

Massachusetts Senate Special Election ~ 2010
Candidate Profiles

- I. Martha Coakley
 - a. Background
 - i. Born July 14, 1953 in Pittsfield, MA and later moved to North Adams.
 - ii. Attended St. Joseph's School and Drury High School
 - 1. Graduated in 1971
 - iii. Received a B.A. *cum laude* from Williams College in 1975
 - 1. Later received a J.D. from Boston University School of Law in 1979
 - iv. Lives now in Medford, MA
 - 1. Married to Thomas F. O'Connor, Jr.
 - v. Democratic
 - b. Career
 - i. Started in 1979 after graduation practicing civil litigation with the firm of Parker, Coutier, Daley & White.
 - 1. Later worked at Goodwin Procter
 - ii. In 1986, joined the Middlesex District Attorney's Office
 - 1. Was Asst. District Attorney in the Lowell District Court office
 - iii. In 1987, Coakley was invited to join the Boston Organized Crime Strike Force by the U.S. Justice Dept. as a Special Attorney
 - iv. Returned to District Attorney's office in 1989
 - 1. In 1991, was appointed to be the Chief of the Child Abuse Prosecution Unit
 - a. One of her cases included the Commonwealth of Massachusetts vs. Louise Woodward
 - i. Woodward was a 19 year-old English au pair who was convicted of shaking to death eight month-old Matthew Eappen
 - 1. Case received National/International media attention.
 - v. Resigned position to campaign for District Attorney of the Middlesex County
 - 1. Elected in 1998 and served 8 years
 - vi. Established herself a reputation as being an advocate for public safety
 - vii. In 2002, completed a one-year term as the President of the Massachusetts District Attorney's Association
 - viii. In 2007, made the Attorney General of Massachusetts as a Democrat
 - c. What she did as Attorney General
 - i. Health Care
 - 1. Filed lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies and health insurers that drive up health care costs and achieved recoveries in Medicaid fraud cases
 - 2. Made Health Care a priority in the Attorney General's Office by establishing the Health Care Division to focus specifically on Health Care in Light oh Health Reform
 - 3. Achieved Record Settlements in Enforcement Actions
 - a. Consumer protection against pharmaceuticals manufacturers for unlawful sales and marketing practices
 - i. Merck
 - ii. Pfizer

- iii. Eli Lilly
 - iv. Cephalon
 - b. Consumer protection action against predatory “sub-prime” insurer
 - 4. Holding non-profit hospitals and HMOs accountable for providing community benefits
 - 5. Taking on health discount plans
 - 6. Oversight of Health Care Reform
 - 7. Leadership on health care policy issues
 - 8. Antitrust enforcement
 - a. Ongoing investigations in MA health care market
 - 9. Medicaid Fraud Enforcement
 - a. Record settlements and recoveries
 - 10. Vigorous non-profit oversight
 - a. First ever review of non-profit hospital compensation
- ii. Equal Rights and Opportunities
 - 1. investigated and pursued cases such as disability rights, equal marriage, health care disparities, and hate crimes
 - 2. Is the only Attorney General in the country to file a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act
 - a. DOMA unfairly excludes married same-sex couples and their families from important rights and a protections
 - 3. Worked to ensure that new technology keeps pace with the needs of people with disabilities
 - 4. Persecuted individuals who commit hate crimes and obtained rulings for victims of hate crimes
 - a. First statewide official to voice support for legislation that included gender expression and identity in MA antidiscrimination and hate crime laws
 - 5. Was the first Attorney General to file civil rights claims against subprime mortgage lenders for targeting African-American and Latino borrowers with risky loan products and charging them more for loans
 - 6. Recovered damages for victims of housing discrimination, assisting tenants in foreclosed properties in finding housing, and required property owners to clean up lead paint hazards to make housing safer for children
 - 7. Testified before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary against capital punishment in 2007
 - a. Massachusetts Citizens against the Death Penalty awarded her the Herbert and Sara Ehrmann Award in 2008
- iii. Economy
 - 1. Created a new division of Business, Technology and Economic Development to improve communication and partnership with employers in MA
 - 2. Took on Wall Street firms who helped cause our economic crisis
 - a. Recovered tens of millions of taxpayers and victims of Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch and UBS for their deceptive activities
 - 3. Fought against fraudulent mortgage brokers and those who employed foreclosure rescue scams

