

I. About You

1. Why are you running for office? And what will your top 3 priorities be if elected?

Like many of us, I've been feeling increasingly frustrated with the government's devastating response to Covid-19. Our neighbors have lost friends and family and tragically were unable to say goodbye in person. Many have recently found themselves without income or health insurance, and for communities that were already struggling, the future is daunting. And yet, the federal government still doesn't have an adequate plan based on science to protect us while preventing the collapse of our economy.

As a social epidemiologist, I have been warning that this health crisis is only amplifying the deep inequities our country has yet to solve. I have authored and been cited in a number of academic and news articles detailing that public health calls for solidarity, not warfare. My perspective of how COVID-19 could hit the U.S. harder than other wealthy countries because of the current political climate highlights the vulnerabilities of disadvantaged communities. I see this as a moment to re-imagine what kind of society we want to live in and re-build our economy and our country with one guiding principle: it must work for everyone.

I decided to run for Congress because we can no longer afford to hope that politicians will listen to the scientists. With only 11 scientists in Congress, science expertise is vastly underrepresented. We urgently need people with a deep scientific and public health background to step into elected politics to push for better laws and evidence-based decision making.

My three main priorities are:

- 1. Building healthy communities** and using science-based policies to improve the health and well-being of all;
- 2. Ensuring shared prosperity** by advocating for policies that meet the needs of all families and protect workers, because for too long the United States has allowed poverty, inequality, and structural racism to go unchecked; and,
- 3. Protecting the environment** and ensuring that we leave behind a healthy planet for our children by fighting for environmental justice and climate action today.

These priorities support my overall vision of bringing science-backed leadership to tackle public health and science concerns, along with the underlying structural issues that leave marginalized communities more vulnerable to these concerns. I will support legislation that makes progress on these key issues and ushers in a new, progressive era of greater equality.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

Driven by a deep desire to fight injustice and inequality, I have worked for fifteen years in public service at the intersection of research and policy. I began my career at the United Nations, working first in Lebanon and then in New York advising governments across the globe to move the needle on key global priorities from poverty alleviation to ending gender-based violence and safeguarding global health. Following my doctoral training in epidemiology at Harvard University, I led the UNDP's work at the intersection of health and climate change, bringing together youth advocates and urging governments to take more ambitious action on climate change to meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement and fight air pollution.

During the Ebola epidemic, I worked as Science Advisor to the New York City Health Commissioner and continued my work to advance equity at a more local scale. I helped shape strategy around several key initiatives, including *ThriveNYC*, the Mayor's \$800 million citywide mental health initiative to tackle issues like opioid overdose, depression, and suicide, and *Cure Violence* to end gun violence. I also contributed to launching new community health profiles for each of the 59 districts, showing how structural racism, poverty, environmental injustice and residential segregation was shaping the health of neighborhoods, and giving people information and data to advocate for greater investment in their communities.

In my current role as the Executive Director of the Harvard's FXB Center for Health and Human Rights and serving on the Poor People's Campaign COVID-19 Health Justice Advisory Committee, I continue to bring a vision that has been influenced by my firsthand experience "on the ground" and is supported with my public health and policy expertise.

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

Public opinion is sometimes touted as a barrier to change – however, I believe that progressive policies are fundamentally popular, especially when the public has a chance to learn about the issues at hand. Democrats often look at initial polling on progressive stances and remove them from the agenda out of fear. However, when Democrats make a strong case for progressive reform, or implement progressive policies, this gives voters a chance to see how these policies improve lives. Such policies then become entrenched and widely appreciated in the long term. We need courageous and imaginative legislators who are willing to champion reform and stand up against attacks from special interest groups, lobbyists, and financial incentives that pose barriers to change. To ensure that happens in a sweeping way, we also need robust campaign reform to ensure that more candidates are able to win office without being beholden to special interests.

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.

Issue Subsections:

- A. An Equitable Tax System
- B. Jobs That Pay a Living Wage
- C. Quality, Affordable Health Care
- D. Quality, Free Publicly Funded Education
- E. Affordable, Decent Housing
- F. A Fair and Efficient Criminal Justice System
- G. A Humane Immigration System
- H. A Diverse and Welcoming Society
- I. Good Government and Strong Democracy
- J. Sustainable Infrastructure & Environmental Protection

A. An Equitable Tax System

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

Progressive tax reform should address spiraling inequality by ensuring that the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share.

First, I believe Congress should eliminate loopholes that shield capital gains from taxes. Specifically, I support proposals to eliminate the stepped-up basis for capital gains, which mostly benefits rich heirs.

