

# MARIA'S LIST

Maria Jobin-Leeds  
DEMOCRACY & EDUCATION

## 2018 Candidates September Update

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### Gerly Adrien

State Representative, 28th Middlesex

Democratic Primary — Thursday, September 4th, 2018

Update: Lost challenge to incumbent Rep. Joe McGonagle with 39%

Gerly grew up in Everett, and always wanted to be mayor. She's the daughter of immigrant parents from Haiti who never felt like they actually belonged. In high school, she was a youth organizer for Teen Empowerment and interned with Somerville Community Corporation where she learned about affordable housing. She went to Bentley for college and studied business, and then worked on Wall Street at JP Morgan. She moved to Philadelphia, bought a house and managed a city council race for a young, black man in his early 30's because she had rarely seen black men/women in leadership positions doing community work. After that race, she moved back home to Everett to run. She worked as the finance director at United South End Settlements and now works in finance in the cancer department at Boston Medical Center.

### On the Issues

- **Education**
  - **Increase transparency and accountability around school spending and decision-making:** A few months ago, Everett had a \$9 million shortfall in schools, so it seemed likely that staff and teachers would get laid off. The lay-off was averted only after the City of Everett gave the schools \$5 million and the superintendent "found" another \$4 million in the school's budget.
  - **Changing the funding formula to better account for English Language Learners (ELL):** 80% of students in Everett public schools have immigrant parents.
  - **Ensure all Everett kids can get a quality public education:** Recently, the Pioneer Charter School bought a building in Everett to expand. Living in

Philly, **Gerly** saw that charters are used to make money, but here in Everett, a lot of Haitians and Latino parents can't afford private schools. Families see charters as the next best option because they're scared to send their kids to Everett's public schools. We need to make sure that everyone feels comfortable sending their kids to public schools and feels like their kids are getting the best education in the public schools.

- **Jobs:** Everett was promised jobs with the new casino being built and **Gerly** will stand up to ensure workers come first.
- **Affordable Healthcare:** We need to make sure that the average person who makes \$13/hr. can get good care without feeling like they can't afford it. When **Gerly** was growing up, she was on MassHealth and got great care. Since then, MassHealth benefits and services have been cut and the care is subpar. How do you bring that back so low-income people feel like their healthcare is working for them?
- **Transportation:** She doesn't have a driver's license and takes the bus and train every day. Everett doesn't have a train stop, and logistically, the bus doesn't make sense because roads are congested. It's important to make the system work for us. There is talk of bringing the Silver Line to Everett, but whenever the community asks about it, the elected officials don't have any information. Transparency is key.
- **Everett as a Sanctuary City:** Everett is a very diverse city, represented by entrenched Rep. McGonagle who was against the safe communities bill and opposed sanctuary city status. **Gerly** supports new immigrants.

**Status of Seat:** Challenging incumbent Rep. Joe McGonagle in her second run for the seat.

**Dynamics of Race:** In her second run for this seat, **Gerly** is a stronger candidate who is applying lessons learned from her 600-vote loss for this same seat in 2016. Strategically, **Gerly** is doing two main things differently. She is targeting both Democrats and unenrolled voters, who voted in greater numbers than Democrats in her last election. She is also making an effort to differentiate herself from Rep. McGonagle, highlighting his anti-immigrant stances and lack of transparency. This time, it's a three-person field. She is challenging the sitting state rep, Joe McGonagle. Stephen Stat Smith who formerly held this seat – but was forced to resign for voter fraud - is also running. Unlike her head-to-head race before, a three-person primary stands to benefit **Gerly**.

**Gerly** is running a strong, grassroots campaign and will herself have knocked every voter's door from 2016 multiple times by September 4th. Instead of a traditional strategy of only talking to traditional "supervoters," **Gerly** is engaging disenfranchised, immigrant and COC voters and has LGBTQ+, Latinx and Haitian community liaisons who meet weekly. She is in a strong position to win.

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**Francina Wisnewski**  
**State Representative, 1<sup>st</sup> Franklin**  
**Democratic Primary – Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>,**  
**2018**

**Update: Came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in an 8-person field with 16% of vote**

**Francina** grew up in Colombia and came to the US in her early 20's to get her master's degree in education at UMass Amherst. Her and her husband, a small business owner, first lived in Greenfield and now live in Montague and are raising two boys.

**Francina** was a biology and chemistry teacher. She went on to serve two terms on the Greenfield School Committee, including two terms as Vice-Chair. She is currently a Town Meeting member in Montague. She is also Chair of the Hampshire/Franklin Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

She works in non-profit support services and education. For 10 years, she worked at the Community Action Pioneer Valley, working in the food pantry and then creating programs for family centers. She is currently Senior Program Manager at Raising a Reader Massachusetts for the Pioneer Valley which focuses on literacy in Gateway cities. She was one of its first staff members and helped build the organization from the ground up, opening up branches in Springfield and Holyoke.

### ***On the Issues***

- ***Education***

- The current funding formula doesn't serve rural communities, particularly because SPED and reimbursement rates are not appropriate. The funding formula sets up communities against each other.
- She strongly believes in and wants to keep strengthening public education. She has fought against charter schools opening in her community. Massachusetts Virtual Schools was going to open its first virtual school in Greenfield and, if they were successful, they were going to open others. Their stated purpose was to educate sick and incarcerated kids but only 10% of their students fit those categories. On the Greenfield School Committee, she voted "no" to the school opening there and worked to raise awareness of the school's record. Charters aren't going anywhere so it's important to bring accountability and transparency. She will keep fighting for that.

