

The Patriot Ledger

Muratore and Mahoney set for rematch in First Plymouth District race

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PLYMOUTH — In a rematch of an extremely close race from the 2016 election that saw a difference of just over 400 votes between the two candidates, incumbent Republican Mathew Muratore will face off against Democrat John Mahoney Jr. for a seat as state representative for the First Plymouth District in the Nov. 6 election.

Muratore, who has held the seat since 2014, was reported by the town of Plymouth in their official list of 2016 results to have received only 402 more votes than Mahoney, with 24,884 votes counted. Neither candidate faced a challenger in the Sept. 4 primary.

Both candidates say they are campaigning by knocking on doors to introduce themselves to voters and sending out information in the mail. Mahoney said that he is also planning on using internet ads.

Muratore said that he plans on focusing on housing and its affordability, taxes and healthcare, as well as Question 1, which would put a limit on the number of patients assigned to nurse in hospitals.

"I'm really looking at healthcare, and healthcare costs, how do we get those better controlled," said Muratore.

Issues that Mahoney says he plans to highlight include taxes, the opioid epidemic, the decommissioning of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant, the state of Massachusetts' infrastructure and financial support from the state for the 400th anniversary of Plymouth, which is less than two years away in 2020.

"Obviously, responsible handling of tax revenues is always a huge issue with me," Mahoney said.

Muratore previously worked as a nursing home and health rehabilitation center administrator and owns a healthcare consulting company that specializes in elder care. He was a member of the Plymouth Board of Selectman for five years, two of them as chairman, and also served as a member of the Advisory and Finance Committee and chairman of the Plymouth Council on Aging. Muratore has a degree in business management from Northeastern University.

Mahoney is currently serving his fourth three-year term on the Plymouth Board of Selectmen. He works for Kone Elevator Company and is a member of the International Union of Elevator Constructors. He first served his town as an elected member of Town Meeting and was then appointed to the Advisory and Finance Committee before winning a seat on the Board of Selectman. Mahoney has a degree in business management from Bridgewater State University.

For campaign financing, Muratore raised \$17,635 during the pre-primary period of Jan. 1, 2018 to Aug. 17, 2018, and spent \$14,254.06. During that same period, Mahoney raised \$14,195 and spent \$5,320.36. Full campaign finance reports from the state are available at ocpf.us.

A forum between the two candidates is planned for 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 25 at the Plymouth Town Hall, located at 26 Court St.

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Sign up online, by mail or in person. Any citizen who will turn 18 by Nov. 6 is eligible. The deadline is Oct. 17; city and town clerks will stay open until 8 p.m. on the last day. Early voting begins Oct. 22 and ends Nov. 2.



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