

## Common Cause Massachusetts

### 2014 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Deborah Goldberg  
Office: Treasurer

**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.*

The Supreme Court's decision in the *Citizens United* case was a massive blow to our democracy. I believe that corporations are not people, and should not be treated as such. Therefore, I would support a constitutional amendment to overturn the decision.

Obviously, money has disproportionate power in our politics. Current elected officials use their positions to amass huge sums of money in order to run for higher office, making it more difficult for political newcomers to be successful. Most forms of campaign communications, including direct mail and television advertising, are prohibitively expensive, which is why politicians have to spend a majority of their time fundraising, and less time governing.

As anyone on my staff who has had to sit with me during call time knows, I would love to reform the financing of our elections. For this and many other reasons, I support public financing of elections. I believe that this is particularly important for all of our state-wide elected offices.

This year, there are multiple competitive down ballot races, for positions that most people don't know much about. That makes it even more difficult for campaigns to communicate with voters and get their message out. For example, on my website, there is a section entitled "What does the Treasurer do?" precisely because of this issue.

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

The present Treasurer was the first to put the state's checkbook online and increase access of information for every citizen. The state budget is also available through Mass.gov, but is cumbersome and not especially user friendly in accessing information.

One of my top priorities is to continue to increase transparency within the Treasurer's office in order to further protect taxpayer's dollars. The people of Massachusetts deserve to be assured that their monies are being managed smartly and efficiently. Although our state has taken steps over the years to do this, there is still more we can do. For example, we should make it easier to find and examine the budget of each department and authority.

Due to my years of experience in a public business, in non-profits, and as an elected local official, I understand the important role that transparency plays in fostering confidence and promoting collaboration. As Treasurer, I look forward to shedding light on the operations of the office.

***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?***

While the legislature's bill represents a strong first step in modernizing Massachusetts' elections, I don't believe it goes far enough.

I strongly feel and have actively supported same day registration on Election Day the efforts to bring about early voting in Massachusetts.

Another way to improve our election system would be to increase transparency and establish a uniform system of campaign finance reporting, so that statewide and local campaigns are held to the same standards. There should be consistent and regular reporting at all levels of campaigns that will allow people to know where a candidate's funding is coming from.

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

As you know, political patronage is illegal, and has no place in any office. As the next Treasurer, I will hire people for positions based on what they know, not who they know.