

Brookline PAX Endorsements
Sept. 14, 2010 STATE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Brookline PAX, the liberal advocacy group founded in 1962, announces the following endorsements for the Sept. 14 State Democratic Primary:

- **Senator, 1st Middlesex & Norfolk Distr.:** **Sen. CYNTHIA STONE CREEM**
- **Norfolk County District Attorney:** **Rep. JOSEPH DRISCOLL**
- **Representative, 10th Suffolk Distr. (Brookl. pcts 14-16 + W. Roxb.):** **PAMELA JULIAN**

Each endorsee submitted a detailed response to PAX's lengthy questionnaire, as did most of the other candidates, including all those running for senator and district attorney. The questionnaire (available at www.BrooklinePAX.org) asked about personal qualifications as well as climate change, increased taxes, DHS surveillance cameras, the death penalty, the state Senate's then-pending criminal justice bill, mandatory drug-law sentencing, immigration issues, MCAS, charter schools, a pending bill mandating racial profiling data collection, and reform of the state legislature.

Based primarily on their responses and their public records, these three candidates were seen as best reflecting both PAX's values and the skills necessary to be effective. They were endorsed by PAX's usual requirement of a 60% vote of Board members attending a special July 22 meeting.

Cindy CREEM, the incumbent senator for Brookline and Newton since 1998, has filled with distinction this proud seat formerly held by Jack Backman and then Lois Pines. Aside from her excellent questionnaire answers, she is well-known, respected, and enormously appreciated by PAX members for her outstanding leadership at the statehouse. Most recently, she almost single-handedly led the very challenging but successful effort to pass both CORI reform and drug-law sentencing reform. The former was a big priority for a large grass-roots movement, and the latter was the legislature's first progressive redirection of harsh, wasteful, and dumb-on-crime criminal justice policies from the 1980's. She has also provided vital leadership on taxes, public schools, reform of probation, local aid, and many other issues. We are most fortunate to have had her in the Senate – and need her to continue there.

Joe DRISCOLL is running for the seat being vacated by Bill Keating. A graduate of New England School of Law and the Kennedy School of Government (MPA) and a former Braintree selectman, since 2003 he's been a state representative for Braintree, Holbrook, and Randolph. As an Assistant D.A. in both Norfolk and Middlesex Counties, and as Assistant Attorney General in the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, he protected seniors from fraud and abuse, and handled high-profile Superior Court cases involving attempted murder, armed robbery, domestic violence and child abuse, earning a reputation as a vigorous law enforcer who protects vulnerable citizens. Joe has an admirable track record of community involvement, and his PAX questionnaire answers showed a capacity for being thoughtful, fair, and humane.

Pam JULIAN, a Brookline resident running for the seat vacated by Mike Rush, is a former chair of Newbury NH library trustees who earlier lived for a decade in West Roxbury, the main area of Rush's seat. As founder of the "Help Students Vote! Coalition," she is principal author of student voter registration bills pending in New York and Massachusetts to allow eligible students to register on-campus. Sen. Dick Durbin (IL) has filed a federal version of the Massachusetts bill, which is supported by the Mass. Board of Education, the Mass. College Student Leadership Council and the ACLU. Opposed to more legalized gambling, the death penalty, high-stakes MCAS testing and more charter schools, she strongly supports reforming drug sentencing laws to curtail counterproductive public safety policies, human and fiscal waste, and discriminatory incarceration. She promises a 10th Suffolk district advisory board for her constituency, with liaisons from neighborhood associations, the Boston mayor, and Brookline's selectmen.

For more information about PAX, visit www.BrooklinePAX.org

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