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## New GOP option for Warren's seat breaks old mold

The Lowell Sun

UPDATED: 04/07/2017 08:30:50 AM EDT

So, what's it going to take for Republicans to unseat a full-term Democratic U.S. senator in this state, where the GOP seems only to have success electing governors?

Can it be accomplished by sending a tried-and-true member of the minority party to take on the Democratic establishment?

Or is it time for an unconventional candidate -- during the term of an unconventional Republican



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president -- to upstage politics as usual and give Massachusetts some semblance of a two-party system?

That time could be now. And that person could be Shiva Ayyadurai.

Ayyadurai, an Indian-born immigrant, entrepreneur, MIT graduate, and Donald Trump supporter, believes he possesses the right background and history of achievement that would breathe needed diversity and vitality into the Republican Party and the state's all-Democratic congressional delegation.

That's the case he tried to make during an interview with editors at The Sun on Monday, an argument more plausible than it might first appear.

Should he become his party's candidate in the 2018 election, he would face first-term U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a divisive figure on her party's progressive wing, more intent on agitating than legislating. With shallow roots in Massachusetts, claiming questionable Cherokee heritage, combined with an insatiable ego, she's more comfortable on the national stage than serving the needs of her constituents.

It's no wonder that even citizens in this bluest of blue states seem indifferent to her performance.

That's reflected in a MassINC Polling Group-WBUR poll released in January.

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It showed that 46 percent of Massachusetts voters think it's time for someone else to serve in the Senate. Warren received a 51 percent approval rating in the survey; 37 percent disapproved of the job she's doing in Washington.

That should be disturbing news for a sitting senator. But this is Massachusetts. So absent a challenge from her own party, what does Warren have to worry about?

Enter Ayyadurai. After coming to this country from India at 14 with literally the clothes on his back, he has since received four advanced degrees from MIT, earned a doctorate in biological engineering, and a Fulbright Scholarship, and launched two startup companies, including one that works to accelerate the drug development process using human genome modeling.

At 53, the Belmont resident embodies everything that America offers someone who's willing to work hard to achieve success, an ethic that Ayyadurai believes condescending politicians like Warren dismiss.

Yes, Ayyadurai has political mountains to climb, as high as the Himalayan range that runs through his native land. Warren has almost \$6 million at her campaign disposal, while Ayyadurai said he'd probably be the main funding source of his campaign.

But sometimes an idea whose time has arrived can overcome overwhelming odds.

An accomplished risk taker and problem solver, Ayyadurai knows the road to becoming the state's first true Indian-American U.S. senator won't be easy -- and for that he's already relishing the challenge.

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Very interesting, the identity thief vs the hard working legal immigrant turned citizen. I was shocked she pays .71 cents on the dollar to here female staffers vs her male employees (worse than the nation here hypocrisy have an end?

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