

**Jamaica Plain Progressives**

working together to promote progressive values

[www.jpprogressives.com](http://www.jpprogressives.com)

# **JP Progressive Voter Guide for 2010**

**Preliminary Election — September 14**

**General Election — November 2**

**Contested JP Legislative Races**

**Second Suffolk State Senate (Senator Sonia Chang Diaz)**

**15th Suffolk State Representative (Representative Jeffrey Sánchez)**

**6th Suffolk State Representative (Open Seat)**



# About the JP Progressives

## Chairs

Melissa Threadgill  
Reuben Kantor

## Who We Are

Jamaica Plain Progressives is a group of JP residents (and, occasionally, folks from neighboring communities) who are working together to organize our community around progressive values.

JP Progressives is an action-oriented group, and we strive to make meetings focused, efficient, interesting and even fun. (What? Fun at a meeting?!)

We meet every third Wednesday at 7pm at Doyle's in Jamaica Plain. Our meetings are open to the public, and new members interested in being more involved in progressive political organizing in our community are welcome.

## Statement of Values

We know we're not all going to agree on every issue every time — and that's okay. But we do think there are a certain set of values we all share that bring us together, and that makes us progressives. These include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- A commitment to equality for all people, regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic class, religion, nationality, or physical ability.
- A belief that there are some things — including access to high quality, affordable health care, a safe and affordable place to live, a living wage and a good public education — that everyone is entitled to.
- A strong conviction that government has a positive role to play in our lives and communities.
- A commitment to ethical and accountable government, and a belief that inclusivity and widespread participation in elections and governance is an important part of our democratic government.

- A commitment to building a community that is environmentally and economically sustainable.
- A belief in the right to privacy, which means that there are some personal decisions the government should not interfere with.

## What We Do

We're bringing progressives together to:

- **Build Progressive Electoral Power:**  
This means recruiting, supporting, and helping elect progressive candidates for office. JPProgressives members are often interested in being actively involved in local campaigns as organizers, fundraisers, and foot soldiers — and in working together under the JPProgressives banner to demonstrate the strength of the progressive community to our elected officials.
- **Mobilize around Issues:**  
We're organizing to raise awareness and affect change on issues of importance to the group. This process starts with helping members become more informed about issues of local importance, and we often organize educational sessions with local issue experts for part or all of a meeting. (Recent topics have included affordable housing, youth violence, and education.) We also help organize members to take action on important issues — call their legislators, attend community meetings, and talk to their friends and neighbors.
- **Progressive Community Building:**  
We're working to build a lasting community of progressive activists, one that will outlast any one campaign cycle. This includes finding ways to keep people involved after a campaign is over, developing progressive leaders in our community, and building relationships among members, and between members and the community.
- **Jamaica Plain Community Engagement:**  
We also know that the Jamaica Plain Community is larger than the members of the group. We want to continually be reaching out to members of the JP Community to encourage them to participate in the democratic process.

## To Get Involved

If you share these progressive values and are interested in the sort of work we do, then we hope you'll join us.

Please visit [www.jpprogressives.com](http://www.jpprogressives.com), sign up for our email list, or send an email to [moreinfo@jpprogressives.com](mailto:moreinfo@jpprogressives.com).

# 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*

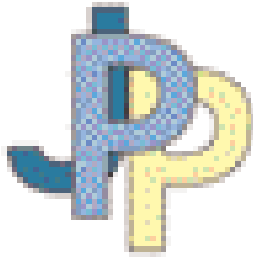
What are the top three specific steps you would suggest for improving accountability and transparency in state government?

*(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?



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# **Candidates for Second Suffolk State Senate**

**Preliminary Election — September 14**

**General Election — November 2**

**Candidates invited to submit a questionnaire:**

**Senator Sonia Chang Diaz**

**Hassan Williams**

# Senator Sonia Chang Diaz

## (1) Budget

### REVENUE

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

### CUTS

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

### PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR CHOICES

The last two budget cycles have been devastating for too many people. Next year's budget is likely to be even more challenging given the drop-off in federal stimulus funding and the fact that our health, education, and safety infrastructure has already been cut to the bone. Given this landscape, all revenue sources should be on the table for consideration in order to prevent further dangerous cuts. In a state with overall resources as plentiful as Massachusetts', we shouldn't have to choose between core values such as good public schools versus safer streets.

