Massachusetts 2018 Democratic Primary Voter Guide

Tuesday, September 4, 2018
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This voter guide includes information on five Democratic primary races pertinent to students registered to vote at or near MIT’s campus: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Middlesex County District Attorney, Secretary of State, and the Massachusetts 7th District of the US House of Representatives.

More information on registering to vote and voting can be found at vote2018.mit.edu. Members of the MIT community can register to vote, check their voter registration, or request an absentee ballot at mit.turbovote.edu.

Want to be more involved with MIT Democrats this election cycle? Subscribe to our mailing list at democrats.mit.edu/subscribe.

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MIT Democrats Endorsements

Below are MIT Democrats’ recommendations for the major Democratic races for students living on or near MIT’s campus. They were decided by a vote of our core membership—those who have either attended multiple meetings or made significant contributions to at least one major MIT Democrats project.

**US House of Representatives, MA-7: Ayanna Pressley**
We endorse Ayanna Pressley for Representative for MA-7. While Pressley and Capuano are in close agreement on policy issues, we like that Pressley will likely write and sponsor legislation addressing important social issues like equity for women, poverty alleviation, sexual violence prevention, and racial equality.

We feel that her years of experience as a senior aide and political director for Representative (and then Senator) Joseph Kennedy II and later John Kerry give her a familiarity with the Washington political process that will aid her in her role as Representative. We feel that she has demonstrated her political capabilities well in her position as city councilor. We believe that she will represent MA-7 successfully and prioritize many issues that are important to MIT students, such as affordable housing, immigration reform, and the environment.

**Lieutenant Governor: Quentin Palfrey**
We endorse Quentin Palfrey for Lieutenant Governor. Palfrey is a dedicated civil servant with years of government service under his belt and a track record of strong leadership on the issues that matter most to progressives in Massachusetts.

Quentin previously served as the Executive Director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) North America here at MIT, an organization dedicated to enhancing the use of evidence-based decision-making in tackling poverty and inequality in the United States. He also served in the Obama Administration in the Office of Science & Technology Policy and the Department of Commerce. He has shown a strong commitment to tackling big issues like systemic inequality, criminal justice reform, health care, education, and voter protection. His ambitious progressive vision, understanding of the importance of data and evidence, and practical experience serving the public make him the most qualified candidate in this race.
Middlesex County DA: Donna Patalano
We endorse Donna Patalano for Middlesex County District Attorney. The criminal justice system unfairly favors the wealthy and privileged, and inequalities persist in how the law is enforced. The district attorney’s office has great power to bring fairness and transparency to law enforcement, and Donna Patalano has demonstrated her commitment to making change. She understands racial disparities in sentencing, the failure of mass incarceration, and how cash bail disproportionately hurts the working class. She has also made a commitment to increase transparency in the District Attorney’s office including through data collection and publication. For her consistent support of criminal justice reform and reducing social and economic injustice in law enforcement, MIT Democrats is proud to support Donna Patalano.

Secretary of State: Josh Zakim
We endorse Josh Zakim for Secretary of State because his platform on voting rights would make it easier for vote in Massachusetts, particularly for students, whose voices are underrepresented in state and local politics. Zakim had supported and fought for automatic voter registration at the state level for years before it passed the state legislature this spring. He also supports election-day voter registration, early voting, weekend election days, absentee voting with no need for a legal excuse, and ranked choice voting. This is in contrast to his opponent, who has defended in court the 20-day registration deadline that makes it difficult for students to organize and vote in Massachusetts elections—particularly in primary elections, where the voter registration deadline falls before students arrive on campus.

Zakim is an attorney and community activist and was elected to the Boston City Council in 2013. He has chaired several city committees, most recently the Committee on Civil Rights. Among many other achievements on the Boston City Council, Zakim authored the Boston Trust Act (a ‘sanctuary city’ bill) and co-sponsored legislation to enable a lite version of automatic voter registration in Boston.
US House of Representatives, 7th District

About the Position

Office: US House of Representatives

District: 7th Congressional District, which includes all of MIT’s campus and parts of East Cambridge, North Cambridge, Somerville, and Boston.

Will this race be contested in the November general election?
No.

What are the powers/responsibilities of this position?
Also referred to as a congressman or congresswoman, each representative is elected to a two-year term serving the people of a specific congressional district. Among other duties, representatives introduce bills and resolutions, offer amendments and serve on committees.

What are some major/contentious issues at stake in this race?
While Capuano and Pressley essentially promise to vote the same on issues, the primary trade-off is one of representation of a diverse district vs. seniority. Capuano has experience and would chair at least one committee if the Democrats take the House, while Pressley, as a new representative, would not. On the other hand, Pressley promises to write and sponsor legislation that addresses issues that are faced by women, children, and people of color. Many observers see votes for Pressley as a statement against the Trump administration, and after the success of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in NY, an upset seems possible. However, Capuano has been fairly popular.

How does this race affect students in particular, especially MIT students?
It’s not clear that there’s any one issue that would impact students over others. Pressley seems focused on income inequality more than Capuano, so that may play a role. Otherwise their policy stances are equivalent.
About the Candidates

Candidate 1: Mike Capuano (Incumbent)

Personal Background

Capuano, 66, is local born and educated. He was born in Somerville to a politically active father, attended Dartmouth College, then got his law degree from Boston College Law School. His father is Italian-American and his mother is of Irish descent. He had seven siblings, although one passed away in infancy and one died at five years old of polio.

