

**PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2020 CONGRESSIONAL
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**



Candidate: Robbie Goldstein

Office Sought: US House Representative, MA-08

Party: Democratic

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Email questions to elections@progressivemass.com.

I. About You

1. Why are you running for office? And what will your top 3 priority pieces of legislation if elected?

RG: I am running for Congress to guarantee that every person has the care and compassion they need to succeed. As a primary care doctor, I see people every day who face the same challenges: a failed transportation system that prevents them from getting to work or the hospital, medications and medical appointments that cost more every year, a lack of affordable housing and food insecurity. After years of seeing different people struggle with the same systemic issues, I decided it was time to do something about it.

When elected, my top 3 priority pieces of legislation will address these challenges. These include a fundamental change to our healthcare system to ensure healthcare for all Americans, passing the Green New Deal, and an infrastructure package that invests in a modern transportation system that is reliable and affordable.

I'm also ready to advance new ideas and legislation, including to redefine the role of the FDA in pharmaceutical pricing, shift how we address the housing crisis in America, and invest in gun violence prevention and implementation of data-driven interventions to reduce harm.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

RG: For ten years, I have worked to fundamentally redefine the way we provide care to LGBTQ patients at MGH. My scholarly work has focused on the stigma and discrimination faced by our community, and the ways that impacts our health. I am most proud of leading the effort to create the hospital's Transgender Health Program (THP). In addition to providing primary care, the THP provides our patients with culturally competent mental health providers, community resources, and opportunities to be in a safe space and get the quality of care they deserve.

In the beginning, many people thought that this kind of systemic change was too challenging for a healthcare system with thousands of employees and patients. I built a coalition from the ground up, partnering with transgender advocates, educating as many people as possible about the importance of gender affirming care, and connecting with hospital leaders around our shared values of giving every person the highest quality of care in a culturally sensitive, compassionate, and respectful manner.

I am proud of the work we've done to build a program that provides high-quality, personalized care to the transgender and non-binary communities in and around Boston. As a member of Congress, I will lead in the same way we built the THP: identifying gaps, working in partnership with those most affected, and building coalitions to implement solutions.

3. What do you view as the biggest barriers to progressive policy on the federal level?

RG: I believe the biggest barrier to progressive policy is a failure of party leaders to take bold action. It is time for us to demand our representatives in Congress share the values of the people

they represent and aren't afraid to lead with them. There is a lack of urgency to solve the biggest crises that face our country, like climate change and a healthcare system that limits access to affordable care. To advance a progressive agenda, we need to partner with community leaders to bring their activism to Washington. We need to stop deferring to party leaders who have served for decades and are disconnected from the people they represent. We can no longer afford to have artificial Democrats represent us in Congress. It is time for bold, new leaders who will not just vote with the party passively, but instead will drive change on the issues the matter - healthcare, the climate, housing, transportation and racial and economic justice.

II. The Issues

Our questionnaire is based on our [Progressive Platform](#): Shared Prosperity, All Means All/Racial and Social Justice, Good Government and Strong Democracy, and Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection.

A. An Equitable Tax System

- 1. What does a progressive tax system look like? Which specific proposals would you advocate for?*

RG: A progressive tax system recognizes that there is nobody in this country who got rich on their own. It would codify a critical part of our social contract: that those who succeed will pay their wealth forward to advance our shared prosperity.

We are living through a time of unprecedented wealth that is coupled with historically low taxation. A progressive tax system requires that the wealthiest individuals and businesses start paying their fair share, and that we use that taxation to invest in our country. It requires that corporations and CEO's recognize that their wealth was built on the strength of the American worker. And, it requires that we reward innovation while recognizing the important role public institutions have in driving discovery.

In Congress I will advocate for increasing the capital gains tax and eliminating the loopholes that allow corporations like Eli Lilly to pay nothing in federal taxes. We must ensure that all Americans pay their fair share into the system by increasing the tax rate on those that earn millions and billions. Taxation must ensure that all Americans can benefit from our rights to healthcare, education, housing, transportation, and safety.

B. Jobs That Pay a Living Wage

1. **Minimum Wage.** *The gap between productivity and wages has grown dramatically since 1973. Moreover, the federal minimum wage remains stuck at \$7.25—what it was in 2009. Would you support legislation to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour?*

RG: YES.

