

For State Representative - 151st District.

Dita Bhargava (Democratic)

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1. Why are you running for this office?

I am running for state representative of the 151st district in Greenwich because Connecticut is at a crossroads and we need a voice of change in Hartford. I believe Connecticut has many strengths and tremendous potential to thrive in this modern economy, but it's critical that we get our fiscal house back in order.

My background as a Portfolio Manager and Senior Trader qualifies me to tackle the challenges we face with our budget and the economy. We also need to make it easier for families and future generations to stay in Connecticut and to thrive. As a co-founder and Board Member of several local non-profit organizations that work to empower families and communities, I understand what we need to do to maintain a robust workforce that allows families to balance professional and personal obligations.

2. What are your top 3 legislative priorities?

My first priority will be addressing the budget. I will not vote for raising taxes because we can fix our budget issues without placing more of a burden on our taxpayers. We can grow our tax base and raise revenue by strategically recruiting companies in growth industries that will also help retain our young educated workforce by creating jobs.

Second, we must champion more innovative legislation that will help revamp our transportation infrastructure, without leading to significant cuts for other programs. By introducing private financial investment, we can mitigate the costs to our taxpayers and expedite the building of new roads and rail.

Finally, I will fight to keep our young generation in Connecticut by introducing legislation that helps relieve cumbersome college loans. Through public-private partnership, I will advocate for a program where loans will be largely forgiven if a college graduate commits to work in Connecticut for five years.

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

Connecticut has a good track record when it comes to making voting accessible, but there is always room for improvement. I applaud the recent efforts of the state to help voters automatically register to vote when they are at the DMV. I also support the adoption of early in-person voting, especially with a weekend option, since many of our residents commute to Manhattan, making voting on a weekday challenging. And, to the extent that we can put appropriate safeguards in place, I would support expanded absentee voting. Increasing voter turnout is important since it engages our citizens in our democracy.

Fred Camillo (Republican)

No response received.