

## Jay Gonzalez calls for firing heads of State Police, public safety office



BILL SIKES/ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Democratic gubernatorial nominee Jay Gonzalez.**

**By Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

Democratic gubernatorial nominee Jay Gonzalez on Wednesday called for his rival Governor Charlie Baker to “immediately fire” the heads of the Massachusetts State Police and its parent agency, the

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

“The public deserves better,” said Gonzalez, describing the Baker administration’s handling of the State Police “disastrous.” “We need leadership we can trust.”

Gonzalez said outside leadership should be brought in to shake up the status quo at State Police, arguing Colonel Kerry A. Gilpin and Public Safety Secretary Daniel Bennett have moved too slowly to reform the state’s largest law enforcement agency [following recent scandals](#).

ADVERTISEMENT



Under [state law](#), only internal candidates can become the State Police colonel, a gubernatorial appointment. Gonzalez said legislation should be drafted “immediately” to change that.

Get **Metro Headlines** in your inbox:

The 10 top local news stories from metro Boston and around New England delivered daily.

Sign Up

Baker promoted Gilpin, a 24-year veteran of the force, to the post in November after former Colonel Richard McKeon retired following revelations he ordered troopers to remove embarrassing information from an arrest report about a judge’s daughter.

Gilpin’s tenure has been marked by [a series of public controversies](#). While none have been directly connected to her and many involve alleged wrongdoing before she became colonel, the scandals have tarnished the agency’s reputation and internal morale.

The most high-profile problem for State Police has been the results of an ongoing internal audit, which so far has found 46 troopers allegedly collected pay for overtime hours they never worked, while writing phony traffic citations to hide their absence. The internal audit began before Gilpin took them helm, but she has expanded it and submitted evidence against troopers to prosecutors to pursue.

Eight of those troopers face either [federal or state criminal charges](#). Three have pleaded guilty to embezzlement. State prosecutors have said to expect more charges.

ADVERTISEMENT



Gonzalez referenced how Gilpin, as an internal inspector in 2014, [flagged](#) some of the troopers now ensnared in the overtime scandal for remarkably high overtime hours but didn't probe further.

Gilpin has insisted her role then was to document potential problems; superior officers and internal investigators were tasked with following up and addressing misconduct.

She and Baker outlined a series of changes this spring.

State Police disbanded the division the alleged overtime fraud stemmed from, expanded the internal investigatory units, and hired an outside auditor. A new roll call policy and GPS monitoring technology in marked cruisers have bolstered trooper accountability, the department says. And incoming recruits must complete a more thorough questionnaire.

But Gonzalez focused on how [other promises](#) have not yet happened, including vows to release quarterly audits of top-paid troopers, install GPS technology in unmarked cruisers and other vehicles. The agency says those efforts are ongoing.

ADVERTISEMENT

Gonzalez also noted the agency has not yet developed the body camera program it promised, but Baker said earlier this year that the program would not be ready until the end of the year.

When asked about Gonzalez's charge, Baker praised Gilpin's work as "exactly the right kind of work to be done."

"She's the one who led the investigation, expanded it," he said. "She's the one that submitted the documentation to both the attorney general and US attorney's office that's led to these indictments and these pleas."

"There's obviously a lot more to be done, but my view on this is this investigation and the follow-up on

it, is exactly what I had hoped would happen,” Baker added.

Baker and Gonzalez, the state budget chief under former governor Deval Patrick, will face off on Nov. 6.

*Joshua Miller of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Matt Rocheleau can be reached at*

*[matthew.rocheleau@globe.com](mailto:matthew.rocheleau@globe.com). Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele).*

Show 32 Comments

### Top 10 Trending Articles

Viewed	Commented	Shared
--------	-----------	--------

People in open-concept homes are realizing the walls were there for a reason

Ideas | Linda Rodriguez McRobbie: Too old to be president? Science says yes.

Mass. authorities face steep hurdles in shutting down sex trafficking

Here’s what NFL free agent market looks like ahead of league’s legal tampering period

The backyard mechanic who is taking on Tesla

Julia Ruth Stevens, Babe Ruth’s last surviving child, dies at 102

Road to Recovery: Drugs took their children, but not their hope that others might be saved

Sharon principal placed on administrative leave

This week in watching: The fall of ‘Arrested Development,’ the return of ‘Billions,’ and the power of punk

A new service takes travelers from Boston to New York in a Tesla, for \$99

Is David Backes putting himself in harm’s way?

Who are you calling senior? For older folks, some terms are fast becoming radioactive

Delta aims high for growth at Logan Airport

Canada’s no-sex, no-money scandal could topple Trudeau

Chances are ‘good’ that Whole Foods will sell marijuana products, CEO says

Why teens need live theater in the age of YouTube

Eliza Dushku: I worked at CBS. I didn’t want to be sexually harassed. I was fired

Train like Tom Brady at his coming Back Bay TB12 center — or one of up to a dozen others planned

Big money is flowing into podcasts. Here’s what that could mean for Boston

David Krejci’s goal with 45 seconds left rallies Bruins

Trump will seek more money for border wall

In N.H., Bernie Sanders says now ‘Democratic candidates all across the board’ support his ideas

Kyrie Irving, Celtics finish off Lakers this time

Baseball News, Scores, Analysis, Schedules & More

‘SNL’ tackles R. Kelly sex assault accusations with parody of CBS interview, Pete Davidson monologue

David Krejci’s goal with 45 seconds left rallies Bruins

157 people, including 8 Americans, are believed dead in Ethiopian Airlines crash

Dana LeVangie the ‘heart and soul’ of Red Sox pitching staff

Merrimack, N.H., man allegedly impersonated police officers, first responders

Turbulence injures 30 on flight from Istanbul to New York

Most Popular In Metro →

## **Subscribe Now**

[Digital Access](#)

[Home Delivery](#)

[Gift Subscriptions](#)

## **My Account**

[Manage my Account](#)

[Mobile Customer Service](#)

[Sign Up For Newsletters](#)

## **Contact**

[Help](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Globe newsroom](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Order back issues](#)

## **Social**

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Google+](#)

## **More**

[ePaper](#)

[News in Education](#)

[Archives](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

[Terms of service](#)

[Terms of purchase](#)

[Work at Boston Globe Media](#)

© 2019 Boston Globe Media Partners, LLC