



Mark Zaccaria for House District 32

Why I'm Running

I am a newly declared Challenger for the District 32, North Kingstown, seat in the Rhode Island House. To me it seems an explanation to the voters is in order as to what I think I bring to the race. Why did I get up off the couch and get back into the political Fray?

Running for office is an offer by the Candidate to enter a social contract with the voters for honest representation. Promises are made by both parties to this contract. It's usually easy for the voters to hold up their end. Sadly, it is all too often the case that once elected the new Representative does not hold up his or her end. That's the problem we face with the incumbent, Robert Craven, Sr.

I think the people of my District have gone unrepresented in matters of the best management of the tax money we provide the state legislature. The recent spectacle of Truck Tolls being forced down our throats is instructive to that lapse in the agreement for representation. Tolling only trucks is widely thought to be illegal and will be challenged as soon as the first toll is assessed. By then, however, we as a state will be the proud possessors of tens of millions of dollars of infrastructure to do a job the courts will not permit. The Administration and Legislative Leadership tried to sell the concept by claiming the new income was essential to the needed repairs of roads and bridges. Fair enough, but public filings by RI DOT clearly show they have no intent to use any of the new income for that purpose. Maybe that's why public opinion was so vehemently opposed to the project. Yet it was passed by the super-majority in both chambers and immediately signed by the Governor without regard to their own contracts to represent the best interests of Rhode Islanders.

This is the point where Mr. Craven will sniff publicly that he never voted for the Rhode Works legislation. It's true. Despite repeatedly assuring constituents he was opposed to the measure, and despite the impact his arguments against it might have had during debate, Craven was AWOL for the vote. He didn't vote Yes. He didn't vote No. He didn't vote at all. Social Contract? Really?

The next day the Speaker of the House took pains to castigate Rep. Craven from the rostrum for not supporting the measure as promised. The next day at least one of Attorney Craven's law clients discontinued using his council in anger and disgust for not opposing it as promised. Courage of one's conviction? Really?

The real issue in all this is the fact that the hard working, tax paying men and women of District 32 have hired a Rep who does not represent them. In fact, Mr. Craven's indifference to the will of his constituents accurately mirrors that of the entire House Leadership he does serve. No thought is given to the impact any of these spending measures will have on the voters. The process that gave us Truck Tolls is repeated

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over and over again. Leadership enacts as it pleases then sends us the Invoices without either guilt or any explanation of what we get. 'Truck Tolls' is now a term for that process. The phrase is shorthand for the \$45 Million + Invoice we are about to get for the Parking garage the Convention Authority will build, in a location far removed from any offices whose workers might need to park. 'Truck Tolls' is an epithet you can use to refer to the Bailout for the owners of the Superman Building which is contained within the Rebuild RI project hidden in our new budget. 'Truck Tolls' is a cipher to describe the \$20 Million General Obligation Bond hoax Mr. Craven and his friends are trying to force on us for ProvPort. Too bad that amount is only a fraction of what is needed to expand the Port effectively. Too bad the planned purchases of waterfront land will transfer responsibility for an environmental pollution nightmare from those who created it to those of us who will have to pay, again, for something that's not the responsibility of Government.

Do you see a pattern here? Do you see why we have to break the cycle of ignoring taxpayers to enrich insiders? Do you see why I didn't just get up off the couch but jumped up?

What about you? Will you reconsider the social contract for your representation this November? Will you demand better from those who speak for you on Smith Hill? Will you prove there are consequences to the failure to uphold promises to the people? I hope so because we, every resident of the Ocean State, desperately need that to happen. Please visit www.zaccaria4house.com to learn more. Together let's get this campaign to fix things started.