

From: Chris Dempsey For Auditor <info@dempseyforauditor.com>
Subject: Re: Randolph Candidate Virtual Forum Sunday May 22 @ 1 PM - 2:30 PM

I have some answers to questions below:

#6) *In the wake of overturning Roe, what can be done in Massachusetts to prevent further erosion of reproductive rights?*

Threats to reproductive equity are real, and I admire and respect how groups like Reproductive Equity Now, Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, and others have been on the front lines of expanding and securing access to reproductive care services. Continued progress on these issues is necessary for a more just and equitable Commonwealth and society.

We must ensure the full rights guaranteed by the ACCESS Law and ROE Act are available to anyone in Massachusetts, and the Office of the State Auditor can help shine a light on the gaps between those laws and reality. I believe broad and equitable access to affordable contraception is vital to individual autonomy and health equity. That's why I'm concerned about the failures outlined in the implementation of the ACCESS law which have represented a failure of our Commonwealth to fully bring the benefits of legislation to the public. As Auditor, I pledge to conduct an audit of this implementation and so we can both improve access to contraceptives to those who need them and to prevent such failures in the future.

In addition to leveraging my platform as a statewide elected official and my purview in the Auditor's office to advance equitable access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care, I will be an advocate for addressing the intersecting oppressions that impact an individual's ability to live, parent, and/or choose not to parent in a safe and sustainable community. I am viscerally aware of the link between climate harms, maternal and reproductive health outcomes, and the overall health and wellbeing of families, and I believe that solutions for mitigating the harmful impacts of climate change must center environmental justice.

Continued protection and progress is necessary for a more just and equitable Commonwealth. As State Auditor, I will be a strong, reliable, and consistent ally to those who are fighting for reproductive rights and those who depend on hard-won access to reproductive care.

#7) *What can be done in Massachusetts to protect same-sex marriage and other LGBT rights if the "right to privacy" is eroded?*

As State Auditor I will defend the marriage rights of all people, including same sex marriages. I support the Supreme Court's decision in Obergefell because it demands marriage equality, which all people have a right to. In the future, I will speak on behalf of movements such as Obergefell, attend protests, and work to eliminate discrimination.

I am proud of Massachusetts for legalizing same-sex marriages in 2004 and recognizing that it was unconstitutional to only allow opposite-sex marriages. I personally attended the first legal gay marriages in Central Square in Cambridge in May, 2004. It was inspiring to witness the expansion of civil rights -- not in the history books, but right before my eyes. It was one of the moments that I have been most proud to be from Massachusetts.

Further, I was living in New York City in the summer of 2011 when marriage equality became the law. I joined the festivities at the Stonewall Inn on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village the weekend the marriage equality became law. Years later, my sister was able to enjoy those rights when she married her wife, Beatriz Colonia, in New York City. Beatriz and Alison recently welcomed their first child. My sister's family wouldn't be legally recognized without the work of activists on the ground in Massachusetts and other states over the course of many decades.

With the recent news of Roe V. Wade likely being overturned, not only will abortion rights be taken away, but legal gay marriage will be at risk in many of those same states. While Massachusetts is not included in the 26 states, I can still be an advocate for all of the individuals who would be affected by this law and are denied the right to marriage.

#8) What are your views on the Fair Share Amendment ballot initiative?

I support the FAIR SHARE Amendment that increases the tax on income over \$1 million. As we've seen in the past, cuts to state income tax have led to lost revenue that could have been invested in our infrastructure and services.

#9) What are your views on the November ballot initiative concerning Rideshare working conditions?

I oppose this ballot question, and I am concerned that this legislation was written by corporate interests who are spending ten of millions to help it pass.

Legislation and enforcement often has difficulty keeping up with rapid changes in society and technology. The gig economy has presented some people with valuable opportunities to supplement their income, to set their own schedules, or to find the mix of employment that works for them. Unfortunately, those same flexibilities have allowed some companies to exploit these technological tools and regulatory gaps to avoid playing their part in society and in an economy based on mutual benefit to their customers and workers. Many of these gig jobs are full-time roles, but without the benefits and stability that allow employees to support a family, or even make ends meet.

As Auditor, I will find opportunities to highlight both when gig economy companies are violating existing regulations laws and to identify places where our laws and regulations need to be revised to account for services delivered in ways our laws did not expect.



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