

3rd Hampshire District

Single-Payer Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate: Mindy Domb

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?

I believe access to healthcare is a fundamental human right, and that health care consists of a comprehensive spectrum of services which include medical care, medicine, vision care, mental health services, drug and alcohol treatment, dental care, comfort/palliative care. I believe people should be able to live with dignity and die with dignity. I am concerned by skyrocketing prices in health care and medicine as well as the limits that thwart access to options for care.

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

I wholeheartedly support establishing a single payer system for health care as a strategy to make health care available to everyone regardless of income or employment status, as well as a potentially effective method to save critical funding that can be used to support other needs in the Commonwealth.

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?

My questions involve the specifics of the transition from our current system to single payer as well as the challenges around portability and ensuring insurance coverage for Massachusetts residents (with universal coverage) who travel or move to other states. I am also interested in how we will help private insurance workforce translate their skills to the public marketplace.

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?

Inside the Statehouse I hope to work in concert with and in support of other legislators who have been leaders on this issue like Reps. Garlick and Eldridge. I would also support and hopefully join a Legislative Caucus on the issue. I would work with other legislators and advocates to move legislation on this issue, and would embrace opportunities to expand and build the coalition of people interested and supportive of single payer.

In the 3rd Hampshire District, I would work with advocates, researchers (economists, public policy, resource economists and others), medical providers, mental health counselors, patients, municipal financial planners, the Massachusetts Teachers Association and other municipal union members, administrators at the new community health center in Amherst, patients, students.

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

In terms of building public support, myths about single payer can thwart success. These myths cause fears around losing coverage, being denied needed care, limited access, and concerns that it will cost more than the current system. Lobbying against the change by the private insurance industry presents significant challenges, as well as concerns about the potential loss of jobs for people currently employed by the private insurance industry.

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

Yes.

Candidate: Eric Nakajima

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, quite simply, the fairest and most reasonable way to ensure that everyone can benefit from high quality medical care regardless of circumstance, stage of life or employment. Our current system is irrational, wasteful and at times, needlessly cruel - it needs to be remade with a more affordable, universal health care system - single payer.

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

I am in favor of passing and implementing single pay healthcare in Massachusetts and believe we must advocate energetically to do so.

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?

My biggest concern is practical/political: how do we expand the number of representatives and senators in purple districts in Massachusetts who will work with us to pass a single payer act? I would like to work on practical outreach and advocacy to bring over wavering or skeptical representatives.

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?

There are two basic things to do inside the State House, as I see it: 1. Organize and strengthen the coalition of single payer supporters and keep folks focused and engaged (a caucus would help with this), and, 2. Engage skeptical legislators with clear arguments/facts about how we can transition to a single payer system mitigating impacts on existing workers and realizing cost savings that are inherent in the single-payer system. In the District, I would enjoy working with Gerald Friedman of UMass (who is supporting my campaign) as well as other advocates in the area with MassCare/Medicareforall. There is a robust community of activists to engage

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

The insurance lobby and its influence in the House is probably the biggest obstacle. I think a ballot initiative may be necessary to push the effort forward.

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

Yes - I would be proud to work with colleagues in support of a single payer legislative caucus.