



Note: This voter guide focuses only on contested races with topics most relevant to graduate students. [For a complete list of candidates and elections](#)

Want to get more involved:

[Become a Vote2018 Department Liaison to increase MIT voter turnout for 2018 elections](#)

[Join the External Affairs Board](#) of the GSC if you're generally interested in political advocacy

Most MIT students belong to the 7th or 5th District for the US House of Representatives. Ayanna Pressley (D) is the only 7th District candidate.

[More info for other districts](#)

When:

Deadline for Registration in MA for General Election:
October 17th, 8pm

General Election:
November 6th, 7am- 8pm

How to Register:

[Turbovote](#) (works for absentee voting/registration too)

Voter registration forms can be found and left at Barker, Dewey, Hayden, and Rotch libraries. We will mail them for you!

How to Vote:

[Find your polling place](#)

[What to expect](#)

[What your ballot will look like](#)

Some Reasons to Vote in the MA Midterm:

- Gubernatorial Election
- Senate and House Elections
- Ballot Question 3: Gender Identity Anti-Discrimination Veto Referendum

US Senate

| <i>Candidate</i> | <i>Higher Education Policy</i> | <i>Immigration</i> | <i>Other Stances</i> |
|---|--|--|--|
| Elizabeth Warren Democrat (Incumbent) More info | Supports the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, which lowers interest rates and monthly payments on student loans. Also supports loan forgiveness for students who go into public service. Supports increased oversight of the DOE student loan program + student loan companies in general. | Supports common-sense comprehensive immigration reform, and passing the Dream Act, which provides a pathway to citizenship for undocumented children | <u>Taxation</u> Proposes to roll back corporate tax cuts enacted in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed in December 2017, but does not specify a rate. <u>Climate</u> Believes in climate change, supports permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund, protecting the Endangered Species Act, and ensuring that the EPA has funding. |
| Geoff Diehl Republican More info | In 2017, sponsored H.630 that would give students the right to counsel for university lead disciplinary hearings | Supports building "the wall", eliminating the Diversity Immigrant Visa, and prohibiting sanctuary city policies. | <u>Taxation</u> Promises to vote against all tax increases <u>Healthcare</u> Supports treatment centers and research into alternative pain management for opioid epidemic, |
| Shiva Ayyadurai Independent More info | Believes current university graduates don't have tangible skills, saying Harvard is a "Fake University that is actually a \$45 billion dollar hedge fund." He said, "We need to tax Harvard and use those proceeds to fund real skills-based education." | Supports "secure borders that safeguard our citizens and those who came here legally" | <u>Climate</u> Unclear whether he believes in climate change but supports "tangible solutions to real problems" <u>Healthcare</u> Supports research into preventative care, specifically yoga and alternative medicine |

US House of Representatives, Fifth District

| <i>Candidate</i> | <i>Higher Education Policy</i> | <i>Immigration</i> | <i>Other Stances</i> |
|--|---|---|---|
| Katherine Clark Democrat (Incumbent) More info | Co-sponsored H.R. 1979, the Bank on Students Loan Fairness Act (2013, not passed), which would cap the student loan interest rate at the same interest rate paid by large banks who borrow from the Federal Reserve | Strongly supports Dream act with a focus on protecting students without immigration documentation. Supports reform of ICE | <u>Education</u> Strong focus on quality and accessibility of affordable pre-K education <u>Energy and Climate</u> A member of multiple legislative groups focused on addressing climate change and investing in clean energy and efficiency |
| John Hugo Republican More info | No public position and declined surveys from most sources. | No public position and declined surveys from most sources. | <u>Abortion</u> Campaign focuses on advancing pro-life public policies <u>Tax Reform</u> Social security reform and general tax reductions |

STATE LEVEL

Ballot Measures/Questions ([more info](#))

Question 1: Nurse-Patient Assignment Limits Initiative

A “yes” vote is a vote in favor of establishing patient assignment limits for registered nurses working in hospitals. A “no” vote is against the establishment of a patient limit.

Question 2: Commission on Limiting Election Spending and Corporate Rights

This proposed law would create a citizens commission to recommend potential amendments to the United States Constitution to establish that corporations do not have the same Constitutional rights as human beings and that campaign contributions and expenditures may be regulated.

A “yes” vote would create the commission. A “no” vote would not create the commission

Question 3: Gender Identity Anti-Discrimination Veto Referendum - [The GSC Supports a “yes” vote on Question 3](#)

Question 3 concerns upholding or overturning SB 2047, a 2016 law that prohibits discrimination based on gender identity in public places such as restaurants and stores.

A “yes” vote supports upholding SB 2047. A “no” vote supports overturning SB 2047.

Governor

| Candidate | Higher Education Policy | Immigration | Other Stances |
|--|---|---|---|
| Charles Baker Republican More info | Signed bill for more funding for public universities, supports Att. Gen. Healey’s efforts to bring more oversight and transparency to colleges’ financing | Opposed Pres. Trump’s ending of the DACA program; opposes Safe Communities Act, which prevents state and local law enforcement from enforcing federal immigration laws and detaining individuals based solely on immigration status | <u>Student and Professional Diversity</u> Signed SB 2047 protecting LGBTQ persons from discrimination; opposed Pres. Trump’s travel ban <u>Climate Change</u> Signed H. 4835, which allocated \$2.4 billion for “climate change adaptation, environmental protection, and community investments” <u>Transportation</u> Created the Commission on the Future of Transportation in the Commonwealth, to anticipate future demands and challenges in transportation |
| Jay Gonzalez Democrat More info | Supports making public colleges and universities in MA debt-free for all MA residents | Supports Safe Communities Act, which prevents state and local law enforcement from enforcing federal immigration laws and detaining individuals based solely on immigration status | <u>Climate Change</u> Goal for MA to get half of its energy from clean and renewable sources by 2030; electrify public transit; incentivize solar <u>Transportation</u> Supports Fair Share Tax, which would tax those making over \$1 million per year to fund transportation improvements, including fixing the MBTA system |