Second, I believe the richest Americans should contribute more in the form of a wealth tax. I support legislation to raise the top marginal income tax rate to 50%. I also propose eliminating the cap on taxable earnings for the Social Security payroll tax (without any expansion of benefits for high earners).

Third, I believe that corporations should pay their fair share. I support efforts to reverse the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), specifically the provision that lowers the corporate profits tax.

Fourth, I believe that a progressive tax system uses incentives to address climate change. I support legislation to impose a tax on carbon emissions for heavy emitters.

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?*

Yes. I fully support measures to increase the minimum wage to a living wage of at least \$15 per hour, including transitioning away from tipped systems that contribute to gender inequities and discrimination. Through my research, I advocated increasing the minimum wage in New York City to \$15 because it would save lives.

a. And eliminate the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers?

Yes. People should not be expected to work for incomplete compensation. I hope to move away from tipped systems altogether, which contribute to gender inequities and discrimination.

b. And index the minimum wage to inflation?

Yes. While a \$15 per hour minimum wage is a good next step, without indexing it becomes worth less every day. Due to inflation, the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 has fallen in value by over a dollar since it was set in 2009. That difference in value ends up in the pockets of corporate employers, rather than with workers.

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. Retirees and other Social Security recipients rely on those benefits, which are still inadequate for many.

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. Protecting our most vulnerable workers is a key priority for me. I believe that we should go beyond just raising the payroll tax cap and eliminate it entirely in order to fund greater benefits.

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?*

Yes. All Americans face the risk of a family member falling ill, or a child being born with complications. No one should be penalized for taking time to help a family member in our country's military.

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) gives workers the ability to spend time caring for loved ones with the reassurance that they won't lose healthcare benefits and will be able to return to our jobs. Remarkably, however, FMLA does not guarantee paid leave. Paid leave, which provides income during FMLA leave, increases labor-force participation and employee retention, improves retirement security, and increases rates of leave among fathers – to list just a few benefits. As a working mom, I fully support paid family and medical leave.

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.

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?*

Yes. A single payer system blends together things I have been fighting for my entire career: public health and equity. A single payer system would help make healthcare accessible to all, especially those for whom good, affordable healthcare is currently out of reach. I am also aware of the argument that people are very attached to their insurance, but I believe that people are attached to their healthcare providers, the nurses, their primary doctors and pediatricians. We need to ensure continuity of care but I believe we can achieve that. At the same time the single payer model allows for the government to bring down the cost of care and share risk.

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 represents a huge share of drug purchasing in the US, but its market power is wasted. Payers are already at a disadvantage in negotiations with drug companies due to a lack of transparency in research and development (R&D) and prices for other consumers. Let's bring these prices down.

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

Yes. I believe in a global economy. I also believe that legalization allows for oversight and safety precautions.

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

Yes.

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?*

Yes. I strongly support repealing the Hyde Amendment. Almost half of pregnancies in the US are unplanned, and unintended pregnancies are significantly more likely among our nation's poorest population. Despite the disproportionate incidence of unplanned pregnancies on low-income populations, the Hyde Amendment prevents the use of Medicaid funding for abortion services. The impact on Medicaid enrollees who find themselves in need of an abortion can be dire, from losing the means to save for an abortion, to accepting unlicensed and unsafe abortions. I cannot stand for a law that disadvantages poor women and uses financial roadblocks to remove their right to choose to have an abortion. I would work to repeal the Hyde Amendment if elected.

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?*

Yes. I believe that safe consumption sites can be an important aspect of protecting people who have fallen victim to addiction. My heart is heavy for all of the families impacted by the opioid crisis, and my feelings extend to those touched by other addictions as well.

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

I also want to reduce stigma for people suffering from opioid use disorder. HIV and other public health crises have taught us that stigmatization of the afflicted is a barrier to effective solutions. Opioid use disorder is a disease and a public health problem, *not* a moral failing and criminal justice problem.

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.*

I believe strongly in a robust public education system. This is a personal issue for me, as my daughter is a first grader in our neighborhood public school. Expanding access to quality K-12 education, as well as investments in public education, has to be at the center of our fight against inequities. I would advocate three policies in order to address segregation and inequities.

First, we need more equitable funding. Our country should use federal funds to decrease disparities in resources between schools in high-income states and schools in low-income states, ensuring access to a high-quality K-12 education for all children in the United States. Additionally, funds should be distributed within states in a way that combats the educational disadvantages of living in a certain zip code.

