



*We are progressive organizers and activists*

### **Our Mission**

To promote economic, social, and environmental justice, truly democratic government (*i.e., government of, by, and for the people*), and progressive values in Massachusetts. We do this through sustained grassroots work at the state and local levels on issues, supporting progressive candidates, and enhancing the knowledge, capacity, and effectiveness of activists through Forums, training workshops, network building, and collaboration with other progressive organizations.

### **Grassroots Activists**

Grassroots activity is burgeoning and redefining the political landscape. While the current surge of progressive activism is vital, too often when the crisis abates or the campaign season ends, volunteer networks fray and momentum is lost. We believe grassroots activism must span election cycles.

### **Electoral and Issue Advocacy**

PDM members work together in our own communities and across the state to elect progressive candidates and build capacity to support our priorities.

### **Networking and Training**

PDM hosts local and statewide events, including Forums and receptions, to connect our members and expand our network, help develop our skills, and deepen our knowledge about issues and candidates.

### **Online Forums**

In January 2021, PDM launched a monthly series of public policy discussions about the major challenges facing Massachusetts, covering a diverse set of topics ranging from criminal justice to plastic reduction. Expert panelists frame and examine the current situation and discuss legislative and other steps we can take to improve lives in the Commonwealth. Beginning in January 2022, those discussions have included interviews with candidates for state offices, including for Governor, Auditor, Attorney General, and Secretary of the Commonwealth; these interviews have

informed our endorsement process. Recordings of all Forums to date may be viewed at this link: <https://www.progressivedemsofmass.org/forums/> Recordings of our recent and future Forums are also available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@PDMforums>

## **Work in Coalitions**

PDM is an active member of key coalitions of progressive organizations.

- **Mass Alliance:** two dozen leading progressive groups working together to identify, support, and elect progressive candidates for office;
- **Raise Up Massachusetts:** a broad-based alliance of community, labor, and faith-based groups pursuing an agenda of key worker- and economic-justice issues; and
- **Common Start:** promoting universal, affordable, high-quality early education and child care

## **PDM 2023-2024 Issues Agenda**

We have active working groups in several key areas. In each area, we work together with coalition partners to advance specific measures, whether through supporting legislation, local action, or on the ballot.

- **Revenue** Our state faces many critical needs that require additional state revenues—underfunded public schools, high costs for early education and child care, crumbling roads and bridges, crippled public transit, unaffordable housing, and more. The Raise Up Massachusetts (RUM) coalition’s successful campaign for the Fair Share Amendment will raise over \$1 billion annually in new revenues that will help meet urgent needs with an additional tax on people with incomes of over \$1 million. PDM was an active partner in this campaign. PDM supports other tax law changes that will make our tax system fairer and generate additional, needed revenue, including corporate tax reform.
- **Legislative Reform Working Group** In 2020, PDM formed the Legislative Reform Working Group to investigate and strategize on how to address the dysfunction of our state Legislature. This broad coalition of concerned stakeholders has documented the strengths and weaknesses of the Legislature along with best practices from other legislatures. It is now participating in an even broader and more diverse Coalition to Reform Our Legislature to identify goals and strategies for achieving meaningful change to make our Legislature more effectively serve us all.

- **Public Education Working Group (PEWG)** PDM supports the Common Start bill (H.489 & S.301) for improved access, affordability, and quality in early childhood education and child care. A primary focus of the working group has been the issue of fair and adequate access to the state's vocational/technical schools. These schools offer a hands-on educational approach for secondary school students, designed to equip students to enter trades and occupations that don't require a college degree. But at present, there are far too few seats in these schools, resulting in thousands of students languishing on waiting lists. Worse, most of these schools rely on selective admissions criteria that discriminatorily disfavor many of the students who would most benefit from these programs. PDM is active in two statewide coalitions that are fighting to expand capacity and end discriminatory admissions policies.
- **Campaign Finance and Voting Reform** PDM supports efforts to reduce the influence of money in our elections and protect the integrity of our votes. We support overturning the Supreme Court decisions that opened the floodgates for huge, anonymous spending, and meanwhile, we seek strategies — like public funding — to circumvent them. We advocate for voting by mail, early voting, and same-day registration, as well as other measures to modernize voter registration, increase turnout, and ensure access to the ballot for everyone. PDM endorsed the adoption of ranked-choice voting (*RCV*) for Massachusetts elections and worked with Voter Choice Massachusetts to advance this important improvement in our system for electing candidates. Despite the unsuccessful ballot question in 2020, PDM will continue to support this important reform and efforts to revisit the issue with better outreach and education at the local level.
- **Housing** PDM has formed a Housing Working Group that is working to develop a comprehensive housing reform strategy. A multi-pronged approach is needed that addresses affordability, keeping people housed, increasing production, and reducing barriers to construction of housing, including multi-family housing. PDM is hosting a series of Forums on housing to build knowledge and move toward action.

### **Endorsing Progressive Leaders**

PDM's endorsement task force will review candidates for statewide offices, state legislative races, and other positions to recommend a targeted set of endorsements in races where we can help build progressive power in 2024.

### **Join Us in Building Political Power!**

Our success as a volunteer organization depends upon your support and engagement. To learn more, please visit our website:  
<https://www.progressivedemsofmass.org/> Sign up there to receive our email action alerts (*we're volunteers, too busy to flood your inbox...!*) You can also sign up to become a sustaining member and participate in our decision-making process about issues and candidates. Please join us! Welcome!

### **Contact Us**

Reach out by email to:

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or by USPS to:

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### **Statewide Coordinating Committee**

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*Celebrating 20 years of progressive activism | 2003-2023*

*Since 2003, we've been focused on local and statewide issues, candidates, and training to promote social justice, political reform, and progressive values throughout the Commonwealth*

[www.progressivedemsofmass.org](https://www.progressivedemsofmass.org)