A Question for Five Candidates

Connecticut 2026 · Governor, Congress 2, Senate 4, Senate 19, House 55 · One question asked of five Republican candidates, and a public record of the answers

A personal project by Scott Sauyet · scott.sauyet@gmail.com · I co-chair the Andover Democratic Town Committee; this page is my own work and not an official document of any committee, town, or campaign

---

> *On September 10, 2026 I sent the same question, in the same words, to four Republican candidates on Connecticut ballots this November, and on September 11 to a fifth. This page records who was asked, at what address, on what date, and what each has said in response. Any answer I receive will be published here in full and unedited, whether I like it or not, with the date it arrived. Contact addresses come from each committee's registration with the State Elections Enforcement Commission or from the campaign's own published website, and each is cited below. Where this page says no answer has been received, that is a statement about my inbox on the date shown, and nothing more. I am a Democrat and I co-chair the Andover Democratic Town Committee. I am asking anyway, and readers can weigh that as they see fit.*

INTRODUCTION

Overview

I have one question for the Republicans asking for my vote this year, and I would rather put it to them directly than guess at the answer. The question is whether they will publicly disavow Donald Trump: a statement in their own name that he does not represent them and does not have their support.

That is not a question about a policy, a bill, or a vote in Hartford. It is a question about the head of the party whose banner every one of these candidates runs under, and every one of them has had a decade to decide what they think of him.

Five candidates were asked, in the same words: four on September 10, and George Austin, the Republican nominee for Congress in the 2nd District, on September 11. Four of the five appear on my own ballot in Andover. The fifth lives in a town that shares a House district with mine. The four running for state office are participants in Connecticut's Citizens' Election Program with grants awarded, meaning each asked the public to finance his or her campaign, and the public agreed. Mr. Austin, running for federal office, is outside that program.

The first answer arrived on September 13. Jenn Jennings, the Republican candidate in the 4th Senate District, replied that she will not disavow Mr. Trump, "past, present or future," and said the question is the wrong one to ask a candidate for the state Senate. Her letter is published below in full, and her objection is taken up in Part 5.

Nothing has arrived since. As of October 30, 2026, Ms. Jennings's letter is the only reply received, and no correspondence of any kind, from any of the five campaigns, has come in during the nearly seven weeks since that exchange. The other four letters remain unanswered. That is a statement about an inbox on a date, not a verdict on anyone.

This page is the record. It will be updated as answers come in, through Election Day on November 3, 2026. There is no deadline. An answer at any point gets added.

THE ASK

The question, as sent

The body of all five emails was the same but for the salutation, the sentence identifying the district, and the paragraphs noted below. The question itself read:

> Will you publicly disavow Donald Trump? By that I mean a statement in your own name that he does not represent you and does not have your support. Not a comment on a single policy, and not a statement about the party in general.

Each letter disclosed that I co-chair the Andover Democratic Town Committee, offered to publish the reply in full and unedited, offered to link an answer given anywhere else instead, and invited correction if the candidate had already answered publicly and I had missed it.

One paragraph appeared only in the letter to Sen. Fazio, noting that he has discussed his own past votes for Mr. Trump and has said he would welcome Mr. Trump's endorsement, and that the question here is whether he will disavow him now.

Two paragraphs appeared only in the letter to Mr. Austin. The first noted that he has written in praise of Mr. Trump and Secretary Kennedy, and has criticized the "big beautiful bill," and said that the question here is whether he will disavow Mr. Trump now. The second told him that this page quotes his earlier statements, and invited him to correct anything quoted wrongly or out of context.

Each letter is published in full, exactly as sent, in the Correspondence section below, where it sits in order with everything that followed it.

WHO WAS ASKED

Part 1 — Who was asked, and where

Candidate	Office sought	Address used	Source of address
Ryan Fazio	Governor	info@ryanfazio.com	Campaign contact page
George Austin	U.S. House, 2nd	george@votegeorgeforcongress.com	Campaign website
Jenn Jennings	State Senate, 4th	jennjennings4senate@gmail.com	Campaign contact page
Jason Guidone	State Senate, 19th	jason.guidone@proton.me	SEEC committee registration (Form 1A)
Steve Weir	State Rep., 55th	steve@steveweirforct.com	SEEC committee registration (Form 1A)

Notes: The letter to Rep. Weir was copied to his legislative address, Steve.Weir@housegop.ct.gov, because I am one of his constituents and that is the address his office staffs. The letter to Sen. Fazio was copied to press@ryanfazio.com, the second address listed on his contact page. The four state committees are Citizens' Election Program participants with grants awarded, per the Secretary of the State's 2026 candidate registration list. Mr. Austin's committee, George for Congress, files with the Federal Election Commission, and his address is the one published on his campaign website. The letter to Mr. Austin was copied to contact@votegeorgeforcongress.com, the media contact listed on his campaign's press releases.

