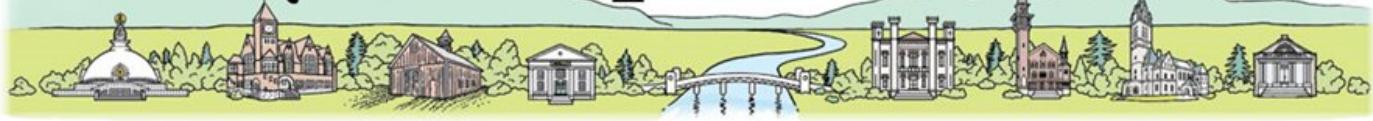


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Dennis Bidwell: Explains support for Jo Comerford



jacoblund

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Explains support for Jo Comerford

My friends and constituents know I have worked closely on the Northampton City Council with Ryan O'Donnell, have known Steve Connor through his veteran services work, and have been acquainted with Chelsea Kline for years.

I'm often asked why I've decided to support Jo Comerford in the race for the Senate seat formerly held by Stan Rosenberg. The answer is that Comerford will be a truly outstanding and inspiring state senator. I greatly admire the commitment to public service of the other candidates, but Comerford is in a category by herself.

I worked closely with her when she served as executive director of National Priorities Project while I chaired the organization's board of directors. So many things impressed me about her then and now.

In a series of leadership positions over 20 years, she has developed a great command of a wide range of policy matters, with a special passion for democratizing the budget process. She will work to realign our budget priorities, with a focus on health care for all, a carbon tax to combat global warming, economic development and improved affordable transportation networks.

I'm especially drawn to Comerford's bold commitment to public education from pre-K through college, which is rooted in the family she grew up in and the family she and Ann are raising now.

It is Comerford's personal qualities — as they translate into leadership ability and organizing skills — that really set her apart. Comerford has the rare ability to speak with strong conviction yet deliver the message with a softness and humility that draws people in.

She practices the politics of inclusion, always looking to broaden the coalition, to expand the movement. Comerford listens carefully, recognizing that most issues are complicated and deserving of study and nuance, not just bumper sticker platitudes.

Comerford's progressive credentials run deep and pure, but they are tempered by respect for varying points of view. As a state senator, this means she would serve and represent all the people of the Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester district. The ease with which she works with people, the confidence and maturity with which she conducts herself, means that on day one she would represent our interests effectively.

Please join me and thousands of others by writing in Jo Comerford for state Senate on Sept. 4.

Dennis Bidwell

Northampton

The writer is Ward 2 city councilor in Northampton.

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