



Both national and state efforts are working to address the Citizens' United and McCutcheon decisions and, instead, make it clear that corporations are not people and money is not speech. They are worthwhile and I am supporting both because candidates need a more level playing field that is not flooded by money, and voters need to hear the real voices of real people.

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

Every office of government is part of the checks and balances that make government work effectively and efficiently. Without government accountability to the public, voters become so suspicious, skeptical, and cynical that many decide not to bother voting. Without voting, there's no democracy. Emphasis must be placed on timely accessibility to records and reports. There must be open avenues for public input and participation.

As Auditor, I would recognize fraud has many faces. While it includes uncovering those who abuse the system, it should also include finding those who are wrongly excluded, ignored, or overlooked by the system. Census data and public hearings can provide insight into the difference between state services and people's actual daily circumstances that the state fails to serve. I would set up sessions around the state to learn about the concerns that are affecting people and to ask what impact current policies have and what ways they believe the state is responsible.

3) 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?

I do support election-day registration and all steps that empower citizens to participate in a government of, by, and for the people. The most effective improvement in the election process would be to institute ranked or instant runoff voting (IRV). Not until then will voters feel entirely free to vote for what they want instead of what they are told they can get.

IRV contributes to more civil discourse during elections because candidates need to attract not only first-place votes, but also second-place votes, so attack ads become less effective. IRV also makes a variety of candidates and a variety of voices more possible in a campaign, enhancing democracy and giving the voting public more choices.

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

To often, the patronage machine on Beacon Hill wastes our taxpayer money by putting ill-suited people in positions of authority and promoting an atmosphere of incumbent entitlement. It is grossly unfair to young people who want to enter government service and actually improve things. It should not continue under the guise of building a cohesive team of capable colleagues, which is a legitimate goal.

As members of a party that is independent of the Beacon Hill political machine, Green-Rainbow Party elected officials will dismantle the hidden patronage system. With others, I will call for legislation that imposes a fair hiring code and makes patronage hiring a prosecutable violation. Applicant recommendations from legislators would be considered along with required references from other sources as part of an open and advertised hiring process.