



## Gov candidates gang up on Mitt's job-training veto

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Candidates for governor took aim at Gov. Mitt Romney's veto of \$11 million in job training funds last night at a Roxbury Community College candidates' forum on boosting the state's educated and trained workers.

At the first campaign event attended by all six declared gubernatorial candidates, even Lt. Gov. Kerry Healey said she would not have vetoed part of the workforce training fund in the Legislature's economic stimulus plan as Romney did, but wouldn't say if she tried to stop him.

"I won't characterize the private conversations that I've had with the governor," Healey told Channel 5's Janet Wu, who moderated the forum.

While all the candidates at the SkillWorks-sponsored forum said they opposed Romney's veto, Healey joined Democrat Chris Gabrieli in vowing to provide \$21 million in additional funding for a new matching trust fund to boost training for all workers, a plan other candidates were more cautious to embrace.

"I think we do need to ask the question of whether we are getting the most out of the money we are spending," said Democrat Deval Patrick.

Gabrieli called the figure "a relatively small amount."

Attorney General Tom Reilly called Romney's veto "very disappointing," but would not commit to funding the new trust fund. "I'll have to look at that when I get there," Reilly said.

Independent candidate Christy Mihos, who said he would "absolutely" back the trust fund, called Romney's veto "unconscionable."

Earlier in the day, the Democrats faced off on health and education issues in a New England Cable News debate, disagreeing on whether to raise the MCAS passing score from 220 to 240.

Patrick backs the idea, so long as resources are in place to help those who don't clear the hurdle. "I think we should do it, but I'm saying that that is not enough," Patrick said.

Reilly said, "We should shoot for 240 as a passing score, but bear in mind that some of these kids are just passing at 220."

Gabrieli opposed raising the bar. "There are too many kids who are just passing," Gabrieli said.