- **Health and Wellbeing Services** - **Francina** supports single-payer healthcare because she wants the best quality healthcare for her constituents. Children need better dental care and people need to be able to get regular vision screening. Expensive healthcare and high deductibles are the kind of things that keep families in cycles of poverty. If we don't support our workers with quality, affordable health insurance and promote a livable wage, we don't have a community that thrives.

- **Transportation** - Her community needs weekend bus service. Employers have said to her that without it, "my employees won't be able to get to work."
- **Opioid Crisis** - It's a huge problem around the state but is particularly a problem in her community because of the poverty.

**Status of Seat:** Open seat.

**Dynamics of Race:** With 19 towns in the district, this state rep district is one of the biggest and most spread out. Eight candidates are running for this open seat and four are women. Her opponents come from each of the five biggest towns in the district. **Francia** is the only POC and the first Latina to run for the seat. Along with Tahirah Amatul-Wadud who is challenging Congressman Richard Neal, she is one of only two POC running in Western Massachusetts.

**Wisnewski Campaign:** **Francia** is a passionate advocate for public education who speaks from deep experience as both a parent and former School Committee member. She is running a grassroots campaign but fundraising is also crucial so she can send mailings in a district that has less access to the internet and extends out to 19 cities and towns. Every dollar donated to this campaign will make a big impact in helping her reach more voters.

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DONATE to NIKA

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**Nika Elugardo**  
**State Representative, 15<sup>th</sup> Suffolk**  
**Democratic Primary – Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Update: Won with 52% of the primary vote**

The oldest of seven kids, **Nika** grew up in Columbus, Ohio in poverty. Her father was a construction worker who dealt drugs when he couldn't find construction work, bringing **Nika** with him from Columbus to Miami on drug deals when she was a child. Growing up, her family was oftentimes evicted from their home or had to move because of her dad's dangerous lifestyle.

**Nika** changed schools nine times until she got a scholarship to attend the Columbus School for Girls. It changed the trajectory of her life. She went to MIT for college, got a master's degree from Harvard's Kennedy School and graduated from BU Law School. Along the way, she trained leaders across the country to fight foreclosures at the National Consumer Law Center's Foreclosure Prevention Project and worked on gender justice, community health and youth development at the Emmanuel Gospel Center. After law school, she served as a Senior Advisor for Policy and Planning for State Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, was the founding director of MassSaves.org where she worked to promote asset development and economic

justice in low-income communities, and then returned to work at Emmanuel Gospel.

### ***On the Issues***

- **Quality and Fully Funded Education for All, from Pre-K Through Higher Education, Including Trade Apprenticeships and Boot Camps**
  - For our youngest community members, that means universal access to early education. For pre-K-12 students it means access to high-quality in-class instruction. It means ending racial disparities and replacing the so-called preschool to prison pipeline with a pre-school to career pipeline. In-school learning should include physical education, bilingual education and arts engagement. Students should have access to the supports that allow them to thrive — nurses, mental health counselors, clinicians, and safe, affordable out-of-school time programs. Additionally, she supports Planned Parenthood’s call for medically-accurate, age-appropriate, LGBTQ+ inclusive sex and health education. College and career counseling should prepare students for life after high school; vocational education should be funded and focused on pathways that meet the needs of our communities. And, it means, investing in higher education. Students in state colleges and universities are seeing some of the nation’s highest increases in tuition and fees while average student debt for public university students is growing. She will go to bat for funding pre-K to K-12 to higher education – education is the foundation of our economy and our civic life, and it is a marker of equitable justice. It is vital for a healthy district and Commonwealth.
  - She supports the education bill to update our 25-year-old Foundation Budget education funding formula. We're now underestimating statewide education costs by \$1-2 billion every year. These reforms are a critical part of closing the achievement gap and ending classroom cuts facing schools across our state year after year.
- **Healthcare for All/Single-payer** — She is excited to work on single payer healthcare legislation that is truly inclusive. Health care is a right. She’s ready to take on the large systems change work that means that every single one of us have healthcare regardless of how much money we have, who our employer is, or who we are married to. When she says “healthcare,” she includes dental care, mental health care, care for those with pre-existing conditions, and care for those who have substance use disorders.
- **Affordable Housing That Benefits All and Not Just Developers and High Earners** — The cost of housing is the number one concern many have in her district. We must stop the displacement. She wants the community members she’s talked to during the campaign to still be in their homes on September 4th to vote for her. She will work with community members and advocates to maintain their residences and provide new homeownership opportunities. She pledges to pass a Homeless Bill of Rights.
- **Criminal Justice Reform, Including Increased Funding for Restorative Justice** — There is more to be done. If elected, she would propose bold moves towards restorative justice. This includes reforms such as further raising the age of juvenile to 21, abolishing solitary confinement, repealing mandatory

minimum sentences for drug offenses, fully-funding reentry services, and abolishing cash bail.

- **Additional Stances**

- **LGBTQ+ Rights - Nika** is a member of the evangelical church and has a long track record of speaking out against the church's anti-LGBTQ and pro-life stances. When the public accommodations bill was being debated in the legislature, **Nika** designed trainings to educate pastors on the bill and dispel myths about the trans community.
- **Women's Reproductive Rights - Nika** is a firm believer in Roe v. Wade because "the right to choose is a human."

