

State Senate - 35<sup>th</sup> District

**Arlene Avery** (Democratic, Working Families)

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*1. Why are you running for this office?*

I'm running for State Senate to ensure that the best interests of our thirteen-town, mostly rural, district are strongly represented. I was raised on the Avery Farm in Stafford, Connecticut. My family has been farming our land since the 1730s. From farming I have learned the importance of working cooperatively and being resourceful. I believe that these qualities will serve us well in the Legislature.

As a woman, I believe it's important for women to participate in the political process. Currently, women make up only 22 percent of the Connecticut State Senate and there is only one woman of color. If elected I will become the first Asian-American woman to serve in the Connecticut State Senate. I hope to help bring the diversity of Connecticut to the State Senate.

*2. What are your top 3 legislative priorities?*

My top three legislative priorities are as follows:

- 1) I will prioritize and foster legislation that will help our families and communities thrive including finding viable solutions for homeowners with failing basement foundations, paid family medical leave and a \$15 an hour minimum wage. These changes are necessary to improve and protect the quality of life of all families and workers in our communities.
- 2) I will prioritize and support legislation to make our tax structure more progressive in order to make our wealthiest citizens pay their fair share of the cost of a great society.
- 3) I will prioritize and pass legislation to improve our students' educational opportunities and lessen the cost of higher education. Education should be the key to success, not a barrier to success because of high costs.

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

Yes, I do believe there are barriers to voting in Connecticut. In my district we have Rockville, an urban village with high poverty and a very transient population. Many eligible voters don't even register – their focus is on surviving economically, not voting. Many of these voters are also people of color and face additional barriers to voting.

My district also includes rural towns like Woodstock. These towns are large in size but small in population. To get to the polling place is difficult for those without transportation. In past years there were efforts to open absentee voting to all voters but those ballot measures have gone unpassed. I would work to open absentee voting to all voters.

**Tony Guglielmo** (Republican)

No response received.