



Progressive Democrats OF MASSACHUSETTS

www.ProgressiveDemsOfMass.org

January 2010

Dear Friends and Fellow Progressive Democrats:

Welcome to the new year! It's been nearly seven years since we founded Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts. We've achieved a great deal together — electing progressive Democrats in the Governor's Office and in the White House **for the first time in decades**; growing an increasingly influential group of progressives in the state legislature; and building a more and more skilled and experienced network of progressive activists around the state.

We are as committed as ever to building an enduring grassroots network ready to tackle both electoral campaigns and issue advocacy. Last year we expanded our presence at the Democratic State Convention, played leadership roles to help progressives in local races across the state, and won key victories in revenue reform. **In Chelmsford, that reform helped put over \$418,631 into a cash-strapped budget.**

But we recognize we have a long way to go. **Pundits and polls are predicting Democratic setbacks in 2010. The progressives we've elected will need our help to hold their seats, and our advocacy to remain truly progressive.** We need to keep growing the progressive ranks in the legislature and in local governments. And we have only seen some first small steps toward enacting a progressive policy agenda for Massachusetts.

To keep moving forward, PDM needs your continued commitment and effort. And to start with, we need you to renew your membership in PDM today, and to contribute as generously as you can. Without your support, we cannot continue our trainings and meetings, our participation in progressive alliances, and our outreach efforts to expand our networks.

As we look to the future, PDM will continue to focus where we have had the greatest impacts in the past:

- Cultivating grassroots leaders
- Electing progressives to state and local office
- Framing and advocating for key state and local progressive issues
- Building a supportive network of progressive activists across the state

At the heart of all these efforts are our network of grassroots activists, our local PDM chapters, and our strategy of relational organizing that builds enduring organizations on shared commitment to our core values. Building on these fundamentals, we plan to continue:

- Trainings on electoral and issues work — enclosed you will find a ticket to our next training, on Sunday, January 24, at the Cary Memorial Library in Lexington.
- Our new online support for aPebble.com, the free grassroots organizing tool that the Deval Patrick campaign is using, and that we'll use for our own campaigns.
- Identifying and supporting progressives in key races around the state (in particular our biennial PDM Half Dozen legislative races)
- Leadership and participation in state coalitions supporting progressive issues (like health care and corporate tax reform)
- Cross-chapter efforts to strengthen local electoral and issues campaigns
- Recruitment, training and advocacy for candidates and campaign leaders in local and legislative races

In 2010, we are determined to concentrate on growing our network of activists and increasing our effectiveness in legislative and issues campaigns. PDM volunteers carry out the greatest part of this work, and we look to each of you for your continuing energy and time. But we also need money to keep the organization functioning – to pay for meeting space and trainers, for mailings and communications, for our membership dues to the Mass Alliance, and for the modest staffing needed for organizational maintenance.

So, please use the enclosed envelope to send in your annual dues and please add your generous contribution today.

Thank you for all that you do.

Progressively yours,

Peter Enrich, Lexington
Executive Committee

P.S. Please read the enclosed tributes to PDM from some of the progressive legislators we have helped to elect and then to devise and implement a progressive agenda for Massachusetts. Thanks to all of you, we will continue to make a difference!

Enclosures (training ticket, aPebble card, 2 letters)