



Progressive Impact Report 2017

Seeing a Better Future

You have been inspiring this year. Election night 2016 was tough for us, as I'm sure it was for all of you. Across the country we saw progressive candidates lose to the worst regressive voices. People who were unabashedly peddling racist policies, moving backward on choice and equality. People who do not believe in science, let alone climate change, and who with straight faces call for the end of minimum wage and labor laws.



You inspire us with how ready you are to dig in and win. Because of you we are better positioned to make this Commonwealth a true beacon of hope to those who want to see what a progressive future could look like.

This fight hasn't been without significant setbacks and it won't be without more to come. There may be fights amongst ourselves, which are often even more hurtful than the other losses we must endure. What Mass Alliance has taught me is the power of

What worried me was the day after the election. With so much despair, would people have enough vision and energy to get up out of bed ready to fight the long fight we

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have ahead of us? I feared that it would be a slow year, full of resignation about our future.

But here we are, nearly a year later, and we are stronger than we were on election night.

We are stronger because of you. You saw the despair and came back armed with hope and love. On day one, you were ready to march in

the streets, spend your evenings training to win future campaigns, and give your weekends over to fighting progressive battles on every front.

working through that together. Our 27 member groups aren't predestined to work together. They do so because they see a better future. One with true equality, uplifting opportunity for everyone, an environment that protects our health and enhances our lives, and people free from the worries of poorly paid work, disintegrating schools, and health care so expensive it is unaffordable even with health insurance.

We make mistakes, we aren't as careful with one another as we should be, and we have genuine disagreements with no right answer. But despite our humanity we move forward through Mass Alliance toward our shared vision for the future. That gives me hope for the progressive community and for the world.

Our members are just one part of Mass Alliance. We can only do this work with your help as well. Your shoe leather electing our progressive champions, your reimagining of what your communities could be, your commitment to attending our trainings and building the skills to get there, and your donations. Your contributions make up over three-quarters of our annual budget. You make this happen.

We are so thankful for you, for all you do to lead the next progressive movement. Now more than ever is the time to dig in and win the future we want.

Progressive Municipal Electeds Network. Mass Alliance is expanding its support to progressive elected officials through its Progressive Municipal Electeds Network. The network is bringing together progressive municipal officials across the Commonwealth to share best practices and plan progressive change from the ground up. If you know a progressive municipal elected in your area that should be plugged into the network, have them reach out to Becca at becca@massalliance.org!

See page 3 for profiles of 2017 municipal candidates endorsed and supported by Mass Alliance!

More Trainings Sessions than Ever!

This year Mass Alliance put on more trainings – way more trainings – than any time in our history. Municipal election years allow us to spread out across the Commonwealth and meet demand in your communities. In these years, we do more of our Getting Ready to Run Training, our signature Grassroots Campaign Training, and personalized trainings we organize with you, tailored to the needs and goals of the group requesting them. Meeting demand in past municipal election years has meant 10 to 12 trainings.

Your thirst for training this year has blown us away. Because of you we have filled over 30 trainings this year across the Commonwealth. From community groups looking to maximize their effectiveness as they grab the energy of the moment to full Grassroots Campaign Trainings, we have struggled to keep up.

This year we held our first-ever full-day Grassroots Campaign Training on the Cape, focused on building power with communities of color in Lynn and Chelsea, and even joined your organizing energy in smaller communities like Littleton. We've been as far west as Holyoke and Greenfield, as far east as Hyannis, and everything in between. Grassroots Campaign Trainings give the basics of grassroots campaigning from some of the best political minds in Massachusetts.

Our Getting Ready to Run Training works with you to train future elected officials on what they can do today to prepare to run 2 to 10 years from now.

Newer to our training program are custom trainings with you. Get a group together and we will partner with you to train them on the best techniques for understanding and building power. This year, we've even partnered with youth groups to create plans for young people to get involved in actively moving the progressive issues they're passionate about forward. If we don't have the expertise a group is looking for, we work to find someone to train with us who does.

