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2020 Voters Guide ~ Bloomfield, Connecticut

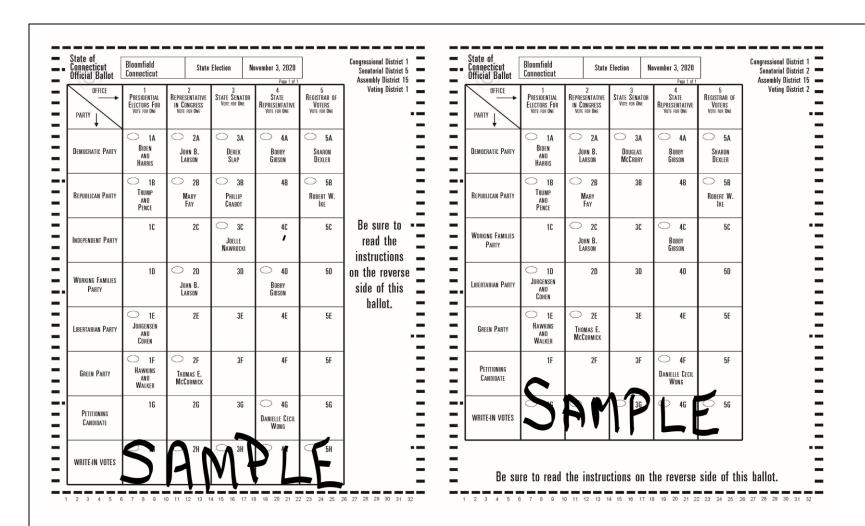
To the voters:

The League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford (LWVGH) is pleased to bring you the Voters Guide for the candidates appearing on **Bloomfield** ballots for the Connecticut House and Senate General Assembly. An online version of the Voters' Guide can be found at www.lwvgh.org.

There are five Voting Districts in Bloomfield. Bloomfield voters in Voting District 1 reside in Senatorial District 5. Bloomfield voters in Voting Districts 2-5 reside in Senatorial District 2. For this reason we include two sample ballots below. Both Senatorial District 5 and SD2 include towns other than Bloomfield. For SD5 we use the questions adopted by West Hartford. For SD2 and Assembly District 15 we use the questions adopted by Windsor. Maps of the Senatorial Districts precede the responding candidates' information shown below.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization celebrating its 100th year. It was established in 1920, the year in which the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified creating the framework affording women the right to vote. From its inception, the League has been committed to promoting responsible political action through informed participation of citizens in government. Our mission "to produce informed voters" has not wavered over the 100 years of service to the community.

We hope that you find the Guide helpful as you prepare to vote. We invite you to become a member of the League of Women Voters. Contact Membership Chair Libby Swietek at 860-561-2886 or lib5410@gmail.com



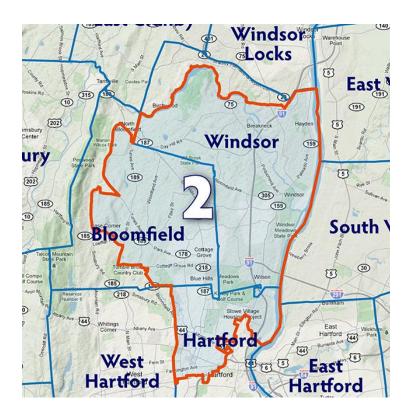
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15 th Assembly District	Bobby Gibson Democrat	Danielle Cecil Wong Petitioning Candidate
Candidate Questions for Connecticut State House	Representative Gibson is an educator and coach, who has won many championships. Gibson is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and is currently the First District Social Action Chairman. Gibson is on the Board of Directors of Discovering Amistad. He is also a Trustee and Usher at Hopewell Baptist Church. Gibson has received awards as an educator, and from Connecticut High School Coaches Association, Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches 100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut, The Links Incorporated, Prince Hall Foundation of Connecticut, The Institute for Cross-Cultural Awareness and Transformative Education, Connecticut League of Conservational Voters, The Greater Hartford Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, Hopewell Baptist Church, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Gibson is an Assistant Majority Leader, Vice-Chairman of the General Law Committee, and is on the Education and Appropriation Committees. Gibson's priorities are education, the environment, seniors, and the fair living conditions of all	Councilor Danielle Wong is an accomplished professional holding a successful record in project and business management and a champion for social justice and Women's rights. In 2019, she was asked to run for Town Council, and shortly after a successful campaign, she was asked to run for State Representative to represent Bloomfield and Windsor. Danielle is a Progressive Democrat consistently challenging the status quo. She believes in increasing funding for our children's education, expanding job opportunities and prioritizing our infrastructure while ensuring equitable economic development for residents. She believes in protecting our environment and protecting our population's most vulnerable.

