

State Representative

# Jeffrey Sánchez

JULY | 2018

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## Friends and Neighbors:

Thank you for reading my July 2018 Newsletter. As we enter the final month of the two-year legislative session, I wanted to give you an update on everything I've been working on in the House of Representatives and in the district.

We've continued our work in one of the most progressive sessions in recent history by passing legislation to expand access to voting,

increase economic empowerment, and promote LGBTQ+ equality.

I'm working to finalize the budget, ensuring that it invests in programs that support people at every point in their lives.

Throughout the district, summer events are in full swing, with no shortage of celebrations and festivals in Mission Hill, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, and Brookline.

## Legislative Updates

Since my last newsletter, we in the House have been busy working on a progressive agenda to move Massachusetts forward. Here is a recap of bills I've worked on to pass in the House in recent months.

### Conversion Therapy Ban

Massachusetts has been a leader at the forefront of LGBTQ+ equality. From voting to uphold marriage equality to ensuring protection from discrimination in public places for transgender individuals, I hold true to our core value of equality. We continued this trend by voting to ban the harmful practice of "conversion therapy" for minors.

I am proud to stand against discrimination against our youth. Our legislation will ensure that the dis-

criminatory practice of conversion therapy ends. Our youth will not have to be subjected to practices that shame them or scare them about being who they are.

### Automatic Voter Registration

I've continually worked on increasing access and participation in our democracy, from advocating for early voting to pre-registration for 16- and 17-year olds.

I was proud to vote for a bill establishing automatic voter registration here in Massachusetts. It is commonsense legislation that will upgrade our registration system, make our voter rolls more up-to-date, enhance the security of our electoral process, and encourage new voters to get involved.

More importantly, it's estimated that 680,000 people will be registered to vote when they interact with the RMV or MassHealth. Our legislation builds on this legacy of increasing democracy in Massachusetts, and prepares our population



Yours in Service,



Jeffrey Sánchez  
State Representative



to fully and securely participate in the 2020 elections.

### \$15 Minimum Wage, Paid Family and Medical Leave

Massachusetts took a major step toward reducing income inequality by passing legislation to create the most generous paid family medical leave policy in the country, the highest minimum wage at \$15, and an annual sales tax holiday.

In Massachusetts, 1.2 million workers risk losing their jobs if they take time off work under current laws. Paid family and medical leave will allow workers to take time off to care for a sick loved one, a newborn child, or to recover from their own illness, with the guarantee they can return to their job.

Thousands of hard-working individuals log long hours, but still struggle to pay rent or put food on the table. This \$15 minimum wage will give a pay raise to over 1,000,000 workers across Massachusetts.

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# Legislative Updates (cont'd)

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On July 1, our gender pay equity law went into effect. With paid leave, mothers will be able to take time to nurture their newborn child with the guarantee of returning to the same job and salary, furthering our efforts to close the gender wage gap.

Our agreement to institute an annual sales tax holiday and phase out premium pay for retail workers prevented the sales tax reduction ballot question from moving forward, which would have cost the state \$1.5 billion. This means revenue can continue funding education, transportation, healthcare, housing, and other key programs.

## **Gun Safety**

We in Massachusetts know that strong, commonsense gun laws save lives. Building on our bump stock ban last fall, I proudly voted for “red flag” gun safety legislation in May.

Now signed into law, family members will soon be able to petition a court to take away a person’s guns if they pose a risk to themselves or others.



A study conducted by Everytown for Gun Safety found that in at least 42% of mass shootings, the attacker exhibited dangerous signals before the shooting. This bill creates a process for people to intervene to prevent that tragedy from happening.

I am incredibly proud to support this legislation, and am grateful for the leadership of Speaker DeLeo, my colleagues in the House, students, advo-

cates, and so many others for working to pass this bill.

## **Environmental Protection**

This past winter, the effects of climate change were front and center as severe storms cost \$1.8B in damage along the eastern seaboard.