**Status of Seat:** Challenging incumbent State Rep. Jeffrey Sanchez.

**Dynamics of Race:** **Nika** is challenging incumbent State Rep. Jeffrey Sanchez, who as House Ways and Means Chair is the highest ranking Latinx in the state. Asked often why she's running against him, **Nika** says she took a look at his record. Last session, he had a B- rating on the Progressive Mass Scorecard. Since becoming House Ways and Means Chair, his rating has fallen to a C+. "We need progressive champions in the House," **Nika** says on the trail. "I'm challenging this incumbent because I believe the 'leadership team' he belongs to – that of House Speaker Bob DeLeo – is the greatest obstacle to bold progressive change in Massachusetts."

In a three-minute clip of a July 2018 debate circulating on social media, **Nika** and Rep. Sanchez are shown disagreeing on a number of key progressive issues. **Nika** supports independent review boards for police shootings, eliminating all mandatory minimums and raising the juvenile age beyond 18. Rep. Sanchez does not. **Nika** supports single payer healthcare. Rep. Sanchez does not. **Nika** supports same-day voter registration. Rep. Sanchez does not. Additionally, as House Ways and Means Chair, Rep. Sanchez was sharply criticized for passing a final budget this year that dropped the Senate-backed Safe Communities Act provision. "We just did not find consensus on those provisions," he told reporters. "There are some issues where consensus should not be your measure of success," **Nika** responded, arguing that we should never be "using our tax dollars to aid the terrorizing of our residents."

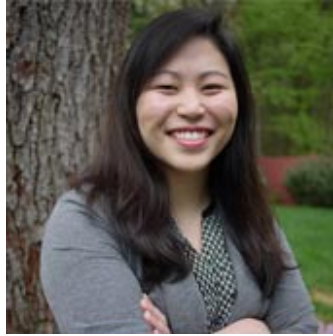
Rep. Sanchez hasn't had a primary since 2010.

**Elugardo Campaign:** Of the two campaigns, **Nika** has the momentum. Challenging a powerful, well-resourced incumbent is never easy, but **Nika** has been running an energizing, grassroots campaign on a bold, progressive platform that has effectively distinguished her as the progressive choice in the race.

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**Maria Robinson**  
State Representative, 6<sup>th</sup> Middlesex  
*General Election – Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

**Update: Won a four-way write-in race with 56% of the vote**

**Maria** is an Asian-American adoptee and is in the process of adopting her two foster children. She attended MIT where she met her husband. When they were deciding where to settle down with their family, they made spreadsheets (because they're engineers) and Framingham came out on top. It had everything they wanted: it was diverse, affordable, they could have a backyard. Last year, her parents moved from Philadelphia and moved in with them, in part because they couldn't find a place in Massachusetts to live that was affordable. It's clear to her that we're pricing seniors out of our state.

**Maria** has spent the last decade working in nonprofits focused on clean energy. She's worked on renewable energy and energy efficiency policy at the federal level and in 25 states.

#### ***On the Issues***

- **Changing the Foundation Budget** – We have to change the funding formula for English Language Learners (ELL) and special education (SPED) students. Framingham has a disproportionate number of ELL and SPED students from the surrounding areas who are bused in. This requires additional costs that are not reflected in the current funding formula. The Foundation Budget Review Commission recommendations are the right way to move forward, but per usual, the House dropped the ball ([Boston Globe article.](#))
- **Public Transportation** - The bus system, run by the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA), doesn't run on Sundays or holidays, and information is only in English. The vast majority of people who take the bus don't speak English, and it's crucial to improve the system for our working folks who rely on it to get to work
- **Safe Communities Act** - We need to pass it, hands down. In a city that is over 40% POC, it's a priority. It's also a priority of Framingham's police chief who says that without it, a large part of Framingham's population doesn't feel comfortable reporting crime which endangers us all.

**Status of Seat:** Open seat following late Rep. Chris Walsh's passing; will be a write-in primary election

**Dynamics of Race:** Following the late Representative Chris Walsh's passing in mid-May, a write-in September 4th primary election is being held to determine which Democrat will appear on the November ballot as the party's nominee. Including **Maria**, four people are running.



**Robinson's Campaign: Maria** has emerged as the progressive in the race and as the candidate running the strongest campaign. Progressive organizations (MassAlliance, Progressive Mass), LGBTQ+ rights organizations (MassEquality), women's reproductive rights organizations (NARAL and Planned Parenthood), labor (SEIU 1199, 509 and 32BJ), and teachers (MTA) have all endorsed her. She's raised the resources and is running the strong field program needed to win.

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**Rachael Rollins**  
**Suffolk County District Attorney**  
**Democratic Primary — Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Update: Won in a 5-way field with 39% of primary vote**

**Rachael** is the oldest of five children in a working-class, multi-cultural family. She attended Buckingham Browne and Nichols on a full scholarship and received a Division I scholarship to attend the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She has a law degree from Northeastern, and a Master of Laws from Georgetown University.

**Rachael's** brother is currently in jail. She is also a foster mother to two of her young nieces (ages 5 and 9) whose parents are incarcerated due to mental health and addiction issues. If **Rachael** had not taken custody of her nieces, they would have gone into the DCF system.

**Rachael** served as a state Assistant District Attorney and a federal Assistant U.S. Attorney, prosecuting cases involving civil rights violations, fraud, sexual predators, narcotics, violence and weapons. She was also the first woman general counsel for the MBTA and the first person of color to be general counsel for MassDOT. In those roles, she managed over 150 employees. She later served as chief legal counsel for the Massachusetts Port Authority.