We are so thankful you have also stepped up to support this service to the progressive community. Our smaller training programs are offered for free, with our trainers providing their expertise out of a commitment to the community, and our larger training fees cover only the bare minimum to provide the training.

We offer sliding entry fees so that no one will be unable to take advantage of this resource due to an inability to pay. Each year the cost to put on the trainings are more than the money we take in. Because of this, we would have been unable to sustain our busiest training year ever without you. Your support has allowed us to expand to meet the increased demand for this service. You allowed us to say to local community activists, "no cost to you, just bring excited community members."

That commitment to be on the ground with you, providing our expertise to strengthen the great work you are doing, is made possible by donations to Mass Alliance.



For more information on Mass Alliance campaign training programs please visit MassAlliance.org/training

Meet our 2017 Municipal Candidates



Lydia Edwards, Boston City Council, District 1. Lydia has an extensive history of successful community organizing and lobbying for progressive policies. As a public interest attorney with Greater Boston Legal Services, Lydia was instrumental in securing the passage of the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, combatting human trafficking, and other important social justice fights. She was then hired as deputy director of the Mayor's Office of Housing Stability, working to fight displacement of current Boston residents and build affordable housing stock in the city.



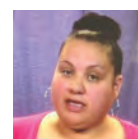
Nicole Castillo, Newton City Council, Ward 1 At-Large. Nicole has made a career of social justice, working for nearly a decade as a domestic and sexual violence victim advocate and now serving as the Director of Policy and Public Affairs for the Mass Alliance on Teen Pregnancy. She is a member of three nonprofit boards, including organizations that address domestic and sexual violence, abortion care, and LGBTQ youth.



Jynai McDonald, Springfield City Councilor At-Large. Born and raised in Springfield, Jynai has committed her work life to rebuilding the Springfield economy while rebuilding lives. In her role at Training Resources of America, she connects new Americans, young parents, and the chronically unemployed to training and employment. Jynai is also a small business owner, a volunteer with the Springfield Public Schools, and a mentor to young women.



Sumbul Siddiqui, Cambridge City Council. Sumbul immigrated to the United States from Karachi, Pakistan, when she was two. Her family was fortunate enough to win a lottery to enter the Cambridge affordable housing system. A product of Cambridge public schools she became president of her student body at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. She went on to co-found the Cambridge Youth Involvement Subcommittee, now the Cambridge Youth Council. She later became a lawyer working for the public interest at Greater Boston Legal Services.



Damali Vidot, Chelsea City Councilor-At-Large. Raised and educated in Chelsea public schools, Damali is a proud mom, homeowner, former youth worker and an at-large City Councilor. Having experienced financial hardships and a street culture that holds too many hostage, she chose to invest in her community as it had in her. In 2015, Mass Alliance was proud to support Damali and play a small part in her historic victory. We are proud to work to keep her on the City Council.



Vatsady Sivongxay, Cambridge City Council. Vatsady's passion to serve is rooted her story. At age two, she and her family secretly fled Laos to escape unrest in the aftermath of the Vietnam War, settling in Thailand and then in a safer camp in Philippines. "Being forcibly displaced from your home and country is one of the most traumatic experiences that a family can go through, and we felt so vulnerable. You can imagine our relief when we found out that we would get to come to the United States." Though they struggled as many immigrants do, she learned the importance of a supportive diverse community to break down barriers and protect the most vulnerable.



Dimple Rana, Revere City Council Councilor-At-Large. A first-generation Indian-American, Dimple grew up in Revere, attending public schools and working in her family's small, independent convenience stores in the North Shore. In high school she worked as a peer leader with local youth organizations that fostered her love for youth leadership and organizing. After graduating from Hofstra University, she returned to Greater Boston and became a community organizer, working with many organizations focused on HIV/AIDS prevention, and LBGTQ and immigrants rights. She currently serves as the Director of the City's department of Healthy Community Initiatives.



