

VOTE SMART

FACTS MATTER

Political Courage Test: 2022 Massachusetts Edition

Candidates are strongly encouraged to complete the Political Courage Test online at:
secure.votesmart.org

Please indicate your thoughts on the following fifteen issues. Vote Smart has identified these fifteen issues as top on voters' minds. Your responses will be posted on [our website](#) where millions of voters will be able to access them and you can link to your posted responses for your own campaign materials.

If you would like to provide a more detailed response, please do so in the "Other or expanded principles" section (all responses must be under 100 words). **Should you choose not to respond, Vote Smart may research your public record to determine your likely positions on these issues.**

The Political Courage Test must be signed and returned to our office by 11:59 pm CT the day of the deadline. We can be reached at 515-989-6359 or by email at **politicalcourage@votesmart.org**.

I, _____, am willing to tell citizens where I stand on the issues I may face if elected. I have demonstrated my Political Courage by indicating my position on the following issues.

Signed: _____

State: _____ District: _____ Date: _____

Abortion and Reproductive Issues:

a) Do you generally support pro-choice or pro-life legislation? Pro-choice ____ Pro-life ____

b) Do you support legalizing abortion when the pregnancy resulted from incest or rapes? Yes ____ No ____

c) Do you support the prohibition of public funds for organizations that perform abortions? Yes ____ No ____

d) Other or expanded principles

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Budget, Spending, & Tax Issues:

- a) In order to balance the budget, do you support reducing state employee salaries AND/OR pensions? Yes ____ No ____
- b) Do you support raising taxes on any income or on any entity, to promote economic growth? Yes ____ No ____
- c) Do you support increasing taxes on income above one million dollars to provide funding for education and transportation in Massachusetts? Yes ____ No ____
- d) Other or expanded principles

Crime & Public Safety Issues:

- a) Do you support capital punishment for certain crimes? Yes ____ No ____
- b) Should an individual under 18 accused of a violent crime be prosecuted as an adult? Yes ____ No ____
- c) Do you support the enforcement of federal immigration laws by state and local police? Yes ____ No ____
- d) Do you support the use of private prisons? Yes ____ No ____
- e) Do you support mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders? Yes ____ No ____
- f) Other or expanded principles

Economic Issues

- a) Do you support state government spending as a means of promoting economic growth? Yes ____ No ____
- b) Do you support reducing state government regulations on the private sector? Yes ____ No ____
- c) Do you support an increase of the minimum wage of Massachusetts? Yes ____ No ____
- d) Do you support providing financial relief to businesses AND/OR corporations negatively impacted by the state of national emergency for COVID-19? Yes ____ No ____
- e) Do you support allowing developers in Massachusetts to override local zoning bylaws in order to increase the number of affordable homes in municipalities where less than 10% of the housing is defined as affordable? Yes ____ No ____
- f) Other or expanded principles

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Education Issues:

- a) Do you support adopting federal education standards in Massachusetts? Yes ___ No ___
- b) Do you support state funding for charter schools? Yes ___ No ___
- c) Do you support increasing teacher salaries AND/OR benefits in Massachusetts? Yes ___ No ___
- d) Should immigrants unlawfully present in the United States who graduate from Massachusetts high schools be eligible for in-state tuition at public universities? Yes ___ No ___
- e) Other or expanded principles

Environment & Energy Issues:

- a) Do you support state funding for the development of renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, geo-thermal)? Yes ___ No ___
- b) Do you support state government regulation of greenhouse gas emissions? Yes ___ No ___
- c) Do you support increasing state funding for clean drinking water initiatives? Yes ___ No ___
- d) Other or expanded principles

Government Reform Issues:

- a) Do you support the regulation of campaign contributions from corporations, unions, and individuals? Yes ___ No ___
- b) Do you support the use of an independent AND/OR bipartisan commission for redistricting? Yes ___ No ___
- c) Do you support requiring a government-issued photo identification in order to vote at the polls? Yes ___ No ___
- d) Do you support automatic voter registration? Yes ___ No ___
- e) Other or expanded principles

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Gun Issues:

- a) Do you generally support gun-control legislation? Yes ___ No ___
- b) Should background checks be required on gun sales between private citizens at gun shows? Yes ___ No ___
- c) Should a license be required for gun ownership? Yes ___ No ___
- d) Other or expanded principles

Health Issues:

- a) Should the state government increase funding for treatment facilities to combat opioid abuse? Yes ___ No ___
- b) Do you support a government-run (single-payer) healthcare program such as Medicare-for-All? Yes ___ No ___
- c) Should an individual have the right to choose to die through euthanasia? Yes ___ No ___
- d) Do you support eliminating religious exemptions for vaccinations? Yes ___ No ___
- e) Do you support expanding paid family AND/OR medical leave opportunities? Yes ___ No ___
- f) Do you support lowering the cost of prescription drugs? Yes ___ No ___
- g) Other or expanded principles

Social Issues:

- a) Do you support inclusion of sexual orientation in Massachusetts's anti-discrimination laws? Yes ___ No ___
- b) Do you support the inclusion of gender identity in Massachusetts's anti-discrimination laws? Yes ___ No ___
- c) Do you support greater efforts by Massachusetts's state government in closing gender, racial and other wage gaps? Yes ___ No ___
- d) Other or expanded principles

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Legislative Priorities: In the following area, please explain in a total of 100 words or less, your top legislative priority and how you plan to fund it.

Lined writing area for the response.

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