Additionally, we owe it to every taxpayer to be disciplined about cutting inefficiency where it exists and strengthening accountability. That's why I have fought for, and will continue to support reforms to our broken Probation Department, abuses of the state pension system, lax accountability in tax give-aways to corporations, and loopholes in our tax laws that don't make sense.

## (2) Expanded Gambling

No. Expanded gambling in Massachusetts is a form of taxation on the poor. Because of that and several other

reasons, I will continue to work against the creation of a casino in the Commonwealth. However, if the unfortunate reality of a casino comes to be in Massachusetts I will work to ensure that the state is taking every step possible to reduce the negative impacts, though they can never be eliminated.

## (3) Health Care

While we ought to be incredibly proud that approximately 97% of Massachusetts residents are now insured, there is an enormous amount of work still to be done. The most glaring shortcoming, and the one I hear about most frequently from my constituents, is that the costs are still much too high. Especially given the economic hardships our families are facing right now as a result of the economic downturn. I've heard from too many families and small business owners that they face increases in premiums that they simply cannot absorb.

We need to work together to craft creative cost containment measures that can suppress rapid escalations in cost. Moreover, we need to ensure that our healthcare systems is providing people with resources and encouragement to avoid preventable illnesses whenever possible, which will lower costs for everyone in the Commonwealth.

## (4) Immigration

I am proud to have spoken out forcefully against these amendments, and am glad to report these mean-spirited, costly, and duplicative measures were removed from the final budget after their rushed and shameful passage in the Senate.

I also worked hard during my first term to protect healthcare coverage for more than 30,000 legal, taxpaying immigrants, and will continue to stand up for all of Massachusetts families. Moreover, I will continue to provide a reasonable and compassionate voice for immigrant families in Massachusetts, countering anti-immigrant fear-mongering and scape-goating whether it comes from talk-radio or the floor of the state Senate.

## Labor/Workers Rights

### (5) MINIMUM WAGE

Yes. I support both of these measures. We need a minimum wage that ensures parents are making enough to put food on the table and still have enough hours in the day to help their kids with homework and be involved in their lives.

### (6) PAID SICK DAYS

Yes. Some 1.5 million workers in Massachusetts lack even a single paid sick day a year. In my first term, I co-sponsored legislature to establish paid sick days for workers in Massachusetts and I will be proud to do so again and work actively for its passage next session.

## **Criminal Justice**

### *(7) YOUTH VIOLENCE*

We have to do two things, immediately, to stem the tide of violence in our neighborhoods:

1. Provide safe, positive, and accessible alternatives for young people, as well as more relationships with caring adults – through measures like youth summer jobs, after school programs, and a longer school day (as well as, as mentioned above, a living minimum wage for their parents).
2. Reduce access to illegal guns in our neighborhoods. I am also incredibly proud of the passage of CORI reform, which was one of my top legislative priorities. This legislation will help to reduce crime across all age levels by increasing jobs access to people who have paid their debt to society.

I have been active on all of these issues in my first term, and will continue to push forcefully for the changes we need so that our communities live up to our aspirations for them.

### *(8) MANDATORY MINIMUMS*

Yes. I was proud to support the successful passage of mandatory minimum reforms for non-violent drug offenses in the crime bill passed this session in the legislature. This bill allowed for those serving sentences in county houses of correction for such non-violent offenses to be eligible for consideration for parole (though not automatically qualified for it) after serving half of their sentence.

### *(9) MEDICINAL MARIJUANA*

I would support such a measure because I believe that all citizens should have access to health care as recommended by medical professionals. I understand the particular importance of pain medication in cases of terminal or otherwise severe illnesses, in which limited options for treatment of pain may be effective. It is important that patients have appropriate access to safe and effective treatments for pain, nausea, and other debilitating symptoms, as recommended by their doctors.

## **Housing**

### *(10) FORECLOSURE PREVENTION*

As a member of the Joint Committee on Housing, I was thrilled with the passage of major foreclosure reform legislation this term, which included several provisions that I had pushed for. This legislation, which was a top legislative priority for me, will prevent the unfair eviction of renters in good standing, whose landlords are facing foreclosure. Additionally, the changes establish greater procedural protections and negotiating opportunities for homeowners facing foreclosure.

Foreclosure reform legislation was among the first bills I filed upon coming into office because it's an issue that so disproportionately affects our district. Our communities are stronger when all families have access to affordable housing

options—options that allow families to stay in the neighborhoods they've helped build over the years and that help keep new, young families in the communities where they've started to put down roots.