- a. *And eliminate the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers? **YES.***
 - b. *And index the minimum wage to inflation? **YES.***
2. **Retirement Security.** *With the decline of pensions and other defined-benefit retirement plans in the workplace, retirement is becoming more insecure, and seniors are having to work longer just to stay afloat. Would you support legislation to....*
 - a. *Increase the benefits provided by Social Security? **YES.***
 - b. *Raising the cap on earnings that are taxed for Social Security? (Currently, only earnings up to \$118,500 are subject to the payroll tax.) **YES.***

RG: Half of American households over the age of 55 have no retirement savings. It's time to expand the benefits provided by Social Security to ensure that everyone can retire with dignity. Part of this expansion must be to create affordable healthcare options for seniors and decrease overall health costs.

3. **Paid Leave.** *The US is the only industrial nation without paid family leave. Would you support federal legislation ensuring that workers can take up to 12 weeks of paid leave for a pregnancy, the birth or adoption of a child, to recover from a serious illness, or to care for a seriously ill family member?*

RG: YES.

I have seen the impact of a failed system of paid leave on the health of my patients. We must guarantee every person in this country the time they need to recover from illness, raise a family, or care for a sick relative.

4. **Union Rights.** *Unions play a key role in building a strong middle-class; however, unions have been under attack in recent years. Would you support the following efforts to strengthen the role of unions in our economy:*
 - a. *Prohibiting “right-to-work” laws at the state level? **YES.***
 - b. *Requiring employers to recognize a union when a majority of workers in a bargaining unit sign valid authorization cards? **YES.***
 - c. *Prohibiting employers from interfering with unionization efforts, such as by compelling worker attendance at anti-union meetings? **YES.***

RG: Strong unions are a cornerstone of the fight for economic justice. “Right to work” laws have made it harder for unions to play their vital role in protecting workers’ rights

and securing livable wages. Our priority should be to protect the rights of workers who want to organize, not make it harder.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

C. Quality, Affordable Health Care

1. **Medicare for All.** *Would you support the creation of a single payer/“Medicare for All” health insurance system in the country that would guarantee health care as a right?*

RG: YES.

Healthcare is a human right. It is time to recognize this fact and acknowledge that healthcare is not a commodity to be traded, or a benefit for those who can pay.

2. **Prescription Drug Prices.** *Prescription drug prices in the US are consistently higher than in other countries. Which policies would you support to lower the cost of prescription drugs?*
 - a. *Allowing Medicare to negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies? **YES.***

Medicare must be empowered to negotiate drug prices, referencing a cost-effective standard. It is not acceptable for new drugs to be released without any proven benefit and with extraordinary costs. We must also address the supply issues that raise generic drug prices.

- b. *Allowing patients, pharmacists, and wholesalers to buy low-cost prescription drugs from Canada and other industrialized countries? **YES.***

Importing safe and effective medications from Canada is one important strategy to bring more affordable medications to people in the US - many of whom are forgoing essential care because of costs. Because pharmaceutical companies - especially those holding patents on brand-name drugs - may predictably respond by limiting access to these less expensive drugs in Canada, legislation will have to be thoughtfully crafted to ensure enforceable mechanisms to prevent this. The complexity of the pharmaceutical drug markets requires that we have leaders at the table who understand both the urgency and intricacy of health care policy.

- c. *Allowing the federal government to manufacture lower-cost generic versions of prescription drugs when the market does not offer them? **YES.***

The limited number of manufacturers for certain generic drugs represents a critical vulnerability in the current generic drug market. Government investment can insure a pipeline of drugs with a fixed price to prioritize delivery of essential medications to our patients who need them.

3. **Reproductive Rights.** Would you support repealing the Hyde Amendment, which bars the use of federal funds to pay for abortion except to save the life of the woman, or if the pregnancy arises from incest or rape?

RG: YES.

We can not achieve healthcare for all until we repeal the Hyde Amendment and recognize the importance of reproductive rights and a person's freedom to determine their own medical care.

4. **Opioid Crisis.** An essential part of addressing the opioid crisis, safe consumption sites allow medical professionals to respond to overdoses and engage participants in medical and behavioral health services. Would you support the legalization of SCSs?

RG: YES.