**Rachael** was appointed by Attorney General Maura Healey to serve on her Advisory Council on Racial Justice and Equity. Additionally, she was a former Governor Deval Patrick appointee to the Commonwealth's Judicial Nominating Commission, was former President of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, and was elected by her peers to serve on the Boston Bar Association Council.

#### **On the Issues**

- **Transparency** – “On the campaign trail, so many voters don't know what the DA does and don't know it's an elected position. With the opioid crisis, people are interacting with the DA's office who don't normally interact with the DA's office. They think of the DA's office as dealing with crime and violent crime, but the opioid crisis is a health crisis that is



touching people regardless of socio-economic status. We need to make sure that people know what we do. People need to know that when your loved one is high on drugs, absent a significant violent crime, we are going to try and divert them to the services they need." We need a holistic reform approach and we need to be transparent and give people access to the office. She plans to have quarterly meetings in the community to report on the state of the DA's office. "This idea is unfortunately revolutionary given what the current DA is doing."

- **Inclusion and Reform** - She would be the first woman and woman of color to be the DA in Suffolk County. She will pursue a different approach to being DA, like leaving the physical DA's office to go out into the community more. Additionally, there are currently no women in upper level management. "It can't be that white men continue to be the only voice and opinion by which we look at things." She has supervised groups of 150 people and knows for sure that having different opinions at the table makes you a better leader. She will also ensure that all residents can access the office irrespective of the language they speak, including having the website available in multiple languages.

- **Other policy stances**

- ***Juvenile Justice***

**Rachael** is a strong believer in the brain science that brains don't stop developing until someone is in their mid-20s. Middlesex County has a unit for youthful offenders, ages 18-24, which she thinks is a good model. Kids in DYS oftentimes feed into the criminal justice system. Instead, Rachael believes that we should get these kids the services they need so that can move back into society.

In the current DA's office, there is not enough written policy and procedures. It's not fair that if you live in West Roxbury and are white that you get a lesser punishment. With policies and procedures, we can wipe out the inequity that usually happens with juveniles.

- ***Mandatory Minimums***

"Judges are there so they can use their discretion in judging mitigating factors. Are you going to jail? Yes, but mandatory minimums at the front end [by the prosecutor] don't work. There is no structure or process to say, 'that seems excessive.' The decision to charge is unappealable. If you are charged with crimes that have mandatory minimums, that decision is made by a young, inexperienced Assistant District Attorney who has very little experience and is not from the communities they are prosecuting. At the backend of the process, there's a jury of peers that probably doesn't look like me or have similar life experiences. With mandatory minimums, judges can't do anything. In this state, the qualifications to become a judge are extensive and candidates are heavily screened. Mandatory minimums take away judges' discretion and give it to the Assistant District Attorneys"

- ***Safe Communities Act***

"Even if a city is not a sanctuary city, I will not be turning people over to the federal government"

**Status of Seat:** Open seat.

**Dynamics of Race:** With five people in the race and multiple progressives running, there has been strong concern that progressives will split the votes, allowing the more conservative candidate in the field, Greg Henning, to win. In a first-of-its-kind effort in this state, Justice for Mass, a coalition of 30+ local progressive organizations, is combating that by coming together to collectively endorse district attorney candidates in Massachusetts, including Rachael for Suffolk County DA. With the grassroots firepower and field campaign behind this endorsement, **Rachael** has become the progressive in the strongest position to win.

Our candidate endorsement framework ([Framework for Giving](#)) prioritizes campaigns promoting deep democracy. Because we strongly support the community-powered organizations behind Justice for Mass and the first-of-its-kind work they are doing together, we support their candidate for Suffolk County DA, **Rachael Rollins**.

[Candidate List](#)

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**Donna Patalano**  
**Middlesex County District Attorney**  
**Democratic Primary — Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Update: Lost challenge with 47% of the primary vote**

**Donna** started her career in healthcare management and didn't attend law school until she was in her 30's. She likes to explain that her son went off to the 1st grade and she went off to law school. She is the first person in her family to go to college (and then to law school).

When she went to law school, she had two interests: appeals and urban planning/land use. After law school, she first worked at Goodwin Proctor in real estate law and then clerked for Judge Elspeth Cypher (who is now a Massachusetts Supreme Court Justice). After that, she worked as a prosecutor in the Suffolk County DA's office for six years in appeals and homicides. She left to be a defense attorney for several years, specializing in appellate litigation (appealing convictions). Most of her clients didn't look like her, and through her work as a defense attorney, she learned to see the process through their eyes. In 2011, she returned to the Suffolk County DA's office as Chief of Professional Integrity and Ethics and built the Conviction Integrity Unit, which hasn't been maintained since she left.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court appointed her to be the chair of the Board of Bar Overseers, which is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the

law profession. As Chair, she hired an Executive Director for the first time and instituted a new IT system and mandatory online registration for all lawyers.

**Donna** says she's running because we have a broken criminal justice system and criminal justice is finally part of the national conversation. We have someone in the White House who is trying to destroy the rule of law. People should take hope in their local DA because no one has jurisdiction over the DA except for the voters. "The justice system should be the moral backbone of our society, not a black hole," **Donna** says, noting the system's lack of transparency, including in DA Marian Ryan's office.