### *(11) HOMELESSNESS*

Homelessness is the most pernicious effect of a lack of stable, affordable housing. However, the real solutions to homelessness draw on virtually every element of public policy. In addition to preventing needless evictions caused by foreclosures, and creating more affordable housing across the state, we must also address countless other issues that can lead to homelessness. These issues include improving our public schools, expanding jobs access, improving access to substance abuse prevention and treatment, making healthcare more affordable, and many other safety-net programs that should catch people when they are at risk of being homeless, and help guide them back to safety.

## **(12) Environment**

1. I will continue to fight for bills like SB388, which I filed this session, that would help identify communities in Massachusetts that suffer disparate health outcomes due to environmental pollution and require certain projects to complete a health impact assessment before approval. Such a measure is a vital first step in ensuring environmental justice for all our communities.
2. I will co-sponsor and advocate for the passage of expanded bottle bill legislation.
3. I will continue to fight for improving the financial solvency, scope, accessibility, and environmental impact of public transportation, through revenue reforms including an increased gas tax.

In addition to these specific priorities, I will continue to work on broader strategies to improve our environment, increase economic justice and promote alternative energy and green business, whether it be through alternative energy, green building, or combinations of the two.

## **(13) Transportation**

Lower-income communities and communities of color continue to be drastically underserved by existing public transportation infrastructure. I will continue to push for expansion of the MBTA into parts of the Greater Boston area that are currently underserved, or not served at all. Improvements such as full implementation of the Silver Line service, improvements to the Blue Hill Ave. transit corridor, and thoughtful implementation of the Fairmount/Indigo Line improvements are all vital to revitalizing and connecting these underserved communities. We must also continue to push for completion of commitments at the Arborway Yard bus site. In addition, I will continue to be a strong advocate for raising the revenue needed to keep our buses and trains running safely and on time and at a price that's accessible to working families.

## Education

### (14) ED REFORM

Although the Achievement Gap bill passed this year was not a perfect bill, I voted for it and believe this vote was a positive and necessary step forward. I just don't consider inaction an option in the face of the chronic problems that face students in our schools. Although incredible victories happen in Boston schools every day—against incredible odds—we are also systematically failing to educate thousands of students every year. That means we need to do something different, period. The Achievement Gap bill aims to systematically improve student success; narrow the achievement among low-income, black, and Latino students; and increase accountability in school administration. I supported this bill because, while it is not a complete solution, I believe it addresses some of the most urgent reforms needed in our public education system. As a former educator, this issue is at the core of why I choose to run for public office.

### (15) MCAS

I believe high-quality standardized testing is a valuable part of a standards-based, evidence based public education system that holds to high expectations for all students, regardless of race, ethnicity, family income, gender, or zip code. Standardized testing should never be a sole measure of student performance. It is also critical that we use test results in a thoughtful and fair way when it comes to measuring school performance, being sure to also measure the growth or “value-added” that schools and teachers accomplish over the course of a school year in addition to simple raw test scores. Taken alone, raw test score may reflect pre-existing factors such as socio-economics as much as they reflect teaching quality.

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

Yes.

### (17) Welfare

Public benefits and programs that provide pathways out of poverty and vital resources for struggling families are a frequent target for political attacks, especially in tough financial times. There seems to be a perennial supply of bills and plans that promise to find and eliminate “millions” in waste, fraud, and abuse. Make no mistake: I strongly support increasing transparency and accountability across government, and have been an active champion of many such measures in my first term. But I do not believe our social welfare system is a special or leading source of waste or inefficiency at the state level. And I believe that when we identify instances of fraud and abuse, those resources should be funneled into the improvement of vital safety net services and into asset development programs that are proven effective at actually helping people build out of poverty.

## Government Reform

### (18) ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

1. Improve public reporting of how money given to corporations is actually spent, and whether corporations are fulfilling the goals for which they are given public subsidies and contracts. Reporting measures must also include accountability on whether local residents and workers and business owners of color are sharing in the job creation benefits often promised in exchange for public dollars.
2. Continue to monitor and push for permanent reforms to the state's Probation Department, to follow up on the initial reforms passed by the Legislature this year and the task force recommendations due later this year.
3. Strengthen our elections systems by eliminating barriers to voting with reforms like bilingual ballots (successfully passed this year), same-day registration, and pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds; and campaign finance reforms that reduce the influence of special interests and big money, especially in light of the Supreme Court's troubling decision in the Citizens United case.

