

1st Hampshire District

Single-Payer Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate: Lindsay Sabadosa

Question #1: Do you support a Single Payer healthcare system for Massachusetts?

Yes.

Question #2: If yes, why? If no, how would you propose making health care truly affordable for everyone in your district and the Commonwealth while also bringing down the rising cost of healthcare?

Single Payer is the only way forward in Massachusetts where health care is one of the greatest causes of economic inequality. Additionally, the State is spending 42% of its budget on health care costs. Single Payer has been shown time and time again to save money while providing true universal coverage for people. Under the current legislative proposal, residents will pay 10% of their income (after the first \$30,000) toward health care, which is less than the 18% most people pay on average now.

Question #3: Please write one sentence that best expresses your current position on establishing a Single Payer system in Massachusetts.

Single Payer is the one thing the Commonwealth needs to do before all else so that we create a fairer, more equitable society and free up state funds for other areas, such as education and transportation.

Question #4: According to all research studies and the experience of other countries, a Single Payer system brings costs down while providing affordable health care for everyone. What is your biggest question or concern about establishing Single Payer in Massachusetts?

I'm mostly concerned about politicians not living up to their promises and a lack of political will to stand up to do what is best for people rather than big insurance and pharma. We need to start electing people who realize that their loyalty is to their constituents first and foremost.

Question #5: If elected, what would you do inside the Statehouse to advance Single Payer legislation and how soon would you begin? Who would you work with in your district?

Single Payer is my number one priority. I would start working on this immediately, including starting a single payer caucus. We need to identify more legislative support and bring advocates into the work in more tangible ways so we can make single payer a reality sooner rather than later.

Question #6: What do you see as the biggest obstacle(s) to passing legislation for Single Payer in the Commonwealth?

Leadership in the House, the insurance industry and big Pharma: those are challenges, but challenges we can overcome.

Question #7: If elected, will you help initiate and actively participate in a legislative caucus to advance Single Payer legislation?

Absolutely.

Candidate: Diana M. Szynal

Question #1: Do you support a Single Payer healthcare system for Massachusetts?

Yes.

Question #2: If yes, why? If no, how would you propose making health care truly affordable for everyone in your district and the Commonwealth while also bringing down the rising cost of healthcare?

Yes, I support moving towards single payer health care. We know our current healthcare system is broken. As someone who has worked in constituent services for 16 years, I can tell you that issues with health insurance are by far the most common problem I see. The wealthy seem to be able to afford good insurance as well as pay their deductibles. Most people on MassHealth seem happy with their coverage except for the occasional paperwork problems. But the folks in the middle are buckling under high premiums, high copays and crippling deductibles. We know our system is broken when we supplement health insurance with GOFUNDME drives. We need to have a system that provides fair coverage to everyone, with better access and favorable outcomes.

Question #3: Please write one sentence that best expresses your current position on establishing a Single Payer system in Massachusetts.

Let's move towards a single payer system in a way that is calculated and deliberate and insures a system that is successful, reliable, and fair.

Question #4: According to all research studies and the experience of other countries, a Single Payer system brings costs down while providing affordable health care for everyone. What is your biggest question or concern about establishing Single Payer in Massachusetts?

Can we create a system that is fair while keeping outcomes successful and costs manageable?

Question #5: If elected, what would you do inside the Statehouse to advance Single Payer legislation and how soon would you begin? Who would you work with in your district?

I would begin right away by aligning myself with legislators who are already advocates for single payer. The first critical step is to begin looking at the feasibility of single payer. Luckily in my work for State Representative Peter Kocot I already have established relationships with staff of the Committee on Health Care Finance so I can rely on them for information. In the District, I would work with Western Mass. Medicare For All.

Question #6: What do you see as the biggest obstacle(s) to passing legislation for Single Payer in the Commonwealth?

Honestly, fear of the unknown. While most people are not happy with the current state of healthcare I think there is apprehension among many citizens about giving up the plans they currently have. That's why solid information about how this can be implemented, how it will change things, and how much it will cost is imperative.

Question #7: If elected, will you help initiate and actively participate in a legislative caucus to advance Single Payer legislation?

Yes, absolutely. And there is no time to waste.