### ***On the Issues***

- **Instituting a Public Integrity Bureau** – Investigations of excessive police force are pursued at the discretion of the DA. Mid-April, there was an incident in which Cambridge police punched a naked black Harvard student four to five times. DA Ryan didn't comment on the incident other than to say that she wasn't going to prosecute the student. The Cambridge police is investigating. Instead, Donna believes that the DA's office needs to be the one having objective investigations with criteria laid out ahead of time.
- **Transparency and Culture Change**
  - There are 35,000 cases/year prosecuted in Middlesex County and no information on those cases – including outcomes - is released, so we don't know if those prosecutions were fair. Who gets diversion programs? Are they white, black or brown? The only data released is the incarceration rate and that is mandated by law. What we do know is that the incarceration rate for black men is eight times greater than for white men.
  - When she built the Suffolk County's first integrity unit, they reviewed cases the way doctors have grand rounds. They looked at mistakes, and then identified why that mistake was made. **Donna** wants to build an annual review that doesn't count convictions but evaluates prosecutors on whether he/she proceeded correctly. She doesn't care about the conviction rate; she cares about culture change.
- **Real Bail Reform**
  - Cash bail (for lower level, non-violent offenses) is meant to ensure that you come back to court but in actuality, people who are financially fortunate can post cash bail. Kids from Everett and Lowell who are poor can't. The presumption has to be no cash bail and that you're released on personal recognizance. If you don't come back for the next hearing, then we can ask the police to go get you. Bail shouldn't be a punishment but it's become a debtor's prison. We have innocent people in jail because they don't have \$100 for bail. Meanwhile, it costs \$265/day to hold someone who can't pay \$100.
  - For more serious offenses, if her office does ask for bail, she will release statistics on why and what the cost is to taxpayers. She will release these statistics every six months and be held accountable.

**Status of Seat:** Challenging incumbent DA Marian Ryan, who has held the seat since April 2013

**Dynamics of Race:** Donna is challenging DA Marian Ryan who was appointed in April 2013 and then elected in November 2014. On the campaign trail, Donna argues that DA Ryan leads an office that lacks transparency and that her dated approach and limited perspective come from having been a prosecutor for too long. Donna says the time is ripe for new, progressive leaders to come forward and that she wants to bring a data-driven approach to the office focused on transparency, accountability and equity. Donna has been endorsed by Justice for Mass, a group of 30+ local progressive organizations that came together this year for the first time to collectively endorse district attorney candidates. This hefty endorsement has sealed her status as the progressive in the race and brings ground game troops heading into the final stretch.

In running against an incumbent, Donna's biggest challenge is keeping up in fundraising. With a district that spans 54 cities and towns, more resources would help her reach more voters through multiple, diverse channels (traditional mail, social media, radio, and field).

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**Andrea Harrington**  
**Berkshire County District Attorney**  
***Democratic Primary – Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018***

**Update: Won challenge with 40% in a 3-way primary**

Growing up the daughter of a carpenter and housekeeper in Western Massachusetts, Andrea remembers, in the third grade, cleaning houses with her teen mom because they couldn't afford childcare. She was the first in her family to go to college, and the first to go to law school. She spent her years right after law school fighting death penalty convictions in Florida and came back to Western Massachusetts to start a family and worked to defend poor defendants in the criminal justice system.

Andrea is running because Berkshire County is stuck in the past. The DA's office is stuck on the 1980's war on drugs. Meanwhile, there's been a sharp increase in opioid deaths in the last seven months. They have high crime rates; North Adams has the highest crime rate per capita and higher rates of domestic violence than anywhere else in the state. From her experiences in the courtroom and representing people on death row, she knows the criminal justice system fails people of color and poor people. This DA's office only has a myopic view of criminal justice and operates with a law enforcement mentality.

### ***On the Issues***

- **Start diversion programs** – Berkshire County is the only county in the state without a diversion program which enables people with mental health and substance abuse issues to get help instead of being sent to jail. Instead of going in front of a judge, juveniles that commit non-violent crimes are taken out of the courtroom and connected with social workers and programs. The DA's office could apply for grants and bring in additional resources for treatment like Hampshire County but the Berkshire County DA has actually turned down offers.
- **Sexual assault** – The current DA's office has been accused of not bringing charges in sexual assault cases where there was probable cause. **Andrea** pledges to re-open every sexual assault case from the last 15 years – the statute of limitations - where there was no indictment.
- **Accountability and transparency** - We know that people of color, low-income people and LGBTQ+ are over-represented in the criminal justice system but the DA's office doesn't track that data. The median bail for POC is five times higher than for white people. Who is being charged? What are they being charged with? She will start a citizens advisory board to analyze this data to treat people more fairly
- **Create a special unit for young people ages 19-25** – Anyone 18 years old and younger is still put in juvenile court. **Andrea** represented someone on death row who was 17 years old when he committed a crime and successfully argued for a life sentence because of his age. She wants to create a special unit that deals only with young people ages 19-25, focused on identifying good candidates for rehabilitation. 19-25 year olds in the criminal justice system are missing out on an important developmental time in their lives and are not learning the life skills that they need.

***Status of Seat:*** Challenging incumbent DA Paul Caccaviello, who was appointed by Gov. Charlie Baker in March 2018 after long-time DA David Capeless retired.

***Dynamics of Race:*** DA Caccaviello was former DA David Capeless' 1st Deputy DA, who stepped down halfway through his final year in office and asked Gov. Baker to appoint Caccaviello to the seat. Caccaviello was a registered independent and switched his party registration to Democrat in February before he was appointed. A Supreme Judicial Court ruling found that Caccaviello violated a defendant's civil rights by removing the one POC from the jury because of race. Perennial candidate Judy Knight is also running against Caccaviello in the primary.

