

For State Senate - 16<sup>th</sup> District

**Ryan P. Rogers** (Democratic, Working Families)

No response received.

**Joe Markley** (Republican, Independent)

Website: [joemarkley.com](http://joemarkley.com)

*Why are you running for this office?*

Connecticut is headed in the wrong direction, and I want to help change that. With the highest total taxes and greatest public debt per capita, we are first in what we ought to be last in—and with the slowest economic growth of any state over the past twenty-five year, last where we'd want to be first. Our failure is the result of bad public policy, above all the repeated and enormous tax increases which have driven out businesses and our most productive citizens. I will push to break our state's addiction to big government and end the cycle of spending, taxing, and borrowing.

*What are your top 3 legislative priorities?*

My legislative priorities are to stop any further tax increases, which will force us to bring spending under control; to defend personal liberty and halt the assault on freedom and privacy by big government; and to restore decision-making to the local level, giving our communities authority and flexibility to deal with their own problems.

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

The most significant barriers to voting are intentional and, I believe, desirable. Those ineligible include residents under eighteen years old, non-citizens, and criminals convicted of certain serious offenses. For the rest of us, I think registering and voting has been made remarkably convenient. Further changes in voting laws designed to remove perceived barriers must be weighed against the fundamental need to protect the integrity of the process. The last several legislative sessions have seen significant changes in voting laws; I believe those who administer elections locally should be given time to absorb and evaluate these changes before more are introduced.