

Common Cause Questionnaire

Candidate: Charlie Baker

Office: Governor

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?

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.

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.

I am concerned about the level of influence special interests are afforded in the Massachusetts political system. That's why I called for the legislature to close the loophole which allows narrow special interests to contribute \$15,000 directly to political campaigns. This loophole puts the interests of certain organizations above those of the citizens. I also support changing the state's campaign finance calendar to primary/general schedule, rather than a calendar year schedule, and moving the state's primary to earlier in the year.

I am in favor of the current public campaign finance laws.

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

I believe more aspects of the legislative process should be made publicly available such as public posting of roll calls for committee votes. I also proposed more transparent accounting requirements for the state's Health Connector and would work to implement similar practices for such expensive projects in state government.

I also proposed another way to keep state government accountable to the taxpayers which is to have publicly-available metrics for each state program and agency, with a regularly-updated, online 'dashboard' so the public can see how the program or agency is performing against those metrics. For example, if the Department of Children and Families has a goal of reducing caseloads to a particular number, the public should be able to see their progress towards achieving that goal.

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 proposed a series of good government reforms to make Beacon Hill more accountable, transparent and geared toward providing real customer service to the taxpayers. These included strong electoral reforms to

shorten the costly campaign season and level the election playing field, and undoing the current system designed to protect incumbents. The full plan is available here: <https://www.charliebaker2014.com/goodgovernment>

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

I am the only candidate in the race to propose real reforms to state government to root out patronage. These reforms include beefed up ethics training and evaluations and integrating probation and parole to clean up the patronage-laden department. I will also work to implement greater transparency in hiring by requiring all agencies to publicly post job openings, successful applicants and a summary of their qualifications. Lastly, I will urge the Inspector General to audit hiring practices to ensure every corner of state government is only hiring qualified individuals. The full plan is available here: <https://www.charliebaker2014.com/honest-government>