



# John Bonifaz

## Democrat for Secretary of State

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 6, 2006**

## **Bonifaz Challenges Galvin to Debates**

**BOSTON** – John Bonifaz, Democratic candidate for Secretary of State, yesterday challenged Secretary William Galvin to a series of seven debates across the Commonwealth. The challenge came in the form of a letter delivered to Galvin’s campaign office, which was recorded and has been posted on [www.WheresGalvin.com](http://www.WheresGalvin.com).

Bill Galvin “is the only Democratic candidate in a contested statewide race this year who has, thus far, refused to engage in any debate,” said Bonifaz in the letter, “despite repeated invitations to do so and despite my willingness to accept every invitation.

”Some of these invitations were issued prior to the Massachusetts Democratic Party convention, including a request by WGBH’s Greater Boston and a request by the Newton Democratic City Committee. Others have been issued since the convention, including an invitation from NECN’s NewsNight with Jim Braude and an invitation from Mass Citizens for Voting Integrity. In contrast, the Democratic candidates for governor and lieutenant governor have already held numerous debates both prior to and since the convention.”

Bonifaz’s letter continued: “Your repeated refusal to debate is an affront to the voters of Massachusetts, especially given your position as the state’s chief elections officer. Elections are contests of ideas and candidate debates are critical to informing voters and to encouraging political participation. Candidate debates are also critical for holding elected officials accountable when such officials seek re-election ... The voters of our Commonwealth now deserve an open and honest debate on the state of our democracy and the state of our right to vote.

“I look forward to your immediate response so that we may reach agreement on the scheduling of these debates.”

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, demand a full recount in Ohio, overhaul the nation's campaign finance system and broaden citizen participation in the democratic process.

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