

State Central Committee member representing the Cities of New Haven & West Haven for State 10th State Senate District within the Connecticut Democratic Party.

5. My experiences as an active elector, legislator and municipal employee and community activist enables my desire to serve the people of New Haven as their next State Senator from the 10th State Senate District.

6. When I decided to run for State Senate in the 10th Senate District, a Democratic-majority voter district, I understood that it would be a challenge to obtain the necessary votes from the delegates who would be appointed by New Haven's Democratic Party Chair, who had opposed the election campaign of my former employer, Toni Harp, and had opposed my election to the State Central Committee two years ago. I knew, based on my knowledge and experience in New Haven Democratic Party politics, that New Haven's Democratic Party Chair would make it highly improbable for me to qualify for the ballot by state party convention.

7. In fact, the New Haven Democratic Party Chair chose the delegates for the state party convention himself.

8. Knowing it was highly improbable that I would qualify for the ballot by state party convention, I ran for office, believing that I would not be precluded from obtaining ballot access because I could petition my way onto the ballot in a Democratic Party Primary.

9. I have years of experience obtaining ballot petition signatures, because I was successful as a campaign manager in charge of obtaining the necessary petitions for a variety of candidates for office and ensuring they achieved ballot access in the State of Connecticut. This experience includes successful petition access campaigns for James Newton, Democratic candidate for Mayor of New Haven in 1999, State Senator Martin Looney, Democratic candidate for Mayor of New Haven in 2001, Mary Jane Foster, Democratic candidate for Mayor of Bridgeport in 2011, and then-Sen. Toni Harp, Democratic candidate for Mayor of New Haven 2013. I believed, when I began planning to run for office, because of my experience, that I would be able to collect enough signatures from electors to qualify for the ballot in a Democratic Party Primary.

10. However, due to COVID-19 and the continuing shelter-at-home orders issued by Governor Lamont, going door-to-door will be impossible to obtain legal signatures in person. I am aware that Governor Lamont issued an executive order allowing for remote notarization to be legal and legitimate with a proper attestation so I have theorized that we could do an electronic signature on petitions. However, no executive order applicable to candidates running for the offices of state representative, state senate, or congress has been issued regarding how to proceed.

11. Conventions for political office in the Democratic Party are scheduled to begin by the Connecticut Democratic Party on May 10th. The State Senate Conventions for the City of New Haven are scheduled for May 19, 2020. Time is of the essence.

12. Based on my knowledge, training, and experience, I know that political campaigns that challenge incumbent political leaders require foresight, planning, and organization.

13. By now, as a candidate for public office challenging a public official, guidance should have been provided by the Secretary of the State's office or the Governor regarding the establishment of procedures and guidelines to obtain and legally attest electronic signatures for the office I and other candidates seek.

14. The Secretary of the State and the Governor's office have articulated strategies to ensure that the Presidential Primary Election delegates have access to the democratic system, but no strategy for Connecticut residents who seek to obtain access to the ballot in order to represent our Cities, towns and communities in which we live and to hold incumbent officeholders accountable.

15. The failure of the Secretary of the State and the Governor to provide an alternative to paper petition signatures for candidates who, like me, are unlikely to receive the support of the local party insiders at convention has placed an undue burden on my candidacy seeking access to the primary ballot.

16. Every hour and day that passes without being able to plan for an electronic petition signature gathering effort – or some other alternative form of ballot access – irreparably harms my ability to exercise my First Amendment right to run for office. I can never get that time back. The time lost due to

the failure of the Governor and the Secretary of the State put me at a competitive disadvantage in my race challenging my incumbent State Senator.

17. My attorney has informed me that he has attempted to make service of the Complaint in this case on the Office of the Attorney General, and I believe that they have notice of this case, but they have not responded or acknowledged receipt of the Complaint.

18. In my opinion, if an order from this Court does not issue, time will run out and irreparably harm the ability of myself and other candidates for office to meaningfully access the ballot, unless they are well-connected and have the support of someone like the New Haven Democratic Party Chair.

* * *

I declare under penalty of perjury, pursuant to Title 28, § 1746 of the United States Code, that the foregoing is true, correct, and within my personal knowledge.

/s/Jason W. Bartlett
Jason W. Bartlett
Dated this 7th day of May, 2020

NOTARIZATION

Subscribed to and sworn before me, this 7th day of May, 2020, through Communication Technology pursuant to the terms of Governor Lamont’s Executive Order No. 7Q (3).

/s/
Alexander T. Taubes, Esq.
Commissioner of the Connecticut Superior Court