



Young Democrats of Massachusetts 2026 Platform

Platform Committee

Angus J.B. Abercrombie

Terry Altherr

Ella Hogan

Andrew D. LaBerge

Meagan Lee

James Nichols-Worley

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Chapter 1. Lowering Costs

As young Democrats, we support:

- Abundant and affordable housing for all by encouraging new construction and removing barriers at the local level like exclusionary zoning
- Fighting against the Trump administration's illegal tariffs, a tax on the American people
- Bringing down energy costs for consumers by expanding our clean energy supply, such as solar, off-shore wind, and hydroelectric power
- Modernizing and weatherizing homes to be more energy efficient
- Regulating price-gouging businesses and monopolies that push up prices for consumers
- High-quality, accessible healthcare for all through universal healthcare and innovation and research into affordable medicine
- Prohibiting Pharmacy Benefit Managers from engaging in predatory behaviors
- Expanding healthcare options for small business owners and employees
- Expanding and supporting affordable, subsidized, and public housing
- Protecting the Right to Shelter
- Universal affordable childcare
- Protecting SNAP benefits, school meal programs, and local food access initiatives

As young Democrats, we oppose:

- NIMBYism and efforts to block new housing construction at the local and state level
- Regressive taxes that disproportionately hurt young or working-class homeowners and renters
- Excessive occupational licensing and regulatory barriers for workers and businesses

As young Democrats, we applaud:

- Governor Healey's immediate relief through rate discounts and credits for electric consumers
- Governor Healey's cap on health care deductibles and co-pays
- The Commonwealth's Housing Production Plan calling on 220,000 new homes to be built in the next decade
- Transit-oriented development like the MBTA Communities Act

Chapter 2. Jobs & Labor

As young Democrats, we support:

- Raising the minimum wage to \$20 per hour
- Ensuring all municipal workers are covered by minimum wage law
- Indexing the minimum wage to inflation
- Eliminating all subminimum wages
- The efforts of State House staff to unionize
- Legislation to legalize the right to strike for public employees (with the exception of public safety personnel)
- Support reclassifying police officers at UMass Boston and Lowell as Group 4 for retirement, putting them on equal footing with state and municipal police
- State legislation to close the "benefits loophole" in prevailing wage calculations for trash haulers and school bus drivers, requiring the inclusion of pension/retirement contributions when calculating the prevailing wage for these specific sectors
- State regulations that prevent "Gig Economy" companies (like Uber, DoorDash, Amazon Flex) from misclassifying workers as independent contractors to avoid paying fair wages, payroll taxes, and workers' compensation
- Extending paid family and medical leave law to municipal and graduate student workers
- The creation of artificial intelligence standards that regulate their training and deployment
- Right to repair legislation
- Project labor agreements on major municipal and state projects

As young Democrats, we oppose:

- Efforts by the MBTA or Regional Transit Authorities to outsource paratransit services to ride-sharing platforms, ensuring that the Commonwealth's most vulnerable residents are transported by trained, professional drivers
- Removing or weakening protections for young workers

As young Democrats, we applaud:

- The Healey administration for improving disability and retirement benefits for injured state police officers
- Attorney General Cambell's work to secure a settlement from Uber and Lyft to provide important benefits and protections for drivers

Chapter 3. Revenue

As Young Democrats, we support:

- Progressive taxation of income and wealth
- Reforming Proposition 2½
- Implementing sunset dates for all tax exemptions to ensure periodic review
- Ensuring that multinational corporations are fairly taxed on all revenues related to their operations in Massachusetts
- Decoupling the state tax code from federal tax exemptions
- Public banking to ensure universal credit access
- PILOT reform to ensure large tax-exempt institutions contribute to the local services they utilize
- Increasing the tax on sports gambling, capping bets per month, and issuing restrictive regulations for advertising

As young Democrats, we oppose:

- Reducing the state income tax
- The 62F revenue cap
- Expanding the state Lottery to allow mobile and online gaming
- Sales tax exemptions for private aircraft and aircraft parts
- Tax exemptions for data centers

As young Democrats, we applaud:

- The adoption of the fair share amendment and the continued commitment of those revenues to education and transportation
- Continued tax exemptions for veterans with service related disabilities
- Ongoing work to restrict crypto scams that impact a wide range of communities in Massachusetts

Chapter 4. Education

As young Democrats, we support:

- Expanding Chapter 70 aid to improve quality of education in rural and low-income communities
- Establishing a clear roadmap for districts under state receivership to return to local control
- Ensuring universal access to affordable childcare and Pre-K
- Increased funding for vocational and technical programs at the high school and professional school levels
- Increasing science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics curriculum
- Increased reimbursement for special education expenses incurred by school districts
- Improved accountability and streamlined processes for accommodations and special education services
- Requiring all public school districts to provide comprehensive sex education that is age-appropriate, medically accurate information that is inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities and includes topics such as consent and the effective use of contraception
- Accurate and inclusive teaching of history and other subjects that appropriately emphasizes the contributions of people from historically underrepresented or marginalized backgrounds
- A limited tax on large endowments at private colleges and universities
- Strengthening civil rights protections for LGBTQ+ students and students of color
- Programs and regulations to reduce gun violence

As young Democrats, we oppose:

- Increasing the charter school cap
- Banning books
- Private School vouchers
- Policies targeting students based on their gender, race, sexual orientation, etc.

