

State Senate – 36th District

John Blankley (Democratic)

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1. Why are you running for this office?

I am running for State Senate because I see so much potential in Connecticut's future. We are at a crossroads, and now is not the time to dwell on what's wrong in our state. Rather, it's time to seize the opportunities we have so we can move forward with a plan to fix our budget, modernize our transportation infrastructure and grow our economy.

I have worked at the executive and board levels of large, multinational corporations where I managed budgets even larger than our state's. I also started a small business here in Connecticut which, for the past 16 years has flourished and created several in-state jobs.

No one else in Hartford has my background, and at this pivotal time we need leadership with the experience and a plan to move progress forward.

2. What are your top 3 legislative priorities?

The budget is my top priority. We can maintain quality services and provide for our neediest residents if we spend smarter. I will advocate for a plan that will restructure the current state pension system, as well as an Infrastructure Bank to modernize our transportation system to draw and keep businesses in Connecticut, growing our tax base.

We must also grow our economy. In 2000, I founded Flagship Networks, a small technology company in Connecticut. Accessing the state's business incentives was a burdensome process which, as State Senator, I will work to streamline, while also creating new legislation that will target growth businesses.

Finally, we must continue to introduce common-sense gun laws. Overturning our current "open carry" policy, would be the logical next step in making Connecticut a leader on gun safety. We have work to do and this will be a top priority for me in Hartford.

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

I applaud our Secretary of State's leadership in making voting accessible. Efforts such as automatic voter registration at the DMV, online registration, and Election Day Registration are all steps in the right direction toward improving voter engagement.

There is still work to be done. Connecticut should join the majority of states that allow early, in person voting. No one should be turned away due to health issues, familial or professional obligations. We must also be diligent in rejecting efforts to disenfranchise voters, such as requiring photo ID at the polls or consolidating polling places.

Scott Frantz (Republican)

1. Why are you running for this office?

I am running again to serve the 36th District because I care deeply about the State of Connecticut and its citizens. I am very concerned that future generations of Connecticut residents will not

have the same opportunities that my generation has had due to poor fiscal management and harmful legislation leading to uncompetitive tax rates, a poor business environment and subpar job creation. I am passionate about fixing these problems and feel I have the right background to help do so.

2. What are your top 3 legislative priorities?

If reelected, I would continue to focus on the important issue of restoring our state's fiscal health. In everything from overall fiscal management to unfunded long-term liabilities per capita, Connecticut ranks worst or second worst. In order to stay solvent, we must balance budgets without additional borrowing or accounting tricks. My second priority would be the repairing and maintaining our precarious transportation infrastructure. Our rail and highway systems are being stretched beyond capacity and are aging rapidly. Although there have been some improvements, Metro North's track and catenary systems are showing their age. We need to generate billions of dollars in funding imminently to address this problem. My third priority would be to continue to address the steadily deteriorating business environment in the state. We have fallen rapidly from being one of the most desirable states in the country to near the bottom of the rankings.

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

I do not believe that the Connecticut has any barriers to voting.

Edward Heflin (Green)

No response received.