

Form Name:
Submission Time:

Citizens Commission
March 31, 2019 9:10 pm

Name	Katherine Labounko
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Citizenship Affirmation	I am a U.S. Citizen
Residency Affirmation	I am a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Statement of Intent	I intend to comply with and advance the policy established by this Act.

Statement of Interest

My interest in serving on the Massachusetts Citizens Commission is driven by a deep belief that the 2010 Citizens United decision, and the glut of corporate money it has introduced into American elections, has undermined the American principle of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. My academic and professional experience, including the past four years working on Amazon's artificially intelligent assistant Alexa, has convinced me that the inalienable rights afforded American citizens by the Constitution must not be extended to artificial entities.

Massachusetts has a proud history of supporting amendments to the Constitution which have furthered the American ideals of justice and democracy. Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner advocated for an explicit expansion of the rights provided to former slaves during the drafting of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendment, which were not afforded to African Americans until the 1965 enactment of the Voting Rights Act. Massachusetts was also the eighth state to ratify the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote. The Commonwealth has the opportunity to lead the nation once again in the establishment and protection of rights for United States citizens - not corporations. I would approach the drafting of this Amendment with a critical and analytic eye for precision, as well as ensuring that the committee carefully weighs the historical implications of such an Amendment.

Résumé or Summary of Qualifications Upload	https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3282862/71887710/490162227/71887710_labounko_resume.pdf
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Political Party Affiliation, if any, over the previous five years	Democratic
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City or Town where you reside	SOMERVILLE
Employment Status	Employed
Occupation	Software engineer
Employer	Amazon

Katie Labounko

CONTACT INFORMATION

EMAIL: [REDACTED]
PHONE: [REDACTED]

WORK EXPERIENCE

Current DECEMBER 2016	<p>Software Development Engineer, Amazon <i>Java Development for Alexa Enabled Devices</i></p> <p>Responsible for developing new functionality for the Echo Show and other Alexa devices with touchscreens. Acted as scrummaster for a team of 10 engineers, with responsibilities including allocating resources each sprint to every project, running planning and review meetings, and communicating with management and other teams about goals and milestones. Recent engineering projects included development of a timeout manager delegating resources to multiple applications, and acting as team lead for addition of the ability to create and modify alarms on the device.</p>
JULY 2015	<p><i>Natural Language Understanding for Alexa</i></p> <p>Worked on the team responsible for providing highly available natural language capabilities for the Amazon Echo and other platforms. Responsibilities included Java and Python development for efficient intent recognition and search for tens of thousands of Alexa users, in addition to handling large-scale code deployments.</p>
SUMMER 2014	<p>Software Development Intern, Amazon <i>Amazon Prime Household Sharing</i></p> <p>Designed and implemented a new Java API, deployed in early 2015, that is used when two eligible adults share Prime membership across accounts.</p>
SUMMER 2013	<p>Undergraduate Intern, EdX</p> <p>Created educational JavaScript applets for General Chemistry, Shakespeare and the Science of Cooking courses on the EdX platform. Tens of thousands of students have taken online classes featuring this courseware.</p>

EDUCATION

2015 Bachelor's of Science in COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING, MIT
Minors: Materials Science & Engineering, Theater Arts

AWARDS

2015 Joseph D. Everingham Award for Creative Accomplishment in Theater Arts at MIT
2014 First place prize for public speaking in 6.UAT (Oral Communication) at MIT (out of 400 students)

PERSONAL

Former President of the MIT Shakespeare Ensemble (2014 academic year)
Performed in over a dozen plays at MIT, including The Taming of the Shrew (Katerina), Macbeth (Lady Macbeth), and Arcadia (Hannah Jarvis)
Winner of the 2003 East Barnard Pie Eating Contest