

## Carima El-Behairy



Carima El-Behairy, a Western New York native, grew up on Grand Island and now lives in Buffalo. She is running as a Democrat for the New York State Senate, 60th District, on a platform of quality education, election reform, healthcare access and affordability, and preservation with development.

She co-founded the city's premiere creative software and publishing company, P22 type foundry, serving as its managing partner for over two decades. El-Behairy is also a founding trustee of the Western New York Book Arts Collaborative, Oracle Charter School, and the Western New York Charter School Coalition.

In her current venture as a new business strategies consultant, El-Behairy helps to formulate long-term financial solutions for startup businesses, those in transition, and those post-merger. She is also a partner in a local software company still in its incubation stages.

Since 2013, El-Behairy has been treasurer for Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York, which serves over 40,000 patients annually in fourteen counties. Prior to holding this office, she served the organization's regional chapters for more than ten years in various capacities, including board chair and vice-chair. El-Behairy also holds the board treasurer position for the Association Typographique Internationale, a 501(c)(3) arts nonprofit located in California.

El-Behairy's other board experience includes her service as Board Development Chair for the Irish Classical Theatre Company, Board Fair Chair for the Westminster Early Childhood Program, and Board Merger Committee Chair for the Art Directors of Buffalo.

As busy as her volunteer and business schedules have been, El-Behairy has found plenty of time to raise two thriving boys and pamper numerous basenjis, as well as rescue and transport homeless and abused animals.

### QUALITY EDUCATION—IT'S THE PATH TO THE AMERICAN DREAM

- Universal Pre-Kindergarten will give all children an equal chance to succeed in school
- Universal Pre-Kindergarten will increase middle-class teaching jobs
- Universal Pre-Kindergarten will ease family childcare burdens
- School choice and quality education will prepare students for tomorrow's economy

To make that American Dream possible for all children, we need excellent schools and universal pre-K. How far we go so often depends on where we start, and the playing field is not even. Universal pre-K will mean that all students start school ready to succeed, with base knowledge of letters, numbers, colors, and the social and emotional skills to navigate a learning environment. Universal pre-K will put these services in all urban, suburban, and rural communities, to give all children an even start. And here in New York, teaching jobs are middle-class jobs!

I believe in school choice and in charter schools as models of innovation in public education. All public schools should prepare our children for success in the economy of the future.

## ELECTION REFORM—PROTECTING OUR DEMOCRACY

- Access to polling places
- Early voting
- Same-day registration
- Security

We select our representatives at the ballot box, and it's one of the cornerstones of our democracy. The right to that vote has been hard fought and hard won, and it needs to be protected. I will work for greater access to polling places, early voting, same-day voter registration, and other measures to ensure that people's voices are heard and their votes are counted.

## HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

- Access to quality care in all communities
- Eliminate care disparities
- Ensure women's right to manage their own healthcare
- Expand coverage and lower costs.

We have wonderful hospitals here. We are a hub for medical education and research, and healthcare is among our largest employment sectors. And yet there are healthcare disparities even here—in rural communities, in minority communities—that shorten life expectancies and raise costs. We must increase access and make healthcare affordable for all. And I'll be working doubly hard to ensure that women retain the right to make decisions on their own healthcare.

We need to get a grip on healthcare costs. Changes to insurance and policy at the national level have implications for all Western New Yorkers, and we pay extraordinary rates. I'll be working hard to expand coverage and lower costs.

## PRESERVATION WITH DEVELOPMENT

- Maintaining our quality of life
- Promoting strategic, sensitive development
- Protecting our unique character
- Protecting our natural environment

What makes Western New York special? Our fresh water, parks, neighborhoods, architecture, and sports all contribute to the quality of life we enjoy. We've seen what strategic development and increased public access has done to revitalize the inner harbor. It took a long time, but the H.H. Richardson Complex is thriving as the Hotel Henry. We need to preserve and promote our assets—charming villages, distinctive neighborhoods, clean creeks and rivers, local retail, green spaces, historic architecture, and family farms. I'll work for citizen participation and sensitive development.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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