Hartford City Council

CANDIDATE BIOS

Bazzano Gary
Born in Hartford, his family owned and operated Bazzano’s market on Albany Ave. for over 50 years. Gary is a successful business owner, being a leader in his industry for over 30 years. Gary and his family moved back to Hartford in 2017 and currently serves on the Hartford Planning and Zoning Commission. Previously, Gary served in municipal government in South Windsor; Two periods as Deputy Mayor and former Chairman of Planning and Zoning. His wife Susan and daughter Danielle are both educators in Hartford. Republican

Suzann Beckett
Attorney Suzann Beckett is the Founder and CEO of Beckett Law, LLC, a Hartford law firm representing clients all over CT in estate planning and bankruptcy matters. Her grandparents were business owners and residents of Hartford, both her parents grew up here, and she has lived here for more than 30 years. Attorney Beckett looks forward to joining the City Council and helping to steer the City into the future so it regains the vitality and success it has had in the past. Petitioning

Wildaliz Bermudez
Was elected to the Hartford Court of Common Council in November of 2015 and holds the position of Hartford’s WFP Minority Leader. During her term she has fought around a variety of issues ranging from police accountability, housing, resources for immigrant communities, and refugee protections. In 2018, she was named one of CT Magazine’s 40 Under 40 for her work in the community. She is a graduate of the Hartford Public School system with a Trinity undergrad and a Masters in Environmental Science from Puerto Rico. She lives in Hartford’s Asylum Hill Neighborhood. Working Families Party

Corey Brinson
Mr. Brinson is the founder of the Second Chance Firm, a criminal justice consulting and lobbying firm. He has been impacted by the criminal justice system. He has served on the City of Hartford’s Charter Review Commission and the Hartford City Council. Mr. Brinson also served in the Connecticut Air National Guard and was stationed in Saudi Arabia on September 11, 2001. Corey Brinson is a graduate of the University of Connecticut (B.A.) and the University of Connecticut School of Law (J.D.) and Hartford Public High School. He formerly was an attorney and substitute teacher in Hartford. He lives in downtown Hartford and was raised in Upper Albany. Second Chance Party
Ted Cannon

Ted Cannon, a 20 year resident of Hartford, is a veteran of the municipal finance industry. He has worked with thousands of states, cities and towns across the country helping them with their capital financing needs and would bring a unique set of skills to Hartford’s city council. Additionally he is painfully aware of Hartford’s quality of life challenges and believes they must be addressed for Hartford to flourish.  

Republican

T. J. Clarke II

“TJ” was elected to the Court of Common Council in 2015 and in 2016, was elected as Council President making him the youngest Council President elected in the City of Hartford. He is the co-founder and Chairman of the Emerging Leaders Network. He has Bachelor’s Degree from DeVry University and an MBA from Salem International University. He is a member of The Citadel of Love and serves as an elder in the church and currently works as the Special Initiatives Coordinator for United States Senator Chris Murphy overseeing the Senator’s Urban Affairs agenda, with a focus on President Obama’s Promise Zone and My Brother’s Keeper Initiatives.  

Democrat

John Gale

John is a first generation Hartford native of Italian/Canadian French descent and product of the Hartford Schools (HPHS) as are his four children and now grandchildren. As a lawyer with extensive business and civic experience, his practice is in Hartford focused on Hartford. He is seeking re-election having been first elected 4 years ago.  

The Hartford Party

Moise Laurent

Mo’ lives in the Behind the Rocks neighborhood in Hartford. He is a Union Steward at the Hilton Hartford Hotel and is an active member of Unite Here Local 217. He also works at Aetna Insurance company. His roots are in Hartford having attended Bulkeley High School and being part of the original YoHartford- Our Piece of the Pie youth group. He has served on a variety of volunteer groups promoting civic engagement in Hartford. He has the distinguished experience of working on campaigns across the country. He brings forth strong labor ties and is an experienced fighter in human rights.  

