



# The Activist News

Citizens for Limited Taxation

*The Commonwealth Activist Network*

Post Office Box 408 □ Peabody, Massachusetts 01960  
(508) 384-0100 □ E-Mail: [cltg@cltg.org](mailto:cltg@cltg.org) □ [www.cltg.org](http://www.cltg.org)

The Massachusetts Taxpayer Activist's Newsletter

October 2002

## Election 2002 Issue

### Excerpts from Barbara Anderson's Lowell Sun and Salem News columns concerning the election

**July 29** – This may be the year it all begins to turn around, back to where we the people had representation on Beacon Hill and a chance as constituents to lobby them on issues that are important to us. Activists will be targeting those politicians who serve no one but themselves, squeezing them between the left and right, and if they have halfway viable opponents, defeating them for re-election. By the way, you can find the tax hike override roll call at [www.cltg.org](http://www.cltg.org).

If only a few incumbents lose, this will encourage more people to run in 2004, and the commonwealth may yet be saved. If not, we are doomed to more of the same, with higher taxes and fewer services every year. Think about it, and remember in September or November.

**Sept. 12** – I would like to vote for Dan Graubaskas, who has done such a good job at the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The last time I went to get my license renewed it happened so fast that I'm wearing my overcoat in my license photo!... (But) I guess I'll go vote in the Democrat primary against Tom Birmingham and John Slattery...(and) I remember when O'Brien was in the Legislature, voting to raise our taxes. So I'm not voting for her either.

**Sept. 20** – How come racial profiling is politically incorrect but gender-profiling is not?

I'm referring here to pandering, presumptuous political ads that profile me because I'm female and assume this means I vote differently than the guys do.

None of that instinctive issue-grasping for me, I guess; leave it to men to understand that "for the children" is manipulative, not sincere; that "security" doesn't exist anyhow so let's not sacrifice freedom for it.

... male candidates are very much aware of the gender gap, and respond to the oft-mentioned assumption that women voters are different from men voters. My partner Chip Ford calls it "ovary voting," though he is usually referring to women who support women candidates for no other reason than that they share body parts that the male candidates don't have.

I'd like to think that he's wrong. Surely there's another explanation for Shannon O'Brien being the Democratic candidate for Governor. Isn't there?

**Sept. 30** – Not to be overly dramatic, but three things have to happen in the next few months in order for the commonwealth to be saved.

1. At least some legislators who voted to ignore the stated will of the voters on ballot questions must lose their jobs to almost any challenger; independent representatives must be elected to weaken the power of the Speaker of the House.

2. Senate President Tom Birmingham, when he leaves office in January, must be succeeded by someone who respects the voters and who has some new ideas about controlling state spending while protecting vital programs.

3. A grown-up who is not part of the problem on Beacon Hill must become Governor. Since next year the Legislature will still be controlled by one party, another party should be in charge of the executive branch to maintain some semblance of a balance of power...

...In future debates, I'd like to hear all four candidates present their broad view of what Massachusetts government should be, and defend their concept against others. If we are going to save the commonwealth, we need a lot more than business as usual on Beacon Hill.

**Citizens for Limited Taxation has a political action committee called CLT's 2½ PAC, because it was originally formed to protect Proposition 2½. It endorses incumbents who have at least an 80 percent CLT rating and haven't attacked any of our ballot initiatives, and challengers who**

**fill out a questionnaire that identifies their support for Prop 2½ and other CLT issues. Challengers also must take the "no new taxes" Taxpayer Protection Pledge. Our PAC endorsements appear on the next page. We hope you'll consider them when casting your vote on Nov. 5th.**

## CLT's 2½ PAC-Endorsed House Candidates

**James J. Aldred (R)** - 7th Norfolk  
**Peter A. Amorello (R)** - 18th Worcester  
**Daniel H. Ballou, Jr. (R)** - 19th Middlesex  
**Eryk C. Boston (L)** - 17th Middlesex  
**Rep. Scott A. Brown (R)** - 9th Norfolk  
**Bob Collamore (R)** - 12th Hampden  
**Rep. Michael J. Coppola (R)** - 1st Bristol  
**Dennis "D.J." Deeb (R)** - 36th Middlesex  
**Rep. Vinny M. de Macedo (R)** - 1st Plymouth  
**Gregory Doherty (L)** - 7th Middlesex  
**Danny Fain (L)** - 11th Middlesex  
**Todd D. Fenniman (R)** - 37th Middlesex  
**Michael Franco (R)** - 5th Hampden  
**Rep. Paul K. Frost (R)** - 7th Worcester  
**James A. Gagne (R)** - 1st Franklin  
**Rep. Thomas N. George (R)** - 1st Barnstable  
**Susan Williams Gifford (R)** - 2nd Plymouth  
**Rep. Shirley A. Gomes (R)** - 4th Barnstable  
**Howard Hansen (R)** - 6th Norfolk  
**Rep. Robert S. Hargraves (R)** - 1st Middlesex  
**Robert G. Hazelton (R)** - 15th Essex  
**Rep. Bradford R. Hill (R)** - 4th Essex  
**Rep. Reed V. Hillman (R)** - 1st Hampden  
**Donald F. Humason (R)** - 4th Hampden  
**William A. Hunt (R)** - 2nd Worcester  
**Elias Israel (L)** - 21st Middlesex

