

Thank you Gloria and Dan for your kind introductions. Thank you Margaret and Frank, our gracious hosts. A huge thank you to our Event Co-Hosts Kim and Wendy, our fantastic Events Committee, and all the volunteers who helped organize the kickoff. A special thank you to my wife, Susan, without whose support, understanding, and patience I could never undertake this campaign. And, thank you to all of you for joining us tonight to launch my campaign for State Representative.

What I would like to do in the next few minutes is tell you a little about myself, talk about why I'm running and what my priorities will be if elected, and then let you know how to get more involved in the campaign.

Susie and I settled in Winchester in 1998. We are raising our 2 daughters, Sophie, who is 8 years old and a third grader at Ambrose, and Jessie who is 5. My professional career has been in the business world. After graduating from Harvard with a degree in economics I started my career with McKinsey, a management consulting company. I returned to Harvard for an MBA degree, and then spent the last 10 years helping to build and lead two successful software companies in the Boston area.

I have also been able to serve our community in a number of different ways. I sit on the Master Plan Steering Committee and the Finance Committee, and previously served on the School Superintendent Selection Committee. I also work with community groups such as the Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence, Stand for Children, and Mass Audubon.

Stoneham and Winchester are wonderful communities, and we are lucky to live here. But, we also face some significant challenges. I decided to run for State Representative because we need a new leader who is willing and able to take on these challenges. For the first time in 20 years we have a Democratic governor in Massachusetts who shares our values and is committed to helping our communities. What we need now is a State Representative who will work hand in hand with our governor, who will fight hard on our behalf, who will listen carefully to different viewpoints, and who will seek to represent everybody in our communities.

As our State Representative, my priorities will be in 4 areas – education, healthcare, local aid, and, what I'll call, smart economic growth. These are my priorities because they can make a big difference in the lives of families in Stoneham and Winchester.

Let me start with Education: For me, there is nothing more important than seeing that our children receive an excellent education. 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. We must provide our public schools with sufficient funding so they can offer a well-rounded curriculum, keep class sizes down, and attract and retain great teachers. I will also pursue efforts to expand early childhood education, provide full-day kindergarten, increase investment in math and science, and expand access to public higher education.

Healthcare: I am proud to live in one of the first states in our country that has taken a real step towards universal healthcare. But, we still have a lot of work to do to turn the vision into a reality. We must also aggressively pursue efforts to control healthcare costs which left unchecked threaten to bankrupt business and government alike.

Local Aid: We are all aware of the difficult financial situation facing Stoneham, Winchester, and many other towns across the Commonwealth. We have all experienced bitter and divisive override battles. But, overrides are the result of failed public policy. What we need instead is a state government committed to doing everything possible to alleviate this fiscal crisis. I will fight hard for more local aid 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.

**Smart Economic Growth:** From my experience in the private sector, I understand that companies make decisions about where to locate and expand based on where they can access the most skilled employees. Massachusetts enjoys tremendous intellectual assets, but we also face increasing competition both nationally and globally. We must invest in education, training, and workforce development to stay ahead. I will also promote research and innovation in industries like alternative energy and nanotechnology that can power economic growth and job creation while also benefiting our environment.

My decision to run for State Representative is also motivated by a strong sense of social justice. I was born and spent part of my childhood in South Africa where I witnessed firsthand the injustice of the apartheid system. This left me with a deep commitment to treating all people with fairness and respect. I am a strong supporter of equal marriage rights for gay and lesbian couples. I also unequivocally support a woman's right to choose.

I know we are all excited that this campaign is off to such a strong start. We have already raised \$20,000 from more than 100 donors, and dozens of volunteers have signed up to help. Over the next year I will knock on the door of every voter in the district. I will listen to peoples' concerns and their ideas, and I will talk with them about what we need to do to move our communities forward.

As we can all see tonight, this campaign is off and running – join us. Together, we can win and, even more importantly, we can make a real difference in our communities.

Let me wrap up by thanking my parents, who came from New York to be with us tonight. I would not be standing here if my parents had not made a difficult and courageous decision to emigrate from South Africa in 1980. They were willing to uproot their family and start a new life in America because they wanted their children to grow up in a society with values that they could be proud of. I feel it is my turn now to do what I can to make our communities a better place for my children and for all our children.

Thank you so much for being here tonight and thank you for your support.