



Middlesex County Legislative Delegation

2017 Regular Session of the Connecticut General Assembly

The 2017 Regular Session convenes January 4th, 2017 and adjourns June 7th, 2017.

Bio Source: www.cga.ct.gov

State Senate

District 9: Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield



Paul Doyle-D

State Senator Paul Doyle

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Committees: Judiciary (Chair); Regulation Review (Chair); Energy & Technology (Vice Chair); Executive & Legislative Nominations (Member); Legislative Management (Member)

Paul Doyle is serving his fifth term representing the residents of the 9th State Senate District, which consists of the towns of Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill, and Wethersfield. He currently serves as Senate Chair of the Energy and Technology Committee, as well as Vice-Chair of the Judiciary Committee, and Ranking Member of the Regulation Review Committee. Senator Doyle also serves as a member of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. For 12 years prior to his Senate service, Senator Doyle served in the state House of Representatives from the 28th Assembly District; he was House Chair of the Banks Committee and a member of the Judiciary and Commerce Committees. In 1997, Senator Doyle was selected as a Toll Fellow—a program that honors and acknowledges 40 individuals nationwide for their outstanding achievement and service to state government. Prior to his first election to the General Assembly in 1994, Senator Doyle was heavily involved in politics and government both at the state and local level. In the mid-eighties, Senator Doyle worked on the Democratic State Central Committee in Hartford as an executive assistant. Locally, he served as the Wethersfield Town Treasurer for two years before he was elected twice to the Wethersfield Town Council. While on the Town Council, he was Chair of the Transportation, Refuse Disposal, and Ambulance Committees; he was also liaison to the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce. Senator Doyle holds a B.A. in History from Colby College and a J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law in Hartford. Senator Doyle also attended University College Galway (Ireland) and the University of Notre Dame Law School (London, England). Senator Doyle lives in Wethersfield with his wife Diana, and has practiced law with several Connecticut firms. He is currently a partner in the firm of Heneghan, Kennedy & Doyle, L.L.C. in Rocky Hill.

District 12: Branford, Durham and Guilford, Killingworth, Madison and North Branford



Ted Kennedy Jr.-D

State Senator Ted Kennedy Jr.

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Committees: Environment (Chair); Internship (Chair); Banking (Vice Chair); Public Health (Vice Chair); Finance, Revenue & Bonding (Member); Transportation (Member)

Ted Kennedy, Jr. was elected to the Connecticut State Senate in November 2014 to serve the communities of Branford, Durham, Guilford, Killingworth, Madison, and North Branford. Ted brings with him a wealth of experience in the private and public sectors. Ted received his Bachelor's degree at Wesleyan University and graduated from the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. He received his law degree from the University Of Connecticut School Of Law. In early 2014, Ted joined the national law firm of Epstein Becker & Green as a partner, working in the Health Care and Life Sciences practice. He advises health care providers, commercial insurers, and life science companies on critical issues related to health care reform policies. Prior to joining Epstein Becker & Green, Ted co-founded the Marwood Group, a leading healthcare-focused strategic advisory and financial services firm. Ted began his legal career at the law firm of Wiggin & Dana in New Haven, focusing on state and federal regulatory and reimbursement issues affecting hospitals, home care agencies, long-term care providers, physician practices and mental health providers. Ted also represented individuals with disabilities and created an ADA compliance practice to help businesses develop effective policies and guidelines. In addition, he served as the Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs at the Connecticut Hospital Association, counseling acute care providers and policy makers on a wide array of emerging healthcare issues. Ted's commitment to healthcare issues began at an early age. Ted was twelve years old when he was diagnosed with bone cancer and needed to have his right leg amputated. Ted underwent months of intensive physical therapy and was eventually able to resume an active life including learning how to ski using adaptive equipment. As a teenager, Ted trained with the U.S. Handicapped Ski Team and won several national medals. After his experiences with surgery, two years of chemotherapy and learning how to walk with the use of a prosthesis, Ted understood how people like him faced a two-part struggle: the personal challenge of recovery and the public challenge of living in a society that did little to include people with disabilities. Since then, Ted has been a committed advocate for the self-determination and civil rights of people with disabilities. He served on President Reagan's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities, working with businesses to expand jobs. He has lectured nationwide and served as a study group leader on disability policy at Harvard University. He has worked with the bipartisan coalition of organizations in fighting for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, signed into law by President George H.W. Bush in 1990. Ted has also served on the boards of numerous cancer and disability organizations, including Special Olympics International, the Connecticut's Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities and, for the past 15 years, the board of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), the country's largest disability civil rights and public policy organization. Ted has presented keynote addresses both nationally and internationally on topics related to disability law, cancer and healthcare policy. Ted has lived in Branford for over 15 years with his wife, Katherine "Kiki" Kennedy, M.D., an Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University and environmental activist, and their two children, Kiley and Teddy.

