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## DESMARAIS 2024 CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER

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# Voices

January 17, 2024

## Local Resident Jeff Desmarais Seeks 32nd District Senate Seat



Jeff Desmarais

WATERTOWN — Watertown resident Jeff Desmarais has announced he will seek his party's nomination as the Democratic candidate for the state Senate

seat in the 32nd District.

The 32nd Senate District encompasses Bethel, Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Middlebury, Oxford, Roxbury, Seymour, Southbury, Washington, Watertown and Woodbury.

"After careful consideration and discussions with family and friends, I have decided to throw my hat into the ring once again," said Mr. Desmarais, who unsuccessfully ran for the seat in 2020 and 2022.

"The voting results in 2023 were encouraging in a difficult district for Democrats," Mr. Desmarais explained. "I believe today, as I believed then, that the current 32nd District senator should not run unopposed and that a seat that has been Republican-held for over 130 years will not be swung overnight. I am confident 2024 can be the year that all the hard work we have put in comes to fruition," he said.

Mr. Desmarais has several pri-

orities he hopes to address in Hartford, including improving education, better access to mental health treatment, tax reform beyond what has been accomplished to date, addressing crime in the state and in its communities, affordable housing and affordable healthcare through a public option.

"The legislature in the last couple of sessions, along with Gov. Lamont and Lt. Gov. Bysiewicz, have done a great job addressing pressing issues in our state," Mr. Desmarais said. "There is still work to do, and I intend to be a leading voice in Hartford. I will use my voice loudly to ensure the people of the 32nd District are heard."

Mr. Desmarais said Democracy will be on the ballot in 2024, along with fair elections, the rule of law, women's rights, LGBTQ rights, civil and equal rights

"I am running because I believe that those things matter, as do

the kitchen table issues that keep you up at night," he said.

Mr. Desmarais, 47, is a lifelong resident of Connecticut. He was interested in politics and history from an early age and said he always wanted to do his part to help create a better, kinder, more equitable society for all Americans.

He served in the Army National Guard from 1997 to 2003 and was named his battalion's Soldier of the Year in 2000. He graduated from the University of Connecticut with a bachelor's degree in political science in 2004.

Joanna Desmarais, the candidate's wife of 20 years, is a registered nurse at Regional Hospice

in Danbury. They have lived in Watertown for the past 17 years where they are raising their daughter Chloe, age 17, and son Ethan, age 14.

Mr. Desmarais is employed as a financial advisor. As a civic leader, he has served on the Watertown Public Buildings Commission, the Charter Revision Commission and is the chair of the Watertown/Oakville Democratic Town Committee. In 2017 and 2021 he served on the Watertown Town Council.

Additional information about the campaign is at [www.desmaraisforct.com](http://www.desmaraisforct.com) and on Facebook @ [DesmaraisforCT](https://www.facebook.com/DesmaraisforCT).

[DONATE HERE](#)

### Jeff seeks to qualify for a sizable Citizens Election Program (CEP) grant, but he can't do it without you.

To qualify, he must demonstrate grassroots support. The Campaign must raise \$17,300 in individual donations with at least 300 donations from individuals who live in the 32nd Senate District. Any individual can contribute a maximum of \$320. Young people between the ages of 12-17 years of age can donate a maximum of \$30 in cash or from their own credit/debit account. [CLICK HERE](#) to download cash/check certification form.

The CEP grant is finance reform at its finest and ensures the following:

- Allowing candidates to compete without reliance on special interest money;
- Allowing statewide officers and legislators the ability to make decisions free of the influence of, or the appearance that they have been influenced by, donations from special interests;
- Restoring public confidence in the electoral and legislative processes;
- Increasing meaningful citizen participation; and
- Providing the public with useful and timely disclosure of campaign finances.



## CT General Assembly 2024 Legislative Session

In February, I was proud to be in attendance when the Connecticut General Assembly convened for its 2024 legislative session. Democrats have overwhelming majorities: 98-53 in the House, and 24-12 in the Senate.

During the 2023 session, the state legislature passed a budget with a significant income-tax cut, considered policies on housing, passed gun control measures and expanded access to reproductive healthcare in the state. In the 2024 session, Connecticut residents can anticipate continued focus on key issues.

With Democrats holding strong majorities in both the House and Senate, there should be further efforts to advance policies to benefit the people and small businesses of CT.

It was very nice sharing the morning with (pictured L to R) Paul Honig, candidate for SD 8, Trevor Crow, candidate for SD 36, and Merry Garrett, candidate for SD 35. I also chatted with CT Comptroller Sean Scanlon and several of our state leaders under the gold dome.



## Lieutenant Governor Endorses Desmarais



In January, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz endorsed my candidacy for the 32nd District State Senate seat.

Susan is a great leader, and has served our fine state in the House of Representatives, and as Secretary of State. I admire her grit, determination, and perseverance, along with the fact that she always shows up to lend support. I look forward to working with the Office of Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz in Hartford and thank her for her support.

## Bethel Chamber of Commerce Breakfast

I attended the Bethel Chamber of Commerce CT Legislative Breakfast and had a valuable and engaging experience. I found the roundtable discussion with local State Representatives and Senators to be informative and important to understanding the challenges faced by small businesses, and the community as a whole. I know I'm not in the Senate (yet), but I felt it was important that someone representing the 32nd District attend this event, as it is vital to learn about challenges directly from those who face them. My thanks to the Bethel Chamber for organizing the event. It was a pleasure spending time with 2nd District Representative Raghib Allie-Brennan (pictured).