Professional Experience

This is Capuano’s tenth term in the House. He has been unopposed in all but two elections after his first election. He has created congressional caucuses on: Community Health Centers; Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities; Sudan; and Korea; as well as one for former Mayors. He voted against the war in Iraq, and is considered to be one of the primary proponents for international aid and development in Congress. He has a close relationship with Nancy Pelosi, which has led to leadership roles when the Democrats controlled Congress. He is pro-choice and pro-labor rights and unions. He introduced the bill that formed the Office of Congressional Ethics. While Mayor of Somerville from 1990-1999, he prioritized lowering the population density by replacing buildings with parking lots and playgrounds. He also worked to reduce class sizes for students in public schools.

Committees in the House:

- Financial Services Committee: International finance, security and exchanging, insurance, etc.
  - Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance
  - Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit
  - Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
- Transportation and Infrastructure Committee: aviation, maritime transportation, railroads, highways, pipelines, water resources, etc.
  - Subcommittee on Railroads, pipelines, and hazardous materials
  - Subcommittee on Aviation
  - Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
- Previously: Ethics Committee

Capuano has the advantage of incumbency, and the support of the Democratic establishment. Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, former Gov. Deval Patrick, the Congressional Black
Caucus—including the civil rights icon John Lewis—have all endorsed him. The Massachusetts AFL-CIO has also endorsed him.

Platform

Capuano is considered an average Democrat on Ballotpedia. His tagline is “A Progressive Leader.”

His website lists the following priorities:

- Resisting Trump
- Affordable housing
- A land of hope for immigrants and refugees
- A sensible approach to National Security
- Civil liberties and Human rights
- Comprehensive Gun Control
- Ethical Standards in Government
- High Quality, Affordable Health Care
- Infrastructure and Safe and Reliable Transit
- Jobs and the Economy
- Lasting Peace in the Middle East
- Managing energy resources and the environment
- Right to privacy
- Peace and Security in Sudan and South Sudan
- Positively Impacting Women’s Lives
- Protecting Social Security and Medicare
- Union rights
- Unique Challenges in Education
- Veterans and Military Families

Other thoughts/relevant information

He is the uncle of Chris Evans, the actor who plays Captain America.

He doesn’t like to focus on identity politics. When asked about representation, he turns the conversation to his policies.

His recent votes can be found at: http://capuano.house.gov/issues/recentvotes.shtml
His contributor background looks like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top contributors to Michael Capuano's campaign committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Global Petroleum</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Council of Engineering Cos</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>American Resort Development Assn</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Berkshire Hathaway</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Boeing Co</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 5 industries that contributed to campaign committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Insurance</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Real Estate</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Transportation Unions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Railroads</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Securities &amp; Investment</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Source: [Open Secrets](https://www.opensecrets.org)
Candidate 2: Ayanna Pressley (Endorsed by MIT Democrats)

Personal Background

Pressley, 43, was raised in Chicago by an activist single mother. Her father struggled with addiction and spent significant time in prison during her childhood. Pressley and her mother eventually moved to Brooklyn. She went to college at Boston University, but eventually dropped out to work at the Boston Marriott Copley Plaza to support her mother, who had lost her job. She later took courses at BU Metropolitan College.

After she left BU, she began working for congressional delegates until she ran for city council in 2009. She has focused her efforts on empowering women and girls, reducing violence, and challenging systemic racism. Her views on violence and women’s empowerment may be impacted by the fact that she is a survivor of childhood sexual abuse and sexual assault while a college student. She currently lives in Ashmont/Adams with her husband, stepdaughter, and cat. She is the first black woman elected to Boston City Council in its 100 year history. If elected to congress, she would be the only black member of the Massachusetts congressional delegation.

Professional Experience

Ayanna Pressley has been involved in political life for 18 years, starting as an aide to US Representative Joseph P. Kennedy II. She worked for him in a variety of roles before eventually becoming the political director and senior aide to Kennedy once he became a senator. In 2009, she served as the political director for Senator John Kerry as well.

Pressley has been a member of Boston City Council since 2009. She founded the Committee on Women & Healthy Communities the same year that she was elected. She has worked in particular to provide educational opportunities to teen parents, improve the quality of Boston sexual health education in public schools, provide economic opportunities for women and people of color, and strengthen support services for families of homicide victims and survivors of sexual assault. She has also campaigned against Boston’s liquor licensing laws, which favor affluent neighborhoods. She formed a coalition to bring attention to women’s and LGBTQ issues in the 2013 Boston mayoral debate. She has been very successful in her political campaigns, as the top vote-getter for at-large council members in the last three elections.

Committees she serves on or has served on in city council:

- Women & Healthy Communities (Chair)
- Public Safety Committee (Vice Chair)
- Special Committee on Federal Stimulus Oversight (Vice Chair)
- Arts, Films, Humanities & Tourism
- City, Neighborhood Services & Veterans Affairs
Her campaign slogan is “Change can't wait.” Despite the fact that she and Capuano say they would vote identically, she believes that electing her is important because of the legislation that she would author and champion, such as a bill to combat maternal mortality, which no one from the MA delegation has signed onto yet.

Her website lists her policy focus as:
- Public Health
- Economic Development
- The Environment
- Immigration
- Issues Disproportionately Impacting Women and Girls
- Transportation
- Violence and Trauma
- Education
- Housing
- Criminal Justice

Other thoughts/relevant information
She calls for abolishing ICE. She doesn’t know how to drive. She once tweeted that flip flops are not the shoes of leaders and revolutionaries during the 2016 presidential primaries.

Informational resources
https://ballotpedia.org/Massachusetts%27_7th_Congressional_District_election_(September_4,_2018_Democratic_primary)
Governor

About the Position

Office: Governor

District: Massachusetts

Will this race be contested in the November general election?
Yes. Whoever wins the Democratic primary will likely face the incumbent Republican governor Charlie Baker.

