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DESMARAIS 2024 CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER

May 22, 2024

32nd Senate District Announces Endorsement



Jeff Desmarais

SOUTHBURY — Democratic delegates from the 32nd Senate District have unanimously endorsed Jeff Desmarais to serve as their party's candidate for State Senate in the November election. The 32nd Senate District encompasses Bethel, Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Middlebury, Oxford, Roxbury, Seymour, Southbury, Washington, Watertown and Woodbury.

Desmarais, who received his nomination during a convention on Tuesday, May 14, was nominated by Michael Carrington, Chairman of the Southbury Democratic Town Committee. The nomination was seconded by Vanita Bhalla, the 32nd District Representative for the Connecticut Democratic State Central Committee.

"Jeff understands what this race represents, with all that's at stake for the families and small businesses of this district," said Mr. Carrington. "He's focused on the same issues being talked about around kitchen tables across our communities—making our state more affordable, ending unfair taxes for seniors, innovating in our healthcare system, defending women's rights and more."

Former 69th District Republican State Representative Art O'Neill also lent his support to Mr. Desmarais.

"When I retired, it had become clear that, increasingly, politi-

cians hold more allegiance to their party than to their constituents," said Mr. O'Neill. "Jeff is a former Republican. But he didn't leave the party; the party left him. He's not a politician. He's a leader."

Upon accepting his party's nomination Mr. Desmarais said, "Connecticut has no place for extremists, no matter which party. Instead, you deserve a common-sense approach and a door that's always open. For years as a small business owner, I've helped seniors, and their families plan for retirement. It's given me a front-row seat to the challenges faced by our district. More than ever, we deserve a state senator who will solve problems instead of posturing for the most extreme elements of their own party."

Mr. Desmarais, 47, is a lifelong resident of Connecticut. He served in the Army National Guard from 1997 to 2003 and was named his battalion's Soldier of the Year. He graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor of Political Science in 2004.

Joanna, Mr. Desmarais' wife of 20 years, is a registered nurse. They have lived in the Oakville section of Watertown for over 18 years where they are raising their daughter Chloe, age 18, and son Ethan, age 15.

As a civic leader, he has served on the Watertown Public Buildings Commission, the Charter Revision Commission and is the Chairperson of the Watertown/Oakville Democratic Town Committee. He has also served on the Watertown Town Council. Mr. Desmarais has been a volunteer coach at many levels of the WaterOak Little League since 2014.

"The people of our district deserve a Senator who possesses strong values and effective leadership skills. I will be that representative in Hartford," Mr. Desmarais said.

Those seeking more information about Mr. Desmarais may visit his website at <https://www.desmaraisforct.com> or send email communication to desmaraisforct2024@gmail.com.

Thank you to former 69th District Republican State Representative Arthur O'Neill for his endorsement



“WHEN I RETIRED, IT HAD BECOME CLEAR THAT, INCREASINGLY, POLITICIANS HOLD MORE ALLEGIANCE TO THEIR PARTY THAN TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS. JEFF IS A FORMER REPUBLICAN. BUT HE DIDN'T LEAVE THE PARTY; THE PARTY LEFT HIM. HE'S NOT A POLITICIAN. HE'S A LEADER.”
- ARTHUR O'NEILL



Proudly awarded the 2024 Moms Demand Action (MDA) Gun Sense Candidate of Distinction for advocating for gun violence prevention and making a commitment to govern with gun safety in mind. Gun violence is preventable, and as your 32nd District State Senator, I am committed to doing what it takes to prioritize public safety.



Proudly endorsed by the Connecticut AFL-CIO. The endorsement is a testament to my dedication and commitment to supporting workers and their rights through fair treatment, decent paychecks, safe jobs, and equal opportunities. As your 32nd District State Senator, I will work to protect the rights of all working people.

Thank you to the good people of the 32nd District for your continued support...

