

## SETH MOULTON

CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS IN THE SIXTH DISTRICT  
MASSACHUSETTS PRIMARY ~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

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Incumbent Democrat Seth Moulton is entering this year's election facing an unprecedented amount of competition. Moulton, who has served as representative for the 6th district since 2015, ran unopposed in the 2018 Democratic Primary Election, and completely unopposed in the 2016 election. This year, he's putting his hat back in the ring to continue his fight both locally and on the national stage for better mental health programs, support for veterans, combating climate change, and social equality.

Moulton's original decision to run for Congress in 2014 was hardly premeditated. He graduated from Harvard in 2001 with a degree in physics, then served four tours in Iraq as a member of the Marine Corps. "I joined the Marines because I believe in serving my country and wanted to do something to give back," where he "ended up in a war that I disagreed with, but in which I was proud to fight so that nobody had to go in my place." In 2011 he returned to Harvard and earned his master's degree in business and public policy. Even then, he didn't have his eyes set on any sort of Congressional bid, as he entered the private sector in Texas after graduating. "You don't move to Texas if you're planning to run for Congress in Massachusetts," he joked.

During his time serving in Iraq, his frustration with Washington's treatment of active military and returning veterans alike began to grow. He cited distance and a lack of understanding from leaders in Washington as the root of this frustration. They "weren't in touch with what it's like to be out there fighting on the front lines."

Moulton continues to maintain a close relationship with programs created for veterans returning home; "I made a commitment to continue going to the VA, even as a member of Congress. That means I'm a regular patient at the Bedford VA, and I've seen the good, the bad, and the ugly of what works and what doesn't work at the VA." The issues he saw facing vets was one of the primary catalysts in his decision to run for Congress in 2014, deciding "that if people with my experiences don't ever run to change Washington then we're just going to keep making these same mistakes."

His focus on veterans has not dwindled since taking office. In 2016 the "Faster Care for Veterans Bill," penned by Moulton, was signed into law, providing easier access to healthcare for Veterans. Moving forwards, he hopes to develop programs to better address the mental health of veterans returning home.

During his time as representative, Moulton has tackled hot-ticket issues on the national stage. Serving as the Vice Chair of the House Budget Committee and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, he was among the first to co-sponsor the Green New Deal. His commitment to sustainable energy does not end with

co-sponsoring the Deal, however. “I’ve laid out my priorities. Number one, America should be the leader in clean energy and sell that technology to the rest of the world. Number two, we need a strategy for the developing world that includes new technology for clean power. And three, we need to have carbon capture technologies because there’s already too much carbon in the atmosphere.”

He also continues to push an ambitious mental health plan, “that includes establishing 988 as the three-digit national mental health hotline,” he said. Addressing mental health, for veterans and all citizens alike, is one of Moulton’s priorities should he be re-elected. This commitment appears to be more needed than ever, Moulton says. ““We’re going to be dealing with the mental health consequences of Covid-19 long past the physical health issues, so it makes my mental health plan all the more timely and important.”

At the August 2 Democratic Primary Debate held in Nahant, he was repeatedly challenged by his opponents for his stance on various political issues. Criticism is something Moulton, who is often condemned for being a ‘centrist’ Democrat and spending too much time focusing on Washington rather than the 6th district, is used to. Addressing the claims his policies are too moderate, he explained that bi-partisan bills are the only ones able to pass in the modern political climate. “Bills passed by the House have to be passed by the Senate before they go to the President’s desk. As long as Republicans control the Senate, we have to make bills bi-partisan,” he said, “It’s also why I work so hard on flipping the Senate and why the work my team did through Serve America to flip the House has established the one bulwark we have against President Trump.” Serve America, a PAC organized by Moulton, seeks to back democratic and military service-oriented candidates running for seats in the House and Senate. “My opponents criticize Serve America and yet it’s because of Serve America that we have so many Democrats in the House, and that’s the only way we can work to flip the Senate, is to take a stake in these broader national issues.”

Much of their criticism of Serve America at the debate was centered around his commitment to national issues over ones facing the 6th district specifically. While he acknowledges that addressing national issues is a priority for him, he refutes the claim that he neglects issues facing his district. “Name another representative who has brought over a billion dollars to their district in the last few years,” he challenged. Moulton has fought to bring millions for local fishermen, create jobs, and bring housing developments to the district. Many of these efforts have been directed at Lynn, where he created an intergovernmental task force focused on revitalizing the economy and brought millions for housing assistance.

Tangential to his economic development plans for the district are plans for a railway system in the area, expressing how urgently “we need a 21st Century regional rail network that’s connected to a national high speed rail network that will transform our economy and get us around the Commonwealth and the country.”

Although this year’s election presents him with more competition than previous ones, Moulton appears as comfortable and confident as ever. “My political opponents will sling a bunch of false attacks and political mud at me, but I know that’s the nature of campaigns,” he said, “I’ve had a lot worse shot at me than political mud, so I’m not too worried about it.”