Maria's List endorsed **Andrea's** first run for State Senate two years ago. As with the other DA races, **Andrea's** endorsement by the Justice for Mass coalition was a big boon that continues her momentum. She has a great shot to win.

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**Jay Gonzalez**  
Governor

**Democratic Primary — Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Update: Won with 64% of the primary vote**

**Jay Gonzalez** was the former Secretary of Administration and Finance under Governor Deval Patrick during the Great Recession. While in the Administration, he also served as Chairman of the Board of the Massachusetts Health Connector, where he oversaw implementation of Massachusetts' health care reform, and he co-chaired the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. Afterwards, **Gonzalez** was chair of the Massachusetts Board of Early Education and Care and, most recently, was President and CEO of CeliCare Health and New Hampshire Healthy Families, leading the turn-around of an ailing health insurance provider that serves low-income people in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

#### ***On the Issues***

- Single-payer healthcare.
- Fixing our broken transportation system by ending Governor Baker's practice of outsourcing key functions of our transportation system, making the necessary investments in transportation, and expanding public transportation across the Commonwealth.
- Ensuring Massachusetts has the highest quality early education and childcare system in the country and that it is available and affordable to all.

***Status of Seat:*** With a 69% approval rating in a July 2018 Morning Consult poll, incumbent Republican Charlie Baker remains the most popular governor in the country. The Democratic primary field to take him on, as a result, has been shallow. Citing anemic fundraising that would make it hard for him to unseat Baker, former Mayor of Newton Setti Warren dropped out of the primary race in April, leaving just two primary challengers: **Jay** and Bob Massie, an environmentalist and entrepreneur. Setti Warren's exit highlights the challenges facing any Democratic nominee taking on this moderate, well-liked Republican governor in November. Governor Baker officially launched his re-election campaign this month with over \$8 million on hand. **Jay Gonzalez** reported having \$431,660 at the beginning of August and Massie \$109,057

***Dynamics of Race:*** There are few policy differences between **Jay Gonzalez** and Bob Massie. **Jay** is running a better campaign and is the stronger candidate. **Jay** has extensive experience in government, healthcare and education and is very detailed when talking about policy. His resume actually resembles Charlie Baker's; both were budget chiefs and led health insurers, allowing **Jay** to go head-to-head with Governor Baker without Baker being able to cite experience and know-how as differentiators. Though Bob Massie has an impressive background, concerns

about his health have dogged his campaign and prevented him from being considered a serious candidate for Governor.

[Candidate List](#)

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**Josh Zakim**  
**Secretary of State**

***Democratic Primary – Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018***

**Update: Lost challenge with 33% of the primary vote**

Boston City Councilor **Josh Zakim** is an attorney who was elected to the City Council in 2013. **Josh** began his career at Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) where he represented working families facing foreclosure on their homes. He also worked in the Public Finance group of the law firm Mintz Levin, specializing on municipal bond transactions for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MassPort and the MBTA.

**Josh** currently chairs the City Council's Committee on Civil Rights and previously chaired the Committee on Housing & Community Development and the Special Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure, Planning & Investment. In his first term on the Council, **Josh** authored the Boston Trust Act, prohibiting the Boston Police Department from detaining residents based on immigration status. He also successfully introduced an ordinance extending protections for tenants whose homes are converted to condominiums or co-ops, including increased financial safeguards for elderly, disabled, and low-income tenants.

**Josh's** father is the late civil rights activist Lenny Zakim who the famed Zakim Bridge in Boston is named after him.

**Josh** is running because, in Massachusetts, the birthplace of American democracy, both registering to vote and voting itself have become too difficult for too many people. He's running to be a champion of voting rights and voting access.

#### ***On the Issues***

- **Same-day Voter Registration** - Over the past year, while **Josh** has been advocating for same-day voter registration, current Secretary of State Bill Galvin fought successfully in court to maintain the 20-day voter registration deadline. 17 other states and DC already have same-day registration..
- **Automatic Voter Registration (AVR)** - After **Josh** launched his campaign for Secretary of State in early 2018, citing AVR as a policy priority, Galvin publicly adopted the same stance in response. **Josh** called Galvin's push for AVR "long overdue." AVR was signed into law in early August 2018 because of the increased attention on AVR from this race.
- **Weekend Election Days** - If you're working two jobs, raising a family, or going to school full-time, voting during the week might not work for you.



Moving our elections to the weekend is both a proven method of increasing voter turnout and an inclusive step towards accommodating our diverse schedules. Secretary Galvin scheduled this year's election day on the day after Labor Day, **Zakim** claims, in an effort to depress turnout.

- **Election Security** - If elected, **Josh** will create a 24/7 cybersecurity team within the elections division and modernize our antiquated election audit laws.

**Analysis of Campaign:** **Josh** is taking on 24-year entrenched incumbent Bill Galvin whose nickname is "the Prince of Darkness." In a surprise and consequential upset, **Zakim** won the endorsement of the Democratic Party at the state convention, garnering 55% of delegate votes.

