

## For Immediate Release:

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### Joshua Perro Announces Candidacy for State Representative

**Worcester, MA** - Joshua Perro formally announced his candidacy for State Representative in the 16th Worcester District on Wednesday. "Our State Representative should be a strong, independent voice whose focus should always be on the residents and families of our neighborhoods. As your next State Representative, my focus will be to make our communities safer, to make our public schools stronger, and to create economic opportunity right here in our neighborhoods of Worcester," Perro said. "I am running to be the neighborhood's choice for State Representative. I will lead, not follow, on Beacon Hill."

Perro is a lifelong resident of the district and a member of the Board of Directors at the Worcester Public Library, where he serves as Treasurer and Chairman of the Committee on Finance. Perro grew up working at his family's local business, Perro's Flowers, which has supported families and the local economy for more than 60 years. "This is exactly the kind of opportunity we need to be creating for people today – a sustainable environment that creates jobs, fosters small businesses, and grows our community," said Perro, who is also a member of the Grafton Hill Business and Neighborhood Associations. "I will be a strong advocate for local businesses in the House of Representatives."

"I'm an independent thinker, and that's exactly what voters expect in the 16th Worcester District," Perro said. "I'm extremely humbled by the outpouring of support I've received from the community and I'm looking forward to having substantive issues-based conversations about the challenges facing our neighborhoods over the coming months."

Perro is the first member of his family to attend college, and emphasized the importance of education in Worcester. "An educated workforce is a critical component of economic development. We must do more to improve our graduation rates, third grade literacy, and to increase the amount of state aid given to Worcester Public Schools. We must create more affordable options for attending college or obtaining vocational training, so that every student has the chance to enter the workforce on a level playing field," Perro said. "Having spent time operating a local business, I have practical experience and a hard work ethic much needed on Beacon Hill, where I will demand that others receive the same opportunities I am so fortunate to have had."

On May 17, Perro received the Paul J. Westberg Award from the Worcester Democratic City Committee in recognition of his commitment to advancing the party's agenda and protecting working-class families in the city of Worcester. Born and raised in the Grafton Hill neighborhood, Perro has worked tirelessly to become part of the neighborhood's fabric. He is a member of St. Stephens Parish on Grafton Street, and the Secretary of the Ward 5 Democratic City Committee

**An official campaign kickoff event is scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Vernon Hill Post located at 267 Providence Street, Worcester. All are welcome to attend.**

In August 2013, Perro came within 100 votes of winning the Special Election to fill the 16th Worcester seat, finishing second in a crowded field of five candidates. The district is comprised of Ward 5, Precincts 1, 2, 4, and 5; Ward 6, Precincts 1-5; and Ward 8, Precinct 1 and 5. The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, September 9th.

For updates from the campaign, go to: [www.JoshPerro.com](http://www.JoshPerro.com)

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