

Beacon Hill Byline by Mary Rogeness

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Let's Stay in Touch!

This week's column calls for a true confession from me. When first seeking a seat in the Legislature, I offered to establish an 800 number so that you could call the Boston office without paying a toll. Once in the Statehouse, however, I discovered that the in-house telephone network will not accommodate that arrangement. Since that option is not available, please accept my apology and try one of these alternatives.

Most simply, you can call 567-5480 and leave a message on my Longmeadow answering machine. That may be the easiest way to contact me. Some of you have hesitated to call me at home, but since I do not have a local office, I expect to receive any and all calls.

If you need an immediate response, call my Statehouse office, 617-722-2240. If I am not available, my legislative assistant Roxanna Booth is on duty. If you have worked with Roxanna, you know that she is a very good problem solver. The cost of a brief call is comparable to postage, and we can arrange to initiate any call that involves extensive time on the phone.

Send a letter to Longmeadow or the Statehouse, Boston (02133), if that is your preferred means of communication. The written word is falling victim to the ease of the telephone in our society, but sometimes an issue seems to demand the formality of a letter. I look forward to reading your comments as well as hearing them. If you have access to a fax machine, you can combine the written word with the speed of the telephone, and fax a note to 617-722-2390.

For personal contact, check the newspaper for my scheduled office hours. If the schedule is inconvenient for you, I will be glad to arrange a meeting at your convenience. I attend as many community events as possible and welcome those opportunities to talk with you.

If you are in Boston, stop in at the Statehouse so I can show you around. My office has moved to temporary quarters during a massive remodeling project, so a preliminary call will make it easier for us to get together.

As I complete this first year as your state representative, let me thank all of you for helping me learn about the issues that concern you. Many people from all parts of the district have called on me over the past year. Some of you want my assistance in filing bills; some of you need help in getting results from state government; some are concerned about legislative proposals that may affect your daily lives. You have been generous with your offers of friendship. As we look toward a new legislative year, I look forward to building on this first year of service to you.