

Anielski will seek state seat

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WALTON HILLS Marlene Anielski, who has been mayor of Walton Hills for nine years, is looking to extend her work and influence beyond the village's borders.

To that end, Anielski announced last week that she will be a candidate for the Ohio House District 17 seat. That position is being vacated by State Rep. Josh Mandel at the end of his current term, which expires at the end of 2010.

Mandel, who is running for the office of state treasurer, has announced his support of Anielski as she enters the state political arena.

In addition to Walton Hills, District 17 includes Pepper Pike, Hunting Valley, Moreland Hills, Chagrin Falls, Chagrin Falls Township, Bentleyville, Solon, Glenwillow, Oakwood, Valley View, Independence, Seven Hills, Brecksville and Broadview Heights.

Anielski has been one of the area's leading Republican mayors in the effort to save the nation's auto industry.

"It is a very difficult time in our state and national economies," Anielski said. "As mayor of a middle class municipality, it is apparent many people are out of work while citizens are struggling to make ends meet."

Anielski said that her campaign will include the theme that recognizes that a prosperous future depends on responsible planning that begins immediately.

"Our entire economy remains in crisis and Ohio has been hit especially hard," she said. "We need proven leadership in Columbus with a track record of cutting through partisan politics to address the many challenges we face."

Anielski is in the second year of her current four-year term as mayor, and will not have to give up the mayor's post in order to run for state representative. Prior to becoming mayor, Anielski was a member of Village Council for two years.

"We can restore Ohio's greatness only if we enact common sense policies and innovative solutions that will bring jobs and opportunities back to Ohio," Anielski said. "I can make a positive difference in the lives of the fine residents of Ohio and I am eager to continue to serve."

Anielski said she is appreciative of Mandel's endorsement and is humbled by his confidence in her.

Mandel, who has shown himself to be a rising Republican star on Ohio's political landscape, bucked the wave of recent Democratic victories across the state. He used Anielski as a sounding board during his time in Columbus and had her help in keeping him apprised of local economic issues, particularly those related to the auto industry.

The two have become close friends, and Mandel showed his appreciation for Anielski's support, and his broad base of voter support in Walton Hills, when he agreed to be the

guest speaker for the village's 2008 Memorial Day ceremonies. Anielski was one of the area's first political leaders to back Mandel's first run for the state house.

Anielski pointed out that she has been a champion of smaller, more responsive government, lower taxes, and economic initiatives that create jobs and opportunities.

"Building on State Representative Mandel's principles of integrity and a dedicated work ethic is the legacy I plan to follow," Anielski said. "His dedication to the district's residents, and his response to their issues is commendable."

Anielski has already begun garnering support around the state for her run.

"Mayor Anielski brings with her the experience to lead and the common sense to make the right decisions for her constituents," said State Rep. William G. Batchelder, R-Medina, who is the house minority leader.

"As a terrific mayor and loving mother of four, Marlene has a unique perspective and I think she will make a great state representative," said Rob Frost, the chairman of the Cuyahoga County Republican Party.

Anielski is active in numerous national, state and community organizations. She is a member of the steering committee of the Small Communities Council of the National League of Cities, a steering member of the Mayor's and Municipalities Automotive Coalition, a Junior Achievement volunteer, and is involved in Rotary International.

Anielski earned her MBA from Cleveland State University and her BA from the University of Akron.