

State Senator Joe Markley represents the 16th Senatorial District, which includes the towns of Cheshire, Prospect, Southington, Waterbury, and Wolcott.

Joe is a Southington native, descended through his mother, Priscilla Cowles, from a family which has resided in town continuously since the 1730s. Joe was educated in the Southington School System, graduating from Southington High School in 1974. He earned a bachelor's degree magna cum laude from Amherst College, and a master's degree in English from Columbia University.

Joe was elected to the State Senate in 1984 – the first town resident to sit in that chamber in over forty years. As a freshman Senator, Joe chaired the Human Services Committee; in that roles, he crafted and sponsored legislation which created the first state home care program for seniors.

When Lowell Weicker proposed the state income tax, Joe fought back. As cofounder of the Connecticut Taxpayers Committee, he organized the massive Axe the Tax rally that drew 65,000 citizens to Hartford—the largest political event in state history.

Since returning to the Senate in 2011, Joe has successfully challenged the Skullduggery tax, raised awareness of the New Britain to Hartford Busway boondoggle, and developed bipartisan legislation to help adolescents with drug abuse. As Dan Malloy's most outspoken critic, Joe continues to fight for freedom and prosperity - opposing the largest tax increase in state history and advocating real cuts in runaway spending.

Joe has been employed as an English teacher at the college and secondary level, as executive director of state and national trade associations, and as campaign manager for congressional and statewide races. He is a tireless advocate of limited government, fiscal responsibility, and personal liberty.

In the 2017-18 legislative sessions, Joe will serve as the Senate Republican co-Chairman of the Human Services Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, and as a member of the Judiciary, Public Health, and Appropriations Committees.