

For State Representative - 110<sup>th</sup> District

**Emanuela Palmares** (Republican, Independent)

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*1. Why are you running for this office?*

I am running for office because the 110th needs a leader who has a ground-level understanding of its diversity and challenges, who is willing to foster a relationship with all of its residents and give them a voice in the legislature.

More than 45% of the 110th's population are Latino, almost 50% are women, and about 20% are children. The languages most spoken in our community are English, Portuguese and Spanish.

I am a single mother of a special needs child that needs services. I am a partner in a small business who feels the heavy burden of CT's tax policies. I am an immigrant who was undocumented, went through a long process to become a citizen, and have devoted my career to bringing people together. I was raised in the 110th, I live in the 110th, and I am working very hard to have the honor to serve it.

*2. What are your top 3 legislative priorities?*

**SCHOOL FUNDING**

Connecticut needs school funding reform. Schools should be funded based on student need. Students at Morris Street, Park Avenue, Rogers Park and South Street schools deserve better.

**THE BUDGET**

Connecticut must prioritize its budget with a focus on education, health, and social services. Just as we manage our household budgets, Connecticut cannot spend more than it makes.

**BUSINESS AND JOB CREATION**

To create a sustainable economy, we need a business climate with incentives open to ALL companies willing to create jobs in our state, not programs open just to a select few.

Our state has one of the highest tax burdens in the nation. Our residents and business need tax relief.

We need measures that support our small businesses, and bring back manufacturing to our area.

*3. Do you believe there are barriers to voting in Connecticut? If so, what would you do to eliminate them?*

Yes. Election day should be a national holiday. People who are born in the US should be automatically registered and given an option to opt out when they turn 18 years of age.

Naturalized American citizens should be the only ones required to go through the voter registration process. The one thing I would not do is to make the Department of Motor Vehicles in charge of the process. The right to vote is the bedrock of our democracy, America wins when more Americans vote.

**Bob Godfrey** (Democratic, Working Families)

No response received.