

Election letters to the editor

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Sara Orozco is a breath of fresh air

TO THE EDITOR:

I have only seen Scott Brown once in person. It was at a fundraiser in Wayland for the UMass Foundation for the homeless. Within five minutes of opening his mouth, presumably to say something supportive of the cause, he had made a joke about possibly being homeless himself that night, and insulted his core constituents, Republicans, by suggesting they weren't in attendance and implying they aren't generous to good causes. His profane tirade at the King Philip High School against a bunch of teens who had some fun at his expense on Facebook was bizarre. Appearing naked in Cosmopolitan, albeit in a modestly cropped picture which revealed nothing too personal, is also disturbing.

Youthful indiscretion or dumb, inappropriate behavior? A one-time event or a pattern? I think his public behavior is appalling.

I like his votes even less than his behavior. He is anti-choice but pro-death penalty. He wants to roll back the state income tax to 5 percent but hasn't done much to suggest how to repair neglected roads, bridges and schools. He loves guns and has great ratings from the NRA. He is pro-business to excess and seems to have voted against the universal health care provision that requires small businesses to contribute a paltry \$295 to the state fund for each employee not covered by employer insurance. I say "seems" because in trying to research his record, I found little information on either his re-election or his senate Web sites. That, too, is a problem for me because I would like to know how my representative votes on all things, not just the things he or she wants to highlight. I tried to talk to him once about his vote to require institutions to carry the "morning after pill" and to ask if he had introduced an amendment to weaken the bill; I could not reach him and got no call back. I don't think his constituent information and services are up to snuff.

I am not happy with Scott Brown as my state senator, but that is not a reason to support just anybody else. Enter Sara Orozco to the race. I think Sara Orozco would make a tremendous state senator. She is a breath of fresh air. I think one of the letters about her last week used the same phrase, because it's hard to meet her and not feel excited about the possibilities of good representation. I know she would listen and respond to her

constituents because her whole career has been about listening and solving problems. I've watched her. She hears every word. She articulates her positions, is neither a straight party line person nor complete maverick. She has the confidence to admit a limited knowledge on a subject and digs until she does understand it and then takes a reasoned and researched position. You cannot meet a more energized and lovely person, nor one genuinely more committed to what she is seeking to become – our district's next state senator.

I doubt I can persuade any of you with my words alone, but I hope I can influence you to meet her or read about her, and decide for yourself. I hope she and Scott Brown will debate and I hope it will be on cable and you can watch. Whoever is elected will be one of only 40 voices in the Massachusetts Senate and can make a difference. There are no inconsequential elections anymore and the two candidates running stand in contrast to each other on style, philosophy and positions.

Please consider Sara Orozco to be your next state senator.

Susan Hager
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