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May 30, 2018 cgfcoop@gmail.com

**Mark Greenberg Announces He Will Enter Republican Primary for State Comptroller**

***Pledges to be “Fiscal Watchdog”***

Mark Greenberg today announced that he has entered the Republican primary for State Comptroller. Greenberg qualified for the primary at the Republican nominating Convention by surpassing the mandatory 15 percent threshold of delegate support and filed with the SEEC yesterday.

Greenberg has been endorsed by more than 140 state Republican leaders including former Lt. Governor Michael Fedele.

“I have the right experience and skill set to help lead Connecticut back to economic stability and growth as the next State Comptroller,” Greenberg said. “I will oppose the kind of excessive borrowing that has wrecked our state’s bond rating and I will scrutinize the State budget for gimmicks and other unsound fiscal practices. In short, I will be a fiscal watchdog over the State budget.”

Greenberg has proposed cutting the state income tax by 1.5 percent, to reduce it to 5.49 percent to be competitive with our New England competitor states and he has proposed repealing the estate tax.

In addition, Mark has proposed a voluntary State employee pension buyback program that would address Connecticut’s unfunded pension liability, which is one of the worst in the nation.

Under the proposal, the State would offer state workers who are entitled to a pension the ability to receive a cash payment now in settlement of the state’s future obligation, saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars over the long term, and eliminating an unfunded liability.

The program would be 100 percent voluntary and would offer a discounted, upfront lump sum payment based on an actuarial analysis of the value of the individual’s pension.

Over the past 35 years Mark Greenberg has dedicated his life to improving his community. After graduating from Cornell, Mark created MGRE, a firm that is now one of the largest real estate management firms in the Northeast.

Mark has also invested in and helped stimulate Connecticut’s economy by developing numerous commercial and retail properties, creating hundreds of jobs for the construction trades as well as the individuals who work in the stores, offices and restaurants in the completed developments.

Mark and his wife Linda founded The Simon Foundation, an animal rescue shelter in Bloomfield which has helped adopt more than 4,000 dogs and cats to loving homes.

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