



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1008

James E. Vallee  
Majority Leader

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**VALLEE TO RECEIVE LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

*Common Cause Massachusetts honors Vallee for leadership on government ethics law overhaul*

**BOSTON** – State Representative James E. Vallee, D – Franklin, will be honored with a Legislative Achievement Award by good-government watchdog group Common Cause Massachusetts for his leadership and vocal advocacy in reforming state laws governing elected officials' ethics, lobbying, and campaign finance.

"We are pleased to recognize Majority Leader Jim Vallee for his role in the 2009 Ethics and Campaign Finance Reform Bill," said Pam Wilmot, Executive Director of Common Cause Massachusetts. "Without Jim's leadership, the bill would not have been nearly as strong. Jim was there every step of the way, pushing and pushing for the toughest bill and the highest standards. It was a pleasure working with him on this important legislation."

Vallee will accept the award at Common Cause's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the Charles Hotel in Cambridge on Saturday, June 12.

"I am so flattered to receive this award from such an honorable organization known for its good-government mission," said Vallee. "This bill was my highest priority at the outset of the legislative session, and I am thrilled to have been so involved in its passage."

The ethics reform law, which calls for overall stricter guidelines on who qualifies as a lobbyist and improved public access to such information, also includes proposals first filed by Vallee in the 2007-2008 legislative session. Some of Vallee's original contributions to the bill include a requirement that all state, county, and municipal employees receive a summary of the conflict of interest law within 30 days of becoming an employee and every year thereafter, and an increased penalty for breaching the conflict of interest law, raising the fines from as low as \$3,000 to up to \$25,000, dependent upon the violation.

Common Cause is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to ensure open, accountable, and effective federal, state, and local government. Common Cause pursues this agenda through sustained issue campaigns aimed at increasing participation and faith in government by ensuring officials and institutions serve the public interest. They work with over 10,000 activists in Massachusetts and 400,000 nationwide. More information about Common Cause is available at [www.commoncause.org](http://www.commoncause.org).

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