

Community Over Party

On March 4th, I will, for one of the very few times in my life, cross party lines and vote for a Republican. I am vigorously supporting John Worden to fill out the remaining months of Jim Marzilli's seat in the State Legislature as the Middlesex 23rd's representative. John makes this pretty easy to do, as virtually all John's political and civic work has been performed within the local Arlington community and government, and they are entirely non-partisan by design.

Why this particular Republican, and why now? Because John Worden is a remarkable man with a remarkable record of service to the town of Arlington. And John will bring the same dedication, discernment, rectitude and wisdom to bear for the people of West Medford as he represents us all in our State Legislature.

Since the early 1970s, John has served in Arlington Town Meeting. For the past 19 years he has also served as Town Moderator. John is famous for his attention to both detail and decorum and for his scrupulous fairness, all while displaying a wry wit and gentle humor only slightly masked behind his familiar gruff exterior. And John displays an unbridled confidence in our system - in the rule of law, in our tradition of Town Meeting and in our Country. Above all, John is a master of the law, of our town bylaws, and of the *process* of legislation. These process and legal skills will redound to our community's benefit with John Worden representing us in the Statehouse.

When Bob Havern decided to leave the Senate, he created an election calendar disaster. Our community is lucky to have a chance to take a breather, and prepare for our usual "orderly" fall campaign. John Worden is both a strong candidate on his own merit, and he is an ideal choice for voters of all parties who wish to avoid a rush to judgment - do we want to elect someone who will park in the seat for another 17, or 27 years? I believe it would be altogether fitting to have John finish out Jim Marzilli's term, while allowing us to honor him and his service at the same time. We can look at the field of candidates in the autumn, and re-decide whom we wish to send to the House. It may well be John Worden again.

John Worden's contributions to our community are too many to enumerate, but let me try...

- He is a dedicated, longtime conservationist
- He is a strong open space advocate
- He is a proven and powerful proponent for affordable housing
- He will be very effective in increasing Arlington and Medford's share of state local aid dollars
- He is a preservationist who is committed to our community's historic legacy, and
- His roots are deep within our local soil.

Please visit John's website for details: www.worden2008.com, and please join with me in proudly voting for John L. Worden on Tuesday, March 4th.

Charles Gallagher

Town Meeting Member, Precinct 18