

Common Cause Massachusetts

2014 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Steve Kerrigan

Office: Lieutenant 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.

Everyone should be concerned about the potential for undue influence of certain special interests and wealthy donors in our political process—that is why I was proud to see Massachusetts once again lead the nation with our new law requiring greater disclosure from Super PAC donors. Given the current state of the law and this Supreme Court's viewpoint on campaign finance regulation, I believe our focus should be on pushing for more transparency through broader disclosure of donors.

I support the goals of the current public financing system in Massachusetts, but we still have work to do to make that system fairer for all statewide candidates. I declared my intentions to participate in the public-financing system in my current campaign, but, due to a lack of funding, no candidate below the office of Governor has received any public money.

We should also do more to educate the public on the benefits of public financing and encourage more donations to the system through the tax check-off option. Furthermore, I support the current proposed constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United and McCutcheon decisions.

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

Especially in this era of “big data,” in which people are used to being able to access information immediately, state governments must continue to bring more public information and resources online and to make it all more accessible to the public. This will bring the public further inside of government to understand better how and why decisions are made.

I plan to transform the office of Lieutenant Governor into an ombudsman service for state government—not only for local officials but also for businesses and citizens who find state bureaucracy or complicated regulations difficult to navigate.

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 support same-day registration and will work with Common Cause and with state and local election officials to develop a portable, permanent voter-registration system.

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

Since the beginning of my campaign, I have emphasized the need to rebuild trust between the voters and the people who serve them. To do that, we must show both that we can make government work for its citizens and that those in government are working for the public interest—not their own. When it comes to staffing the Lieutenant Governor’s office or other positions in the executive branch, I will hire the applicants most qualified to get the job done right.