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## **Needham Times online 10-3-08**

### **Orozco: Always work to improve others' quality of life**

If you've ever spent time in a working-class Cuban-American neighborhood like the one I grew up in, you would know that a passion for democracy is as much a part of your being as black beans and rice. My energy has always been focused on people and the social issues that affect their lives.

My first real job came in the 1980s when I became an educator and advocate at Aid Atlanta, to help the Atlanta community with the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS, where I was a buddy to people whose family abandoned them. From there, I went on to work at the Georgia Mental Retardation Center and helped clients find housing and jobs as they transferred from institutional living to meaningful and independent lives in the community. After completing my Ph.D. coursework, I worked with Native Americans in California to research the impact of alcohol and substance abuse. I landed in Massachusetts 13 years ago for a job at McLean Hospital and a teaching appointment at Harvard Medical School. Since then, I have worked at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, the Brookline Community Mental Health Center, most recently, as a psychologist in private practice. I was never destined to be a career politician, but I have always worked hard to improve the lives of others through strategic partnerships and empowerment.

If my history of working for social change is not enough to convince you to vote for me, then consider the past nine months during which I have gone from a virtual unknown to earning the endorsements of Gov. Deval Patrick, Attorney General Martha Coakley, Congressmen Barney Frank and Jim McGovern, and over 25 organizations. I have organized community forums on health care and Ballot Question 1 and have raised over \$100,000, one small donation at a time. Imagine what I can do for you in two years with a seat at the table! All my life, I have worked to improve the quality of life of others. Please do me the honor of letting me work for you and your family. I respectfully ask you for your vote on Nov. 4.

**Sara Orozco  
Alfreton Road  
Democratic Candidate  
State Senate**