

Two good men: One choice

Ed Markey is a good man. Joe Kennedy is a good man.

Campaigns and pundits may nitpick, but both have served us well. During a pandemic, an economic crisis, a push for racial justice, we need both now more than ever. That's not possible.

In a year when all forward-thinking Americans are focused on defeating Donald Trump and Mitch McConnell, Joe Kennedy decided to challenge Ed Markey. Every hour and dollar spent here will not be spent winning the White House and Senate.

The big question is why?

Months later we still don't know. This is not Ed Markey's seat. Nor is it the Kennedys'.

Kennedy entered the race against Markey declaring he had no policy dispute with Markey. Why run?

Kennedy argues we need fresh faces and fresh ideas. But Joe's been in Washington, D.C. for eight years. Where's the new, big idea? And as for fresh faces, two years ago when Ayanna Pressley challenged an incumbent, Joe was with the incumbent.

Now Kennedy declares he can do more. More of what? He argues he will fix the racial divide, broken by 50 years of failed political leadership. Ted Kennedy served in Washington

for 47 years, Patrick Kennedy for 16 years, Joe Kennedy II for 12 years, Joe Kennedy III for 8 years. They were our political leadership for the past 50 years, and we admired them all. Massachusetts voters respect ambition. We respect competition. But we need a rationale. Why?

Ed Markey is a workhorse.

He forged the path on a wide range of issues. Before climate change became a movement, Markey took on the fossil fuel industry. Before technology ruled our lives, Markey took on internet providers to ensure access and competition. Before Detroit drove itself into bankruptcy, Markey took on the auto industry to require greater fuel efficiency. Before Alzheimer's became an epidemic, Markey fought for the largest funding for research in NIH history.

Now Ed Markey leads again with AOC and the Green New Deal.

He leads again with net neutrality ensuring access and fairness on the internet. He leads again on clean energy, building off-shore wind farms, solar panels and the cleanup of urban brownfields in Gateway Cities.

Ed Markey has not merely been a progressive vote. He has been an extraordinary leader. He takes on big special interests, and wins.

We respect Joe Kennedy. We need Ed Markey.