

LINDA FINN

Name: Linda Finn **Address:** 351 Comptonview Drive, Middletown

Age: 57 **Party:** Democrat

Previous terms: State representative, 2013-14

Profession:

Previous business owner of landscape design company, and also financial services executive.

Education: Bachelor of science, Boston College School of Management.

Family: Married to John Finn for 21 years with two children in college, Phoebe and Jack.

We moved from Newport to Middletown in 1998.

Reason for running: I feel we need a representative ready to roll up her sleeves to continue to keep Aquidneck Island a great place to work, live and play. We need an independent voice at the Statehouse with a track record of working with diverse groups to solve problems.

We need someone who understands the challenges our businesses face every day. I've been rooted on the island for the last 25 years. I have given back to my community through groups such as the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, BabySteps Newport, the Women's Resource Center and the Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence. And as a business owner myself, I have firsthand knowledge of what small businesses go through every day. I love this community and I want to take our Aquidneck values and priorities back to the Statehouse.

Most important issues:

It is critical for us to balance the needs of our businesses to grow our economy, while also understanding and addressing the challenges that our families face. We want to make sure higher education is affordable for families and that our children can find meaningful careers here with affordable places to live. We want to preserve our environment, keep our water clean for drinking, recreation and our tourism industry. We want to make sure we are planning for sustainable growth but yet keep our tax structure competitive with our neighboring states and protecting our environment. We want our small businesses to be able to thrive and not be burdened by unnecessary and overly bureaucratic practices. At the end of the day, I want to make sure your voice is heard in Providence, we have unique challenges here that need a loud voice. That means our legislators have to be accessible and accountable to get those voices heard "upstate."

Top priorities: I know It is critical for us to balance the needs of our businesses to grow our economy, while also understanding and addressing the challenges that our families face. I know that a good education can mean the difference between success and failure as an adult. We need to make sure all children are ready for school and have access to excellent early childhood programs prior to kindergarten.

I know the value of researchbased, early learning programs from birth to age 5. We know that success and ensures a better high school outcome.

We need to ensure that all students receive individualized support toward helping them develop. Programs such as P-TECH which partner students with company-sponsored internships to help prepare them for the workforce. We need to foster and develop public-private partnerships for rapid delivery of workforce education and development.

Obviously things aren't perfect here or anywhere; there remains a lot to be done to preserve our community. Some of the biggest challenges we face are: creating a stable and fair school funding formula, ensuring our

streets and drinking water systems are in good working order, and that broadband is accessible to all. I also realize how our island community is vulnerable to coastal storms, sea-level rise and other climate change impacts. We must make sure we are planning for the future, by investing in sustainable solutions now.

I know we can do better to reduce red tape and welcome entrepreneurs and small businesses. We can find commonsense solutions to a lot of these problems - it just takes someone willing to put in the work.

I want to make sure your voice is heard in Providence. I commit to restoring the Ethics Commission's ability to police conflicts of interest. Without trust in our leaders, we can't move forward. I will work with our local government, town councils and local law enforcement to make the connection between state policy and community decisions that matter most.