What are the powers/responsibilities of this position?

- Sign and veto legislation
- Nominate the Cabinet of Eleven Secretaries (Secretary of Housing and Economic Development, Secretary of Public Safety, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary of Administration and Finance, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Secretary of Transportation, Secretary of Education, Secretary of Technology Services and Security, Secretary of Elder Affairs, Secretary of Veterans Services, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development)
- Call special legislative sessions
- Serve as Commander-in-Chief of Massachusetts Armed Forces
- Make executive and judicial appointments
- Line item veto legislation
- Lobby for and setting the legislative agenda among the party
- Serve as a party leader for the state Democratic party

What are some major/contentious issues at stake in this race?

- Taxes: Both Massie and Gonzales have supported a “Millionaire’s tax” which would raise state income taxes on the upper class to invest in increased spending, while incumbent Republican Charlie Baker opposes raising taxes and supports reducing the sales tax.
- Opioid epidemic: Massie and Gonzales both favor increased spending on treating the epidemic and creating safe injection sites.
- Healthcare: Gonzales and Massie both support a single-payer healthcare system.
- Immigration: Gonzales and Massie both support sanctuary state legislation which would prevent Massachusetts law enforcement from assisting ICE in deportation of undocumented immigrants. Bob Massie supports abolishing ICE, while Gonzales has made no statement.
• Climate change: Massie’s made climate change a focus of his work and supports
government incentives for clean energy and a shift in infrastructure work to emphasize
environmental sustainability.
• Leadership experience: Gonzales argues that his time as budget director under Deval
Patrick makes him better prepared to accomplish change as governor, while Massie
presents himself as an outsider whose actions in the private sector will translate to
success as governor.

How does this race affect students in particular, especially MIT students?
Rising housing prices directly impact MIT students, particularly graduate students who are not
guaranteed on campus housing but also indirectly influences the price of MIT housing for
undergraduates.

A minimum wage raise to $15 would require an increase in UROP pay.
About the Candidates

Candidate 1: Jay Gonzalez

Personal Background
Jay was born on January 8, 1971. He attended Dartmouth College and Georgetown University Law Center. He moved from Ohio to Massachusetts in 1998 and he lives with his wife, Cyndi, in Needham and has two daughters, Isabel and Abby. His father was a Spanish immigrant who worked as bricklayer and his mother dropped out of college after he was born.

Professional Experience
Jay is an attorney with extensive experience in state government and the private healthcare sector. Jay worked as a partner at a Boston law firm with a specialization in public finance before joining Governor Patrick Deval’s Administration as Secretary of Administration and Finance in 2007. He also served as Chairman of the Board of the Massachusetts Health Connector where he oversaw implementation of MA health care reform and he co-chaired the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. After leaving the cabinet in 2013, he served as chair of the Massachusetts Board of Early Education and Care. He also served as President and CEO of CeltiCare Health and New Hampshire Healthy Families. He currently serves on the boards of the Dimock Center, Project Hope and the Trust for Public Land and he’s Town Meeting Member, Co-Chair of the Town Meeting Members Association, and a member of the Advisory Committee in the Town of Brookline.

Platform

Criminal Justice Reform: Update approach to juvenile and young adult offenders by supporting community organizations to engage high-risk youth in education, raising juvenile age to 21, focusing on crime-prevention policies like education, reforming juvenile records process to allow expungement of juvenile records in certain cases. Reverse trend of overincarceration by updating definition of larceny and indexing it to inflation, repealing mandatory minimum sentences for all crimes except murder, expanding diversion programs for mental illness and addiction, reforming court fee, fine and bail practices, including eliminating cash bail, and stop incarcerating people based on inability to pay. Make incarceration more effective and expand programming and increasing the resources for victims and individuals with criminal histories to reform.

Early Education for all: Supporting childcare and preschool workforce by increasing the state-subsidized provider reimbursement rate. Improving access and affordability by
expanding families’ eligibility for state support to ensure all children have access to affordable early education from birth to age 5.

**Opioid Crisis:** **Education:** increase education in schools so students can learn the dangers of opioids, launch a more robust PSA campaign akin to the anti-tobacco campaign, require that pharmacists and doctors that prescribe opioids give oral and written warnings about the risk of opioid addiction. **Prevention:** enforce prescription limits, increase access to alternative pain management options, expand safe disposal options, stop pharma marketing, and invest in mental and behavioral health care system. **Treatment:** Legalize safe injection facilities and increase access to medication assisted treatment by increasing insurance coverage.

**Transportation System:** Support Fair Share Tax which asks people making over 1M to pay more in income taxes to fund investments in transportation and education. Fix the MBTA system and invest more in Regional Transit Authorities.

**Economy:** **Raise minimum wage** to $15/hr by 2021, include **paid family and medical leave.**

**Everyone is valued:** Support Safe Communities Act.

**Government Transparency:** voluntarily comply with the state’s public records laws, file legislation to broaden the scope of those laws to end executive office exemption.

**Climate Change:** MA should get 50% of its energy from clean and renewable sources by 2030. Incentivize and increase solar jobs and remove cap on net metering. “Green” the transportation system by moving to electric vehicles, expanding public transportation, and electrifying public transportation. Invest in parks and environmental regulatory agency, restore at least 1% of state budget to these priorities.

**Gun violence:** Invest in education, housing, job training, healthcare and support community policing efforts to engage at-risk youth. Expand summer jobs for at-risk youth. Support pending legislation to establish extreme risk protective orders to keep firearms out of people who are an extreme risk to themselves or others. Advocate for the reinstatement of the federal assault weapons ban, support Attorney General Healey’s enforcement of the state assault weapons ban, update 2014 reforms and require private gun sellers to obtain pre-sale certification of a buyer’s background check from a federally licensed dealer.

