

Common Cause Massachusetts
2014 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Jeff McCormick 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?

Yes I am concerned about money in politics. I think we need to level the playing field when it comes to how much individuals can donate to candidates and parties. We need to eliminate the current loophole that allows certain groups to give a \$15,000 to a candidate while individuals can only give \$500. Also, individuals should not be allowed to give \$5,000 to a party but only \$500 to a candidate. We need to make all of the limits fair and equal. I am running as an independent because I do not want to be tied to special interests.

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 of elections. All statewide candidates should be covered. My campaign has qualified for public financing this election and it has helped a great deal. There should be qualifications set for receiving public funds as there are now. We don't have the resources to expand public financing to all offices, such as legislative races.

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. Outside corporate and special interest money are clouding the airwaves, driving up costs for advertising, and bending the truth on where candidates stand on the issues. Even with the more transparent parameters that the legislature passed this session, we still have an abundance of Super PAC ads on television that make it harder for voters to decide what to believe about the candidates.

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

I believe we need to reform our Open Records Law when it comes to information requests from the public. Currently, the state ranks near the bottom in transparency and access to public records. I support limiting the fees that agencies are allowed to charge for documents to not more than what an individual would be charged at an office supply store or library. In addition, the process needs to be done in a timely fashion so that requesters don't have to wait months for the records.

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?

Yes I support same day registration. Voter turnout is a real concern of mine. I believe we should take a look at the special elections process to find a better way of electing our leaders when they leave office before their term ends. I believe the voters should have a voice in the process, but a lot of times people are not even aware there is an election, which I don't believe is good for our democracy.

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

When the probation verdict came down, I said that we should do a statewide audit about the hiring processes at each agency to identify any problem areas where the process could be manipulated. We need flexibility in hiring, but people also need to be put in jobs for which they are qualified. It should be what you know, not who you know. My administration will publicly announce each hire and provide the job description and qualifications for each person hired. The taxpayers deserve no less.