

# 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?

# Karen Payne

## (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.  |          |          |

## (2) Expanded Gambling

I do not support expanding gambling in the Commonwealth. I do not believe there are sustainable jobs that will pay a living wage. Massachusetts has one of the most successful lottery in the country, that support local aid to communities. I question the revenue numbers projected for casinos in Massachusetts.

## (3) Health Care

It is a victory that 97.5% of the population in the Commonwealth has comprehensive health insurance. We still have work to do to make it more affordable, in particular for small business. I support the single payer option.

## (4) Immigration

No, I believe there should be a fair and equitable path to citizenship for undocumented people. Any further enforcement is unrealistic, expensive and wrong.

## Labor/Workers Rights

### (5) MINIMUM WAGE

yes

### (6) PAID SICK DAYS

yes

## Criminal Justice

### (7) YOUTH VIOLENCE

I believe quality education and revamping our school curriculum and staffing to meet the needs for a 21st century education. I think the BPD, Community Crime Watch programs, when properly staffed, have shown to be very successful in improving safety in our neighborhoods. Currently, this program has a limited staff.

### (8) MANDATORY MINIMUMS

In general, we need court reform. The next step after the recently passed CORI Reform is sentencing reform especially for non violent drug related offenses.

### (9) MEDICINAL MARIJUANA

Yes, I think the use of marijuana has been well documented for certain medical conditions and should be legalized.

## Housing

### (10) FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

The recent legislation passed by the legislature did not go far enough. We must protect homeowners as well as tenants. Banks need to negotiate reasonable mortgage terms using the actual value of the properties. Massachusetts must support banks that are part of our communities and not mega banks that have no stake in our community. As Eric Rosengren, the Federal Reserve President in Boston said, the foreclosure crisis must be addressed in a comprehensive and holistic manner.

### (11) HOMELESSNESS

Support extending expiring use leases for affordable housing. Support 'Housing First' initiatives that place homeless people in housing (not shelters) first with supports built in to assist them to stay in housing.

## (12) Environment

Environmental and Environmental Justice priorities:

1. Clean Water
2. Clean Air
3. Renewable Energy

Additionally, I believe that we must take steps to lower the environmental health risks that are prevalent in many low-

income communities. As president of the Boston branch NAACP, I worked to pass a national resolution against Level 4 Bio-labs being built in densely populated areas which often have a high population of people of color.

### **(13) Transportation**

Quality public transportation is a cornerstone of smart growth and Boston's public transportation system needs the support of the legislature to make significant improvements and relieve the pressure of its enormous debt (approximately \$8 billion). I would also support an increase in transit-connected development such as the partnerships that are working on the Jackson Square projects.

### **Education**

#### *(14) ED REFORM*

I would not have supported that legislation because it did not address the crisis we are facing with the high school drop-out rate nor did it deal with the complex needs of today's students. I served on the Governor's Task Force on Drop-out Prevention and believe strongly that comprehensive services must be provided to students early on in their educational careers. Additionally, there were issues with collective bargaining concerns.

#### *(15) MCAS*

Standardized tests should be one measure of student achievement and are appropriate only as part of a portfolio of indicators of learning.

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

I would not only oppose any additional barriers to a woman's access to an abortion but I support elimination of existing laws on the books in Massachusetts which restrict access such as a mandatory waiting period for at-risk women.

### **(17) Welfare**

Assistance levels must be evaluated with the cost of living. We all know that training programs have been effective in helping people bridge from public assistance to self sufficiency.

### **Government Reform**

#### *(18) ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY*

#### *(19) BARRIERS TO CHANGE*

We have to understand the process of how legislation is passed, it requires good leadership and an open environment to hear the issues. We must be about building coalitions, even with those we do not agree with. The success of the recent victory for CORI reform is an example of how this works. Addressing issues that affect people's lives and encouraging everyone to be involved in the process will move logjams in government. It is what our entire system of democracy is all about.

### **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**