



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

Margaret O'Brien to Run for 61st District House Seat

Portage, MI: Portage City Councilwoman Margaret O'Brien will be announcing her intentions to run for the 61st District State House of Representatives seat. She will announce at Allegra Print and Imaging at 6054 Lovers Lane, Portage MI on January 28th at 5 pm.

O'Brien, 36, will be running as a Republican in the 61st District for the seat presently held by Larry DeShazor, who has announced he is running for State Senate.

O'Brien, a REALTOR® with RE/MAX Advantage in Portage, is a life-long resident of Kalamazoo County and a graduate of Mattawan High School. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Relations from Michigan State University's James Madison College and is a Michigan Political Leadership Program Fellow and Michigan in Excellence Public Service Series Graduate. O'Brien and her husband Nick have two middle school children, son Tyjon and daughter Samantha.

O'Brien was first elected to the Portage City Council in 2003 and was re-elected in 2007. O'Brien has championed numerous causes during her tenure including tackling street special assessments, promoting transparency in government and working with citizens on neighborhood issues. O'Brien has also worked to involve youth in Portage City Government and has worked with community leaders to remediate methamphetamine contaminated homes. Most recently, O'Brien has assisted business owners and residents with taxation issues and continues to work on intergovernmental cooperation.

After losing a close primary election in 2008 to Deshazor, O'Brien returned to her real estate business and work on the Portage City Council. "When Rep. DeShazor announced his bid for the State Senate," O'Brien stated, "I have been approached by numerous community leaders and encouraged to run again for the 61st District House Seat. These leaders felt that my experience, community involvement, and track record are what is needed for the 61st House Seat."

Former Portage Mayor Pro Tem Ted Vlieg is endorsing O'Brien and states, "Margaret has been actively involved in many legislative and quasi-legislative activities in the past several years, particularly her two terms on Portage City Council, where she has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and accomplishment. She brings an eviable level of energy and commitment to addressing current issues and has a clear vision for the future. She will represent the 61st District very well."

O'Brien wants to take her track record to Lansing stating, "I am running for State Representative because I believe in the people of Michigan. Chaos, poor policy and budget woes are coming out of Lansing every day. It is time to put the residents and businesses in our state first. During my six years on the Portage City Council, I have worked with our community and tackled tough issues. I want to represent our community in Lansing and put Michigan back on track."

O'Brien has a distinguished record of public service to Kalamazoo County and will work hard to represent the 61st District with an emphasis on tax reform, common sense spending, and creating a new climate for Michigan business growth and job creation.

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For more information, please contact Margaret O'Brien at margaret@margaretobrien.com or by phone at 269-377-4294. You may also visit her website www.margaretobrien.com. Please contact Margaret O'Brien for video clips from the event.