

## Visconti For Congress Announcement Speech

Today is a new day for the citizens of Connecticut's First Congressional District.

After more than 50 years of one-party dominance, today marks the beginning of Connecticut's recovery, a time when our State can once again become a beacon to our Nation. A place where good paying jobs are created, where special interest groups no longer dictate policy and where all residents have an opportunity to realize the American Dream.

It is with these goals in mind, that I am formally declaring my candidacy for the US House of Representatives and offer my commitment to represent all citizens equally.

As an elected West Hartford council member, I am confident that my diverse background in business, community activism and support for the arts will make a positive difference in the conduct of our government. I can give our district, our state, and our country a far better vision of what we could be, of what we should be, bringing forward the best of the old while preparing to gather the most from our future.

Far too often the image we see of Congress is negative. It appears to be a place of unending bickering, manipulation and stagnation, all of which breed frustration and allow for missed opportunities. A place where values are compromised, progress and achievement are nullified and where equity and prosperity are marginalized.

Our founding fathers fought and worked to build the first American Dream. What do our elected officials in Washington fight and work for today?

They fight over the Spoils of Liberty and Freedom as they allow our futures to be ransacked by the well connected, and the fruits of our labor to be squandered on redundant bureaucracy, which is the number one product manufactured in America today. Shame on them!

I do not believe the problem lies with the American People but with American Representatives who have forgotten who they are and who they represent. America is the greatest country in the world. But our government has lost its way!

Washington is occupied by special interests that are holding our liberties and economic futures hostage to their agenda; and it doesn't stop there, for their ransom demands have been placed on the backs of our children, and on the shoulders of our grandchildren.

Washington lobbyists and Political Action Committees see our Congressmen as willing receptacles for their dollars, every one of which has strings attached. These donations are returned to the employers of these lobbyists in the form of billions of dollars in pork, earmarks and waste ... which in turn are paid for by mainstream Americans through over-taxation.

Where in the Constitution does it say the lavish lifestyles and unnecessary projects pushed through by legislators beholden to lobbyists and pork recipients are to be paid for by taxing the creativity and honest labors of Americans?

We do not send people to Congress to further their own agendas, we send people to Congress to represent the People's agenda. Yet our representatives continue to pass the buck, look the other way and avoid their oaths of office as they saddle us with multi-billion dollar unfunded mandates which place our families and our futures at financial risk.

Our inner cities and suburbs alike are under attack from criminals who follow no laws, regardless of how many are passed or the penalties they carry. We must not allow our families and communities to be held hostage by thugs.

That has to end – and end very soon. Congress is disconnected, out of touch, and out of time. I intend to bring some old fashioned common sense to Washington and influence all those around me to do the same.

As a business owner I have first-hand experience with the weight of trying to make a living in our district where Job Growth is Job None, where people have trouble making ends meet as the price of everything costs more and more each day.

As a homeowner I have first-hand experience with the burden of ever increasing property taxes and utility costs.

As a parent of 3, I have first-hand experience with the challenges facing our educational system and the costs of higher education.

As a second generation descendent of Italian immigrants I understand the challenges facing newcomers to our country, and the need to bring illegal immigration under control.

As an activist I have successfully stood against corporate welfare, stood up for tax relief, and fought for those less fortunate than most. Today I bring my grassroots organizational skills to this campaign to be your representative in Congress.

This is a collaborative effort, because it takes a focused candidate, an effective campaign organization, and most of all, support from you, the voters of the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District to win, to help restore Connecticut.

It is time for Americans to send Representatives to Washington, D.C., who will not be satisfied with the status quo, who will set things right.

It is time to send Representatives to Congress who will always remember that their job is not to dictate to the people or represent the few but rather as our founding fathers intended, to return to the concept of government by and for the people.

I am both honored and humbled to seek the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District nomination, and promise you that I am fully committed to this campaign with strength and determination. With your support we will win this seat, restore credibility to the House of Representatives and place a Republican in the First Congressional District for the first time since 1956, the year of my birth.

Thank You!