

Common Cause Massachusetts 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Maura Healey
Office: Attorney General

DUE DATE: Monday, August 18, 2014

- 1) Are you concerned about the amount of money in politics and what would you do to promote policies to limit its influence in elections and governing?

The amount of money in our politics is staggering and equally discouraging. Many qualified candidates without personal wealth are prevented from running at all. This is my first run for elected office, but I proposed and won agreement on a strong outside spending ban in our campaign, and I'm the only candidate to release all of my candidate questionnaires and five years of tax returns. I am proud to have been a top deputy to the first Attorney General to call for a constitutional amendment overturning *Citizens United*. I support robust public financing and will push for stronger regulation of independent groups (including PACs and Super PACs) to ensure transparency and to curb corruption in our politics.

- 2) Do you support public financing of elections? Please be specific about which offices it should cover and any other information about what kind of support should be provided.

Yes. I support public financing with public support and participatory benchmarks that align with the scope and size of the electorate. I support public financing across all offices. With the Supreme Court striking down even reasonable state public financing systems, I'll partner with the legislature to design an approach that can survive legal challenges, and I would work vigorously to defend such laws in the courts.

- 3) Do you support a constitutional amendment to allow the government to limit political spending and to clarify that corporations do not have the same rights as people? Why or why not.

Yes. Strongly. I am a firm supporter of efforts to amend our Constitution to clarify that corporations do not have the rights and privileges of individual persons. The threat to our democracy from *Citizens United* is already evident today. Decisions like *Hobby Lobby* raise deep concerns -- not only about access to reproductive health care, but about the extension of that doctrine to allow broader discrimination. Corporations have also been successful in asserting special corporate First Amendment rights to defeat reasonable regulations in areas as diverse as medical privacy, regulation of tobacco, and the rights of workers to organize.

- 4) What would you do to bring more transparency to government operations?

I support transparency in government. It is essential to democratic and progressive government at all levels. As Attorney General, I will ensure that all settlement agreements reached by the Attorney General's Office are publicly available and will modernize the office's website to ensure full access to

information. As Attorney General, I will also support our state courts in putting more court documents online.

As the legal counsel to our state agencies, the Attorney General can work to ensure transparency and open practices across state government. The Attorney General's role as public advocate gives her the authority to take action to stop government processes left open to corruption and abuse. The rigged hiring system uncovered in the Probation Department was absolutely illegal. The fact that it constituted business as usual on Beacon Hill does that make it more acceptable, but less. Fake systems, supported by fake documents, used to hire relatives and political allies, represent the worst of government and a betrayal of the public trust.

I have also run the most transparent campaign for Attorney General. I released five years of tax returns months ago, the first statewide candidate to do so. I have posted all my candidate questionnaires so the public knows what I am saying to private groups. I proposed and won agreement on the strongest ban on special interest spending in the race for Attorney General. Transparency is a core value of my campaign, and I will bring that commitment with me to the Attorney General's Office.

- 5) The legislature passed a terrific elections bill earlier this year that will make great steps towards modernizing our elections. Would you support Election Day registration for the commonwealth? Is there anything else you think we should do to improve our elections in Massachusetts?

Yes. As Attorney General and as a civil rights attorney, I will focus on increasing voter participation in disenfranchised communities across the state. We need to make voter registration easier for people for whom English is a second language, make it simpler for people to change their registration to a new address (ideally at the polls), and expand awareness of state and local elections. I believe there is much we can do to raise awareness of early voting to allow more people to participate. This is an opportunity for public leadership at all levels. The new law has expanded absentee voting rights and I believe we should work with municipalities to raise awareness of the opportunity to vote before Election Day.

Our goal must be full enfranchisement and participation in our process. I strongly support same-day registration, which has successfully raised participation in New Hampshire and other states. I also believe in examining vote-by-mail initiatives, which can increase participation particularly for the elderly and people with disabilities.

- 6) What do you think should be done, if anything, about the issue of political patronage?

The Attorney General is the people's lawyer and advocate. It is the Attorney General's responsibility to investigate and prosecute political corruption at all levels, including the gray areas of the law that have far too often allowed Beacon Hill insiders to hire unqualified people into significant positions of public service.

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That is not how we hire people in the Attorney General's Office. And it won't be if I'm Attorney General. I am running as an independent leader, not connected to an insider political culture. Voters should know that I will work aggressively to end the patronage culture in our state government to protect the public.