

# 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?

# Jeff Herman

## (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	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

Before we raise taxes, I believe we need to examine the state budget and reduce expenditures, which are wasteful and/or outdated. Busing, for example, in the City of Boston can be drastically reduced since almost all of the students left in the city are minority. Buses pick up minority kids, bus them to minority schools where they pick up more minority kids and bus them to other minority schools. We have 3,000 buses everyday crisscrossing each other six times a day at a cost of \$50 million dollars a year. This needs to be drastically reduced. There is some need to bus special needs students to schools that specialize in their issues. I also believe that all government salaries and pensions should be frozen until the economy improves. Private businesses do this when there is a downturn, or they lay off some workers. Government needs to respond in the same way.

## (2) Expanded Gambling

No, I don't. Gambling does not produce wealth. It distributes it. Though there is an increase in the amount of money changing hands, it does not create wealth as does, for example, construction work or agriculture.

## (3) Health Care

The Massachusetts Health Care Reform Act was a boom for the insurance industry. It requires many people who cannot afford insurance to pay for it or face a penalty when they pay their taxes. The manner by which health care functions does not reduce the cost of health care, often requiring expensive tests when simpler solutions are available, especially in the area of preventative care. Doctors place too much emphasis on treatment whose main purpose is to avoid lawsuits or maintain an expensive medical network.

## (4) Immigration

No, I wouldn't. Immigrants should not be made the scapegoats of our problems. I support allowing undocumented workers who have committed no felonies to be eligible for citizenship after five years in the country.

## Labor/Workers Rights

### (5) MINIMUM WAGE

No. Not every job deserves to pay enough to support a family. When you add the additional costs of doing everything you can to a workers wages, the cost of the product or service becomes exorbitant. Everybody would get poorer.

### (6) PAID SICK DAYS

Would they be cumulative? If I am not sick, can sick days be added to my vacation? How much would the cost of paid sick days add to the cost of the product or service? Would it still be competitive? Could we afford it?

## Criminal Justice

### (7) YOUTH VIOLENCE

More resources need to be spent on the city's youth, giving them meaningful jobs, for example, weatherizing houses. I would look for productive work sources and not just sports programs.

### (8) MANDATORY MINIMUMS

Many reforms. Drug addiction needs to be looked at more from a medical standpoint. Drug rehabilitation centers are more effective and cheaper in treating drug addicts. We need to drastically reduce the prison population and treat the remaining prisoners with rehabilitation programs, treatment centers, and job training.

### (9) MEDICINAL MARIJUANA

Yes. Many doctors, health care workers and patients feel they would be much better served if medicinal marijuana were legalized. It is time for such a change.

## Housing

### (10) FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

Laws should be enacted that forbid predatory lending and variable mortgage rates that inflate faster than inflation.

### (11) HOMELESSNESS

We need to reevaluate the way our economy works, away from over consumption towards production that increases value in quality of life. For example, instead of products that become useless in a short order of time, we need to produce products that save us money. With this excess supply of productivity, we will be better able to help those less fortunate.

## (12) Environment

We need to weatherize our homes. Insulation, efficient products, windows with a high R rating (keeps heat out on hot days and keeps the heat in on cold days), solar panels, etc. See the Stretch Code on Google.

We need to stop emphasizing transportation that burns fossil fuels.

## (13) Transportation

In this computer age, we need to plan our cities away from crowded areas. Bicycles are a great remedy in many cases.

## Education

### (14) ED REFORM

No. Teachers need to have more control over the way they believe they should teach and not have it mandated from administrators.

### (15) MCAS

I would like all the legislators to take the MCAS test and publicize the results. We need to teach the students cognitive skills and not just teach to a test.

## (16) Women's Right to Choose

Yes.

## (17) Welfare

I'm not sure. This is a tough one.

## Government Reform

### (18) ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

### (19) BARRIERS TO CHANGE

It's no surprise that the system favors the incumbents. From Gerrymandering to the way elections are organized. For example, the incumbent in Massachusetts goes first on the ballot with a description of their present position. Any challenger has their name following the incumbent's with no title.

## Lightning Round

1. Ballot question #1. **No**
2. Ballot question #2. **Don't Know**
3. Ballot question #3. **No**
4. Single Payer. **Yes**
5. In-state tuition. **Yes**
6. Expanding the Bottle Bill. **Yes**
7. Election Day Registration. **Yes**
8. Right to choose. **Yes**
9. Transgender Rights. **Yes**
10. Same sex marriage. **Yes**
11. Clean Elections. **Yes**
12. Death penalty. **No**