



2010 WFA House Ratings

Each year, Neighbor to Neighbor Massachusetts rates each State Senator and State Representative based on their voting record on issues affecting low-income working families. The ratings and the votes on which they are based is below. Legislators with no rating are in their first term and, therefore, have no rating.

House ratings are based on the following votes:

- Voted in favor of an amendment to close \$85 million in corporate tax loopholes, including closing one loophole that allows companies to shift profits out of state in order to avoid taxation.
- Voted against an amendment to reduce revenue available for state programs by \$250 million through tax rebates to people affected by the repeal of the capital gains tax break in 2002, a rebate primarily benefiting the wealthiest 1% of people in the state.
- Voted in favor of keeping the employer assessment, a provision that would impose a penalty on companies with ten or more employees that do not provide health insurance for their workers, in the House health care bill.
- Voted in favor of the health care bill which increased access and restored benefits to MassHealth, imposed an employer assessment on employers that do not cover their workers, and expanded subsidized coverage to working families and small businesses.
- Voted against sending a ballot question that would make health care a constitutional right to a study and delaying it going to the ballot for a public vote.
- Co-sponsored bill to increase the minimum wage to \$8.25 and index it to the cost of living – only counts as positive vote (i.e. will not count against Reps who did not co-sponsor).
- Voted in support of increasing the minimum wage to \$8.00 an hour in two stages (from \$6.75 to \$7.50 on January 1, 2007 and to \$8.00 on January 1, 2008).
- Voted against an amendment to only increase the minimum wage to \$7.75.

- Voted against extending school attendance requirements to teens up to age 16, a sanction that hurts all members of the family, not just the teen, and does not promote better attendance.
- Voted in favor of allowing children of undocumented immigrants to access in-state tuition rates at public colleges and universities rates provided they went to high school in Massachusetts for three years, are in the process of becoming citizens or pledge to start the process once they became eligible, and can provide proof that they are state tax payers.
- Voted in support of green jobs act, which promotes career pathways for low-income communities in the emerging green economy with the creation of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center under the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, provide matching subsidies to educational institutions to develop comprehensive clean energy curriculum , \$1,000,000 in seed grant program , \$1,000,000 in workforce development grant program, \$100,000 to commission a one time study to research the state clean energy sector , \$1,000,000 for pathways out of poverty grants for training of low and moderate income constituencies. (1 for 4 Western Mass counties, 1 for Worcester, 1 for Middlesex county, and 1 for remaining eastern counties)
- Voted in support of green communities act, which created the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council, a board of broad stakeholders responsible for oversight and approval of statewide electricity and gas efficiency plans that result in 10% total energy consumption by 2017 through green communities programs
- Voted in support of comprehensive corporate tax reform, which closes loopholes and raises revenue for Massachusetts
- Co-sponsored bill to reform CORI— only counts as positive vote (i.e. will not count against Senators who did not co-sponsor).
- Voted in support of comprehensive Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) known as the crime package, which reduces the sealing period for eligible CORI records, removes the criminal question from the initial job application, does not disseminate records that have met sealing requirements, and upgrades our outdated CORI system.
- Voted in support of FY 11 anti-immigrant budget amendments that bars undocumented students from receiving in-state tuition rates, establishes a hotline in the Attorney General's office to report undocumented workers, places undocumented immigrants at the bottom of the waiting list for Mass Rental Voucher Program, and establishes expensive verification systems to ensure that no undocumented immigrant receive public benefits.

- Voted in support for a schedule of inmate fees in the FY 11 budget that includes \$5 maximum fee for custodial care, doctor visit, dental visit, prescription eye glasses, and pharmacy prescription fees. This fee is waived only if the ex-offender does not recidivate two years after release.