



Representative Jeffrey Sánchez

2018 House Budget Highlights



Overview

- The budget is Jeff's first as chair of the House Ways and Means Committee.
- It is a thoughtful policy document that invests in the most vulnerable among us and meets people where they are in life.



Healthcare

Building on our commitment to ensuring universal healthcare, the budget ensures funding for our most vulnerable populations: the frail, the recovering, mothers with children, and the working poor through major investments in MassHealth, substance use recovery centers, domestic violence and sexual assault, prevention, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, home healthcare, and women's health.



Affordable Housing

Record investments in permanent housing solutions help ensure families have a stable place to call home while decreasing homelessness:

- \$100 million for the **Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)** will expand the number of vouchers available for low-income families to live in rental housing and \$17 million for **Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)** provides flexible funding to families at risk of losing their home.
- The budget fully funds programs for homeless families and individuals, and creates a new \$5 million program to **rapidly rehouse homeless individuals.**



Violence Prevention

Funding for **youth-at-risk summer jobs, the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, and Shannon anti-violence grants** ensure we prevent violence at the community level and work in tandem with our strong gun control laws.



Criminal Justice Reform

The budget backs up the policies in our recently-passed criminal justice reform law with the dollars needed to invest in the system front to back:

- \$5 million to **divert people** with substance use to treatment instead of jail
- \$20.8 million for **civil legal aid** and \$1.5M for **mental health legal aid**
- Funding to increase access to specialized services for defendants with substance use, mental health, and trauma at the **Specialty Court**
- \$3 million for **community-based re-entry programs**



Vote Tuesday, September 4th
www.votejeffsanchez.com



Environment

In addition to supporting legislative policies promoting solar power, wind power, and hydropower, Jeff ensured key funding for environmental protection agencies, including:

- DCR state parks and recreation
- Environmental protection and watershed management departments
- Ecological restoration and wildlife habitat purchase programs
- Climate change planning and adaptation



Children

Jeff worked to ensure the wellbeing of children and families across Massachusetts by:

- **Lifting the “cap on kids”** that currently prevents families from receiving TAFDC benefits for certain children.
- Funding to support high-quality **early education and care programs** and increased pay rates for early educators.
- Recommending record levels of **funding for public schools** in the House budget, including a 7% increase for special education and 12% increase to reimburse public school districts that lose funding to charter schools.