

For State Representative - 61st District (Suffield, East Granby, Windsor)

Tami Zawistowski (Republican, Independent)

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1. Why are you running for this office?

I'm a Connecticut native and very proud of our fine state. But our economy has been in the doldrums for so long that it has truly hurt people. I own a small business in which I buy and sell used and rare books - buying locally and selling internationally. Over the past several years, more and more people from which I purchased books were selling them because they were moving out of state – sometimes for affordability and sometimes because their children had already moved away – or sometimes because they needed the money. It's for these people, and others like them, that I became involved in politics. I want to make things better in Connecticut, to unlock its potential to again become an economic powerhouse with great jobs and a lower cost of living.

2. What are your top 3 legislative priorities?

First, we need to address our state's population loss as well as the aging of our population. To counter this, we need to make our state more attractive for younger people to remain here, which includes affordability. If our population continues to shrink, the smaller base will be responsible for higher taxes and a greater debt burden, continuing the downward spiral. Second, a better business climate, which must include predictability. Even our smallest businesses plan long-term. The state needs to think long-term as well, with much more accurate revenue projections so that we don't have the type of sudden tax increases that drive our employers away. Third, excessive debt is a damper on our economy and uses funds that could be better used to support things like education and infrastructure. The first step to solving this problem is to stop piling on new debt for non-essential projects and uses.

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

Connecticut voters have ready access to both voter registration and voting facilities. Recently implemented automatic voter registration through the Department of Motor Vehicles has had a few glitches but has resulted in a large number of new voter registrations. Recently enacted legislation now allows for same-day voter registration, which also increases ease of access. There have been some reported problems with voting in our larger cities, but other than occasionally long lines, things have run very smoothly at the polls in my district. I just wish more people would actually exercise their right to vote.

Michael Malloy (Democratic)

No response received.