

DeFranco Wants to Win the Sixth First Democrat on the ballot to take on Tierney

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By Jon Bishop Town Crier Correspondent

WILMINGTON/TEWKSBURY—Maria DeFranco wants to be a different kind of candidate. She's challenging both Seth Moulton and John Tierney for the Democratic nomination, and she said that she's seen what Washington does to small businesses.

"I'm an immigration attorney," she said, adding that she's had her own practice for seventeen years. "It's become harder and harder over the years to get things done."

Congress, she said, has been "crushing jobs and crushing innovation—and crushing all of the energy and vitality of Main Street."

Thus they don't know what they're doing.

"I'm going to do better than this," she said. "So that's why I'm running."

Her number one issue is jobs. And she used that to take aim at Tierney, who is the incumbent.

"In the sixth district, the entire time my opponent has been in office has been the entire time I've been in business," she said. "We hear all these talking points about how the economy is improving," but you see "things closing left and right."

Mediocre is not good enough, she said.

Both the Democratic and Republican parties like it this way, because it allows them to get re-elected, she said, noting that incumbency is in the high nineties.

“Eighty nine percent of Americans despise Congress—yet these guys and women get re-elected year after year,” she said. “When they do get re-elected, they do thing things like invade our privacy.”

They also pass “trade bills that negatively affect immigration.”

She fashioned herself as the “populist, get-things-done Democratic candidate.” She’s “somebody who comes from the real world.”

“That’s who I am,” she said. “I’ve represented all different industries across the board and beyond.”

If elected, she’ll stand up for privacy, and she again took aim at Representative Tierney. “Everybody said it was the Bush administration, but the current administration has gone even further [on privacy issues],” she said. “My opponent should have known about this. Where was he when this was all going down?”

If elected, she’ll “cut all corporate subsidies.”

“Small businesses get nothing, and then Main Street suffers,” she said. “It’s very backward and anti-capitalist, I might add.”

As a lawyer, she’s represented rape and torture survivors, helped with domestic assault, and she’s also worked on sex trafficking cases.

She criticized the Democratic “War on Women” platform, and she mentioned that the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee took a poll and left her name out of it. Thus far, she’s the only one who was turned in her signatures.

“Maybe the [Democrats] ought to look in the mirror,” she said.

Overall, people are fed up with the status quo—especially since “both parties engage in these purity tests” and DC engages in “unrealistic behavior.”

“The good news is, it could be fixed,” she said. “I’m a clean money candidate. I’m taking money from individuals.”

The recession, she added, happened on Tierney's watch.

"When do these solutions start coming?" she said. "That's why I'm running. We're supposed to be represented by real people. I don't believe in being in Congress for decades and decades."

"I think after about twelve years, you've done your service," she added. "You should go back to your day job and let someone else serve."

"I fight the federal government for a living. I fight the Department of Homeland Security and I win."