

**Auditor DeNucci is keynote speaker at the Newton Mayor's Community Prayer Breakfast  
05/21/2008**

State Auditor Joe DeNucci, guest speaker at the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Newton Mayor's Community Prayer Breakfast at Boston College, stressed the importance of faith and the respect of other religious beliefs, ethnic backgrounds and differing viewpoints.

Auditor DeNucci, in keeping with the interfaith event's theme of "one community of faithful citizens," said the anti-Italian discrimination that he experienced as a youth led him to become a champion for equal rights for all people. As an example, he described his support for gay rights legislation early in his tenure as a state representative, at a time when the issue did not have the public support that it has today.

"I spoke that day just because in my heart, and in my gut, I thought it was the right thing to do," DeNucci said. "And that's one of two things that have driven me in public service: Try to do the right thing, and try to help people. I believe that has to come from my faith and my family . . . my belief that we should treat people the same way we want to be treated."

DeNucci joined Newton Mayor David Cohen, other city and state officials, and clergy of all faiths at the prayer breakfast. Auditor DeNucci had special praise for Mayor Cohen, who recently announced he is not seeking re-election.

"I know he is a good, decent and intelligent man who has done a lot of good for Newton," said DeNucci. "And I hope that doesn't get lost in everything else that is happening."

Auditor DeNucci also appealed to the citizens of Newton to come together after the divisive override campaign. "Let's be passionate about our causes, and the city we love," said DeNucci. "But let's do it with respect and understanding, and remembering the people on the other side are our neighbors."



Auditor DeNucci speaks at the Newton Mayor's Community Prayer Breakfast at Boston College.



Auditor DeNucci with Newton Mayor David Cohen