

For State Representative - 136<sup>th</sup> District (Westport)

**Jonathan Steinberg** (Democratic)

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

I seek my fourth term in the General Assembly knowing full well how tough it will be to deal with another billion-plus budget deficit. Over the past two years, I've worked hard to master budget policy and what can be done to establish a truly sustainable budget for the long-term. Most importantly, I've played a larger role in the budget process. As the leader of the Moderates Caucus within House Democrats, I fought to roll back ill-advised business tax increases, which we accomplished. We also fought income tax increases, which I voted against. Calling for change isn't good enough. You have to have a plan. We've advocated for the CT21 Initiative, proposals which collectively can save state government over a \$1 billion annually. We've already had success: overtime costs have been cut dramatically and a prison closed because of imposed efficiencies. I'm committed to seeing the remaining recommendations instituted.

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

Transportation, the budget and the economy are clearly the top priorities.

As Chair of the Transportation Bonding Subcommittee, I helped secure over \$5 billion in capital to repair aging railroad bridges and highways. The operating budget has been constrained by budget cuts. I pledge to restore funding to assure we stick to the program we promised.

As I've mentioned, I've become a factor in the budget process and expect to play a role going forward. As a member of the State's Spending Cap Commission, I'm committed to restoring the balance required to achieve budget sustainability.

I'm endorsed by the Connecticut Business and Industry Association and National Federation of Small Businesses because they recognize I've been worked continuously to improve the business climate in Connecticut. I've supported legislation to help entrepreneurs and small businesses, train students for skilled, better-paying jobs and promoted growing business clusters like bioscience and green technology.

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

Connecticut has made great strides in making it easier to vote and assuring the process is fair and secure. But, as a member of the Legislature's Government Administration & Election Committee, I know there's more we can do.

Let's get one thing straight: voter fraud is a myth perpetrated by conservatives to suppress the votes of minorities and the disadvantaged. There's little evidence of real fraud. I'm proud that our state has not resorted to discriminatory voting registration rules imposed in other states. Our system requires reasonable proof of identity and has not been subject to voting abuses.

I favor an extended early voting period so that voters who have made up their minds can vote without having to take a day from work on Election Day. I'm also open-minded about exploring new voting and registration technologies which can be proven secure and easy to use.

**Cathy Walsh** (Republican, Independent)

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

The reason I'm running for State Representative is because the 40 year one party rule in Hartford is responsible for our massive budget deficit. They have shown a lack of common sense, inability to plan long term and inattention to structural issues that harm the economy of CT. The results have been devastating: massive tax increases, cuts in services, and over regulation on businesses causing a flight of capital away from CT. As an executive in the steel industry, and Chair of the Westport P&Z commission, I believe I have the right skill set to help break the log jam in Hartford. My history in Westport is one of being able to work in a bi-partisan manner. I'm endorsed by both the Republican and Independent parties. In order to change our fiscal direction, we must change the composition of the Legislature and Senate.

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

My first legislative priority is to restore fiscal sanity by balancing the budget and enacting the spending cap. I will work to reform the prevailing wage law to fix our crumbling infrastructure, stimulate commerce and reduce traffic. Working with my colleagues I hope to pursue both sides of the merits of renegotiating excessive wage contracts and reducing regulatory and tax burdens on business in order to spur economic growth. My goal is to create a stable business friendly environment to attract new employers into the state so that we can all prosper.

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

I do not believe there are barriers to voting in CT, but there are rules in place to prevent voter fraud. I believe CT has been exemplary in providing ample opportunity and support to all citizens, who qualify, to vote. There is a level of personal responsibility to maintain your eligibility to vote. Name changes after marriage or divorce are common but it is simple to stay current by contacting your town clerk.