State Senate – 25th District

Bob Duff (Democratic)

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1. Why are you running for this office?
From an early age my parents encouraged me to speak up when I saw injustice and step in to make a difference. When I did, beginning somewhere around the age of eight, I was encouraged by a number of elected officials to pursue a future in public service.
Throughout my school years and into college I was elected to leadership positions by my peers. I began to appreciate the complexities of formulating public policy and the joy of representing the students who elected me.
I have an affinity for connecting people and today I enjoy my career as a Realtor. And while I've never considered politics as a career, I've always sensed that public service is a 'natural' for me, in much the same way we all have unique natural talents.
Most importantly, I enjoy encouraging others to active awareness of the political process and how to make government work.

2. What are your top 3 legislative priorities?
The ability to be self-sufficient is the bedrock of any society. So the job market continues to be my #1 priority. I'm excited to report that the incentive programs we've rolled out over the past few years continue to produce multiple small victories, chiseling away at our unemployment rate and providing encouragement for the future.
Self-sufficiency begins with a quality education. Every child deserves an equal opportunity to learn and succeed. We now have a court mandate to make that happen. Let's be fair and strategic in our approach, with funding based on need, not zip code.
A well-integrated transportation system is essential to job creation and economic growth. Previous administrations failed to maintain that system and plan for the future needs of commuters and businesses. That's all changing now and we're taking the first of many steps toward a system that will serve us well into the 21st century.

3. Do you believe there are barriers to voting in Connecticut? If so, what would you do the eliminate them?
The General Assembly long ago established provisions to ensure that everyone eligible to vote in any election in Connecticut may be free to exercise that right. These same provisions ensure the integrity of our voting system as well.
That's not to say issues don't arise from time to time. In the few instances where they occur, it's most often a case of poll workers not fully implementing the law as explained by the Secretary of State's office. That should be an easy fix.
There is a 'barrier' that the Legislature cannot address by law and that's voter apathy. We talk about the disenfranchised as a people who are unable to vote. There's a larger block of disenfranchised who simply don't want to vote because candidates put so much effort into bashing their opponents. Nothing constructive comes out of negative campaigning and that's proven by low voter turnout on Election Day.

Gregory Ehlers (Republican, Independent)
No response received.