### (19) BARRIERS TO CHANGE

I ran for office in the first place because I believe we need to raise expectations for our elected officials—not just on Beacon Hill, but across our state, from the first time voter, to the news media, to every person considering running for office. We have a lot of work to do to get there. But that task is a principle that will always guide my work in public office.

I've witnessed some cultural aspects on Beacon Hill that are discouraging and frustrating, and some that genuinely inspire me with belief in my colleagues. It's a human institution. The best bottom line I always tell people, because I truly believe it myself, is: if you want good government, you've got to get good people. In the short space here, I'd say elections are our single best tool for getting the government we want.

## Lightning Round

1. Ballot question #1. **No**
2. Ballot question #2. **No**
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**



# 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

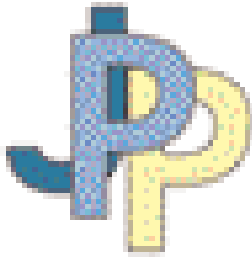
First all documents and closed sessions should be public and fall under public records laws. Second, government employees should not be allowed to serve on boards of non profit or profit agencies. There should be a clear separation between government and special interests.

### (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**



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working together to promote progressive values

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# **Candidates for 15th Suffolk State Representative**

**Preliminary Election — September 14**

**General Election — November 2**

**Candidates invited to submit a questionnaire:**

**Jeff Herman**

**Representative Jeffrey Sánchez**

# 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**

# Representative Jeffrey Sánchez

*(Editor's Note: The respondent's questionnaire is printed as submitted. We have attempted to match his responses up with the questions they most closely answer.)*

## (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

My colleagues and I in the House of Representatives passed a \$27.94 billion balanced budget without any increases in taxation. The budget increases state spending by 0.2 percent above projected spending this fiscal year and closes budget gaps of more than \$12.5 billion. Despite the challenging budget, I fought for several initiatives in the state's budget appropriations that I have vigorously worked for years to support, including programs for youth, education, housing, and public health—fundamental programs that benefit the people of my district and the Commonwealth. Successful budget amendments that I filed and were passed into law include increased transparency in the cost of health care through the expansion of the All Claims Payer Database, an expanded program for enhanced coordinated care for pediatric asthma patients served by MassHealth, and the restoration of Reading Recovery, which provides one-to-one tutoring for children at risk of failing to read in first grade.

## (2) Expanded Gambling

Since the legislature began talks of expanded gaming, I have consistently been opposed to the development of casinos in Massachusetts.

## (3) Health Care

I am proud of my work with my colleagues in assuring that Massachusetts became the first in the nation to establish a comprehensive health reform law, establishing some ambitious goals: achieving nearly universal coverage for Massachusetts, care and coverage that would be affordable and of high quality, and a more transparent and accountable process of expanding coverage. Residents covered by MassHealth and Commonwealth Care increased by 122,000 during the first year of reform, equal to almost one third of the 372,000 residents estimated were uninsured in June 2006. As of spring 2009, 2.7% of the population was uninsured. Many provisions of Chapter 58 break new ground, and while commendable, have potential pitfalls ahead:

- Coverage does not equal access;
- 1 in 5 adults reported difficulty obtaining care because providers were not accepting new patients or not accepting their insurance type;
- Still a large percentage of residents (21%) do not get needed service due to medical costs.

## (4) Immigration

During the 2011 fiscal year House budget debate, the House of Representatives and I successfully filed an amendment that defeated an budget language that would have required all agencies providing public benefits to use the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system to determine non-citizen eligibility for assistance—extraordinarily costly and burdensome to implement for many agencies, especially to those with few immigrant applicants. Numerous safeguards currently exist in benefit programs to keep fraud minimal, such as fines, jail time, and immigrant notification. Agencies should not have to spend disproportionate sums of money or completely redesign current eligibility determination processes to verify immigrant eligibility. While the debate regarding immigration reform has not reached resolution, the federal government must immediately fairly enforce existing immigration policy.

## Labor/Workers Rights

### (5) MINIMUM WAGE

### (6) PAID SICK DAYS

I am the lead sponsor of “An Act Opposing Unnecessary Language Restrictions in the Workplace,” which will make it generally illegal for employers to use workplace language restrictions like “English Only” rules. Thus, it will allow employees the freedom to use the language of their choice at the workplace.

