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Incumbents face wave of younger challengers



House Ways and Means Committee ranking member Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA) speaks during a hearing in the Longworth House Building on Capitol Hill in 2025 in Washington, DC. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

Opponents run on message of generational change

Margie Cullen
Cape Cod Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW ENGLAND

At an Aug. 20 debate for the Democratic Senate nomination in Massachusetts, a question about whether the candidates use artificial intelligence programs like ChatGPT got to the heart of one of the race’s main issues.

“I use whatever is inside of my iPhone or my iPad, whatever comes up,” Sen. Ed Markey said. “I don’t know what companies my iPad might be using, but if it does, in fact, provide me with the information which I’m asking the device to give to me, then of course I’m using it.”

Rep. Seth Moulton seized on the response to support one of his central lines of attack against the incumbent: that Markey, 80, is too old to be elected to his third full term.

“With all due respect Senator, if you don’t even know what you’re using on your phone or your iPad, this is why we need a new generation of leaders to regulate these technologies,” Moulton said.

Moulton, 47, is one of several Democratic candidates running a primary challenge to an incumbent in Massachusetts on a message of generational change. Of the state’s nine U.S. House members, four are facing primary opponents with a version of the same message.

The unusually high number of primary challenges against incumbents in the Bay State follows a national



Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass., is challenging incumbent Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., in the 2026 Democratic primary for U.S. Senate.

COMPOSITE IMAGE BY JULIUS LASIN

trend. Around the country, Democrats running against a more experienced, usually older opponent, have been calling for change.

Many, including activist Darializa Avila Chevalier, 32, who beat five-term Rep. Adriano Espaillat, 71, in New York; lawyer Melat Kiros, 29, who defeated 15-term Rep. Diana DeGette, 69, in Colorado; and former Hartford, Connecticut, Mayor Luke Bronin, 47, who beat 14-term Rep. John Larson, 78, have won off that

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Fiancée recalls ‘happy-go-lucky guy’ year after his murder

Rachel Gow
Worcester Telegram & Gazette | USA TODAY NETWORK

SHREWSBURY – Sarah Schofield remembers her fiancé, Kevin Doherty, as someone so infrequently in a bad mood it almost annoyed her. Really though, it made her love him more.

“I’m not much of a morning person, but he would hop out of bed every day and be like, ‘Good morning babe!’” said Schofield. “He would just find a positive in whatever he was doing. He was never a negative guy.”

Doherty, formerly of Framingham, was 56 when he was shot and killed on Aug. 28, 2025, along the Jordan Pond walking path after dropping his son off at school, a killing that rocked the Shrewsbury community, where such assaults are rare. The neighborhood is south of Route 9, across from Whole Foods Market.

Snehal A. Srivastava, 27, was apprehended after the attack, following an hours-long standoff with police and faces murder charges in Doherty’s killing. Srivastava was indicted in Worcester Superior Court

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Sudbury man sentenced in \$8M embezzlement case

Norman Miller
The MetroWest Daily News | USA TODAY NETWORK

A Sudbury man who embezzled nearly \$8 million from two former employers was sentenced on Thursday, Aug. 27, in U.S. District Court in Worcester to four years in federal prison.

Along with the prison sentence, U.S. District Court Judge Margaret Guzman ordered Adam Gentile to pay \$7.8 million in restitution and to be on supervised release for four years once he completes his prison sentence.

Guzman allowed Gentile to self-report to prison on Dec. 28, meaning he will remain on pretrial conditions until then.

Gentile pleaded guilty on March 31 to three counts of wire fraud.

According to the Department of Justice, Gentile was hired in 2014 as an administrative assistant for a

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Kevin Meehan
Owner

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