For State Senate – 13th District

Danté Bartolomeo (Democratic, Working Families)

Facebook: fb.com/DanteStateSenate
Website: www.DanteForStateSenate.com
Twitter: @danteforsenate
Email: danteforstatesenate@yahoo.com

1. Why are you running for this office?
I am running for office because I care about my community and I care about the future of our children. I find it incredibly rewarding to help the constituents of my district with their individual issues of concern. Connecticut has a lot of tough choices to make in the coming session, and I have a history and reputation for successfully achieving bipartisan legislative support for policies which help children, families, veterans, and seniors of our state. I know what it takes to get things done in the Senate, and I have been successful in bringing funding back to the district. In addition, I will continue to be a formidable advocate for our higher education system as a resource for the education and training needed to staff the highly educated and skilled workforce necessary to fill the jobs of today and tomorrow.

2. What are your top 3 legislative priorities?
I believe economic development depends upon investing in institutions of higher education to produce a highly skilled work force to fill today's high-tech jobs. Given that approximately ninety percent of our state university and community college students reside in CT post-graduation, these students are critical to our future workforce.
I will continue to facilitate implementation of a policy that I passed unanimously in 2013, The Children's Behavioral Health Plan. It creates a system to foster the wellness of all of Connecticut's children through prevention, early identification and early intervention with a "no wrong door" for assistance.
While I believe student performance and teacher accountability must be held to a high standard, I also believe in less reliance on standardized tests to judge student and teacher performance. In my experience with special education students, standardized tests have limited value and alternative testing methods should be given more weight.

3. Do you believe there are barriers to voting in Connecticut? If so, what would you do the eliminate them?
Yes. I would support instituting early voting and no-excuse absentee voting

Len Suzio (Republican, Independent)

Why am I running for office?
I know that Connecticut families cannot afford another backbreaking tax hike. I also know that Governor Malloy is scheming to force another tax hike on us, after the election. I will fight Malloy's tax increases like I successfully fought and capped the gas tax increase in 2012.
I also will introduce a program to create thousands of good-paying jobs in Connecticut.

Top 3 legislative priorities
The state is facing a major financial crisis with billions of dollars in deficits forecast for next year. Connecticut families are reeling from burdensome taxes, and business growth is stymied by excessive regulation and unstable state finances.
Taxes: Since 2011 the legislature passed the two biggest tax hikes in Connecticut history. I am unequivocally opposed to any more tax increases. We must balance the budget by controlling wasteful spending. Connecticut families cannot afford another tax increase. My opponent broke her 2014 campaign promise not to vote for a tax increase when she voted for the second biggest tax increase in Connecticut history in 2015.
Jobs and economy: Connecticut is the only state not to have recovered the jobs lost in the Great Recession. The anti-business climate created by current state senators that passed one anti-business law after another culminated in the decision of General Electric, and hundreds of smaller companies

Are there voting barriers in Connecticut?
No