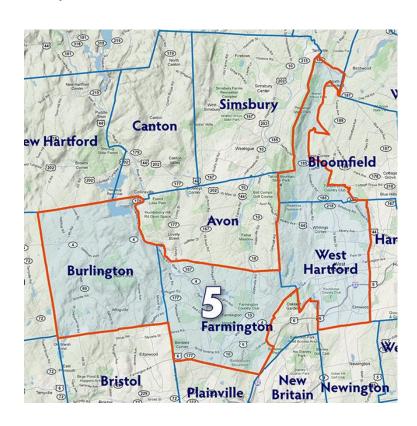
15 th Assembly District	Bobby Gibson Democrat Connecticut citizens. Gibson sponsored and passed Public Act 19-12, the Inclusion of African American Black, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies in Connecticut schools. Gibson seeks to approve bipartisan legislation, for the betterment of all Connecticut residents.	Danielle Cecil Wong Petitioning Candidate
What is your view on police accountability, structure, evaluation and public review?	As your State Representative I fought for the PAB. We have many fine officers that protect and serve. This bill was designed for the bad ones, the ones who have killed and sparked the BLM movement. The bill has many great components such as police oversight, body cameras, and training.	I believe the absence of Police accountability in this country has contributed to the systemic oppression and generational deficits in the black and brown community. The Police structure we have to today, meant to support public safety, is not working and will not until we address the history of it's racist culture. For example, while law enforcement prioritizes its resources on nonviolent and low level drug offenses, the Police focus less on tactical approaches to address real and harmful crimes like human trafficking. While we plan for a more effective Police structure in the long term, I believe every city and municipality should require a Citizens Review Board with subpoena power, where members are appointed by the people.
2. Given the rise of remote learning how will you help close the digital divide and assure that all children have access to learning opportunities?	As an Educator I have planned, worked, and spoken in forums to ensure our students have laptops and access to the internet. I have met with superintendents, principals, and teachers to	While we continue to adapt to the distance learning culture, we must address the intersectionality between healthcare, employment, affordable housing, and education. By addressing the root cause and the barriers to

15 th Assembly District	Bobby Gibson Democrat	Danielle Cecil Wong Petitioning Candidate	
	understand their needs, and I have helped to secure funding for distance learning.	basic human needs, we begin to close the inequity gaps families with children face with access to learning opportunities.	
3. How do we balance the evolving renewable energy sources with the fossil fuels we have been dependent on while protecting our air, water and land?	As an Environmental Champion I have held and spoken at several educational forums on climate. At these forums I have helped to educate our communities on the importance of developing and using renewable sources of energy, and eliminating sources of energy that pollute our air, water, and land. We must continue to pass legislation that reduces carbon emissions that result from the usage of fossil fuels.	We must thoughtfully plan now for a carbon free future, which includes the mass exodus of jobs in the fossil fuel industry. By ensuring that non-profit groups like the Urban League or Habitat for Humanity are getting the funding and support they need to train black, brown and people of color, we then accomplish the goal of diversifying the energy industry while building a pipeline for clean energy jobs to support the transition away from the fossil fuel industry.	

