

There can be no better day for me than Primary Day, when contestants of the two major parties collide in hopes for voters to determine who can Best reinforce the status quo – no better location for me than in front of the lawn of a public school, where politicians of the two major parties have failed children in this District for generations – and no more potent and powerful a spiritual happenstance for me than to be speaking on the Veteran's Green, where we recall the sacrifices of entirely Too Many young men and women who do valiantly serve and yet are Betrayed by politicians of the two major parties even as an Iraq War still raging has actually Robbed the Town of Agawam of \$38.5 million.

I say no better day, no better location, and no more potent or powerful a spiritual happenstance, for me to here – now – renew my campaign, rejuvenate it, and make it plain that the contest for State Representative in This District shall not be decided in any voting booths over there This day, but has only just now but hardly started. We finally have, at long last, within this District now True choices – a Third Party Campaign – a Campaign for social, environmental and economic justice – a Campaign to be waged within a Contest where the voting public shall NOT already have their decisions made for them in a party primary. Come November, folks shall be free to vote their conscience!

My name is Owen R. Broadhurst, and I'd like to once again introduce myself to you all. Where few candidates ever proudly mention party affiliation anymore, realizing – I know – how the very mention of party must call attention to how their parties have Failed us –

I make plain in every statement I make, in every press release I pen, that I am the Green-Rainbow Party candidate in this District – the party of Martina Robinson, who's here today, the party of her running mate, our gubernatorial candidate Grace Ross, the party of Jill Stein and James O'Keefe: our party's state-wide slate. Not One other candidate in this District can boast close ties to the Standard-bearers for their parties; Not One other candidate in this District can say that they're campaigning with Their parties' state-wide candidates on the Very Same Page, calling attention to the Very Same Issues, and championing the Very Same Values – Their parties Have No Values! OUR party has values, and we believe the voting public Shares our Values. It is on our shared Values, our Beliefs, a New politics of the people Against the Machines that we campaign today.

So, yes, I have been a Green-Rainbow Party partisan. I serve on its State Committee, have served as its Secretary, have served as its Communications Director, have served as its Green Party national committee representative. I was Town of Agawam coordinator for the Jill Stein gubernatorial campaign in 2002, Town of Agawam coordinator for the David Cobb presidential campaign in 2004. I was a 2004 delegate to the Green party's national nominating convention, and I am the Town of Agawam coordinator for the campaigns of our party's state-wide slate today. This is the party that I believe in!

I believe in its message, its practice, its politics. Ours is the politics of local control, of community based initiatives, of community rooted direction over community growth and development. I am a thirty year resident of the Town of Agawam, a homeowner, who worked long and hard - I can assure you – to help Stop a riverboat casino from being sited here, to try but fail to Stop a pollution spewing power plant from being sited here, to

help Stop the NRDC from having its mega -monster box atrocity sited here, to help Stop the harvesting of healthy rare trees at Robinson Park, and to help Stop a glorified Incinerator from spewing its poison in Russell. Nobody NEEDS these things!

I can boast truly deep roots in this community. This school was my own Elementary School. I walked here from the very home that I still live in now. From Agawam's public schools did I graduate. I had attended church only but two blocks down the street. I was a Cub Scout in this Town, I was a Boy Scout in this Town. I'm one of the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee's charter members who served numerous times on its Board of Directors. I was a 2003 candidate here for City Council, and I have served on our Town's Community Preservation Committee since April of 2002. This is my home. I live here.

Living here, having attended schools here, happens to be one very large reason I wanted to stand in front of this school and address you here today. School systems throughout our District – and throughout our whole entire State - have been neglected and under funded by the state - leaving it only to communities to pick up the burden to the best of their capacities. Our method for funding schools has led to class-based disparities in education - with only the very wealthiest of districts truly providing the best possible education for students. As cities and towns struggle to provide their students with a meaningful and effective education, each is compelled to rely on only the most thoroughly regressive of taxes, the property tax – which is indeed a “burdensome beast”, although what I had also mentioned at the Southwick debate were burdensome fees.

