Endorsements

Julian Cyr and Anthony Schiavi for state Senate

SIGNIFICANT PORTIONS of Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard, and Nantucket remain invisible to the tourists who crowd down on the quiet singing beaches, rose-covered rental cottages, and second-home owners’ summer. The coastal ecosystems, so important to the state’s environmental health, also are suffering. Small patches of shellfish in the water on the Cape are imperiled. Spikes in offseason unemployment and low-aged populations — some 35 percent of Cape Codders are 65 or older — make the bug worries difficult.

Those challenges call for strong leadership in the Cape and Islands state Senate district. Democrat Dan Wolf, who is running for reelection, brought visibility to the role as he worked with legislative leadership on education and economic issues. Fortunately, voters have a slate of able candidates to choose from on both sides of the aisle in the primary race to replace him. The Democratic race pits Julian Cyr, a Cape Cod native, against Barnstable County Commissioner Anthony Schiavi, who is passionate about the region and agree on many points of policy. But Cyr would make a better state senator, and the Globe endorses him in the Democratic primary on Sept. 9.

Cyr would represent a new generation of leadership in the Barnstable Senate, which is now working to address the problems at his parent’s restaurant in Truro and get his first taste of public organizing as a student in the jet-set sector. He has seen the health care challenges of the Cape Cod population firsthand. He was a counselor at the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod and is on the board of a nonprofit agency that serves Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard, and Nantucket. 

Lynne V. Willett, resident who worked for two decades as a genetic social worker, is a dedicated public servant who also knows local issues well. She was elected to the Barnstable Board of County Commissioners in 2006, and reelected four years later. But Cyr’s experience as deputy director for government affairs at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health gives him a familiarity with Beacon Hill that will benefit his constituents and help him make an impact.

In the Republican primary, Barnstable town councilor Tom Crocker faces Anthony Schiavi, an Air Force helicopter general who has retired from the US Air Force and Massachusetts Air National Guard. The Globe endorses Schiavi. Crocker, a Cape Cod native, stresses his business acumen and commitment to bringing “meaningful” Cape and island values to Beacon Hill. But as a former town manager and public commissioner, Schiavi has a strong record of tackling complex local issues, and has walked flat-out approaches to homelessness and treating opioid addiction. The support for expanding the number of treatment beds on the Cape and the islands is admirable. Any Republican running for office in Massachusetts must reckon with being a member of a minority party and work across party lines. Schiavi would thrive in that role.


LESSONS FROM THE RYATT 100

By Janet Boguslaw and Margot Trotter Davis

ONE AUGUST afternoon in 2006, 650 truckers — 100 from each of the state’s five congressional districts — gathered at the Hyatt Regency in Boston. The drivers marched through the city, met with local officials, and ended their day at the Hyatt, where they shared their stories, and concerns, with state lawmakers, business leaders, and the media.

The 100 truckers recalled the events of 11 September, and the state, as well as those who create and sustain employment throughout our Commonwealth.

Debates about investing in America and creating new jobs ignore what is happening in our backyards. We can have more jobs, but if they are not jobs that provide families and communities with the security and stability, then we will not have made progress. The “Hyatt 100” were doing what any society values: They were working hard, supporting their families, paying their fair share, and building opportunity for the next generation.

As we celebrate Labor Day, let’s encourage more discussion about how policy can ensure that the return to work can build, and strengthen the financial security and stability of individuals, communities, and the state, as well as those who create and sustain employment throughout our Commonwealth.

Janet Boguslaw is a senior editor and Margot Trotter Davis is senior researcher at the Flatirons School for Social Policy and Management at Boulder University.