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The race for the 8th Suffolk pits Richard Babson, an openly gay Republican candidate, against Democrat Marty Walz. Altogether, Babson is a nice enough guy. But Walz has so thoroughly sought gay support in this race, one is hard pressed to find any gay organization that has not endorsed her candidacy. Walz's command of the issues and energy is impressive. She is the better candidate to inherit the legacy of Barney Frank, Mark Roosevelt, and Paul Demakis, all of whom have been local and statewide leaders.