**Jerzy J. Jachimczyk (R)** - 6th Worcester  
**Rep. Bradley R. Jones, Jr. (R)** - 20th Middlesex  
**Raymond P. Leary, Jr. (L)** - 7th Bristol  
**Rep. John A. Lepper (R)** - 2nd Bristol  
**Rep. Paul J. P. Loscocco (R)** - 8th Middlesex  
**John F. McCarthy, Jr. (R)** - 12th Essex  
**Joseph E. Mullin (R)** - 5th Plymouth  
**John W. Murray (R)** - 6th Essex  
**Steven P. Olson (L)** - 7th Plymouth  
**William D. "Skip" Pacheco (L)** - 12th Worcester  
**Nathaniel G. Palmer (R)** - 3rd Plymouth  
**Max Pappas (I)** - 2nd Hampshire  
**Joseph A. Pascarella (R)** - 11th Norfolk  
**Jeffrey Davis Perry (R)** - 5th Barnstable  
**Rep. George N. Peterson, Jr. (R)** - 9th Worcester  
**James M. Pillsbury (L)** - 6th Middlesex  
**Rep. Elizabeth A. Poirier (R)** - 14th Bristol  
**Rep. Karyn E. Polito (R)** - 11th Worcester  
**Paula A. Porten (R)** - 14th Essex  
**Anthony F. Ranieri (R)** - 28th Middlesex  
**John Alan Roderick (L)** - 27th Middlesex  
**Rep. Mary S. Rogeness (R)** - 2nd Hampden  
**Paul J. Ronukaitus (R)** - 19th Suffolk  
**Kathleen R. Sachs (R)** - 18th Essex  
**Mark P. Testagrossa (L)** - 4th Middlesex  
**Larry F. Wheatley (R)** - 3rd Barnstable

## CLT's 2½ PAC-Endorsed Senate Candidates

**Robert E. Amorello (R)** - 1st Worcester  
**Sen. Steven A. Baddour (D)** - 1st Essex  
**Mark C. Boardman (R)** Cape & Islands  
**Christopher L. Fava (R)** - Plymouth & Barnstable  
**Sen. Robert L. Hedlund (R)** - Plymouth & Norfolk  
**Mary Jane Hillery (R)** - Middlesex & Worcester

**Maria Marasco (R)** - 2nd Essex & Middlesex  
**Carolyn J. McMahon (L)** - Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire & Franklin  
**Earl Henry Sholley (R)** - Norfolk, Bristol & Middlesex  
**Sen. Jo Ann Sprague (R)** - Bristol & Norfolk  
**Sen. Bruce E. Tarr (R)** - 1st Essex & Middlesex

## Summary of CLT's 2½ PAC-Endorsed Candidate Donations

The PAC has disbursed \$14,800 in contributions to legislative candidates over the last ten months for this fall's election. Of this, \$4,000 (\$500 each) was given to eight candidates in December 2001 to give them an early boost to their campaigns. \$300 was sent to Zygmunt Choroszy who lost to Rep. Khan in the Democrat primary last month. The rest is out there supporting candidates as you read this.

Donation summary:

Nineteen for \$500.00 = \$9,500

Eight for \$300.00 = \$2,400

Nine for \$200.00 = \$1,800

Eleven for \$100.00 = \$1,100

Grand Total = \$14,800

Percentage of total that went to non-incumbents: 86% (\$12,800)

Percentage of the total that went to open seats: 31% (\$4,600, which includes seven of the \$500 donations.)

Percentage of total that went to House candidates: 71% - to Senate candidates: 29%

Chip Faulkner is the executive director, CLT's 2½ PAC



# 2002 Ballot Questions

## CLT's Recommendations:

### Vote YES, YES, YES and YES!

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#### QUESTION 1

##### LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION Eliminating State Personal Income Tax

A YES VOTE would eliminate any state personal income tax for income or other gain realized on or after July 1, 2003.  
A NO VOTE would make no change in state tax laws.

