

## Conroy Wins 13th Middlesex District House Seat

From the MetroWest Daily News, Lincoln Journal, Sudbury Town Crier, Wayland Town Crier

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By Gabriel Leiner/ Daily News Staff

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WAYLAND -- A fresh face will be representing the 13th Middlesex District in the House of Representatives after Democrat Tom Conroy defeated 10-year incumbent Susan Pope in yesterday's race.

"I'm very excited," said Conroy, a six-year Wayland resident and Yale graduate who will be holding office for the first time.

Conroy said he did not attribute his success to a single issue or campaign stop, but said what earned him the victory was a strong and sustained grassroots effort.

"We took on a grassroots strategy in all three towns that was extremely effective," said Conroy. "We targeted the three towns appropriately and used a model similar to the Deval Patrick campaign. I'm not sure of the final count, but I think we went to 4,000 or 5,000 homes."

In office, Conroy said his main goal will be to ensure healthy levels of state aid for Wayland, Lincoln and Sudbury.

"The priority will clearly be state aid," said Conroy. "My main goal will be to improve schools, the public works infrastructure and the environment, while also keeping property taxes down."

While trying to accomplish that goal, Conroy said his background in the private sector and his ability to work with Gov.-elect Patrick will help a great deal.

"In terms of expanding revenue, I worked in the late '90s as a consultant in the private sector with the state in increasing non-tax revenue," said Conroy. "I also have experience in the private sector in creating public and private partnerships, and I think my ability to work with (Patrick) and the Democratic leadership in the House will help me a lot in office."

Conroy's background also includes time as a national security assistant for U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md.

Pope of Wayland, who had held the seat for five terms, said she had no regrets about her campaign and congratulated Conroy.

"I don't think I could have run a better campaign," she said.

Pope said she expected the election would have a large turnout because of the gubernatorial race, but said she was surprised at the result.

"Sure I was surprised, you're always surprised," said Pope. "But I'm proud of the years I spent with the three towns and I wouldn't have changed anything about my campaign."

Pope said backlash against the Republican Party across the nation may have been a factor in the election.

Total voter turnout in Wayland was 6,448, with 3,263 of those votes for Conroy and 2,997 for Pope.

In all three towns combined, Conroy received 8,472 votes to Pope's 8,037.

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