District 13: Cheshire, Middlefield, Middletown, and Meriden



Len Suzio- Republican

State Senator Len Suzio

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Committees: Children (Co-Chair); Transportation (Vice Chair); Veteran Affairs (Member); Judiciary (Member); Finance, Revenue & Bonding (Member)

State Senator Len Suzio (R-13) is serving his second term in the Connecticut State Senate. He represents the communities of Cheshire, Meriden, Middlefield, Middletown and Rockfall. Sen. Suzio serves as Co-Chair of the Committee on Children and Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee. He is also a member of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding, Judiciary, Veterans Affairs Committees. Sen. Suzio previously served as Ranking Member of the legislature's Select Committee on Children and on the Education and Appropriations Committees. Sen. Suzio has been a strong advocate for limited government and for no tax increases. In 2012, Sen. Suzio led the way in gaining bipartisan support for a cap to be placed on the state's rising gas tax. The law placing a cap on the gas tax was unanimously passed by the State Senate and State House. He continues to push for lower tax burdens, including the elimination of the state's tax on social security income and the prevention of the enactment of a Connecticut Mileage Tax. A strong voice on behalf of victims of violent crime, Sen. Suzio is a member of the State Victim Advocate Advisory Board. Sen. Suzio received top marks on the 2011 Environmental Scorecard issued by the CT League of Conservation Voters. He scored 100 percent for his support of a host of environmentally friendly laws. A champion for veterans' issues, Sen. Suzio led an initiative called "Give a Vet a Break, Get a Tax Break" which alerted area employers that there is now a state tax credit for companies to hire veterans. Sen. Suzio is founder and President of GeoDataVision, a bank consulting company specializing in the federal banking regulations. He previously worked as the Director, Executive Vice President, and Senior Loan Officer for American National Bank in Hamden. He also is a nationally recognized expert in bank regulations with a focus on the Community Reinvestment Act, the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act and the Fair Lending Regulations. Sen. Suzio was named Connecticut's "Small Business Banker Advocate of the Year" by the Small Business Administration in 1983. He has testified as an expert witness in small business finance at U.S. Senate Subcommittee Hearings on Small Business. He has also spoken at various regulatory compliance conferences including the American Bankers' Association and America's Community Banker Annual Compliance Conferences. Sen. Suzio served on the Meriden Board of Education for 14 years. He has also served as Vice President of the board of directors for High Hopes (a home for children with special needs) for more than 30 years. Sen. Suzio is the former President of the Kiwanis Club and a former director of the Chamber Orchestra of New England. He is the former President of the University of Pennsylvania Alumni Club in Connecticut. Sen. Suzio earned a degree in Economics and Finance from the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania. He has also served as President of the Penn Alumni Association and as a trustee for Cheshire Academy. Sen. Suzio and his wife Kathryn have five children and three grandchildren.

District 20: Bozrah, East Lyme, a portion of Montville, New London, Old Lyme, a portion of Old Saybrook, Salem and Waterford



Paul Formica- Republican

State Senator Paul Formica

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Committees: Appropriations (Co-Chair); Energy & Technology (Co-Chair); Commerce (Member)