That’s why I voted for a \$2.2 billion environmental bond bill authorizing funding for climate adaptation, conservation, recreation, environmental protection, and other programs.



We need to prepare for extreme weather situations and ensure infrastructure is ready to bounce back. We have a responsibility to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we use.

## **Health Care**

We are committed to ensuring access to healthcare. It’s why 98% of the state’s population has coverage, and why our 2006 law was the framework for the Affordable Care Act.

The House wrote the next chapter in our healthcare journey with the passage of the Peter V. Kocot Healthcare bill. Named in honor of our late colleague, our legislation would ensure residents continue to have access to high-quality health care, lay the groundwork for continuous improvement to the Commonwealth’s nationally-leading health care infrastructure, and increase transparency throughout the healthcare system.

Rooted in the findings of the Provider Price Commission I co-chaired last year, the law ensures the long-term

viability of community health centers. It does so through a \$247.5 million assessment on health insurance companies, ambulatory surgical centers, and urgent care clinics, distributing those funds to community facilities.

Community health centers are crucial to our healthcare system—they ensure residents in every corner of Massachusetts have access to high-quality, affordable care. As we continue to rethink how our healthcare system works, community-based care will be the main focus.

We also create a process for telemedicine and require pharmacy benefits managers and pharmaceutical companies to testify on how they’re limiting health care costs in Massachusetts.

## **Youth Smoking Prevention**

While we’ve had success lowering tobacco use among youth, the use of vapor products, like e-cigarettes, vape pens, and Juuls pose a new public health threat. We took a major step towards promoting public health by officially regulating e-cigarettes and prohibiting the sale of tobacco and vapor products to anyone under 21.

## **Preventing Animal Cruelty**

The House passed “PAWS 2” - An Act to protect animal welfare and safety in cities and towns. The bill expands on our initiatives to protect animals from abuse and violence.

Recent research conducted by Northeastern University and the MSCPA shows compelling evidence for the link between animal abuse and violence toward humans. By incorporating this research into our decision-making process, we can be more effective at addressing issues of violence.

I am thankful for the MSPCA’s work on this important bill, and all they do on a daily basis to protect animals, and am proud to support this bill.

# District Events

With the summer in full swing, there's been no shortage of great events here in the 15th Suffolk District. From festivals and food to concerts and community meetings, there's never a dull moment in our community.

## General Events

I was thrilled to support the beginning of another **Little League** baseball season in JP and Mission Hill. Spring also means **Love Your Block** season in Boston, hosted by the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. I always enjoy supporting this tradition that brings MH, JP, and Rozzie neighbors together in the name of maintaining the beauty of our city parks and streets.



As part of our going district artist exhibit, we welcomed **Cristina Rose Nelson's** work to my office. Cristina's vibrant work captures the imaginative possibilities of mixed media art. Roslindale's **Glenn and Jan Williams** are our current artists on display.

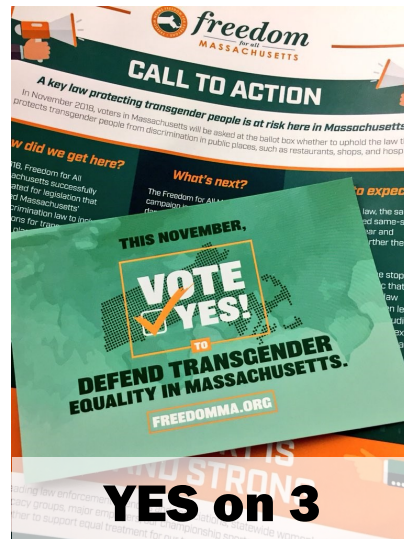
## Brookline

Continuing our Coffee and Conversations series, members of the **High Street Hills Association** graciously opened their home for a living room chat. It is fulfilling conversations like the one we shared that encourage progress in the neighborhood and at the State House. The **Goddard House Assisted Living** also hosted us for a conversation with residents and tour of the facilities. In the ongoing work to address gas leaks, we joined **Mothers Out Front** in a tree-tagging event.

