

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/needham/news/opinions/letters/x1197764012/Letters-to-the-Editor-Oct-30>

Needham Times online 10-3-08

Orozco values education

As a proud graduate of the Needham Public School System, and now a high school teacher myself, I want to tell my fellow teachers across the district about the importance of making Democrat Sara Orozco our next state senator.

In an unstable economy, towns often cut school budgets — sometimes right down to the bone. In Franklin, where a Proposition 2 1/2 override was defeated this year, 44 teachers were laid off, and health, physical education, music and language programs were reduced or eliminated. This could happen in any town, and will, if something isn't done to bring jobs back into our district.

Through her support of the life sciences initiative in Massachusetts, Sara will work to realign our public educational institutions — from acceleration of high school science education through partnerships between local colleges (like BCC) and the life sciences industry — to deliberately feed smarter, better trained, home-grown workers to local companies. More workers means more tax revenue. More tax revenue means better funding for schools. More funding for schools is better for everyone. (By the way, Sara's Republican opponent voted against the life sciences bill.)

Sara's vision makes education the cornerstone of a vibrant economy, rather than something to be cut when the going gets tough. The American Federation of Teachers and the Boston Teacher's Union realized this when they endorsed her. And that's just one of the many reasons I will cast my vote for Sara Orozco for State Senate on Nov. 4. I hope you'll join me.

Thomas Jacques