

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

STATE ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2008

SPECIMEN

TO VOTE, MARK A CROSS



IN THE SQUARE AT THE RIGHT OF YOUR CHOICE.

You may vote for every position on the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Committee, regardless of where you reside in the District.

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE (4 YEARS) ALFORD

Vote for ONE

LINDA SILVESTRI ++++++
184 Green River Rd., Alford

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE (4 YEARS) EGREMONT

Vote for not more than TWO

CHARLES B. FLYNN ++++++
158 Jug End Rd., Egremont

STEPHEN P. WILLIG ++++++
109 Mt. Washington Rd., Egremont

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE (4 YEARS) MONTEREY

Vote for ONE

DEBORAH D. MIELKE ++++++
2 Preyer-Fiske Way, Monterey

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE (4 YEARS) NEW MARLBOROUGH

Vote for not more than TWO

HERBERT B. ABELOW ++++++
282 Brewer Hill Rd., New Marlborough

CHARLES W. DUNSAY ++++++
25 Shunpike Rd., New Marlborough

CHARLES J. McSPIRITT ++++++
82 Hayes Hill Rd., New Marlborough

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE (4 YEARS) SHEFFIELD

Vote for not more than FOUR

ANDY FETTERHOFF ++++++
1180D Ashley Falls Rd., Sheffield

CATHERINE B. MILLER ++++++
130 Root Ln., Sheffield

JOHN J. POLLITT ++++++
487 Polikoff Rd., Sheffield

SCOTT A. SANES ++++++
1448 South Undermountain Rd., Sheffield

HAROLD DENNIS SEARS ++++++
928 Boardman St., Sheffield

VITO R. VALENTINI ++++++
250 Water Farm Rd., Sheffield

**ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT
AND VICE PRESIDENT**

Vote for ONE

BALDWIN and CASTLE + + + + + Constitution

BARR and ROOT + + + + + Libertarian

McCAIN and PALIN + + + + + Republican

McKINNEY and CLEMENTE + + + + + Green-Rainbow

NADER and GONZALEZ + + + + + Independent

OBAMA and BIDEN + + + + + Democratic

SENATOR IN CONGRESS

Vote for ONE

JOHN F. KERRY + + + + + Democratic
19 Louisburg Sq., Boston Candidate for Re-election

JEFFREY K. BEATTY + + + + + Republican
23 John Joseph Rd., Harwich

ROBERT J. UNDERWOOD + + + + + Libertarian
83 Cherrilyn St., Springfield

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

FIRST DISTRICT

Vote for ONE

JOHN W. OLVER + + + + + Democratic
1333 West St., Amherst Candidate for Re-election

NATHAN A. BECH + + + + + Republican
84 Summit St., West Springfield

COUNCILLOR

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Vote for ONE

THOMAS T. MERRIGAN + + + + + Democratic
23 Plum Tree Ln., Greenfield Candidate for Re-election

MICHAEL FRANCO + + + + + Republican
45 Cedar Hill Rd., East Longmeadow

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

BERKSHIRE, HAMPSHIRE & FRANKLIN DISTRICT

Vote for ONE

BENJAMIN BRACKETT DOWNING + + + + + Democratic
123 Pomeroy Ave., Pittsfield Candidate for Re-election

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

FOURTH BERKSHIRE DISTRICT

Vote for ONE

WILLIAM "SMITTY" PIGNATELLI + + + + + Democratic
339 Housatonic St., Lenox Candidate for Re-election

REGISTER OF PROBATE

BERKSHIRE COUNTY

Vote for ONE

FRANCIS B. MARINARO + + + + + Democratic
51 Spadina Pkwy., Pittsfield Candidate for Re-election

QUESTION 1**LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION**

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2008?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would reduce the state personal income tax rate to 2.65% for all categories of taxable income for the tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2009, and would eliminate the tax for all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010.

The personal income tax applies to income received or gain realized by individuals and married couples, by estates of deceased persons, by certain trustees and other fiduciaries, by persons who are partners in and receive income from partnerships, by corporate trusts, and by persons who receive income as shareholders of "S corporations" as defined under federal tax law. The proposed law would not affect the tax due on income or gain realized in a tax year beginning before January 1, 2009.

The proposed law states that if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

A YES VOTE would reduce the state personal income tax rate to 2.65% for the tax year beginning on January 1, 2009, and would eliminate the tax for all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010.

A NO VOTE would make no change in state income tax laws.

YES	
NO	

QUESTION 2**LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION**

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2008?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would replace the criminal penalties for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana with a new system of civil penalties, to be enforced by issuing citations, and would exclude information regarding this civil offense from the state's criminal record information system. Offenders age 18 or older would be subject to forfeiture of the marijuana plus a civil penalty of \$100. Offenders under the age of 18 would be subject to the same forfeiture and, if they complete a drug awareness program within one year of the offense, the same \$100 penalty.

Offenders under 18 and their parents or legal guardian would be notified of the offense and the option for the offender to complete a drug awareness program developed by the state Department of Youth Services. Such programs would include ten hours of community service and at least four hours of instruction or group discussion concerning the use and abuse of marijuana and other drugs and emphasizing early detection and prevention of substance abuse.

The penalty for offenders under 18 who fail to complete such a program within one year could be increased to as much as \$1,000, unless the offender showed an inability to pay, an inability to participate in such a program, or the unavailability of such a program. Such an offender's parents could also be held liable for the increased penalty. Failure by an offender under 17 to complete such a program could also be a basis for a delinquency proceeding.

The proposed law would define possession of one ounce or less of marijuana as including possession of one ounce or less of tetrahydrocannabinol ("THC"), or having metabolized products of marijuana or THC in one's body.

Under the proposed law, possessing an ounce or less of marijuana could not be grounds for state or local government entities imposing any other penalty, sanction, or disqualification, such as denying student financial aid, public housing, public financial assistance including unemployment benefits, the right to operate a motor vehicle, or the opportunity to serve as a foster or adoptive parent. The proposed law would allow local ordinances or bylaws that prohibit the public use of marijuana, and would not affect existing laws, practices, or policies concerning operating a motor vehicle or taking other actions while under the influence of marijuana, unlawful possession of prescription forms of marijuana, or selling, manufacturing, or trafficking in marijuana.

The money received from the new civil penalties would go to the city or town where the offense occurred.

A YES VOTE would replace the criminal penalties for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana with a new system of civil penalties.

A NO VOTE would make no change in state criminal laws concerning possession of marijuana.

YES	
NO	

QUESTION 3**LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION**

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2008?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would prohibit any dog racing or racing meeting in Massachusetts where any form of betting or wagering on the speed or ability of dogs occurs.

The State Racing Commission would be prohibited from accepting or approving any application or request for racing dates for dog racing.

Any person violating the proposed law could be required to pay a civil penalty of not less than \$20,000 to the Commission. The penalty would be used for the Commission's administrative purposes, subject to appropriation by the state Legislature. All existing parts of the chapter of the state's General Laws concerning dog and horse racing meetings would be interpreted as if they did not refer to dogs.

These changes would take effect January 1, 2010. The proposed law states that if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

A YES VOTE would prohibit dog races on which betting or wagering occurs, effective January 1, 2010.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the laws governing dog racing.

YES	
NO	