

RDTC Q&A:

#1) Our tri-town area has excessive PFAS in our drinking water, like reservoirs across Massachusetts. What can you or the Commonwealth do to help with paying for filtering to remove PFAS, and running outside testing to identify PFAS sources?

Many communities have high PFAS levels, requiring notification to not drink tap-water. PFAS are "forever chemicals" that come from plastic coatings and foam, and can cause cancer.

The state requires notification when PFAS is high but provides no money for remediation (filtering and source testing) -- but they could!

High PFAS has been found in my district in: Randolph, Braintree, Easton, & Bridgewater. High PFAS has not been recorded in the MWRA supply for Milton and Stoughton. West Bridgewater wells and Stoughton wells have recorded high PFAS and are close to the reporting requirement -- this affects almost everyone and should be addressed statewide!

#2) Our town government has been promised ARPA money and infrastructure money, like municipalities across Massachusetts. But the money is slow in coming, especially through Norfolk County. What can you or the Commonwealth do to help expedite this "emergency funding" so we can actually spend it on emergency needs?

The federal funding for COVID relief money came in three parts:

- 1) CARES Act for COVID testing and vaccinations (2021)
- 2) ARPA American Rescue Plan Act (coming now in 2022)
- 3) Infrastructure Bill -- "Build Back Better" (in 2023)

Money is very slow to arrive in towns -- it must go through the state and sometimes the county government. Towns need this money, and the State Senate could speed it up!

Community input is important on how to spend the money. For example, in Randolph, the people said in a survey to focus on water and streets. The state could help with community input programs -- the state's focus has been only on following federal rules.

#3) Randolph qualifies as an "environmental justice community" and might qualify as a "gateway city" and numerous other special designations. But we have trouble finding applicable grants through MAPC and other state agencies, while other wealthier towns and larger cities seem to always beat us to every grant. What can you or the Commonwealth do to help with "municipal equity" in state programs?

The Commonwealth's "Gateway City" designation is for small growing communities like Randolph, and I support the Gateway City state program. Elsewhere in my district, Stoughton, Easton, and Bridgewater may qualify as Gateway Cities in the next census.

I understand that Milton/Randolph State Rep. Bill Driscoll notified Randolph about the Gateway City program and that Randolph is now acting on it. Guiding municipalities through state programs is an important role for a State Senator and it's a shame that the incumbent State Senator doesn't perform this role for Randolph. I promise to "see the people" and take on this role, for municipalities as well as individuals -- the incumbent's failure to do exactly that is the main reason I announced my candidacy against him. The "liaison role" between a State Senator and state agencies -- including grant-making agencies that fund municipalities -- is one of the most important roles a State Senator has.

#5) The worst formula for Randolph is the Chapter 70 education funding formula. We have huge expenses due to our high immigrant and ESL population, which results in high local real estate taxes despite poor scores for our schools. What can you or the Commonwealth do to update the formula to get communities like ours more state funding for our schools?

I supported Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz' "Education PROMISE Act" in 2019-2020 to update the Chapter 70 educational funding formula to include more equitable distribution under Randolph's circumstances. I will continue to support a revamp of the educational funding formula in the future.

#6) In the wake of overturning Roe, what can be done in Massachusetts to prevent further erosion of reproductive rights?

Massachusetts has a long history of protecting women's reproductive rights but those protections are now being tested by other states. I believe the state legislature should make Massachusetts a "safe harbor" for women's reproductive rights, and in doing so we could strengthen our state's position.

A "safe harbor" has far-reaching implications for women who cross state lines into Massachusetts -- other states seek to criminalize women who do that! Putting women at risk would be going backwards, as well as inhumane. I believe that that state legislators (especially male legislators) making laws about women's bodies is misogynistic! "No uterus; no opinion!"

I supported the ROE Act in 2020, and I support further expansion of women's reproductive rights in the future. Senator Timilty voted NO on the ROE Act, and voted against numerous aspects of legal and affordable reproductive care over the past 15 years, detailed on my flyer at <https://KathleenCamara.com/Women>

#7) What can be done in Massachusetts to protect same-sex marriage and other LGBT rights if the "right to privacy" is eroded?

I support LGBT rights and all of its implications beyond same-sex marriage. In contrast, Senator Timilty voted to requiring that sex education only be offered in schools on an elective basis, with written parent/guardian permission required for student participation. You know, those same parents who wouldn't talk to their kids about sex or gay rights or bullying -- they won't give permission for the schools to talk to their kids either! That would be a step backwards!

I have supported same-sex marriage since the first such marriages in Massachusetts. My opponent has opposed same-sex marriage and other LGBT rights for many years. A contrast of my pro-LGBT stances with Timilty's anti-LGBT stances appears at <https://KathleenCamara.com/LGBT>

#8) What are your views on the Fair Share Amendment ballot initiative?

I support the constitutional amendment that would replace the state's flat income tax rate with a tiered system that would apply an additional 4% income tax on all earnings above \$1 million. I especially support that the additional revenue generated would be dedicated to public education, infrastructure and transit. I intend to vote for the Fair Share Amendment in November, and will support its implementation in the State Senate.

#9) What are your views on the November ballot initiative concerning Rideshare working conditions?

I have yet to decide a policy on this ballot initiative in November -- I look forward to hearing from both sides over the course of the summer and autumn. I support a deliberative approach to all legislation, and therefore I am not yet ready to commit, since my commitments are meaningful!