Safe consumption sites (also known as overdose prevention sites) are an effective harm reduction strategy. They prevent overdoses, provide resources for substance use treatment, and can help reduce HIV and hepatitis C transmission.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

D. Quality, Free Publicly Funded Education

1. **Education Equity.** *More than six and a half decades out from the Brown vs. Board Supreme Court ruling, our public education systems remain highly segregated and unequal. Please name three policies you would advocate for in order to address this.*

RG: (1) Create incentives for states to decouple school funding from local property taxes. The quality of education that a child receives shouldn't be determined by their zip code. Decoupling school funding from property taxes will ensure that districts across a state are spending the same to educate each child.

(2) Redraw school district lines to prioritize economic and racial diversity. District lines that are drawn alongside city and town lines reinforce economic and racial segregation. Drawing school lines so that each district includes students from different backgrounds fulfills the promise of Brown vs. Board of Education, and is one of the best tools we have to ensure every student has the resources they need to succeed.

(3) Universalize pre-k to ensure that everyone starts kindergarten on a level playing field. Access to pre-k education is one of the strongest predictors of educational success, and should be available to all. Congress can and should incentivize states to act by funding and incentivizing preschool programs.

2. **Charter School Funding**. *The NAACP has proposed a moratorium on public funds for charter school expansion until a national audit has been completed to determine the impact of charter growth in each state. Do you support such a moratorium?*

RG: YES.

There is much work to do to ensure that existing charter schools are addressing the needs around financial and operational transparency.

3. **Charter School Accountability**. *Do you support requiring that charter schools comply with the same transparency and accountability requirements as public schools?*

RG: YES.

4. **High-Stakes Testing**. *Do you support prohibiting the use of standardized testing as a primary or significant factor in closing a school, firing a teacher, or making any other high-stakes decisions?*

RG: YES.

Decisions on academic advancement and scholarly achievement should be in the context of overall success. Standardized testing is a part of this evaluation, but should never be a single determinant in decisions around school closing or employment status.

5. **Student Loan Debt**. *Student loan debt is holding back the economy, as graduates are unable to make important long-term investments in their future. Presidential candidates have put forth various schemes to forgive student loan debt. Do you support doing so, and what would your ideal scheme look like?*

RG: YES.

Student loans have crippled young people in America, with a disproportionate impact on young people of color. Any plan to solve the student loan debt crisis must address 3 points: closing the racial wealth gap, prioritizing forgiving loans for Americans who attended for-profit colleges, and coupling debt-forgiveness with a push for tuition-free public education and limitations on the cost increases of private school tuition. We also have an opportunity to invest in the necessary workforce to achieve our goals of expanded healthcare coverage by eliminating debt for underrepresented minorities in medicine who often graduate from medical school with hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt and people who provide primary care in underserved areas of the country, including urban safety-net hospitals and rural communities.

6. **Tuition-Free Higher Education**. *More and more jobs are requiring a college degree, but the cost of higher education has been growing faster than wages, contributing to a*

ballooning student debt burden. Would you support legislation to guarantee free tuition at public colleges and universities?

RG: YES.

We must also recognize that the cost of tuition is not the only financial barrier that students face, and expand affordable access to housing, books and supplies, and childcare.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

E. Affordable, Decent Housing

1. **Tenant Rights**. *Would you support legislation to establish a national just cause eviction standard, which would limit the grounds upon which a landlord may evict a tenant?*

RG: YES.

2. **Inclusive Communities**. *Federal funding can be a major source of leverage in shaping state and municipal policy. Would you support legislation to tie transportation or housing funding to...*

- a. *Ending exclusionary zoning practices? **YES.***

Exclusionary zoning not only contributes to the housing shortage and affordability crisis that many cities are facing, but is also a barrier to creating environmentally sustainable cities and towns. To address the twin challenges of the housing shortage and the threat of climate change, we should prioritize building densely - exclusionary zoning is a barrier to this goal.

- b. *Repealing state prohibitions on rent stabilization policies? **YES.***

Massachusetts' ban on rent control, rent stabilization measures, and meaningful tenant protections has been disastrous, and has contributed to skyrocketing rents and high rates of tenant displacement. We need to restore power to municipalities, who can best understand and address the specific challenges of their residents as they struggle to find and keep affordable housing. At the same time, it's up to Congress to lead on the issue, and increase federal funding for new affordable housing construction and set national standards for tenant protections.

3. **Public Housing**. *Would you support the repeal of the Faircloth Amendment, which bans HUD from funding the construction or operation of new public housing units beyond the total that existed in 1999?*

RG: YES.