It has its impact. How many school systems have elementary school foreign language programs? We don't find them in Agawam. We don't find them in Southwick. Such programs have Proven results in cognitive benefits, and gains in academic achievement – yet not one other candidate is discussing them, the Democratic legislature has not been funding them, and so children everywhere have been denied them. I want to know why!

How many school systems have free universal full day kindergarten? The rip-roaring Battle for that in Agawam resembled a Blood Sport in a Roman coliseum, and I believe not ONE other town within our District has achieved it! Full day kindergartens are Proven, thoroughly proven, beyond all shadows of doubt, to hasten and strengthen progress in literacy, mathematics, general learning skills, and social skills. So, why then has our Democratic legislature permitted a lack of these programs to Fester?

Why should teacher salaries be so widely disparate among the districts? Why should class size be smaller within one district than another? Why have so many been flirting with commercial radio stations on school-buses? Why can't everyone have equivalent education? What makes a child in one town so much more valuable than another?

This bears repeating: I can't say this often enough - We need to reassess how Chapter 70 monies are distributed, and reverse the trend against Western Mass. getting its fair share. I support S. 299 as filed by Senator Barrios to study present funding levels to prove finally once and for all who has truly been neglected. Communities of similar fiscal strength are NOT receiving similar levels of aid, and I support H. 1209 and S. 350 to

finally see to it that they do. We must absolutely raise the foundation budget overall!

We NEED to reduce our reliance on the property tax via fair tax reform, substantially raise aid from the state, and earmark a portion of the sales tax - which I would like to see reduced - for cities and towns. Tax reform is the Key for cities and towns: we can generate over 15%, and maybe 20% more revenue for the state while cutting taxes for more than 80% of the population, we can do this without rolling back the income tax – we can double personal exemptions, increase deductions for working people- we must reduce the sales tax, tax fat cat services, abolish sweetheart deals, and eliminate combined reporting loopholes that transfer money from out of Massachusetts with absolutely no return in terms of job creation. Cities and towns will Continue to fight a losing battle if we do NOT do this. Property taxes will Rise. Services will Decline.

And it is not in reducing the Income Tax that your total tax burden can decline. I have one opponent who's trying to sell us a pledge for No New Taxes. When you hear That, hand over your wallet. The rolling back of the state's income tax is Precisely what resulted in an ever rising Property Tax and increasing fees. A politician or legislator who says "No New Taxes" will be the politician or legislator who raises your property tax and assesses you more fees – a boatload of fees, Fees for not only busing, sports and kindergarten, but your water, your sewer, your parks, your licenses. I'm telling you that I see those fees as a tax, a truly regressive tax, an always rising tax we cannot afford.

The property tax is a regressive tax. We think of ourselves as having a flat tax, and we do have a flat income tax – but we do NOT have a flat tax burden. We're being squeezed and squashed – but far less so by the state's income tax, I can assure you, than by the property tax, excise tax, sales tax, and a constantly growing list of fees. It is a Fact that these regressive fees and taxes result in nearly 80% of the citizens in this Commonwealth paying a larger percentage of income in taxes and fees than the wealthiest 1%. Odds are the percentage that YOU pay doubles what THEY pay. People are now paying increased fees for homestead protection and waste removal as well. Whatever fees you're not now charged, you shall be charged with yet another Democratic legislature put in office.

So, people have asked me: You want to see more money for schools, more money for housing, more money for parks, more money for preservation, more money for mass transit, more money for alternative energy: How does Owen intend to pay for this all?

I shall tell you: Repealing the Raytheon and Fidelity tax breaks will generate more than an additional \$220 million in revenue for the state. Closing corporate "combined reporting" loopholes will generate over \$97 million for the state. Applying a transfer tax to sales of property valued at over \$400,000 will generate over \$500 million for the state. Repealing the sales tax exemption of services such as lobbying, legal and accounting services, engineering services, business consulting, public relations and financial management will generate over \$530 million for the state. Implementing a 30 cent per pound tax on the top ten carcinogens will generate over \$115 million for the state. An intangible property tax on financial instruments of \$2 per \$1000 with a \$50,000 deductible will generate nearly \$500 million for the state. I have just raised nearly \$2

billion for the state, and I haven't even Touched your taxes to do it!