Lieutenant Governor (first in line to succeed the Governor)

| Candidate | Higher Education Policy | Immigration | Other stances |
|---|--|--|--|
| Karyn Polito Republican (incumbent) More info | Administration proposed \$150M investment in public education & school safety package, including improved access to mental health & support services. Particularly focused on STEM access & career opportunities for women | Opposed Trump's immigration and refugee orders, e.g. the wall, travel ban (as of Feb. 2017) | <u>Transportation</u> Has previously focused on MBTA reform <u>Opioid Crisis</u> Limited new opioid prescriptions to 7 days and invested more in prevention, education, & recovery <u>Wellbeing</u> Focus on support for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors |
| Quentin Palfrey Democrat More info | Supports broad education access through Millionaire's tax to have resources to invest in schools and transportation Invest in innovation economy | Supported the Safe Communities Act (pro-immigration) "...stand up against attacks on our diverse and inclusive American values" | <u>Healthcare</u> State level universal single payer health care <u>Climate Change</u> Make combating climate change a priority (e.g. pricing carbon emissions) <u>Gun Control</u> Fund gun violence prevention research |

Secretary of State (oversees elections, maintains public records, registers corporations)

| Candidate | Voting and Registration | Other Stances |
|--|---|---|
| Bill Galvin Democrat (Incumbent) More Info | Has written a bill that would enact same day registration, but opposes electronic voting. | <u>Census and Immigration</u> During tenure, has worked to improve ways census collected to improve counting of typically undercounted groups; sued Trump over census change that would ask about immigration status |
| Anthony Amore Republican More Info | Promises to carry out automatic voter registration and weekend voting should they become law Opposes extending voting rights to non-citizens (green card holders), even at the municipal level | <u>10-point Election Security Plan</u> Will work to "tap universities for expertise", "implement Voter ID", "modernize voter registration systems" and "focus on people, process & technology" |

Attorney General (chief lawyer and law enforcement officer of Massachusetts)

| |
|--|
| Maura Healey (D) (Incumbent): "Action items on Healey's agenda: Battling the opioid epidemic, protecting Massachusetts' clean energy economy, fighting predatory lenders"; also called for more intensive financial oversight on colleges (more info) |
| James McMahon (R): McMahon will make fighting the opioid crisis his first priority; opposes Massachusetts being a "sanctuary state" (more info) |

Treasurer and Receiver-General (ensures economic stability, security, and opportunity)

Deb Goldberg (D) (Incumbent): “[Goldberg] launched the Office of Economic Empowerment, the first-of-its-kind in the country, created to tackle issues such as unequal wages, college savings and financial literacy in Massachusetts.” ([more info](#))

Keiko Orrall (R): “As a four-term lawmaker, Representative Orrall is a strong advocate for her district building bipartisan bridges and focusing on policy over politics.” ([more info](#))

Jamie Guerin (Green-Rainbow Party of Massachusetts): Guerin plans to establish a state bank, direct cannabis business benefits to local community's, and and divest from unethical corporations and fossil fuels ([more info](#))

Governor's Council, Sixth District (provides advice and consent on gubernatorial appointments, pardons and commutations, and warrants for the state treasury; [more info](#))

Terrence Kennedy (D) (Incumbent): “[Kennedy] will continue to ensure that [judicial nominees] have the qualifications and temperament necessary to both guarantee fairness to a defendant, as well as to provide an environment where real justice can be forthcoming for the victims of crime and their families.” ([more info](#))

Vincent Lawrence Dixon (I): “[Dixon] will vigorously engage, and seek the votes, and volunteer efforts, or all voters... in solution-oriented ways, that can strengthen, and unite society.” “[A vote for his candidacy] can lead to a stronger voice for judicial reform including training judges; establishing Evening, and Night Courts; reform or elimination of the Grand Jury system...” (more info - [part 1](#), [part 2](#))

Auditor (conducts financial, performance, and technical assessments of state programs, departments, agencies, contracts, authorities, and vendors)

Suzanne Bump (D) (Incumbent): “Auditor Bump’s vision for the Office of the State Auditor is to bring accountability and modernization to state government operations. She has helped agencies and programs effectively deliver services with greater transparency and with more efficiency. She has also looked out for the most vulnerable by strengthening the social safety net.” ([more info](#))

Helen Brady (R): “[Brady] is running for State Auditor because it is a position that has the power to root out wasteful spending. [She] firmly believe that the role of Auditor has untapped potential, and as hardworking taxpayers we should demand that the State Auditor’s office be a strong force in ensuring fiscal accountability.” ([more info](#))

Jed Stamas (Green-Rainbow Party of Massachusetts): “[Stamas] goals for the office: 1) Change the priorities of Beacon Hill so that the state invests its energy towards helping people prosper in their lives — rather than catering to corporate interests. 2) Audit state agencies that are not achieving their intended results; ensure that tax revenues are used ethically and efficiently to benefit the people of Massachusetts 3) Upgrade our education system to see that all students receive the skills necessary to meet their intellectual, economic and psychological needs” ([more info](#))

Daniel Fishman (L): “We must elect an auditor who comes to office without any debt to a political party or to other politicians and who will execute the duties of the office.” ([more info](#))