Since 1999, the federal government has been fighting the housing crisis with one hand tied behind its back. Our first housing priority should be to create enough housing for our homeless and ELI populations. This will take significant public investment, and can only be achieved if HUD is permitted to construct new units without demolishing old ones.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

F. A Fair and Efficient Criminal Justice System

1. **Ending Mass Incarceration.** *The past few years have seen a growing recognition that the “tough on crime” legislation passed in the 1980s and 1990s has had a devastating impact on communities of color and has not improved public safety. Which of the following proposals do you support?*

- a. *Legalizing marijuana? YES.*

RG: Mandatory minimums have fueled staggering racial disparities and increasing incarceration rates, even as crime rates have fallen. In Massachusetts, the use of mandatory minimums for non-violent drug offenses have also contributed to the opioid crisis: the population most vulnerable to fatal overdoses are those recently released from prison, where treatment is largely unavailable. Mandatory minimums are an overly-punitive tool and should be repealed in favor of alternatives to incarceration such as drug courts.

- b. *Repealing mandatory minimums for non-violent drug offenses? YES.*

RG: Mandatory minimums have fueled staggering racial disparities and increasing incarceration rates, even as crime rates have fallen. In Massachusetts, the use of mandatory minimums for non-violent drug offenses have also contributed to the opioid crisis: the population most vulnerable to fatal overdoses are those recently released from prison, where treatment is largely unavailable. Mandatory minimums are an overly punitive tool and should be repealed in favor of alternatives to incarceration such as drug courts.

- c. *Eliminating cash bail, so that no one is held in jail solely for an inability to pay? YES.*

RG: Every day, nearly half a million unconvicted Americans sit in jail. Many are there only because they cannot afford cash bail. They risk losing jobs, losing housing, and losing access to medical care. It’s time to end the criminalization of poverty.

- d. *Abolishing the death penalty? YES.*

RG: The government should not be able to decide who should live and who should die. The job of the government is to establish laws that protect its citizens. I support the abolition of the death penalty.

- e. *Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which has been proven to have significant racial disparities ? YES.*

RG: Today, the punishment a person receives is too often dictated by the color of their skin, not the crime they have committed, and the disparities in the sentencing of life without parole are alarming. Our criminal justice system is not only systemically racist - it also over-relies on punitive tools like lengthy sentences. We must adopt a dual focus of creating a racially just system while also emphasizing restorative and rehabilitative measures. Decades-long sentences should only be used sparingly and thoughtfully.

- f. *Barring the federal government and state and local jurisdictions from contracting with private corporations to run prisons and detention facilities? YES.*

RG: Privately run prisons and detention facilities routinely strip incarcerated people of their rights, basic needs and dignity by creating perverse incentives to keep costs low. The first step in prison reform must be to end their contracts.

2. **Prison Conditions.** *In addition to having incarceration rates that far [outpace](#) those of other countries, the US is known for violating both domestic and international law in the conditions of its prisons. Which of the following steps would you support to emphasize the rehabilitative, as opposed to punitive, nature of the system and protect basic rights?*

- a. *Preventing companies from charging prisoners unreasonable fees for banking and telecommunications services? YES.*

RG: The exploitative practice of overcharging prisoners for basic services is not only cruel to them, but also serves to further isolate people from their lives, families and loved ones outside prison. This creates needless harm, and should be prevented through federal action.

- b. *Requiring that incarcerated individuals be paid for their work at a rate no lower than the federal minimum wage? YES.*

RG: Forcing incarcerated people to labor as a condition of parole and release, while refusing to pay them the federal minimum wage is fundamentally unfair, and makes life after incarceration harder.

- c. *Restoring Pell Grant access to prisoners? YES.*

RG: Restoring access to higher education for people in prison will reduce recidivism rates while giving people an opportunity to realize their potential.

- d. *Limiting the use of solitary confinement to no more than 15 consecutive days, beyond which it is defined as torture by the United Nations? YES.*

RG: Extended solitary confinement should be regulated for what it is: an eighth amendment violation that has no place in our prison system.

3. **Police Accountability.** *Lax or nonexistent systems of accountability and perverse incentives at the federal, state, and local level, combined with a legacy of systemic racism, too often lead to law enforcement neither enforcing the law nor keeping the public safe. Which of the following steps would you support to promote a more humane, community-focused policing?*

- a. *Prohibiting the transfer of military weapons from the federal government to state and local law enforcement? YES.*

RG: The use of military weapons in local communities creates fear, distrust and needless instances of violence.

