

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?

Divo Rodrigues Monteiro

(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.

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**