



John Bonifaz
for Secretary of State

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**Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. Endorses John Bonifaz
for Massachusetts Secretary of State**

-- Jackson and Bonifaz to Speak at Friday Town Hall Meeting in Dorchester --

Boston, MA – Voting rights leader John Bonifaz, Democratic candidate for Massachusetts Secretary of State, gained the endorsement today of U.S. Congressman Jesse L. Jackson Jr. (D-IL).

“Today, I announce my support for John Bonifaz,” stated Congressman Jackson, “Democratic candidate for Secretary of State of Massachusetts in the 2006 election. I am honored to stand with John as he continues to fight to protect every citizen’s right to vote free of discrimination. Whether it is in Ohio, Florida, Illinois, or Massachusetts, we need secretaries of state who will fight to safeguard our democracy and make real the promise of political equality for all.

“John Bonifaz will be a leader for Massachusetts and for the nation. Throughout his career, John has demonstrated his political courage time and time again by standing up when it counted. From fighting for a recount of the 2004 presidential vote in Ohio to taking President George W. Bush to federal court on the eve of the Iraq war, John has been at the forefront in the ongoing struggle for our democracy here at home.

“I can think of no better candidate for Secretary of State than John Bonifaz. He will make Massachusetts and the country proud.”

Congressman Jackson has repeatedly sponsored a Constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to vote. He is a leading advocate of voting rights and has written at length about individual citizenship and state rights as related to voting.

Both Bonifaz and Congressman Jackson will speak at a Town Hall Meeting hosted by Dorchester’s Freedom House, **Friday, February 10, at 8:30 a.m.**, addressing voting rights issues in the Commonwealth and around the country.

Bonifaz, whose life’s work has centered on protecting our democracy and returning voters to power, will focus on his plan to establish a Voters’ Bill of Rights, ensure that every vote is counted, the Ohio recount, the war in Iraq’s effect on our democracy and greater corporate accountability.

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Bonifaz, who launched his campaign last December and founded the National Voting Rights Institute in 1994, defended the Massachusetts Clean Elections Law, passed overwhelmingly by voters in 1998, against a Legislature that turned its back on the voters it represents and refused to fund the law.

For over a decade, Bonifaz has been a powerful voice and dedicated leader working with people throughout Massachusetts and across the country to protect the right to vote, demand a full recount in Ohio, overhaul the nation's campaign finance system and broaden citizen participation in the democratic process.

Freedom House is a non-profit, community-based organization with a 55-year history of promoting the long-term, sustainable economic and social development of Boston's communities of color.

WHO: John Bonifaz, Democratic candidate for Secretary of State, and Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-IL.)

WHAT: A town hall meeting at Freedom House in Dorchester where Bonifaz and Jackson will address voting rights issues in Massachusetts and around the country.

WHEN: Friday, February 10, 8:30 a.m.

WHERE: Freedom House, 14 Crawford Street, Dorchester

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