

**Common Cause Massachusetts**  
**2014 Candidate Questionnaire**

**Name:** Barry Finegold

**Office:** Treasurer

**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?**

I recently led the charge in the Senate to pass a comprehensive campaign finance disclosure bill. Less than a week after it was signed into law, we are already seeing the impacts of this legislation as Super PACs are forced to disclose their donors both in their ads and in reports to OCPF.

**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.**

In 2001, as a member of the House, I voted against leadership in opposition to the amendment to the Clean Elections Law that changed its funding source to the voluntary tax form check-off system, which has led to the Clean Elections Fund being chronically underfunded. I believe that public financing should apply to all offices.

**Do you support a constitutional amendment to allow the government to limit political spending and clarify that corporations do not have the same rights as people? Why or why not?**

Yes, I do 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. Though I was not present to vote on a 2012 resolution asking Congress to do so due to a family emergency, I submitted a letter to the Clerk stating that, if I had been present, I would have voted in favor of the resolution.

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

Improved use of technology can open avenues to improved transparency in government operations. The Open Checkbook project brought to fruition by Treasurer Grossman went a long way in ensuring that the public has access to seeing how taxpayer dollars are spent.

Additionally, I believe that the job hiring process should be made more transparent, including making the resumes of job applicants available to the public.

**3. The Legislature passed a terrific elections bill earlier this year that will make great steps toward 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?**

As the lead Senate sponsor of the elections bill, I supported and pushed for the inclusion of Election Day Registration in the final Senate bill. Unfortunately, we were not able to get the support of enough conferees to include it in the final bill, but I do hope that it will pass in future sessions.

The elections modernization bill I worked to pass this year will make huge improvements in our elections in Massachusetts. I would like to see mandatory weekend hours for early voting and improved use of technology in our management of the voter rolls and in our elections.

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

As I mentioned above, I believe that the job hiring process should be made more transparent, including making the resumes of job applicants available to the public.