

For State Senate - 5th district

Beth Bye (Democratic)

1. Why are you running for this office?

I am running for reelection because I continue to believe in the power of public policy to have a positive impact on people's lives. As a female leader and educator by profession, my skills of compromise, being able to bring stakeholders to the table, and taking on big challenges on behalf of my constituents have made me an effective legislator. My experiences so far have given me the skills to effect positive change and to help constituents with challenges they face. The 5th District is made up of four communities that value education, the environment, economic development, social services, and our quality of life. I work hard to represent these priorities in the State Senate.

2. What are your top 3 legislative priorities?

Workforce -- Connecticut is a hub for bioscience and manufacturing because we have high-quality workers; we must continue our investments in early childhood, public schools, and higher education to ensure we maintain this advantage. We also need to foster the kind of environment that attracts and keeps young people.

Environment -- I was instrumental in passing the first-in-the-nation ban on BPA in children's products, helped protect funding for state parks, pushed bills to make it safer to bike to work and around town, supported the Farmington Rail Trail and Trout Brook Trail, and worked to protect our public drinking water resources.

State Aid -- As in many states, revenues have lately come in below projections, requiring spending cuts of well over \$1 billion. Still, I have fought to maintain state aid to towns, and local property tax increases were mitigated, partly because of maintained or increased state funding.

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

As for voting, our democracy depends on citizen participation. We need to make it easy to register and easy to vote. The motor voter law that just went into effect has been fantastic for increasing voter registration in 2016.

Mark Merritt (Republican, Independent)

No response received