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A big thank you to everyone who attended my campaign kickoff trivia event. I very much appreciate the support you have all shown by helping me qualify for the Citizens Election Program Grant. We had a fun night of trivia and camaraderie at the fantastic Woodbury Brewing Company.



BETHEL



SOUTHBURY

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*

Joining my campaign as a volunteer offers the chance to give back to the community and make a difference in your hometown and state. Volunteering also provides opportunities to meet like-minded people, develop new skills or build on existing experience and knowledge. For young adults, volunteering can be a great resume builder. Volunteers are at the heart of any organization. Learn to phone bank for your candidate, write letters to the editor, post cards to get out the vote, or canvass your neighbors. Join us and we will teach you everything you need to know. Click the link below to sign up to volunteer.

[VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

Thank you to volunteers like Michael Carrington (RIGHT), Chair of the Southbury Democratic Town Committee, for walking a great turf with me in Southbury and Allison Lynch (LEFT) from the Bethel Democratic Town Committee for braving the recent heat and humidity to help me knock doors. A campaign is nothing without its volunteers.

Politics & Government

Teachers need more support

State Senate candidate Desmarais says steps need to be taken to retain and recruit educators

 **Scott Benjamin**, Community Contributor ✓

Posted Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 12:08 pm ET

“As legislators and legislative candidates why don’t we ask the teachers what they need to do their job,” said Democrat Jeff Desmarais of Watertown, who is running for a third consecutive time this year for the seat in the 32nd state Senate District.



Another extensive feature by Patch reporter Scott Benjamin. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the full article.



TRAVELLING AROUND THE 32ND...



BROOKFIELD

I had a great day marching in the Brookfield Memorial Day Parade alongside the Brookfield Democrats, Aaron Zimmer for State Representative (LEFT), and Justin Potter for State Senate (RIGHT). I was proud to stand with the community to honor those who gave their lives for their country.



BETHEL

The Annual Bethel Pride Parade and Celebration was a welcoming and inclusive event that embraced love and celebrated LGBTQ+ friends and neighbors. Good sharing the day with Bethel Democrats, and State Representative Raghib Allie-Brennan. I vow to defend the rights of the LGBTQ+ community to ensure they can safely live openly and without discrimination, enjoying equal rights, personal autonomy, and freedom of expression.



TRAVELLING AROUND THE 32ND...



ROXBURY

The Roxbury Connecticut Democratic Town Committee held a fantastic Ice Cream Social at Hurlburt Park in June. The RDTC treated us to Rich Farm ice cream, while we caught up with old friends and made new ones with those who stopped by to chat with 69th District State Rep. candidate Ed Edelson for Connecticut, and myself. A special highlight was a visit from our 5th District Rep Jahana Hayes (CENTER), who continues to fight the good fight for us in Washington, DC. Thank you to RDTC Chair Elaine Curley (RIGHT) for organizing the event.



WOODBURY

Always good to be in Woodbury on the 4th of July for the annual reading of the Declaration of Independence. This event is organized by the Woodbury DTC but welcomes all residents. I am joined here by Ed Edelson, 69th District Rep. candidate and Sharon Sherman, 66th District Rep. candidate.



WATERTOWN

Under the Waterbury DTC tent at Night Out on Main Street in Watertown. The family friendly event supports the community by highlighting the importance of buying local. Great talking to neighbors and friends.



HARTFORD

It's not in the 32nd District, but I hope to represent you all at the Capital in Hartford in January. It was wonderful joining fellow Democrats at the 74th Annual John Bailey Dinner, featuring Rep. Hakeem Jeffries. Democrats from across the tri-state area gathered to celebrate the work we've done, and to recognize the leadership of our community activists and organizers. I am pictured (CENTER) with (LEFT TO RIGHT) Ed Edelson candidate for 69th District Rep., Ellen Fox, candidate for 131st District Rep., CT Senator Chris Murphy, and Sharon Sherman, candidate for 66th District Rep.

