

## Young Democrats of Massachusetts

**What is your full legal name, as it will appear on the ballot? \* - Diana DiZoglio**

**What is your preferred first name? - Diana**

**In what formal municipality do you reside? \* - Methuen**

**What neighborhood or village do you consider to be your residence? \***

**On what date is the primary or preliminary election, if applicable? - September 6, 2022**

**On what date is the general election for your race? \* - November 8, 2022**

**Political Party Affiliation \* Democrat**

**Do you have an official campaign website? - Dianaforma.com**

**Do you have a campaign Twitter account? - @DianaDiZoglio**

**Do you have a campaign Instagram account? - @ddizoglio**

**In the last month, how much have raised in campaign contributions? (Including data not yet reported to OCPF)- My campaign raised close to \$30,000 in March, and I lead all candidates with nearly \$480,000 cash on hand.**

**If you have a campaign manager, what is their name? Campaign contact: Joe Thibodeau**

**What is your campaign's primary email contact? \* - [info@dianaforma.com](mailto:info@dianaforma.com)**

**What phone number is the best to use to contact the campaign? \* (978) 886-8089**

- 1. Why are you running for office? Why have you chosen to run for this particular office and not another? \* 0/200 words**

Born to a 17-year-old single mom, I waitressed and cleaned houses to make my way through community college. I then earned a full scholarship to Wellesley College to become the first in my family to graduate. When I later secured a job at our State House, I was sexually harassed

as a younger aide and had the unique opportunity to see, firsthand, how the toxic culture on Beacon Hill operates behind closed doors when there is no accountability. I'm running for Auditor to ensure that no one — no matter their background, bank balance or zip code — receives different treatment on Beacon Hill. I will use my decade-long experience in the Legislature — both in the House and the Senate where I have repeatedly demonstrated my willingness to take on the powerful Beacon Hill establishment — to fight for transparency, accountability and equity for the people of Massachusetts. To that end, my [14-point Social Justice and Equity Audit Plan](#) aims to dismantle outdated and unfair policies that continue to disproportionately harm underserved and marginalized communities. My Audit Plan lays out a number of specific priorities including greater transparency and accountability across state and local government, battling climate change and increasing affordable housing.

**2. What involvement have you had with the Democratic Party? How have you supported other Democrats in your personal capacity? \*0/200 words**

Aside from being elected to the state House of Representatives and the Senate as a proud Democrat, I have also been an enthusiastic supporter of numerous Democratic candidates both locally and statewide over the last decade. And my support is not passive — I act as I did in my first campaign when I had very little money but burned through the soles of my sneakers to knock on every door possible. When I support a candidate I work to make a contribution, hit the doors and/or support with phone banks. Some of the most recent campaigns I have actively supported include Lydia Edwards' successful Senate race and a number of candidates where we were successful in turning red legislative seats blue — including John Cronin, Jamie Belsito, and Adam Scanlon. I have also been active at our state conventions through the years, including just last year where I worked alongside Harwich Democratic Committee Chair Ray Gottwald on [a successful amendment](#) to the party platform promoting more transparency on Beacon Hill by urging that all Committee votes in the Legislature be made public.

**3. What policy issues are the most important to your campaign, and what community groups are you a part of? \* 250 words**

My detailed [14-point Social Justice and Equity Audit Plan](#) tackles some of the biggest challenges facing the Commonwealth while working to dismantle outdated and unfair policies that continue to disproportionately harm working class communities.

Being a legislator is not just about taking votes at the State House, but being active on the ground. As a state representative, I helped co-found the **Merrimack Valley Substance Abuse Prevention Project**, which focused on battling substance-use disorders that affects so many families in our Commonwealth, including my own, and my work to secure funding through [my continued advocacy](#). I am also passionate about environmental justice, which is why I created a pilot program to implement a pre-notification alert system for CSOs in the Merrimack River — leading to [successfully passed legislation](#) — and co-founded the [Merrimack River District](#)

[Commission](#), which brought together a variety of stakeholders along the river to develop a plan to clean and maintain the river moving forward.

Giving young people a voice has also been a priority of mine, which is why I helped start the student-led and student-run Methuen Youth Voice. Since then, and in partnership with those involved, [I've helped lead](#) the effort to open [a Youth Center](#) in Methuen. My support continues at the State House, where I've co-sponsored bills such as the Cherish Act & Act Relative to Healthy Youth. As Auditor, I will ensure that the funds allocated for youth services actually make it to the organizations and ensure that they are being properly supported.

**4. How will the office you are seeking help you to achieve progress on the issues you stated above? \* 150 words**

As State Auditor, I will be ready to work on Day One. I will use the Auditor office's subpoena authority, as well as the bully pulpit it provides, to make our state government more transparent and accessible. I'll conduct the several audits that I've been calling for as a Senator while also implementing my Social Justice and Equity Audit Plan. As State Auditor, my team will spend every working hour standing up for working families and marginalized communities while also searching for, reporting on and preventing financial loss. We will work tirelessly to improve the performance of our government. We will report on what's going right and what's going wrong, so the public knows what is being done across state government, both in process and its decision-making.

**5. If elected, how will your policies support young people in the state and how will you seek to involve young people in civic life? \*0/200 words**

In 2013, I was the youngest woman serving in the House of Representatives at the time, and I'm currently the youngest woman serving in the State Senate. I know exactly what it's like to have your opinion be dismissed because of age. This drives my mission to empower young people and provide them with a seat at the table.

Since being elected, I have made getting young people involved in civic life a priority. I have led [civic education days](#) in schools across my communities that covered the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government and engaged students through interactive exercises. I then hosted many of those same students at the State House for mock debates on legislative issues of their choosing to further spur their interest and engagement in civic life. And I [sponsored](#), and worked with many colleagues to ensure final passage of, legislation that promoted civic education curriculum in our schools.