## Jamaica Plain

The end of winter beckons one of JP's proudest traditions – **Wake Up the Earth**. In honor of WUTE's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I was proud to present a House resolution with my colleague Representative Liz Malia, alongside JP City Councilor Matt O'Malley. Wake Up the Earth represents the JP neighborhood at its best.

Our ongoing engagements at **Bromley-Heath and the Julia Martin House** continue with the change of season. Early June kicks off our annual **Hot Dog Night** season. Through August, my staff, partners, and I will be grilling hot dogs and burgers to bring the community together on Tuesday afternoons. We hope to see you there!



Alongside my colleague Representative Liz Malia and Matt O'Malley from the Boston City Council, we hosted an event with neighbors at the **JP Forum to affirm our support for the transgender community**. The forum was in support of the Freedom for All campaign so people know a **YES on 3** vote this November maintains fundamental protections we passed in 2016. Thank you to our event partners for your support and advocacy – JP Forum, Freedom for All, the MA Transgender Political Coalition, & Keshet.

## Mission Hill

Spring brought exciting festivities with our neighbors and partners in Mission Hill. With the help of neighborhood partners, city and state agencies, we held a barbeque at Sheehy Park and a transportation luncheon for seniors. We celebrated another successful year at Mission Hill NHS' Annual Meeting and honored community members who give back to Mission Hill Main Streets.



## Roslindale

The **Roslindale Village Main Street Summer Farmers Market** kicked off, bringing together local produce, live music and entertainment in Adams Park. It's another example of our district's traditions that invite the neighborhood to reconnect with neighbors.

**Open Birch** was a successful pilot this that I am proud to have supported. It embodies what Rozzie values most – open spaces that bring people together in the name of catching up with neighbors over a bite and fun activities. The **Washington Street bus priority** pilot was a success, significantly cutting travel time from the Square to Forest Hills. Based on its success, I'm excited to work with the T and the city to see where else we can prioritize buses and improve transit throughout our district.





## Get in Touch!



**State Representative Jeffrey Sánchez**  
**Massachusetts State House, Room 243**  
**Boston, MA 02133**

I am always available, whether you prefer to email, tweet, or send in a letter. I love hearing from constituents!



@Jeffrey\_Sanchez



/RepJeffreySanchez



Jeffrey.Sanchez@mahouse.gov



617-722-2990



www.jeffreysanchez.org

## Spotlight: Latin Quarter and the Jackson Square Recreation Center

In June, the Massachusetts Cultural Council officially recognized Hyde & Jackson Squares as the Latin Quarter Cultural District, following the organizing efforts of the youth at the Hyde Square Task Force. It was a beautiful ceremony with music and culture, reflecting on our shared values and the road ahead.

Earlier this session, I secured a \$47 million bond authorization within the capital projects bond bill: \$7M for the Jackson Square Recreation Center and \$40M for improvements to Hyde and Jackson Square. That bill has been signed into

law, authorizing the state to spend money for the Jackson Square Recreation Center. Next, the governor has to release the funds.



The youth at the Task Force took on Goliath to advocate for funding TD Garden. Urban Edge and JPNDC have raised money. And we've been able to secure state funding. Thank you to the youth at the Task Force for bringing attention to the issue, and to Urban Edge and JPNDC for your tireless efforts raising funds and creating plans for the center. We are so close to turning the Jackson Square Recreation Center from dream into reality. I am committed to seeing this project through. I will continue to talk to the governor so the funds are released to make it reality.

## Scenes Around Town



At the groundbreaking of General Heath Square Apartments, 47 affordable housing units made possible by the state's Affordable Housing Trust Fund. It is being developed by JPNDC and Back of the Hill CDC.



It was an honor to meet Congressman and civil rights leader John Lewis during his visit to Massachusetts.



I attended Roxbury Community College over 30 years ago. In May, I returned to deliver RCC's commencement address and was awarded my Associate's Degree. It was inspiring to hear so many students' educational journeys and plans for the future.