



TOP TAKEAWAYS: DANIELLE ALLEN'S AGENDA FOR A STRONGER DEMOCRACY

What's powerful about our democracy is that it's ours. Our empowerment. Our tool of transformation. Our voice to claim, own, and use. Throughout our history, we have faced down moments of crisis with resilience and an openness to transformation, fashioning our Commonwealth into a better version of itself. Each time, what has made that process possible is democracy — where each of us has a voice in shaping our collective future, and where empowerment stems from claiming that voice.

We are facing that kind of moment today. And while the pandemic has laid bare the depth of our inequalities, while unregulated social media shortcircuits the spread of misinformation and distrust of our democracy, this is a moment of opportunity. Because solving our biggest problems starts with strengthening our democracy — so we can bring everyone to the table, and build common purpose, to tackle our collective challenges.



Imagine a Commonwealth where voice and representation are available to all, and our leaders truly reflect the diversity of our state. Where good governance at the state level helps our towns and counties govern themselves better, too. Where money does not equal power — and all of us own our right to shape our collective future. **To make that a reality, an Allen administration will:**

- **Enable and encourage the participation of every single eligible voter in Massachusetts.** To expand voting access and move towards truly full participation, we will ensure the widest opportunities for voter registration, including allowing people to register to vote on Election Day. We will expand the options for Massachusetts voters to cast their ballots, and support the right of municipalities to adopt ranked choice voting and other innovative voting practices. We will also ensure language accessibility so that speakers of languages other than English can fully participate.
- **Create checks on social media's anti-democratic effects by rebuilding the information ecosystem for voters and local governments.** As a transformative step towards accountability through transparency and empowerment through information access, we will commit the executive branch to adhere to the Public Records Act. We will lay a foundation to rebuild local journalism so that Massachusetts voters have the information they need to make decisions about local issues. We will also work actively to expand civic education for students and everyone — strengthening the school-to-voting-booth pipeline — and support local and regional decision-making with tools of good governance.
- **Cultivate shared civic purpose through honestly acknowledging our history, building pride in our shared achievements, and promoting service.**

We will finalize work being done to create a new state flag and establish Indigenous People's Day. We will also weave that honest acknowledgement through our celebration of our country's 250th anniversary in 2026, while building pride around the shining aspects of our shared history — from being the first state to abolish slavery, even before the end of the Revolutionary War, to being the cradle of American democracy. We will make the Secretary of Veterans' Services a cabinet-level position and broaden the portfolio to make sure veterans have a stronger voice in our government. Finally, we will task a Chief Service Officer with establishing a universal expectation of service for all young people — including building a Youth Climate Corps. We will also develop more service opportunities for seniors, and expand the state's civic infrastructure and encourage civic dialogue.

- **Rein in the influence of corporate money on politics.** We will support and expand the Massachusetts Citizen Commission to encourage broader participation and make space for more competitive elections. And we will encourage the state's adoption of a 28th amendment — making Massachusetts the first state to undo the impact of Citizens United, and ensuring voters, not money, are the decision-makers in our Commonwealth.

We can defeat creeping authoritarianism, alienation, and exhaustion by building a compelling people-powered alternative — **a green and healthy next-generation democracy that genuinely works for everyone.** If we want a democracy that can deliver on our most important needs, we need to work on the basic elements of representation — to make sure people are fully included, voters are participating and engaged, and governance is effective and just. That is what this agenda delivers.

