



Greater Boston  
Interfaith Organization

594 Columbia Road Suite #203  
Dorchester, MA 02125  
Phone: 617-825-5600 Fax: 617-825-5400  
Web: [www.gbio.org](http://www.gbio.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 10/18/10

**Media Contacts:** Lauren Jacobson (c) 617-694-1396 (e-mail) [L.Jacobson@gbio.org](mailto:L.Jacobson@gbio.org)  
Ehab Abdel Ghaffar (c) 617-388-7537 (email) [eaghaffar@gmail.com](mailto:eaghaffar@gmail.com)

## **Baker, Cahill, Patrick, Stein Stand United Against Questions 2, 3**

Last night (10/17), Mr. Charles Baker, Treas. Timothy Cahill, Gov. Deval Patrick, and Dr. Jill Stein signed a joint statement condemning Ballot Questions 2 and 3 at a gathering of 1,200 leaders of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) at Temple Israel of Boston. Clergy, youth, and lay leaders from over 55 congregations in greater Boston responded to the candidates' signing with a rousing standing ovation.

"We applaud the candidates for displaying a kind of moral leadership that sets an example for our state and nation," said Rev. Dan Smith who co-chaired the meeting, "With these major threats facing our communities, getting beyond party politics is critical."

All candidates also made commitments to include \$8 million for the Youth Works summer jobs program in their proposed budget for next year, to assist Haitian refugees in Massachusetts in moving into permanent housing and advocate for their federal legal status, and to encourage state authorities to move state money out of national banks that do not abide by the state's interest rate cap of 18%.

Baker and Cahill did not join Patrick, Stein and GBIO leaders in condemning Ballot Question 1, however, and Rev. Burns Stanfield conveyed GBIO's disappointment at their refusal to oppose the repeal of the state's alcohol tax.

"I pastor a church in South Boston," Rev. Stanfield told the crowd, "I've seen the devastation of alcoholism and the ravages of addiction. But I've also seen young adults get it together in recovery, and what's crucial for them are the very rehab and recovery programs that Question One would decimate."

The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization organizes the communities of greater Boston across all religious, racial, ethnic, class, and neighborhood lines to hold both public and private power holders accountable for their public responsibilities. GBIO's organizing played a key role in achieving health care reform and affordability standards for health care in Massachusetts.