

State Representative Themis Klarides

Deputy Republican Leader

Biography

State Representative Themis Klarides is currently serving her sixth term in the General Assembly representing the 114th Assembly District – the towns of Woodbridge, Orange and Derby. She was re-elected on November 4, 2008.

She was appointed Deputy Republican Leader by new House Republican Leader Lawrence Cafero, Jr. for the 2007-09 term, and was reappointed to the post for the 2009-11 term. She served as Assistant Minority Leader during her previous two terms. She also serves on the legislature's Finance, Education, Judiciary and Public Health and Internship Committees. She formerly served as Ranking Member on the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

During her first term in office, Representative Klarides was the leading proponent of legislation enacted to protect personal privacy by making "voyeurism" a crime in Connecticut. She has fought to strengthen these voyeurism laws in subsequent sessions of the legislature.

She is a strong advocate for our public safety personnel including firefighters, police, and emergency medical technicians, and is committed to improving education for all of Connecticut's children.

Representative Klarides serves on the Executive Board of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and received their GLADD Award (Government Leaders Against Drunk Driving) in 2001, 2002, and 2003 for her efforts in passing legislation aimed at tightening restrictions against drunk driving offenders. She was also honored by the CT Coalition to Stop Underage Drinking in 2002 and 2003 for her efforts to make the social hosting of parties where alcohol is served to minors illegal, and those responsible for them accountable.

Representative Klarides also received the 2003 Breath of Life Award from the American Lung Association for her work on anti-smoking legislation, and the 2003 Legislative Achievement Award from the Americans with Disabilities Coalition for her work combating discrimination against, and empowering those with disabilities.

In addition to her other legislative responsibilities, the House Minority Leader appointed Klarides to serve on the Connecticut-Israel Exchange Commission (CONNIX), which is established under the Connecticut General Statutes to promote and expand economic, scientific, educational, technological, commercial, industrial and cultural cooperation and exchange between the State of Connecticut and the State of Israel.

A native of Seymour, Themis Klarides was raised around a family supermarket business that helped teach her the value of hard work and the rewards of community involvement.

Her commitment to these values is exemplified through her years of community service with various municipal, state and regional groups. She is a former member of the Planning and Zoning Commission in Derby, and a former member of the Board of Finance in Seymour. She is also a member of the Walter Camp Football Foundation.

She is a corporator with the Birmingham Group and a volunteer with The Umbrella Domestic Violence Group, working to assist victims of domestic violence and providing volunteer legal assistance to women and children at the shelter for victims of domestic violence. She also serves on the Advisory Board of Fairfield County Safe Kids.

Representative Klarides serves as a mentor to a local elementary school student in the Derby School Special Friends Program and is a volunteer for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Representative Klarides was appointed to the Board of Directors of Griffin Health Services in 2006, and is a member of the Residency Advisory Committee of Griffin Hospital in Derby.

Representative Klarides was also chosen to be a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 2004.

In December 2004, Representative Klarides was elected to the Board of Directors of the Greater Valley Boys and Girls Club.

In January of 2005, Representative Klarides was appointed to the National Foundation of Women Legislators' Family Building Subcommittee, focusing on infertility issues.

In April of 2007, Representative Klarides was appointed co-chair of the State Fire Services Caucus and Institute in Connecticut, under the Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Services Organizations.

Themis Klarides is a 1987 graduate of Trinity College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and 1992 graduate of Quinnipiac University School of Law. She is admitted to the practice of law in the State of Connecticut and in the United States District Court for Connecticut and is currently engaged in the general practice of law with Attorney Shawn K. Splan of Shelton.