THE RECORD

Part 2 — The ledger

Candidate	Asked	Answered	Status as of October 30, 2026
Ryan Fazio	September 10, 2026 (http://andoverct.info/reports/ahm/disavowal/correspondence/2026-09-10-sauyet-fazio/)	—	No response
George Austin	September 11, 2026 (http://andoverct.info/reports/ahm/disavowal/correspondence/2026-09-11-sauyet-austin/)	—	No response
Jenn Jennings	September 10, 2026 (http://andoverct.info/reports/ahm/disavowal/correspondence/2026-09-10-sauyet-jennings/)	September 13, 2026 (http://andoverct.info/reports/ahm/disavowal/correspondence/2026-09-13-jennings-sauyet/)	Refusal
Jason Guidone	September 10, 2026 (http://andoverct.info/reports/ahm/disavowal/correspondence/2026-09-10-sauyet-guidone/)	—	No response
Steve Weir	September 10, 2026 (http://andoverct.info/reports/ahm/disavowal/correspondence/2026-09-10-sauyet-weir/)	—	No response

Notes: This table is the whole point of the page, and it is deliberately boring. A dash means no reply had reached me as of the date in the column heading. It does not mean the candidate has never spoken about Mr. Trump, and it does not mean a reply was not sent. Anyone who believes a row is wrong should write to me and I will correct it within 24 hours.

Correspondence

Everything sent or received, in the order it happened, starting with the five opening letters. Times are the sender's local clock. Each entry links to the message as formatted for reading, with the original source alongside it: raw headers for email, and a link, screenshot, and archive copy for anything published elsewhere.

Date	Item	Classification
September 10, 2026, 12:26 am	Scott Sauyet to Ryan Fazio (http://andoverct.info/reports/ahm/disavowal/correspondence/2026-09-10-sauyet-fazio/) — The question, as sent.	—
September 10, 2026, 12:26 am	Scott Sauyet to Jenn Jennings (http://andoverct.info/reports/ahm/disavowal/correspondence/2026-09-10-sauyet-jennings/) — The question, as sent.	—
September 10, 2026, 12:26 am	Scott Sauyet to Jason Guidone (http://andoverct.info/reports/ahm/disavowal/correspondence/2026-09-10-sauyet-guidone/) — The question, as sent.	—
September 10, 2026, 12:26 am	Scott Sauyet to Steve Weir (http://andoverct.info/reports/ahm/disavowal/correspondence/2026-09-10-sauyet-weir/) — The question, as sent.	—
September 11, 2026, 2:55 pm	Scott Sauyet to George Austin (http://andoverct.info/reports/ahm/disavowal/correspondence/2026-09-11-sauyet-austin/) — The question, as sent.	—
September 13, 2026, 3:15 pm	Jenn Jennings to Scott Sauyet (http://andoverct.info/reports/ahm/disavowal/correspondence/2026-09-13-jennings-sauyet/) — The first reply. She will not disavow Mr. Trump.	Refusal
September 13, 2026, 6:21 pm	Scott Sauyet to Jenn Jennings (http://andoverct.info/reports/ahm/disavowal/correspondence/2026-09-13-sauyet-jennings/) — Thanks for a direct answer, and a defense of the question.	—

Complete as of October 30, 2026. Anything that arrives later is added here.

> **Notes:** Replies will be published in full and unedited, whatever they say, with the date received. Anything a candidate says publicly elsewhere in answer to this question will be added here too, with a link to the original and an archived copy in case it moves.

STANDARD

Part 3 — What counts as an answer

Every reply will be classified, and the classification stated plainly beside it, on this scale:

Disavowal

An unambiguous statement in the candidate's own name that Mr. Trump does not represent them and does not have their support.

Criticism

Objection to a specific act, decision, or policy, without withdrawal of support. This is a real answer and will be published as one. It is not a disavowal, and will not be described as one.

Deflection

The question was answered with something else: a pivot to state issues, a statement that the candidate does not agree with everything the President does, or a reply about the party rather than the man.

Refusal

An explicit statement that the candidate will not disavow Mr. Trump, without a statement of support for him. This is a direct answer to the question as asked, and it will be published and described as one.

