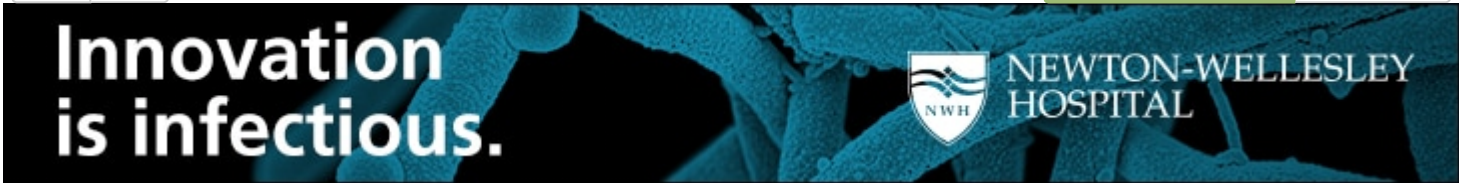




Comments

Subscribe
Starting at 99 cents

Members
Sign In



Entrepreneur Shiva Ayyadurai will run for Senate as an independent



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF/FILE 2017

Shiva Ayyadurai.

By [Laura Crimaldi](#) | GLOBE STAFF NOVEMBER 11, 2017



The field of Republicans vying to unseat Democratic US Senator Elizabeth Warren just got smaller.

Entrepreneur Shiva Ayyadurai, who had been campaigning as a Republican, announced Saturday that he planned run as an independent.

“We dumped the Republican party in Massachusetts,” Ayyadurai said in a telephone interview.

ADVERTISEMENT



“We’ve declared our independence.”

Get **Fast Forward** in your inbox:

Forget yesterday's news. Get what you need today in this early-morning email.

Sign Up

He made the announcement during a campaign event at a hotel in Marlborough.

Ayyadurai, who had registered as a Republican earlier this year, had been facing a primary



58



[Kingston](#) , [state Representative Geoff Diehl](#) , and [longtime party operative Beth Lindstrom](#) .

Comments

Ayyadurai, 53, of Belmont, said he plans to change his party affiliation to unenrolled. He backed President Trump in 2016.

His campaign is focused on creating better jobs, promoting a direct-pay health care system, and reforming campaign finance, Ayyadurai said.

ADVERTISEMENT



As of Sept. 30, Ayyadurai's campaign had nearly \$75,000 on hand, records show. He has raised nearly \$1.3 million, much of which he financed himself.

Ayyadurai holds four degrees from MIT and [claims to have invented e-mail](#). His assertion has been disputed by some technology historians and computer engineers who say early versions of e-mail date back to 1965 when Ayyadurai was a toddler.

A spokeswoman for Diehl's campaign said Ayyadurai's announcement was a "desperation move by a failing candidate." Warren's campaign spokeswoman declined to comment.

Representatives for Lindstrom and Kingston didn't immediately respond to inquiries.

Laura Crimaldi can be reached at laura.crimaldi@globe.com. Follow her on Twitter [@lauracrimaldi](https://twitter.com/lauracrimaldi).



58

