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US Senate candidate Shiva Ayyadurai to run as independent

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Entrepreneur V.A. Shiva Ayyadurai has

announced his 2018 bid to represent Massachusetts in the U.S. Senate. (Photo courtesy: Shiva 4 Senate campaign)

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By Shannon Young, syoung@repub.com

Shiva Ayyadurai, an entrepreneur running for U.S. Senate in 2018, has announced he will cut ties with the Republican Party and continue his campaign as an independent candidate.

Ayyadurai, who was among several Republicans looking to unseat incumbent Democrat Elizabeth Warren in next year's congressional mid-term election, announced Saturday that he is "dumping the Massachusetts GOP establishment and going independent."

Accusing the state party of betraying Republican voters, the Senate hopeful declared what he called "independence from the sewer of Massachusetts career politicians and their cronies that feed the swamp in Washington."

Ayyadurai further called on supporters to join him in ending their party ties.

"It's time for you to leave your parties and become independent," he said, according to a statement released by his campaign. "They do not deserve you!"

Ayyadurai announced his Republican U.S. Senate bid in February. He argued at the time that while he may not be the GOP establishment's candidate, his track record of overcoming barriers and fighting big institutions make him the best person to take on Warren.



He told the Boston Globe Saturday that he plans to change his party affiliation to unenrolled.

The Federal Election Commission still listed Ayyadurai as a Republican Party candidate, as of Tuesday.

Ayyadurai reported more than \$1.21 million in net contributions between June and the end of September, according to FEC filings provided by his campaign.

Those contributions, included more than \$66,200 in donations from individuals and nearly \$1.15 million from the candidate during the reporting period. The campaign, meanwhile, reportedly spent \$1.16 million, bringing its cash balance to \$74,343, the FEC filing stated.

Winchester businessman John Kingston; State Rep. Geoff Diehl, R-Whitman; Beth Lindstrom, a former aide to Mitt Romney and manager of Scott Brown's 2010 Senate campaign; Allen Rodney Waters, of Mashpee; Darius Mitchell, of Lowell; and Heidi Wellman, of Braintree, have all filed to run as Republicans for the Massachusetts Senate seat in 2018, according to FEC data.

John P. Devine, of Woburn, meanwhile, has filed papers to run as an independent candidate for Senate.

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