

## CANDIDATES FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 136

### TWO-YEAR TERM

CANDIDATES' REPLIES ARE PUBLISHED EXACTLY AS SUBMITTED, WITHIN THE 150-WORD LIMIT SPECIFIED. CANDIDATES ARE LISTED IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY APPEAR ON THE BALLOT.

- 1) Given the worsening international, domestic and human consequences of the current energy crisis, describe in detail your ideas for both immediate and long-term solutions for Connecticut. 2) What more can Connecticut do to improve the accessibility and affordability of health care?



**NITZY COHEN**  
Republican

1. Growing up in Jerusalem I had no clue that one can regulate the temperature in which they live in, take a shower at any time of the day, or that a teenager can have a car. And then I came to America! Wow! 24/7 air-conditioning, heat, hot water, and cars for everyone! Heaven! ? However, at what financial price and environmental costs? I believe we can do better than present situation by supporting:

- Fuel cell technology - build fueling stations, convert state and municipal fleets to fuel cell operated cars and buses.

- Solar energy - train and license as many contractors
- Assisting low-income citizens heat their homes
- Permanent gas tax cut, especially capping the wholesale gas tax.
- Allowing 5,000 state employees to telecommute, taking 5,000 cars off the road, reducing emissions and gas consumption.

For more information, please visit my web site [www.nitzycohen.com](http://www.nitzycohen.com)

2. In Connecticut, 92% of the population has health insurance. For the 8% uninsured, Governor Rell introduced the Connecticut Charter Oak Plan; the goal of the Charter Oak Health Plan is to provide universal access to affordable health care coverage to Connecticut adults of all incomes. I support the plan, its goals and its cost effectiveness. In addition, I support the Keep long term care at home program which enables people who need long-term health care to receive it at home rather than at nursing homes which is a cost-effective alternative. As a businesswoman I recognize the costs for businesses and individuals that make Connecticut an expensive state to live in. We have seen escalating state budgets and taxes, while our population has decreased in the past two decades. I want to make Connecticut affordable for our seniors, our college graduates and businesses. Let's make Connecticut hospitable again!

[www.nitzycohen.com](http://www.nitzycohen.com)



**JOSEPH MIOLI**  
Democrat

1. These past 4 years our efforts significantly improved transportation, environment, healthcare, business, senior and veteran benefits and energy assistance. Last year's budget reflected an impressive 50.6% increase in State contributions to Westport. I defeated a proposed income tax increase. Our current priority should be energy conservation, promoting the use of carpooling, telecommunication for public employees and by offering mass transit commuters tax credits. Efforts should include supporting the construction of new

fuel cell generators and regulation of commodities (i.e. electricity) based on production cost and reasonable profit. Continue to promote new fuel efficient cars and the use of gasoline and natural gas for vehicles. Bulk goods shipping should be encouraged by sea and railway. Energy efficiency and education programs promoting energy conservation should be supported. Long term solutions include policies to further develop and promote the use of renewable energy forms: solar; wind, thermal, hydro and fuel cells.

2. Connecticut has many health care programs aimed at lower income families (incomes below \$50,000), but thousands of families still need assistance. Even a family with a combined income of \$100,000 cannot afford to pay up to \$20,000 for annual healthcare. The Charter Oak Health Plan is a good start to addressing healthcare. We must maximize Federal monies and implement a market based health care system with a cost-sharing State/Employer/Employee triad, with the State contribution coming from tobacco settlement monies. Insurance companies need to create a "catastrophic illness pool" with contributions based on the total number of company enrollees, reflecting a fair cost-sharing program. Healthcare professionals and hospitals must be adequately compensated. This year we assigned a panel to analyze current healthcare programs affecting Connecticut residents. This report will be delivered by January 2009, and include a proposal of recommendations to improve and expand current and new healthcare programs.

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**AMANDA PARKS**  
Republican

1. and 2. Any plans to solve problems, including energy needs or health care access, are only realistic if we increase business revenue for the State. We have to solve our State's problems without taking more money from the homeowners. CT's economic decline started when we lost our manufacturing base. The revenue for the next generation of manufacturing is going to come from the worldwide demand for alternative energy products. **I want Connecticut to be to Alternative Energy Production for the next generation what Silicon**

**Valley was to computers for the last generation.** Connecticut needs to bring in the high-paying, high-tech jobs that will help our citizens help themselves by providing decent wages and benefits as well as providing revenue to the State's budget that can be earmarked for expanding the Husky Healthcare Plan and providing aid for utility expenses for struggling citizens. I will work hard to attract these high-tech jobs and their associated tax revenue by making it clear to that industry that we want Connecticut to be the center of their universe. Some region is going to reap these benefits. Why not Connecticut? We already have many of the assets and infrastructure businesses want along with a well educated work force. These new, high-tech and high-paying "green" technologies will sustain the tax base for decades and are the only way to pay for the programs that the people of CT desire.

Amanda Parks is a 4th generation Fairfielder who has proven herself as a principled innovator. She and her father started and funded a school in Bridgeport and she is the only local candidate that refused to partake in the \$5million that the current State Legislature hypocritically voted itself to spend on their own campaigns.



**KIM FAWCETT**  
Democrat

1. As a member of the Energy and Technology Committee, I have helped develop a mix of tax incentives to promote both energy efficiency and clean energy. These include a permanent discontinuation of the state sales tax on the purchase of Energy Star furnaces, CFLs and weatherization supplies, as well as rebates for Energy Star appliances and the elimination of the 6 percent sales tax on high mpg vehicles.

In addition, I have supported the development of an emerging alternative energy industry. The 2007 energy bill promoted the use of alternative fuel for electricity generation, including ethanol, biodiesel, geothermal energy and hydropower. In 2011, 8 percent of our state's electric energy must be generated by alternative energy sources. By 2020, 20 percent of electricity production in Connecticut will be from alternative energy sources.

Through such policies, we are supporting the growth of vital solar, wind, hydro and biodiesel fuel sources.

2. In 2007, I was appointed to serve as Vice Chair of the Health Care Cost Containment Committee. Our committee was charged with drafting legislation to help create affordable health insurance options for Connecticut's municipal governments, small businesses and self-employed individuals. We passed legislation that would have allowed interested businesses or local governments to join the State Employee Benefit Plan, giving them unprecedented access to excellent benefits at affordable rates. While the bill was ultimately vetoed by the governor - forcing Westporters to wait at least another two years to see any relief from rapidly rising insurance premiums - I will continue to be an outspoken champion of health care reform that provides all Connecticut residents with access to affordable, quality health insurance.

Rep. Fawcett and her husband Rick live in Fairfield with their three children: Kylie, 10; Cassie, 9; and Nicholas, 7.

**Officials will be on hand at all polling places to answer your questions.**