As young Democrats, applaud:

- The Attorney General's successful advocacy requiring charter schools to comply with public records law
- Permanent free meals in all public K-12 schools
- Free community college for all Massachusetts residents
- Continued increases to financial aid at state universities and in the UMass

Chapter 5. Climate & Energy

As young Democrats, we support:

- Taxing carbon emissions
- Preserving, maintaining, and expanding urban parks and tree canopies
- Banning single-use plastic bags
- Expansion of municipal electric utilities
- Expansion of mass save
- Elimination of combined sewer outflows
- Expansion of grants to improve environmental conditions in Environmental Justice Communities
- Improved incentives for solar projects

As young Democrats, we oppose:

- The expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure
- Efforts to roll back clean air and water standards
- Construction of artificial turf fields
- Federal cuts to clean energy projects

As young Democrats, we applaud:

- Updates to the permitting timeline for clean energy projects
- The Healey administration's efforts to retain off-shore wind project funding

Chapter 6. Transportation & Infrastructure

As young Democrats, we support:

- Making all public transportation fare-free
- Requiring the MBTA to operate an all-electric system by 2035
- Congestion pricing in the City of Boston
- Upgrades to transportation infrastructure to ensure resilient service delivery under intensifying climate pressures
- The construction of a direct rail link between North and South Stations
- The construction of a high-speed rail line between Boston and Springfield via Worcester
- The continued development of multi-use path networks that improve mobility for pedestrians and cyclists
- Expansion of protected bike lane infrastructure that creates an effective buffer between motorists and vulnerable road users
- Allowing automated camera enforcement against motorists for stop sign, red light, bus lane, parking, speed limit, and school bus violations
- The expansion of Amtrak service on all lines within the commonwealth
- The expansion of the Bluebikes system

As young Democrats, we oppose:

- The removal of bike lane infrastructure
- Commuter Rail fare hikes

As young Democrats, applaud:

- Making regional public transit fare-free
- The systemic effort in 2024 to remove MBTA slow zones
- The MBTA Commuter Rail South Coast expansion

Chapter 7. Democracy

As young Democrats, we support:

- The continued existence of the Governor's Council
- Regulation of expenditures intended to influence Town Meeting elections and actions
- Expansion of public campaign financing to support State House and Senate campaigns, and other municipal, county, and district level campaigns
- Universal mail-in voting for all elections
- Allowing communities to adopt ranked choice voting for municipal elections
- Allowing residents 16 and older, along with any resident of lawful permanent resident status to vote in municipal elections
- Allowing eligible residents to both register to vote and cast a ballot on election day
- Ensuring all otherwise eligible incarcerated residents have full access to voting in municipal and state elections
- Expanding campaign finance reporting requirements for state ballot question committees to match those of other state level campaigns
- Requiring disclosure of tax returns for presidential candidates to appear on the Massachusetts ballot
- Ensuring legislators and the public are given significant time to review the final version of legislation before a floor vote in either chamber of the state legislature

As young Democrats, we oppose:

- Increasing campaign contribution limits
- Non-standardized municipal elections held on days other than Tuesdays
- The exemption of the State Legislature and Governor's office from public records law

As young Democrats, we applaud:

- The adoption of electoral maps that properly support representation of marginalized communities
- Continued access to hybrid and virtual meetings for public bodies
- Automatic registration and preregistration of voters at the registry of motor vehicles
- The publication of votes taken in committees of the State Legislature

Chapter 8. Protecting Freedom for All

As young Democrats, we support:

- Sanctuary policies, that allow all immigrants and refugees to feel welcome and safe in the Commonwealth
- Access to linguistic and cultural services and fair policies for immigrants and refugees
- Translations of government/agency websites, forms, and tests in various languages
- Efforts to break down language barriers, especially for simple or everyday tasks
- Allowing and supporting the resettlement of refugees within Massachusetts through public and private means
- Efforts ensuring immigrants and refugees know their rights
- Restrictions limiting voluntary police and court involvement in civil immigration matters, protect basic rights, and keep law enforcement agencies focused on public safety
- Efforts to provide legal defense to immigrants, especially those held in federal immigration detention
- Ending assistance to ICE for their operations in Massachusetts and other states/territories
- The abolition of ICE as an immigration enforcement agency
- Reaffirming *Lunn v. Commonwealth* (2017), prohibiting extended detentions of incarcerated individuals on the basis of Federal civil immigration detainers
- Data privacy and consumer data protections
- Protecting First Amendment rights to record ICE activity

