



May 2, 2018

## Nakajima for State Representative announces campaign team with strong ties to Amherst area, UMass, labor unions and progressive causes

*Announcement follows certification of nomination signatures by Secretary of State's Office, Eric Nakajima officially on Democratic Primary Ballot in September*

Eric Nakajima announced today the appointment of his senior campaign team, which includes staff with deep ties in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hampshire District and a strong track record of winning political and organizing campaigns in Amherst and Western Massachusetts. **Leo Maley**, a 20 year veteran of labor, community, and political organizing campaigns, was named Campaign Manager. **Joanne Levenson**, a recently retired UMass Amherst administrator and longtime advocate for families, was named Outreach Coordinator. Experienced grassroots canvasser and Amherst native **Jamal Cumberbatch** was named Field Coordinator.

“Our team brings a depth of political experience and knowledge of the community that will make sure we can engage voters throughout Amherst, Pelham and Granby and organize a winning campaign,” said Eric Nakajima.

On Tuesday, May 1, 2018, the Nakajima Campaign was certified to appear on the Democratic Primary Ballot following submission of nearly double the number of certified nomination signatures to the Secretary of State's Office in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Democratic Primary is September 4, 2018.

“We are already out knocking doors, talking with voters and getting a great response,” said Campaign Manager Leo Maley, “The Democratic Primary is four months away – with nomination papers certified we are ready to work.”

Leo Maley has a track record managing winning political campaigns in Amherst and throughout Western Massachusetts. He has served as Chair of the Amherst Town Democratic Committee and as campaign manager for progressive and Democratic campaigns. Leo was Associate Director of the Massachusetts Nurses Association Division of Legislation and Government Affairs. He worked with nurses throughout Hampshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Berkshire counties and was responsible for 25 state legislative districts in Western Mass. He was a former member and organizer of the UMass Amherst Graduate Employee Organization (UAW 2322). Leo has been recognized and honored by the Pioneer Valley AFL-CIO and Western Massachusetts Coalition on Occupational Safety and Health.

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Leo Maley, 413-262-0630

Joanne Levenson recently retired after forty years at UMass Amherst. She served as the Director of the Office of Family Resources at UMass Amherst, oversaw the Amherst Family Center, and was a member of the Amherst Human Services Network. Joanne was a longtime union activist and leader, serving as the Chair of the Professional Staff Union at UMass (Massachusetts Teachers Association). She served on many local committees, including the Amherst Fair Housing Committee and as former chair of the Amherst Housing Partnership. Joanne has known Eric for 35 years, since he was a sophomore at Amherst Regional High School.

Jamal Cumberbatch grew up in Amherst and is a product of the Amherst Public Schools. Jamal enjoys organizing volunteers and building grassroots campaigns dedicated to progressive causes. He most recently worked as canvas team leader for the Southern Poverty Law Center's anti-hate group campaign in Western Massachusetts.

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