We need to relieve cities and towns, especially school systems, of the burden of providing health care plans for teachers, staff and other municipal employees. Every candidate for this office claims to support affordable health care – but if they do not support a Single-Payer Health Care Plan, they do NOT support affordable health care! Do NOT be fooled – Only ONE candidate in this election is promoting a single payer plan, and therefore that candidate ALONE supports affordable health care, Period!

There's only ONE way to provide affordable health care – the single payer plan. I support a single-payer plan because it is the sole and only plan that can work. With a single-payer plan, the savings to cities and towns, and especially school systems, would be quite enormous. The supposedly historic health care fraud recently passed by the Democratic legislature, however, can in no way reign in our spiraling health care costs. Health care's more costly within the Commonwealth than anyplace else on Earth – That's a fact – Health care's more costly here than ALL other places on the PLANET - and the legislature's answer to this is in the greatest transfer of wealth ever recorded throughout our Commonwealth's history, from your pockets to the insurance industry which heavily lobbied and practically purchased our politicians so that they may continue to profit off other people's misery - one reason I support restoration of Clean Elections. Small and local enterprise would get a Much needed boost, and what's left of our state's dwindling manufacturing base would finally find its competitive advantage. This is job creation!

The new supposedly universal health care plan the Democratic legislature passed, however, will not check our spiraling health care costs - and does not provide employers incentives for coverage. A mere \$295 fine is nothing compared to the costs of providing an insurance plan – but should be viewed as a \$295 FEE that they shall GLADLY pay to spare themselves Thousands of dollars for health care coverage. Employers furthermore can avoid paying that fee by providing coverage to but a small percentage of their work force, and the plans that will be foisted on a public compelled to purchase plans will have more holes than Swiss cheese. Calling the required Purchase of health care plans by people who can ill afford it a solution to the health care crisis is, as Jill Stein observed, like declaring an end to homelessness by requiring the homeless to somehow pay rent. You will pay through the nose, but it won't help your health care woes.

Students, schools, cities and towns would also benefit from having our state facilitate a dedicated market in schools for local agriculture. Hasten agricultural preservation requests. Arrange partnerships between our farmers, our Towns and area restaurants. Use local agricultural products, and recycle vegetable oils from restaurants to fuel our school buses and our municipal fleets with biodiesel at 95c per gal. The time has arrived when we can at long last stop subjecting children to the cancer risk and increased asthma rate documented from their travel on polluting school buses- and immense savings are to be found for cities, towns and school systems in reducing the transportation costs for school meals. Our very own farmers can feed all of our students, if we can only prevent the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture from compelling their supposedly “voluntary” compliance with National Animal Identification designed to drive them out of business.

Let us facilitate municipal biodiesel production, and allow towns to market it. Provide interest free loans, or Grants, for towns to decorate the rooftops of their municipal buildings with solar cells. Allow towns leave in assembling a handful of windmills in out of the way town owned lands. Combine that with matching grants from the state for the retrofitting of public buildings, the most efficient of windows, and our cities and towns will no longer be devoting so Much of their budget merely to heat and lighting- but will get paid instead as energy producers selling into the grid. Don't tell ME we need a glorified incinerator sited in Russell to spew 1600 tons of pollutants per minute and draw more than 850,000 gallons of water from the Westfield River per day. We have our lands, we have our rooftops, and we have technologies to Save substantial amounts of energy right now. Had every New England home the most efficient of windows, the nation's dependence on foreign oil would in fact End right there. That's a fact. Check it out.

The state can therefore free monies within municipal budgets through tax reform, the single payer plan, incentives for creating dedicated markets for local agriculture, the facilitation of bio-diesel production and "grease car" conversion, and allowing for cities and towns to become energy producers themselves. The time to do this is now, since the children in these schools are paying the price for the Democratic legislature's inaction in all of these areas even as we speak. Let me tell you how the Democrats value education!