*The Boston Globe* deemed the Secretary of State race "the state's most nasty and personal race of 2018." Both campaigns are running negative ads. **Zakim's** ad highlights Galvin's record as a state legislator from 1975-1991 before he became Secretary of State: voting to ban abortion, to bring back the death penalty and to ban same-sex couple adoptions. Galvin's ad calls **Josh** "No-Show Zakim," saying he hasn't voted in 15 elections. Both candidates are trying to draw distinctions for voters, particularly because a June WBUR poll shows 34% of voters are undecided. The same poll showed Galvin had a comfortable lead: 46% to **Josh's** 17%, with Galvin popular among older voters. Name recognition is **Josh's** biggest challenge: 62% had never heard of him. With a substantial fundraising haul, **Josh's** ability to effectively use his resources to get his message out and turn out his (younger) voters will determine whether he wins on September 4th.

[Candidate List](#)

DONATE to TAHIRAH

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**Tahira Amatul-Wadud**

**MA-1**

**Democratic Primary – Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Update: Lost challenge with 29% of the primary vote**

A black Muslim mother of seven, **Tahirah Amatul-Wadud** is a Springfield, Massachusetts attorney who runs her own law practice focused on civil rights law and domestic relations. A strong defender of religious freedom, **Tahirah** is legal counsel to a number of religious congregations across Massachusetts and New York. She serves on the board of the Council on American-Islamic Relations and as a Commissioner on the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, which helped pass equal pay in the state. She also serves on the Family Advisory Council of Boston Children's Hospital, where her daughter received life-saving heart surgery as a newborn.

**Tahirah** is running because, particularly in this post-Trump era, people are feeling hopeless and Congressman Neal has been missing for years. (Last year, Indivisible Williamsburg took out an ad in the Daily Hampshire Gazette with Congressman Neal's face next to the words: "Has anyone seen this man?") "I would always be responsive to the constituents," **Tahirah** says. "I sincerely believe that you cannot be a defender of democracy when you have a divided loyalty between your constituents and your financiers," she says in an interview with *The Nation*, referencing Neal. 75% of Neal's \$2.5 million campaign war chest is from PACs. **Tahirah**, meanwhile, has pledged not to accept any corporate campaign donations and advocates for the repeal of Citizens United.

### ***On the Issues***

- **Medicare for All** — Congressman Neal is against Medicare for All. Meanwhile, Medicare for All is a central part of **Tahirah's** policy platform. "I didn't have to make a decision about whether or not we could afford to have [my daughter] healed," **Tahirah** says about her daughter's heart surgery. "And I want every family to have that sense of assurance."
- **Opioid Crisis** — **Tahirah** grew up in "in a community that was ravaged by the crack cocaine epidemic." "If we had clinical and compassionate approach to how we dealt with addiction [during the crack epidemic], we would not have the opioid crisis. And if we did, we'd have a model for how to fix it," she says.
- **Infrastructure** — In a 97% rural district, state and federal investment into creating broadband internet infrastructure in the region is critical. "I consider it not only a quality of life issue, but an economic crisis issue" because people can't look for jobs without the internet, **Tahirah** says.

**Status of Race:** Congressman Neal is currently the longest-serving member of the Massachusetts delegation, having held this seat since 1989. The biggest and most spread out Massachusetts district in area, MA-1 includes 87 cities and towns in western and central Massachusetts. This is a safely held Democratic seat and the primary will determine the winner.

**Dynamics of Race:** Endorsements from progressive organizations ranging from Indivisible and Progressive Democrats of America to Rise Up Western Massachusetts and Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR) show **Tahirah's** strong grassroots support and the excitement among progressive activists about her campaign. Fundraising is **Tahirah's** biggest challenge as she takes on Congressman Neal's \$2.5 million campaign war chest. At the end of the last fundraising quarter, **Tahirah** had brought in \$72,047. This race will test the strength of **Tahirah's** ground game, and her ability to channel the excitement surrounding her candidacy into foot soldiers that can reach and persuade voters across this vast district.

[Candidate List](#)

DONATE to BARBARA

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**Barbara L'Italien**  
**MA-3**

**Democratic Primary – Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Update: Lost with 15.2% of vote in a 10-way primary; came in 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Barbara** is currently a Massachusetts state senator and has been a state representative, a school committee member, an elder care social worker, and a mom on a mission to provide a better life for all, starting with our most vulnerable. When Rudy, the oldest of her four children, was diagnosed with autism, she fought for her son to get the basic services, care, and education he needed. She went on to run for the state House of Representatives in 2002, where she set out to make sure all kids with disabilities and their families are supported. She became the statewide leader on the issue, building the nation's strongest safety net for people with autism and leading on landmark legislation to allow people on the autism spectrum to get health insurance. **Barbara** has also been a leader in the fights for single-payer health care, quality public education for all children, equal marriage, better services and supports for seniors, and jobs and a fair economy. She led the charge in Massachusetts against the Kinder Morgan Pipeline, the NRA, and the school privatization industry. **Barbara's** running because our country is facing some of the biggest challenges we've ever seen. She wants to take her experience and success in Massachusetts to Washington to make sure we have a system that works for all of us, and especially those who need extra support to thrive.

#### ***On the Issues***

- **Public Education** — **Barbara** is focused on making a single system that works for every student and fighting against separate but unequal systems. The Massachusetts Teachers Association has endorsed Barbara.
- **Single-Payer Health Care** — Coverage doesn't mean access. **Barbara** wants to ensure that everyone can access the services they need.
- **Gun Control** — **Barbara** voted to make Massachusetts the toughest state on guns but Massachusetts is only as safe as its closest border. **Barbara** wants to work on exporting Massachusetts gun laws nationally, including the ban on assault weapons.

