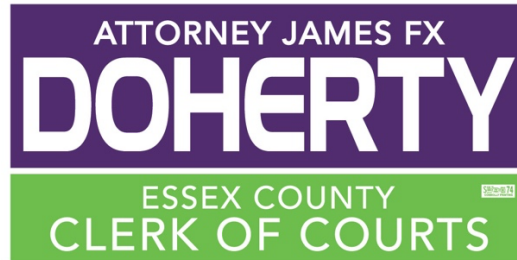


**\*\*\*MEDIA RELEASE\*\*\***

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## **Attorney James FX Doherty announces bid for Essex County Clerk of Courts --advocates for “Getting Politics Out of Our Courts.”**

**Salem, MA---**

James FX Doherty, an accomplished lawyer, court official and public office holder who has been both a leader and activist in the Democratic Party is actively campaigning to become the Essex County Clerk of Courts.

Doherty is campaigning for accountability- not just for the individual, but for all the Courts’ constituencies to take a candid look at why most people end up in court in the first place. “I am dedicated to the notion that the law should work for everyone, but in reality- it doesn’t”, Doherty said. As a strong believer in personal accountability, “we need to be clear why most people are in court to begin with.”

In his trial court experience Doherty estimates, “that approximately 90% of the people who appear in court, regardless of the underlying charges, are there for one of three distinct reasons: substance abuse, mental health issues, or from being on the bottom of the economic scale. In many cases, it’s all three.”

He pointed out that, “We do not have legal or judicial issues as much as we have societal issues, and we need to be both candid and creative about addressing these underlying causes, because when we do it will ultimately result in both an increase in public safety and a reduction in recidivism”, Doherty said.

Doherty believes that the Clerk of Courts should not be an elected position, but rather an appointed position in the same manner as Judges and Clerk Magistrates are appointed in Massachusetts and will work to change that. “The current practice prevents many qualified individuals from serving as Clerk unless they have the time, money, and political resources to run for political office, which most people do not.”

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Doherty is also a strong advocate for term limits for the Clerk's position. He stated, "No one regardless of performance should be able to seek a fifth, six-year term for what would be for a total of 30 years, if served. Even the President of the United States has a two-term limit for a total of 8 years."

Doherty has garnered years of legal and procedural experience as an attorney and currently serves as an Assistant Clerk Magistrate in the Massachusetts Court system. Among his many court duties and responsibilities, he takes pride in his involvement in the *Boston Veteran's Treatment Court* and with the *Homeless Court Session of the Boston Municipal Court*.

Doherty, who lives in Salem MA, grew up in neighboring Beverly MA in a politically active family. Jim was first elected to city wide office in Beverly at the age of 24 going on to be re-elected four times for what is now the Beverly City Council. He was also elected four times as a delegate to the Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. Doherty went on to gain first-hand experience in national politics when he served as the Treasurer of the Host Committee for the Democratic National Convention when it was held in Boston.

He is the proud father of four children, Erin, Sean, Connor, and Kara Doherty, who were raised in Beverly and who still work and live on the Northshore.

James FX Doherty's name will appear on the ballot for Essex County Clerk of Courts in the Democratic State Primary election to be held on on Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

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