I am also co-sponsor of the “Paid Sick Days Act,” the purpose of which is to make certain that all workers can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families by requiring employers to provide a minimum of 7 paid sick days per year. Additionally, I am a co-sponsor of a proposal that will give the 4,300 family child care providers who receive payment from the Commonwealth the right to organize for the purpose of improving professional development, and recruitment and retention rates. Implementation of this bill will lead to increased quality and professional development in family child care.

## **Criminal Justice**

### *(7) YOUTH VIOLENCE*

I have continuously advocated for youth violence and gang prevention grants, school to career connecting activities, and summer job programs for at-risk youth. I fought for increased funding to be allocated to summer job programs for at-risk youth. As a result of these efforts, the FY11 budget allocated \$9.1 million to summer job programs for at-risk youth, enabling nearly 5,000 youth the opportunity of employment.

### *(8) MANDATORY MINIMUMS*

Along with programs for at risk youth I also supported the CORI reform bill, H.4703. The new CORI law shortens the wait time for sealing criminal records to 10 years for felony convictions and to five years for misdemeanors. It simplifies the sealing process and mandates aspects of the hiring process. In addition, certain drug offenders will become eligible for parole before fully serving their minimum mandatory sentences. This new CORI law will provide employment opportunities for ex-offenders currently shut out of jobs.

### *(9) MEDICINAL MARIJUANA*

## **Housing**

### *(10) FORECLOSURE PREVENTION*

I have been a long-standing proponent for affordable housing and have worked for years to preserve it and to protect vulnerable populations living in publicly assisted housing. During the 2009-2010 legislative session I supported the passage of a law that protects tenants in foreclosed properties and helps lenders and homeowners avoid foreclosure. The right to cure period will be extended from 90 days to 150 days allowing lenders and homeowners a window to work out a new payment plan.

### *(11) HOMELESSNESS*

I also filed a bill to revitalize state public housing and to preserve units by providing greater flexibility to housing authorities. This will grant local housing authorities the ability to maximize resources available for the rehabilitation of public housing. In addition, I supported the expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits program allowing

developers to finance part of the development cost with equity invested by corporations, thereby helping to keep rents low and affordable. In the community I have worked to assure that project in the district have access to state resources for affordable housing projects which include the Betsaida Gutierrez Coop and the Julia Martin House in Jamaica Plain as well as the Pickle Dittson Project in Mission Hill among others.

## **(12) Environment**

As a long time supporter of the toxic use reduction, I am co-sponsor of “An Act for a Competitive Economy through Safer Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals,” legislation that will create a comprehensive program to replace toxic chemicals with safer alternatives in consumer products and other businesses. It will protect public health from adverse health impacts and develop opportunities to strengthen the competitiveness and growth of Massachusetts businesses. I have also worked closely with the Department of Conservation and Recreation which awarded \$128,600 in matching funds for three improvement projects within the district including \$50,000 in matching funds to install lighting and to resurface three basketball courts in the Roxbury section of the SWCP, \$45,600 to add an additional 600 linear feet of steel fencing toward the Arborway hillside and Forest Hills, and \$33,000 to develop treatment guidelines for the crosswalks and paths of the parks. I also voted in favor of the much debated bill relative to siting land based wind projects and I also support the expanded bottle bill.

## **(13) Transportation**

In response to years of inaction on major issues including pension and employee reform, institutional inertia (and obsolescence), and declining revenues that have brought on huge structural deficits and poor service, my colleagues and I in the House of Representatives enacted a sweeping transportation reform package that eliminated the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, which brought down insurance and pension costs and aligned state transportation agencies to implement cost savings and efficiencies. Additionally, I was successful in working with members such as Representative Malia in eliminating the transfer of the Department of Conservation and Recreation parkways and bridges to the Highway Division of the newly created Massachusetts Transportation and Infrastructure Authority. I also worked with affected riders, Jamaica Plain businesses, and other elected officials to continue the 48 Loop Bus service in Jamaica Plain.

## **Education**

### *(14) ED REFORM*

The Commonwealth is stricken with gaps in academic achievement between various ethnic groups and their English speaking counterparts. In this session I was successful in demanding the inclusion of three provisions adopted

from my English language learner bill into “An Act Relative to the Achievement Gap,” which was passed into law and will directly benefit limited English learners in our schools. In addressing the achievement gap, this new law requires that steps be taken to address gaps for limited English proficient students in every school and or district turnaround plan. Additionally, any turnaround school with limited English proficient students must provide development and planning time for staff to develop strategies and content to maximize achievement of such students. Finally, any school that operates a limited English proficient program must establish parent advisory councils for parents of those students so that they can participate and give feedback on the effectiveness of the programs.

