

# Beacon Hill's overdue for an overhaul

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What we need, my fellow Americans, is more pandering.

Remember Richard Gere in the movie "Pretty Woman?"

"We're going to be spending an obscene amount of money in here," Gere's character told a sycophantic store clerk. "We're going to need some major sucking up."

Well, Bay State taxpayers are spending obscene amounts of money on an arrogant, unresponsive government. And with Gov. [Deval Patrick](#) signing billion-dollar spending bills, goosing government pensions and throwing money at the transportation department, we're moving from "obscene" to "pornographic."

But who is sucking up to us? Nobody.

Police details are the perfect example. Every time a taxpayer blows by a cop sipping coffee, our blood pressure shoots up. It's a waste of money and manpower.

And everybody knows it - literally. According to a new Suffolk University poll, an astonishing 86 percent of us agree that having cops at every pothole repair is wrong.

In a democracy, it's hard to get 86 percent of the voters to support free pizza. And if Massachusetts actually had a functioning democracy, Beacon Hill pols would be beating down the State House doors, demanding a special session to end the detail debacle.

But in Hacksachusetts, legislators couldn't care less about the great unwashed. When a proposal to reform the detail program came up, legislators gave it an old-fashioned Beacon Hill beatdown.

It didn't matter that there are 6 million of us vs. a few thousand union members. They had the influence and cash to get the Legislature to throw us all under the bus.

Yes, Patrick is belatedly coming out with a painfully modest proposal that may allow some flagmen under limited circumstances on certain roads, but by the time the hackocracy is done, we'll end up with seven flagmen in the entire state: two affirmative action hires and five legislators' first cousins.

There are all sorts of issues where the will of the people is clear. We don't support "sanctuary" policies for illegal aliens, and we don't want to give them driver's licenses. We hate paying \$5 a gallon for heating oil and, like the 76 percent of our fellow Americans, Bay Staters want more

domestic oil production. We see government goof-offs retiring on hefty pensions in their 40s and then double-dipping, and we want to pull our hair out.

But what happens? Nothing. Because while most Massachusetts voters may want to end police details and start drilling for oil, we don't write checks to campaigns or spend election day knocking on doors. Asking a legislator to choose between 100 angry but unorganized taxpayers or 10 union members with a phone bank is a classic no-brainer.

If this were a two-party state, if there were organized resistance to the liberal Media-Politico Complex, the sheer weight of numbers like "86 percent" would be enough to carry an issue like police details. But not here.

If the average, outraged Massachusetts taxpayer wants to be heard over the din of insider dealing and out-and-out corruption, there are two things we can do.

First, you can vote to repeal the income tax and stop the flow of government graft at the source. Every dollar they get is like a woman in Sen. Jim Marzilli's district. It's gonna get grabbed.

The other is to vote against every incumbent, period. No "But I like my guy!" or "She's really OK once you get to know her." Sorry, but responsible Massachusetts's voters don't have that luxury.

Throw all the bums out. Sure, there's a chance you'll vote against a good guy, but at 86 percent against democracy, the odds are on your side.