State Senator Paul Formica represents the residents of the 20th Senatorial District, which includes Bozrah, East Lyme, a portion of Montville, New London, Old Lyme, a portion of Old Saybrook, Salem, and Waterford. Senator Formica has been the owner and operator of Flanders Fish Market & Restaurant for 31 years. He has served as the First Selectman of East Lyme since 2007, crafting balanced budgets, encouraging bipartisan participation and reaching regional solutions with neighboring communities which aim to improve transportation, public safety and environmental policies. Prior to becoming First Selectman, he served as a member of the zoning commission and the Board of Finance. Senator Formica has been Chairman of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, where he chaired the regional rail committee and served on the regional water committee that resulted in a tri-town interconnection to conserve and share water. In addition to town responsibilities, Senator Formica has also served in a leadership capacity for many organizations, from Chambers of Commerce to The Heart Walk, and through membership has supported great causes from Rotary to Little League. At the State Capitol, Senator Formica will push to make state government more efficient through fiscal discipline, work to ease the regulatory burden on businesses, and fight to preserve essential services for local communities. A resident of East Lyme, he is a widower and the father of four adult children — three daughters and one son.

District 33: Chester, Clinton, Colchester, Deep River, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland, Westbrook



Art Linares-R

State Senator Art Linares

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Committees: Higher Education & Employment (Co-Chair); Commerce (Vice Chair); Finance, Revenue & Bonding (Member); Transportation (Member)

Art Linares, 26, is State Senator for the 33rd Senate District, which encompasses the towns of Chester, Clinton, Colchester, Deep River, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland, and Westbrook. A Westbrook resident, Sen. Linares is the lead Republican senator on the state legislature's Planning and Development Committee. The panel has cognizance of all matters relating to local governments, regional planning and development activities, and economic development programs impacting local governments. An Assistant Minority Leader, Sen. Linares also serves on the Education Committee, the Internship Committee and the Judiciary Committee. He has previously served on the Children's Committee, the Commerce Committee and the Banks Committee. Sen. Linares' values stem from his family's history. In 1961, a force of exiles trained by the CIA stormed Cuba in an attempt to free the country from a communist dictator Fidel Castro. After the invasion failed, Sen. Linares' grandparents fled the country they loved in order to assure that their children were safe and able to grow up in a free country. In America, Sen. Linares's father started a successful business, and that success inspired Sen. Linares to start a business out of his basement when he was 19 years old. Sen. Linares co-founded Greenskies, a successful, Middletown-based, commercial solar energy company. In 2010, Sen. Linares took a sabbatical from his solar power company to volunteer for U.S. Senator Marco Rubio in Washington D.C. He proudly assisted Sen. Rubio, gaining hands-on experience in public service by providing help to the senator's constituents, conducting research and performing various administrative duties vital to the function of a public office. That positive experience working for Sen. Rubio inspired Sen. Linares to get involved in public service upon returning to Connecticut. Sen. Linares attended Westbrook public schools and graduated from the Sykes College of Business at the University of Tampa in Florida, where he majored in entrepreneurship, developing his own company as he earned a college degree.

District 34: Wallingford, Durham, North Haven, East Haven



Len Fasano-R (Senate Minority Leader)

State Senator Len Fasano

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Committees: Executive & Legislative Nominations (Co-Chair); Legislative Management (Co-Chair); Insurance & Real Estate (Vice Chair); Internship (Member); Education (Member); Appropriations (Member)

