

I have always had an entrepreneurial spirit. I started my first business while still in college and from 1996 to 2011, I grew it into a robust and viable enterprise. During the course of developing the business, I created and ran my own e-commerce website, started a retail storefront, and managed a multiple location renaissance faire presence from Maine to Florida. I developed long standing vendor relationships with organizations like the Huntington Theater Company, Boston Lyric Opera, Metropolitan Opera, and the Jamestown/Yorktown Foundation supplying them with everything from costumes to swords and armor.

In 2005, at the height of my business prosperity, I went through the most challenging personal experience of my life. My wife and I experienced an extremely high risk twin pregnancy that resulted in the premature birth of my daughters, Meredith and Mallory.

On the heels of this personal ordeal, my business was enduring the great recession and from 2006-2009 we suffered significant decline in revenue. Although the business had enough reserves and credit to sustain a 2-3 year economic downturn, a recession of this magnitude required other tactics.

In 2011, at a time when companies too big to fail did just that I was forced to reorganize my company under chapter 7 bankruptcy. Fortunately, through careful planning and consultation with my accountants and financial advisors, I was able to steer the company out of this crisis while still managing to fulfill all obligations to my employees, my vendors, and state and federal entities. I am proud to say I never missed a mortgage payment or tax payment during the entire process.

As many people know, one of the main platforms of my campaign has been the need for special education funding reform. When the school budget is approved, there is absolutely no way to plan for the possibility of any students coming into the system mid-year with an IEP that requires a significant financial obligation. This obligation must be met by the school system in the current year, but state reimbursement does not come until the following year and at best is at 75% of what the local system expended.

Much like the school department's struggle with these unforeseen cost obligations, my experience with financially related challenges beyond my control has given me a unique perspective on this issue.

I am proud of my accomplishments and I appreciate the opportunity to share some insight into a few of the elements that make me a powerful and effective community leader.