

20th Assembly District

Chad Thompson (Republican)

BIOGRAPHY

Chad Thompson has lived in West Hartford for over eight years. He is currently attending Capitol Community College majoring in business management. Chad has been very active in local politics for over five years. He supports requiring free and openly documented standards for all government technology implementations so that all citizens can participate in government with software they choose. When elected, Chad promises something almost unheard of: regular district community meetings to increase public involvement with the state legislature.

Essay questions

1. With shrinking resources and increasing demands on state funds, what legislative initiatives would you propose to meet the needs of economically struggling citizens?

To meet the needs of economically struggling citizens, I support periodic state auditing of every taxpayer dollar spent. As the budget continues to increase, we need to be more and more careful. It is time to determine which taxpayer funded programs are working efficiently and which need to be revised. I believe we are losing more and more businesses due to increasing state taxes and regulations.

2. Recent reports suggest that the Charter Oak Health Plan is inadequate with very few providers willing to participate. What measures would you propose to fill in the gaps for those unable to afford health insurance?

To make health care affordable for all Connecticut residents, we should review the many federal and state health care programs currently available. It is time to leverage existing services so we can close any gaps so everyone can afford health care.

3. Affordable rental housing needs have increased due to sub-prime foreclosures, job losses, escalating fuel, food and electricity costs. What specific measurable initiatives would you propose to increase the supply of affordable housing and to prevent/ reduce homelessness?

Astronomically rising property taxes are

causing much of these problems, such as increased rents. I support a yearly municipal property tax increase limit and a ceiling on taxation of assessed values. We need to make Connecticut a welcome place for businesses that will create jobs, not reduce workforces. For this to happen, we need to reduce taxes on businesses so they choose Connecticut and we encourage new business creation. To stop sub-prime foreclosures, we need to hold lenders accountable for writing mortgages which are doomed to default when variable interest rates can and have risen beyond a home owner's financial means.

4. What will you do to help localities to get the necessary money to provide quality education for all?

Quality education is not determined by how much money can be spent or how more much we can tax inflating property assessments. It is time to think outside of the box for solutions which do not require more spending of taxpayer monies. I will work to fix the underfunded and botched ECS funding system and put the state in compliance with the Sheff vs. O'Neil lawsuit.

5. If elected, what single legislative initiative would be your first priority?

My first legislative priority would be to eliminate the newly effective "Citizens' Elections Program" which forces taxpayers to fund state candidate campaigns and reduce taxes by cutting spending of taxpayer money. I am one of a few state-wide candidates who does not choose to force taxpayers to fund my campaign.

LWV Yes/No Grid Questions, Election 2008

Would you support legislation reducing the drinking age to 18?

YES, I will only support state legislation after the federal minimum drinking age enacted in 1984 is repealed. We can not afford to lose federal transportation funds if we choose to do this before the federal government does. I believe if you can vote, fight and die for your country, you should be able to drink alcohol responsibly without interfering with other people's lives.



Chad Thompson

Would you support legislation eliminating billboards on state highways in CT?

NO

Would you support legislation requiring universal full day kindergarten?

NO, Individual municipalities with locally elected officials should decide with their residents independently.

Would you support re-organization of the probate court system?

YES

Should the state adopt LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) environmental standards in the construction and major renovation of all state owned buildings?

NO, As of now, I support working towards integrating LEED standards for renovations or new construction when there will be no additional up-front costs to taxpayers.

Would you support legislation that could require CT compliance with the federal Real ID Act requiring changes to state drivers' licenses?

NO, I do not support underfunded federal mandates which currently appear to violate the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. Twenty states have already passed legislation opposing Real ID.

Should Connecticut adopt and fund a work program to address long neglected infrastructure deterioration?

NO, We should improve on current work programs.

20th Assembly District

David McCluskey (Democrat)

BIOGRAPHY

Seeking my 6th term in the State House. I serve on the Finance & Transportation Committees and as a House Democratic Leader. I was on Gov. Rell's Campaign Finance Working Group. I attended Webster Hill, St. Brigid's, Talcott and Conard. Received B.A. with Honors in Political Science - University of Chicago. Received Masters in Labor Relations - Cornell. Formerly, Legislative & Political Director - Connecticut State Police Union and Staff Representative - University Health Professionals, representing nurses at UCONN Health Center. Currently, Education Coordinator for the CT State Employees Association. I am a Vice President of the Greater Hartford Labor Council.

Essay questions

1. With shrinking resources and increasing demands on state funds, what legislative initiatives would you propose to meet the needs of economically struggling citizens?

To avoid making deep cuts in programs they are eligible for and avoid tax increases. This can be done by setting state priorities and developing ways to measure progress on them. In addition, state agencies need to work much more collaboratively to support our state priorities and to lower costs/ consolidate duplicative functions.

2. Recent reports suggest that the Charter Oak Health Plan is inadequate with very few providers willing to participate. What measures would you propose to fill in the gaps for those unable to afford health insurance?

This year, I voted for (and Governor Rell vetoed) a bill which would have allowed small businesses, non-profits and municipalities into the state employee health care plan. With more bargaining power, it would have provided quality health insurance at a lower cost so that savings could be used to extend health care coverage to even more CT residents. I will continue to fight for this and other health care expansions.

3. Affordable rental housing needs have increased due to sub-prime foreclosures, job losses, escalating fuel, food and electricity costs. What specific measurable initiatives would you propose to increase the supply of affordable housing and to prevent/ reduce homelessness?

