

## CANDARAS BIOGRAPHY

Gale Candaras, Wilbraham (D), was born in Brooklyn, New York, on New Years Day, 1949, to Speros Candaras of Antyssa, Mytelene, Greece, and Ethel Andrews of Brooklyn, New York, both deceased. Gale's maternal grandparents were from Cork, Ireland. Gale was raised in Brooklyn and Teaneck, New Jersey, where she attended public schools and graduated from Teaneck High School. Gale held various jobs after high school, including working for Neuberger and Berman, a boutique brokerage firm in New York City, and went on to graduate from Fairleigh Dickinson University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Honor's College, *magna cum laude*, in Business Management.

Gale moved to Massachusetts in 1979, starting at Western New England College School of Law in August of that year. During law school, Gale lived first in Palmer and, then, in Wilbraham. She graduated from Law School and was admitted to practice before the New Jersey bar in 1983.

After graduation from Law School, Gale returned with Evan to New York City to work with the equity trading and arbitrage division of Goldman Sachs, located in the financial district. Gale was admitted to the New York bar during her tenure with the Firm. At Goldman Sachs, she was charged with preparing the Division's budget and was also the compliance liaison between the legal department and the trading floor where she worked. She also was the liaison to the floor of the NYSE and AMEX. She was promoted to Senior Administrative Manager and remained in that position until 1988, when she returned to live in Wilbraham Massachusetts. After returning to Wilbraham, Gale was admitted to the bars in both Connecticut and Massachusetts, where she worked as a lawyer.

Gale's first foray into politics was encouraged by a colleague who asked her to do him a favor and serve out his term on the Wilbraham Planning Board, which she did. Thereafter, Gale served as a local volunteer on the Wilbraham Finance Committee and, later, on the Wilbraham Board of Selectmen, where she served from May, 1989 to December 31, 1996. Gale is only the second woman ever to serve on the Wilbraham Selectboard in the Town's 250 year history. Gale Candaras was first sworn as State Representative for the 13<sup>th</sup> Hampden District on January 1, 1997, and has served continuously from that time.

After the federal census in 2000 and redistricting in 2002, population shifts caused Western Mass to lose a seat in the legislature and Gale began serving the 12<sup>th</sup> Hampden District, the largest district, in terms of the number of people served, of in the Commonwealth.

Gale's service in the House includes the Committees on the Judiciary, Government Regulations, Public Service, Ethics and Personnel. Gale was the first in her legislative class of 1997 to be promoted to leadership, serving first as Vice Chair of Public Service, then Chair of the House Committee on Ethics and, for the past two terms as a Division Leader. Gale chaired the State-Wide Committee on the Adequacy and Allocation of Court Funding and, presently, Chairs the State Task Force on Cervical Cancer.

Gale is married with one son. Gale's husband and son are both attorneys.