



Hendricken grad, 19, announces run for Warwick House seat.

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By Barbara Polichetti, Journal Staff Writer



WARWICK — William Pierce, a 2006 graduate of Bishop Hendricken High School who has already logged time in public service, announced this week that he is running as a Democrat for the District 24 seat in the state House of Representatives.

Pierce, 19, who served as a page in the U.S. Senate while in high school, said he would work to solve problems and build consensus rather than play party politics.

“I believe in the nobility of public service,” said Pierce, who also worked as a page in the Rhode Island Senate, as an appointee of Warwick Democrat John C. Revens Jr. “It is a disservice to taxpayers when elected officials seek to divide us for political gain, or play budget games on Smith Hill.”

The District 24 seat is held by Republican Joseph A. Trillo, who was first elected to the House in 2000.

Pierce, a lifelong resident of Warwick, is a son of William Pierce Jr. and Gail Pierce. He lives at 3595 Post Rd.

He said he works for a nonprofit health agency, takes classes at Rhode Island College and is a reservist in the Rhode Island National Guard.

He said he is also training to become an emergency medical technician (EMT) and is enrolled in a program at the Community College of Rhode Island.

He works in media relations for the Providence-based Shape Up RI, a weight-loss and exercise initiative.

Pierce said he has long been interested in government and public service, and that one of his first priorities would be to work with other legislators in getting the state budget under control. He said he would also look to keep a watch on local spending and see if there are ways to stop projected school deficits from affecting the city.

A member of the board of directors for Rhode Island Young Democrats, Pierce said he does not see his age as a factor because there are state legislators across the country from 18 to 90 years old.

“I am willing to listen to people, and if elected, I would be working with the City Council, the School Department as well as Mayor [Scott] Avedisian,” he said.

He pledged to work for economic policies that provide tax relief for senior citizens and try to attract more employment opportunities to the state as well as encourage small business growth and development.

Pierce said he is not daunted by taking on Trillo, a longtime incumbent who presumably has substantial resources.

“I have just started fundraising, but I plan on just running my own race,” Pierce said. He said he would knock on as many doors as possible, under the theory that any opponent or opponents “can outspend me, but can’t out walk me.”

“It’s time for new leadership on Smith Hill,” Pierce said. “I will represent the people in District 24 without participating in partisan games at our Capitol or over the airwaves.”

bpoliche@projo.com