

2016 general election candidates for one of CT's seats in the US Senate

<i>candidate</i>	<i>party</i>	<i>website</i>
Richard Blumenthal	D, WF	http://richardblumenthal.com
Dan Carter	R	http://www.carterforsenate.com
Jeff Russell	Green	http://jeff-russell.ruck.us
Richard Lion	Lib	http://www.richardlion.com

Richard Blumenthal (Democratic, Working Families)

Website: <http://richardblumenthal.com>

Contact: campaign@richardblumenthal.com

How fast should the US move from coal, nuclear, oil and natural gas to renewables; and what can/should Congress do to speed up the conversion?

It is essential that Congress take steps to change the course of the country's dependence on fossil fuels as our nation's energy security and climate change challenges grow. Any federal energy policy must reflect the nation's position by promoting and encouraging investment in and deployment of renewable energy. As we continue to transition to these new energy sources, we must ensure that our traditional sources of energy are used in as clean and efficient a manner as possible.

I support efforts to end tax subsidies for oil companies and redirect that money to support the development of clean, renewable sources of energy. I also believe the federal government should provide adequate support and incentives to innovators who are working to create new jobs and more affordable, clean energy, especially for projects that would not necessarily be able to attract private investment without government assistance.

What would you do to move federal law to improve disclosure of the actual names of campaign finance donors?

There has never been a greater need for campaign finance reform. The Supreme Court's decision in the now-infamous case of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, strikes at the core of democratic principles, opening the floodgates for unlimited "dark money" in political campaigns that can drown out the voices of millions of ordinary Americans. It allows the wealthy and powerful to have a disproportionate voice in the most fundamental aspect of our democracy--a free and fair election that counts everyone's vote equally.

I support a constitutional amendment to overturn this decision by clarifying that reasonable regulations on campaign finance are not a violation of the right to free speech.

I'm also a cosponsor of the Fair Elections Now Act, to give Congressional candidates a voluntary alternative to the current system by providing matching financial support in exchange for agreeing to limit spending.

What federal laws would you favor to reduce gun violence?

In the Senate I fought to expand background checks and close the gun show loophole, ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines, provide tough penalties for straw purchases and get guns out of the hands of domestic abusers. We must also keep anyone on the terrorist watch list from being able to buy a gun.

In addition, I believe our teachers should receive mental health first aid training and resources to recognize signs and symptoms for mental illness.

After the shooting in Orlando, I said that so long as Congress fails to act, it will continue to be complicit in ongoing deaths from guns - whether in mass shootings that make the headlines or in the far more prevalent incidents of gang violence, domestic violence, suicides, accidents, and more.

Dan Carter (Republican)

Website: <http://www.carterforsenate.com>

Contact: Info@CarterforSenate.com

Response: Our campaign has decided to not answer any survey from any organization this election cycle. As you can imagine we receive dozens of surveys each week which would take up a lot of the candidate's time. If we were to answer just some of these, it would raise questions on why some were more important than others from those we did not respond to.

Jeff Russell (Green)

Website: <http://jeff-russell.ruck.us>

No response received

Richard Lion (Libertarian)

Website: <http://www.richardlion.com/>

Contact: Richard420Lion@gmail.com

1. How fast should the US move from coal, nuclear, oil and natural gas to renewables; and what can/should Congress do to speed up the conversion?

We should move as fast as possible to clean energy such as solar and wind. The free market will provide the fastest and best path to that end. People were hunting whales for oil and were pushing them near extinction. When Oil was discovered in Pennsylvania, it saved the whale. The free market found a way to provide us with oil cheaper than whale oil. Sun light and wind will always be free and will win out in the free market. The free market has never made a nuclear power plant. Every nuclear power plant on earth was funded in whole or in part by government. The free market doesn't make nuclear power plants because they are a bad investment. If elected, I will never support funding for a nuclear power plant.

2. What would you do to move federal law to improve disclosure of the actual names of campaign finance donors?

This is my 9th time running for public office, I have never accepted even one penny in campaign contributions or public funding. I ask voters to not vote for someone who you can't identify the donors, or if the donors not to your liking.

3. What federal laws would you favor to reduce gun violence?

I support the second amendment of the constitution because people have an unalienable right to defend themselves. I see gun rights as a women's rights issue. Of all the adults that are raped, nearly all of them are female. Women have a right to defend themselves from an attacker. A cell phone to call for help will often not be enough. It can take too long just to make a call. You may not even have a signal, and may not be able to make a call. A gun may only take about a second to draw. Most attackers will run away as soon as they see the gun, then you can call the police. If the attacker doesn't run, you shoot him, then call the police. That will prevent him from attacking others, so you will save lives. I support gun safety training to prevent gun accidents.