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Democrat Orozco to challenge Sen. Brown

By Aaron Wasserman/Daily News staff

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Needham Democrat Sara Orozco has filed nomination papers to run for state senator this fall, setting up a race against Wrentham.

Orozco said she collected 943 signatures for the contest, from all 12 towns that comprise the district, and used the help of volunteers.

"We took the opportunity to gather signatures as an opportunity to talk to voters. We made sure that I was in all 12 towns yesterday. "That was very important to me."

Orozco, 45, a psychologist, is running for office for the first time. She has her own private practice and is the founder of a consulting firm for leadership training and workplace relationships.

Brown, an attorney and one of the few Republicans left in the state Senate, has held the seat since 2004 and was a senator before that. He already submitted nomination papers.

In taking on the incumbent, Orozco said she needs to canvass as much of the large district as possible. The district includes the way to Attleboro and also includes Millis, Norfolk, Plainville, Wrentham, North Attleborough, Sherborn, Wayland and Natick.

"It's very much a grass-roots, knocking-on-doors, talking-to-people kind of campaign," she said. "I think the key to winning is to get to as many doors as possible and voters as possible and talk to them and listen."

On her Web site, Orozco lists education, health care costs and equal rights as her three top issues. She said yesterday she will launch her campaign platform at a formal campaign kick-off later this month.

Blue Mass Group, a political blog with a heavily Democratic slant, has already mentioned her race against Brown as a major event.

Aaron Wasserman may be reached at 508-634-7546 or awasserm@cnc.com.

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