Support

A statement that the candidate does support Mr. Trump. This is also a real answer, and an honest one. It will be published in the same words and given the same prominence as any other.

No response

Nothing received. Reported as of a date, never as a permanent condition.

> **A change to this scale, September 13, 2026.** The first four categories were published on September 10, before any reply had arrived. "Refusal" was added on September 13 when the first one did. The original list did not anticipate a candidate answering the question plainly in the negative, and the nearest label, Deflection, would have described a direct answer as an evasion. Changing a published standard after seeing a reply deserves to be noticed, so it is recorded here rather than made quietly. Nothing else on the scale changed, and no earlier classification was revised.

BACKGROUND

Part 4 — What the public record already shows

Before sending the question I looked at what these candidates have already said in the venue where they speak most deliberately: their paid advertising. For Mr. Austin, whose record includes long-form interviews that are publicly posted, I listened to those as well.

Every Meta political ad attributable to each candidate's own page was collected and read on three channels, namely the ad text the platform publishes, the words printed on the image or video, and the words spoken aloud in it.

Meta advertising, all five candidates ✓ *Collected September 9 and 11, 2026*

Candidate	Ads	Mentions of Trump or MAGA
Ryan Fazio	135	0
George Austin	57	0
Steve Weir	18	0
Jason Guidone	31	0
Jenn Jennings	0	n/a

Notes: Seven of the eighteen Weir ads were readable, and 130 of Sen. Fazio's 135; the rest are ads Meta has removed, and the removal notice supports no conclusion about what they contained. Sen. Fazio's five removed ads date from his 2020 to 2022 Senate campaigns. Behind the zeros: 2,172 distinct video frames read by optical character recognition, about 50,000 characters of distinct on-screen text recovered, and 72 minutes of advertising audio transcribed. Ms. Jennings has never run a political ad on Meta, so advertising contributes nothing to her row in either direction. This is a paid-media finding only. Organic posts on the candidates' pages were not collected, so this table cannot show, and does not claim, that a candidate has never mentioned Mr. Trump.

The count is the weak version of the finding. The stronger version is what the advertising does discuss. Sen. Fazio's ads return repeatedly to immigration and federal enforcement, at length and in his own voice, and reach for the phrase "federal authorities" rather than the name of the President who directs them. The single instance of the word "administration" in nearly an hour of recorded audio refers to Gov. Lamont's.

Mr. Guidone came through a contested Republican primary between February and August of this year, ran thirty-one ads, and criticized his opponent by reference to his record and his tenure without either man's advertising touching the President.

None of that is an accusation. It is the reason the question is worth asking rather than assuming.

Mr. Austin, in his own words

Mr. Austin is the one candidate here whose own words about Mr. Trump turned up, and they point in more than one direction. All of it predates my letter to him.

- **Praise, in writing.** In a campaign press release on April 22, 2026, he wrote that "President Trump and Secretary Kennedy, through the MAHA movement, are finally talking about the real sources of our health-care crisis," and "I stand with Secretary Kennedy and the MAHA movement."
- **Agreement, in an interview.** On a podcast recorded October 28, 2025, his host said she had been praying for Mr. Trump to win and would have left the country otherwise. Mr. Austin replied: "We might not have had a country after that, honestly." He went straight on to say he did not remember elections being treated, before recent years, as though the country's survival depended on them: "It was never like that, and now it is."
- **Criticism, in an interview.** On a second podcast, on July 7, 2026, he gave "the big beautiful bill" as his example of inflationary spending: "The point is we're borrowing from the future. We're borrowing from my kids and maybe even their kids." That is an objection to a law Mr. Trump signed, made from the right, in the same breath as praise for the spending cuts proposed by the Department of Government Efficiency.

None of his fifty-seven Meta ads mentions Mr. Trump. The praise is in a press release and in interviews, not in anything he has paid to run.

> **Notes:** The press release is quoted from his campaign website and from an archived copy made by the Internet Archive on August 10, 2026. Each interview link below starts a few seconds before the remark, so that what he was responding to can be heard. In the October recording the host speaks at length about Mr. Trump, and several of her remarks could be mistaken for his in a transcript; only words identified as Mr. Austin's are quoted here. These are statements made before he was asked, and none of them is classified on the scale above, which applies to answers to the question itself.

PRECEDENT

Part 5 — Whether the ask is a fair one

A reasonable objection is that no Republican could answer this question and survive a primary, so asking it is a trap rather than an inquiry. The record suggests otherwise.

