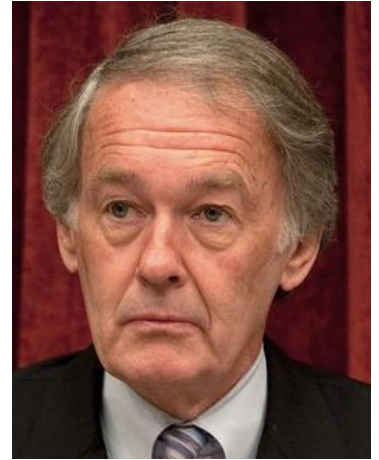


## Ed Markey on War and Peace

Massachusetts Peace Action endorses Rep. Ed Markey for Senate. A primary election on April 30 will choose the Democratic candidate to fill John Kerry's seat, and the general election will be June 25.

Rep. Ed Markey is a key leader in Congress on nuclear disarmament, nuclear power and climate change. He opposes the Afghanistan war and favors reducing military spend to fund social needs.

Markey has worked for nuclear disarmament for decades. He is the U.S. co-president of [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament](#). Markey's "[Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures \(SANE\) Act](#)," named for Peace Action's predecessor organization, would cut \$100 billion in nuclear weapons spending from the Federal budget. It calls for cuts in spending on nuclear submarines and bombers, stop construction of new nuclear weapons production plants, end U.S. bombers' nuclear mission, and reduce the number of deployed weapons. It is incorporated into the Congressional Progressive Caucus' annual budgets.



Markey's concern for nuclear issues began at the age of 15 when he took up as a high school science fair project the problem of Strontium-90 in the milk supply, at a time when his father was a Hood milk delivery man.

Markey's office issues a continual stream of press releases criticizing the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's lax oversight of nuclear power plant safety. He opposed relicensing of the Pilgrim nuclear plant in 2012.

Markey was joint sponsor of the [Waxman-Markey climate change bill](#) which passed the House in 2009, though it died in the Senate. He is a critic of the Keystone XL pipeline and [introduced a bill](#) to block exports of its oil.

Markey has voted repeatedly against funding for the Afghanistan war and against the defense authorization and appropriation bills.

He is a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, voted for its Budget for All progressive budget amendment in 2011, and supported the [Budget for All](#) non-binding question which the voters of 91 Massachusetts cities and towns passed by an average 3 to 1 margin in.

As co-chair of the Bi-Partisan Congressional Privacy Caucus, Markey introduced the Drone Aircraft Privacy and Transparency Act in December 2012 to restrict use of drones within the U.S. for police surveillance of citizens.

Markey is not a perfect peace candidate. On Israel/Palestine and Iran, Markey is not a leader, and he takes stands with which we disagree. On Israel/Palestine, he favors a two state solution but does not taken an even-handed approach to the rights of Israelis and Palestinians. On Iran he opposes war but favors sanctions. Unfortunately Markey is not alone -- few, if any, members of Congress stand for peace on these issues.

Markey's primary opponent, Stephen Lynch, is generally much worse on peace issues. Lynch has consistently voted in favor of Iraq and Afghanistan war funding, though he has supported some legislation to put limits on the Afghanistan war and to trim individual defense programs. Lynch consistently votes against the Progressive Caucus budget with its cuts to military spending. On Israel/Palestine Lynch sometimes stays off legislation favored by the Israel lobby that Markey embraces.

Peace is not the only area where Lynch is considered the most conservative of the 11 Democrats in Massachusetts' Congressional delegation. He voted against the Affordable Care Act and has been considered "pro-life" until he announced a change of heart in February 2013.

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