**Status of Race:** Ten candidates are running in this crowded Democratic primary to replace retiring Congresswoman Niki Tsongas. The Democratic nominee faces Republican Rick Green in an undoubtedly tough November general election. Rick Green has already been running paid negative ads against **Barbara** ahead of the Democratic primary, indicating that Republicans believe **Barbara** will win the Democratic primary. Though a Democrat is likely to win the seat, the district voted for Republicans Charlie Baker (Governor) and Scott Brown (US Senate).

**Dynamics of Race:** An August Boston Globe/UMass Lowell poll showed **Barbara** to be tied for 2nd place (at 13%) and the leading woman in the race. Dan Koh, former chief of staff to Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, polled higher (at 19%), and

**Barbara** is tied with former Ambassador to Denmark Rufus Gifford. Lori Trahan polled in 4th place (at 8%), Juana Matias in 5th (at 6%), Alexandria Chandler in 6th (at 4%) and Bopha Malone in the bottom tier (with less than 1%). The largest block of voters (29%) are still undecided with less than two weeks before the primary, meaning the race is still fluid and open.

**Barbara's** field operation is strong and active in deep democracy practices. Her campaign fully coordinates with the Yes on 1: Safe Patient Limits ballot campaign. They share door-knockers, put up each other's signs and Barbara even loans part of her campaign office to the Yes on 1 campaign.

Fundraising is **Barbara's** biggest challenge. She is being out-raised by three other candidates in the top tier: Dan Koh, Rufus Gifford and Lori Trahan. Her strong field operation gives her a strong chance to win. In these final days, if she is able to raise additional resources to reach more voters through TV and bolster an already strong field operation, she will be hard to beat.

[Candidate List](#)

DONATE to AYANNA

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**Ayanna Pressley**

**MA-07**

**Democratic Primary – Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Update: Won with 59% of the primary vote**

**Ayanna Pressley** is an advocate, a policy-maker, an activist, and survivor. Raised in Chicago, as the only child of an activist mother who instilled the value of civic participation, **Ayanna** understands the role that government should play in helping to lift up communities that are in need of the most help. Her focus as a City Councilor - stabilizing families and communities, reducing and preventing violence and trauma, combating poverty, and addressing issues that disproportionately impact women and girls - is a reflection of her 25 years in public service.

### ***On the Issues***

1. **Economic Growth and Opportunity for All** — despite a growing economy across the region, income inequality is a persistent problem that is pushing out longtime residents. **Councilor Pressley** wants to focus on creating fair economic policies that give tax relief to lower and middle-income workers, not the wealthy and big corporations. She supports expanding the earned income tax credit, social security, improving infrastructure, reforming Wall Street, supporting small business and aspiring entrepreneurs, empowering women to succeed, seeking fair and comprehensive immigration policies or fighting for family paid leave and LGBTQ right. She also wants to create good-paying jobs, that's why she supports increasing the minimum wage to \$15, major investments in workforce training, including apprenticeships and

vocational education in advanced manufacturing and technology to help young people find careers.

2. **Education** — to build a more inclusive and sustainable 21st century economy, **Councilor Pressley** will prioritize improving public schools by guaranteeing universal pre-kindergarten, debt free college, investing in school buildings, school food programs and in life-oriented education program. She believes that if we're going to arm our teachers it's with well-rounded support staff, students who are ready to learn, an environment that enables focus, the tools to teach and the salary that honors their craft
3. **Health Care and Public Safety** — protecting the Affordable Care Act and push further by-passing Medicare for all. **Councilor Pressley** will continue her fight for women's reproductive justice health, lead on ending the addiction crisis, and enabling health systems to succeed whether it addressing the mental health component of gun violence or streamlining patient data for better treatment. Unlike her opponent, she will go further on public safety by demanding gun control, improving local law enforcement, and eliminating human trafficking.

**Status of Race:** District is located in Greater Boston and includes two-thirds of the City of Boston, all of Everett, Chelsea, Randolph, and Somerville, as well as half of Cambridge and a few precincts in Milton. This is a safely held Democratic seat and the primary will determine winner.

**Dynamics of Race:** Head to head Democratic Primary against 18-year incumbent, Michael Capuano, who is generally well-liked by the establishment. Recent polls show a competitive race between **Ayanna Pressley** and Mike Capuano even though a large swath of voters have not yet heard of Ayanna. She already leads Capuano among those who know her, and we can expect her support to continue to expand as more voters become familiar with her and her story. The current political environment will also boost **Ayanna**, as Democrats are fed up with Congress and hungry for change. This sentiment is especially strong among women, younger voters and voters of color, all core constituencies for **Ayanna**. Capuano's support is below 50%, a concerning sign for any incumbent, especially in a change environment like this one. His only real election was in 1998, in a crowded field, where he earned only 23% of the vote. Her legislative achievements resulted in her being the top vote getter in three consecutive elections, making her the first woman in 30 years to achieve this distinction and the first person of color to top the ticket.

**Pressley's Campaign:** **Pressley** has launched a bold and aggressive multi-ethnic communications, grassroots, and fundraising program led by leading local and DC strategists, who raised \$100,000 one week after the campaign's launch and a total of \$364,000 by the end of first quarter. With a tough primary ahead, **Councilor Pressley** faces an incumbent, who closed out 2017 with \$700,000, therefore fundraising is the biggest challenge she faces. Her second challenge is that as a well-liked former mayor and Congressman, Capuano retains a solid reservoir of goodwill and institutional support. Explaining how **AP's** vision for the office—and what role a Congresswoman can and should play in today's politics—will be vital to winning this primary.