Themis Klarides led the Republican caucus in the Connecticut House from 2015 to 2021. During her 2022 campaign for the United States Senate she said she had not voted for Mr. Trump in 2020, casting a protest write-in for her predecessor as caucus leader instead. She said it in her own name, in public, while seeking her party's endorsement, and she won that endorsement on the first ballot with about 57 percent of the delegates. She has never reversed it.

In December of that year, two former Republican leaders of the state Senate, Len Fasano and John McKinney, published an opinion piece in the Hartford Courant arguing that the party "needs to reject" Mr. Trump as a candidate.

The question is also a more direct one for Mr. Austin than for the others. A state legislator has no vote on anything a President does. A member of Congress votes on the President's program every week the House is in session.

Two things should be said plainly about those examples. All three were former officeholders rather than sitting ones when they spoke, and all three statements date to 2022. No sitting Connecticut Republican legislator has made a comparable statement in 2025 or 2026. The ask is answerable, and it has been answered before, but not recently and not by anyone currently in office.

The objection, from a candidate

Ms. Jennings made the fairest version of this objection herself, and it deserves an answer rather than a footnote. She wrote that of all the questions that could be put to a candidate for the state Senate, this is a strange one to choose; that Americans were not asked to denounce the President under the previous administration and should not be asked to now; and that defining people by which figures they will denounce "leaves very little room for independent thought, disagreement, conversation or common ground." She asked instead for a question about Connecticut and about what a state senator actually has the authority to do.

Three of those points are well taken. This is one question and not a program; nobody should be judged only by it; and a state senator votes on Hartford's business, not Washington's. Readers should weigh her answer alongside everything else she says, not instead of it.

Where I would differ is on the premise that the question is out of bounds for a state office. It is not asked because a state senator can restrain a President. It is asked because a candidate's judgment about the leader of her own party is a fact about her judgment, and voters are entitled to it in the same way they are entitled to her position on taxes. She answered it directly, which is more than the question was guaranteed to get, and the answer is now on the record where a voter can find it. That is the whole purpose of the page.

AT A GLANCE

Summary

Question	Answer
What was asked?	Whether the candidate will publicly disavow Donald Trump, in his or her own name.
Who was asked?	Fazio, Jennings, Guidone, and Weir on September 10, 2026; Austin on September 11, 2026.
Was everyone asked the same thing?	Yes, in the same words.
How many have answered?	1 of 5 as of October 30, 2026.
Will answers be published?	Yes, in full, unedited, whatever they say.
Is silence proof a candidate supports Mr. Trump?	No. It is proof of nothing beyond itself.
Has any Connecticut Republican ever answered this way?	Yes, but not recently, and not while holding office.

TAKEAWAYS

Key Observations

The question is about the man, not the party. Every candidate here runs under Mr. Trump's banner because he leads their party. That is a fact about the ballot, not an accusation about the candidate. What each of them thinks of him is something only that candidate can supply.

Being asked and being accused are different things. Nothing on this page asserts that any candidate supports Mr. Trump beyond what that candidate has said in his or her own words, quoted in context with a link to the original. The page records a question and whatever comes back.

Silence is not evidence. A blank row means the mail has not arrived. Voters can decide for themselves what to make of an unanswered question, and different voters will reasonably decide differently.

The public is paying for these campaigns. The four candidates for state office take part in the Citizens' Election Program and have been awarded grants. That confers no legal obligation to answer anyone's questions, and this page claims none. It does mean the campaigns are publicly financed, and a voter who notices that is not being unreasonable.

A refusal is an answer. Ms. Jennings said no, plainly and in her own name, and that is recorded as a direct answer rather than an evasion. She also declined to be defined by the question, and readers should take that seriously too. She is entitled to be judged on the whole of what she says.

An answer ends the matter, whatever it says. A candidate who replies "I support him," in those words, has answered honestly and will be recorded as having done so, in the same type as everyone else.

Corrections are welcome and will be made quickly. If a candidate has already answered this question somewhere I have not looked, the correction belongs on this page more than the omission does.

LIMITS

What this report does not show

It does not show that any candidate has never discussed Mr. Trump. Paid advertising was collected for all five, and for Mr. Austin two long-form interviews posted online were transcribed as well. Organic posts on the candidates' own Facebook pages, their remarks at forums and debates, most of their interviews, and their answers to other people's questions were not systematically searched, and any of those could contain a statement this page has missed.

It does not show that the question was received, read, or seen by the candidate. Email to a campaign address is not certified mail.

