

What's Up with Charlie Baker?
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The Democracy team of Minuteman Indivisible focuses on several very important, fundamental issues: human rights/immigrant rights/social justice and Russia-gate/government ethics/conflicts of interest. Each of these topics is complex and far ranging and requires us to delve into information gathering and then to identify targeted activist responses. Central to each topic, however, is the illumination of constitutional rights and democratic principles that run the risk of being trampled in the wake of the Trump Agenda.

Our team has taken seriously Indivisible Guide's rallying call to affect change at the grass roots level. We are committed to lobbying our Senators, Congressional delegation, and our State elected officials. At times, as we have tried to get our neighbors to join with us in these efforts, we have been asked the following question "Our Senators and Representative are doing what we want. What else can we do?" In addition, we often hear "We are a blue state so we have little to worry about, right?" A closer look at state and local politics necessitates that we track how closely Governor Charlie Baker aligns with the Trump agenda. Governor Baker's position on immigration raises questions about the extent to which he is willing to ignore fundamental principles of democracy. At last check, Governor Baker stated his opposition to the Safe Communities Act, legislation that would provide sanctuary status

(sanctuary status is generally defined as limiting the role of local law enforcement agencies and officers in the enforcement of federal immigration laws) to immigrants in many locales across the Commonwealth. In August, Governor Baker introduced legislation intended to override an SJC ruling that prohibited state law enforcement officers, including court officers, from detaining persons suspected of immigration violations because to do so constituted unlawful arrests. Governor Baker's proposed legislation would amount to allowing state law enforcement personnel to cooperate with federal officials in the enforcement of more restrictive immigration policies without ensuring them of their constitutional rights to due process.

Is this the position that we want our governor to take? If not, we need to make our voices heard. Due to this and other issues, we have decided to more formally keep track of Governor Baker's positions, to thank him when we agree with his position, and to actively lobby his office when we do not. We also plan to unite our efforts to make sure that the principles of democracy are front and center in the upcoming gubernatorial election. Governor Baker is one of the most popular governors in the nation. He has a seat (and an office) in Washington. So, let's keep asking "What about Charlie Baker?" and treat him like our fourth member of Congress.

For more information on local authority participation in immigration enforcement and the Safe Communities Act (SCA), please see our fact

sheet at

<http://www.minutemanindivisible.org/uploads/1/0/2/7/10278894/safecommunitiestalkingpoints.pdf>