State Senator Len Fasano has proudly served the 34th Senatorial District communities of Durham, East Haven, North Haven and Wallingford since 2003. He became Senate Republican President Pro Tempore in January 2017. Senator Fasano had previously served as Senate Minority Leader after being elected to the position by his colleagues in 2014. Prior to leading the Senate Republican Caucus, he held the roles of Minority Leader Pro Tempore and Deputy Minority Leader. Senator Fasano is Co-Chair of the General Assembly's Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee, Co-Chair of the Legislative Management Committee, Vice Chair of the Insurance & Real Estate Committee, and a member of the Appropriations, Education and Internship committees. He has previously served as Ranking Member on the Legislative Management Committee, Planning and Development Committee and Regulations Review Committee. Legislative accomplishments of Senator Fasano include developing a historic bipartisan Senate power-sharing agreement following the tied result of the 2016 election, championing efforts to reform Connecticut's eminent domain laws, protecting the Long Island Sound, and enhancing transparency and oversight of hospital conversions from non-profit to for-profit institutions. As leader of the Senate Republican Caucus, Senator Fasano is committed to making state government more cost-effective and efficient. He has also made it a priority to enhance outreach to advance core Republican values of freedom and equality. Senator Fasano established an urban affairs initiative within his caucus in 2014 to open up the dialogue between Republican lawmakers and Connecticut cities to enhance educational and economic opportunities. He has also proposed plans to reform the state's justice system to reduce recidivism and help people access the tools they need to succeed in all aspects of life. As a strong advocate for children, Sen. Fasano has been named a "Children's Champion" by the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance and has proposed legislation to reform the state's child welfare agency to better protect, monitor and support the children in its care. Senator Fasano is the co-creator and was co-chair of the Bipartisan Round Table on Hospitals and Health Care, established in 2014 in partnership with Senate President Martin Looney to help ensure continued access to affordable quality care in Connecticut. Senator Fasano, whose father was a doctor in New Haven, has advocated for legislation that seeks to remedy the problems caused by the rapid consolidation of physician practices in Connecticut and the resulting impacts on health care costs and patient choice. Senator Fasano is the President and Founder of Fasano, Ippolito, Lee, & Florentine, a law firm with offices in New Haven and Branford. He is also an East Haven business owner. Fasano earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from Yale University in 1981, a Juris Doctorate from Quinnipiac Law School in 1984, and an L.L.M. Degree in Taxation from Boston University Law School in 1985. He played football at Yale under legendary coach, Carm Cozza. Senator Fasano has spent all of his life in New Haven and surrounding communities. He has three adult children, one grandchild, and currently resides in North Haven with his wife, Jill.

House of Representatives

District 23: Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook



Devin Carney-R

Representative Devin Carney

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Committees: Transportation Committee (Ranking Member); Environment (Member); Finance, Revenue & Bonding (Member)

State Rep. Devin Carney proudly represents the 23rd General Assembly District, which includes Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook. He was elected to his second two-year term in November 2016. Carney serves as the House Ranking Member of the Transportation Committee and also serves on the legislature's committees on Environment and Finance, Revenue and Bonding. As a life-long resident of the 23rd, he knows first-hand what is important to the residents of this district. Having gone through the Old Saybrook public school system from kindergarten through high school, he knows just how vital the success of our children is as well as the quality of education they receive. Carney graduated from Brandeis University in 2006 where he received a BA in Political Science and a BA in American Studies with a minor in Film. After graduating college, he returned to his hometown of Old Saybrook. Like most college graduates bogged down by student loans, Carney worked part-time jobs at local small businesses, to help alleviate the college debt he incurred. Working on the front lines of a small business provided Carney with a strong foundation to later start his own small business in voiceover production and as a Realtor® with Coldwell Banker. Carney is an active member of the community where he has served as: Lector at Grace Episcopal Church in Old Saybrook, board member and Emcee for the annual Academy Awards Night at The Kate, member of the Old Saybrook Players, member of ASPCA, and is very active with both the Old Saybrook and Lyme/Old Lyme Chambers of Commerce. The various aspects of life, business and community that Carney experienced in Connecticut have given him the means to fully relate to his constituents. The 23rd district is deeply rooted in both his past and present; he is fully vested in this community and will seek to represent these communities with distinction as their voice in Hartford.

District 32: Cromwell, Portland



Christie Carpino-R

Representative Christie Carpino

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Committees: Program Review & Investigations Committee (Chair); Judiciary (Member); Public Health (Member)