- a. Also brought first in the nation enforcement actions against national lenders who sold risky loans using deceptive sales tactics
 - i. Pressed for legislation to provide relief to homeowners facing foreclosure and create an abandoned property registry to address the public safety problems created when homes are abandoned
- iv. Energy and the Environment
 - 1. Enforced the state's environmental laws, helped spur the clean up and redevelopment of contaminated brown-fields throughout the state, and led the way nationally on landmark environmental cases
 - 2. Led the way nationally in challenging the Bush administration policies that prevented states from proactively reducing global warming
 - 3. Participated in the implementation of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
 - 4. Reached an agreement with Western Massachusetts Electric Company to develop the state's first utility grade solar project which will result in the development of six megawatts of solar generation
 - a. Also worked with energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles on crafting a plan to establish additional solar facilities in MA
 - 5. Supported the expansion of cost effective energy efficiency programs
 - 6. Held energy roundtable discussion in fall of 2008 in advance of the winter heating season
 - a. Also advocated for expanding the Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program
 - i. Provides increased benefits that would keep MA residents warm in the winter

d. Views on Political Issues

i. Health Care

- 1. Supports comprehensive health care reform because she believes that America cannot afford to wait any longer
- 2. Believes that health care reform should build on the successes we've had in MA and focus on accomplishing three key goals
 - a. Expanding coverage
 - b. Improving quality
 - c. Reducing costs
- 3. Is interested in working to expand access to those without insurance coverage
 - a. To do this, believes in supporting an individual mandate and a public insurance option that will complement the existing employer-sponsored insurance framework by providing coverage to those that lack it
- 3. Says she'll fight to ensure any health care reform proposals include cost containment mechanisms that make sense
 - b. Also fight to reduce health care costs by supporting:

- i. A change in payment incentives so that we no longer reward volume and complexity and greater transparency of health care cost and quality information
 - 4. Supports reform that improves the quality of health care Americans receive
 - a. Believes that doctors and patients should be in charge of health care decisions, not insurance companies
- ii. Equal Rights and Opportunity
 - 1. Believes our democracy is based on the promise that government must work for everyone
 - 2. Our differences and diversity makes us stronger and our government must ensure equal access to opportunities and fair treatment for all
 - 3. Says she will always fight to ensure that women are able to access safe reproductive health care
 - 4. Wants to continue to fight for gay marriage and lead in the effort to repeal DOMA
 - 5. Supports the end the “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy, which has caused the discharge of over 12,500 service members to date, the harassment of countless others and the over-all weakening of our armed forces by discharging and stigmatizing so many
 - 6. Would like to make it a priority that people with disabilities have equal access to housing, education, health care, and employment opportunities
 - 7. Wants to protect the dignity and safety of all persons and actively support efforts to improve hate crime enforcement, police training, and support for victims and their communities
 - 8. Would like to continue action to end discriminatory practices and ensure that banks, lenders and financial institutes play by the rules and treat customers fairly and equally
 - 9. Wants to pursue policies and action to end housing discrimination and to find ways to increase safe, affordable housing
 - 10. Believes in ending the death penalty
- iii. Economy
 - 1. Believes the best way to get our economy back on track is to tackle the economic crisis head on and to take all necessary steps to get back to work by following Obama’s economic plan
 - 2. Vows to make economic growth a top priority and will listen and work with small and large businesses in MA to create jobs and lower costs
 - a. Also will bring a broad vision of economic growth to WA
 - b. Ensure resources and incentives are available to attract businesses of MA and keep them here well into the future
 - 3. Ensure that the government is no longer forced to choose between bailouts and a financial collapse
 - 4. Would like to work with the business and financial communities as well as other stakeholders to develop and implement tough but fair regulatory reforms to prevent another economic failure and to give the government the necessary tools to protect investors, consumers, and the market in the future

