

A challenger steps up

Hempton to seek Rogers' job

Joe DiFazio
Staff Reporter



Dr. Tim Hempton will be running for Norfolk's 12th District seat in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Tim Hempton is looking to shake up Norfolk's 12th District, which has been represented by the same person since 1992.

"I've got good reasons. I'm a citizen, I believe in democracy and quite frankly the incumbent will have no competition if I don't [run]," said Hempton.

Norfolk's 12th District is made up of Norwood and Walpole's Districts One, Two, Six and Seven. The Massachusetts House of Representative's seat has been occupied by John Rogers for 22 years, and Hempton thinks he can make a run at it.

Hempton has lived in Walpole for 19 years, buying a house there in 1995, but is originally from Long Island. He studied at the State University of New York Stony Brook where he received his doctorate in dentistry and later did post-doctoral work in Periodontology at Marquette University, while working for the Department of Veteran's Affairs. He was brought to Massachusetts after accepting a teaching position at Harvard University. He then moved on to a private business to practice clinically, but wanted something more.

"I wanted to live the American dream of opening a business. I took my life savings and borrowed money ... and started a practice," said Hempton.

Hempton said he had to work very hard to get referrals from other general dentists, and for the first few years he struggled.

"It got scary at one point ... but five years into it, it started to stabilize, like any business," said Hempton. "I encountered many of the difficulties of opening a business in this state, but I persevered."

Hempton said that he lost his parents when he was a young man, and has always had to make his own way and didn't have a fallback.

While operating his private practice, Hempton volunteered at Tufts University because he missed teaching. After 10 years of volunteering at Tufts, Hempton became the Assistant Director of

we need to be taxed," said Hempton. "I feel as though there is minimal communication between the legislature and the governor."

He decided to step down from his position at Tufts to campaign for the seat, though he will still teach.

"The difference between me and [John Rogers] is that I have experiences he doesn't. I've been in healthcare ... I've been in education ... I understand how to get ideas across, how to discuss, how to engage and also how to administer," said Hempton. "I'm not looking to be a career politician. I'm not looking for a job, I have one. In the event that the voters decide they want a change, I can reorganize the practice ... I am looking to be an advocate for small business owners because I am one, [and an advocate for] taxpayers who are just taxed and taxed and taxed."

Hempton says he worries a lot about how legislators are spending other people's money. He also is concerned that too much of that money is leaving towns.

"I would work really hard to get money back into the district ... [the] goal is to bring more money back to the taxpayers," said Hempton. "I would do everything I could to make things easier for small business owners. The way to make things better in Norwood where you have a lot of empty storefronts is that from a state level, [is] to work with people who want to work with entrepreneurs to get things going."

Ultimately, Hempton thinks small businesses are supposed to create jobs and continue growing the economy.

"I'm excited. I'm ready to get out there [and campaign]," said Hempton.

Graduate Periodontology, and then eventually the Director.

"My background includes being a health provider ... and all the things that come with it ... learning to listen to the patients, how to learn from them and help them. I'm also an educator, [with] three years at Harvard and almost the last 25 at Tufts," said Hempton.

As he continued in dentistry, he began to pick up on the frustration about politics several people around him expressed.

"As time went by, sometimes my neighbors across the street would complain about things," said Hempton. "[My neighbor] said she felt as though [politicians] weren't listening to us ... taxes [kept] going up. They didn't seem like they wanted to reform anything."

One of the things Hempton was most concerned about was taxes in the state. Hempton said that as taxes go up in the state, the Commonwealth is reluctant to give it back to any towns. It was a seminar put on by State Representative Shauna O'Connell, who represents Bristol County's Third District, that finally inspired him to run.

"What it came down to was this woman said, 'You're all citizens of the Commonwealth. You just don't have to sit down and take it. You can do something. You can identify a candidate you support or,' and she looked up at the audience and said 'or you could run,'" said Hempton.

From that point he began studying and examining state politics and subscribing to statehouse news, specifically looking at where money was going.

"I'm a republican which means I have conservative value in terms of things like how much

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TOWN OF NORWOOD
APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF MANAGER, NEW OFFICER/DIRECTOR AND TRANSFER OF STOCK OF RETAIL PACKAGE GOODS STORE ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE NOT TO BE DRUNK ON THE PREMISES LICENSE

PUBLIC HEARING

Application has been made to the Licensing Board of the Town of Norwood for change of Manager, New Officer/Director and Transfer of Stock of the Package Goods Store, All Alcoholic Beverages license of Route 1 Liquor Mart, Inc., dba Baystate Wine and Spirits, 426 Walpole Street under Section 15, Chapter 138 Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, for sale of All Alcoholic Beverages not to be drunk on the premises located at 426 Walpole Street, Norwood, Massachusetts and described as follows; 25' wide by 100' long with single front door for public and single back door for deliveries. It contains two bathrooms and a utility room. Concrete slab without basement.

Public hearing on this application will be held on **Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 8:00 p.m.** in the Harry B. Butters Chambers, Room 34, Norwood Town Hall.

Michael J. Lyons, Chairman
William J. Plasko
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Selectmen of Norwood as Local Licensing Board

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