



Jon B. Hurst, *Chairman* | Thomas R. Kiley, *Treasurer*

*For Immediate Release*

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**Massachusetts Main Street Fairness Coalition Collects 95,123 Certified Signatures  
In Support of Sales Tax Reduction Ballot Initiative**

Boston, MA -- The Massachusetts Main Street Fairness Coalition, a coalition of organization representing over 13,000 small business members, announced today they have submitted 117,638 total signatures, including 95,123 certified signatures, to the Secretary of State in support of placing on the ballot a measure to cut the state sales tax to five percent and create an annual two-day sales tax holiday. The signatures submitted by the Massachusetts Main Street Fairness Coalition have been certified by local cities and towns, and far exceed the 64,750 required to qualify for advancement in the ballot initiative process.

“There exists significant support for reducing the state sales tax and creating an annual sales tax holiday with the voters, as evidenced by recent public polls and the ease at which we were able to collect signatures,” said Jon Hurst, Chairman of the Coalition and President of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts. “Voters support reducing the sales tax because it hits seniors and low income families disproportionately and is making it more difficult for our small business to compete with the tax free New Hampshire and online sellers.”

In a recent WBUR poll fielded in November sixty-nine percent of respondents said they would support the initiative to reduce the sales tax to five percent and create an annual two-day sales tax while only 20 percent say they would oppose it. The poll surveyed 503 registered voters between November 9 and November 12. It has a margin of error of 4.4 percent.

Since announcing the initiative in August, membership in the Massachusetts Main Street Fairness Coalition has grown significantly and now includes small business organizations representing approximately 13,000 employers, including Retailers Association of Massachusetts, National Federation of Independent Business, North Central Massachusetts Chamber, Bristol County Chamber of Commerce, United Chamber of Commerce, Orleans Chamber of Commerce, Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Tri-Town Chamber of Commerce. The Coalition is continuing to grow its’ membership and build support for the measure.

The Legislature has until May 2, to act on the initiative. If not passed into law, the proponents must collect another 10,792 signatures to be submitted to the Secretary of State by July 4. If the

second round of signature collections is successful, the measure then is placed before the voters on the November 6, 2018 statewide ballot.

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