I would encourage municipalities to build affordable housing near transit corridors (rail/bus) with financial incentives such as priority funding for cleaning up brownfield sites in these transit corridors.

4. What will you do to help localities to get the necessary money to provide quality education for all?

Last year I voted for a bill (which Governor Rell vetoed) that would have provided West Hartford for the first time in decades its full share under the Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) Formula. I will continue to fight to get our town its fair share. Since I took office, ECS funds to West Hartford have increased from \$3.5 million to \$15.4 million.

5. If elected, what single legislative initiative would be your first priority?

Property Tax Reform that would incentivize municipalities to work more efficiently/lower their costs and to reduce property taxes to homeowners.



David McCluskey

LWV Yes/No Grid Questions, Election 2008

Would you support legislation reducing the drinking age to 18?

NO.

Would you support legislation eliminating billboards on state highways in CT?

YES.

Would you support legislation requiring universal full day kindergarten?

YES.

Would you support re-organization of the probate court system?

YES.

Should the state adopt LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) environmental standards in the construction and major renovation of all state owned buildings?

YES.

Would you support legislation that could require CT compliance with the federal Real ID Act requiring changes to state drivers' licenses?

NO, because of its high cost to CT with marginal benefit.

Should Connecticut adopt and fund a work program to address long neglected infrastructure deterioration?

YES.

For more information on the League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford go to www.lwvgh.org.

Check out the League of Women Voters-Connecticut website at www.lwvct.org for additional information on all of election 2008.

20th Assembly District

John Mertens (CT For Lieberman)

BIOGRAPHY

I am a tenured mechanical engineering professor at Trinity College, and I also teach environmental science and public policy courses. I have done volunteer work with Greater Hartford Area schools for 18 years, and I believe I am well informed about public school issues. I've raised four children in West Hartford, and feel very lucky to be able to call West Hartford our home. I am not a republican or a democrat. I am a problem-solver. I believe government should be fiscally responsible, has a responsibility to help others help themselves, and should stay out of our personal lives. www.mertensforstaterep.org

Essay questions

1. With shrinking resources and increasing demands on state funds, what legislative initiatives would you propose to meet the needs of economically struggling citizens?

We need to continue to fund and improve the social safety net in Connecticut. The best thing we can do is to make sure our state revenue stream remains healthy. We need to close corporate income tax loopholes and end corporate welfare. Read the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee study of January 2006 for details. Corporate income tax reform can be done in an intelligent way that will not cost Connecticut jobs and business. Corporations need to pay their fair share.

2. Recent reports suggest that the Charter Oak Health Plan is inadequate with very few providers willing to participate. What measures would you propose to fill in the gaps for those unable to afford health insurance?

We need to improve the Charter Oak Plan, especially by increasing the number of care givers that accept it. This is ongoing; 13 more Community Health Centers joined the plan in early September. Again, if the state is fiscally responsible in budgeting and requiring corporations to pay their fair share of income taxes, we will be able to strengthen this plan. Long term, we should be working towards universal health care. I think we should be watching the experiment in Massachusetts

very closely, and if it goes well, adopt something like it in Connecticut.

3. Affordable rental housing needs have increased due to sub-prime foreclosures, job losses, escalating fuel, food and electricity costs. What specific measurable initiatives would you propose to increase the supply of affordable housing and to prevent/ reduce homelessness?

We don't need to create new programs. We need to make sure we meet the funding needs, and improve the functions of the DECD, CHFA, CHA, and the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Homelessness is increasing nationwide during this mortgage crisis, and I would support adding shelters and increasing support for homeless children (transportation to school, etc.).

4. What will you do to help localities to get the necessary money to provide quality education for all?

\$4 per gallon gas prices, a doubling of electricity bills, and high heating costs have increased school system budgets tremendously. (Ask any superintendent what is squeezing their budget the most.) If the state maintains a healthy revenue stream, in a fiscally responsible way, through corporate income tax reform, we can increase state help for local schools for these expenses.

5. If elected, what single legislative initiative would be your first priority?

I'll give you three: 1. An education reform bill that creates more Charter Schools and vocational/technical high schools in urban areas, requires the existence of honors classes based on student behavior in Connecticut public schools, provides more training for teachers, parents, and guardians, and changes the way science is taught in the K-5 grades. 2. Requiring state legislators to vote on bonds issued by the state bonding commission. Connecticut owes \$16 billion dollars(!), despite the fact that we have a balanced budget requirement, nearly the highest debt-per-capita in the country. The bonding commission is appointed, and not accountable to voters. 3. Vote for a Constitutional Convention and create a Public Referendum Process in Connecticut.



John Mertens

LWV Yes/No Grid Questions, Election 2008

Would you support legislation reducing the drinking age to 18?

No.

Search online for the Courant Commentary by Robert Nash Parker (Sept. 14).

Would you support legislation eliminating billboards on state highways in CT?

Yes.

Would you support legislation requiring universal full day kindergarten?

Yes.

http://www.fcd-us.org/resources/resources_show.htm?doc_id=464004

Would you support re-organization of the probate court system?

YES.

<http://www.law.yale.edu/faculty/1766.htm>

Should the state adopt LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) environmental standards in the construction and major renovation of all state owned buildings?

Yes.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leadership_in_Energy_and_Environmental_Design

Would you support legislation that could require CT compliance with the federal Real ID Act requiring changes to state drivers' licenses?

No.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/REAL_ID_Act

Should Connecticut adopt and fund a work program to address long neglected infrastructure deterioration?

Yes.