

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.