



P.O. Box 8683
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September 18, 2008

Dear Candidate:

Operation Clean Government is asking candidates for the General Assembly where they stand on key issues for improving government in Rhode Island. This survey is a first for Operation Clean Government.

We intend to publish responses or the failure to respond in our fall newsletter which will be distributed in early October and to post the information on our website. In order to do this, OCG will need your response by September 27. You should feel free to refer to your support of Operation Clean Government's positions in any materials you distribute.

The fact that you support our positions will not constitute an endorsement by OCG. There are many other positions you may have that our members may not support. However, advancing the quest for open, honest, responsive and responsible government is something all our members can support.

Attached is a form for you to complete and return to Operation Clean Government. We have included a summary of the issue or legislation. For more complete information, you can go to the Operation Clean Government website – ocgri.org. The specific legislation is under the "Legislation" heading. The issue of legislative grants is covered in our March 2008 newsletter, which is available under the "Our Issues" heading.

While we think these issues are simple, low cost efforts to enhance the transparency and accountability of government, the bills, which have bipartisan support, have languished for years in the General Assembly. We do not have a good explanation for the failure of these bills to even get voted out of committee. If you have any comments, please feel free to send them along with the form.

Thank you for your willingness to run for office and for your commitment to serve the citizens of your district and the citizens of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arthur C. Barton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Arthur C. Barton
President

OCG CANDIDATE SURVEY – 2008

Return to: **Operation Clean Government**; P.O. Box 8683; Warwick, RI 02888

Via email: Send scanned, completed survey to **info@ocgri.org**

Candidate Name: _____ Date _____

Authorized Signature: _____ Title: _____

Senate District _____ House District _____

| Issue | Support | Oppose | No Opinion |
|---|---------|--------|------------|
| <p>Voter Initiative – This legislation would allow citizens to place legislation on the ballot for approval or rejection by voters in a general election. This vehicle would provide a check on special interests blocking legislation that the general public believes would benefit the state.</p> | | | |
| <p>Inspector General – This legislation would create an independent office that would have the ability to review the operations of any and all state offices and agencies to look for inefficiency, waste and mismanagement, as well as corruption. The current auditor general serves the General Assembly and responds to its requests. The Inspector General would be able to initiate reviews independently.</p> | | | |
| <p>Publish Legislator Voting Records – Currently it is difficult to determine how an individual legislator votes on issues in general session and in committee. Publishing the voting records of individual legislators both in general session and in committee would go a long way to improving openness and accountability in the General Assembly.</p> | | | |
| <p>Voter Handbook: Pro and Con – Currently only the arguments supporting passage of referenda questions are published by the Secretary of State. In the interest of open government, the arguments against passage should also be included in taxpayer supported information booklets.</p> | | | |
| <p>End Legislative Grants – These grants can be used by leadership in the General Assembly to reward supporters and punish opponents. The grants can be used by legislators to promote their reelection. The grant process circumvents all normal budget review procedures.</p> | | | |