Creem - Malia) *Eliminates the arbitrary and discriminatory 20-day registration cutoff and allows eligible residents to register or re-register--and vote--at the polls on Election Day and during the early voting period.*
- ❑ **Ranked Choice Voting (S.414/H.719):** An Act to use of ranked choice voting in elections (Lewis - Vargas/ Madaro) *Adopts ranked choice voting for state, county, and non-presidential federal elections, enabling voters to rank candidate preferences and ensuring that the ultimate winner commands a majority of support.*
- ❑ **Changing State House Culture (S.1898/H.3572):** An Act promoting equality and respect in the legislature (Rausch - Sabadosa) *Creates an independent commission to investigate and report on complaints of workplace and sexual harassment in the Massachusetts Legislature.*

## Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment

- ❑ **Environmental Justice (S.464/H.761):** An Act relative to environmental justice and toxics reduction in the Commonwealth (Eldridge - DuBois/Miranda) *Codifies environmental justice into law and secures strong enforcement of the state's current EJ policy.*
- ❑ **100% Renewable Energy (S.1958/H.2836):** An Act transitioning/repowering Massachusetts to 100 percent renewable energy (Eldridge - Decker/Garballey) *Sets the goal of 100% renewable energy economy-wide by 2045 and 100% renewable electricity by 2035.*
- ❑ **Carbon Pricing (H.2810):** An Act to Promote Green Infrastructure and Reduce Carbon Emissions (Benson) *Establishes a direct carbon price on transportation and home heating fuels to fund significant green municipal investment while providing additional assistance to individuals and employers in the form of rebates.*

**About Progressive Massachusetts:** Founded in 2013, Progressive Massachusetts is a statewide, diverse grassroots organization built from the ground up by organizers and activists from across Massachusetts committed to advancing policies that promote social, economic, and environmental justice in the Commonwealth. You can learn more at <https://www.progressivemass.com/>.

◆ more detailed information on these bills -- and additional progressive legislation to support -- can be found at [progressivemass.com/legislativeagenda](https://www.progressivemass.com/legislativeagenda)