State Rep. Christie Carpino proudly represents the 32nd district of Cromwell and Portland. She was re-elected to her 4th term in November 2016. Christie serves as the House Chair of the Program Review and Investigations Committee, and as a member of the Judiciary and Public Health Committees. Christie is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire, magna cum laude, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. She also holds a law degree from Northeastern University. Christie had the opportunity to spend time in Connecticut during college and law school, and knew she had found her home. Christie serves as General Counsel for a private corporation where she routinely navigates all aspects of the business world – from litigation and human resources, customer service and community involvement, to regulations and contract law. As a trial attorney, she advocated on behalf of her clients at all stages of the litigation process. She also served pro bono for the Legal Services School Expulsion Project where she volunteered her time to serve low-income families in need. Some of Christie’s legislative accomplishments include: Protecting our Firefighters; Increasing Student Privacy; Preservation of Developmental Services; Creation of a Special Education Bill of Rights; Helping Home Care Givers; Freezing a Minor’s Credit Report to Prevent Fraud; Early Detection and Better Screenings for Breast Cancer; Providing Local Public Health District Oversight; Opioid Addiction Education and Prevention. Carpino has recently been awarded: 2016 Legislative Advocacy Award from the CT Radiological Society for her work ensuring patients are afforded the ability to make sure that patients continue to have access to needed imaging services; 2015 State Directors Award – Eastern Region from Women In Government for advocacy work on mental health and addiction services; 2015 Legislative Award from the CT State Medical Society for her advocacy against the deterioration of the practice of medicine; As a “40 Under Forty” for excelling in her industry through her leadership roles; Recognized by the Cromwell Fire Department for her work promoting the C.F.D. Christie is happily married to her husband, Joe. They have two young children, and a college aged son. In her time outside of the Capitol, Christie enjoys volunteering within the community, working with Special Olympics, and spending time with her family and friends.

District 33: Middletown



Joseph Serra-D

Representative Joseph Serra

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Committees: Aging (Chair); Judiciary (Member); Transportation (Member)

Joseph C. Serra was elected to represent the 33rd District in the General Assembly in 1992. The 33rd District is located entirely within the boundaries of the City of Middletown. Serra's first run for elected office was in 1992 as the Democratic nominee in the 33rd District. A lifelong Middletown resident, Serra has served on the Middletown Democratic Town Committee since 1984. Serra has served the Middletown Department of Public Works since 1959. In 1979 he was appointed Deputy Director of Public Works and held that position until his retirement in August of 1996 after completing 37 years of service. A graduate of the City's public schools, Serra received an Associate's Degree in Business Administration from Middlesex Community College in 1970. He earned his B.S. Degree in Public Administration from the University of Hartford in 1975. Serra serves as a corporator for the Middlesex Memorial Hospital and St. Francis Hospital. Serra is a former officer and member of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), and has served as president and vice-president of Middletown Managers and Professionals Association (MMPA). Serra serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut Association of Street and Highway Officials (CASHO). He has held the position for the past 37 years. Serra is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Middlesex Community College Foundation and a member of the City of Middletown Retirement Board. Serra is a Chair of the legislature's Aging Committee and serves on the legislature's Judiciary, Transportation and Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committees.

District 34: East Hampton, East Haddam, Colchester



Melissa Ziobron-R

Representative Melissa Ziobron

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Committees: Appropriations (Ranking Member); Environment (Member); Children (Member)

State Representative Melissa Ziobron is a lifelong resident of the 34th District with an extensive record of community service. During the 2017 Legislative Session she was appointed Assistant Minority Leader and continues her role as Ranking Member of the Legislature's powerful budget writing Appropriations Committee. Now in her third term, she was reappointed to the Environment Committee and holds a new role on the General Law Committee. She also serves on the Connecticut Legislature Sportsmen Caucus and the Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Policy Council. She is also Connecticut's Proxy to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Ziobron is committed to local organizations and has spent countless hours volunteering in her community. She has served with the Friends of Devil's Hopyard State Park and the Friends of Gillette Castle State Park, where she served as President. She has assisted the Belltown Garden Club raise funds to steward the gardens at the historic covered Comstock Bridge, facilitated a group of dedicated individuals in forming Friends of Machimoodus/Sunrise State Park, and lent a hand to a group of volunteers working to help a recent Bacon Academy graduate obtain a new handicap van in Colchester. She has also been passionate about helping local Veterans, including assisting a WWII veteran obtain VA housing. She spent many years mentoring young students at Hale-Ray High School and is known for her passion for serving her constituents. She served her local community for many years as an elected and appointed official. Her career in public service began while serving on the East Haddam Board of Education. She also played an important role on the 4-8 School Building Committee and Elderly & Disabled Tax Relief Committees. She continues the fight to prioritize tax payer spending and programs that support Connecticut's residents. Often times reminding fellow legislators that there is no such thing as "state money." It is a hard battle, but one worth fighting for. One of her consistent top priorities in the legislature is to advocate for state parks and forests. She has testified many times regarding the conditions of parks throughout the State. The successful community cleanup and expansion of the kayak & canoe launch at Sunrise State Park is an example of her hard work and leadership. The Airline Trail is another special place for her constituents and she was successful in getting the Trout Management Area at Salmon River State Forest updated. She is also a vocal supporter of both freshwater and saltwater fishing and has been successful in advocating for the states fish hatcheries and sportsmen issues. Rep. Ziobron lives in East Haddam with her husband Scott, their two children, Brittany and Bryan; along with their hound dogs Duke and Daisy.

