



Candidate Questionnaires

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Dr. Katie McBrine, Candidate for State Senate, Plymouth & Norfolk District

1) If elected/re-elected, what legislative, community, or economic accomplishments do you hope to achieve?

My priority legislative goal is to reform health care by adopting a universal coverage program. The current system is cumbersome, hugely expensive both for businesses and individuals, and does not provide easy, equitable access to high quality care. This is a failure of policy, and Beacon Hill must work to resolve it, immediately. As with personal debt, which breeds economic insecurity, insufficient or burdensome health care jeopardizes the productivity and very well-being of workers and families, and growth potential for businesses. This situation has massive implications on our economy. The impact of reforming the system is profound: among many advantages of a universal healthcare system is that lower administrative costs translate into cost-savings. It is time that Massachusetts takes these steps to restore reason to the system and demonstrate that people are the priority.

2) How will your election help small businesses or the South Shore's business climate?

As business owners consider investments and labor conditions, they look to Beacon Hill for clarity: what are the policy/economic goals, and what tools will government deploy/adopt to achieve them? For example, Massachusetts must accelerate its transition to green energy. Small businesses are key to this transformation. The federal government is pulling back on the industry, but there is extraordinary opportunity on the South Shore for invention and innovation, including wind, solar, wave, and geothermal sources. In a related example, the state's commitment to higher education, and especially to workforce development has flagged, even though competitiveness requires that we train and retain homegrown talent. Among the fastest growing occupations are solar panel installers and wind turbine technicians, and I want South Shore green businesses to be in-demand. I will be an ally to this and other sectors as we increase the region's economic range and power.

3) The Chamber's South Shore 2030 project (www.southshore2030.com) views strong communities as an important part of regional economic strength. What are one or two opportunities that you see helping your communities become stronger?

Communities are the anchors from which we craft plans for the region. There are several issues that demand State House action if the South Shore is to capitalize on this critical moment. The opioid epidemic is destroying communities from within, drawing resources away from critical needs and draining economic potential. As a physician, I offer a set of skills that can be invaluable to our solving this public health crisis. Another pressing issue is transportation: commuters are disenchanted with the MBTA, which is unreliable and in a state of disrepair. I will prioritize public investment in mass transit. A third issue affecting regional economic strength is diminished infrastructure. We need to build resilient communities, otherwise we will be in a constant state of recovery from increasingly disastrous weather conditions.

4) The Chamber has identified housing as a critical economic development tool to help attract young people to the South Shore and help retain baby boomers looking to downsize their current homes. The Chamber is supporting efforts to create more housing options for multi-family housing (apartments and condos) and smaller lot homes. How do you view the region's housing needs and what, if anything, would you support to help promote more housing that might attract younger professionals and downsizers? (The Chamber's housing agenda can be found on the South Shore 2030 website.)

The cover image on the South Shore 2030 housing plan is striking—a mix of uses in a walkable community, not dependent on cars, and invigorated nature. This need not be an idealized vision. The plan articulates the interwoven challenges, noting that modern transportation, skilled labor, environmental stewardship, and community development (not to mention energy transmission) all hinge on our ability to craft smart housing policies. The strength of the South Shore is in its diversity, but stratified housing will turn the region into an enclave. To encourage sustainability, Beacon Hill must provide comprehensive reform on zoning regulations based on the guiding principles of compactness, affordability, and land reuse/preservation. Town center must be the locus for development.

5) The November ballot includes a referendum question mandating new and higher levels of nurse staffing in hospitals. What is your position on the Nurse Staffing Question #1? If it passes, would you be open to amending it in the legislature?

As a physician, I have the deepest appreciation and respect for nurses. We all know the difference that a caring and attentive nurse has on patients. A high patient load stretches the abilities of even the most experienced nurses. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the profession will grow by 15%, so we will have new nurses to fill new positions. I am disappointed that this became a ballot question, because healthcare is complicated. It is a failure of our legislature that they did not listen to nurses before this about the safety concerns that they had. It's too complex to answer in a single question. I will be voting yes, because I do believe this will increase safety and that is my primary concern. Whether the measure passes, I will rely on my experience and the expertise of the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission to improve safety for patients.