Time and time again, I have committed my career to fighting on behalf of the next generation of young people. As Auditor, young people will have a voice in my office on the issues impacting their future, like the implementation of the Next Generation Roadmap climate law.

- 6. In what area could YDMA best assist your campaign? (phone/text banking, fundraising, canvassing, social media promotion, etc) (Please list, or provide a brief detailing of the methods.) \*0/50 words**

All of the above. I would welcome any and all help your members would be able to provide. I also would appreciate your input into my Social Justice and Equity Audit Plan and any additional priorities that the Auditor's office should focus on that impact the young people of Massachusetts.

- 7. Have you been involved with YDMA before? How do you plan to stay involved with YDMA after this race? \* 0/200 words**

Since I started running for office, I have worked closely with many members of the YDMA, whether on my own campaigns or the many Democratic campaigns I have actively supported. YDMA members are vital resources for all of us who are fighting to make the Commonwealth a place that lives up to its progressive values. Young people will always have a voice in my Auditor's Office, and I look very much forward to being an active and engaged partner with the YDMA.

**Which office are you seeking? \* Auditor**

For candidates for State Auditor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, if you have a directly relevant policy position or answer already produced in another location (such as a campaign website or press release) you can refer us to that answer rather than producing a new one here. Please reply to each question in no more than 200 words.

- 8. The State Auditors office failed its first peer review in 2011, but since then has risen and in 2014 received the highest possible rating from the National State Auditors Association. How will you ensure that this standard is upheld, and what specific elements of the government auditing standards curriculum still needs attention? \*0/200 characters**

I applaud Auditor Bump for the work she has done to professionalize the Office of the Auditor and ensure that staff have the skills and qualifications necessary to perform their critical duties. I am committed to building on that progress – maintaining a robust human resources department

and high professional standards – focusing on **what** you know, and not **who** you know, when it comes to hiring. I am also committed to maintaining and strengthening a diverse pipeline of qualified applicants. This is crucial for me, as someone who was born and raised in a Gateway City and knows just how wide the talent pipeline really is.

9. **Occasionally, the state Auditor suggests legislative fixes to the department's structure or advances an office goal requiring legislative action through the state legislature. What legislative actions do you intend to suggest, and how will you work to secure buy-in in the legislature?** \* 0/200 characters

I will use my 10 years experience in the legislature and the relationships I have built there (having been endorsed by many Senators and Representatives who support our campaign for equity and transparency) to pass legislation needed to bring real transparency and accountability to Beacon Hill.

I am committed to working with the Legislature to ensure that recommendations that I make in audits are put into action – it's the work I have already started as a State Senator. When Auditor Bump produced a report showing how the current state owned land PILOT program was shortchanging communities by more than \$15 million, I joined with colleagues in the Senate to co-sponsor legislation that will implement the changes recommended in the audit to ensure that communities are fully reimbursed.

Similarly, when Auditor Bump produced a study that showed how Western Massachusetts communities are being left behind when it comes to maintaining or developing public infrastructure for roadways, buildings and broadband, I co-signed a letter to legislative leadership demanding regional equity and and have supported legislative efforts to implement Auditor Bump's recommendations.

I will continue to push for these and future audit recommendations related to my Social Equity and Audit Plan.

10. **The tragic loss of life that occurred at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home in 2020—where independent observers have noted other privately run homes avoided the spread of COVID-19 much more effectively—has already seen an investigation launched by the State House. How will an independent investigation by the State Auditor's Office provide more insight into this tragedy?** \*0/200 characters

When we found out through a Boston Globe Spotlight Team investigation that Governor Baker told falsehoods at our legislative oversight hearings regarding what actually caused the Holyoke Soldiers Home tragedy, I stood up in the Senate and called on the Governor to come before us

under oath. I pushed the Senate to conduct additional oversight hearings where we could utilize our full subpoena authority to get to the bottom of what occurred. Their loved ones deserve the truth.

While I voted for the passage of the recent [Soldiers' Home Bill](#), which will go a long way in ensuring increased accountability in the overall governance and operations of our Soldiers' Homes here in Massachusetts, much work remains to identify potential rocks left unturned and ensure that the practices we have required are actually being implemented in an effective manner.

I am the first candidate in this race who has committed to auditing the Holyoke Soldiers' Home tragedy, the failed vaccine rollout and the no-bid pandemic-related contracts that went out in the millions. I have been [vocal](#) on this from the beginning, demanding accountability, and that will only intensify in the Auditor's Office.

**11. What role does the State Auditor's Office have in avoiding future abuses of taxpayers' money and government resources; what actions will you take to discourage future waste and abuse? \*0/200 characters**

As a Representative and a Senator, I have a strong public track record of holding the powerful accountable on behalf of the people of Massachusetts. As a legislator, I have prioritized ensuring appropriate transparency and oversight of our expenditures during the annual budget process to ensure that those who need help get it. I will do the same as Auditor.

I will also put a renewed focus on the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund. In the Senate, I have [led the charge](#) on calling for greater transparency around the Fund. The current administration blatantly refused to release its data, which was required on a monthly basis but ignored for several months. When it was finally uncovered that millions of dollars were missing from the Fund due to overpayments, the Baker Administration refused to accept full responsibility for withholding information until it was too late to remedy systemic challenges. The failures of this administration should not fall to the low-income workers of the Commonwealth to resolve and pay for. I strongly believe that unemployment overpayment claims that occurred through no fault of the unemployed worker should be waived. Data transparency and access will be a key tenet of my Auditor's Office.