*(15) MCAS*

### **(16) Women’s Right to Choose**

I support a Woman’s right to chose and I will fight any initiatives to change or overturn Roe v. Wade.

### **(17) Welfare**

I support activities and programs that will increase the education, skills, and employment of Massachusetts’ youth and their successful integration into the Massachusetts economy. I have been a long-standing proponent for affordable housing and have worked for years to preserve affordable housing to protect vulnerable populations living in publicly assisted housing while encouraging the development of low-income housing. I have worked to stabilize communities adversely impacted by the foreclosure crisis in Massachusetts. By protecting tenants and promoting negotiations between homeowners and lenders, economic hardships for many families will be avoided.

## **Government Reform**

*(18) ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY*

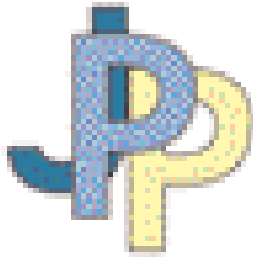
This session was the productive session in recent history related to government reform. I supported the ethics reform bill enacted into law that provides numerous layers of accountability to ensure government is being operated in an ethical, fair, just, and open manner—the bill covers four major sections: lobbying and ethics, open meetings, campaign finance, and conduct of public employees. In response to individuals who exploit loopholes to increase pension payments at a high cost to the state, I supported landmark legislation passed into law in 2008 that eliminates the worst offenses in the state pension system. The bill shuts down loopholes in current law, saves taxpayer money, and helps restore public trust in the state oversight of public pensions. For the transportation reforms please see my previous statements under transportation. With the implementation of these three reforms the government has been able to restore some of its lost credibility.

*(19) BARRIERS TO CHANGE*

## **Lightning Round**

1. Ballot question #1. **No**
2. Ballot question #2. **No**
3. Ballot question #3. **No**
4. Single Payer. **Yes**
5. In-state tuition. **Yes**
6. Expanding the Bottle Bill. **Yes**
7. Election Day Registration. **No Response**
8. Right to choose. **Yes**
9. Transgender Rights. **Yes**
10. Same sex marriage. **Yes**
11. Clean Elections. **No**
12. Death penalty. **No**





**Jamaica Plain Progressives**

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# **Candidates for 6th Suffolk State Representative**

**Preliminary Election — September 14**

**General Election — November 2**

**Candidates invited to submit a questionnaire:**

**Faustina “Kathy” Gabriel**

**Darrin Howell**

**Russell Holmes**

**Divo Rodrigues Monteiro**

**Karen Payne**

# Russell Holmes

## (1) Budget

### REVENUE

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

### CUTS

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

### PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR CHOICES.

- Raising corporate taxes in the middle of a recession is counterproductive when businesses are already reluctant to invest and expand.
- Instead, we should implement a progressive income tax that would tax the wealthiest citizens the most.
- A gas tax has added environmental benefits, in addition to increased revenue.
- Cuts to local aid would still be passed down to taxpayers as municipalities raise their own taxes.
- Infrastructure is long-term and can wait three or four years.

## (2) Expanded Gambling

I support expanded gambling.

- Important source of tax revenue and job creators.
- Many gamblers are going to out-of-state casinos.
- Support destination casinos and limited slots as long as a significant portion of the slot revenues are taxed.

## (3) Health Care

### Successes

- 97% coverage—highest in nation.
- Massachusetts' healthcare serves as model for national health care reform.
- Most employers have chosen to expand coverage rather than pay a penalty, in part because workers have asked for group coverage.
- Employers and workers have made a greater contribution to expanding coverage than the state has.

### Problems

- Costs have risen from \$1b in FY2006 to \$1.7b in FY2010, with federal and state governments paying half the added costs (\$350 million).

### Solutions

- We can explore alternatives like high deductible, low premium insurance policies for catastrophic illness combined with health savings accounts and low-interest loans for unexpected expenditures.

## (4) Immigration

- Would not support proposals like these.
- These kinds of proposals are counterproductive, costly, and hardly indicative of the image we would like to project to the rest of the world. A path to citizenship is the only way to effectively address the problem of illegal immigration.

## Labor/Workers Rights

### (5) MINIMUM WAGE

- Would support indexing to inflation so that real wages don't continue to fall.
- Would not support raising minimum wage to closer to actual living wage.