- b. *Eliminating qualified immunity, which allows law enforcement to violate people's constitutional rights with impunity? YES.*

RG: To keep our communities safe, we must build relationships of trust between people and police. When law enforcement officers abuse their power, the community they serve must be able to hold them accountable. Qualified immunity has frequently prevented this, and ought to be eliminated.

- c. *Restricting the use of civil asset forfeiture by police departments and prosecutors' offices? YES.*

RG: All property seized pre-conviction should be returned, along with any assets not proven to be directly involved in a crime. And, District Attorneys should have to report how they use funds acquired through civil asset forfeiture, and should be required to only use these funds for community programming and diversion measures.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

RG: Our legal system is rife with racial and economic disparities -- the system works one way for white people and those with means, and another way entirely for people of color and those experiencing poverty. Given the disastrous effects being incarcerated can have on a person's life, we must use the prison system as a means to rehabilitate. We should make both mental health counseling and substance use treatment universally available to those who are incarcerated. I also support granting early parole for non-violent people and increasing educational and vocational opportunities to give people the tools they need to truly be successful upon reentry. Ultimately, most people who are incarcerated will rejoin our communities, and we should be giving them the support they need to succeed for both their own well being and to strengthen communities.

G. A Humane Immigration System

1. **Comprehensive Immigration Reform.** *The approximately 12 million undocumented immigrants in the US are important contributors to strong economies and strong communities. Due to political and economic instability abroad, as well as a labyrinthine and discriminatory immigration bureaucracy at home, this number could very well continue to grow. However, comprehensive immigration reform legislation has remained elusive in Washington. Which of the following policies would you support?*

- a. *The DREAM Act, which would allow certain US-raised immigrant youth to earn lawful permanent residence and American citizenship? **YES.***

RG: The DREAM Act is an essential bill. Immigrants who arrived to the U.S. as young children should be able to stay. They are educated in our schools, and they are raised by our communities. America is the only home they ever knew. I believe that the DREAM Act should not bar youth from citizenship if they have a minor (juvenile) offense on their record (e.g., underage drinking, etc.).

- b. *A path for undocumented immigrants to gain US citizenship? **YES.***

RG: The Path to Citizenship should be an integral part of our immigration policy. As a first step in this process, legal and security screening should be streamlined so that backlogs in immigration courts can be eliminated. An early step in the Path to Citizenship should allow undocumented immigrants a means to enter the formal economy. This would also allow them to exercise certain rights before obtaining citizenship so that they are not exploited by employers. Undocumented immigrants who provide services in rural or underserved communities---for example, caregivers---should have access to an expedited path to permanent residency and citizenship.

- c. *Repealing the three-year, ten-year, and permanent bars of reentry for undocumented immigrants? **YES.***

RG: These bans are unjust and counter-productive because they deter immigrants who may otherwise obtain lawful permanent residence. For example, consider the immigrant who would qualify for lawful permanent residency via marriage to an American citizen. If that person leaves the country (as part of the green card process), they may be barred from re-entry for several years.

- d. *Decriminalizing border crossing? **YES.***

RG: I support repealing Section 1325. This statute was rarely enforced until the mid-2000s. More recently, it was used to justify family separation under the Trump administration. Decriminalizing border crossings is an important public

step to take to change the goals of our immigration policy towards morality and inclusion, and away from separation and injustice.

2. **Upholding Rights, Ending Perverse Incentives.** *Every day, we hear new unconscionable stories about how the US is treating immigrants at the border, fueled by both bad laws and lawlessness at the federal level. Our immigration system should reflect our values. Which of the following policies would you support?*

- a. *Ending the practice of family detention? YES.*

RG: Leading pediatric and psychiatric organizations have reiterated that family detention and family separation create long-term trauma for children and parents. These practices serve almost no effective policy purpose and instead cause a tremendous amount of harm.

- b. *Ending the practice of family separation? YES.*

- c. *Ending ICE's daily bed quota? YES.*

RG: ICE's 'daily bed quota' is a good example of how ICE leadership misinterpreted (and mismanaged) congressional directives. In general, we should be moving away from a policy of detention for undocumented immigrants except in the most necessary circumstances.

- d. *Imposing a moratorium on the construction of new detention facilities? YES.*

RG: The nation's immigration system must move away from policies of criminalization and detention.

