



MASSACHUSETTS 2006 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you in advance for your attention to this questionnaire. We have compiled a list of questions of particular importance to the immigrant and refugee communities of Massachusetts. We are currently registering thousands of new voters and newly naturalized citizens to vote.

Please respond to the questions below, answering ‘yes’ or ‘no’. You may add additional comments in the space provided but please know that we will not be able to print more than 25 words on our educational materials.

Completed questionnaires should be emailed to Cynthia Tschampl at: ctschampl@miracoalition.org or faxed to 617-350-5499 attn: Cynthia. If you have any questions, please call 617-350-5480 ext 212. To be included in our voter education materials, **please send us your response by Tuesday, September 5th.**

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

The public, as well as political leaders from both parties acknowledge that our country’s immigration system needs comprehensive, realistic and humane improvement. 17% of the Massachusetts population is foreign-born, and one out of seven new Massachusetts residents arriving between 2000-2004 is an immigrant. Many of these hard working, tax-paying Massachusetts residents are left in limbo due to outdated and unjust immigration policies.



1. Do you support comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship?

Yes No

Comments: I very much oppose “enforcement only” legislation, condemn racist legislation recently passed by the US House of Representatives, urge amnesty now for the undocumented, urge immigrant family reunification, support a living wage for all, and urge an easier, genuine path towards citizenship that does not erode rights and labor protection

Citizenship for New Americans

The Citizenship for New Americans line item in the FY07 budget allowed for funding for helping immigrants through the naturalization process. However, year after year, state funding has been cut for support programs, making it even more difficult to complete the lengthy, expensive and complex naturalization process.



1. Do you support additional budgetary allowances for programs that help immigrants become citizens?

Yes No

Comments: Such programs must immediately be fully funded so as to meet present and projected future need.

MASSACHUSETTS 2006 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE (Con't)

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Adult Basic Education (ABE)

ABE includes General Educational development, basic education for adults who lack a high school qualification, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). These services are provided by a variety of community based organizations that provide adults with the skills required to support their families and contribute to their communities. Not enough funding has been allocated to these programs and this creates long waiting lists for English classes in Massachusetts.

1. Do you support increased funding for Adult Basic Education?

Yes No

Comments: I furthermore deplore the so-called Unz initiative and would work towards its repeal.

College Access for Immigrant Students

Without access to financial aid and required to pay more than three times the amount as their fellow classmates, many high achieving immigrant students are unable to attend college. The In-State Tuition Bill would allow immigrant students who have attended a MA high school for at least three years to pay in-state tuition rates at state colleges and universities if they prove that they will apply for citizenship as soon as they are eligible.

1. Do you support the In-State Tuition bill?

Yes No

Comments: I do not see how students can “prove” intent to seek citizenship and would seek to liberalize any such a provision or requirement. I furthermore believe means of opening access to financial aid should be made available.

Health Care Reform

In April 2006, the Massachusetts State Legislature passed a sweeping health care reform bill. However, some people are still not covered by this new legislation and implementation is still to be determined.

1. Do you support access to primary and preventative health care for all immigrants?

Yes No

Comments: I must note that I deplore the “health care reform” fraud recently passed by the State Legislature, which is no substitute for the single-payer health care but is a give-away to health insurance companies. I strongly believe that a single-payer health care plan is the sole and only means of achieving affordable health care for all.

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Anti-Immigrant Legislation

On June 26th of this year, Senator Tarr and other Republican and Democrat legislators filed a bill entitled “To Promote Fair Employment and Security in the Commonwealth” (Docket # 2718), which would have far reaching negative consequences for Massachusetts. This bill would burden the state with new, complicated and costly immigration law enforcement activities that are currently the responsibility of the federal government, scapegoating immigrants based on their race and national origin. It will delay or even prevent employment for most workers in the Commonwealth, regardless of citizenship. This bill would also endanger public safety by diverting local law enforcement attention from people committing crimes to those that have immigration violations.

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1. Do you support the bill “To Promote Fair Employment and Security in the Commonwealth”, Docket # 2718?

Yes                       No

Comments: This bill furthermore would promote racial profiling in its enforcement. I condemn it.

**Public Safety**

Governor Romney has sought an agreement with federal authorities that would allow state troopers to arrest undocumented immigrants who are otherwise law-abiding. This would decrease public safety and increase the level of racial and ethnic profiling. It will also divert scarce resources away from real crime fighting and deter undocumented immigrants from reporting crimes. This in turn would have severe consequences for immigrant and refugee victims of domestic violence and their children.

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1. Should Massachusetts state troopers enforce federal immigration law?

Yes No

Comments:



Signature of Candidate

Date