

# NEWS AND EVENTS

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## MASSACHUSETTS SENATE SPECIAL ELECTION

On January 19, 2010 there will be a United States Senate Special Election held for the seat left behind by the late U.S. Senator Edward "Ted" Kennedy, who passed away on August 25, 2009 of brain cancer.

On December 8, 2009 a party primary election determined Massachusetts State Attorney General Martha Coakley the winner for the Democratic Party, Massachusetts State Senator Scott Brown the winner for the Republican Party, and Joseph L. Kennedy (no relation to the late Senator Ted Kennedy) for the Independent Party.

This open seat has created some controversy as the Democrats hoped Governor Deval Patrick would be able to appoint an interim State Senator to complete the remainder of the late Senator Ted Kennedy's term. The Republicans, on the other hand, remembered a similar controversy in 2004 when John Kerry was running for President and Mitt Romney was Governor for the state of Massachusetts.

It was during this time that Massachusetts Democrats developed a plan to keep John Kerry's senate seat in the Democrat's hands by blocking Governor Mitt Romney's ability to name an interim replacement if Kerry were to win the presidential election. Although MA law gave authority to the governor to make such an appointment, Democrats changed legislation which insured Kerry's seat would be left vacant for two months or more until a special election was held. As we know, Senator Kerry was defeated by 34 electoral votes and President George W. Bush went on to a second term.

Fast forward to present day: the Democrats are currently working diligently to insure their Health Care Reform Bill is passed and they will need every vote. To potentially avoid having a Republican replace Kennedy's seat, last August the Democrats pushed for Governor Patrick to appoint an interim senator. However, the Republicans recalled the similar

incident from 2004 and called this move unfair. Thus, the Massachusetts Senate Special Election will be held on January 19th. The elected senator will fill the seat for the remaining of the term ending on January 3, 2013.

According to The Christian Science Monitor, January 7, 2010, Martha Coakley pledged her support for Health Care Reform. "Priority No. 1 (will be) to pass and implement healthcare reform," she promised. The Christian Science Monitor states, "...Brown has embraced an unorthodox approach: steering to the right in an effort to woo conservative voters." Also in the article our own Professor Jeffrey Berry refers to Brown, "His strategy is to excite the Republican base—and he's done that. That's not the platform for winning the Senate race, but it's great juicy red meat that he's tossed out there."

Although Massachusetts is considered a Blue State, several recent

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**Martha Coakley**  
*MA State Attorney General*



**Scott Brown**  
*MA State Senator*

### LINKED WITH THIS ISSUE

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MARTHA COAKLEY

PROFILE  
SCOTT BROWN

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IDEAS.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Sean Lenehan is a freshman at Bryant University who interned for the Department of Political Science in the Communications Department during winter break 2009-2010. The Department of Political Science and their Communications Office would like to thank Sean for putting together this article and the profiles of the Massachusetts Senate Special Election Candidates.

## TUFTS IN WASHINGTON

We have recently made some changes to the application process for the Tufts in Washington Program. Professor Eichenberg will host and information session late January - early February to provide information on the program. Also, to insure that your application is formally processed please visit our website to view the changes at <http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/civic/DC.htm>. For immediate questions regarding the Tufts in Washington Program see Professor Eichenberg during the office hours listed on the website.

## MASSACHUSETTS SENATE SPECIAL ELECTION

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polls are showing the election may be closer than expected. Reports say a low-voter-turnout may play in Senator Brown's favor. Also, while Candidate Kennedy's chances of winning are slim (one poll shows him with 3% of the votes) he may have a large impact on a close race. His background as a Libertarian could potentially take votes from Senator Brown.

The Department of Political Science has put out this Special Edition of our Newsletter to give you an opportunity to view a comprehensive profile of the candidates. The article and the separate link for the profiles were developed with the help of several publications which include: 12/17/09 Mass live.com, *Martha Coakley, Scott Brown, Joseph Kennedy agree to series of debates in race for Ted Kennedy's Senate Seat*; 1/7/10 The Christian Science Monitor, *Kennedy endorsement comes at key time for Martha Coakley*; 1/4/10 boston.com, *Republican gets McCain's nod; rival adds to her list*; 12/9/09 The Sun, Lowell, MA, *Coakley vs. Brown*; 12/29/09 Boston Magazine, *Running Scared: Martha Coakley*; [www.brownforsenate.com](http://www.brownforsenate.com); [Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org); [www.marthacoakley.com](http://www.marthacoakley.com).

No matter your party or your home state, Tuesday's election between these candidates will have national implications and will prove to be very interesting.

Stay tuned.

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