

# 2021 Endorsement Questionnaire



## For the 19th Suffolk District Special Election

**Instructions:** We estimate this questionnaire will take about 1-2 hours to complete, depending on your familiarity with all the progressive & transparency issues we raise. This questionnaire isn't designed to have trick questions or to require you to become an expert in every legalistic detail of the bills we are asking whether you support. We expect if you aren't familiar with a bill or issue that you'll be able to quickly get a basic lay activist understanding of the issue before the legislature and answer at that level. If there are concerns you have with a bill you can state them. We think the answer to all these questions is "Yes" but a single "No" answer won't disqualify you, we want to get a holistic and honest assessment of you as a candidate and gauge what sort of legislator you will be. We have endorsed candidates who did not have a perfect questionnaire before.

This questionnaire will be made public, except questions 9-17.

When you have completed the questionnaire, you can email it to [matt@actonmass.org](mailto:matt@actonmass.org). We encourage you to simply make a copy and edit it in google docs.

The deadline for consideration in our first round of endorsements is May 31st

## Part I: Campaign Information

Act on Mass aims to endorse candidates who will increase engagement of voters with the MA State House rather than discourage voters from making hard asks of their legislators. Running a strong field-driven, grassroots campaign is an essential step to increasing voter engagement and encouraging accountability of State Representatives. Thus, we ask how many voters candidates have phonebanked, how many they intend to phonebank, and if they have the resources to reach their voters. Act on Mass reserves the right to pause on endorsing a candidate until they have proven their campaign's capacity to engage voters but are willing to provide guidance and resources to help campaigns reach appropriate field metrics for victory.

Questions 9-17 will be kept strictly confidential.

1. **Date:** 1/29/2021
2. **Candidate Name:** Juan Jaramillo
3. **Office Sought:** State Representative (19th Suffolk)
4. **Party:** Democrat
5. **Website:** JuanForRep.com
6. **Twitter:** @JuanForRep
7. **Facebook:** Facebook.com/JuanForRep
8. **Other Social Media:** @JuanForRep - Instagram

## Part II: Progressive Issues

Act on Mass aims to endorse candidates who will champion key progressive legislation and in particular, fight to ensure that “must-have” legislation for each issue area is either voted on favorably by the House or voted on the record at least once during the 2-year term. Thus we expect a written commitment to stand for roll call and vote in favor of these bills, whether presented for a vote as a bill or amendment.

**Will you as a State Representative commit to standing for roll call and voting in favor of the following pieces of legislation, regardless of whether presented as a bill or an amendment?**

- Mark “Yes” if you commit to standing for roll call as well as voting in favor of the bill.
- Mark “Roll Call Only” if you commit to standing for roll call, but either oppose the underlying legislation or are undecided. You may add comments at the end of this section to explain any answers, but please keep your answers as brief as possible.
- Mark “No” if you are certain to vote against the bill and not stand for roll call on it.

Category	Bill Link	Short Title	Full Title	Yes	No	Stand for Roll call Only
Education	<a href="#">H.1221</a>	Debt-Free Public Higher Ed	An Act to Guarantee Debt-free Public Higher Education	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education	<a href="#">H.431</a>	Moratorium on high stakes testing	An Act to place a moratorium on high stakes testing	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Immigration	<a href="#">H.3012</a>	Driver's licenses for all	The Work and Family Mobility Act	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Immigration	<a href="#">H.3573</a>	Safe Communities Act	An Act to Protect the Civil Rights and Safety of all MA Residents	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Labor	<a href="#">H.1610</a>	Stop wage theft	An Act to prevent wage theft, promote employer accountability, and enhance public enforcement	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Labor	<a href="#">H.3809</a>	Fair scheduling	An Act relative to the scheduling of employees	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Labor	<a href="#">H.1602</a>	The right to strike	An Act protecting the right to strike	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Healthcare	<a href="#">H.1194</a>	Medicare for All	An Act Establishing Medicare for all in Massachusetts	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing	<a href="#">H.3924</a>	Tenant Protection Act & Lift the Ban on Rent Control	An Act enabling local options for tenant protections & lift the ban on rent control	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Category	Bill Link	Short Title	Full Title	Yes	No	Stand for Roll call Only
Housing	<a href="#">H.1537</a>	Right to Counsel	An Act establishing a right to counsel in certain eviction cases	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CJR	<a href="#">H.1520</a>	Life without Parole	An Act repealing mandatory life without parole	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CJR	<a href="#">H.1486</a>	Age of criminal majority to 21	An act to reduce recidivism among emerging adults	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LGBTQ	<a href="#">H.410</a>	Healthy Youth Act	An Act relative to healthy youth	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender	<a href="#">H.639</a>	Campaign Childcare	An Act Supporting Parents Running for Public Office	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Election Laws	<a href="#">H.685</a>	Same Voter Day Registration	An Act Relative to Election Day Registration	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Election Laws	<a href="#">S.2654</a>	Vote by Mail	An Act establishing vote by mail in 2020	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Justice	<a href="#">H.86</a>	Fair Share Amendment	Fair Share Amendment	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Justice	<a href="#">H.2424</a>	Capital Gains & Minimum corporate tax	An Act to strengthen the foundation of the Commonwealth	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate	<a href="#">H.2836</a>	100% Renewable energy by 2045	An Act re-powering Massachusetts with 100 percent renewable energy	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate	<a href="#">Pledge</a>	Green New Deal	Have you taken Sunrise's Green New Deal Pledge, and will you stand for a recorded vote and vote in favor of Green New Deal legislation once introduced?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