### (6) PAID SICK DAYS

Yes, and would likely cosponsor such legislation.

## Criminal Justice

### (7) YOUTH VIOLENCE

Obviously, we should hire more law enforcement, but we also ought to create communities where crime can't proliferate:

- Fund teen centers to get kids off the streets and out of trouble and new clean public spaces, like Mattapan's new public library that I helped bring to the community.
- Even detail-oriented ideas like street cleaning help change the social context.

(8) MANDATORY MINIMUMS

- Mandatory minimum sentencing laws for drug-related offenses have unfortunately crowded our jails and strained our budget.
- Support reforms backed by Families Against Mandatory Minimums that would repeal “one size fits all” sentences for drug offenders.
- Courts should be allowed to impose sentences that fit the crime while protecting public safety.

(9) MEDICINAL MARIJUANA

- Support legalizing marijuana for medical purposes.
- When properly used and regulated, medical marijuana can be an important medical tool as well as a source of tax revenue.

## Housing

(10) FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

- Create a fund to help homeowners remain in their homes while they and their mortgage lenders work out affordable payment plans.
- Help overextended homeowners unload unsustainable mortgages and transition back into less costly rental situations.

(11) HOMELESSNESS

- Focus on prevention, not just treatment.
- Expand affordable housing, accompanied by supportive services. Enact programs that negotiate with landlords and help with bad credit histories.
- Expand programs that help individuals develop personal and family financial management skills, reestablish good credit, and retain housing.
- Expand rental assistance programs.

## (12) Environment

1. Carbon tax
2. Increase tax credits for sustainable energy and hybrid cars
3. Increase tax credits for home weatherization

## (13) Transportation

- Expand the T (either bus or rail) to better connect our district with downtown Boston
- Promote dedicated bus lanes to remove public transit from mixed traffic

## Education

(14) ED REFORM

I would have voted for the education reform bill.

(15) MCAS

MCAS should continue to be used but should not be the only measurement of students and performance ratings of teachers.

## (16) Women’s Right to Choose

I would oppose any additional legal barriers to women seeking abortion services in Massachusetts.

## (17) Welfare

Focus dollars more on transitional assets such as home purchase and businesses. We must encourage ways for families to move to financial independence.

## Government Reform

(18) ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

1. Increase the use of third party audits to assess the efficacy of legislation, especially tax credits.
2. Support and cosponsor legislation such as *An Act Relative to Transparency in State Revenues and Expenditures* (Sen. Cynthia Creem and Reps. Antonio Cabral and Jay Kaufman), which creates a searchable online database detailing the costs, recipients, and purposes of all appropriations by the state government.
3. Support and cosponsor legislation such as *An Act improving the Laws Related to Ethics and Lobbying*, filed by Gov. Patrick and proposed by the bipartisan Task Force on Public Integrity.

(19) BARRIERS TO CHANGE

I agree that the culture on Beacon Hill is the greatest barrier to progressive change in Massachusetts and that, ultimately, this culture is rooted in a disconnect between politicians and the communities they serve. To the typical family in Dorchester, Roslindale, Mattapan, Hyde Park or Jamaica Plain, Beacon Hill seems like a distant place.

While technical reforms can help, it is primarily the individual *character* of each elected official that can change this culture of disconnect. We need to elect leaders who put community first—who have a history of making change in their own neighborhoods—if we ever want to change how the legislative system currently operates. We must find more ways to have ideas come directly from our communities to Beacon Hill and not the other way around.

## Lightning Round

1. Ballot question #1. **No**
2. Ballot question #2. **No**
3. Ballot question #3. **No**
4. Single Payer. **No**
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. **No, Support Civil Union**
11. Clean Elections. **Yes**
12. Death penalty. **No**

# Divo Rodrigues Monteiro

## (1) Budget

### REVENUE

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

### CUTS

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

### PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR CHOICES.

I will propose to raise tax on alcohol and tax and it will bring more revenue to Mass in order to boost this economy.

## (2) Expanded Gambling

Yes, I support Casino in Massachusetts because it will create jobs and bring more revenue to the State. Unemployment rate is at record level and gambling is needed more than ever to generate revenue in this recession time.

