

Democrat Martha Coakley vs. Republican Charlie Baker

Issue	Martha Coakley	Charlie Baker
Has made universal access to early education a top priority, and has a specific plan to eliminate the early ed. waiting list	✓	✗
Supports earned sick time for every worker, because no one should have to choose between their job and their health	✓	✗
Opposes the death penalty	✓	✗
Supported an \$11/hour minimum wage and said an increase should not be tied to changes in our unemployment insurance system	✓	✗
Has made expanding care for mental health and substance abuse a cornerstone of her campaign	✓	✗
Has been on the front lines, fighting for the right of women to access reproductive healthcare	✓	✗
Has strongly supported a ban on assault weapons	✓	✗
Took on the big banks to keep 30,000 Massachusetts families in their homes	✓	✗
Backs critical funding for our transportation system, which is crumbling after decades of underinvestment	✓	✗
Has been a steadfast proponent of South Coast Rail, which will help unlock economic potential in communities like Fall River and New Bedford	✓	✗
Supports the right of transgender individuals to access all places of public accommodation, free from harassment or intimidation	✓	✗
Acknowledges the reality of climate change and has a specific plan to help us reduce our carbon footprint and preserve natural resources.	✓	✗
Supports in state tuition for the children of undocumented immigrants	✓	✗
Has an economic development plan that focuses on building from the ground up, not hoping that tax breaks for businesses will trickle down	✓	✗
Has disavowed attack ads run by outside Super PACs	✓	✗

Republican Charlie Baker: Choosing the Bottom Line over the People of Massachusetts

When he had the chance, Republican Charlie Baker failed to respond to a growing crisis at DSS. During his tenure as Secretary of HHS, caseloads on social workers rose to more than 20 cases per worker, higher than they have ever been under Governor Patrick. Compounding the problem, when given \$2 million to hire 127 new social workers, Baker and Weld hired only 18, and returned the rest of the money to the general fund to help finance tax cuts.

“... the department [of social services] stands virtually paralyzed, unable effectively to service children and families.” – Boston Herald

The Boston Globe called Baker’s tenure as Secretary of HHS an “abandonment of decency.” In June 1995, the Boston Globe wrote that Baker’s tenure at HHS amounted to an “abandonment of decency,” especially when it came to care of the mentally ill – patient deaths increased 79% between 1990 and 1994, and the number of patient suicides nearly doubled. Baker “oversaw many of the reductions in the state’s preventive programs, including diminished treatment for substance abuse and cuts in the Department of Youth Services.”

As CEO of Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, Baker reduced coverage for people in Massachusetts while tripling his own salary. During the nine years that Charlie Baker oversaw Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, premiums increased more than 150 percent, an average annual increase of more than \$3,100, and Baker eliminated coverage for more than 3,500 seniors in western Massachusetts in an attempt to save money. Over the same time period, Baker’s own salary more than tripled – to more than \$1.7 million.

Republican Charlie Baker “praised the Tea Party movement” – Boston Globe

In 2010, Baker proposed requiring individuals seeking state services, including access to shelter, to provide proof of residence and conducting “lifestyle” analyses of those seeking state support. Republican gubernatorial nominee Charles Baker told State House News in 2010 that the state should require “proof of residency for state services” and withhold “public housing and legal defense for residents whose “lifestyle” does not withstand scrutiny of their credit card bills, auto loans, grocery bills and recreational activities,” proposals that would have likely cost millions to implement and would have denied support to people in Massachusetts with the greatest need.

Charlie Baker is currently embroiled in an alleged pay-for-play scheme involving New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and Baker’s employer, General Catalyst. In May 2011, Charlie Baker donated \$10,000 to the New Jersey Republican Party, headed by Governor Chris Christie, a long-time supporter of Baker. In December 2011, less than 7 months later, the New Jersey Pension Fund, controlled by Christie, signs a \$15 million contract with the company Baker works for, General Catalyst. Independent watchdogs have raised the possibility that the transaction is a violation of both state and federal pay-to-pay laws, and authorities in New Jersey are currently investigating the matter.