

Candidate: Donald Berwick

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?

Those with great wealth do not have the right to control our future. Yet the growing role of money in politics concentrates power, threatens the foundation of participatory democracy, and erodes the public's faith in our leaders to represent the best interests of those they are elected to serve. I believe that *Citizens United* is the single worst blow to our politics in my lifetime—it has opened the door to the mega-donors, SuperPACs, and corporate dollars that have become parasites on our political campaigns.

Massachusetts should be proud to have some of the toughest campaign finance laws in the country. And I applaud the recent law that requires SuperPACs to disclose their largest donors. But we can do more. As governor, I will work to make the Massachusetts political process more democratic. I would also work with like-minded governors to generate support for a constitutional amendment to overturn *Citizens United*.

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. Today's candidates spend more time raising money than they do connecting with voters. The results are dangerous—candidates focus their energy on the concerns and interests of their donors rather than those of the people that need government's help the most. It makes our politics and our politicians more inaccessible to those who cannot afford to donate. And it makes it harder for the public to make informed decisions about who to vote for. Instead, I believe that candidates who demonstrate meaningful support should make their arguments to the public on equal footing—with similar resources and for similar periods of time. Let's let people speak, not dollars.

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. The idea that corporations are people is one of the lies that have done untold damage to our democracy in recent years. It has widened the growing gap of economic and social inequality in our nation today and led to much of the gridlock we are seeing in Washington today. I am running for governor to put a stop to these lies and bring back the simple idea that government should be guided by a commitment to social justice, equality, and compassion.

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

Government can only succeed when residents feel that their government is accessible—that they understand how decisions are made and that their voices are heard. Transparency has been central in my career, and it will be a key aim of my administration. As governor, I will strive to make Massachusetts an example for the nation in transparency and inclusiveness. I will work to remove unnecessary barriers to accessing public records and strengthen the Commonwealth's open meeting law to allow more people to be involved in decisions that impact their community. But transparency would also guide my style of leadership. Decisions would not be made in backrooms, but be open and accessible to the public for comment and review.

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?

In an era of growing inequality and increasing concentration of power in the hands of the wealthy few, protecting the fundamental right to vote is essential to the health of our democracy. As governor, I will do everything in my power to preserve this right. I fully support Election Day Registration, early voting, and online registration. These measures, now adopted in many states, have been proven to increase voter turnout. I firmly oppose photo ID laws that disproportionately disenfranchise low-income people of color.

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

The latest round of patronage shenanigans are, sadly, all too familiar. Legislative leaders who were complicit by their actions or by their silence have allowed taxpayer dollars to be wasted, and, worse, have once again damaged faith in government. We can't afford that damage if we care about the key role that government needs to have in assuring social justice and fairness.

As governor, I will insist upon and lead a comprehensive investigation into the role patronage plays in the Commonwealth. I will call upon the legislature to adopt principles and practices to make sure that those who are hired to serve in our government are the very best qualified professionals we can find. I will do whatever I can to identify and spotlight patronage, and I will work with our legislature to shut it down.

It is fitting and proper that legislators help talented constituents find and apply for suitable jobs in the Commonwealth. But when constituent assistance becomes hidden, inside baseball, and when the game is rigged, our Commonwealth loses.

Unlike my primary election opponents, I am not running for office as a political insider, but rather as an experienced executive who deeply understands the importance of transparency and customer focus in achieving excellence in any organization. The patronage scams that too often surface among the insiders in our state government are neither transparent nor focused on the interests of our people. Enough is enough.