5. Work for loan modifications when appropriate, so people can remain in their homes
 - a. Also supports enhanced regulation of mortgage products and disclosure laws so that homeowners can better understand their mortgage terms
 6. Believes that consumers must be armed with the tools they need to protect themselves from irresponsible financial practices
 - a. Believes we can't rely on the financial industry to fix "the mess"
- iv. Energy and the Environment
1. Believes America needs a comprehensive approach to lowering our energy costs, meeting our energy needs and protecting our environment
 - a. Feels we need affordable, sustainable and diverse energy supplies that maximize the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies
 2. Believes protecting our environment must be a priority, not only for today but for future generations
 - a. Supports policies that reduce carbon dioxide emission and other pollution that causes climate change
 - b. Vows to halt global warming, support legislation that creates a national market-based program to reduce global warming pollution, and promote investments in clean energy
 3. Committed to combat global warming by supporting the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 as well as other that Senator Kerry introduced.
 - a. These bills will make the United States a leader in the fight against global warming
 4. Supports a National cap-and-trade program that will utilize a market-based approach to control pollution
 - a. Believes by providing economic incentives to industries for achieving emissions reductions, we can achieve superior environmental protection and give businesses both the flexibility and direct financial incentives they need to find faster, cheaper and more innovative ways to reduce pollution
 - b. Supports the national Global Warming Reduction Program, proposed in the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009
 - i. Feels that by harnessing the forces of the free Market, we can achieve cost-effective environmental protection
 5. Will support investments in clean energy programs and promote the continued development of renewable energy technologies
 6. Will support national energy efficiency policies, including incentives for states to rewrite utility regulations to put energy efficiency on an equal ground with new power plants
- v. Israel
1. Make sure Israel's safety and security remain our priority
 2. Supports a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
 - a. Continue the ongoing and gravely important work of developing a workable two-state solution so we all finally know peace in that region

- vi. Iran
 1. Ensure that Iran doesn't develop nuclear weapons
 2. Push for continued international cooperation in holding Iran accountable to its promises to the International Atomic Energy Agency
 3. Supports bilateral talks with Iran and work to forge ongoing diplomatic engagement
 4. Supports direct negotiations with Iran
 - a. Also supports appropriate sanctions against Iran for its refusal to halt uranium enrichment

II. Scott Brown

- a. Background
 - i. Born September 12, 1959 in Wakefield, MA
 - ii. Graduated from Wakefield High school in 1977
 - iii. Went to Tufts University for undergraduate studies and Boston College Law School
 - iv. Now lives in Wrentham, MA
 1. Married to Gail Huff
 - v. Republican
- b. Career
 - i. Elected to be an assessor in Wrentham, MA in 1992
 - ii. Became a member of the Wrentham Board of Selectmen in 1995
 - iii. In 1998, elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives for the 9th Norfolk District
 - iv. Was elected to the Massachusetts State Senate in a special election in 2004 and was re-elected as Senator later that year
 1. Won re-election in 2008
 - a. Represents the Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex District as State Senator
 2. Received the Public Servant of the Year Award from the United Chamber of Commerce for his leadership in reforming the state's sex offender laws and protecting the rights of victims
 - v. 29-year member of the MA National Guard
 1. Currently holds the ranks as Lt. Colonel in the Judge Advocate General's Corps
 2. Awarded the Army Commendation Metal for meritorious service in homeland security following 9/11
 - vi. Member of the MA Bar Association, Wrentham Lions Club, United Chamber of Commerce, North Attleboro/Plainville Chamber of Commerce, Neponset Valley Chamber of Commerce and USA Triathlon Federation
- c. What he did as MA Senator
 - i. Economy
 1. Has helped fight against wasteful government spending and raising taxes
 2. Served on the Conference Committee that drafted the 2009 Pension Reform bill which finally curbed pension abuses by elected officials
 3. Advocated for returning more education money and local aid to cities and towns
 - ii. Veterans'
 1. Considers himself a major supporter of veterans' causes
 2. Member of the Hidden Wounds of War Commission

- a. Traveled the Commonwealth to research how State Government can do a more thorough job of preventing veterans from falling through the cracks and not receiving the mental health services that they may require
 - 3. Wrote the first-in-the-nation law that sets up a check off box on State income tax forms to indicate if the veteran of the conflicts in Iraq or Afghanistan
 - a. Was necessary to locate returning veterans so that they can be notified of the benefits and services to which they are entitled
 - b. Formed a broad bi-partisan coalition of 87 other legislators and passed it
 - i. The Governor signed in only a week
 - c. The check-off box was included in the 2007 forms which were submitted in April 2008
 - d. Helped the number of veterans that use the “Welcome Home” bonus to increase dramatically
- iii. Recognitions
 - 1. Provided mental health counseling services to area schools after a series of teen suicides
 - a. Recognized by the Community V.O.I.C.E.S.
 - i. Voices of Involved Citizens Encouraging Safety
 - ii. Worked to protect citizens from sex offenders
 - 2. Also recognized by the Horace Mann Educational Association
 - i. For his work helping those with developmental disabilities
- iv. Legislative Issues
 - 1. Filed bills for the 180th Legislative Session
 - a. Focus specifically on four things:
 - i. Good government reforms
 - ii. Improving business competitiveness
 - iii. Holding the line on taxes and spending
 - iv. Working to strengthen public safety and education
 - 1. These require immediate attention in order to keep people from leaving the state
 - 2. Filed a bill to hold our public officials accountable by removing their chairmanship and placing the salary of a legislator or official charged with a felony into an escrow account until their case is adjudicated
 - a. Also filed legislation to ban convicted felons from acting as lobbyists in the Commonwealth
 - 3. Introduced a campaign finance reform bill which includes a “use it or lose it” clause that restricts the amount any one candidate can maintain in their account during non-election years
 - a. Also seeking to close two common loopholes in the pension system by filing a bill requiring elected officials to work at least 6 months in a year to get credit for that year
 - b. Also eliminates the ability of an elected official with a certain number of years of service to be eligible for an added pension benefit if they fail to win re-election

