3. The MA Attorney-General's office has proposed a [substantial expansion](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/188/Senate/S654) of the state's electronic wiretapping powers. Does the candidate support or oppose this expansion?

**I am firmly opposed to Senator Clark's bill to substantially expand wiretapping in Massachusetts. We are in the midst of a profound technology change that makes the collection of vast amounts of information possible. It is crucially important that as a society we debate the impact this technological capability has on our daily lives, on our expectations and rights to privacy, on the safety of each individual and on our communities. The protections of the Fourth Amendment are time tested and have been able to strike the appropriate balance between privacy and public safety. It should not be lawful for the government to gather and peruse private information of American citizens just because it has the technological ability to do so. Massachusetts has long understood the delicate balance that must be struck when collecting data from and about individuals. The Massachusetts General Laws provide the following in the preamble to our wiretapping statute (Chapter 272, Section 99(A)) “The general court further finds that the uncontrolled development and unrestricted use of modern electronic surveillance devices pose grave dangers to the privacy of all citizens of the commonwealth. Therefore, the secret use of such devices by private individuals must be prohibited. The use of such devices by law enforcement officials must be conducted under strict judicial supervision and should be limited to the investigation of organized crime.” Senator Clark's bill which is supported by the Attorney General, would strike this preamble in its entirely. While one might argue that serious criminal activity that is not “organized” should be the subject of electronic investigation, imposing the requirements of probable cause and judicial review will still allow the collection of information needed to assure the safety of the public.**

**The Wiretapping Expansion Bill would expand the activities that can trigger surveillance to include minor civil infractions. We have heard that enforcement of that expansion of the Massachusetts statute would be limited by the federal government to less that what the language allows, but what happens if the federal law changes or if - as we have seen with the NSA scandal - the federal government just does not enforce its law.**

**Finally we must be very cautious about the expansion of the types of information that can be intercepted - to include location information and images - and the technology that can be tapped.**

*NOTE FROM DIGITAL FOURTH:*

*Sen. Spilka responded late to our questionnaire, and this response greatly expands on, but does not alter, her position.*