Second, we need to pay teachers more. Our country's future prosperity is dependent on our children's education. Our investment in teachers should reflect that. I hope that one silver lining of the pandemic is that anyone who did not previously recognize the hard work of teachers started to as soon as our nation's children were home full-time. I will work to create avenues for federal funding of competitive teacher salaries.

Third, we need to end standardized testing. Standardized tests contribute to segregation, as they have been shown to include racial biases. Also, while test scores are often used to make determinations like whether a school's funding should be cut or if a teacher's contract should be renewed, testing is not a definitive measure of anything aside from a student's ability to take that particular test. The results of testing are curricula that teach to the test, without any proven benefit to our children's education. I would work to end the emphasis on standardized testing that pervades our education system.

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?*

Yes.

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

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?*

Yes. This is a priority for me within education reform.

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?*

First, I would try to prevent Americans from acquiring tremendous student loans to begin with, by introducing stronger monitoring of for-profit schools and working to make higher education much more affordable.

Second, I would look for opportunities to forgive loans for the lowest income Americans as well as those who do not have secure employment that allows them to make payments on their loans.

Finally, in light of COVID-19 and the likely high rates of unemployment among recent grads, I would support the development of a national service program that provides loan forgiveness and a salary.

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?*

As a public health expert, I believe strongly in the goal of high-quality and affordable higher education. Student debt also disproportionately disadvantages low-income students and students of color, and undercuts economic mobility. I would work to make public higher education significantly more affordable and higher quality. I would also explore innovative models such as interest-free government loans, tax-linked repayment systems that protect against bankruptcy due to job loss, and three-year and online delivery models.

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?*

Yes. Tenants rights need to be protected.

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.

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

Yes.

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?*

Yes. Safe, affordable housing is an essential component of public health. I would work to do away with this limitation.

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

The US is in the midst of a housing crisis. Housing is unaffordable, vulnerable and marginalized communities face housing discrimination, and widespread homelessness persists. The federal government must pursue policies to protect families during the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. In Congress, I would support legislation to address a history of racist and discriminatory housing policies and directly support individuals experiencing homelessness. I would also fight to invest in housing production to address the shortage of affordable housing in urban areas.

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. Small-scale marijuana possession is a broken-windows offense that is inequitably enforced against people of color. Through federal legalization, we can remove one more route to racial inequity. Legalization also allows for more wide-spread research on the clinical effectiveness of marijuana, and opens the doors for regulation and oversight.

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

Yes. Non-violent drug offenders are not a threat to public safety.

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

Yes. Our bail system is its own trap of inequity. One’s inability to pay should not determine if he remains in prison

d. *Abolishing the death penalty?*

Yes.

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

Yes.

f. Barring the federal government and state and local jurisdictions from contracting with private corporations to run prisons and detention facilities? Yes. There should be no financial incentive to keep someone imprisoned.

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

f. Barring the federal government and state and local jurisdictions from contracting with private corporations to run prisons and detention facilities?
Yes. Keeping human beings imprisoned should not be a profitable business model.

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.

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

c. Restoring Pell Grant access to prisoners?
Yes.

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.

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.

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

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

Yes.

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

Recent high-profile instances of police brutality have highlighted the urgency for police reform nation-wide. I support efforts to reallocate a substantial portion of law enforcement funding towards drug treatment and mental health initiatives. I applaud the crucial and effective organizing of movements like Black Lives Matter that have made this a national priority.

Police should abide by the principle: first, do no harm. We must therefore reconsider what we criminalize, and stop punishing low-level offenses that target people experiencing poverty, homelessness, and substance use disorders and instead invest in alternatives that work to build healthier communities. Further, we must prevent the over-policing of communities of color, in favor of community policing.

We must work together to take care of our communities. That means aligning our approach to policing with community-oriented principles aimed at building collaboration and mutual trust. It also means finding and implementing evidence-based solutions to ensure our law enforcement policies and procedures are fair and equitable.

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.

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

Yes.

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

Yes.

d. Decriminalizing border crossing?

Yes. For most of our history, undocumented immigrants were rarely prosecuted criminally. Laws criminalizing immigration do not deter immigrants, and such laws cost taxpayer dollars to pay for imprisonment.

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.

b. *Ending the practice of family separation?*

Yes.

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

Yes.

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

Yes. Most leading democratic nations, excluding the US, have signed a pact to use migration detention as a last resort. The US should be a leader in human rights and treat immigrants with humanity. We should not scale up a practice that is condemned internationally.

e. *Abolishing ICE?*

Americans have lost faith in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) after the agency was caught separating families and locking up children in cages, resulting in trauma and deaths at the hands of the US government. We need to enact aggressive reform to eliminate these unacceptable practices, and to remove agents that have participated. Through the process of restructuring immigration enforcement, I am open to redistributing duties that other agencies prove they can better handle.

