

State Senate - 33rd District

Norm Needleman (Democratic)

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1. Why are you running for this office?

I am running for State Senate because Hartford needs an overhaul in how it budgets, funds education, and provides services. I have run a local manufacturing business in our district for 37 years, employing over 150 people locally and have served as First Selectman of Essex for five years. I believe I have the business and small town background to bring change and common sense to Hartford. More importantly, beyond my own qualifications I am running for my children and grandchildren. I want to leave them the Connecticut that I love and has given me so much.

2. What are your top 3 legislative priorities?

As a state senator, I will bring my business experience, small town government perspective and proven problem-solving skills to bear on the mess in Hartford. My first priority is to balance the budget by streamlining services and improving efficiency. We have to stop driving people and companies out of the state through tax increases. My next priority is jobs. I have a proven track record in this area, let me show what I can do in Hartford to provide small business incentives and reduce regulatory burdens. My third priority is education, which the courts have recently found is in a state of disarray in our state. I want to focus on improving not only our traditional schools, but also vocational education, including skills retraining for residents who have lost their jobs.

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

Connecticut has made some progress in this area especially in comparison to the actions of other states that have made it more difficult to vote. That being said I believe there is more work to be done. For example, we need to re-examine vote by mail to ensure everyone has the opportunity to vote. Whether we need legislative action or another referendum we should eliminate this barrier to voting. We need to always be striving to make our government more democratic and open.

Art Linares (Republican, Independent)

No response received.

Colin Bennett (Green)

No response received.