



## 2018 Voters' Guide: Candidates for CT's 4<sup>th</sup> District

Welcome to the League of Women Voters of Norwalk (LWV-N) Voters' Guide! The LWV is a national, non-partisan organization that believes an educated voter is a motivated voter. Each year, local leagues throughout the state put together guides to help voters understand where their candidates stand on the issues that impact their city or town. The League solicits information from the candidates by asking them questions that can be answered by all candidates, regardless of their party affiliation. The answers come directly from the candidates and are printed unedited by local leagues. Thanks to the LWV of Greenwich for getting responses from the candidates running for US House in the 4th Congressional District of which Norwalk is a part.

Here are the unedited responses from the two candidates for CT's 4th, in alphabetical order:

### **Candidate Harry Arora (R)**

*Biography:* Harry Arora is a successful entrepreneur and a first-generation immigrant American. Harry is running on a platform to promote policies which will reverse Connecticut's economic decline. Harry has an MPA from Harvard University, MBA from UT-Austin, and an electrical engineering degree from India. Harry lives in Greenwich with his family.

**Q: Immigration legislation has been stalled in Congress. Which initiatives would you support to deal with this issue?**

**A:** We truly need immigration reform – one that respects our values and allows us to attract the best and brightest as well as give refuge to those fleeing oppression. We need to have immigration laws which can be implemented fairly without making a mockery of the rule of law as is the case now – hard working immigrants with graduate degrees from US schools are being sent back while those who break laws are being advocated for. I would support an initiative for reforming immigration which balances between merit, work, refuge and family reunification.

**Q: Do you think the current gun control laws are adequate to ensure citizen safely? Please explain your position.**

**A:** Our objective for gun laws should be to ensure reduction or elimination of gun violence and acts of terrorism. The implementation of an effective universal background check is required and currently the implementation of the system is patchy and inadequate. We need to make sure that guns do not get into the wrong hands of criminals and those with mental health issues. More needs to be done there. We also need to work immediately to improve school security.

**Q: The US has withdrawn from several multi member international agreements. Do you favor renegotiations of these agreements and what conditions would you support?**

**A:** The US has withdrawn from international agreements which have served neither the US interest nor the larger public interest. The Paris Agreement with 'variable unverifiable commitments', NAFTA with its loopholes and imbalance and JCPOA with its lack of longer term solution to Iran's nuclear weaponization all have one thing in common - these agreements were all done without respect for the US strength or US commitment to peace, climate and trade. Yes, I support renegotiation to reflect real progress and real solutions and which serve the American people and truly serve the global purpose.

## **Candidate Jim Himes (D)**

*Biography:* Jim was a businessman and non-profit executive, and provides thoughtful, independent representation to Connecticut's 4th District. He fights for economic opportunity for all, focusing on transportation infrastructure and improving our schools. He serves on the Financial Services and Intelligence Committees and is a father to two remarkable women.

**Q: Immigration legislation has been stalled in Congress. Which initiatives would you support to deal with this issue?**

**A:** Our nation's immigration system is in dire need of reform. Immigrants strengthen our nation and our economy and I will fight the inhumane politics of bigotry and family separation coming from the Trump White House. I will support comprehensive reform that secures our border, stops the illegal employment of the undocumented, and offers a rigorous path to citizenship for those undocumented immigrants who are here and who have followed our laws, remained employed and paid their taxes. I support and have fought for legislation to normalize the status of Dreamers.

**Q: Do you think the current gun control laws are adequate to ensure citizen safely? Please explain your position.**

**A:** Nearly 40,000 Americans die every year from suicides, accidents and brutal crime at the point of a gun. No other nation has a similar problem. I support commonsense gun safety measures like universal background checks, limits on magazines and assault weapons and the pursuit of safe gun and safe storage technologies, all of which are consistent with the 2nd Amendment. We also need to do a better job of providing mental health interventions to the addicted, the depressed and others who might consider suicide.

**Q: The US has withdrawn from several multi member international agreements. Do you favor renegotiations of these agreements and what conditions would you support?**

**A:** The Trump administration has removed the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement, the Iran Nuclear Deal and is threatening to pull back from the alliances that have been the bedrock of global stability in the post-World War Two era such as NATO. These withdrawals are not signals of strength. True strength comes through full engagement with and leadership of the international community. Our alliances and agreements give us leverage when dealing with allies and rivals alike and we should reenter into negotiations to strengthen our position and restore some of our international standing and make the world safer.