Working Families Party
Nick Lebron

Nick is a founding member of Active City, a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that Hartford’s young people have access to organized and affordable youth athletic programs. Nick currently serves as the director of programs for the Catholic Charities of Hartford, where he leads Operations and Community Partnerships. Nick also serves as the co-chair of the Regional Advisory Council for the Connecticut Department of Children and Families. As a licensed Family Therapist, Nick has provided in-home services and therapy for at-risk youth and parenting supports for single mothers and fathers. Nick was raised in Hartford, is married with three children, and earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Trinity College. Nick’s grandfather was murdered on Main Street when Nick was just eight years old — he’s committed to doing all we can to help end this scourge. Democrat

Josh Michtom

Josh is an Assistant Public Defender at the Connecticut Office of the Chief Public Defender and a proud member of AFSCME Local 381. He is also one of the co-founders of the Hartford Deportation Defense Group (along with many activists). He was recognized in 2017 by the South Side Neighborhood Institute for his work raising money to acquire and repair musical instruments to Hartford Public Schools and in 2018 for volunteer work with families displaced by Hurricane Maria, which included translation, advocacy, and moving furniture. He has worked with Councilwoman Wildaliz Bermudez to organize and conduct community conversations on public safety and civil rights issues around Hartford, and his writing on legal and community matters has appeared in the Hartford Courant, Slate.com, and the New York Times. He lives in Hartford’s Parkville neighborhood. Working Families Party

Maly Rosado

Maly was appointed to the City Council in July 2018 to fill the seat vacated by Julio Concepcion. She works as an assistant to the head of the Hartford Housing Authority. She is also the chairwoman of Hartford’s Civilian Police Review Board. Maly has said she plans to focus on women’s issues, criminal justice reform and public safety matters. Democrat

Marilyn E. Rossetti

Marilyn serves as Executive Director of The Open Hearth, a local nonprofit that works with men experiencing homelessness, addiction, unemployment, and other issues. Marilyn has council experience having served on the City Council 20 years ago. She is the former executive director of HART and the chair of the Housing Authority of the City of Harford. Marilyn was born, raised, educated, worship, and lives in the city that she loves, Hartford. She is married and has family in almost every neighborhood in the city. Her top 3 priorities are (but not limited to) employment, housing, and quality of life issues. Democrat
James Sanchez

Councilman, and Majority Leader Sanchez is currently a technician in the Metropolitan District Commission’s Utilities System Monitoring and Surveillance Department. He is a member of the Democratic Town Committee 6th District and in his spare time, he is President of the Hartford Diversity Lions Club. He was in the United States Marine Corps and after a four-year tour throughout the United States and Japan,. No matter where life has taken him, his heart has remained in Hartford. He and his family resided in the North End of Hartford in the sixties and seventies, purchased their first home in the South End and his father owned and operated Sanchez Jewelry on North Main Street along with various buildings throughout the city. Democrat

Mary Sanders

Endorsed Green Party candidate for Hartford City Council after 30 years serving the community at nonprofits including 18 years as Executive Director of the Spanish Speaking Center of New Britain. Mary’s work has been recognized with awards from numerous organizations. An activist for 30 years, fueled by the desire to defend vulnerable communities, provide equal opportunities for all and to stand up to injustice, bigotry and hatred. Her experience in human services and workforce development helps her see the big picture. Green Party

Shirley Surgeon

Ms. Surgeon has the energy and passion for making Hartford a great place to live, work and play. She has worked in all levels of government from City Hall to the Governor’s office and currently serves as a state Elections Officer in the Legislation and Election Administration Division under the Secretary of State. She has lived in Hartford for over 40 years. Democrat

rJo Winch

rJo is a decorated, retired, Air Force Master Military Training Instructor. She is the recipient of many military awards and medals. While serving the citizens of Hartford she has also received several community awards. She believes everyone should do their part to positively influence our youth. She continues to do her part as a member of the Hartford City Council and Chair of the Education Committee. She is a champion for issues that plague our communities dealing with street and domestic violence. She is determined to be a part of the healing process. Petitioning