

# JP Progressive Candidate Questionnaire

150 word maximum, no minimum. We will publish your answers in their entirety in the web version of this Candidate Survey. In the printed version, we reserve the right to edit for length, but not for meaning or intent.

## (1) Budget

Next year, with federal stimulus dollars dwindling, the state may be facing a budget structural deficit of \$2 billion dollars or more. As a state legislator, how will you propose we bridge that gap? Please answer yes or no to each question, and explain your choices at the end.

### REVENUE

Income tax increase?	y	n
Sales tax increase?	y	n
Gas tax increase?	y	n
Fee increases?	y	n
Eliminate, reduce or cap certain tax credits (i.e. film, life sciences, etc.)	y	n
Misc. other revenue sources (other tobacco products, candy/soda, expanding bottle bill, etc.?)	y	n
Freezing or increasing corporate tax rate?	y	n
Other?	y	n

### CUTS:

Cuts to local aid?	y	n
Cuts to education funding?	y	n
Cuts to social safety net services?	y	n
Cuts to infrastructure maintenance and improvements?	y	n
Cuts to state payroll costs (i.e. layoffs, furloughs, benefit reductions, Quinn bill benefits, salary freezes, etc.). (If yes, please elaborate)?	y	n

PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR CHOICES.

## (2) Expanded Gambling

Do you support expanding gambling in the Commonwealth? Why or why not? If yes, in what ways?

## (3) Health Care

What are the successes, challenges, and disappointments you see stemming from the 2006 Massachusetts Health Care Reform Act? Do you have any improvements you would suggest, or areas of particular concern that need work?

## (4) Immigration

During the last budget process, several anti-immigrant proposals were raised in both the House and Senate. These proposals have included costly bureaucratic measures to double-verify that no undocumented immigrant is receiving a benefit for which they are not eligible, and setting up hot-lines that would allow people to report their neighbors if they believe s/he is an illegal immigrant. Would you support proposals like these, and why or why not?

## Labor/Workers Rights

### (5) MINIMUM WAGE

Would you support indexing the minimum wage to inflation, so it keeps up with the cost of living? And would you also support raising the minimum wage to a level closer to an actual living wage?

### (6) PAID SICK DAYS

Many workers in Massachusetts do not receive paid sick days. Would you support legislation that guarantees that all Massachusetts workers can earn paid sick days?

## Criminal Justice

### (7) YOUTH VIOLENCE

Given the resurgence of youth violence in the city, what specific steps do you think the Legislature should take to ensure the safety of youth in our city?

### (8) MANDATORY MINIMUMS

Do you support efforts to reform our "mandatory minimum" sentencing laws for drug-related offenses? If so, what reforms would you like to see?

### (9) MEDICINAL MARIJUANA

Do you support legalizing marijuana for medical purposes only? Why or why not?

## Housing

### (10) FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

What steps do you think the state should take to protect tenants and homeowners facing foreclosure?

### (11) HOMELESSNESS

What steps do you think the state should take to prevent, reduce and ultimately eliminate homelessness?

## **(12) Environment**

If elected, what would be your top three environmental and environmental justice priorities for the next legislative session?

### **Transportation**

If elected, what would your transportation—and in particular public transportation—priorities be?

### **Education**

*(14) ED REFORM*

Did you, or would you have if you were in office, voted for the education reform bill that was passed by the Legislature and signed into law? Why or why not?

*(15) MCAS*

What is your vision for how standardized tests, including the MCAS, should be used in our school systems?

## **(16) Women's Right to Choose:**

Many states, including Massachusetts, have enacted or proposed barriers to women seeking to access an abortion—from waiting periods to mandatory ultrasounds. Would you oppose any additional legal barriers to women seeking abortion services in Massachusetts?

## **(17) Welfare**

Each legislative session, many bills are filed that would reform our social welfare (cash assistance programs, food stamps, affordable housing & homeless shelters, etc.) systems in various ways. Are there ways in which you feel these systems should be reformed—and if so, what are they?

## **Government Reform**

*(18) ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY*

What are the top three specific steps you would suggest for improving accountability and transparency in state government?

*(19) BARRIERS TO CHANGE*

Many people feel as though the biggest barriers to progressive change in Massachusetts is the culture on Beacon Hill, and how the legislative system currently operates. Do you agree—and if so, what do you think is the source of this “cultural” problem? How would you suggest changing it?