## (3) Health Care

The cost of health care is skyrocketing in Massachusetts. I propose negotiation with Insurance Companies (Blue Cross Blue Shield, Harvard Pilgrim, Neighborhood Health Plan, Tufts Health Plan etc) to low or limit increases in health care costs in order to help struggling families in this tough economic times and provide tax incentives for small business in order to enable small business to hire new workers throughout the Commonwealth. I also propose education and prevention and treatment for HIV/AIDS.

## (4) Immigration

I do not support proposals like these because some undocumented are not criminal, and some undocumented have worked hard to maintain a decent family and pay their taxes. As long as they play by the rules they will be able to collect benefits. We need to give them a chance to advance in life and achieve the America dream. This is the Land of Immigrants.

## Labor/Workers Rights

### (5) MINIMUM WAGE

Taking into account the high cost of living in Massachusetts; therefore, we need to raise the living standards as well as raising the minimum wage to a level closer to an actual living wage.

### (6) PAID SICK DAYS

Yes, I will support legislation that guarantees that all Massachusetts workers can earn paid sick days. Because some workers work hard to maintain a decent family; therefore, I will fight for their own right.

## Criminal Justice

### (7) YOUTH VIOLENCE

The Legislature need to approve for funding for Town and City across the Commonwealth so they have more Police presence on the Street.

### (8) MANDATORY MINIMUMS

Yes, I support efforts to reform our "mandatory minimum" sentencing laws for drug-related offenses. I would propose reforming CORI Laws because the Massachusetts Criminal Record Information (CORI) System is preventing thousands of residents from accessing employment and housing. CORI records, which were initially intended for Law enforcement are now being accessed by many employers who may not understand how to read them. If elected I will support sealing CORI records after 7 years for felonies and 3 years for misdemeanors for those who have not re-offended. We all are all human beings make mistakes; therefore we need a second chance in life.

### (9) MEDICINAL MARIJUANA

I do not support legalizing marijuana for medical purposes only; because some people can take advantage of this law and begin using them for the wrong purpose.

## Housing

### (10) FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

I will support legislation for homeowner/bank mediation in order to avoid foreclosure.

*(11) HOMELESSNESS*

I will support legislation that increase funding for voucher, shelter for the homeless; and more affordable housing units.

**(12) Environment**

If get elected I will place priority on Clean water. I will propose Manufacturer to make product items less toxic and recyclable, because the Taxpayer is paying between \$6-22 million dollars annually to recycle those products. If Manufacturer fails to meet their obligations; therefore, they will be responsible to pay \$6-22 million dollars so it will save Massachusetts millions of dollars that we desperately need to create jobs in this tough economy time.

**(13) Transportation**

I will support efforts to get funding and Federal and Sate stimulus dollars toward smart investment in Transportation in order to make public transportation more affordable and accessible to all residents. I will also advocate for mediation and remedial measure to address community concerns such as noise, parking, increased traffic etc.

**Education**

*(14) ED REFORM*

I believe into high standards in Education.

*(15) MCAS*

But I oppose MCAS as a single Test for graduation requirement; because MCAS was designed to meet the educational needs and demand of the upper-middle class; and therefore, MCAS put some minority students, disabled students, and students that lack English proficiency at disadvantage. As a result, they score low on the MCAS and some students end up dropping out from School. For those students at risk I propose remedial programs tutoring and after school programs for low class family students, disabled students and students that lack English proficiency in order to cope with the high standards. I will also fight for funding, federal and state stimulus for our Public Library, because Public Library is the source of Knowledge; and I believe that students must have access to Public and school libraries with adequate materials, technology and staff.

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

Women should have their own right to choose and control of their own life or destiny. I would oppose any additional

legal barriers to women seeking abortion services in Massachusetts

**(17) Welfare**

Yes. I support funding to provide safe transitional shelter to all individuals and families. I will fight for continued funding for shelter for the homeless.

**Government Reform**

*(18) ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY*

Health Care Reform: I would propose health care at low cost for all without discrimination.

Reforming CORI laws; because the Massachusetts Criminal Record Information (CORI) System is preventing thousands of residents from accessing employment and housing.

Mass Education reform bill in order to transform school system.

We need to reform the budget process and I propose appropriate resources are allocated to the organization and Institutions that can use State and federal funds wisely and can improve the quality of life of all residents.

*(19) BARRIERS TO CHANGE*

Sometimes I agree. No business as usual. We need to change the established way of doing business on Beacon Hill for the better.

**Lightning Round**

1. Ballot question #1. **No**
2. Ballot question #2. **No**
3. Ballot question #3. **Yes**
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**