Patrick Kearney, Candidate for State Representative, 4th Plymouth District

1) If elected/re-elected, what legislative, community, or economic accomplishments do you hope to achieve?

If I elected, I hope to be a bipartisan leader on maritime and coastal issues. It is essential that Marshfield and Scituate have a strong, knowledgeable advocate who can work with federal and state officials to draw fair flood insurance maps. Coastal homeowners deserve affordable flood insurance that accurately reflects risk, and I believe my background in maritime science as a Mass Maritime graduate makes me able to be a leader on this issue from my first day in office.

In addition, the opiate crisis is an issue that has personally impacted so many South Shore residents, and I'm no exception. During the campaign, a classmate of mine died from an opiate overdose. This epidemic transcends every demographic boundary, whether it's class, race, or age. We need to pursue an "All of the Above" solution to opiate addiction that includes aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, making sure addicts looking to achieve sobriety have access to rehabilitation facilities and evidence based treatment, and educating minors about the dangers of opiate use. As State Representative, I will support additional funding to achieve these goals and will make sure every dollar spent on this crisis goes to medically proven, evidence based approaches.

2) How will your election help small businesses or the South Shore's business climate?

I am a fiscally responsible Democrat who opposes increasing the tax burden on small businesses and will fight to reduce red tape and operating fees. Right now, Massachusetts has one of the highest incorporation and LLC fees in the nation. I support bringing those costs into alignment with the national average.

Also, I will always make myself available to help small business owners navigate the often-maddening government bureaucracy. Whether it's a restaurant owner seeking a liquor license or a small contractor trying to bid on state jobs, I will be a resource for the small business owners of my district.

3) The Chamber's South Shore 2030 project (www.southshore2030.com) views strong communities as an important part of regional economic strength. What are one or two opportunities that you see helping your communities become stronger?

I was lucky to grow up in Scituate, where people still know their neighbors and look out for one another. I will help Marshfield and Scituate become stronger communities by working to make sure they remain places where people want to move, buy a home, and raise a family.

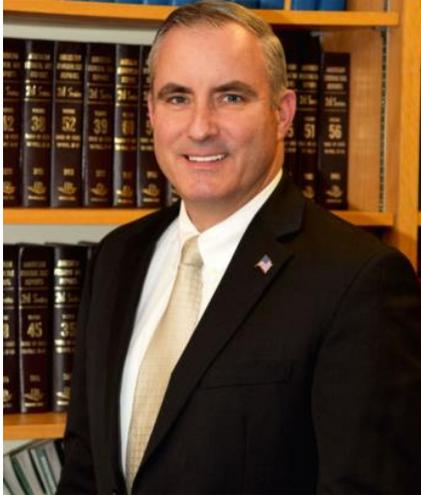
As State Representative, that means working to make sure we receive our fair share of local aid funding. Right now, education formulas underfund our school systems and I will work to make them equitable for our communities. Additionally, local aid can offset the need for property tax increases. Securing these state funds will be among my highest priorities as your next State Representative.

4) The Chamber has identified housing as a critical economic development tool to help attract young people to the South Shore and help retain baby boomers looking to downsize their current homes. The Chamber is supporting efforts to create more housing options for multi-family housing (apartments and condos) and smaller lot homes. How do you view the region's housing needs and what, if anything, would you support to help promote more housing that might attract younger professionals and downsizers? (The Chamber's housing agenda can be found on the South Shore 2030 website.)

I support the Chamber's efforts to make housing more affordable by encouraging the construction of apartment buildings and small lot homes. It's important that we don't price out the next generation of Marshfield and Scituate residents and make our communities unaffordable to young professionals and new families. Housing is first and foremost a local issue, but as State Representative I will work to support affordable housing, especially for senior citizens and veterans.

5) The November ballot includes a referendum question mandating new and higher levels of nurse staffing in hospitals. What is your position on the Nurse Staffing Question #1? If it passes, would you be open to amending it in the legislature?