4. Filed legislation to create a 2% sales tax rebate on domestically produced goods that are labeled as “Made in the USA”
5. Filed bills to protect employers when responding to inquiries about former employees and increase the flexibility of businesses to contract with each other and independent contractors
6. Tried to ease the burden on the mortgage crisis by filing a bill creating a state clearing house for properties in danger of foreclosing
7. Committed to abolishing the nursing home tax and protecting our loved ones from dangerous predators
 - a. Filed legislation in response to the Haleigh Poutre case to disqualify any person under investigation for the abuse of a relative from acting as that person’s health care proxy
8. Re-filed several bills to close loopholes in current sex offender laws and the sex offender registry board and filed a new bill to reform the Criminal Offender Register Information System (CORI)

d. Views on Issues

- i. Has articulated the following set of core beliefs
 1. Government is too big and that the federal stimulus bill made government bigger instead of creating jobs
 2. Taxes are too high and are going higher if Congress continues with its out-of-control spending
 3. The historical amount of debt we are passing on to our children and grandchildren is immoral
 4. Power concentrated in the hands of one political party, as it is here in MA, leads to bad government and poor decisions
 5. A strong military and vigorous homeland defense will protect our interests and security around the world and at home
 6. All Americans deserve health care, but we shouldn’t have to create a new government insurance to provide it
- ii. Goal is to restore faith in the government by introducing transparency, accountability and reform
- iii. Economy
 1. Is a free enterprise advocate
 - a. Believes that lower taxes can encourage economic growth
 2. Believes that our economy works best when individuals have more of their income to spend, and businesses have money to invest and add jobs
- iv. Energy and the Environment
 1. Supports common-sense environment policy that will help to reduce pollution and preserve our precious open spaces
 - a. Without action now, future generations will be left to clean up the mess left behind by us
 2. Supports reasonable and appropriate development of alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, nuclear, geothermal and improved hydroelectric facilities
 3. Opposes a national cap and trade program
 - a. Due to the higher costs that families and businesses would incur
- v. Equal Rights and Opportunities

1. Believes that some crimes are serious enough for the criminal to deserve the death penalty
 - a. Government should have the ability to impose the death penalty in cases where it is justified
 2. Believes that marriage is between a man and a woman
 - a. However, believes that states should be free to make their own laws in this area
 - i. This is as long as they reflect the people's will as expressed through them directly or their elected representatives
- vi. Israel
1. Supports a two-state solution that reaffirms Israel's right to exist and provides the Palestinians with a place of their own where both sides can live peacefully
 2. Supports the security barrier erected by Israel which has proven successful in protecting Israeli civilians from terrorist attacks
- vii. Iran
1. Supports bi-partisan Iran sanctions bill
 - a. Believes that until Ahmadinejad gives up his nuclear ambitions he should be isolated from the rest of the world
 2. Meeting with him confers legitimacy when the only correct response is to threaten him as an outcast
 - a. This would embolden him and be used as a propaganda tool to strengthen his position

III. Joseph L. Kennedy

- a. Registered into the election as an Independent Libertarian
 - i. Could take some votes from Brown due to being a Libertarian
- b. Was on unpaid leave as Vice President of Information Technology at State Street Corp. in Boston
 - i. Turned in about 14,000 signatures of voters to qualify for the ballot
- c. Grew up in Worcester, MA
- d. Graduated from Doherty Memorial High School in 1989
- e. Went on to Clark University in 1993
- f. Now lives in Dedham, MA
- g. Could potentially win votes if confused with former U.S. Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II
- h. Participated in the Senate debates
- i. For more information please visit: <http://joekennedyforsenate.com/>