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# Republican National Lawyers Association

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**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Brown Arrives In DC**

*RNLA Chair Calls on Senate to Seat Massachusetts Senator-Elect*

**Washington, D.C.** – Republican National Lawyers Association (RNLA) Chairman David A. Norcross today released the following statement in response to Massachusetts Senator-elect Scott Brown's arrival in Washington, D.C.:

“Senator-elect Scott Brown should be seated today. Brown's victory over Martha Coakley was decisive and demonstrates that the people of Massachusetts want change. In fact, polling shows vast majorities of voters in Massachusetts want Brown seated immediately. Brown's margin of victory is insurmountable; he leads by more votes than the amount of absentee ballots mailed. Moreover, there is precedent to seat Brown immediately, most notably with the special election of Ted Kennedy to the same Senate seat in 1962. The U.S. Senate should put aside the partisan politics that were rejected by the voters in Massachusetts and heed the will of the people by seating Brown without delay.”

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **There is Precedent for Senate Seating Senators-Elect Prior to State's Official Certification:**

“Nevertheless, some Republicans are insisting that Brown be sworn in before the official certification. And they are citing an ironic precedent: the special election in 1962 that first brought Kennedy to the Senate, when the chamber waived its rules and allowed him to take his seat well before the vote was certified by the Massachusetts secretary of state.”

(Bryan Bender, “[Delay Could Give Democrats Options](#),” *The Boston Globe*, 1/20/10)

#### **Galvin Has Sent a Letter to Senate Declaring Brown the Unofficial Winner:**

“[Secretary of Commonwealth William] Galvin said earlier yesterday that if the margin were overwhelming – far exceeding the number of absentee ballots still to be counted – and there appeared to be no chance of a recount, he would immediately send a letter to the Senate informing it of the unofficial winner.” (Bryan Bender, “[Delay Could Give Democrats Options](#),” *The Boston Globe*, 1/20/10)

"Massachusetts Secretary of State William Galvin sent a letter to the Senate clerk Wednesday declaring Brown the unofficial winner of the seat. . . ." [Glen Johnson, *AP*, 1/21/10]

**Martha Coakley, Common Cause, Even Al Franken Have Called for the Winner To Be Seated Immediately:**

**“[Democrat Martha] Coakley agreed with Brown that the new senator ‘should be sworn in as soon as possible’ after the election.”** (Eric Moskowitz, [“Bill Clinton To Lend Support To Coakley,”](#) *The Boston Globe*, 1/10/10)

**“We believe that elections should be by the people and for the people, and when the people have spoken, the system ought not be politicized,’ said Common Cause President Bob Edgar, a former member of Congress. ‘If the Republican wins, the person should be seated immediately. If the Democrat wins, the person should be seated immediately.’”** (Glen Johnson, [“Seating Mass. Senate Winner Could Be Delayed,”](#) The Associated Press, 1/13/10)

**“This is a substantial enough victory that he should be seated as soon as legally possible,’ [Senator Al] Franken told Minnesota Public Radio. ‘He won by 100,000 votes, which was about 100,000 more votes than I won by.’”** (Hart Van Denburg, [“Al Franken: Seat Mark Brown Now, It Wasn’t Even Close,”](#) [Minneapolis/St. Paul] *City Pages*, 1/20/10)

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