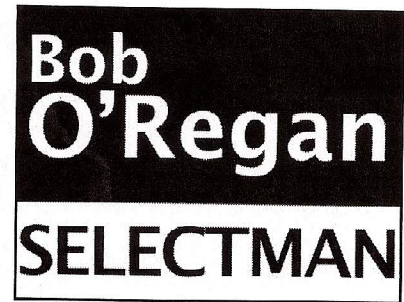


26 Freely Drive, Stoughton, Massachusetts 02072 • 781-341-8209

Election Day is April 10



Dear Mark,

We have served together in Town Meeting. As you may have heard, I am running for Selectman. I would like to ask for your support and invite you to our campaign kick-off event, a jazz breakfast at the VFW Hall on Sunday, February 26th from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Together, we can put Stoughton on the right track. Property values are not the only measure of a town, but they tell us a whole lot about the direction we are going in. While our property values continue to fall – nearly 27% in recent years and down almost 11 % just in the past year -- similar communities are doing better. So should we. And while the values of our homes and business properties drop, our taxes always still rise. This is not the right direction.

We need to create a new “business as usual” for Stoughton by setting long term goals to guide our short-term decisions, and by building on where we agree and handling our disagreements better, so we do not waste focus and energy on disputes. Many of our citizens do not volunteer because they reasonably do not want to become involved in the personal conflict that seems to infect our public discussions. Others stay away or drop out because so many volunteers’ work is simply wasted by inaction. This old “business as usual” is costing us dearly. We need to draw on the broad talents and skills of our citizens and then use them much better.

Improving how town government works is a key responsibility of the Board of Selectmen. For example, the Selectmen should provide the town with the 3-year forward looking financial plan that the Town Charter requires, that includes a coherent explanation of goals by each town department. In this way, the whole town will be able to know before the crunch of each budget cycle which departments will seek approval for new positions, buildings, equipment, and the like. With goals set outside the annual budget cycle, we can improve communication and build trust between the municipal and school departments. Town Meeting could even be shorter.

A productive, united town government, offering strong services and excellent schools, is critical to how we will improve Stoughton and build our tax base. This track will help stabilize the community and attract solid economic development. If we look around, these are the features of other communities with vibrant downtown areas and stable home ownership. We can accomplish this, too, with a different “business as usual”.

I hope you will join me in this effort and that you are able to join us on Sunday morning. Please call me if you have any comments or questions, or to help out in the campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob", written over a faint circular stamp.