



Mario Ratzki and his friends and neighbors gathered at the Highland Lake Inn in support of his candidacy for State Representative. In this photo, Mario listens to gubernatorial candidate Jackie Cilley's telephoned words of encouragement during the July 6 gathering.

Photo: Larry Chase

Mario Ratzki Launches Campaign For State Rep

By Janet Moore
Andover Democrats

On July 6, Pecco Beaufays at the Highland Lake Inn hosted a "Meet and Greet" gathering for his Maple Street neighbor, Mario Ratzki, who has thrown his hat into the ring for State Representative, Merrimack County, District One. In attendance were supportive members of the Andover Democrats, as well as friends and neighbors looking for a more common-sense approach to state government.

Gubernatorial candidate Jackie Cilley attended via telephone, sharing her enthusiasm for Mario's entry into the race. In remarks to attendees, Mario acknowledged the community service of his November opponent, current State Representative Jenn Coffey and thanked her for it.

With statewide redistricting, Andover has become part of a three-town district comprising Andover, Danbury, and Salisbury. The three towns share one representative, which means the race will be one-on-one, Mario versus Jenn.

Voters may be wondering, "Who is Mario Ratzki?"

Mario came to California at age 17 from Nancy, France, with his mother and sister and the princely sum of \$200 between them. He immediately started working – at one time holding down three jobs, for up to 13 hours a day.

Mario attended Santa Monica College at night before moving to the University of California at Berkeley and graduating with a degree in political science. He met his wife, Caroline Moulton, then started a small business importing textiles, clothing, and folk art from South America.

"We built up our business by cold-calling small boutiques up and down the length of California and doing trade shows," Mario recalls. "We moved to the Boston area in 1984, where our

two children were born, and opened an antique Oriental rug gallery in Cambridge. This was very successful, and we eventually moved the gallery to Charles Street in Boston."

After he served as an active volunteer in the 2004 Kerry campaign and the 2008 Obama campaign, and after closing his small business, he purchased the Frame's house on Maple Street in East Andover. Caroline immediately became involved in the Andover Service Club and as a volunteer adaptive ski instructor at Mount Sunapee.

Mario had his hands full reclaiming some of the land, planting an orchard and a vineyard. In his spare time, he has been working to restore the 220-year-old farm house with the help of local contractors.

Mario and Caroline have also become involved with the Andover Democrats as a way of learning more about the New Hampshire political environment. The logical leap, then, was from volunteer to candidate in an effort to help create a more civil and responsive legislature in Concord.

As a candidate, Mario pledges to protect Medicaid and Medicare, to support women's rights, to promote local business, and to welcome green businesses into the local community. Those efforts would expand the local tax base, keeping property taxes lower and helping to finance public services, including education.

Writing about his political philosophy in last month's *Beacon*, Mario summarized: "I am a conservative, and preserving our quality of life is important. I am a liberal, knowing that change can be beneficial. I am a realist, aware that life is made of shades of gray, and there are many sides to each issue."

For additional information, contact Mario at 735-5440, MarioRatzki@gmail.com, and at Facebook.com/Mario.Ratzki.

Candidate For Governor To Speak In Andover

Press release

The Andover Democrats will host Maggie Hassan, one of three Democratic contenders for the New Hampshire governorship, to discuss her views on issues facing New Hampshire voters. The gathering will happen on Tuesday, August 14, at 7 PM in the Community Room of the Andover Fire Department. The public is invited at no charge.

The meeting will also offer attendees an opportunity to question Hassan on matters of interest and concern. Refreshments will be served.

Hassan will be the third Democratic candidate for governor to speak to the Andover Democrats. In May, Barrington resident Jackie Cilley addressed the group, and in July, Bill Kennedy of Danbury visited Andover Democrats at their regular monthly meeting. The three-way party primary will be held on Tuesday, September 11, and the general election occurs on Tuesday, November 6.

In 2004, Hassan was first elected to the New Hampshire Senate, winning

one of the most competitive districts in the state. During her six years in office, she was selected by her colleagues to serve as both President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader of the State Senate. She served as chair of both the Commerce Committee and the Public and Municipal Affairs Committee. She also served on the Finance Committee and was vice chair of the committee on Energy, Environment, and Economic Development.

Born in Boston, Hassan earned her undergraduate degree from Brown University and a law degree from Northeastern University. She lives in Exeter with her husband Tom, the principal of Phillips Exeter Academy, and has two adult children.

Additional biographical and campaign information can be found at InnovateNewHampshire.com. The Andover Democrats, an organization linked with the New Hampshire Democratic Party, meets monthly, usually on the second Tuesday. Current president is Janet Moore, who can be contacted at JMPcilley@tds.net.

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Some people currently in Concord do not support public education.

- They have created a process to send public tax money to private and religious schools rather than to public schools.
- They reduced state support for the University of New Hampshire, Keene State, and Plymouth University which has meant that in many cases tuition for students who live in New Hampshire has doubled.

We believe that New Hampshire is a good place to live. We believe that strong public education for all students is a public good.

**THINK ABOUT WHO YOU WANT TO
REPRESENT YOU IN CONCORD.**

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