

For State Representative -20th District

Joe Verrengia (Democrat; unopposed)

1 - Why are you running for this office?

I have dedicated my entire professional life to public service, having served 25 years with the West Hartford Police Department and 6 years on the West Hartford Town Council prior to becoming a State Representative in 2011. My top priority has always been to listen to my constituents and being their voice to make West Hartford and Connecticut a better place to live, work, and raise a family. I have been honored to serve and look forward to continuing to represent my constituents as their state representative.

2 - What are your top 3 legislative priorities?

- 1.) Jobs –The millennial generation is beginning to transform our economy, and Connecticut needs to move quickly to make sure we are competing in that marketplace. I support a plan allowing students to deduct student loan interest from their state income taxes and giving first-time homebuyers a tax break for the first three years that they own a home.
- 2.) Budget – I support broad based reforms to lower property taxes and bring predictability to Connecticut’s finances. We need to move away from our heavy reliance on our already broken property tax system.
- 3.) Public Safety – In the wake of the recent controversial police related shootings, I introduced a bill to create an independent task force to review how police officers are trained. The task force will look to ensure that the state of Connecticut is adhering to nationally recognized standards.

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

Connecticut does a better job than most states at minimizing voting barriers. I was proud to support same-day voter registration in Connecticut and believe that this law can go one step further by allowing for same day voter registration at their polling location. I am also open to introducing and supporting any bill that seeks to eliminate any voter disenfranchisement in the state of Connecticut.