

## About Dennis Sabbath Candidate For State Senate 5

Dennis Sabbath, candidate for State Senate 5, a democrat, is well known to the Jewish community as a former Temple Beth Shalom board member, a Jewish Federation board member and first president of the Hebrew Academy.

There is no incumbent for the seat. What got into Dennis that made him want to run for State Senate? Strong encouragement from Governor Richard Bryan and Congressman Harry Reid convinced him. Senate Majority Leader Jim Gibson and others impressed upon him the critical need for attorneys in the State Legislature. The number of attorneys is down to one or two depending on the outcome of the election and leaders like Spike Wilson are not running for reelection.

Economic diversity and growth for the Las Vegas valley are at the top of Dennis' list. As an economics major, a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Business, a University of Chicago Law School graduate and a strong family business background, Dennis under-



stands the needs of business -- a good tax base and laws that work to encourage growth and diversity in the economy.

The inequality of taxes that each Southern Nevada pays compared to their rural and Northern Nevada counterpart is one area that must be restructured, says Dennis.

Strong on fighting crime, Dennis got the Police Protective Association endorsement and is a former Deputy City Attorney. A strong supporter of education, Dennis also received the endorsement of the Clark County Classroom Teachers Association and the Nevada State

Education Association.

Growing up with his family home improvement business in Washington, D.C., Dennis met his wife Roberta when they were both in the fifth grade. They married while Dennis was still in law school. After graduation, both joined VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America); Dennis in the VISTA Alaska Legal Program. Because an athletic injury to his back prevented him from joining the service, he felt this would be a way of serving his country.

Working with the native Alaskan Aleuts on Kodiak Island, Dennis worked with a team that developed a native run salmon processing industry in one of the villages with processing in the City of Kodiak and marketing to the Japanese that netted the villagers thousands of dollars.

With her teaching background, Roberta developed and got funding for the Kodiak Adult Basic Education program which is still in existence today. Also for the village high school students who board in the city for the school year, Roberta developed a social-educational club.

Living in Alaska confirmed Dennis and Roberta's desire to leave the congestion of the East coast and they decided to come to Las Vegas 17 years ago where Dennis' parents, Florence and Jack Sabbath, had already moved. Dennis started work at Lionel and Sawyer's Law Firm and later became Deputy City Attorney. Roberta worked at the Clark County Juvenile Court Services Protective Services Department before they started their family.

Later Dennis started his own law firm of Sabbath and Christensen which now has seven attorneys. He is particularly proud of his building which started as a 52 year old home and developed into one of the most admired offices in Las Vegas.

A former president and campaign chairman of Women's Division, Jewish Federation, Roberta is now on the board of the Hebrew Academy.

Before their family started, the couple enjoyed sailing on Lake Mead. Later Dennis got his private pilot's license and now plays golf. When they can, the family enjoys four wheelin', camping and hiking.

Roberta and Dennis have three children, Adam, 11, Shana, 7, and Jonathan, 4.

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