Dante Comparotto, Worcester School Committee. 17 years ago Dante overcame homelessness and addiction and turned his life around. He finished college, became a community advocate, started a successful small business, and helped create Stand Up for Kids Worcester to help homeless and at-risk youth. Dante organized parents at Elm Park Community School and helped improve parental engagement as co-chair of the Citywide Parent Planning Advisory Council. Dante recently worked on the Save Our Public Schools – No on Question 2 campaign to ensure that Massachusetts continues to invest in our public schools.



Jennifer Wilson, Littleton School Committee. Jen had been involved with a small group of progressive-minded residents in Littleton who were looking to become more effective advocates on a range of local issues, including education policy, the environment, and good government. On May 6, 2017, after months of running the sort of data-driven field campaign rarely seen in small-town Massachusetts, Jen was declared the winner of the open seat by five votes.

To get the full list of the 41-plus 2017 candidates endorsed by Mass Alliance, please visit massalliance.org/candidates.



1199 SEIU Massachusetts

American Federation
of Teachers, MA

Boston Teachers Union

Clean Water Action

Coalition for Social Justice

Democratic Socialists
of America, Boston

MA Chapter, National
Organization for Women

Massachusetts Fair Share

Mass-Care

MassEquality

Mass Gay & Lesbian
Political Caucus

Mass Peace Action

Mass Teachers Association

NARAL Pro-Choice
Massachusetts

National Association
of Social Workers

Neighbor to Neighbor MA

Planned Parenthood
Advocacy Fund

Progressive Democrats
of Massachusetts

Progressive Massachusetts

SEIU 32BJ District 615

SEIU Local 509

SEIU Local 888

SEIU Massachusetts
State Council

Sierra Club, MA

United Auto Workers
Region 9A

Young Democrats
of Massachusetts

Join Us on November 16 for Celebration of Progressive Champions 2017

Every year we are proud to bring together the largest progressive post-election celebration in Massachusetts. It is a time to come together, to hug when needed, to put faces to names we see on Facebook and email, and to plan together for the future.

Last year we heard an inspiring sermon from Boston City Councilor Ayanna Pressley, who refocused us on the fight to come. In a dark moment, her words gave us the strength and determination we all needed. Past post-election celebrations have featured former Gov. Deval Patrick, Treasurer Deb Goldberg, Congresswoman Katherine Clark, and Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Don't miss out this year as we come together on November 16, 2017, to celebrate our municipal victories and plan for an important election in 2018!

Looking Ahead to 2018

A woman of color, running in a traditionally conservative district, reached out to Mass Alliance a few days after the election. "I want to run for the State Rep seat here." She had told a few friends and people she trusted, who suggested she reach out to us.

Planning began immediately. We met to put together a two-year plan. We checked in on the status of her fundraising list, started work on a website, found a designer, did a messaging training and even a quick door knocking training with future volunteers.

She hasn't announced yet, but she is one of many candidates already preparing their run for the 2018 election.

We were there because your support brought on Becca Glenn, our Recruitment and Advocacy Manager, who had been working to find a candidate in this key district. You were there recommending Mass Alliance to this person. And we know you will be there knocking doors, making phone calls and giving needed donations to support her campaign next year.

The 2018 election cycle is already in full swing, with special elections in progress to replace State Senator James Timilty, State Senator Jen Flanagan, and State Representative Brian Dempsey.

Progressive candidates challenging conservatives in next year's September and November elections are already at record numbers for this time, and our schedule of planning meetings across the commonwealth is busier than ever.

With your help, we hope to have our biggest, most successful state election cycle ever. We are poised to stave off the off-year election cycle syndrome that occurs between presidential years and advance progressive gains even further. With your support, we will send a clear message to the state house that the slow pace of change and even acquiescence to the Trump agenda is unacceptable.

Working Together for a Progressive Massachusetts

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