

The Advocate supports John Worden

By Nicole Laskowski

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ARLINGTON, MASS. - In the final leg of the special election to fill Jim Marzilli's vacated seat, voters will again go to the polls on March 4 to voter for one of three candidates. The Advocate endorses John Worden for the 23rd Middlesex District state representative seat.

Worden is a recognizable figure in the community with 19 years as town moderator and an active Town Meeting member. But his list of commitments goes on and on, ranging from animal advocacy groups to preserving historical elements of Arlington.

In the past couple of months, Worden has proven himself knowledgeable about the current issues facing both the state and the local communities. But more than that, Worden, as a lawyer specializing in wills, trusts and real estate, has the know-how to function in the land of lawyers and the passion to help solve what Arlington sees as its biggest problem, namely returning local aid to the community.

In addition, while running as a Republican, it is obvious that some of Worden's leanings, namely in regards to environmental issues and affordable housing concerns, cross party lines.

At the same time, the Advocate finds Worden's refusal to publicly state his position on abortion and gay marriage disappointing. By casting these issues aside as mere "litmus tests," he seems to miss the bigger question: These are questions of civil rights. Worden may be correct and he may never have to vote on abortion or marriage equality if elected. But as a representative of the people, the Advocate believes his potential constituents have an absolute right to know where he stands. At the same time, Worden's refusal to state his position shows an underlying characteristic that we find desirable: He is an independent thinker, capable of making a decision and sticking with it, regardless of pressure from outside influences.

In addition, Worden, who has an old world approach in his reasoning for running, simply weighs in as the more experienced candidate who, as proven in his ability to maintain the elected position of town moderator for almost two decades, is able to reach across party lines and work with the people.