It does not show that a non-answer is a considered choice. Campaigns are busy, inboxes overflow, and a message can be lost without anyone deciding anything.

It does not show anything about candidates who were not asked. Five Republicans were written to because they appear on my ballot or in my House district. Others on Connecticut ballots this year were not, and their absence from this page means only that.

It is not a neutral document. I wrote it, I am a Democrat, and I would like these candidates to answer. What is offered here is not the absence of a point of view but a record specific enough that a reader who disagrees with me can check every part of it.

DOCUMENTATION

Sources

Candidate websites

- Steve Weir for CT, steveweirforct.com (https://steveweirforct.com/)
- Jenn Jennings 4 Senate, jennjennings4senate.com (https://jennjennings4senate.com/)
- Ryan Fazio for Governor, ryanfazio.com (https://ryanfazio.com/)
- Jason Guidone for Senate, guidoneforsenate.com (https://www.guidoneforsenate.com/meet-jason)
- George for Congress, votegeorgeforcongress.com (https://votegeorgeforcongress.com/)

Candidate contact information

- Connecticut State Elections Enforcement Commission, committee registration filings (SEEC Form 1A), searchable at seec.ct.gov (https://seec.ct.gov/Portal/eCRIS/eCrisSearch)
- Jenn Jennings 4 Senate, campaign contact page, jennjennings4senate.com (https://jennjennings4senate.com/contact/)
- Ryan Fazio for Governor, campaign contact page, ryanfazio.com (https://ryanfazio.com/contact/)
- Connecticut General Assembly member directory, for Rep. Weir's legislative address, cga.ct.gov (https://www.cga.ct.gov/)
- George for Congress, campaign website footer, votegeorgeforcongress.com (https://votegeorgeforcongress.com/)
- Federal Election Commission, candidate H6CT02196 and committee C00914481, fec.gov (https://www.fec.gov/data/candidate/H6CT02196/)

Candidate status and program participation

- Connecticut Secretary of the State, Candidate Registration List for Election Year 2026
- CT News Junkie, coverage of the Republican state convention, May 16, 2026, ctnewsjunkie.com (https://ctnewsjunkie.com/2026/05/16/ct-republicans-back-fazio-for-governor/)

Advertising record

- Meta Ad Library, collected September 9, 2026, and September 11 for Mr. Austin. Method and coverage boundaries documented separately; ad-level records retained.

Mr. Austin's statements

- George for Congress, press release, April 22, 2026, votegeorgeforcongress.com (https://votegeorgeforcongress.com/george-austin-while-courtney-plays-for-clips-in-d-c-eastern-connecticut-needs-real-health-care-

fixes/); archived copy, web.archive.org (https://web.archive.org/web/20260810192843/https://votegeorgeforcongress.com/george-austin-while-courtney-plays-for-clips-in-d-c-eastern-connecticut-needs-real-health-care-fixes/)

- Polish Agnes, interview with George Austin, recorded October 28, 2025, youtube.com (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vd9pM5_QgTg&t=3215)
- Lock N Load Podcast, interview with George Austin, July 7, 2026, youtube.com (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxsW4TIIggU&t=463)

Prior Connecticut examples

- CT Mirror, May 7, 2022, on Themis Klarides and the Republican Senate endorsement, ctmirror.org (https://ctmirror.org/2022/05/07/ct-gop-endorses-a-social-moderate-themis-klarides-for-us-senate/)
- CT News Junkie, December 7, 2022, on the Fasano and McKinney opinion piece, ctnewsjunkie.com (https://ctnewsjunkie.com/2022/12/07/op-ed-mckinney-fasano-tell-spoiled-child-trump-to-get-lost/)

Correspondence

- Every letter, reply, and public answer relating to this question, with original sources: correspondence (http://andoverct.info/reports/ahm/disavowal/correspondence/)

DOWNLOAD

Other Formats

This report is available in three formats, all located alongside this page:

HTML

Interactive version with formatted tables; best for on-screen reading.

Markdown

Plain-text version; readable in any editor, ideal for copying elsewhere.

PDF

Print-ready version with all tables, footnotes, and source citations.

Personal work of Scott Sauyet · Compiled September 10, 2026, and updated as answers arrive

Contact addresses from candidate committee filings with the Connecticut State Elections Enforcement Commission and from the campaigns' own websites. Not an official town document.

Personal work of Scott Sauyet scott@sauyet.com · Independent civic reference, not official communication of the Town of Andover, Region 8 (RHAM), or any party or town committee, and not legal advice · Corrections welcome