

# Mayor Leclerc Declares Her Candidacy

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On Thursday, April 28 before an extremely large crowd Mayor Marcia Leclerc proudly announced her candidacy for the office of Mayor amongst family, friends, supporters, and fellow Democrats.

Leclerc was sworn into office on January 10, 2011 after Melody Currey resigned to assume the position as Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles under the Administration of newly elected Governor Dannel Malloy.

At exactly 7:00PM, William P. Horan, Jr., Vice Chair of the Council welcomed guest, dignitaries, and guests before introducing several speakers including State Representatives Henry Genga and Tim Larson. Genga stated, "Marcia Leclerc was wholly responsible for identifying the elimination of PILOT MME in the Governors budget and immediately began advocating for its' restoration. Singlehandedly she went to work to ensure that East Hartford was made whole and the \$3.6 Million restored. That is the kind of knowledgeable proactive person we have in Marcia. Here background and experience coupled with her education and knowledge of government make her the right candidate for the position."

Representative Larson also bestowed, in his lighthearted humor that the lawn sign needs to read, "MARCIA, MARCIA, MARCIA." Tim praised Marcia's longevity and dedication to the many organizations throughout East Hartford that have benefited from her dedicated involvement and stated that Marcia was the only choice for the challenges facing our community.

Finally, to a standing room only crowd, Leclerc acknowledge with grateful appreciations the people who have gathered to support her, family, friends, childhood friend, and former co-workers, neighbors, and Democratic Town Committee members. She also acknowledged her former council members "they fully supported my transition to the office of the Mayor and I am grateful of their support, trust, and encouragement", said Leclerc.

"Despite what you may have heard this is not an open position. I am the Mayor and I fully intend to have the position in November" naming development, infrastructure, quality of life, and affordability as her administrations strategic objectives and the issues that face my administration and our Town every day.

Aggressive means are necessary to fill vacant commercial space and to attract investment in new construction. East Hartford must become a more competitive place to locate businesses. We need to continue to invest in our infrastructure, make our regulatory offices user friendly, and offer tax incentives to help existing businesses expand and to attract new ones. By employing these strategies, we can foster new development on Rentschler Field as well as the redevelopment of our Downtown, the vacant retail portions of Silver Lane and the other underutilized areas of Town.

To attract businesses and jobs, our public infrastructure must be maintained and improved. East Hartford is in the middle of necessary repairs to both roads and the Town's flood control system. Working with the Town Council, we will continue the momentum and complete the upgrades to

maintain our levee accreditation. We will continue the progress of improving our roads to protect our community investment in infrastructure and after a thoughtful town-wide discussion, I will put forth a plan to expand the Raymond Library and together with a special committee determine the brightest and best use for our Senior Center state grant money.

East Hartford is a great place to live and proudly call home for every phase of life. Leveraging existing resources within the Police Department and the Inspections and Permits Department, we will continue to make the community a safe place to live, work, and raise a family. Traffic calming and a modest investment in lighting, benches and trees on Main Street, residential parking enforcement, and proactive building code enforcement to address blighted properties that drain the curb appeal from a neighborhood will be cornerstones of my Administration.

East Hartford is known as a community with affordably priced homes, a solid education system for those who are committed to it, and a tax rate that is lower than surrounding communities, while providing significantly more services. Those services include curbside trash, leaf, and bulky waste collection, advance life support paramedic service, a full-time fire department, free elderly/disabled in and out of town transportation, and MDC water and sewer service. In short, East Hartford provides considerable bang for the buck. A tradition that must continue.

These are my administration's strategic objectives. Through organized, efficient, and consistent management, these ideas will be implemented. It is important that we continue the austere financial policies of the Town. The recently developed 2011-2012 budget is an example. Effective July 1, 2011, I have instituted a new policy that eliminates take home vehicles where they are not contractually required or for public safety. I have turned in the Mayor's car, instead driving my own. We have started down the road to department consolidation and look forward to cooperatively working with the Board of Education to complete a merge of Information Technology Departments. I will focus on reigning in both medical and pension costs. While I have a sincere appreciation for Town employees and the work they do, the cost of their benefit package in its current form is simply unsustainable to the taxpayer.

There is much work to be done and I am committed to the job. I believe I have the necessary education, business acumen, temperament, and lifelong community commitment, which makes me uniquely qualified to continue as your Mayor.

East Hartford has not been immune to the economic turmoil but we are known to persevere and with a strong voice I state, "Let me set the record straight, East Hartford is Open for Business."

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