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**NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN, CONNECTICUT CHAPTER, ENDORSES 50
CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR STATE LEGISLATURE**

HARTFORD--The Connecticut chapter of the National Organization for Women (CT NOW) has endorsed 50 candidates running for the Connecticut General Assembly seats, including 47 Democrats, two Republicans and one from the Green Party.

The endorsements are based on responses candidates gave to a CT NOW questionnaire. Questions were designed to show how candidates' beliefs lined up with both CT NOW's, and national NOW's, legislative and policy priorities. Particular attention was paid to candidates' answers on questions related to:

- Reproductive rights and justice
- Economic justice
- Ending violence against women
- Racial justice
- LGBT rights (including marriage equality)
- Constitutional equality

All Connecticut state senate and representative candidates were invited to complete the questionnaire. Only those who responded on time, and answered all questions, were considered.

"Issues at the core of today's women's movement--issues like reproductive rights, gender equality, family leave, access to education and equal pay--aren't just women's issues. They're human issues," said CT NOW President Cindy Wolfe Boynton. "They're also issues that Connecticut state senators and representatives will likely face in the very near future, and that are at the core of what NOW is all about. Connecticut NOW is committed to helping elect officials who are equally committed to the advancement of women's and human rights, and we are pleased to offer these endorsements."

State 2016 candidates being backed by CT NOW include:

For State Senate

Democrat Dante' Bartolomeo, 13th District
Democrat Ryan Rogers, 16th District

Democrat Timothy R. Bowles, 18th District
Democrat Catherine A. Osten, 19th District
Democrat Russ Morin, 28th District
Democrat Greg Cava, 32nd District
Democrat Arlene Avery, 35th District

For State Representative

Democrat Matt Ritter, 1st District
Democrat Raghiv Allie-Brennan, 2nd District
Democrat Tom Currier, 8th District
Democrat Saud Anwar, 14th District
Democrat Andy Fleischmann, 18th District
Democrat Derek Slap, 19th District
Democrat Mike Demicco, 21st District
Democrat Joshua C. Shulman, 27th District
Democrat Joe Aresimowicz, 30th District
Democrat Matthew Saunig, 31st District
Democrat Beth A. Hogan, 37th District
Democrat Sharon Palmer, 38th District
Democrat Diana Urban, 43rd District
Democrat Kate Donnelly, 47th District
Democrat Linda Orange, 48th District
Democrat Kathleen M. Bachiochi, 52nd District
Democrat Susan Eastwood, 53rd District
Democrat Gregory Haddad, 54th District
Republican Jim Tedford, 56th District
Democrat David Alexander, 58th District
Democrat Tim Curtis, 60th District
Democrat William O. Riiska, 64th District
Democrat Gayle Carr, 66th District
Green Party's Jimmie Griffin, 72nd District
Democrat Jeffrey J. Berger, 73rd District
Democrat Myrna Watanabe, 76th District
Democrat Catherine F. Abercrombie, 83rd District
Democrat Mary Mushinsky, 85th District
Democrat Steve Gifford, 87th District
Democrat Joshua Elliott, 88th District
Democrat Patrick Reynolds, 90th District
Democrat James Albis, 99th District
Democrat Matthew Lesser, 100th District
Democrat Liz Linehan, 103rd District
Democrat Linda M. Gentile, 104th District
Democrat Theresa W. Conroy, 105th District
Democrat Eva Bermudez Zimmerman, 106th District

Democrat Michael A. DiMassa, 116th District
Democrat Sean Ronan, 117th District
Democrat Kim Rose, 118th District
Democrat Frederick J. Streets, 120th District
Republican Anthony Pizighelli, 126th District
Democrat Chris Perone, 137th District
Democrat Jeffrey Tomchik, 138th District

Founded in 1970, CT NOW is proud to be part of the largest organization of feminist activists in the United States. The grassroots arm of the women's movement, we are one of more than 500 local and campus national NOW affiliates across the United States and a leader—rather than a follower—of public opinion. Learn more about us at www.now-ct.org.