

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Providence, RI

Welcome. Thank you for being here.

My name is Mark Binder, and I'm running as a Democrat for the United States House of Representatives from Rhode Island's First District. I want you to vote for me in the September 14 primary.

People say it's impossible. You can't possibly win.

Let me tell you a story. This country was founded on the premise that every vote counts. If there is one thing that the 2000 election proved, it's that every single vote counts. Your vote counts. Don't sell your vote, don't settle your vote, and on September 14, cast your vote for me. Mark your ballot for Mark.

People say, but you're not a politician. That's right. I am a husband, I am a father, I am a small business owner. I led the East Bay Coalition for the Homeless from deficit to surplus. I graduated from Columbia University, and I have an MA from Rhode Island College. I'm an author and storyteller – but I'm not a politician.

I am running for Congress because I want my voice, your voice, the voice of the ordinary person, to be heard in Washington.

People say, but you're not rich. That's right. I am not a professional fund raiser, and I have to work for a living. I have had to worry about which bills to pay. I have had to get creative to make sure that my family stays warm during the winter. I am not rich.

So why am I running for Congress? Because we need leaders and lawmakers, not politicians and fundraisers.

I am running because our country is bogged down in a war in Iraq based on lies, that has increased the threat of terrorism. I protested that war before it started. I would not have voted for that war, and I will push to get us out of that war.

I believe that our homeland security should begin by keeping our National Guard at home.

I am running because I believe that when we declare a war on terror, we give terrorists the political power that they crave. I have a third degree black belt, and I know that you can not defeat an idea with force. We did not win the war on drugs. We did not win the war on poverty. We can not win a war against terror. It is time to stop fighting wars on ideas.

If elected I will introduce legislation to bring home the national guard. I will vote to increase our security by working with the world community, rather than against it. I will vote to increase our security by eliminating tax incentives to buy Hummers and Sports Utility Vehicles.

People say, you can't just run against the war. You have to be positive. I am positive. I am positive that we need to elect leaders who will create solutions that do not rely on threats, guns and bombs. I am positive that we need leaders who understand that democracy can not be imposed upon another people, it must be demanded by those people.

I am positive that we need leaders in Congress who will use their constitutional power to determine the status of prisoners of war, not allow America's name to become synonymous with torture and repression.

I am positive that the first step to getting out of this mess is to throw out the government that got us into this mess. Mark your ballot for Mark Binder.

I am positive that there is more to America than war and national security. Let's support and fund the arts in education and our communities. Kids learn more when there is art and music in their schools.

I am also positive that we need to improve education. No child left behind is a wonderful idea – let's give the teachers and the schools the tools and money and the extra hours they need to accomplish it.

I am positive that we need to protect our rights to free speech, privacy, choice, and marriage from Government control.

I am positive that we need leaders who are willing to eliminate our dependence on fossil fuels by 2020. We can have energy without oil. We can invent new industries to power our nation. We can clean up the environment and improve education all by committing "the best of our energies and skills" to eliminate our dependence fossil fuels by 2020.

I am positive that we can use the power of our government to lower health care costs without sacrificing quality and innovative research.

People say, it's impossible. People say you can't possibly win.

Let me tell you a some stories. Once upon a time people said that it was impossible for human beings to fly. Americans did. You can't go faster than the speed of sound. People said it was impossible. Americans did. You can't send a man to the moon. Americans did.

Once upon a time people said that it was impossible – you can't have a government by the people, for the people, of the people. Americans did.

America was founded on an impossible notion. That it doesn't matter who your father was or how rich you are, that all men and all women are created equal. America was created by people who made laws, not people who listened to their staff. America was created by leaders not politicians.

If you want a politician, a follower, a fundraiser vote for my opponent. If you want a leader and a lawmaker, vote for me. Mark your ballot for Mark.

My name is Mark Binder, and I want you to do more than just vote for me on September 14. I want you to tell ten other people, and ask them to tell ten more people to vote Independents and Democrats ... Mark Binder for the United States House of Representatives First District on September 14.

THANK YOU.