- e. *Abolishing ICE? YES.*

RG: It is time for us to recognize that the crisis at our border is a healthcare crisis. We need to bring in healthcare experts, like the CDC, to address the health and safety of these individuals, and allow the Department of Justice to manage the flow of migrants across our border.

3. **Ending Mass Deportations.** *Would you support a moratorium on deportations until a comprehensive immigration reform bill is passed?*

RG: YES.

4. **Refugees.** *In October of 2019, the number of refugees resettled in the US hit zero, and the Trump administration would like to keep it that way going forward, abandoning historic humanitarian commitments. What do you see as the appropriate number of refugees for the US to accept each year?*

RG: Refugee resettlement in the U.S. was approved to be 110,000 in 2016 before the Trump Administration dismantled the country's resettlement system. I would support getting back to that level as long as the State Department and domestic resettlement agencies were equipped with the resources they need to make the system work again. This would make us the world's leading nation of refugee resettlement once again.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

H. A Diverse and Welcoming Society

1. **LGBTQ Rights.** *Over the past several years, we have seen numerous states try to deny trans individuals the right to exist in public spaces as well as conservative lawsuits seeking to legalize discrimination against LGBTQ individuals. Would you support legislation to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the Civil Rights Act of 1964?*

RG: YES.

And, we must pass the Equal Rights Amendment that guarantees federal equality for people of all genders.

2. **Reparations.** *Would you support legislation to create a commission to study the impact of slavery on the social, political, and economic life of the US and propose appropriate remedies (such as HR40)?*

RG: YES.

The racial gaps in homeownership, wealth, and dozens of other measures can be traced back to the institution of slavery. We should consider all options to address these disparities and achieve racial equality.

3. **Sexual Harassment.** *Would you support legislation to end the use of forced arbitration clauses in sexual harassment cases?*

RG: YES.

Those who have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace should not have to forfeit their right to sue their harasser.

4. **Gun Violence Prevention.** *The US has the largest number of guns per capita in the world--and consequently one of the highest rates of gun deaths. For too long, the federal government has refused to play a constructive role in preventing gun violence. Which of the following proposals would you advocate for?*
 - a. *Reinstating the federal assault weapons ban? YES.*

RG: Weapons of war have no place in the hands of untrained civilians.

- b. *Banning high-capacity magazine ammunitions? YES.*
- c. *Requiring a license to purchase a gun? YES.*

RG: If we require a license to drive a car, we must require a license to operate a deadly weapon.

- d. *Limiting the number of guns an individual can buy to one per month? YES.*

RG: Our best public health researchers think that high numbers of gun purchases per month is a sign of straw purchases, making it more likely those guns will be used in crimes. But right now, we don't have a reliable system for tracking gun purchases made by any one person. The fact that we don't know this basic information with certainty stems directly from the deliberate choices - made repeatedly over more than 20 years - to dismantle both the data infrastructure and research funding necessary to provide good data on which we can make sound policy decisions.

- e. *Repealing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, which shields the gun industry from lawsuits? YES.*

RG: Absolutely - the gun industry has liability protection that no other industry enjoys. This is both morally wrong and practically shortsighted, as it systematically removes incentives for manufacturers to improve the safety of the products they sell.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

RG: The introduction to this question noted that the US has the largest numbers of gun deaths of any developed country in the world. That is true and tragic, and only the tip of the iceberg. For every person who dies from gun violence in America another 2-4 are injured (we don't know the number of non-fatal injuries with any accuracy because, unconscionably, CDC stopped reliably tracking these numbers years ago). Those who survive these injuries or witness this violence are faced with life-long physical and mental health consequences that can be devastating. We must take on gun violence in all its forms - not only the horrific mass shootings that grip the headlines, but the daily violence that disproportionately affects communities of color, both in Boston and around the country, as well as suicide, which while accounting for 60% of all gun-related deaths in the US, is too often ignored. The voices of survivors must be at the center of the work to end this epidemic.

I. Good Government and Strong Democracy

1. **Comprehensive Democracy Reform.** *Will you commit to voting on HR 1, the For The People Act, as introduced in 2018? Among other things, HR1 (“For the People Act”) contains automatic voter registration, Election Day Registration, the expansion of early voting, the prohibition of partisan gerrymandering, and other vital reforms.*

RG: YES.