I am waiting on the results of the Health Policy Commission's analysis of Question 1 before deciding how to cast my vote. This is such an important topic and it's essential we have all the facts before arriving at a decision. In regard to amendments, I would be supportive of amending the law if it does pass. I don't believe the referendum process is the best way to tackle complex public policy questions. As State Representative, I would consult with subject matter experts and work to make sure the final outcome is fair to nurses and patients alike.



Ed O'Connell, Candidate for State Representative, 4th Plymouth District

1) If elected/re-elected, what legislative, community, or economic accomplishments do you hope to achieve?

As a State Representative, I will work hard to make life better for residents of Marshfield and Scituate. To me, that means making our economy strong by promoting small business, keeping taxes low, promoting quality education and job training, and spending money responsibly at the state level. I also will fight for local aid and promote local projects like the sea wall and fixing water quality issues. And, I will place a priority on public safety, including school safety and the fight against opioid abuse.

2) How will your election help small businesses or the South Shore's business climate?

I am proud to be endorsed by the National Federation for Independent Business (NFIB) MA PAC in recognition of my support for small businesses. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and it's important that we support them and the jobs they bring to our communities. I will fight hard to make sure small businesses have a level playing field, including fair and manageable state regulations. I also will fight to keep taxes low. I recognize that successful commerce depends on quality infrastructure, including safe roads and bridges, and I will work with my colleagues to come up with effective capital spending plans to fix our infrastructure systems.

3) The Chamber's South Shore 2030 project (www.southshore2030.com) views strong communities as an important part of regional economic strength. What are one or two opportunities that you see helping your communities become stronger?

I think regional economic strength depends on several important factors. Businesses need a tax and regulatory climate where they have an opportunity to thrive and grow jobs. That's especially true for small, independent, locally-owned businesses. As a parent, I also know we need a quality public education system with adequate resources to teach our kids. We need a plan for development that promotes affordable housing opportunities while also maintaining the seaside character of our communities that makes them such a special place to live in the first place. And, we need a regional infrastructure system that supports our needs safely and effectively. I will work hard to promote all of these priorities as Marshfield and Scituate's next State Representative.

4) The Chamber has identified housing as a critical economic development tool to help attract young people to the South Shore and help retain baby boomers looking to downsize their current homes. The Chamber is supporting efforts to create more housing options for multi-family housing (apartments and condos) and smaller lot homes. How do you view the region's housing needs and what, if anything, would you support to help promote more housing that might attract younger professionals and downsizers? (The Chamber's housing agenda can be found on the South Shore 2030 website.)

I support affordable housing opportunities and I recognize it as a need in our area. I think there are several important components to achieving our goals. First, we need smart, effective long-range

planning, like the Chamber's housing agenda. Second, we need to make sure that affordable housing goals are met while maintaining the quaint seaside character that makes towns like Marshfield and Scituate attractive places to live. Third, we need to do whatever we can to make sure our region has access to quality jobs and economic opportunities to support people seeking to purchase housing.

5) The November ballot includes a referendum question mandating new and higher levels of nurse staffing in hospitals. What is your position on the Nurse Staffing Question #1? If it passes, would you be open to amending it in the legislature?

Nurses are a critical component of our overall health care system and I support initiatives that will improve their ability to do their job and promote quality care. I have heard support from nurses on both sides of Question One, and since I am not a health care professional myself, it is difficult for me to assess who is right. I support Question One's goal of making sure there are adequate nurse staffing levels at all facilities at all times. However, I have concerns about imposing state mandates on what should be decisions best left to private industry and, especially, health care providers. If Question One is passed I will respect the will of the voters, but I would be open to consonant legislative amendments that improve its implementation and promote patient care.



Kathy LaNastra, Candidate for State Representative, 12th Plymouth District

1) If elected/re-elected, what legislative, community, or economic accomplishments do you hope to achieve?

