

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

Citizens Commission  
March 31, 2019 11:54 pm

Name	Robert Imber
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**

I fully support the Commission's charge and would like (it's my civic duty) to be part of the solution to better achieve self-governance and efficacy. I would be honored to participate in the creation of positive solutions to what I perceive to be a great disenfranchisement of the American public (and citizens of Massachusetts).

What can I bring to the table? Time (I'm retired). Zeal; great desire to help correct a badly flawed system-I do not see this as a partisan matter, but as a needed effort to correct extremely serious problems with the way our democracy functions. And some experience with policy matters. I am currently the longest serving member of the state's largest regional school committee (13 years). I was vice-chair at one time, have regularly served on the Management Subcommittee, am currently the Chair of the Education Subcommittee, and on both Management and Legal Affairs Subcommittees. I also hold an Ed.M., and for what it's worth, an "ABD" in Administration, Planning and Social Policy at Harvard's Graduate School of Education where I spent much time at the Kennedy, Business, and Law schools through the Program on Negotiation and Dispute Resolution.

Please review my full statement under the attached "Summary of Qualifications." this is particularly crucial given the inaccuracies of this registration system. I am an "Independent" voter, not "Unenrolled." My "Employment Status" is "retired." These choices were unavailable.  
Regards, Bob Imber

<b>Résumé or Summary of Qualifications Upload</b>	<a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3282862/71887710/490183895/71887710_citizens_commission_statement.docx">https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3282862/71887710/490183895/71887710_citizens_commission_statement.docx</a>
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<b>Political Party Affiliation, if any, over the previous five years</b>	Unenrolled
<b>If multiple or other, please explain</b>	I am NOT "un-enrolled." I am registerest as an "Independent." Unfortunately, this was not one of the pull-down menu "choices." In fact, I am a regular voter.
<b>Clty or Town where you reside</b>	PRINCETON
<b>Employment Status</b>	Unemployed

I am a registered Independent in the Commonwealth who is deeply concerned with the severe flaws present in our current political system, regardless of which party has a controlling influence at any given time. This is our government, we pay for it, and yet it does not represent the interests of most Americans.

Recently (2018) the Baker Center for Leadership and Governance broadly surveyed Americans on their views of "Institutional Confidence." Of the 20 institutions listed, "Political Parties" and "Congress" were equally viewed worst and listed dead last in terms of the confidence Americans held in them. Trust in government averaged approximately 20% of all Americans surveyed. I believe this to be greatly concerning.

Also telling is a Chapman University study (October, 2018) that examined what Americans report they are most "Afraid" or "Very Afraid" of. Topping the list at a whopping 74%, nearly 12% points above the next greatest concern is "Corrupt government officials." And while I have no data to support such a conclusion, nor do I take a stand on the veracity of this level of corruption, a 2014 Princeton University study found "preferences of the average American appear to have only a minuscule, near-zero, statistically non-significant impact on public policy," thus actually confirming what Americans feel in their "gut" is true; the average person in America has basically no influence on the decisions OUR government makes for or about us.

Additional research suggests that only 0.05% of Americans (and perhaps, non-Americans) contribute more than \$10,000 to politics. It is this tiny minority of individuals (typically the ultra-wealthy), lobbyists, and other special interests that have exerted the greatest (nearly all) of the influence on the laws and policies that are promulgated and that affect our lives.

What can I bring to the table? Time (I'm retired). Zeal; a great desire to help correct a badly flawed system—I do not see this as a partisan matter, but as a needed effort to correct extremely serious problems with the way our democracy functions. And some experience with policy matters. I am currently the longest serving member of the state's largest regional school committee (13 years). I was vice-chair at one time, have regularly served on the Management Subcommittee, am currently the Chair of the Education Subcommittee, and on both Management and Legal Affairs Subcommittees. I also hold an Ed.M., and for what it's worth, an "ABD" in Administration, Planning and Social Policy at Harvard's Graduate School of Education where I spent much time at the Kennedy, Business, and Law schools through the Program on Negotiation and Dispute Resolution.

So, knowing all this, "yes," I fully support the Commission's charge and would like (and find it my civic duty) to be part of the solution to better achieve self-governance and efficacy. In fact, I would be honored to participate in the creation of positive solutions to what I perceive to be a great disenfranchisement of the American public (and citizens of Massachusetts).

Sincerely,

Bob Imber