## **Lightning Round - Please Answer Yes or No**

1. Do you support ballot question #1, which would repeal the sales tax on alcohol?
2. Do you support ballot question #2, which would repeal the 40B affordable housing law?
3. Do you support ballot question #3, which would lower the sales tax to 3%?
4. Do you support a Single Payer health care system?
5. Will you support allowing undocumented students who have graduated from a Massachusetts high school to pay in-state tuition rates at state colleges and gain access to higher education?
6. Do you support expanding the Massachusetts Bottle Bill to include water, sport and fruit drinks?
7. Do you support legislation to allow for Election Day Registration (EDR) in the Commonwealth?
8. Do you support a woman's fundamental right to choose an abortion as stated in Roe v. Wade?
9. Will you support current legislation to extend civil rights (including employment non-discrimination, hate crimes, protections, and student rights) to transgender individuals?
10. Do you support same sex marriage?
11. Do you support restoring the Clean Elections system - with adequate funding - in Massachusetts?
12. Do you support the death penalty?

# Hassan Williams

## (1) Budget

### REVENUE

Income tax increase?	y	n
Sales tax increase?	y	n
Gas tax increase?	y	n
Fee increases?	y	n
Eliminate, reduce or cap certain tax credits (i.e. film, life sciences, etc.)	y	m n
Misc. other revenue sources (other tobacco products, candy/soda, expanding bottle bill, etc.?)	y	n
Freezing or increasing corporate tax rate?	y	m n
Other?	y	m n

### CUTS

Cuts to local aid?	y	n
Cuts to education funding?	y	n
Cuts to social safety net services?	y	m n
Cuts to infrastructure maintenance and improvements?	y	m n
Cuts to state payroll costs (i.e. layoffs, furloughs, benefit reductions, Quinn bill benefits, salary freezes, etc.). (If yes, please elaborate)?	y	m n

## (2) Expanded Gambling

It depends upon where these localities are to be placed. I do not support casinos in or next to major cities. If the location is remote, I'm more inclined to support it.

## (3) Health Care

I'm disappointed with the requirement that a person needs to be in an emergency to have a needed surgery done. Doctors should not be forced to wait until a patient is on his/her death bed or until an injury rises to an emergency level to attend to the surgery needed.

## (4) Immigration

I feel the country should begin the process of legalizing immigrants who are in the country today and have been here for a certain number of years. Then we should shore up protection of our borders and come up with a more comprehensive and fair method of entry into this country.

## Labor/Workers Rights

### (5) MINIMUM WAGE

I would support raising the minimum wage to a level closer to a living wage.

### (6) PAID SICK DAYS

I do support legislation allowing all workers in MA to earn paid sick days.

## Criminal Justice

### (7) YOUTH VIOLENCE

Every gun when it is made has a serial number. Thus, it is easy for the IRS to track the process of the sale of guns and their subsequent disappearance in the process. Where guns go missing in the chain of sale, the IRS can identify the location of the disappearance and identify the leaks. Then the FBI can affect the arrest and stem the tide of illegal guns into our communities.

### (8) MANDATORY MINIMUMS

I do support reform to our Mandatory Minimum Sentencing Laws. I would like to see the elimination of mandatory sentencing for first time nonviolent offenders regardless of the amount of drugs the person is in possession of.

### (9) MEDICINAL MARIJUANA

I do support legalizing marijuana for medical purposes only. If the smoking of marijuana helps relieve the pain of patients and reduces or eliminates their need to use other drugs with ill effects then I support the use.

## Housing

### (10) FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

I support mandatory judicial foreclosures, judicial reconstruction of mortgages and legislation to allow simple restructuring of mortgages to reduce the interest rates to reflect the now available low rates. This restructuring is not a refinance. It is a straight line restructuring of the mortgage rates being charged without the fees. In restructuring the mortgage loans, the monthly mortgage will decrease allowing a lot of homeowner's to better afford their mortgages.