District 35: Clinton, Killingworth and Westbrook



Jesse MacLachlan-R

Representative Jesse MacLachlan

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Committees: Transportation, Energy & Technology (Member), Higher Ed and Employment Advancement (Member)

State Rep. Jesse MacLachlan proudly represents the 35th General Assembly District covering Clinton, Killingworth and Westbrook. He serves on the legislature's committees on Transportation, Insurance and Real Estate as well as Higher Education and Employment Advancement. After college MacLachlan returned to Westbrook to work for his family business, Biblio Tech Inc., which specializes in the preservation and relocation of corporate, academic and institutional libraries. Due to the early experiences pertaining to this family business, MacLachlan is able to recognize the struggles associated with maintaining a successful business in Connecticut. As a student of Westbrook High School, MacLachlan knew that no matter what road he followed, in the end it would one day lead him back to the Connecticut River Valley and that's just how it happened. After MacLachlan graduated from Gordon College with a degree in Political Science he returned to his hometown. For years, MacLachlan has been an avid community service volunteer with various municipal, state and regional groups. At Valley Shore Assembly of God church, he volunteers during Sunday school where he mentors young people within a community of faith. In November of 2014, the voters of the 35th District chose MacLachlan as their representative voice in Hartford. MacLachlan understands that Connecticut spends too much, taxes too much and is too expensive to live in. As a young person himself, he understands the inability of young adults to settle in Connecticut and understands the struggles of seniors to afford retirement. The result is a phenomenon of individuals that leave the state in search of opportunity and an affordable place to live. MacLachlan knows first-hand the difficulties faced by many who choose to stay in Connecticut. With this said, MacLachlan's primary concern is to help make Connecticut a more affordable place for young workers, families and retirees. The role of government should be to continue doing what it does well – which is creating a stable environment through public safety, health and education.

District 36: Haddam, Chester, Deep River, Essex



Bob Siegrist- R

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Committees: Insurance (Member); Public Safety (Member); Veterans' Affairs (Member)

Robert Siegrist, better known as Bob, represents the 36th General Assembly District of Chester, Deep River, Essex and Haddam. Bob was elected in November 2016 to his first-term. He serves on the legislature's Insurance, Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs committees. As a resident of the 36th District since the age of 12, Bob understands this community and what is important to residents who live here. Having gone through the Haddam-Killingworth public school system, he knows how important quality education is. Bob graduated from Quinnipiac University in 2006 where he received a BA in Political Science with a minor in History. After graduating college, he returned to his hometown of Higganum. Since graduating college, Bob has been an active member of the community and maintained employment at local small businesses, which provided him with invaluable experience to be able to understand the challenges that many small business owners in Connecticut face. The various aspects of life, business and community that Bob experienced in Connecticut have given him the means to fully relate to his constituents. Bob is vested in the 36th District and vows to represent this community with distinction as their voice in Hartford.

District 82: Middlefield, Meriden



Emil Altobello-D

Representative Emil Altobello

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Committees: Finance, Revenue & Bonding (member); General Law (member); Transportation (member)

