

For State Representative - 46th District (Norwich)

Bonnie Hong (petitioning)

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1. Why are you running?

As State Representative for the 46th Assembly seat, I will bring a strong voice to Hartford. Yearly reductions of State payments and grants to our municipal budget has caused cuts in essential services and education. The State's Financial Crisis cannot be sustained on the backs of working middleclass and low income wage earning. By raising the minimum wage to \$15.00/hour we raise the revenue in the Budget. By enacting Sustinet, the public option Healthcare Insurance we reduce the short and long term debt obligations the State has to current and retired State Employees, as well as reducing the Budget of every Municipality. By having the State re-direct it resources to investing in Green jobs, we strengthen the State Economy, create new good paying jobs, and fight the effects of Climate Change. By ensuring that we have fair taxation and no Corporate Welfare, we will increase the State revenues.

2. What are your top 3 legislative priorities?

d) Fair Taxation for all. No more Tax reduction and State Bond give-away deals for profitable Corporations. e) Ethics and politics can co-exist, and should. I will introduce the AMERICAN ANTICORRUPTION ACT in the State Legislature. f) I believe we need an Occupancy Tax (Hotel/Motel/B&B) to support our municipal Budgets. This could mean at least \$500,000, to the City of Norwich.

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

Connecticut has opened up voting to a greater extent than most other States, by allowing same day voter registration. However, in 2014 Connecticut voters rejected an amendment to the state's constitution giving the General Assembly power to consider allowing early and expanded absentee voting. I believe this would have helped increase voter participation in all elections. With more people voting we experience higher levels of Community participation and a stronger voice in Hartford for policies that directly working families. This issue should be revisited and more public education should be provided before it is placed on the ballot. But I think that the biggest obstacle to getting voters engaged is the frustrated of having our voices being ignored and elected officials pursuing their own agendas and those of vested special interests. To have our VOTE and VOICE heard, registered voters need to have a Public Ballot Initiative or Referendum.

Emmett Riley (Democratic, Working Families)

No response received.

Rob Dempsy (Republican, Independent)

No response received.