**Women’s economic opportunity:** **Equal pay:** eliminate gender wage gap for all state employees, require equal pay compliance by government vendors, statewide salary negotiation trainings for women, increase women’s employment in higher-paying occupations. **Sexual and reproductive healthcare:** require insurers to provide contraceptive coverage without co-pays or other out-of-pocket costs, ensure Planned Parenthood and other free-standing health centers are adequately funded, all public schools in MA provide comprehensive sex education. Increase college affordability, make individually purchased disability insurance gender-neutral.
**Campaign Finance reform:** Support the passage of a federal constitutional amendment that will expressly permit Congress and states to regulate campaign contributions and expenditures, broaden the triggers for disclosing funders of independent expenditure groups to include advocacy and communication of all kinds, create new disclosure requirements for donors to independent expenditure groups, and expand the definition of “coordinated” spending to limit independent expenditures. Close the “Baker loophole” for circumventing state contribution limits, clarify rules for political party use of federal campaign account funds, enhance the state’s limited public financing system by increasing the voluntary contribution amount to the State Election Campaign Fund on annual tax returns, strengthen the enforcement powers of the Office of Campaign and Political Finance by filing legislation to give that office the authority to issue fines.

**Veterans/Military:** Increase veterans’ benefits, help service members secure jobs, support veteran-owned businesses. Support more outreach, support aging veterans, create new partnerships to leverage help for veterans, elevate veterans’ services to cabinet level position in executive branch. Provide health care, mental health and behavioral health services for Veterans and their Families, end Veterans Homelessness through more affordable housing options.

**Healthcare:** convene health care industry stakeholders to determine the best path to a single-payer system. Make coverage more affordable and expand the programming.
Candidate 2: Bob Massie

Personal Background

Bob Massie was born August 17, 1956 to Robert and Suzanne Massie, historians. He was born with hemophilia, and spent ages 6-12 in a wheelchair with leg braces. He lived in Paris for his health for some time. He graduated from Princeton with a degree in history, then went on to receive an M.Div from Yale and DBA from Harvard. At Princeton, he argued for divestment from South Africa and fought against exclusion of women from clubs.

He was a chaplain in NYC (and founded a homeless shelter there) and Somerville. He has taught at Harvard Divinity School, and University of Cape Town in South Africa. In 1984, he learned he had contracted HIV and hepatitis C during his hemophilia treatments as a child.

Professional Experience

Worked with Ralph Nader after college in Washington.

- 1994: Democratic nominee for Lt. Governor of Massachusetts.
- 1996-2003: Executive Director of Ceres, a coalition of environmental groups and institutional investors.
- 1998: Co-founded Global Reporting Initiative to help businesses/governments understand + communicate their impacts on climate change, human rights, corruption, etc.
- 2012: Became president of New Economy Coalition, a Boston nonprofit dedicated to a systemic restructuring of the economy on the principle that human well-being should be emphasized over economic growth.
- 2015: Executive Director of the Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston.

Platform

*The arts:* create and fund programs for youth at risk / for the elderly / to increase neighborhood vitality; support professional development for artists; expand funding for state/municipal arts initiatives; build cultural spaces and support creative placemaking initiatives; promote arts education; increase representation in arts and cultural institutions

*Clean energy:* remove fossil fuel industry influence in utility boards; reduce money spent on out-of-state fossil fuels; develop wind resources to make MA the center for the US wind industry; remove barriers that prevent changes in utility regulation and solar installation; convert to an
all-electric state vehicle fleet by 2030; provide tax adjustments and job retraining to ease the transition; reduce energy consumption levels

*Climate change*: reform the Department of Public Utilities by removing fossil fuel / fracking interests; stop construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure; build a 21st century power grid; protect vulnerable coastal communities and plan for adaptations for climate change; upgrade transportation infrastructure to be energy-efficient; electrify transit system; take joint actions with other states to expand clean energy and conservation

*Criminal justice*: increase education/training/opportunities for early intervention; oppose Stop and Frisk, limit random stops, support body cameras; fully fund public defenders, eliminate mandatory minimums; seek alternatives to incarceration for parents, support alternatives to jail; end solitary confinement, support family visits, ensure healthcare; maintain therapy and drug treatment

*Democracy*: expand voter registration with automatic and same-day registration; move towards ranked-choice voting; full disclosure for all campaign advertisements; eliminate funding loopholes; publicly fund state elections; advocate for overturning Citizens United; reschedule the primary to separate it from the general election; oppose gerrymandered districts

*Education*: public funding for care for children from birth to age 3; free preschool for all kids from age 3; support children who need food/shelter/clothing/healthcare; add portfolio review and capstone projects, drop high-stakes testing; allow personalized, competency-based education; partner with businesses and universities to invest in vocational education and match employer needs

*Food justice*: increase local food production; expand jobs in the food sector; protect land and water resources; add processing and storage facilities to help farmers; expand school gardens and promote agricultural research; reduce food waste; encourage composting; support farm and fishery workers with benefits; bring food justice to low-income communities with support for urban farming/small grocery stores/local food businesses

*Gun control*: prohibit sale/manufacture of semi-automatic weapons for civilians; prohibit sale of 50 caliber guns and ammo; expand background checks to private gun transfers and ammunition sales; require all guns to be registered and owners fingerprinted; establish waiting periods between sale and take-home; prohibit sale of online ammunition; prevent open carry; share mental health and substance abuse records for background checks; expand treatment for mentally ill; work with manufacturers to implement safety measures; prohibit ownership of bump stocks, trigger cranks, and other devices that increase firing speed

