

TO THE EDITOR:

My campaign to be elected to the State House to represent the 23rd Middlesex District (Arlington – West Medford) is off to a strong start, with ample certified signatures of registered voters collected before the deadline. As former Moderator of Arlington I believe that my experience and skills will enable me to formulate beneficial and just laws for Massachusetts and those which are helpful for Arlington and Medford.

Issues of major interest to me now and during my decades of public service include quality of life issues, education, historic preservation, conservation, transportation, open space, affordable housing, services for the needy, elderly, and sick, together with provision of the means whereby every citizen can be heard, for example, through Town Meeting or its specialized committees.

Starting on December 17, when the timing of the special election to fill the seat left vacant by the resignation of James Marzilli became known, it has been very gratifying that a cadre of volunteers fanned out across Arlington and West Medford to collect signatures. Others stationed themselves at supermarkets, the post office, and Walgreen's, clipboards in hand, to greet potential voters. In response to notices on The Arlington List, YourArlington.com, and InsideMedford.com, a steady stream of voters came to our home on Jason Street to sign.

In all, 609 signatures on numerous separate nomination papers were collected, and on the final day, December 26, were turned in to the Town Clerk of Arlington and the City Clerk of Medford for certification. The certified signatures have now been filed with the Secretary of State's Office in Boston. One hundred fifty valid signatures are required for nomination.

I am immensely grateful to my campaign workers who, despite their Christmas preparations, set aside time to slog through snow, ice, and cold to gather all these signatures for me. I think this shows that our team, although assembled in haste, is the type of team that will carry through to victory on election day, March 4.

John L. Worden III