CLT has been uncomfortable about the numbers used by proponents in their ads; ie., the last Dukakis budget was more than \$10 billion, and employment predictions attributed to the Beacon Hill Institute are extrapolated out of context. Three million taxpayers will not each gain \$3,000 if Question 1 passes; Carla Howell has recently corrected that to "an *average* of \$3,000."

Though we CLT staffers will save about \$2,000 each, and doubt politicians will embrace a libertarian concept of a state budget that is \$9 billion less, we have three reasons to vote "Yes!"

1) Expression of our disapproval of the legislative vote to repeal our very reasonable phase-down to 5%; 2) A "No" vote will be interpreted by Beacon Hill as a fondness for high income tax rates and an offer to pay even more; 3) A "Yes" vote will send a message that voters will not tolerate hiking the present 5.3% rate again to 5.6%, 5.95% as the Mass. Mayors Association is calling for ... or even more.

#### CLT says vote YES on 1

#### QUESTION 2

##### A LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION English Language Education in Public Schools

A YES VOTE would require that, with limited exceptions, all public school children must be taught English by being taught all subjects in English and being placed in English language classrooms.

A NO VOTE would keep the recent law to put more flexibility into the present bilingual education system.

This really does seem obvious: that immigrant children should be assimilated as Americans as soon as possible, giving them their chance at the American dream. The Legislature made its recent changes only under pressure from the initiative petition, and we would expect the state to slip back into the failed bilingual ed habit if this measure fails.

If you need another reason to vote Yes, the Massachusetts Teachers Association is the main opponent of this petition, preferring to employ more teachers to teach kids in their native languages. This costs taxpayers more money to accomplish less.

#### CLT says vote YES on 2

#### QUESTION 3

##### A NON-BINDING ADVISORY QUESTION Taxpayer Funding for Political Campaigns

A YES VOTE would advise that the voters favor taxpayer money being used to fund political campaigns for public office in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A NO VOTE would advise that the voters do not favor this.

In 1998, CLT advised a No vote on the initiative petition for "Clean Elections" on exactly the above grounds: that taxpayer money should not be used to fund political campaigns of people with whom the taxpayer may disagree. We have somewhat changed our mind as we've seen how much the Legislature hates this law and its encouragement of competition for their seats, and we didn't really mind our tax dollars being used by Warren Tolman to tell voters just how bad things are on Beacon Hill.

But primarily, the "Clean Elections" petition passed with a larger vote than even our tax rollback. To be consistent, we must support respect for the will of the voters. Question 3, placed on this year's ballot, is the Legislature's cute attempt to change the discussion from overall reform to just the funding mechanism and get voters to reverse their 1998 decision. If Finneran gets away with this, he will do the same thing to us someday.

#### CLT says vote YES on 3

#### QUESTION 4

##### A NON-BINDING PUBLIC POLICY QUESTION (Placed on 18 local ballots by CPPAX, a CLT ally on government reform issues)

A YES VOTE would direct the local legislator to vote against retaining Tom Finneran as Speaker of the House.

A NO VOTE would leave the decision of who shall be the Speaker of the House to the local Representative.

Finneran was the force behind the biggest tax increase in state history this year. He has done everything in his power – from "freezing" our rollback, repealing the charitable deduction, and rephrasing "Clean Elections" (above) – to destroy the initiative petition process. He has tried to change Proposition 2½ and raise our property taxes. As House Speaker he will be coming back for a bigger bite of democracy and taxes next year.

Because he is able to talk people into thinking he is a fiscal conservative, he is more dangerous to taxpayers than an admitted liberal would be. His stranglehold on power should never have reached this point, and must be loosened.

#### CLT says vote YES on 4



# CLT choices for the offices of Governor and Lt. Governor

## For Governor? Not Shannon O'Brien (D)

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As a state legislator, Shannon O'Brien voted to raise property taxes with changes in Proposition 2½; to double the auto excise; for the 1989 "temporary" income tax hike and the retroactive "unearned" income tax hike; to increase the sales tax 20%; and against repealing the 1990 sales tax on services. And we can't forget her votes for legislative payraises for herself and her opposition to taking a vote in the constitutional convention on term limits.

You will note that the CLT's 2½ PAC endorses only those legislative challengers who have taken the "no new taxes" Taxpayer Protection Pledge.

We must be consistent with the candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor, so we simply pass along the following information to help with your decision:

The Taxpayer Protection Pledge has been taken by (in alphabetic order) **Rick Aucoin**, Libertarian candidate for Lt. Gov., **Kerry Healey**, Republican candidate for Lt. Gov., and **Carla Howell**, Libertarian candidate for Gov.

No other candidates for Governor or Lt. Governor returned a signed "no new taxes" pledge.

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**REMEMBER TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH**