

## D'Arcangelo Responses to Common Cause Questionnaire

David D'Arcangelo  
Republican Candidate for Secretary of the Commonwealth  
183 Bainbridge Street  
Malden, MA 02148  
URL: [DaveIn2014.com](http://DaveIn2014.com)  
Email: [Dave@DaveIn2014.com](mailto:Dave@DaveIn2014.com)  
Tel: 781 789-4580

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.

Yes, I am concerned about the amount of money in politics and have advocated for my plan that would significantly alter our current campaign finance system. My plan, Sunsetting Campaign Warchests would help address the amount(s) of money in politics and seeks to Increase Candidate Participation for Elective Office. See below and links for additional information.

### **Sunset Campaign Warchests**

*Problem* - Our current election laws favor incumbents by allowing elected officials to use the power of their office to raise and amass enormously large amounts of money into their campaign accounts, which stifles competition and makes it nearly impossible to compete against a longtime incumbent.

*Solution* - Adopt my detailed plan for Sunsetting Campaign Warchests, which would help level the playing field and allow more competition. See Lowell Sun Op-Ed [http://www.lowellsun.com/ci\\_8691209?IADID=Search-www.lowellsun.com](http://www.lowellsun.com/ci_8691209?IADID=Search-www.lowellsun.com) [www.lowellsun.com](http://www.lowellsun.com) See detailed plan <http://www.scribd.com/doc/35120440/Sunset-the-Money-Proposal-Full>

Yes, I support some form of public financing for elections. It should apply to all candidates for statewide, county and legislative offices. This support should be both monetary and deal with the high costs of Mass Media Advertising. There are ways to devise a flat rate advertising schedule that would not inhibit the revenues of television stations, radio stations and the Postal Service but, at the same time, allow candidates that meet a certain set of criteria to qualify for Publicly Financed Mass Media ad-buys.

My support of a Constitutional Amendment would depend on the language and intent of the proposal. If the Amendment language spoke to leveling the playing field for any and all entities then I would most likely be in favor of it. However, if the Amendment language did not address the existing inequities, such as political contribution amounts from Labor and Public Employee Unions, then I would not be in favor of it.

## D'Arcangelo Responses to Common Cause Questionnaire

We need to truly level the playing field amongst *all* entities contributing to candidates and campaigns. Then, and only then, can we create a more uniform system of campaign finance parity.

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

I agree with Common Cause that “our public records law is broken” and as your next Secretary of State I will work to fix it. My plan to increase transparency is based upon **updating, enhancing** and **simplifying** our Public Records systems. This includes and extensive revamping of both 950 C.M.R. 32 and M.G.L. Chapter 66.

As your next Secretary I will use my Executive Powers to promulgate regulations and my bully pulpit to work with the Legislature to institute and enact new Public Records Regulations and Laws that will focus on three specific areas;

- A. **Update** – We need 21<sup>st</sup> Century solutions for our antiquated and outdated Public Records Regulations and Laws. Require records to be kept longer using newer technologies like the Cloud. Require elected and appointed officials to post their department budgets line-by-line on a state web site for easy public review.
- B. **Enhance** – Make more Public Records “Public” by posting more records online and making it easier for people to access. Our current Regulations and Laws provide little to no ability for enforcement of the Public Records Law. My plan would be to enact hard timelines that agencies/departments have to respond to Public Records Requests. Introduce tough new penalties for elected officials and staff who fail to comply with legitimate public records requests in a thorough and timely manner. Require Custodians of Records to undergo a thorough and comprehensive training, which would be conducted under the auspices of a new non-partisan consortium of good government and political watchdog groups in concert with the Judiciary and the State Ethics Commission. Enact new enforcement policies that would provide stiff civil and criminal penalties for anyone violating the Public Records Law.
- C. **Simplify** – There are too many exceptions and exclusions to our Public Records Regulations and Laws. Keep the list of exceptions short and only keep documents private when they explicitly protect the citizens of the Commonwealth. Make it easier to file public records requests and make it more affordable for people to access these documents.

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?

## D'Arcangelo Responses to Common Cause Questionnaire

Yes, I would support same day registration, but only if we adopt a new system because the current system is antiquated, places too many unfunded mandates on local City & Town Clerks/Election Officers, and is not currently capable of handling Election Day registration.

### ***D'Arcangelo Election Reform Initiatives***

#### **A. No More PSA'S for Politicians**

*Problem* - Politicians are using taxpayer money to promote themselves through flashy, campaign style ads that are passed off as "Public Service Announcements." For example, the current Secretary of State has appeared in Public Service Announcements and used taxpayer money to promote himself. Another example would be the case of former Treasurer Tim Cahill who was indicted for coordinating his campaign with the use of PSA's.

*Solution* - PSA's will be allowed, but politicians cannot appear in them. I just do not believe that politicians should use taxpayers' money to promote themselves.

#### **B. Random Order on Ballot Via Lottery**

*Problem* - Our current election laws provide that incumbents are listed first to appear on the ballot. This stacks the ballot order in favor of incumbents and stifles competition.

*Solution* - Have a lottery to determine ballot order. This will help level the playing field for all candidates. All candidates will have an equal chance of gaining preferred ballot positions. Many communities already employ this procedure.