*Health*: protect and expand Mass Health; move towards single payer; promote healthy communities; move towards whole health metrics; fund women’s healthcare; expand mental health and addiction services; in-state treatment center for opioid dependence; work with the Attorney General to recover costs of opioid addiction from companies that profited from their use; protect the elderly; unify data platforms

*Housing*: protect families from displacement/foreclosures/homelessness; preserve low-cost rental housing and provide energy efficiency credits; expand community ownership models;
encourage owner-occupied multifamily houses; create sensible regulations on home-sharing; support renovation, energy efficiency improvements, lead removal; develop community-based models for housing seniors; increase incentives for affordable housing

**Immigration**: advocate for Safe Communities Act; refuse to use immigrants as scapegoats; oppose using local/state law enforcement to enforce detainers from ICE; welcome refugees; make sure immigrants have legal support; go after employers who abuse immigrants; work to maintain trust and safety in immigrant communities

**Inequality**: support $15 minimum wage, paid family and medical leave; increase minimum tipped wage; index minimum wage to inflation; promote housing solutions that build wealth; support small/local businesses; ensure fair lending practices; create a Commonwealth Bank to back up loans by small local banks; support unions

**LGBTQ+ rights**: ban conversion therapy; support LGBTQ+ awareness for Aging Service Providers to protect older adults; improve sex education in schools; lift barriers to HIV and STI prevention/screening/treatment; expand support for homeless youth; expand protection for confidentiality of sensitive healthcare services on insurance statements; vigorously support SB 2407 (prohibits discrimination based on gender identity)

**New economy**: support $15 minimum wage/paid family leave/Fair Share tax; reform regulations that create barriers to entry for small businesses; build a local green jobs economy; support cooperative ownership models; new transit and WiFi infrastructure; support local economies; support part-time workers with healthcare/daycare/pension opportunities; support free public higher education; increase education/training opportunities for the workforce

**Opioids**: expand wellness clinics so people can be treated near their homes; establish Safe Injection Sites; continue access to support after 30 days if a patient needs it; support AG’s efforts to hold pharma companies accountable; review and rate treatment clinics and services; expand mental health and addiction services

**Transportation**: lay groundwork for world-class public transportation (better planning / funding / contracting / oversight); address broken funding structures and past mistakes; end and reverse privatisation efforts and reassert state control over operations and repairs; stop patchwork wasteful projects; move ahead with major projects (North-South Rail Link / electric South Coast rail / electrification of commuter rail); speed up service and plan fast train to Albany; commit to electrifying buses, cars, trucks; speed up bus services and provide safe bike lanes and sidewalks

**Women’s rights**: review all state offices for pay equity, close wage gap in MA; guarantee reproductive rights and access to comprehensive healthcare and education; provide counseling and health services for domestic and sexual violence for women and LGBTQ individuals; expand community-based healthcare; reinforce and broaden family leave policies, safety net programs, support during pregnancy / parenting / caregiving work; bolster response to child abuse; protect and empower assault survivors
Informational resources

Lieutenant Governor

About the Position

**Office:** Lieutenant Governor  
**District:** Massachusetts

**Will this race be contested in the November general election?**
Yes; whoever wins this primary will run on the same ticket as the Democratic gubernatorial primary winner against Charlie Baker and Karyn Polito.

**What are the powers/responsibilities of this position?**
The Lieutenant Governor is the first in the line to discharge the powers and duties of the office of governor following the incapacitation of the Governor. The lieutenant governor serves in place of the governor when he is outside the borders of Massachusetts, serves as a member of the Massachusetts Governor’s Council, and is the chairman of the award selection committee for the Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery.

Currently, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, serves as chair of the the Community Compact Cabinet, which focuses on elevating the administration’s local partnerships, chair of the Seaport Economic Council, working with 78 coastal communities to leverage their unique assets to drive sustainable regional growth, chair of the Governor’s Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, and co-chair of the STEM Advisory Council. These roles are not guaranteed in this position, but the Lt. Governor potentially can guide state initiatives through councils and cabinets. It also is often a political springboard for future offices.

**What are some major/contentious issues at stake in this race?**
Both candidates support $15 minimum wage, paid family leave, single payer health care, and criminal justice reform.

Palfrey is very passionate about reducing our impact on climate change and on gun control. Tingle is focused on economic growth and combating the opioid epidemic. Neither seem directly antagonistic towards each other, and typically do not oppose the others’ position.
About the Candidates

Candidate 1: Quentin Palfrey (Endorsed by MIT Democrats)

Personal Background
Palfrey grew up in Southborough, MA. Went to Harvard (1996), and Harvard Law (2002). He is married to Anna and has three children. He resigned as the director of the Abul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at MIT to run for Lt. Governor.

Professional Experience
[From Wikipedia]
After graduating from law school, Palfrey served as a law clerk for Judge Max Rosenn on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. After a brief stint as a litigation associate at the New York office of Cravath, Swaine & Moore, Palfrey returned to Boston to serve as an Assistant Attorney General and later as the first Chief of the Health Care Division in the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General. During the 2008 Presidential campaign, Palfrey served as the voter protection director for President Obama’s campaign in Ohio.

Palfrey also served as Deputy General Counsel for Strategic Initiatives at the US Department of Commerce. As the first Chief of the Health Care Division in the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General, Palfrey oversaw multi-million dollar consumer protection litigation and investigations relating to health insurance, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, healthcare providers and nursing homes and served on various boards. Prior to his Chief position, he was an Assistant Attorney General in the Insurance Division.