Immigration enforcement should be reimagined based on an understanding that undocumented immigrants are not more likely than others to be violent or criminal. Without fear, I believe we can responsibly enforce immigration law while treating immigrants with respect.

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

Yes. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we must halt deportations as they threaten to further spread the virus globally. In detention centers, undocumented immigrants are often unable to maintain social distancing. It is not responsible to threaten the safety of American communities in order to continue deportations.

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?

I support proposals to increase refugee admittances to 110,000 in the near-term, with the goal of having an internationally-agreed target as opposed to a cap in the future. I understand a range of bills including Lady Liberty (110,000 cap), GRACE (95,000 cap), and the Special Envoy for Refugees (which calls for a new level of oversight) Acts represent some progress but don't go far enough. With over 1.4M refugees internationally, I would propose an international process where parties to the 1951 Refugee Convention review the total refugees registered by UNHCR each year and use this to set refugee resettlement targets.

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

I am committed to creating a fair, humane, and compassionate immigration system that stays true to our fundamental American values, puts people first, keeps families together, strengthens our economy, and safeguards our safety. We need to treat immigrants with dignity and respect, regardless of their race, religion, and country of origin. I will fight for an immigration system that embodies the character and decency of the American people and the people of the great state of Massachusetts.

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?*

Yes.

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)?*

Yes and to go a step further than a commission, the denied wealth to African Americans from slavery, Jim Crow segregation, anti-Black practices and other discriminatory public policies should be restored in the form of reparations to close the racial wealth divide. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how shocks to the economy further propagate the inequities and wealth imbalance between white and Black Americans. The underlying social consequences from these disparities are significant and wide ranging, as wealth is positively correlated with better health, educational, and economic outcomes. To address the systemic disadvantages African Americans have, the U.S. government needs to consider reforms such as college tuition grants, student loan forgiveness, and down payment and housing revitalization grants for descendants of enslaved African Americans. There needs to be structural change, starting with reparations, to counter our country's history of repressing wealth-building opportunities to African Americans.

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

Yes.

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.

b. *Banning high-capacity magazine ammunitions?*

Yes.

c. *Requiring a license to purchase a gun?*

Yes.

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

Yes.

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

Yes.

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

Gun violence in the United States is a public health crisis, and our policies should treat it accordingly. This means responding to gun violence using scientific evidence, with policies that recognize violence is contagious and can become an epidemic. In practice, this means tracking the spread of violence, making evidence-based decisions, and implementing practical, effective protections.

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.*

Yes.

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?*

Yes.

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

Yes.

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

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?*

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?*

Yes. A Green New Deal plan should stimulate good jobs, public health, and a healthy planet. I would support legislation by Senator Ed Markey and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to mobilize towards domestic net-zero emissions. We need to establish new federal programs to create millions of green jobs.

I also believe that a Green New Deal should incorporate the principles of environmental justice. Like so many issues, the climate crisis will have a disproportionate impact on those who have already experienced inequality and structural racism. Whether it is improving climate resiliency in vulnerable communities, or ensuring that green jobs are not only available to high-income Americans, climate policies should improve equity. Communities deserve fair treatment and involvement in environmental decision-making,

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?*

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?*

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?*

Yes.

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

We need to drastically cut our fossil fuel use in the short and long-term. We also have to make sure that doing so helps us build an inclusive new economy with access to alternative transportation options for all. Building electric vehicle charging stations across the country and along state highways requires time and investment in our communities. For this reason, I support a phase out of new gas and diesel-powered vehicles to 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2040.

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

I believe access to safe, reliable, and affordable transportation is key to economic prosperity, job opportunities, and a healthy economy in MA and nationwide. In Congress, I would call for greater federal funding for mass transit. I also support congestion pricing proposals to raise revenue for urban transit systems nationwide.

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.

I am uniquely suited to be a progressive leader for this moment, where we face both a health crisis and police brutality crisis.

As an epidemiologist, I would be a leading voice in Congress in the effort to repair the deep failures in our healthcare system exposed by COVID-19. We need more scientists and health experts in Congress pushing for evidence-based policies in an era when science and truth are too often dismissed.

As a longtime social justice advocate, I will fight to enact policies that address systemic racism and inequality. I will truly listen to the grievances of traumatized communities and carry their perspectives with me as a legislator in Congress.