Democracies around the world that have introduced these measures, eliminated barriers to voting, and made it easier for people to get to the polls have seen significant increases in voter turnout. The United States should follow suit.

2. **Ending Prison Disenfranchisement.** *Currently, Maine and Vermont are the only states that provide full suffrage to the incarcerated. Do you support ending the disenfranchisement for those currently incarcerated?*

RG: YES.

Everyone should get a say in who their leaders are.

3. **Ranked Choice Voting.** *Do you support the 2020 ballot initiative to adopt ranked choice voting for state, county, and (non-presidential) federal elections?*

RG: YES.

Some cities around Massachusetts have already adopted ranked choice voting. They have seen an increase in both the number and diversity of candidates running for office, and have ensured that the preferences of a greater number of their constituents are reflected in the makeup of their town governments. Adopting this system across the state and our country will result in fairer elections and lower barriers to election for candidates of diverse backgrounds.

4. **Campaign Finance -- Part I.** *Do you support public financing of Congressional elections?*

RG: YES.

5. **Campaign Finance -- Part II.** *Would you support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United decision and allow limits on corporate political spending?*

RG: YES.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

J. Sustainable Infrastructure & Environmental Protection

1. **Green New Deal.** *Do you support the concept of a Green New Deal? If so, what should it look like?*

RG: YES.

I support the Green New Deal as introduced in HR 109. We need to take bold, transformative action to address the twin crises of climate change and economic inequality. The Green New Deal will allow us to upgrade our infrastructure and buildings, restore ecosystems and vital natural resources, and accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels. These steps will massively reduce pollution while creating new jobs that pay a living wage. We must ensure that any action on the Green New Deal centers racial and economic equity: people of color and working-class families have borne the brunt of environmental hazards, and should be given priority access to Green New Deal initiatives, including pollution cleanup projects.

2. **Transitioning to Clean Energy.** *We need to rapidly decarbonize our economy if we are to keep global warming within safe levels. Which of the following policies would you support to accelerate that transition?*
 - a. *Setting a goal of 100 percent clean energy generation and use by 2035?* **YES.**
 - b. *Putting a price on carbon emissions and investing the revenue in clean energy and green infrastructure?* **YES.**
 - c. *Prohibiting new leases for coal, oil, and gas on all federal lands and waters?* **YES.**
 - d. *Opposing any legislation that authorizes, or expedites the permitting or approval of, new fossil fuel pipelines?* **YES.**
3. **Climate Emergency.** *With rising temperatures and sea levels threatening significant harm to Massachusetts' coast, ecosystems, public health and well-being, do you support declaring a Climate Emergency to drive an aggressive response?*

RG: YES.

4. **Clean Water.** *Would you support legislation to require natural gas drillers to disclose the chemicals that go into the ground during the hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") process and to close the so-called "Halliburton loophole," which prevents the EPA from conducting rigorous oversight?*

RG: YES.

5. **Environmental Justice.** *Would you support legislation to codify environmental justice into law; require federal agencies to address environmental justice through agency actions and permitting decisions; and strengthen legal protections against environmental*

injustice for communities of color, low-income communities, and indigenous communities?

RG: YES.

6. **Electric Vehicles.** *Would you support legislation to phase out the sale of gasoline- or diesel-powered vehicles by 2030?*

RG: YES.

7. **Public Transportation.** *What would be your top priorities for federal reinvestment in transportation and infrastructure if elected?*

RG: (1) Significant federal investment in transportation and infrastructure gives us the unique opportunity to prioritize the needs of low-income communities while creating more sustainable cities and towns. My top priorities would include building and repairing K-12 schools, revitalizing public lands and cleaning up brownfields, creating new public housing (including senior housing), and building and investing in comprehensive, affordable systems of public transit. Congress should seek input from state and local officials to tailor infrastructure packages to the most pressing needs of each community.

(2) The 8th district is home to commuter rail stations, MBTA stations, and hundreds of miles of roadway that is so congested during commuting time that getting to Brockton from Boston takes 2-3 hours -- a distance of only 24 miles. A lack of investment in public transit has contributed to the increase in cars on the road, which harms both our environment and productivity. To encourage sustainable, environmentally-friendly travel, we must significantly increase investment in public transit, including bus rapid transit, bus-only lanes, and upgrades to the MBTA and commuter rail systems.

Please use this space to share any other principles or proposals on this issue.

III. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Limit answer to 150 words or fewer.

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.