Pursuing sustainable economic development on the South Shore is one of the most important things we can do to keep our region strong and prosperous for the next generation. To accomplish this goal, I support expanding access to grant programs like MassWorks so that more communities, particularly those on the South Shore, can build transit-oriented affordable housing and mixed use buildings like the Harborwalk complex in Plymouth. Stronger infrastructure and more affordable housing will make our region a better place to work and do business, helping the South Shore's economy grow. Other changes to the Massachusetts laws that affect the business climate, like lowering the \$500 filing fee for LLCs, will also help achieve this goal.

2) How will your election help small businesses or the South Shore's business climate?

I am the only candidate in this race who ran a small business. From that decade-long experience, I know firsthand the joys, struggles, and challenges that small business owners face. When State Government is making policies that matter to business, we need legislators in the room who can bring that first-hand perspective to the table. I'll be an active listener, a regular presence at local chamber meetings, and a welcoming partner at the State House.

On policy issues, I support improving the availability of housing and transportation so that we can expand our workforce on the South Shore. In addition, I will advocate for lowering the \$500 filing fee for LLCs, which can be incredibly burdensome for small businesses, and expanding funding for career-oriented education in our public schools. Too often, college-aged Massachusetts natives leave Massachusetts for college and don't return, so I also support making in-state, public higher education more affordable. In doing so, we can more effectively retain bright young minds who will form the backbone of our labor force.

3) The Chamber's South Shore 2030 project (www.southshore2030.com) views strong communities as an important part of regional economic strength. What are one or two opportunities that you see helping your communities become stronger?

Education is vital to strong communities, and right now, we aren't getting enough state funding for our school systems. I support reforming the foundation budget formula so that our schools are properly funded and our students get the education they deserve. We need to increase the minimum per pupil allotment so we can ensure that suburban districts like ours get our fair share of annual Chapter 70 increases, and we need to peg employee health care costs to the market. As Vice Chair of the Kingston Board of Selectmen, I know firsthand the burden our towns face and will bring that perspective and experience with this issue to Beacon Hill.

When it comes to climate change, we face both threats and opportunities. More severe storms, rising sea levels, and aging coastal infrastructure pose problems for the South Shore's future, and the growing green technology sector provides a significant economic opportunity. I support

comprehensively tackling climate resiliency to modernize our coastal infrastructure and prepare our area for storms. To prepare for severe weather, I'll work with MEMA to ensure we get the resources we need to protect people and build a relationship with that organization early in my time on Beacon Hill. Addressing these issues will make our region safer, and, as a result, a better place to do business. I also strongly support investment and tax incentives for green technology and energy businesses. Growing these sectors will help our regional economy compete in the changing landscape of American business.. Securing these state funds will be among my highest priorities as your next State Representative.

4) The Chamber has identified housing as a critical economic development tool to help attract young people to the South Shore and help retain baby boomers looking to downsize their current homes. The Chamber is supporting efforts to create more housing options for multi-family housing (apartments and condos) and smaller lot homes. How do you view the region's housing needs and what, if anything, would you support to help promote more housing that might attract younger professionals and downsizers? (The Chamber's housing agenda can be found on the South Shore 2030 website.)

I share similar views on the importance of housing policy and applaud the good work of the South Shore Chamber on this issue. Housing costs are a growing problem across our region. My plan will focus on two broad goals: 1) Ensuring our seniors have housing options to remain in the community and 2) Welcoming the next generation of young families by making more entry-level housing affordable and available. In addition to expanding access to infrastructure and development grants, we can do this by making it easier to permit "in-law" apartments, giving communities options for overlay districts, and supporting housing and rental assistance programs. As a Trustee of the Affordable Housing Trust in Kingston and as a realtor, I have first-hand experience to help address this issue.

5) The November ballot includes a referendum question mandating new and higher levels of nurse staffing in hospitals. What is your position on the Nurse Staffing Question #1? If it passes, would you be open to amending it in the legislature?

I stand with the nurses who work tirelessly for patients on the front lines. They are the backbone of our healthcare system, and I support setting reasonable limits to ensure that patients get the care they need and deserve. No ballot referendum is ever drafted perfectly, and I am certainly open to improvements or amendments provided that we respect the will of the voters.