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Out lesbian candidate challenges anti-equality pol

by Laura Kiritsy
Editor-in-chief
Saturday Mar 1, 2008

We just got word that Dr. Sara Orozco, a Needham psychologist and former Bay Windows contributor, will challenge Sen. Scott Brown, a Wrentham Republican, in the Norfolk, Bristol & Middlesex district this fall. Orozco is an openly gay mother of twins.

Brown won the seat in a 2004 special election after openly gay state Sen. Cheryl Jacques stepped down to take the helm of the Human Rights Campaign. With the departure of Jacques and openly gay state Sen. Jarrett Barrios last summer, the Senate has no openly gay legislators.

Most Popular This Week

1. Heavy hitters go to bat for transgender civil rights bill
2. Advocates, opponents of trans rights bill to have their say on Beacon Hill
3. Attorney General Martha Coakley comes out for civil rights protections for transgender community
4. Contrada warns of trans apocalypse
5. Advocates turn out en masse for transgender civil rights bill
6. Out lesbian candidate challenges anti-equality pol
7. Harvard community tackles race and sexuality
8. It's in his kiss
9. Marriage inequality
10. Obama's gay supporters speak

Upcoming Events

3.9 Hiking

Quick Poll

Soap fans have started a letter writing campaign to *As The*

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Will Orozco reverse that trend?

As a first-time candidate, Orozco likely faces an uphill climb in uprooting Brown. She'll no doubt receive strong support from marriage equality activists who would love to take out a notoriously anti-gay pol like Brown, who has consistently opposed pro-gay legislation and received financial backing from the likes of The Massachusetts Independent PAC for Working Families (MIPAC), the political action arm of the Massachusetts Family Institute.

However the race turns out, though, the campaign will likely challenge Brown's bounds of civility on LGBT issues. You'll recall that the senator

made headlines last year when he read aloud profanity-laced Facebook posts criticizing him for his opposition to marriage equality to a group of students at King Philip Regional High School. Brown justified using potty-mouth with a bunch of kids by saying that he was simply repeating what the students themselves had written about him and his daughter. Critics characterized him as undignified and a poor role model. And back in 2001 when Brown was a state representative and Jacques still held the Senate seat, he made headlines in the Boston Globe and beyond when he responded to the news Jacques and her partner Jenn Chrisler were expecting twins by observing that, "They're certainly not married. There's a difference of philosophy there. Are there two mothers there? Are they husband and wife? It's unusual for two women having a baby. It's just not normal, in terms of what's normal in today's society."

This from a guy who [posed nude for Cosmo and rhapsodized in an accompanying profile about women who are "tall, athletic and have longish hair and beautiful legs ... hmm, I'm getting excited!"](#) He also [waxed homoerotic about his unabashed nudity](#): "When you go to the beach you automatically seek out the best bodies, female and male," he said. "Why should it be different in a magazine?"

[Anyway, we digress. Brown's 1982 Cosmo spread is seriously old news, but any excuse to dredge up 80s-era cheese from an anti-gay pol. Read all about Orozco in the press release announcing her candidacy:](#)

World Turns, clamoring for more kissing between Noah and Luke. If the campaign works, what duo should queer TV viewers turn their attention to next?

- Carol and Joan on *Mad Men*
- Patrick and Carmelita on *Dirty Sexy Money*
- Six and Three on *Battlestar Galactica*
- Hiro and Ando on *Heroes*

Vote!

Columnists



MOMBIAN
 by Diana Rudolph

Rainbow List showcases books for LGBT families and youth



HOLDING THE CENTER
 by Richard J. Rosendall

False narratives



LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE
 by Judah LeBlang

My Hair-Raising Journey

DR. SARA OROZCO ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR NORFOLK, BRISTOL & MIDDLESEX STATE SENATE SEAT

NEEDHAM, MA - Sara Orozco, Ph.D., Democrat of Needham, announced today her candidacy to become the next State Senator from the Norfolk, Bristol & Middlesex district. She pulled nomination papers earlier this month, and will make a formal announcement in the spring.

Dr. Orozco is a practicing psychologist in Needham. She has dedicated more than two decades to healthcare and human services. From her academic appointment at Harvard Medical School, to her position at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute conducting research funded by the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program, to her private practice, Dr. Orozco helps people deal with the difficulties in their lives, to find solutions, and to move forward. Dr. Orozco is committed to quality healthcare for all families - a commitment that has deepened as a parent and a breast cancer survivor.

Dr. Orozco is the founder and CEO of Orozco & Associates, a locally based consulting firm made up of independent corporate psychologists and business consultants who work within companies to transform workplace relationships and to provide leadership training. She is a sought-after corporate speaker and a member of the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Orozco lives and works in Needham. Her eight-year-old twin boys attend the Needham public schools. "I am running because I believe this district deserves an active voice in the State Senate and someone who will bring vision, commitment and tenacity to the job," said Orozco. "We face enormous challenges, from strengthening our economy, to ensuring access to quality health care, to making our public schools the best that they can be. I will use my experience as a health care provider, a business owner, and a parent to identify common-sense solutions for the challenges we face."

"One important qualification for this job comes from my work as a psychologist, which has taught me to listen closely to people to help them find solutions to the problems that keep them up at night. I will bring that same gift for listening and shared problem-solving to the people I will serve."

Describing her commitment, Orozco said, "I feel that my accomplishments in life are the direct result of the opportunities offered to me through public education, women having equal access to athletics through Title IX, and through access to quality health care which may have saved my life when I was diagnosed with breast cancer ten years ago. And now I feel it is my turn to give back and help shape a state government of which we can all be proud."

"In the weeks ahead, I look forward to meeting voters across this district, and talking with them about the challenges that they and their families are facing. This will be a grassroots campaign focused on the needs of real people, and what we can do together to improve the quality of life in our



[communities."](#)

[The Norfolk Bristol & Middlesex District includes the communities of Attleboro \(wards 1 and 2, ward 3, precinct A\), Franklin \(precincts 2 to 4, inclusive\), Millis, Natick \(precincts 6, 7, 9 and 10\), Needham, Norfolk, North Attleborough, Plainville, Sherborn, Wayland, Wellesley \(precincts B, F and G\), and Wrentham.](#)

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