Born and raised in Meriden. Local schools attended: Israel Putnam, Nathan Hale, Jefferson and Washington Middle Schools, and Maloney High School. Local Memberships/Interest: Ancient Order of Hibernians, Elks Club, North Italian Home Club, Meriden Humane Society, Friends of the Meriden Public Library, Meriden Hall of Fame, Boys & Girls Club Alumni and Daffodil Festival Volunteer. First elected for a 4 year term to the Meriden City Council in 1987; re-elected in 1991. Appointed Chairman of the City Council Public Works Committee in 1989. Appointed Chairman of the City Council Finance & Budget Committee in 1991; reappointed Chairman in 1993. Elected City Council Majority Leader by the Democratic Caucus in 1991, re-elected in 1993. While on the City Council; also served on the Meriden Board of Ethics, the Downtown Advisory Committee, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the Farmer's Market Committee. First Elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives in November 1994, continued to serve on the City Council as Majority Leader and Finance Chairman until March 1995. Re-elected to the House in 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016. Currently serving his 12th two-year term. General Assembly Committee assignments have included service on the: Energy & Technology Committee, Insurance & Real Estate Committee (Vice-chairman 1997-1998), Finance, Revenue, & Bonding Committee (Vice-chairman 1999-2000), Legislative Management Committee, General Bonding Sub-Committee, Transportation Bonding Sub-Committee (Co-Chairman 2001-2002), State Bond Commission (Ad Hoc 2001-2002), and the Legislative Screening Committee (2003-2006), Bond Commission – Alternate. Other leadership assignments include: Assistant Majority Leader of the House (2001-2002), Deputy Majority Leader (2003-2004), and Deputy Speaker of the House (2005-2012), Assistant Deputy Speaker (2013-Present)

District 86: North Branford, Guilford, Wallingford, Durham



Vincent Candelora-R

Representative Vincent Candelora

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Website: <http://cthousegop.com/about-vin/>

Committees: Legislative Management (member), Regulations Review (member), Judiciary (member), Public Health (member), Finance Revenue and Bonding (member)

State Rep. Vincent Candelora proudly represents the 86th General Assembly District, which includes Durham, Guilford, North Branford and Wallingford. He was elected to his sixth two-year term in November 2016. As a member of the legislature's committee on Legislative Management, Candelora has held Deputy Republican Leader title since 2011. He also serves on the legislature's committees on Finance, Revenue and Bonding, Judiciary, Public Health and Regulations Review. Candelora also serves as the Chair of the screening committee that is tasked with reviewing all legislation before it is put up for a vote in the House. He is an active member in the community where he serves on the Executive Board of the North Branford Little League, the league coordinator for PeeWee American and serves as a Boy Scout adult leader. He enjoys coaching all three of his children in little league, basketball and softball. He has served as President of North Branford's Chamber of Commerce and is Past-President of the North Branford Rotary Club. In 2005, he spearheaded Rotary's Centennial Project Committee, which constructed bathrooms and a concession stand at the North Branford High School. Prior to the Council, he served as Vice Chair of the North Branford Zoning Board of Appeals and Treasurer to the Republican Town Committee. He is an active member with St. Augustine Church where he has served two terms on the Parish Counsel, one year as President. In his six terms of service, Candelora has advocated for efficiencies in government. He currently serves on the Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes, which is charged with reducing the redundancies in state government. He continually advocates for appropriate fraud measures to be put in place for our state and community action agencies in order to ensure that only those who truly need state services receive them. Candelora has served on the North Branford Town Council for three terms, one term as Deputy Mayor. While on the Council, he served on the Islander East Pipeline Committee where he testified on behalf the Town of North Branford before the Siting Council and Federal Environmental Regulation Commission. Vincent serves on the Board of Education Strategic Planning Committee, which is responsible for reviewing and setting the goals and standards for the North Branford School System. He works at Taconic Wire, a stitching wire manufacturing business and operates the Connecticut Sportsplex, both family owned businesses. Prior to this, he practiced municipal and transactional law with Susman, Duffy, & Segaloff, PC in New Haven and served as law clerk to the Honorable Antoinette L. Dupont, former Chief Judge of the Appellate Court of Connecticut. Vincent graduated from Connecticut College in 1992, and the Dickinson School of Law at Penn State in 1995, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Dickinson Law Review and selected for the Appellate Moot Court Board. Candelora resides in North Branford with his wife, Carolyn, and three children, Christopher, Thomas, and Ava.

