

MASSACHUSETTS FISCAL ALLIANCE



Press Release

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Mass Fiscal Alliance Urges AG Candidates to Adopt “People’s Fairness Pledge”

Group asks Healey, Miller, Tolman to refuse union contributions beyond \$500

Boston, MA: The Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, which advocates for fiscal responsibility and good-government policies, announced today that it has sent letters to Maura Healey, John Miller, and Warren Tolman, encouraging them to pledge that they will not accept donations from unions in excess of \$500. Healey, Miller, and Tolman are the three current candidates for Attorney General in the upcoming 2014 elections.

“Our ‘People’s Fairness Pledge’ addresses the major campaign finance loophole that unions have frequently exploited,” stated Paul Craney, the group’s executive director. **“While individuals can only donate \$500 per calendar year to a given campaign, and corporations are forbidden to donate any money at all, unions can give up to \$15,000 to the candidate of their choice.”**

Healey and Tolman have made news recently by sparring over the terms of their “People’s Pledge,” which seeks to limit the use of so-called “independent expenditures” by outside groups not directly affiliated with the campaigns. Neither Healey nor Tolman has expressed any concern about the current favoritism shown to unions by state law. In the 2013 Boston mayor’s race, unions gave over \$500,000 to Mayor Martin J. Walsh in contributions exceeding \$500, a sum equal to more than 15% of his total fundraising.

“As the candidates to be the chief prosecutor in Massachusetts, they have a particular obligation to ensure that all are treated fairly. We strongly encourage them to demonstrate their commitment to upholding that obligation by refusing to allow unions to deploy their unfair advantage on behalf of their campaign,” Craney concluded.

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