

Common Cause Massachusetts  
2006 Candidate Questionnaire

**DEADLINE:** Monday, October 23rd, 2006

*Please circle "YES" or "NO" to indicate your position on the following issues. If desired, you may also explain any of your responses, or include any ideas on how you would work to make Massachusetts government more open and accessible on additional sheets (OPTIONAL). We appreciate your prompt response. Thank you!*

**Redistricting Reform**

The Massachusetts state constitution has been amended several times to change the way electoral lines are drawn in Massachusetts. For example, before 1970, county government redrew House districts. Since the House has been responsible for drawing its own districts, at least two of the last four plans have been thrown out by federal courts. As technology improves and the ability to draw and redraw districts becomes easier, many academics and other political observers see the redistricting process as an increasingly serious threat to American democracy. Some states have found a solution that makes the redistricting process more fair and open. Instead of legislative leadership drawing districts, an independent, non-partisan commission draws the lines. The legislature can then vote up or down on a series of plans produced by the Commission. Would you support a constitutional amendment that would place that responsibility for drawing electoral lines in the hands of an independent commission, subject to strict guidelines for public participation, non-partisanship, retaining the integrity of existing communities, and respecting the voting rights of minorities?

YES       NO

**Open Government**

Common Cause is launching a multi-year campaign to get more local governance documents on the internet. We believe that each town and city that has a website should post their budget, their governing body's agenda and minutes, town meeting warrants and minutes (if applicable), and any ordinances. Posting these documents takes only minutes and is virtually cost free. Would you encourage your local officials to post these important public records?

YES       NO

Would you also support rules changes and/or legislation that applies open meeting and public record laws to the state legislature?

YES       NO

**Campaign Finance Reform**

Massachusetts has had the second lowest rate of competition in the nation for state legislative races for most of the last decade, costs for statewide office have escalated at an alarming rate, 4 of 5 candidates in the Governor's race are multimillionaires, and only a very small portion of the population contributes to political campaigns. If elected, would you vote to provide a limited amount of public funds to

candidates for the state legislature and statewide office who accept campaign spending and contribution limits and who meet fundraising thresholds to demonstrate viable candidacies?

YES

NO

RESTORE CLEAN ELECTIONS

Campaign contribution limits help keep costs of campaigns down, tend to help challengers, and allow more of the population to participate in campaign finance at an equal level. Would you support keeping the current \$500 contribution limit rather than doubling it to \$1,000?

YES

NO

**Ethics Reform**

Under current financial disclosure law, public officials report how much money they possess, receive, and spend. The current law uses the same financial bracket for all assets of \$100,000 or over – this means that people who have \$100,000 are in the same category as multimillionaires.

Would you support a financial disclosure system that creates more detailed reporting categories for assets and income over \$100,000?

YES

NO

**Electoral Reform**

Federal law requires that all voters be allowed to cast a “provisional ballot” on election day if their names do not appear on the rolls. The procedures around the investigation and counting of these ballots is cumbersome enough that many clerks now support election day registration to streamline the process. Election day registration is used in 6 states, including Maine and New Hampshire, and is proven to increase turnout on election day, particularly in Presidential elections. Proper identification would be required.

Would you support legislation to establish election day registration?

YES

NO

Owen Broadhurst  
Candidate Name

Third Hampden  
District

10/13/06  
Date

**Please return this questionnaire by October 23rd, 2006 to:**

Common Cause Massachusetts  
59 Temple Place, Suite 600  
Boston, MA 02111  
(617) 426-9600  
Fax: (617) 426-6855