Platform

Climate Change: Take the lead in combating climate change: carbon tax, remove caps on solar energy, ban new gas pipelines, invest in clean energy and move away from fossil fuels, invest in public transit and new transit infrastructure

Families: Oppose family separation at the border, support MA Safe Communities Act

Education: Increase equity in public schools by changing current funding models, improve sex education to include issues of consent, harassment, bullying, and gender discrimination
Criminal Justice System: Bail reform, Substance Use Disorder (access to appropriate treatment in prison), Reentry (funding to support reentry into society from prison)

Gun Control: Pass “extreme risk protective order” allowing family members to seek court ordered temporary ban on buying or possessing guns, allow gun violence research, resist federal concealed carry reciprocity laws

Transgender Rights: Supports them

Health Care: Single payer system

Economy: $15 minimum wage, paid family leave, Millionaire’s Tax, ensure equal pay for equal work, invest in MA innovation economy

Automatic Voter Registration: Supporting legislation that does this

Citizens United: Supports passing a constitutional amendment to overturn the case
Candidate 2: Jimmy Tingle

Personal Background
Tingle grew up in Cambridge and went to Dartmouth for college and to Harvard Kennedy School of Government for a masters degree. He is a comedian and owned a theater in Somerville. He is married to Catherine.

Professional Experience
[modified from jimmytingle4mass.com/about-jimmy]

Among his many professional successes, Jimmy wrote and delivered commentaries for “60 Minutes II” on CBS, similarly to those delivered by the late “Andy Rooney” on the original “60 Minutes.” Jimmy also worked as a regular contributor and satirist for MSNBC.

Jimmy is also the founder and CEO of a new social enterprise, Humor for Humanity. Humor for Humanity aspires to use entertainment for purposes beyond entertainment. Their mission is to help raise spirits, funds, and awareness for non-profits, charities, and social causes. “Our Mission is their Mission.”

Platform

Opioid Crisis: Increase opportunities for free treatment, streamline treatment process, promote public research, improve housing opportunities for those who are recovering (and more)

Transportation: North/South rail link, high speed train from Boston to Springfield, expanding commuter rail, improving MBTA services (extending services, increasing frequency/reliability), investing in bike and pedestrian safety, exploring parking options for those who must drive to work

Education: Investing in child care and early childhood education programs, establishing universal pre-kindergarten, investing in K-12 education—smaller class sizes and tutoring, reducing college expenses (free tuition at state universities and community colleges), opportunities for technical training, raise wages of early educators, expand after school programs

Supporting Small Businesses: Offer tax incentives to small businesses who want to hire qualified homeless, ex-offenders, and recovered addicts as part of their reentry
Personal and Economic Growth: Focus on equity across MA, invest in education and transportation, expand tax incentives for companies in underserved areas, $15 minimum wage, paid family leave, supports Fair Share Tax

Criminal Justice: Limits on use of solitary confinement, bail reform, expungement of some criminal records, supporting rights of victims, increasing access to addiction services in prison (and more)

Labor & Workers Rights: Paid Family Medical Leave, $15 minimum wage, supporting organized labor to unionize MA workers, reversing Baker Administration orders which reduce worker’s rights

Healthcare: Supports single payer system, increase health education in school

Informational resources

District Attorney

About the Position

Office: District Attorney

District: Middlesex County (AKA Northern District). Includes Cambridge and Somerville, but mostly not Boston.

Will this race be contested in the November general election?
No.

What are the powers/responsibilities of this position?
The DA makes charging decisions in all local criminal cases and argues the cases in court. The DA’s office conducts investigations to determine whether charges should be brought and, if so, which charges. DAs also recommend sentences for convicted individuals.

DA’s roles have become more important in recent decades as judges’ hands have been tied more by Congress.

What are some major/contentious issues at stake in this race?
DAs have a lot of authority in the criminal justice system. DAs can decide whether or not someone is charged and what they are charged with, effectively determining to what extent behaviors are criminalized.

How does this race affect students in particular, especially MIT students?
This race will decide how the criminal justice system in Cambridge (and far beyond) will function—who will be charged, who will be prosecuted, and who will be incarcerated.
About the Candidates

Candidate 1: Marian T. Ryan  
(Incumbent)

Personal Background
Ryan was born in Cambridge, MA, and raised in Somerville, MA. She graduated from Emmanuel College in 1976, and Boston College Law School in 1979.

After graduation from law school, Ryan began her career in the Middlesex DA’s Office. She served in multiple leadership positions, including Chief of the Domestic Violence Unit and Chief of the Elder and Disabled Unit.

In 1980, she was assaulted during an attempted armed robbery in which her boyfriend, also an Assistant District Attorney, was shot and killed.

Professional Experience
Ryan is the incumbent and has held the position since she was appointed in 2013. She is the only female DA in Massachusetts. She has created within the Middlesex District Attorney’s Office a robust juvenile and young adult diversion program, a drug diversion option and a restorative justice initiative and helped build a Conviction Integrity Unit. Under her leadership, the Office implemented the practice of not requesting cash bail in low-level non-violent offenses to avoid the impact of pretrial detention.

Platform
- Enhancing trust: Conscious of the distrust and fear of police and government officials which some immigrants may have, Marian has helped forge unique partnerships to empower them.
  - Working with 28 public, nonprofit and private agencies, the Middlesex District Attorney’s Office established a Refugee and Immigrant Support Coalition in Lowell.
  - The District Attorney’s Office’s RIGHTs (Reaching Immigrants, Gaining Trust) Project, partners with ESL tutors to train them to raise awareness with their students around issues of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and human trafficking and to connect them with the proper resources.
- Multipronged approach to the opioid epidemic: This collaborative approach resulted in 2017 in an 11.5% decline in fatal opioid overdoses countywide and a 21% decline in those deaths in Lowell, the area hardest hit by the epidemic.
Marian has led the Task Force in devising community-specific needs and solutions. Attentive to the risk that young women are at for addiction, the Task Force has worked collaboratively on intervention and care efforts for maternal substance use disorder and substance exposed newborns.

