

For State Representative – 53rd District

Susan Eastwood (Democratic, Working Families)

Web: www.Eastwood2016.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Susan-Eastwood-for-State-Representative-1150696094961367/>

Why are you running for this office?

I'm running because everyone in our community should have access to great opportunities - the opportunity for an excellent public education; equable economic opportunity, access to quality and affordable healthcare; to a clean and a sustainable environment; and an affordable retirement. I will fight hard for quality education, good jobs and health care for all Connecticut citizens.

I would like to focus on several issues which will benefit Connecticut workers and their families: supporting quality education without placing an unduly high burden on towns and property owners; new job creation; a clean and healthy environment and economic security. The work I have done in the areas of environmental health, work place safety, domestic violence, education, support of open space and working farms all make me a candidate who will be a strong advocate for the people of the district.

What are your top 3 legislative priorities?

1. Education - I would support increased state funding for education and full-funding of mandates such as special education. I would work to increase resources for early childhood education, for additional support services in schools and to improve our fine state college system. Increasing state funding for education will help to take the burden off towns to fund their schools primarily through property taxes.
2. Jobs - I am particularly interested in promoting green and emerging technology jobs as this will move Connecticut to the forefront of a modern economy. Supporting agriculture will help to strengthen the economy of rural Connecticut with new jobs and small agriculture-related businesses.
3. Economic Security – We must pass pay equity laws and Paid Family Medical Leave to ensure economic security for all Connecticut citizens. I have actively supported both of these as a Commissioner on the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.

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

Low voter turnout in Connecticut, especially in the cities, indicates that voting is not easy to do for many citizens. The demands of family and work often make it difficult to get to the polls and long lines and confusing rules can discourage potential voters.

Online, same day and automatic voter registration will help to get people on the rolls. Better education on registration and how to vote by absentee ballot could also help voter participation. Providing better transportation options to the polls could also help with turnout. At the polls, we must ensure that translators are available for non-English speakers and sufficient ballots and equipment are on hand to help keep the process moving smoothly.

Looking ahead, we should fund voter education and work to make voting easier and more accessible. Why not allow a longer period of time for voting, or simply remove restrictions on absentee voting?

Sam Belsito (Republican, Independent)

No Response received.