



SHARON GAMBA

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Restoring Trust

Gamba Calls for End to Legislators as Solicitors, Cites Craven

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NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI — Sharon Gamba, Republican Candidate for House District 32, called for an end to the practice of elected state legislators also being employed as Town Solicitors and Municipal Judges. Citing current law (which prevents sitting legislators from bidding on state contracts) and the recent debacle in Woonsocket (the controversial firing of a former legislator as assistant prosecutor), Gamba called for an end to the practice.

"Allowing sitting legislators to be hired as Town Solicitors and Municipal Court Judges is a long-standing practice that is rife with political manipulation at the expense of the public interest. We must put an end to it," said Gamba.

"We currently have strong anti-corruption laws that prevent sitting legislators from bidding on State contracts or serving as judges at the State level. This common-sense restriction must also be extended to the municipal level. All one has to do is to look at what happened with this summer's 'Beach Gate' concession scandal and the political food fight that recently occurred in Woonsocket when the mayor and a sitting legislator, who is currently Town Solicitor, fired a former representative from the position of Assistant Town Prosecutor. They then hired the brother of another sitting legislator to replace him at the advice of House Speaker Mattiello," stated Gamba.

"What is most troubling about the Woonsocket incident is that nowhere in the entire discussion of who would serve as the public's prosecutor was the public's interest even considered. It was all about what Smith Hill wanted and political paybacks and rewards. And that is what is wrong with Rhode Island." Gamba continued, "I fully anticipate this proposal will be met with a firestorm of protest from the political insiders who benefit from this practice, such as my opponent Mr. Craven, who currently holds *multiple* municipal jobs *in addition* to being a State Representative."

Gamba listed the government positions Mr. Craven currently holds: Assistant Town Solicitor, Probate Judge, Prosecutor, Solicitor for the Charlestown Zoning Board and Assistant Town Solicitor for the Town of East Providence.

"The fact this archaic practice is still going on in Rhode Island is totally unacceptable and is just another sad example of how the system is designed to feed insiders at the expense of the taxpayers. As the new State Representative for District 32, I will immediately submit legislation to eliminate this shoddy practice. We need legislators who will clean up our problems, not be a part of them," concluded Gamba.

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Source for Woonsocket scenario:

<http://www.providencejournal.com/politics/content/20140831-political-scene-former-r.i.-lawmaker-jon-brien-on-the-outs-with-woonsocket-mayor.ece>

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Paid for by Friends of Sharon Gamba