Map of 2nd Senatorial District



Map of 5th Senatorial District



2nd Senatorial District	Doug McCrory Democrat	Unopposed
Candidate Questions for Connecticut State House	Douglas McCrory was first elected as State Representative for Hartford's 7th Assembly District in 2004. He was first elected to serve as State Senator for the 2nd District of Hartford, Bloomfield and Windsor in 2018. Doug has been an educator for over 20 years. He has taught at Sarah J. Rawson Elementary School and has served as vice principal at Lewis Fox Middle School. Doug graduated from the University of Hartford with a Master's in Business Administration. He earned his Master's Degree in Elementary Administration from Sacred Heart University and is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Doug is involved in politics at the grassroots level. Recognizing the importance of participation among people of color in the political process, Doug encourages young people to become engaged civically, and to register to vote. A Blue Hills resident and Hartford native, Doug lives with his wife, Foye Smith, who serves as the City of Hartford's Judge of Probate Court, and their son Cairo.	
1. What is your view on police accountability, structure, evaluation and public review?	I have long been an advocate and supporter of police accountability. I support legislation which requires police officers to intervene when a colleague is using excessive illegal force, overhauls police training, sets standards for police departments across the state, the authorization of an independent statewide council to revoke the certification of any police officer, the elimination of qualified immunity for claims against police officers, and the prohibition of vehicle searches without probable cause and the driver's consent.	

2nd Senatorial District	Doug McCrory Democrat	Unopposed
2. Given the rise of remote learning how will you help close the digital divide and assure that all children have access to learning opportunities?	For over 20 years I have been an educator. I have experienced the challenges and joys that come from being a teacher. I will continue to advocate for our students and teachers to receive the funding and training needed for them to be successful. Especially during the time of the pandemic, I want to make sure our teachers and students have the support they need.	
3. How do we balance the evolving renewable energy sources with the fossil fuels we have been dependent on while protecting our air, water and land?	It is important that we continue to fund research into new more efficient renewable energy sources and protect our environment from the dangerous impact of using fossil fuels. I have seen and supported companies which are a Class 1 renewable energy source.	

5 th Senatorial	Derek Slap		Phillip Chabot	Joelle Nawrocki
District	Democrat		Republican Candidate did not respond to invitation to participate	Independent Party Candidate did not respond to invitation to participate
Candidate Questions for Connecticut State House		Derek lives in West Hartford with his wife and three children. He spent nearly a decade as a broadcast journalist and later went on to work in politics and the non-		

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1. The COVID-19 pandemic is putting pressure on the state budget more than usual. What are your priorities on structuring spending and revenue?	profit sector, eventually becoming VP of Advancement at The Village, where he currently works. He was first elected to the General Assembly in 2016 as a state representative and then to the state senate in 2019. Derek is motivated by his progressive values. He passed a landmark pay equity bill in 2018 and co-sponsored legislation to cap the cost of insulin and ban untraceable ghost guns. He's currently Chair of the Aging committee and is leading the charge to combat age discrimination. When the pandemic hit, Connecticut was ranked by Forbes as one the best prepared states financially because of the large rainy day fund it established over the previous few years: thankfully we avoided Republican attempts to drain the fund and spend the money. Moving forward it's critical that we enact sustainable budgets, without shredding the social safety net or slashing support for education. Targeted spending reductions should always be on the table. Congress must also provide financial relief to states and this will go a long way to solving our future deficits.		
2. What is the role of the CT Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) and is it fulfilling its duty to provide	The Take Back our Grid Act, which the General Assembly just approved in special session is a good start with important reforms. Customers deserve rebates when power is out for extended periods,		

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utility oversight? What would you propose?	executive pay should be based on performance, and there should be more scrutiny for rate hikes. We have an out-of-state monopoly controlling electric distribution for most of the state and recently we've seen executives and shareholders do quite well while rate payers suffer and local jobs are eliminated. We deserve better.		
3. There is evidence that zoning laws in individual communities across our state have contributed to social, economic, and racial inequities. What is your response?	Connecticut is a very segregated state — one of the most in the nation — and local zoning laws often exacerbate the problem. Integration in our neighborhoods and schools helps people of different ethnicities and backgrounds to understand each other and root out systemic racism. We must also address inequities in health care, education, environmental zoning, and employment.		