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Massachusetts 2018 Constitutional Officers Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: _____ Bob Massie _____

Print full name of person completing this form: ___ Todd O. Burger / Bob Massie _____

Email: ___ Todd@BobMassie2018.com / Bob@BobMassie2018.com _____

Role in campaign (candidate, campaign manager, etc.): ___ Director of Policy / Candidate _____

Taxpayer Information

1. Will you support the “Revenue, Information and Accountability Act,” (H.3363/S.1722), which instructs the Secretary of Administration and Finance to provide to Massachusetts taxpayers information on how the Federal budget is spent? Y / N

Additional Comments:

Yes, I am in favor of this, which is aligned with my principles regarding transparency in government. I have been following the work of Jo Comerford at the [National Priorities Project](#) (who is now running for State Senate in Massachusetts) for many years. Taxpayers deserve to get a simple reporting of where their federal (and state) tax dollars are going.

Military Contractors

2. Will you support divesting state pension funds from companies that produce nuclear weapons, (following the precedent of the divestment from tobacco companies)? Y / N

3. Will you support a bill ending state tax breaks for Massachusetts defense contractors? Y / N

Additional Comments: The defense budget already consumes too much of the federal budget. We should not be subsidizing this segment of our economy.

Militarization of Police

4. Would you be willing to refuse to accept military equipment from federal agencies for use in Massachusetts police work? Y / N

Additional Comments: The militarization of our police forces does not benefit our police, or our criminal justice system. It may even contribute to the lack of trust for our police in local communities, and that trust is essential to good policing. We have militarized our police and underinvested in many other areas of the criminal justice system, while fostering a mass incarceration state that does not serve our communities or deliver justice.

Militarization of Schools

5. Do you support removing JROTC from schools? Y / N

Additional Comments:

Right to Boycott

Campaigns for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) seek to nonviolently change Israel's policies of occupation of east Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza. An anti-BDS bill (S.1689/H.1685) was filed in the State Legislature in 2017 which seeks to prevent the state from signing contracts with organizations and individuals who engage in BDS. It is based on the false claim that BDS amounts to discrimination based on national origin, when BDS is actually directed at a policy, not a state or a people. Though the bill was sent to committee for "further study," would you oppose this or a similar anti-BDS bill if one is reintroduced next year?

6. Y / N

Additional Comments: Yes. Under any American theory of personal liberty and consumer sovereignty, both individuals and institutions have the right to determine what they want to buy, from whom, and why. Indeed, George Washington led a campaign to avoid buy British products and clothing.

Travel and Training

7. The state Conflict of Interest law prevents legislators and public officials from accepting gifts from private parties valued at \$50 or more, but the State Ethics Commission has created an exception to this law which allows lobby organizations to pay for unlimited travel so long as it is disclosed. Pro-Israel lobby groups regularly take advantage of this exception, bringing state legislators, city councilors, and other public officials on free trips to Israel, which helps them to create a positive image for Israel, while pro-Palestinian rights lobby groups lack the resources to organize similar trips. Will you, as a matter of policy, decline to participate in any travel financed by private interests, lobbying organizations or their educational affiliates? Will you enforce such a policy throughout the executive branch and promote legislation to make such lobbyist-paid travel by Massachusetts public officials unlawful? Y / N

8. Police chiefs and law enforcement officials across Massachusetts have attended free “counter-terrorism” training and exchange programs in Israel, funded by pro-Israel groups. But Israel, with its massive human rights violations and police/military violence directed against the occupied Palestinian population, should not be any kind of model for our police, and its practices should not be welcome in Massachusetts. Will you ensure that Massachusetts State Police do not participate in exchanges with Israel? Will you do what you can to deter Massachusetts law enforcement from participating in training and exchanges with Israeli security firms? Y / N

Additional Comments: I do not know enough about this program. If it contains an ideological component with regard to Palestine, I would not support it. In general, I strongly support the work of those Israelis who are fighting for the two-state solution and for a resolution of the occupation.

Campaign Contributions

9. Will you refuse to accept funds from PACs, executives or organizations representing the top 5 weapons manufacturers: Lockheed Martin, Northrup Grumman, Raytheon, Boeing and General Dynamics? Y / N
10. Will you also commit to refusing campaign contributions from the National Rifle Association? Y / N

Additional Comments: We need to get corporate money out of politics and fully support the public funding of political campaigns in this state. Among all the candidates running for Governor, I have the strongest policies regarding limits on gun sales and ownership.



Robert

Signature: _____

Date: July 15, 2018