

## Independent Senate candidate wants to shake up Washington politics

By Christopher Gavin Daily News Staff

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MILFORD - Independent U.S. Senate candidate Shiva Ayyadurai said Thursday he wants to dismantle the traditional party politics of Washington while creating term limits, campaign spending caps and laws that better understand new technology.

The 54 year-old Belmont scientist, entrepreneur and author, speaking in an interview at the Daily News office, said he seeks to return Capitol Hill to innovators and laborers from attorneys and academics, likening his vision to the Founding Fathers, who were also tradesmen, farmers and other professionals.

Doing so would clear the way for lawmakers who thoroughly understand legal issues stemming from new and constantly evolving technology, and who are needed in the 21st century, Ayyadurai said.

“We have new technologies that are coming out now and you have people in Congress...they can’t even understand what laws we should even be putting in place.”

Ayyadurai, who left the Republican Party last fall, came to the United States from India as a 7-year-old and settled with his family - part of their native country’s lowest caste - in New Jersey.

At age 14 in 1978, he developed computer coding for an intra-office, electronic communication system. He called it “EMAIL” and had it copyrighted, giving him the title of the inventor of email - a controversial claim others in the technology industry have criticized.

Since then, Ayyadurai earned four degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, including a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering and computer science; a master’s degree in mechanical engineering and another in visual design; and a doctorate in biological engineering.

He started seven technology companies and currently helms, among others, Cambridge-based CytoSolve, Inc. - which works to find new medicines faster and less costlier than others in the pharmaceutical industry - as its CEO and chairman.

His interests have focused on understanding systems, from biology to communication and politics.

“What I think I bring to this (race) is a guy who’s worked making advancements in communication,...in medicine and now really bringing that to ‘How do you innovate government for the 21st century?’”

He stands among fellow independents Joshua Ford, of Kingston, and John Devine, of Woburn in the race for Democrat Sen. Elizabeth Warren’s seat.

Republican candidates include businessman John Kingston, of Winchester; state Rep. Geoff Diehl, R-Whitman; Beth Lindstrom, a former aide to Gov. Mitt Romney; Heidi Wellman, of Braintree; Darius Mitchell, of Lowell; and Allen Waters, of Mashpee.

With the political shake-up created by Donald Trump’s victory in 2016, Ayyadurai, who voted for Trump, sees an opportunity to redefine the government, the political system and its establishment, which he said both Democrats and Republicans benefit from while failing to fix its problems.

“She’s not a real fighter,” he said of Warren. “She’s part of the elite. This is just a game for her.”

He’d work to impose term limits, create voter identification laws and cap campaign spending, he said.

A policy platform he outlined aims to reduce health care costs, in part, by driving the industry away from large hospitals and toward local doctors and centers.

Ayyadurai said he wants to boost skilled labor by expanding vocational and agricultural schools.

The latter could boost the country’s number of farmers, which could also drive food and agricultural industry to local businesses instead of large corporations, he said.

“I’ve gone through and lived the journey of what every American’s journey has been: immigration, education and innovation....I’ve gone through that unlike any one of these people on the ballot right now,” Ayyadurai said. “And I think that’s what Americans want and that’s what they deserve.”

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