



2010 WFA Senate 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.

Senate ratings are based on the following votes:

- Voted against an amendment to cut the personal income tax rate from 5.3 percent to 5.0 percent in three stages (that is, from 5.3 percent to 5.2 percent in one year, from 5.2 percent to 5.1 percent the next year, and from 5.1 percent to 5.0 percent the following year). This change would have benefited the wealthiest people in Massachusetts and, once fully implemented, reduced revenue for vital public services by more than \$600 million per year.
- Voted against an amendment to cut the personal income tax rate from 5.3 percent to 5.0 percent, a change that would have reduced revenue for vital public services by more than \$600 million per year and that would have disproportionately benefited the wealthiest people in Massachusetts.
- Voted in favor of a health care plan to increase access to MassHealth and restore benefits to MassHealth that were cut in 2001.
- 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 Senators 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 in support of creating a personal care attendant workforce council and giving personal care attendants the right to collectively bargain.

- Voted in favor of a comprehensive welfare reform bill that would preserve protections for families with major barriers to employment while putting in place a new system to help parents with disabilities move into the workforce.
- 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
- Voted in support of sales tax in FY 10 budget, which stopped over a billion dollar in cuts in state programs and services.
- Voted in support of the Chang-Diaz income tax amendment in the FY 10 budget.
- Voted in support of freezing the corporate tax rate in the FY10 budget.
- 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.