As young Democrats, we oppose:

- Arrests and detention of immigrants and refugees without proper and valid judicial warrants
- Arbitrary transfers of individuals in ICE custody to jurisdictions which are less likely to push back against ICE's conduct
- The use of Hanscom Field and other airports by ICE, especially for unlawful activities
- Private entities being complicit in ICE's unlawful activities
- 287(g) agreements between law enforcement agencies and ICE
- For-profit prisons and detention centers, especially the detention of immigrants and refugees in them
- Rising xenophobic rhetoric against immigrants and refugees
- Scapegoating immigrants and refugees for societal issues, especially for political gain

As young Democrats, we applaud:

- The passage and implementation earlier this decade of the Work and Family Mobility Act to allow all of-age and qualified residents regardless of immigration status to be granted the opportunity to obtain driver's licenses
- Amherst, Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Concord, Holyoke, Lawrence, Newton, Northampton, Orleans, Somerville, Springfield, and other municipalities for passing ordinances limiting cooperation with federal immigration authorities
- Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell co-leading efforts with other state attorneys general in opposing the Trump Administration's practice of deporting individuals for ideological reasons
- Democratic Federal and State officials for supporting Rümeyza Öztürk during her illegal detention by ICE and helping secure her release
- The establishment of a Federal Misconduct Portal at mass.gov to report misconduct by federal agents
- Governor Maura Healey for enacting Executive Order 650 restricting federal immigration officers from arresting individuals on state facilities (without proper and valid judicial warrants) and properties, working with state and non-state entities to adopt protocols when interacting with federal immigration officers, and adding new restrictions for future 287(g) agreements
- The inclusion of significant direct funding for immigrant legal defense in the state budget
- The Healey administration for stockpiling mifepristone
- The Healey administration for signing Executive Orders to protect abortion patients and providers
- Governor Maura Healey for committing to not enforce any national abortion ban
- The repeal of archaic laws that target LGBTQ+ people and people of color.

Chapter 9. Community Wellbeing & Safety

As young Democrats, we support:

- A fair and equitable legal system that prioritizes reducing recidivism through the prioritization of wellbeing investment in economic opportunity
- Creating an automated system to seal criminal records as soon as eligible
- Limiting local and state police collaboration with federal immigration agents
- Eliminating arbitrary restrictions on visitation rights in prisons, jails, and ICE detention units
- Ensuring that public schools and libraries can offer diverse and inclusive books, media, and materials without political interference
- Setting standards of accuracy and comprehensiveness in public school instruction for all students to learn about a broad array of histories, experiences, perspectives, and cultures
- Dismantling structures of bias-based hierarchy and implicit bias in the criminal justice system and law enforcement
- Expanding support and resources for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, especially in public schools and college campuses
- Expanding services and treatment opportunities for mental health for youth and in general
- Reducing youth homelessness through progressive reform and economic opportunity

As young Democrats, we oppose:

- Undue collaboration between the local and state police and federal immigration agents
- Actions that limit the freedom of accessible and diverse information in public schools and libraries
- The withholding, shrinking, or defunding of public support resources for help with domestic violence, substance abuse, sexual assault, and mental health

As young Democrats, we applaud:

- The passage of the Location Shield Act, which prohibits companies from selling cell phone location data
- The creation of a diverse and welcoming Massachusetts for all, including historically marginalized communities
- The equal application of justice in a fair and rehabilitation-focused justice system
- The passage of legislation making treatment and recovery support more affordable and accessible for residents living with a substance abuse disorder

Chapter 10. The Party

As young Democrats, we support:

- A state party that rigorously complies with transparent and fair governing documents
- The continued inclusion of a youth section in the state party platform
- The preservation and expansion of independently selected YDMA, CDMA, and HSDMA guaranteed representation on the state committee and executive committee
- Ensuring youth add on seats to the DSC represent true proportionality
- Ensuring youth add on seats to the Democratic State Convention represent true proportionality
- Holding legislators accountable to the state party platform
- The support of youth candidates with state party resources
- The creation of youth centered programming
- Democratic Town Committee youth member recruitment initiatives
- All party events to be accessible to young people, accounting for costs of attendance
- Ensuring that all levels of the Democratic party maintain and comply with affirmative action plans to uplift marginalized voices, including those of the young people who make up the most diverse generation in American history
- Providing linguistic support to candidates to ensure that websites and materials are translated to be accessible to all communities

As young Democrats, we oppose:

- Efforts to restrict the voice of youth representatives on party committees
- The holding of state party committee meetings on weeknights without a universal remote participation option

As young Democrats, we applaud:

- The passage of YDMA's youth amendment at the 2025 state convention
- The work to secure ASL interpreters for Young Democrats of America events
- Growing support of young progressive influencers in online spaces