District 100: Middletown



Matthew Lesser-D

Representative Mathew Lesser

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Website: <http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Lesser/bio100.asp>

Committees: Banks (chair), Government Administration & Elections (member), Insurance & Real Estate (member)

State Representative Matt Lesser is serving his fourth term in the Connecticut House of Representatives representing the City of Middletown. In January, 2015 Speaker Sharkey appointed Rep. Lesser co-chair of the General Assembly's Banking Committee. Rep. Lesser also co-chairs a subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee and serves on the Government Administration & Elections Committee. Rep. Lesser has been a principal author of a number of important laws including Connecticut's first in the nation Student Loan Bill of Rights, a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing waste, and a major workplace safety law later adopted as a national standard. He has been a leader on consumer protections, the environment and paid family leave. Rep. Lesser has championed Middletown's interests in the legislature, significantly expanding funding for local roads and schools, and securing millions of dollars to help rebuild Middletown's waterfront. Rep. Lesser has been honored for protecting consumers by the Connecticut chapter of AARP, been repeatedly named a champion by the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, and has been named "Children's Champion" five times by the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance. In 2015, Rep. Lesser served as a Marshall Memorial Fellow, a highly competitive international leadership and exchange program. He was named to the Democratic Party's National Platform Committee in 2012. Matt attended Wesleyan University and lives in Middletown's North End. He previously served on Middletown's Planning and Zoning Commission.

District 101: Madison and Durham



Noreen Kokoruda-R

Representative Noreen Kokoruda

House Republican Office

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Hartford, CT 06106

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Committees: Children (member), Appropriations (member), Education (member), Legislative Management (Member)

State Rep. Noreen Kokoruda proudly represents the 101st General Assembly District, which encompasses Durham and Madison. She was sworn into office on Feb 25, 2011 after winning a Special Election and was reelected to her fourth term in November 2016. Noreen serves on the General Assembly's Committees on Children, Appropriations and Education. As a member of the legislature's committee on Legislative Management, Kokoruda serves as House Republican Caucus Chair. Kokoruda has lived in Madison for over 30 years and has spent the entire time dedicated to public service, and loves getting things done that positively impact her community. As Executive Director of the Shoreline Foundation, she worked for many years to provide safe and fun summer camps for local kids. She managed a \$2 Million budget and oversaw the successful opening of the AquaDome, where children learn to swim and senior citizens can stay fit. Noreen served as Chairman of Madison's Beach and Recreation Commission for almost 10 years. While on that board, she worked for expanded recreational programs and additional playing fields, such as Exchange and Lowrey fields. She also was a leader in the acquisition of the Rockland Preserve for open space. She served on the Town Hall Building Committee that created the Town Campus and updated Memorial Town Hall. Kokoruda played a pivotal role in initiating and forming Madison's Energy Committee. Noreen was President of the Youth Lacrosse League and Founder of the girl's program. Over the years as a board member, she raised much-needed dollars for Madison ABC and the town library. Her generous spirit and ability to rally the troops have furthered many causes. Gov. Rell appointed her to The Connecticut Commission for Community Service. As a mom, Kokoruda was president of 3 different PTO's. She was a leader in CTE (Concerned Taxpayers for Education), an earlier grass roots group working to get education budgets passed. She fought to replace out of date textbooks and limit class size. She pushed for stronger teachers and correcting the conditions of the school buildings. During her thirteen year tenure on the board of selectmen in Madison, Kokoruda garnered a reputation for fiscal sanity, while maintaining municipal services that are the envy of the region. She believes that we must cut our bloated state government before talking about tax hikes. Kokoruda led the effort in Madison to get all the schools renovated. Today the LOCAP (Long Term Capital Projects) sets aside over \$1 Million per year to fix up our buildings and she was the key initiator. Since that was established Brown Middle School HVAC has finally been corrected, the overcrowded cafeteria has been enlarged and the whole building has been redone. Every school has been impacted (and continues to be) by this fund. Kokoruda championed for a new high school and when the first vote went down took a leadership position to finally get a new high school built. During her tenure she has supported over 75% increases in funding for education and an additional \$12 million for renovating our schools and other town facilities such as the Surf Club. Kokoruda has always fought to keep a bipartisan spirit in local politics, and has worked diligently to keep that same attitude in Hartford. She feels that the people you serve must be put before politics. Kokoruda lives with her husband Dan in Madison and they have two adult sons and five grandchildren.