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Senate hopeful visits Attleboro

BY KATHRYN CONNELLY FOR THE SUN
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ATTLEBORO - Democrat Sara Orozco kicked off her campaign for state Senate on Saturday by holding public meetings in Needham and Attleboro.

Orozco will face the incumbent state Sen. Scott Brown, R-Wrentham, in the November election. The district includes Attleboro Wards 1 and 2 and Precinct 3A, and all of North Attleboro, Plainville, Wrentham and Norfolk.

Orozco, a psychologist, moved to Massachusetts 13 years ago to work at McLean Hospital and Harvard Medical School as a researcher. Currently, she works in private practice as a psychologist while running Orozco and Associates, a leadership development and training firm, as a certified business coach.



Sara Orozco

Greeting visitors at the entrance to Seven Arrows Farm on Oakhill Avenue in Attleboro, Orozco wore a blue and white striped suit. The cornerstone of her address was the American Dream and its extension through education, health care, and employment.

The American Dream is this idealistic enigma to many-generation Americans that has almost a 19th-century connotation, but Orozco wants to bring it to the forefront of Massachusetts in the new millennium. "I see my life as an example of what the American Dream and American life is all about," she said.

Fleeing Castro's dictatorship, Orozco's parents came from Cuba to the United States in 1961. Growing up in a Cuban-American neighborhood in Miami, where "democracy was an obsession," Orozco said she learned the importance of public policy and education.

"One of the reasons that I am running for office is because I believe that a series of public policies have been there for me, and have allowed me to fully reach my potential," she said. She cited Title IX, which instituted gender equality in school

athletics, paving the way for her volleyball scholarship to the University of North Carolina - the reason she was able to afford college.

Her twin 9-year-old sons attend public school in their hometown of Needham, and Orozco has backed smaller class sizes and longer school days - much to the dismay, she jokes, of her sons.

Orozco believes the daily requirements of being a psychologist by profession will pack a double-punch in the political sphere.

First, "The ability to listen and the ability to solve problems is what is really needed right now," she said. Second, psychology has provided her with more than 20 years' experience in health care, which is one of the hot-button issues this campaign season. She said she supports Gov. Deval Patrick's recent health care reforms.

Her supporters also tout her job experience.

"One of the reasons she connects so well with people in this district is because she is a small business owner," Angus McQuilken, the 2004 Democratic nominee for state Senate, said.

"She understands the economy, the importance of the life-sciences bill that was just passed by the Legislature, and the link between education and economic opportunity," he said. "For example, she strongly supports the growing and expanding of Bristol Community College here in Attleboro."