### (11) HOMELESSNESS

A lot of homeless people remain homeless because they don't have an address to get services or a job. If the government allows P.O. Boxes at all homeless shelters, homeless people will overcome the first obstacle, an address. This address will allow them the ability to get services which can lead them to overcome homelessness. I believe that HUD and other agencies that give away homes for \$1 should fix up the home and give homeless people a room in that home, or an apartment for a family as a place of their own to live in. Those who receive the benefit can then pay property tax on the room/property they have acquired once they have a job. It's a matter of choosing who you want to give a break to, the individual who is sold property for a dollar (as has been the case numerous times in this city) and has thousands of them or a homeless individual willing to pay to sustain a self sufficient, affordable lifestyle.

Removing external security grates from all businesses across the district. This legislation will increase the property

values of all homes in the state and make each business district more attractive and customer friendly driving business and traffic flow to all areas of the district. If security grates are absolutely necessary then they should be placed inside of the windows to maintain the aesthetic beauty of the commercial districts. ADT or some other security service is also an option.

## (12) Environment

My top three environmental and environmental justice priorities will be:

1. Wind and clean energy technology reducing demand for oil
2. Reducing emissions, and
3. Protecting our trees and air quality by planting as many new trees as possible.

## (13) Transportation

To make sure that the MBTA treats all of its riders with respect. Funding for projects should reflect the users' use of the T so that greater usage is rewarded with greater finances for beautification. (I.e. Dudley station has a ridership of 30,000 people per day but looks like a worn down bus stop). Further, if other transportation companies and districts can establish timely transportation, we should be able to do the same. The T needs to study traffic patterns more to create a timely system that runs consistently on time.

## Education

### (14) ED REFORM

No. I would not have supported the education reform bill in its present state. The education reform bill allows charter schools to take public school funding. Public school funding needs to be kept in public schools. If we create all of the charter schools allotted, 80-85% of our students will still attend public schools, but with less funding and resources than are needed. The state should come up with a better funding program to fund charters schools without public school funding.

### (15) MCAS

Standardized tests, including the MCAS, should be used to measure how our children are mastering the standards across districts, states and nationwide. Results (data) should serve as a part of the conversation of what the child does not appear to be grasping or conveying that is being measured, followed by an analysis of what is currently being done to address these gaps and what has yet to be done to address them. For checks and balance sake, to ensure there is no overemphasis on test prep while jeopardizing other essential components of teaching and learning (physical education, arts and culture), I envision all students engaged in a portfolio process that honors their individual growth from where they began in the process of learning that year to the incremental growth they make throughout the year along with ongoing opportunities to celebrate this growth in indi-

vidual and communal ways. Teachers, students and families can be celebrated and honored in this way.

## (16) Women's Right to Choose

A woman has a right to choose whether or not to become pregnant. A child has a right not to be violated. Any conversation that disregards the right of either one is unconstitutional. It is not enough to respond that one is pro choice or not. The conversations must run deeper, looking at every unique situation. Every measure should be taken to honor the right of both whenever possible.

## (17) Welfare

Boston is fast becoming a city of haves and have nots. With expiring use on the rise, foreclosures, and skyrocketing rents, more and more people are being displaced from their homes or forced to move out of the city. Thus, until legislators come up with a system that ends homelessness, implements a recovery system for over inflated values that led to outrageous mortgages, and predatory lending, we need to create more affordable housing.

## Government Reform

### (18) ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

First all documents and closed sessions should be public and fall under public records laws. Second, government employees should not be allowed to serve on boards of non profit or profit agencies. There should be a clear separation between government and special interests.

### (19) BARRIERS TO CHANGE

I believe selfishness, money, greed and at times a sense of misplaced desperation are the sources of government ineffectiveness. Special interest lobbyists spread money to obtain favors of the officials, corporations can now spend endless amounts of money to influence elections, and more often than not lawmakers get into trouble when accepting financial favors from special interest parties. Eliminating this influence will help to reform the way government runs.

## Lightning Round

1. Ballot question #1. **No**
2. Ballot question #2. **No**
3. Ballot question #3. **No**
4. Single Payer. **No Answer**
5. In-state tuition. **Yes**
6. Expanding the Bottle Bill. **No**
7. Election Day Registration. **Yes**
8. Right to choose. **See Q#16**
9. Transgender Rights. **Yes**
10. Same sex marriage. I believe same sex marriage is well settled law in Massachusetts, and I will not do anything to change that status.
11. Clean Elections. **Yes**
12. Death penalty. **Leaning Yes**