

# JOBS!

I started my professional career in 1993 at a textile mill in Woonsocket. My first job there was to sell textile waste and count sweaters in our warehouse. I worked with regular, everyday men and women. My opponent enjoys printing pictures of himself in his ads as a boy/young man, working in town. I think this is to show that he is more a man of the people and less a Harvard-trained lawyer who has worked and lived out of town for much of the past 10 years. I do not need to show such pictures. I am the “regular guy” candidate in this race who was originally born in Chepachet and lived in Burrillville for the past 14 years. When I started my own textile company in 2003, I started it here in Burrillville. Today we have offices and a warehouse on Chapel Street in Harrisville. In the past 7 years, I brought 7 full time jobs to our town and want to create more. But I am well aware of how hard that will be.

I have witnessed the **alarming loss of jobs** across northern Rhode Island with growing concern and fear. As we shed more jobs in RI, it will be that much more difficult to bring them back. Once a leading manufacturing center, our State Government has sat idly by and watched one company after another close their facilities in RI. The recent news of the Bostitch plant closure in East Greenwich is just the latest RI high-profile job loss. About twenty years ago that one plant held 1,400 jobs!

In January **1990, the state had 97,400 manufacturing jobs**. As of **August of this year, that number stood at 39,500**, according to the state Department of Labor and Training. Manufacturing now accounts for **8.7 percent of total employment** in Rhode Island, about half its share in 1998.

It is time to make a stand, if not for ourselves then for our children and grandchildren. My biggest fear is that I will continue to work hard and save enough money to put my 3 children through college, only to have them graduate and find that Rhode Island offers nothing to keep them here. The profitable companies will have left, taking their good paying jobs with them. When my children leave RI to find work, what will keep my wife and me here? How many of you have often thought about leaving the state we love because we find the job market so depressed, because we find the taxes too high, because your children have already left, or because we feel that no matter what we do, nothing will change with our government?

Please help me and the dedicated group of candidates running for office this year to **BEGIN THE CHANGE THAT RHODE ISLAND NEEDS**. Help us to fight job-killing effects that special interests in the General Assembly have had on our state. Help us to cut the government spending that will allow us to **lower taxes**, which will help us to **stop the loss of manufacturing jobs** like those at Bostitch. Lawyers can find work anywhere, but not the everyday person. I promise to work for the everyday person, as they are the backbone of our community and state. I promise to work to protect and create jobs, as they are the engine of economic growth that Rhode Island so desperately needs.

Thanks,  
Don



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