

Paul Loscocco, candidate for Lt. Governor.

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[www.PaulForLG.com](http://www.PaulForLG.com)

Thank you everyone for coming today to the Holliston Historical Society for this historic day. I particularly want to thank my wife Ann, my three wonderful children, my parents, and long time friends and supporters.

In his farewell address, President George Washington gave a young nation some advice that I've always kept close to my heart and that I'd like to share with you today as I prepare to re-enter political life.

President Washington's parting words urged the American people to place their identity as Americans above their identities as members of any other group—in particular political parties.

Washington warned that political parties would always focus first on building and maintaining their own power and would distract government from promoting the public good. He also warned us about the need to maintain a strong system of checks and balances and the separation of powers within it to prevent any one person or party from seizing control of government.

Over 200 years later, Washington would be saddened to see that his warnings have gone unheeded and his worst predictions have become reality. As we all read and hear about every day, all too often those in government readily place party and politics above people and the promotion of good public policy. There is a reason over half the voters in the Commonwealth refuse to identify with either political party: the two party system has failed us.

People often (rightly) believe that their best interests are being ignored while those elected to watch out for them instead pursue the politics of party government, entrenched special interests, and personal enrichment. And yet, the alternatives available to the voters have been limited by the confines of a formal two-party system of government and the often-repeated truism that this cannot change. This must change.

Massachusetts is faced with the worst economic crisis my generation has ever seen. Party politics as usual where one party puts an idea forward and the other rejects will not get us out of a mess both parties stood watch over. Which party is to blame for this how we got here is not important, what is important is how we are going to get our economy back on track.

While Democrats and Republicans entrench themselves along party lines, public cynicism about government is now pervasive as the people of the Commonwealth see Massachusetts facing tremendous budget shortfalls, skyrocketing unemployment, a healthcare system with costs out of control, and a climate where working families are struggling more than at any time since the Great Depression.

In short, we have an economic emergency on our hands, and we need a team who has the ability to unite Massachusetts to make the tough decisions necessary to revitalize the economy.

Since I ran my first campaign for the Massachusetts House of Representatives as a Republican nearly a decade ago, I promised to bring a "citizen's perspective" and an "independent mindset" to government.

My voting record in the legislature stands for itself – in what is quite possibly the most independent voting record among both Democrats and Republicans alike during my term in office.

I firmly believe that no one party has a monopoly on good ideas and that addressing the real challenges our Commonwealth faces requires working closely with anyone and everyone who brings such good ideas to the table – and a willingness to work outside of the strict confines of party politics.

For years I defended my decision to effect change from within the formal confines of the Republican Party (even as one of its most independent members) because it was the party I grew up in—the party that Ronald Reagan first inspired me to join as a young man with his passionately expressed convictions about fiscal and personal responsibility, his genuine belief in the greatness of the American people, and his sincere optimism and vision for the future of our nation.

Even now, I remain guided by the example of Ronald Reagan – one of our greatest Presidents – who himself was not afraid veer from the Democratic party of his youth at a time when he no longer believed it adequately served the best interests of good government.

In the 2010 Massachusetts Governor’s race, I initially – and mistakenly – adhered to the conventional wisdom that the party system is a “reality” and that having “picked a side,” I had to be with the candidate from my own political party. For me, that initially meant backing Charlie Baker – the Republican establishment candidate—even though he and his desired running mate Richard Tisei actually share little in common with the Republican Party of Ronald Reagan in which I came of age. I came to recognize that I made my decision to back Charlie without giving real consideration to the Independent candidate in the race. Once I took a closer look at the person, and not the party, I’ve come to fully appreciate the obvious: that Tim Cahill is undoubtedly the best person to lead all of us as the next Governor of Massachusetts.

That Tim Cahill – someone who was extremely well-positioned and had everything to gain by simply remaining a member of the Democratic Party – instead chose to put party aside and do what is best for all of Massachusetts by running for Governor as an “independent” candidate, someone unafraid to face the voters on the strength of his own merits and without a party label.

In this respect and following Tim’s example, after much careful thought and reflection I have decided to make official what has always been true: that I am and have always been an “independent Republican” not ruled by the politics of party.

At this critical juncture, I have decided to exercise independent thought and judgment in strongly supporting Tim Cahill as the best candidate to serve as our next Governor, and I am therefore extremely pleased to accept Tim Cahill’s challenge to join him in putting party aside and serving as Tim’s running mate as an unenrolled “independent” candidate for lieutenant governor.

As Treasurer and Receiver General of the Commonwealth, I have always had the greatest respect for Tim’s straightforward, fiscally responsible approach to state government. Especially during these extremely difficult financial times, I have a renewed appreciation for Tim’s consistently unwavering support for the taxpayers (and tollpayers) of Massachusetts – a proven leader unafraid to stand up to those formerly of his own party to impose fiscal discipline, while at the same time always working with everyone to promote the common good.

Tim is an innovative thinker and problem solver and that’s the kind of Governor we’re going to need to turn the Massachusetts economy around by attracting new businesses, creating good jobs, and working across party lines to develop a more efficient state government.

As Governor in an independent administration, we will have a meaningful system of checks and balances. Governor Tim Cahill will not simply be relegated to a four year term of governing by press releases and “multi-point plans” arrogantly critical of the opposing party – with little likelihood of ever even being considered, much less enacted. Rather, Tim has always shown himself able to think for himself but to work effectively with others, regardless of party affiliation.

It is my sincere hope and belief that, together, Tim and I will be able to work tirelessly to solve the problems facing this Commonwealth and to open our doors to economic growth and opportunity – working closely, but independently, with those willing men and women of both political parties to get the job done. The people of Massachusetts deserve nothing less.

Massachusetts has always been on the forefront of change. With this decision to leave the party system behind, I am joining Tim in a bold endeavor – in taking a fundamental step forward into what I sincerely hope will help shape the American politics of tomorrow: a political system where candidates are judged based not solely on party, but rather on character, the issues, and their vision for the future—a system where candidates are free to take their case directly to the people outside the confines of a rigid party system. In other words, what I repeatedly hear from voters to be the system of government they want. I have no illusions that this will somehow be an easy task. Those who have always benefited from a strict two-party party system will strongly resist change.

I challenge those voters tired of the status quo – the silent majority hopeful that things can and should be better but who until today may have been resigned to yet more of the same – to join Tim Cahill and me in putting people and policy over party politics.

I cannot sit idly by while I watch my friends and neighbors lose their jobs, their homes, and their faith in the belief that America’s best days are still ahead of us. I’m looking forward to campaigning with Tim across this great Commonwealth where we will be asking for your vote this November and continuing to listen to your many good ideas for getting Massachusetts back on track.