

Wicked Local – Wayland Letters to the editor - Thu Oct 02, 2008, 10:50 AM EDT <http://www.wickedlocal.com/wayland/news/opinions/letters/x506585911/Letters-to-the-editor>

Sara Orozco would be a better state senator

TO THE EDITOR:

I am voting for Sara Orozco, Democratic candidate for state Senate, for many reasons. I've gotten to know Sara, so I know she is in this campaign for the right reasons. She doesn't seek to be a politician. She seeks to help people, just as she's done throughout her professional career.

Her background (daughter of Cuban immigrants), education (PhD in psychology), experience (health care professional, small business owner), and dedication to family (mother of twin 9-year-old boys) make her well-suited for this position. She sees the big picture and the problems in our society and economy that can't be fixed by individuals acting alone. Her positions on the issues reflect research, understanding and compassion.

Her opponent in the November election, Republican state Sen. Scott Brown of Wrentham, is a conservative Republican. He is not just a fiscal conservative, who believes in keeping state budgets low. I can respect fiscal conservatives like former Gov. Bill Weld who seek to balance taxes and services. Scott Brown is also a social conservative, who supports the death penalty, opposes a woman's right to choose, and opposes same-sex marriage. These positions are antithetical to my values, and I assume the values of the majority of those in our district.

I have found Brown's responsiveness and accountability to his constituents to be inadequate. Of the five letters that I sent to Scott Brown between 2004 and 2007 urging him to oppose any amendments to the constitution that would revoke the rights of same-sex couples to marry, only once, in January 2007, did I get a substantive reply. In that case, Brown declared that it would violate his oath of office and constitute an abuse of power to vote against any initiative petition. When I questioned why the Constitution would require two votes of a joint session of the Legislature in consecutive sessions if all initiative petitions should automatically proceed to a referendum, Brown chose not to reply. I can only conclude that either he lacks a fundamental understanding of the Massachusetts Constitution or used this as a smokescreen to avoid a reasoned justification of his vote. His vote on another constitutional amendment proposed by initiative petition suggests the latter, because he voted against advancing the health care amendment in January 2007. Brown also declared that the founding fathers, including Samuel Adams, went to great lengths to include the initiative process in the Constitution to provide direct democracy to the electorate. In fact, the initiative process for amendments was added to the Massachusetts Constitution in 1918.

I am ready for a new state senator to represent our interests on Beacon Hill. Sara Orozco will be an exceptional senator, a full-time senator, a dedicated and hard-working senator, an accessible senator. Please join me in voting for Sara Orozco on Nov. 4.

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