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## **Bonifaz Challenges Galvin to Abide by Spending Limits**

**BOSTON** – John Bonifaz, Democratic candidate for Secretary of State, who scored a major victory at the Democratic Convention when he earned 29.3% of the delegate vote, is challenging his opponent to abide by public financing spending limits.

“Voters deserve a race that is not about how much money candidates can spend, but about ideas and issues,” said Bonifaz, who opted in to the public funding system last week. “I challenge Secretary Galvin to join me and abide by the \$375,000 spending limit for this campaign. Galvin has said in the past that he would run for Governor as a Clean Elections candidate. Now he has the opportunity to back up those words.”

Although Bonifaz opted into the public funding system, the decisions by Deval Patrick and Tom Reilly to do the same has emptied the account. As a result, there are no matching funds available for the Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State races.

“This is proof that we need to have a fully-funded public finance system,” said Bonifaz, who 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. “A model system, like those that exist in Maine and Arizona, would be fully-funded and level the playing field in all statewide and state legislative races. Voters are tired of the influence of money in politics and they want an end to unlimited campaign spending.”

The first candidate to officially declare his candidacy for Secretary of State, Bonifaz launched his campaign last December. He founded the National Voting Rights Institute in 1994 and for over a decade has been a powerful voice and dedicated leader working with people throughout Massachusetts and across the country to protect the right to vote, overhaul the nation's campaign finance system and broaden citizen participation in the democratic process.

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