The Middlesex District Attorney’s Office partnered with the Lowell Police Department, the Lowell Fire Department, Trinity EMS, and the Mental Health Association of Greater Lowell in 2016 to launch Project C.A.R.E. These partner agencies are trained to activate a rapid response intervention in the increasingly common scenario when a child is present will be affected when they respond to a fatal or near-fatal overdose. A clinician crafts a plan for emergency trauma services for the child within 48 hours of the overdose and, as necessary, reaches out to Department of Children and Families, the school, and other family members to ensure coordinated care.

- Protecting seniors:
  - In her current role as DA, Marian has worked to reach her aging population and protect them from abuse. She regularly visits Councils on Aging and Senior Centers to provide tips for protection from scams, cyberfraud and increasingly from issues associated with the opioid epidemic, such as the recognizing the signs of substance misuse in family members and safe storage and protection of their medication. Marian has also created a resource program for grandparents raising grandchildren affected by the epidemic.

- Connecting to schools: Marian has been a constant presence in Middlesex County’s public and private schools, where she lectures and leads workshops to raise awareness of the dangers of prescription drug abuse, teen dating violence, sexual assaults, cyber safety, bullying and distracted driving.
  - She offers an annual Empowering Girls program for middle and high school girls which draws over 400 girls from across the county.
  - Marian has developed Boy Scout Merit badge clinics on crime prevention, forensics, railroad safety and other topics.
  - She regularly presents to parent groups on these issues as well as Social Host liability.
  - Marian has also developed a college consortium for educators, administrators and campus police, focused on campus safety and security.

- Workplace safety: Prior to being named District Attorney, Ryan served as the MDAO’s General Counsel, where she created the county-wide Workplace Safety and Violence Prevention Program to train public and private employers to formulate strategies, make threat assessments, and address and prevent potentially volatile situations in the workplace.

- Intimate partner violence:
  - She has conducted trainings for prosecutors, police officers and service providers to help them confront the unique challenges posed by domestic violence.
○ She brought to Middlesex County the “Cut it Out” a program, designed to educate salon professionals and personal care providers to recognize signs of domestic abuse in their clients.
○ She created the Safe Babies/Safe Kids Task Force and is a frequent presenter around the county on Safety Programs.

Other thoughts/relevant information

● Under Marian T. Ryan's tenure as Middlesex County District Attorney, the Office has twice been accused of withholding exculpatory evidence (evidence that might raise doubt about the accused's guilt) resulting in dropped charges after the information was eventually released.
● In *Caetano v. Massachusetts*, the United States Supreme Court criticized Marian T. Ryan's office for its decision to prosecute a woman for her decision to protect herself against her abusive and violent ex-boyfriend with a stun-gun.
● Fifteen months after her appointment as District Attorney, 66 of about 240 of Ryan's former employees had left the office, and some complained of management issues.
● An independent review found Ryan's office "Deficient" in failing to pursue information about a domestic violence perpetrator who later killed the victim he assaulted.
Candidate 2: Donna Patalano  
(Endorsed by MIT Democrats)

Personal Background
- Undergrad: Boston University
- Law: Boston College

Professional Experience
- Clerked for Justice Elspeth Cypher in MA Appeals Course
- Former prosecutor, Suffolk County
- Defense attorney in state and federal cases
- Chief of Professional Integrity and Ethics—created training programs, prosecution policies, and building the Conviction Integrity Program
- Member of National District Attorneys’ Best Practice Committee
- Appointed chair of Board of Bar Overseers (BBO—the organization responsible for overseeing the ethics and discipline of Massachusetts’ 60,000 active attorneys) to preside over cases where attorneys had been accused of violating their ethical responsibilities

Platform
- More transparency and accountability, particularly with regard to racial disparities, including collecting data and making it public
- Investigate why white people benefit more from drug courts
- Desire to end cash-bail for non-violent crimes
- Ending mass incarceration (citing the 110% increase in Middlesex incarcerations since 2013)
- Expanding restorative justice programs and using witness protection funding
- Dedicate resources to evidence-based programs to reduce recidivism
- Create Immigration Counsel to protect rights of immigrants
- Build upon Juvenile Alternative Resolution Program she helped to build in Suffolk County to expand access to restorative justice and diversion programs
- Increase Victim Witness Fund claims to make resources available to vulnerable people
- Create a Juvenile & Emerging Adult Bureau bringing together social workers, victim witness advocates, and assistant district attorneys in specialized units
- Create a Public Integrity Bureau to investigate use of force by law enforcement.
• Establish the position of Immigration Counsel to build stronger relationships with immigrant communities
• Advocate for legislation to protect the bail funds for those detained by ICE so that, when a default is caused because of ICE detention, the bail money shall be returned to the person posting the cash and not subject to forfeiture.
• Get rid of all mandatory minimums.

