

Bay Windows - September 9, 2004

State Rep. Paul Demakis' retirement after 10 years on Beacon Hill is certainly a loss for the gay community. As the Eighth Suffolk District Representative, Demakis carried on the district's tradition of electing legislators who show true leadership on gay rights issues (the seat formerly belonged to Barney Frank and Mark Roosevelt, among others). Candidate Marty Walz has made it clear she will follow in Demakis' footsteps; indeed, Demakis himself endorsed her early on. Walz has worked hard to distinguish herself in a field of like-minded candidates - her Democratic primary challenger also supports same-sex marriage, as does Republican candidate Richard Babson, who is open gay - with her pledge to not only support gay rights on Beacon Hill, but to lead on those issues. Voters should take her on her word.