#### **C. Remove the "I" for incumbent**

*Problem* - Current elections law places the letter "I," which stands for Incumbent, next to the name of the candidate currently serving in office. This provides an undue advantage for incumbents and inhibits competition.

*Solution* - Remove the "I" for Incumbent, which will encourage voters to educate themselves on what candidate to vote for. All candidates will be viewed and treated the same.

#### **D. Change political designation of Unenrolled back to Independent**

*Problem* - Up until the early 1980's, Massachusetts election laws used to identify voters, who were not enrolled in a political party, as Independent. As a result of this confusing designation many Massachusetts voters remain unclear about their voting status. Additionally, many voters have expressed displeasure with being considered "Unenrolled" in either political party. Numerous Election Officers have indicated that a significant amount of Massachusetts voters have been disenfranchised by this misperception.

*Solution* - Change back to the previous standard of "I" for Independent voter, which shall mean a voter that is Independent of any political party.

#### **E. Military Service Voting Integrity**

*Problem* - Massachusetts voters living overseas, which includes those serving in our armed forces, are not allowed to vote with the same secret ballot integrity and/or

## D'Arcangelo Responses to Common Cause Questionnaire

ease of voting as those who are physically present and voting in Massachusetts on Election Day. The current Secretary was found to have not complied and had to reach a settlement with the Federal Government for violations of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2008/October/08-crt-943.html> Essentially Bill Galvin failed our brave service men and women serving for us overseas by improper reporting. The current Secretary has not kept up with technology and our voters have suffered

*Solution* - Allow secret ballot voting for Military by enabling electronic voting that is secure and easy to do.

### F. Sunset Campaign Warchests

*Problem* - Our current election laws favor incumbents by allowing elected officials to use the power of their office to raise and amass enormously large amounts of money into their campaign accounts, which stifles competition and makes it nearly impossible to compete against a longtime incumbent.

*Solution* - Adopt my detailed plan for Sunsetting Campaign Warchests, which would help level the playing field and allow more competition. See Lowell Sun Op-Ed [http://www.lowellsun.com/ci\\_8691209?IADID=Search-www.lowellsun.com-www.lowellsun.com](http://www.lowellsun.com/ci_8691209?IADID=Search-www.lowellsun.com-www.lowellsun.com) See detailed plan <http://www.scribd.com/doc/35120440/Sunset-the-Money-Proposal-Full>

### G. Change Date of Primary Election

*Problem* - Our current election calendar places the Primary Election too close to the General Election, which is problematic for a couple of reasons. First, because it makes it difficult for overseas ballots to be filled in ample time. Secondly, having the Primary in mid-September, which only 56 days from the General Election, compresses the election calendar and, as a result, drives down voter interest and participation.

*Solution* - Move the Primary Election back to the first Tuesday in June as falls in line with many other states. This will help garner more interest and as a result more voters will turn out and be engaged in the election process. This would also address the overseas balloting timetable problems that has been such a problem for our armed forces serving overseas.

### H. Uniformity of Voter Registration and Election Day Documents

*Problem* - Current forms, such as Affirmation of Continuous Residence, vary from community to community, this leads to less consistent data collection, confusion and is an unfunded mandate placed on Cities and Towns.

*Solution* - Make all of the documents uniform, make them available electronically and supply them to local municipalities so that they do not have to bear the costs.

### I. Institute Electronic Voting

*Problem* - Too many citizens of our Commonwealth are disenfranchised by the antiquated, arcane and burdensome processes related to Absentee ballot voting.

## D'Arcangelo Responses to Common Cause Questionnaire

*Solution* – Lead the nation and allow Electronic Voting that is secure, reliable and easy to use. This will encourage and allow more citizens to take part and vote, which will increase civic participation.

### **J. Modernize the Electronic Databases and Allow More Transparency**

*Problem* – The current Voter Registration process relies heavily on the Registry of Motor Vehicles, RMV, and their database system, policies & procedures. Unfortunately, the RMV does not use the same unique Identifier as the Secretary of State's database system, which is both outrageous and thoroughly inefficient. Additionally, the Secretary has not allowed the State Voter File to be available as a Public Document, which lacks transparency.

*Solution* – Have one modern system that streamlines the process and is able to be fully integrated with Electronic Voting procedures and online database languages. Make the State Voter File available as a Public Document and open up our Public Records.

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

I believe that political patronage has been a problem on Beacon Hill for years. The citizens of Massachusetts deserve a government that is open, accountable and responsive to their needs. So, we need government employees to be hired based upon the merits of their qualifications instead of political affiliation, campaign contributions and/or "who you know." Political Patronage violations would be much harder to perpetrate with more transparency, which is just another reason that we should have mandatory reporting by each and every department within State Government.

*Problem* – Bureaucrats, Political Appointees and those looking to curry favor with Beacon Hill leadership, are in charge of the hiring of employees, which encourages a system of political patronage. As a result, too many employees get hired on the basis of their political connections, and/or ability to indulge Beacon Hill leadership, rather than their qualifications.

*Solution* – Require anyone with the ability to hire or fire employees to undergo a thorough and comprehensive training, which would be conducted under the auspices of a new non-partisan consortium of good government and political watchdog groups in concert with the Judiciary and the State Ethics Commission. Enact new enforcement policies that would provide stiff civil and criminal penalties for anyone violating the patronage law.