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Democrat Jason Lewis Kicks off Campaign

Event Draws More Than 120 Supporters

WINCHESTER – Democrat Jason Lewis drew a crowd of more than 120 supporters from Stoneham and Winchester last Thursday to help kick off his campaign for State Representative. Lewis, a successful business leader and active community member, is running because he believes that Stoneham and Winchester need a new voice on Beacon Hill to take on the challenges facing local families.

“I know we are all excited that this campaign is off to a strong start,” said Lewis addressing his supporters. “Over the next year I plan to knock on the door of every voter in the district. I will listen to their concerns and their ideas, and I will talk with them about what we need to do to move our communities forward.”

Lewis, who lives on Church Street in Winchester with his wife Susan and their two young daughters, focused his speech on his four top priorities: education, healthcare, local aid, and smart economic growth. “These are my priorities,” he said, “because they can make a big difference in the lives of families in Stoneham and Winchester.”

On education, Lewis noted, “There is nothing more important than making sure our children receive an excellent education. We know there is something very wrong when art and music programs are slashed, librarians receive pink slips, and an entire high school sports program is on the verge of being eliminated.” Lewis said he would work to get local schools the funding they need to maintain a well-rounded curriculum, keep class sizes down, and be able to attract and retain excellent teachers.

Lewis also addressed the need for our state government to do everything possible to help alleviate the fiscal crisis facing Stoneham, Winchester, and many other towns across the Commonwealth. “I will fight hard for more local aid,” he said, “while also finding new ways for our towns to raise revenue, better manage their expenses, and reduce their reliance on residential property taxes, which are regressive and particularly unfair to our senior citizens on fixed incomes.”

Dan Draper, Stoneham resident and Campaign Treasurer, introduced Lewis by talking about his experience working with Lewis on local issues, calling him, “a man who believes in equality, education, and family.” Lewis, he said, “would actively and aggressively represent his constituents, and he understands the tough issues facing our towns today.”

After the event, Lewis said that the campaign has already raised more than \$25,000 from 138 donors. He will face off against incumbent Paul Casey in the Democratic Primary in September 2008. More details about the campaign are available on the campaign website at www.electjasonlewis.com.

The full text of Lewis's remarks are attached in a separate document.

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