

A PROGRESSIVE PATH FORWARD

The People's Budget



People's Budget Resolution

An Act to establish a commission to report on the people's budget

H.3220 (Rep. Livingstone); S.1659 (Sen. Feeney)

malegislature.gov/Bills/191/SD1307

A budget is a statement of values. The People's Budget is an alternative Federal Budget created by the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Instead of economic policy that benefits a few, in the People's Budget corporations and wealthy individuals pay their fair share of taxes and the bloated military budget is reduced to adequately fund the pressing human needs of the vast majority in the United States.

Forty years of conservative government has convinced the American public that there is no money to accomplish big things such as healthcare for all, free public college, a green new deal, a 21st century transportation system, affordable housing, a living wage, a just immigration system, among many other things.

The People's Budget answers the question that follows any bold policy agenda: *How are you going to pay for it?*

In the wealthiest country in the world we have abundant resources but must fundamentally restructure how we spend these resources.

A 2019 Oxfam report made the case that making taxes fairer will help address many of the world's ills. Even if the world's richest 1 percent paid just 0.5 percent extra tax on their wealth, this would generate far more than it would cost to educate the 262 million children out of school, and provide life-saving health care for 3.3 million people. According to executive director Winnie Byanyima, "Governments must now deliver real change by ensuring corporations and wealthy individuals pay their fair share of tax and investing this money in free health care and education that meets the needs of everyone — including women and girls whose needs are so often overlooked."

Why do we need the "People's Budget" here in Massachusetts?

- 2.9 million residents in Massachusetts are poor or low income (43%)
 - ❖ Includes 707,000 children (50%)
 - ❖ 1.6 million women (46%)
 - ❖ 1.1 million people of color (63%)
 - ❖ 1.8 million white people (36%)
- From 1979-2012 income for the top 1% grew by 334% while the income for the bottom 99% increased by 33%.
- Under President Trump's tax law, the richest 1% of Massachusetts residents are expected to receive 31% of the benefits, their tax cut in 2027 is expected to be \$12,230, while the poorest 20% are expected to pay \$50 more.

- Massachusetts' contribution to the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and beyond totals \$181 billion since 2001, wars that we have not "won," and have not made us safer. Meanwhile investments in education, health care and the environmental protections—that would make us safer— are dramatically underfunded.

How would a "People's Budget" potentially impact Massachusetts?

Seeing is believing. In addition to encouraging our Massachusetts delegation to support the People's Budget, if HD. 294 & SD.1307 passes the Massachusetts legislature will establish a commission to study the impact it would have across all sectors in the Commonwealth. The commission has six months to report the findings. This can then be used as an educational tool to help people start to envision and implement an alternative budget.

A few highlights of The People's Budget:

- Gives \$12 billion to the states to transition to a Medicare for All healthcare system.
- Invests \$2 trillion across the states to eliminate our lead-contaminated water system, address our overburdened mass transit system, and rebuild our schools, crumbling roads, and bridges.
- Invests \$12.8 billion to end family homelessness
- Closes tax loopholes and ends subsidies provided to oil, gas and coal companies
- Strengthens the Small Business Administration's ability to provide support to America's small business owners
- Expands access to mental health care and treatments for opioid and heroin addiction
- Taxes Wall Street to fund Main Street
- Transforms our fossil-fuel energy system to ensure our children have an inhabitable planet, and provides funding for worker re-training and apprenticeship programs.

The People's Budget had the largest number of votes in 2018 and as progressives grow in number, will increasingly become a reality. By studying how this budget will impact some of the persistent problems we face in Massachusetts such as affordable housing, income and wealth inequality, inadequate funding for mental health, we will build support and pass a federal budget that will lead to a more equitable, healthy and fair society and increase quality of life here in Massachusetts.

More Info: Read the entire People's Budget <https://cpc-grijalva.house.gov/the-peoples-budget-a-progressive-path-forward-fy-2019/>