

Common Cause Massachusetts 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Steve Grossman
Office: Governor

DEADLINE: Monday, August 18, 2014

Thank you for taking the time to indicate your position on the following issues. If desired, you may also include any other ideas on how you would work to make Massachusetts government more open and accountable. We reserve the right to summarize or shorten particularly long answers but will make the full text available on our website. We appreciate your prompt response. Thank you!

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 very concerned about the excessive and ever-growing role of money in politics, especially when it comes from corporations, not people, or is funneled via pass-through entities that effectively conceal its true origins. I have said many times that the Supreme Court's 2010 decision in *Citizens United* is one of the most damaging in the Court's history. I fully support a constitutional amendment restoring restrictions on the amounts and sources of political funds and stating that corporations do not have the same free speech rights as people. I also fully support public financing of campaigns and have for many years. In Massachusetts, I would support efforts to renew our public financing system, and I would support its expansion to legislative campaigns as well.

I support total transparency and public reporting of all contributions to any entity, including independent expenditure campaigns. I also support full disclosure by all public corporations, concerning their expenditure of shareholder funds either on political campaigns or lobbying activities.

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

Too many of our fellow citizens suffer from too little hope and trust in our government. As treasurer, I've delivered on the promises I made to the citizens of

this Commonwealth to protect the public's money and bring new standards of transparency and disclosure to state government.

I believe taxpayers are entitled to know how their money is being spent. That's why as treasurer I put nearly every state contract out to bid to get the best value, saving taxpayers tens of millions of dollars.

When I took office, I collaborated with other state agencies to put the state's checkbook online at mass.gov/opencheckbook, delivering on my campaign promise to be upfront and open about how tax dollars are spent. Now, interested citizens can view the state's finances down to checkbook level detail online.

As governor, transparency, accountability, and high standards will continue to be defining principles in my administration. I will issue an executive order upon taking office that streamlines the public records process to enhance transparency. We must expedite response times for public records requests and incorporate best practices from other states. Implementing a clear set of performance metrics is critical to achieving this goal. When feasible, we must also strive to make records from the Governor's Office and executive agencies available electronically in a commonly accessible format.

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 strongly support same-day voter registration, as well as early voting, and online registration. In addition, I believe we should explore the potential for online voting. Our democracy is stronger when we make it easier for all citizens to participate. Government must always aim to be fast, flexible, and entrepreneurial, bringing voting into line with 21st century technology and common sense, while making absolutely certain that we incorporate the proper protections against voter fraud.

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

The citizens of the Commonwealth should all be treated like the valued customers of a business. At all times they deserve great quality, service, value, and professionalism. I was dedicated to customer service in my business, where we always hired the best person for every job, and government must match private sector standards.

In the Probation Department trial, we learned that John O'Brien and his colleagues engaged in reprehensible behavior, abused the power of their office, and violated the public's trust. The Probation Department hiring scheme unveiled during this trial demonstrates the urgent need to reform Beacon Hill and to restore confidence in our government and its leaders.

As treasurer, I have made transparency and accountability critical objectives to live up to every day. When I was sworn in, I promised the people of Massachusetts that Treasury would revolutionize hiring practices to hire the best person for every job, while also reflecting the diversity of the society in which we live. I'm deeply proud that we've accomplished that goal by recruiting a superb workforce of public servants who have met and exceeded many of the performance metrics put in place. And, since I took office, more than 35 percent of all hires at Treasury and the Lottery have been people from diverse communities.