

## Questions for Insurance Commissioner Nominee

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### Insurance Commissioner (CGS §§ [38a-7](#) & [38a-8](#))

The commissioner is responsible for (1) administering and enforcing laws regarding insurance companies and health care centers (i.e., HMOs); (2) protecting the public interest in insurance matters; (3) developing a review program to ensure the department's compliance with the minimum standards established by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for effective financial surveillance and regulation of insurance companies and HMOs; (4) establishing a program to electronically transmit documents, including policy form and rate filings, to and from insurers; and (5) maintaining the confidentiality of information collected or prepared in connection with examinations and investigations of companies and consumer complaints.

### Questions

#### *General*

1. What do you see as the primary mission of the Insurance Department? How will you balance the interests of the industry with the needs of consumers?
2. The Insurance Department's National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) accreditation is important for the state. On what factors is accreditation based, and are there any concerns about the department's ability to maintain accreditation?
3. Previous commissioners have been actively involved with the NAIC, serving on various committees. What is your experience with the NAIC, and how do you envision yourself working with it moving forward?

4. Do you think the Insurance Department has adequate staff to meet its responsibilities? Please explain.
5. The Insurance Department is funded by assessments on the industry, rather than from the General Fund. Some might argue this hinders your ability to effectively regulate the industry. What is your view on this?
6. What can Connecticut do to grow the insurance industry and make sure that it has a qualified workforce?
7. The department has previously worked with insurers to facilitate startup incubator programs, such as the Hartford InsurTech Hub. What more can be done to bring new insurance industry jobs and businesses to Connecticut?
8. Your prior experience at Deloitte was in industry regulation. Can you discuss how your private industry experience will inform your public service as commissioner?

### ***Life and Health Insurance***

1. By law, the insurance commissioner, or her designee, serves as an exofficio, non-voting board member of Access Health CT, the state's health insurance exchange under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). Do you anticipate serving in this role or designating someone else?
2. Over the past few years, the Insurance Department has faced increasing pressure to scrutinize proposed health insurance rate increases. Should the legislature require the department to consider additional criteria, such as affordability, during the rate review process?
3. The Insurance and Real Estate Committee is currently considering proposals for a "public option" health insurance plan. Do you support such a proposal? What do you see as the department's role in facilitating a public option health insurance plan?
4. The Insurance and Real Estate Committee has considered several bills over the past few years to try and spread out the impact of steadily increasing long-term care (LTC) insurance premiums. Insurers, citing growing costs and longevity, have said the increases are necessary to remain solvent. As the nominee, what do you see as your role

in balancing these claims? What do you think is the biggest challenge facing the LTC insurance industry?

### ***Property and Casualty Insurance***

1. The Insurance and Real Estate Committee has considered several bills narrowing the criteria that property and casualty insurers can use when underwriting policies. For example, there have been bills to restrict the use of credit rating, territorial rating, and no-fault accidents. Can you comment on the balance between consumer protection and tools that accurately predict risk?

### ***Crumbling Concrete Foundations***

1. On January 1, 2019, insurers began collecting a \$12 surcharge on homeowners insurance policies that fund assistance for individuals with foundations deteriorating due to the presence of pyrrhotite. What do you see as the department's role in the crumbling concrete foundation issue? What are the primary difficulties you foresee in balancing consumer protection with the industry's needs?
2. Several insurers have donated funds to assist consumers with crumbling concrete foundations. How do you plan to facilitate public-private partnerships to alleviate the impact of crumbling foundations on homeowners and municipalities?
3. The Insurance and Real Estate Committee has considered a bill that would require homeowners insurance policies to cover "the peril of collapse." Do you believe the insurance industry has an obligation to cover collapses caused by crumbling concrete?

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