The state in FY 2006 is projected to spend a total of \$3.78 billion on education spending, \$3.23 billion of which is in Chapter 70 funds. That certainly Sounds like a lot, and it's a 3% hike over Last year – but I'm telling that it is 6% below year 2002 levels! Advanced Placement programs, which high school students take for college credit, used to get \$450,000 a year from the state for fee reductions, teacher training, and academic support such as tutoring: Your Democratic legislature Destroyed that program in the year 2001! Funding for summer courses and after-school tutoring was reduced from \$50 million to \$10 million in the 2004 budget, and has only seen a very slight increase since then.

The reaction of towns to this? Parents in Andover pay nearly \$4000 for full day kindergarten. It's \$4000 again in Reading, and its \$2500 in Southwick. That really doesn't sound like a Public education to ME. Parents in Andover pay hundreds in school bus fees. Duxbury charges \$360 annually for bus service, \$125 for field hockey, \$125 to join an after school club. I think we're witnessing the privatization of public education already. Your Democratic legislature promotes class based disparities in education!

There's simply no call for that if we but stop Wasting our resources. Allow me to save you all even more money. Here's something my party's new candidate for Lt. Governor revealed to me: The Commonwealth would save over \$27,000 per consumer to provide for community based health care services rather than imprisoning consumers in nursing homes. Freedom for the more than 8200 wrongly deprived of freedom and liberty when community based services would quite nicely suffice would result in savings for the Commonwealth in the realm of some \$221,400,000 per year. Not enough money saved?

Here's more: Put an End to the War! The conflict in Iraq alone has cost the Town of Agawam now \$38.5 million. It has cost the Town of Southwick \$12.8 million. It has cost the Towns of Russell and Granville now \$2.1 million and \$2.2 million respectively. Springfield has been set back \$128 million. That war has cost the Commonwealth nearly \$9 Billion – and I'll tell you what that means: Head Start for one year for more than 1 million and one hundred seventy thousand children. Health insurance for one year for more than 5 million and two hundred ninety thousand children. Teacher salaries for one year for more than 150,000 new teachers. Seventy nine thousand five hundred additional housing units state-wide. I will, as a state legislator, pursue, support and vote for a resolution calling upon the President and Congress of the United States to put an immediate end to the war in Iraq and bring all United States forces home from Iraq. I will, as a state legislator, pursue, support and vote for a resolution employing Section LIII, 603 from Jefferson's Manual to facilitate our filing articles of impeachment against the President of the United States. I will work to bring the National Guard home!

People do want to talk about social issues in this campaign. I firmly back 100% a woman's exercise of her reproductive rights and liberties, including free, legal and safe abortion on demand with absolutely no strings attached and no parental or spousal consent required. I firmly back 100% equal marriage rights for all, and firmly believe that any referendum to repeal that is UnConstitutional. I'll have you know that I'm now Sixteen years out of the Closet, and that I shall Never be shoved back in it again!

I believe the right to organize is the workplace expression of not only rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association, but the right to live and breathe. I believe in complete and comprehensive health education, and I believe same sex couples should enjoy the same right to Medicaid and Medicare benefits that any other married couples would receive. I support our divestment from apartheid states. I support Chapter 40Q's repeal, and believe Chapter 40B should be reformed to prevent affordable units from reverting to market rates and limit 40B developments profits to 20% as was intended.

The Department of Telecommunications and Energy must be stripped of its unconstitutional capacity to review zoning laws, and I support the Public Water Preservation Bill to ban the privatization of sewer services and water services in our communities. I'm a New kind of candidate, from a New kind of party, practicing a very New politics that no Democrat or Republican Ever shall espouse. These are the new ideas in this race, I'm the fresh face in this race, and this is the Vision for social, economic and environmental Justice that no candidate from beyond our party shall espouse.

I thank you all for taking the time to hear me out, and open the floor to questions.

