



Greylock Together

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## Legislation Survey 2017

Greylock Together is a group of 400+ progressive activists dedicated to promoting traditional American values of justice, freedom, and equity. Over the course of several months, we used group surveys, discussion, and votes at our meetings to identify a set of specific legislative goals that we want to see accomplished to improve the lives of our neighbors, our families, and ourselves. These goals are all strongly supported by a supermajority of our members. As our representative or prospective representative, we would very much like to hear your position on the following issues. The answers will help us determine our priorities for activism. Please fill out this survey and return it to us.

### **End gerrymandering by drawing congressional districts via nonpartisan institutions.**

**Please check one:**     Support                       Partially Support                       Don't Support

**Further comments:**        Gerrymandering is a massive detriment to democracy at both the state and federal level. Obviously non-partisan districts would have to comply with the Voting Rights Act, which must also be taken into account. I will be watching the upcoming Supreme Court case of Gill v Whitford from Wisconsin to see if the courts will have a better solution than what state legislatures have individually proposed.

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### **Automatically register voters.**

**Please check one:**     Support                       Partially Support                       Don't Support

**Further comments:**        I would enthusiastically endorse automatic voter registration for all qualified citizens as long as safeguards are in place establish and easily check for duplicates and residency without violating privacy and ensuring digital security.

This seems like an easy issue, but it begins to get tricky when you consider that each town is responsible for keeping and maintaining records. This would likely be solved by a single statewide or even national database, and that creates massive privacy and data security concerns from hacking and political operatives. The recent request from the Trump Administration for all voter information from the states only heightens my concerns.



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**End the biased disenfranchisement of felons.**

**Please check one:**     Support                       Partially Support                       Don't Support

**Further comments:**        In Massachusetts felons have the right to vote once they have served their sentences.

**End monetary bail.**

**Please check one:**     Support                       Partially Support                       Don't Support

**Further comments:**        While low risk, low income folks definitely should be allowed out of jail while awaiting trial, I am not sure it is appropriate to eliminate bail for flight risk individuals who can afford bail if that is what it takes to keep them from fleeing while awaiting trial. I would like to see data on how New Jersey's experiment with risk matrices instead of bail is going before eliminating bail in Massachusetts.

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**Make net neutrality the law and regulate internet service providers as utilities.**

**Please check one:**     Support                       Partially Support                       Don't Support

**Further comments:**        The monopolies by internet service providers that have to potential to choke the flow of information based upon financial incentive is extremely troubling.

Internet access in 2017 should be treated like rural electrification in the early 20th century. Everybody should have access to it and internet providers should be required by law to treat rural and sparsely populated areas the same way that they treat high density regions.

**Prevent internet service providers from selling your private information.**

**Please check one:**     Support                       Partially Support                       Don't Support

**Further comments:**        Unless a consumer specifically tells a data collection company (both ISPs and tracking firms) that they want targeted advertising, consumer browsing history should be completely private short of a warrant or court order.

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**Amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes.**

Please check one:  Support  Partially Support  Don't Support

Further comments: My question is why hasn't congress done this already? What are they waiting for?

**Actively welcome refugees and support their settlement.**

Please check one:  Support  Partially Support  Don't Support

Further comments: My family hosted a Cambodian refugee family years ago and I have a pretty good understanding of the challenges refugees may face. Obviously we should continue to conduct rigorous background checks and share the burden with other nations. Government support should be in place to help both the refugees and their new communities make the transition to a productive life easier and speedy. The current administration's demonization of middle eastern refugees is abhorrent and counterproductive.

**Make election day a national holiday.**

Please check one:  Support  Partially Support  Don't Support

Further comments: I would like to see more early and flexible voting rather than a single holiday. I am not sure it would have the intended results. Also, there are millions of people who are required to work on holidays. Medical personnel, first responders are obviously on this list, but there are also millions of low wage Americans working in retail, hospitality and other service sector jobs would see little to no benefit.

For what it's worth Massachusetts' employers already have to provide time off for voting.

**All workers should get paid family leave.**

Please check one:  Support  Partially Support  Don't Support

Further comments: I am in favor of paid family/maternity/parental/medical leave for all. However I am concerned about the impact on small business. There absolutely must be some government support for small businesses and, just as importantly, for self employed individuals, or the system becomes inherently unfair.

**Revise the tax code to eliminate abusive loopholes for the wealthy, such as systematic misclassification of employees as independent contractors.**

Please check one:  Support  Partially Support  Don't Support



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**Further comments:** I fully support eliminating these abuses, either through tax code or via employment law. Workers deserve the protection of actual employment.

**Simplify the process of filing tax returns.**

**Please check one:**  Support  Partially Support  Don't Support

**Further comments:** Why do we have to pay third-party companies to file our taxes when simple IRS and DoR forms could be filled out online? This makes little sense.

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**Protect the rights of workers to unionize, and penalize those companies that try to take away their rights.**

**Please check one:**  Support  Partially Support  Don't Support

**Further comments:** I come from a union family and believe strongly in the right to collectively bargain.

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**Make it easier for employees to sue over wage theft and get compensated for the hours of their life that have been stolen.**

**Please check one:**  Support  Partially Support  Don't Support

**Further comments:** As a former waitress from many years back, this one is a bit personal to me. Yes.

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**Require all major employers provide at least some minimal amount of paid sick leave.**

**Please check one:**     Support                       Partially Support                       Don't Support

**Further comments:**        Massachusetts currently does this, but what that "minimal amount" constitutes can be up for debate. Also, small businesses and the self employed should receive some sort of government support on this issue.

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**Provide a public healthcare option.**

**Please check one:**     Support                       Partially Support                       Don't Support

**Further comments:**        If we keep the Obamacare system nationally, a required offering of a public buy-in to medicaid (or similar) would be a great idea. If the Republicans in congress insist on killing the ACA, we should implement a single payer system, and if we can't do it nationally, we should teach the rest of the USA how to do it right here in Massachusetts.

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