Other thoughts/relevant information
• Patalano said she was inspired to run by Krasner's election, the ACLU's campaign to get progressive DAs in office, and by work done by MassINC, a Boston-based think tank that supports criminal justice reform.
• Patalano emphasizes the courage elected officials need to reform systems.
• Patalano has experience reforming IT and data infrastructure, so she understands how difficult this will be.
• Patalano is excited about the idea of working with think tanks and academics to make data public and learn from those data.
• She thinks DAs need to work more closely with public defenders.
• She is very concerned about any amount of detention (e.g. Chapter 55 report on fatal overdoses).
• If she does not win, she is thinking of starting an independent commission on conviction integrity, and she’ll push for this even if she does win.
• Palatano talked about how last election 20,000 voters did not choose a DA candidate on their ballots. She spoke about how this election has gotten people to notice the DA race.
• She was concerned about which demographic groups have access to court programs (who has access to drug court resources) and believes that data will help study these relationships.
• She expressed interest in expanding and raising the ceiling on expungement

Informational resources
• http://homenewshere.com/daily_times_chronicle/news/winchester/article_b69b97a8-5d03-11e8-9f55-9ba271052f1d.html
Secretary of State

About the Position

**Office:** Secretary of State

**District:** Massachusetts

**Will this race be contested in the November general election?**
Yes, although it is not expected to be competitive.

**What are the powers/responsibilities of this position?**
The Secretary of State is best known for being the chief election officer of the state. However, they are more broadly the “public information official” who works with state legislature to create and enforce policies surrounding MA state records and proceedings. Their role includes:

- Election oversight
- Voting regulations
- Public records
- The census
- Security and privacy regulations
- Storage of historical data
- Preservation of historical sites
- Registration of corporations
- Lobbyist laws

The Secretary of State also assumes the role of acting Governor in the event that both the Governor and Lt. Governor are out of state (incumbent Bill Galvin has assumed this role on two occasions).

**What are some major/contentious issues at stake in this race?**

- **Voting**
  - Early voting, registration deadline/same-day registration, voting date (weekend voting?)
  - Election security
  - Absentee ballots
- **Campaign funding**
  - “People’s pledge” debate/accusations

- **Progressive representation**
How does this race affect students in particular, especially MIT students?
This is the office that dictates how absentee voting happens, and the timeline for voting in primaries and regular elections, which will have huge direct impacts on ease of student voting in Massachusetts. For example, the deadline to register to vote in the Massachusetts primary was August 15th, before students arrived on campus. Given that young people and students have lower voter turnout than average, rules surrounding same-day registration and absentee voting affect student political participation and representation a great deal.
About the Candidates

Candidate 1: William Galvin (Incumbent)

Personal Background
Bill has spent his entire life in Massachusetts. He grew up in Brighton, attended high school in Waltham, then Boston College as an undergraduate. He received a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School in 1976. He and his wife Eileen have one daughter, and they live in Brighton. He is 67 years old.

Professional Experience
Bill has been the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts since 1995, during the tenure of six different governors. He was previously a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1975-1991, for Allston-Brighton, starting as soon as he graduated from law school. In 2006, Galvin won re-election against Jill Stein, who had also run for governor in 2002. Galvin generally has run unopposed each year since he was elected, and this year’s challenge is the first in over a decade.

Platform
- Voting
  - States that he supports same-day registration and automatic voter registration
  - However, argued in favor of keeping the 20-day voter registration cutoff that exists and was challenged in front of the MA Supreme Court earlier this year
- Campaign funding
  - Galvin has accused Josh Zakim of accepting “dark-money” (from lobbyists, corporations, etc.) to fund his campaign, and has vowed himself to abide by the “People’s Pledge” (taken previously by Scott Brown and Elizabeth Warren) and not to accept outside money for campaign expenses
Candidate 2: Josh Zakim (Endorsed by MIT Democrats)

Personal Background
Josh is the son of the late Leonard P. Zakim, a known and well-respected Jewish-American religious and civil rights leader, for whom the Bunker Hill bridge is named. Josh grew up in Newton, attended high school in Cambridge, and received a law degree from Northeastern University after leaving the state to get his undergraduate degree at University of Pennsylvania, in Political Science. He is an attorney and current member of the Boston City Council, to which he was elected in 2013. Josh is also on the Board of the Lenny Zakim Fund, founded by his father and others in 1995 to support local organizations and social justice causes.

Professional Experience
- On the Boston City Council, Josh has served as the chair of the Committee on Housing and Community Development, and the Special Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure, Planning, and Investment. He currently serves as the chair of the Committee on Civil Rights. He also continues to participate in the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee.
- Josh’s legal experience includes work for the Greater Boston Legal Services assisting families facing foreclosure, as well as for the Public Finance group at the law firm Mintz Levin, where he dealt with MassPort, the MBTA, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Platform
- Voting
  - Early and weekend voting should be made available for MA voters
  - Experts in the state from academia and industry should be consulted in order to strengthen our election security
- Campaign funding
  - Zakim did not agree to decline money from third-party political groups
- Progressive representation
  - Zakim has a reputation on the Boston City Council as representing progressive views and is claiming that he is the progressive choice
Has support from many progressives (e.g. members of ORMA, but no official endorsement)
  ○ Zakim purports that recent action by Galvin (e.g. on same-day voter registration) that has seemed more in-line with progressive policies is only in response to Zakim challenging his office by running

Other thoughts/relevant information

● Josh has significant experience in civil rights advocacy and a consistent record. He has brought up his stance on abortion as an example of how voters should be informed about views that their elected officials have, even though they are not relevant to the office he is seeking. See (very favorable):

● Some question his funding sources and pro-Israel bend. See (unfavorable):
  http://masspeaceaction.org/josh-zakim-some-things-progressives-should-know/

Informational resources

Any websites, opinion pieces, anything else you found helpful or interesting.

● WGBH televised debate
  ○ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sw-msCo8Dg4
  ○ Summary:

● Candidates’ websites
  ○ http://www.billgalvin.org/
  ○ https://www.joshzakim.com/

● General information about the Secretary of the Commonwealth
  ○ https://ballotpedia.org/Massachusetts_Secretary_of_State
  ○ https://www.sec.state.ma.us/