**Space for any notes/comments (please be brief, we award no points for writing lengthy explanations here, and there is no problem with leaving this section blank if you believe the answers above are clear)**

As a current Political Coordinator for SEIU, Local 32BJ, I am proud to be already fighting for some of these very important issues and look forward to continuing to advocate and push for their passing on a state level, should I be elected the next State Representative for the 19th Suffolk district.

## Part III: Transparency Issues

Act on Mass' core mission is to hold the State House accountable to grassroots activists, unions, and voters. One of the major barriers to this are the House rules on transparency. Thus, we aim to endorse candidates who are committed to fighting for rule changes in January 2021 that will enable transparency in the State House. Given these are transparency rules and there is only one short period at the beginning of the session that they will be discussed or voted on, we expect all votes to be taken on the record as an amendment.

1. Will you sign the ["Voters Deserve to Know" Pledge](#)?

**Yes** No

2. Will you commit to joining a group of State Reps who take turns covering shifts to watchdog informal sessions and ensuring that controversial legislation isn't passed until the full house can consider it?

**Yes** No

3. Will you vote in favor of the 3 transparency amendments Act on Mass is proposing as part of our transparency is power campaign? [Overview here](#)

Full text of the proposals here: [Amendment #1](#) / [Amendment #2](#) / [Amendment #3](#)

**Yes** No

**For questions 4 through 19: Will you as a State Rep commit to standing for roll call & voting in favor of the following changes to the House & Joint rules**

### Committee transparency:

4. Make all committee votes public, including votes to send bills to study

**Yes** No

5. Publish all House & Joint committee votes on the website, like the Senate does

**Yes** No

6. Make public who submitted testimony to committee

**Yes** No

7. Make all testimony submitted to committee publicly available

**Yes** No

8. All committee polls must stay open 2 hours (within business hours)

**Yes** No

### Give Legislators & the Public time to weigh in:

9. Give Reps 72 hours to read bills before voting

**Yes** No

10. Give Reps 24 hours during which they can file amendments, and notification when it is possible to file amendments.

**Yes** No

11. All amendments must be available on the State House website for 30 minutes before they are voted on

**Yes** No

### Floor vote transparency:

12. Lower the threshold for roll call from 16 Reps to 8 Reps

**Yes** No

13. Maintain the practice of livestreaming informal House sessions as is practice while the State House is closed for public health reasons.

**Yes** No

14. No committee hearings scheduled during the same time as formal session (except in emergency circumstances)

**Yes** No

## Reducing concentration of power to the Speaker:

15. Restore 8 year term limits for the position of Speaker

Yes  No

16. Establish something similar to “Priority Bills” in the Nebraska legislature, which allows each legislator to designate one bill per session as their priority. Priority bills generally have their hearings before other bills and must have a floor debate.

Yes  No

17. Select Chairs of committees through a process similar to Nebraska, where a secret ballot is used on the floor to elect a chair. (We expect the Speaker would still make recommendations that would mostly be accepted)

Yes  No

18. Lowering or flattening the pay structure between rank and file Reps, Chairs, and Vice Chairs

Yes  No

19. Professionalizing committee staff & having the equivalent of CBO, nonpartisan Legislative Budget Office to serve members & public with information.

Yes  No

**Space for any notes/comments (please be brief, we award no points for writing lengthy explanations here, and there is no problem with leaving this section blank if you believe the answers above are clear)**

In relation to the questions above, while some work has been done, the Massachusetts State House still has work to do to improve transparency. I have always and will always continue to push for strong transparency within the State Legislature. It is imperative that electeds serve the will and the right of the people - always - and that can be made possible by ensuring they are held accountable for their votes and actions.