



John Bonifaz
for Secretary of State

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**BONIFAZ ISSUES STATEMENT ON MASSACHUSETTS
DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S RULE CHANGE
IMPACTING THE GOVERNOR'S RACE**

Boston, MA – Yesterday, the Massachusetts Democratic Party's leadership issued a rule change allowing non-elected designated delegates to the state party's convention to sign a petition placing Christopher Gabrieli's name as a gubernatorial candidate before the state party's convention in June.

Voting rights leader John Bonifaz, Democratic candidate for Secretary of State, issued the following statement today on the Democratic Party's rule change yesterday impacting the Democratic gubernatorial primary:

"Everyone knows that it is wrong to change the rules in the middle of the game," said Bonifaz. "Yet, the Massachusetts Democratic Party's rules committee has done just that. This is patently unfair and antithetical to basic democratic principles and to the values of the Democratic Party.

"I have no issue if people want to play by the rules. Party rules allow for a previously undeclared candidate's name to be placed before the convention for statewide office provided that a petition for such purpose is signed by at least 500 of the 'elected convention delegates.' But, here, we have party insiders trying to subvert the process just after the completion of the statewide caucuses. This kind of action should be opposed by anyone who believes in fairness and transparency in our primary election process.

"Last night, members of the Democratic State Committee supporting this move tried to mask it as merely an 'opinion' interpreting the existing rule. That dog won't hunt. The phrase, 'elected convention delegates,' by the literal meaning of those words, refers only to those delegates elected to the state party's convention at the caucuses. It does not refer to ex-officio members, such as members of the Democratic State Committee, who are non-elected designated delegates. I urge the Democratic Party's rules committee to come clean and reverse this action. The integrity of our election process must be protected."

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