

Media Information

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Second round of Senate elections: Half of candidates support anti-corruption bills

In the past few weeks, scores of citizens have met with their Senate candidates to find out if they are prepared to vote for the standards against corruption and clientelism, recommended by the Reconstruction of the State platform. Before the first round of Senate elections, 120 candidates out of a total of 253 across the political party spectrum and election districts acceded to our initiative. Twenty-nine of these supporters were among the candidates who advanced to a run-off. In one fifth of the districts it is already certain that the elections will bring yet another project supporter to the Senate.

“Very much is at stake, namely, one trillion crowns. The current Senate does not support legislation which would enable independent surveillance over one trillion crowns, expended annually from the budgets of regions, municipalities, and municipal as well as state-owned enterprises. The constitutional amendment involved prevents members of the lower house of parliament from outvoting Senators. But in most election districts the bill has the support of one of the second-round candidates and consequently voters in the run-off will also decide about this anti-corruption legislation,” says Jiří Boudal from Reconstruction of the State.

A list of supporting candidates is available on www.rekonstrukcestatu.cz/senat2014.

“Citizens are still very keen on addressing their candidates. The same goes for the candidates’ interest in expressing their attitudes to the reconstruction bills. Although they come from various political parties, they share the conviction that such measures are necessary. Importantly, we have the support of candidates with some experience with struggle against the abuse of public funds,” Boudal adds.

It is already clear that in six election districts a Senate seat will go to a politician supporting Reconstruction of the State. In Brno-City, Ostrava-City, Olomouc, Přerov, Strakonice and Kladno, both runners-up have pledged support to Reconstruction of the State. In other districts, the second round of voting will be a thrilling duel between the candidates who support Reconstruction of the State and those who have not yet acceded to the project. Candidates have time to accede by the end of this week. An updated list of candidates supporting Reconstruction of the State and advancing to the Senate run-off is available at the end of this press release.

Senate candidates have received letters from well-known public figures, such as economists Zdeněk Kudrna and Miroslav Zámečník, industrialists Zbyněk Frolík and Vratislav Kulhánek, head of the Czech Association of Small and Medium Enterprises and Smallholders Eva Svobodová, and actress Simona Babčáková. They urge the candidates to support a Constitutional amendment, which would ensure independent supervision of municipalities and municipal firms.

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About Reconstruction of the State

The anti-corruption project Reconstruction of the State was launched in March 2013 with the aim to promote nine key legislations, which would dramatically reduce room for corruption and prevent the ongoing state capture. Commitment to promote the legislation was confirmed in writing before the elections by more than 160 incumbent members of parliament, including the leaders of the main political parties. **Members of the Platform:** Oživení, Transparency International, Frank Bold (formerly Ekologický právní servis), Otakar Motejl Foundation, zIndex, Open Society, Brnění, Pražské fórum, Zaostřeno, Zelený kruh, Anticorruption Endowment (NFPK), Inventura demokracie, Glopolis, Good Governance, Naši politici.cz, Iuridicum Remedium, ProAlt, Kohovolit.eu and PragueWatch.

List of Senate Candidates supporting Reconstruction of the State as of 14 October 2014:

Ivo	Jahelka	TOP+STAN	No. 15 – Pelhřimov
Jiří	Dienstbier	ČSSD	No. 30 – Kladno
Michaela	Vojtová	TOP+STAN	No. 30 – Kladno
Emílie	Třísková	ČSSD	No. 42 – Kolín
Jiří	Němec	KDU-ČSL	No. 54 – Znojmo
Roman	Celý	KDU-ČSL	No. 57 – Vyškov
Zdeňka	Hamousová	ANO 2011	No. 6 – Louny
Karel	Doležal	ČSSD	No. 60 – Brno-City
Zdeněk	Papoušek	KDU-ČSL	No. 60 – Brno-City
František	Čuba	SPO	No. 78 – Zlín
Martin	Gregora	TOP+STAN	No. 12 – Strakonice
Karel	Kratochvíle	ČSSD	No. 12 – Strakonice
Vladimír	Danda	ANO 2011	No. 18 – Příbram
Václav	Láska	KDUČSLSZ	No. 21 – Prague 5
Zuzana	Baudyšová	ANO 2011	No. 24 – Prague 9
Václav	HAMPL	KDUČSLSZ	No. 27 – Prague 1
Jiří	Vosecký	SLK	No. 36 - Česká Lípa
Adolf	Klepš	TOP+STAN	No. 39 – Trutnov
Jaroslav	Malý	ČSSD	No. 45 – Hradec Králové
Miroslav	Antl	ČSSD	No. 48 – Rychnov nad Kněžnou
Antonín	Prachař	ANO 2011	No. 63 – Přerov

Jitka	Seitlová	KDUČSLSZ	No. 63 – Přerov
Alena	Šromová	KDU-ČSL	No. 66 – Olomouc
Jan	Zahradníček	ANO 2011	No. 66 – Olomouc
Jiří	Carbol	KDU-ČSL	No. 69 – Frýdek-Místek
Peter	Koliba	ANO 2011	No. 72 – Ostrava-City
Petr	Mihálik	ČSSD	No. 72 – Ostrava-City
Martin	Gebauer	ANO 2011	No. 75 – Karviná
Pavel	Botek	KDU-ČSL	No. 81 – Uherské Hradiště