



# The Boston Globe

*WHAT I'LL FIGHT FOR IN THE SENATE | ALAN KHAZEI*

## **RAISING CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT**

**BY ALAN KHAZEI**

November 15, 2009

PEOPLE ARE frustrated that Washington isn't working to deliver the big change that was promised in the 2008 presidential election. Special interests and lobbyists are fighting to protect the status quo, because they profit when nothing gets done. Too many people are hurting, too many have lost their job, home, retirement savings, and dreams of college. In addition to the economic crisis, we face the crisis of climate change, health care, public education, poverty, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and more. I want to use the Massachusetts Senate seat to put "big citizenship" in action.

To tackle the greatest challenges we have seen in more than a half-century, we need a fresh approach to how we solve our problems.

As President Lincoln reminded us: "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. . . . As our case is new, we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves and then we shall save our country."

Throughout history, whether it was founding America, tackling the Depression, defeating Hitler, marching for civil rights, or putting a man on the moon - we have met our challenges by adjusting our thinking and approach to the times. And we can do so again.

My life's work has been about uniting people to put big, new ideas in action and make change.

I built City Year, a domestic Peace Corps, not simply to create a youth service program, but to launch a national movement dedicated to the proposition that each person can make a difference. I started my public service on Mission Hill, not Beacon Hill or Capitol Hill.

Working closely with Senator Ted Kennedy, I am honored to have helped pass three major pieces of national service legislation. This year President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, enlisting an army of 250,000 citizens in service jobs educating our children,

Paid for by Citizens for Alan Khazei.

PRINTED IN-HOUSE.

conserving the environment, fighting poverty, and supporting our veterans. It takes both outside pressure and inside strategizing to move big ideas through Congress.

As the only entrepreneur running for Senate, I led City Year from 50 corps members to a program in 20 cities with 1,750 corps members serving tens of thousands of citizens.

There are big differences among the candidates for Senate in backgrounds, experience, track record, vision, how we run our campaigns, and our view on how to force change in Washington.

We need to move past the tired debate of Big Government vs. Big Business and embrace Big Citizenship. It is always citizens - involved in politics, service, and movements for change, combined with bold political leadership that changes our country.

I will focus on jobs and work to ensure the American dream is real for everyone.

I'm for universal health care and a strong public option, but also comprehensive medical malpractice reform that compensates victims while saving more than \$40 billion.

Every child deserves a high-quality public education. I will stand with the president as a reformer who embraces new ideas like charter schools, innovation, and accountability.

We need to clarify our mission in Afghanistan and level with people about the costs in American lives and treasure. I oppose sending more troops.

Bringing casino gambling to Massachusetts is both morally and economically wrong and will irrevocably change the culture of our state.

I am the only candidate who is fully funding my campaign from citizen donations. I'm not taking a dime of PAC or lobbyist money, because I only want to be accountable to the citizens. The special interests that profit off the status quo are preventing meaningful change in the economy, on health care, climate change, and more. Washington bailed out Wall Street, yet there are no new jobs on Main Street.

I learned from Senator Kennedy that being a great senator is much more than casting votes and giving speeches. It is about utilizing the platform to empower citizens to achieve the American Dream, to make a difference in their lives, communities, and the Commonwealth. That way, we will leave both the state and the country stronger and better for it.

*Alan Khazei is cofounder of City Year.*

Paid for by Citizens for Alan Khazei.

PRINTED IN-HOUSE.