

Letter to the Editor

I write to endorse John Worden for State Representative in the 23rd Middlesex District (Arlington-West Medford), and I ask you to vote for him also.

Most of us in Arlington recognize John from his role as Moderator of the Town Meeting. It's no easy feat to run a Town Meeting, but John made it look so for 19 years. It takes consummate knowledge of the issues and procedures, strict fairness and openness to all sides of a debate, and not a little wry humor to keep us engaged. Whenever people have asked me how I could bear sitting through the hours of discussions, I've told them it's John's leadership as Moderator.

His campaign is about those personal qualities, and much more. John isn't running on a platform of promises, but on a career of accomplishments in the public sector. The ones I know best are his successes in local historic preservation. He's worked for decades to preserve the character of our communities that we cherish. You can't take a walk around town without feeling this sense of history that we're so proud of in New England. Without John's leadership, we couldn't point out to our children *that's* where Revere carried the alarm, and *that's* where the patriots fought.

This zeal for preserving the history and character of our towns flows through all of his policies. His stand on housing creation is clear: we need more affordable housing, and we must end the abuse and exploitation of Chapter 40B housing development. Read the details at www.worden2008.com, and you'll be convinced that John is the candidate who can make it happen.

I've never voted for a Republican candidate before; I've been voting strictly Democratic ever since I organized my seventh-grade social studies class for George McGovern. This year I'm going to make some personal history and change all that, because the issues are deeper, and the accomplishments of the candidate are greater, than the thin endorsement of a party label. John Worden is the best candidate, the right candidate, the one we can all be proud to elect as our next state representative.

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