



James Arena-DeRosa (Peace Corps' New England Regional Director)

Massachusetts House of Representatives District of 8th Middlesex

Election date: Nov 3, 2026

Website: <https://www.representativearena-derosa.com/>

The grandson of Italian immigrants who made their way to Boston through Ellis Island, James' father drove a truck, owned a gas station, and later learned lithography. His mother was a nurse who directed nursing programs for the Commonwealth.

Raised in Walpole, his mom brought Freedom Riders to their home, hosted environmental meetings/cleanups, supported Kennedy campaigns, ran PTA meetings, and helped anti-hunger walks. It was these experiences that inspired James to be involved in various Democratic campaigns during his studies at Xaverian Brothers High School and Harvard University.

Elected to the House of Representatives in 2022, James has spent his entire life working in public service. His passion for activism and service was instilled in him at a young age by his mom, Vera DeRosa, whose living room was often full of Democratic activists she supported during the 1960s and 70s. As a young boy, James met union organizers, student activists, political candidates, and Freedom Riders.

While my whole life has been dedicated to different public service initiatives, three points in my career laid the groundwork for my imminent run for office. I was the New England Director for the Peace Corps, Northeast Regional Administrator at USDA Food and Nutrition, and Director of Public Advocacy for Oxfam America. Being on the administrative side of public service allowed me to see how laws are implemented into people's everyday lives and prompted my desire to become more directly involved in the legislative process.

Relevant links:

https://ballotpedia.org/James_Arena-DeRosa

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/james-arena-derosa-9317904>

<https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/ICD1>