



The League of Women Voters of Westport

2014 VOTERS' GUIDE

A Message from the President,

I am very glad to be able to present to you the 2014 League of Women Voters' Guide. This is the League's gift to the voters of Westport. We spent many hours drafting what we hope are thought provoking questions, and providing all the essential material for the Guide to the Minuteman staff in an effort to help you make an informed choice when you vote. So, take a little time to analyze the questions and how the candidate chose to answer. Do you feel confident in their abilities? Do you feel that the question was answered sufficiently? On Tuesday, Nov. 4, you hold the power. You can support the incumbents or bring in fresh faces; it's all done with your VOTE.

Celeste LaCroix

These Candidates questions and their answers can be found at www.lwvg.org

4-year term

Governor and Lieutenant Governor

Vote for 1

**Thomas C. Foley
and
Heather Somers**
Republican Party, Independent Party
Website: www.tomfoleyct.com

**Dannel P. Malloy
and
Nancy Wyman**
Democratic Party, Working Families Party
Website: www.danmalloy2014.com

**Joe Visconti
and
Chester Frank Harris**
Petitioning Candidates
Website: www.viscontiforgovernor.com

U.S. House 4th Congressional District

Dan Debicella
Republican Party, Independent Party
Website: www.debicella.com

Jim Himes
Democratic Party, Working Families Party
Website: www.himesforcongress.com

4-year term

Secretary of State

Vote for 1

Peter Lumaj
Republican Party, Independent Party
Website: www.peterlumaj.com

Denise W. Merrill
Democratic Party, Working Families Party
Website: www.merrill2014.com

S. Michael DeRosa
Green Party
Website: www.mikederosa.org

4-year term

Treasurer

Vote for 1

Timothy M. Herbst
Republican Party, Independent Party
Website: www.timforconnecticut.com

Denise L. Nappier
Democratic Party, Working Families Party
Website: www.denisenappier2014.com

4-year term

Comptroller

Vote for 1

Sharon J. McLaughlin
Republican Party, Independent Party
Website: www.sharonforabetterct.com

Kevin Lembo
Democratic Party, Working Families Party
Website: www.teamlembo.com

Rolf W. Maurer
Green Party
Website: www.facebook.com/vote.rolf

4-year term

Attorney General

Vote for 1

Kie Westby
Republican Party, Independent Party
Website: www.kieforag.com

George Jepsen
Democratic Party, Working Families Party
Website: www.jepsenforag.com

Stephen E. Fournier
Green Party
www.guy2k.com/fournier2014/index2014.htm

Vote Tuesday Nov. 4th

Polls Open 6am - 8pm

Remember to bring identification

YOU MAY BRING THIS GUIDE INTO THE POLLS

Questions for all Candidates for State Senate Or Representative

If you are proposing new, or enlarging existing State funded programs, how do you propose these programs will be paid for? Please be specific. Or, if you propose tax cuts what programs will you consider eliminating? Again, please be specific.

Senate District 26

Vote for 1

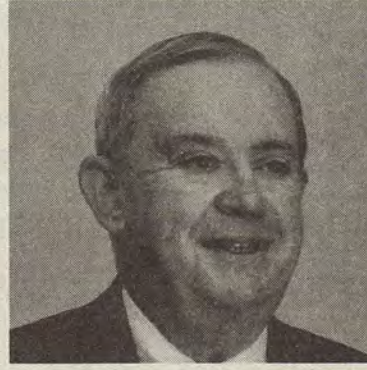
TONI BOUCHER, Republican



Over 200 small taxes cost more to collect than they generate in revenues. To reduce high taxes and spur job growth, costs must be cut. Fringe benefits are now 82% of state wages and employees contribute less than any other state. Pensions are funded at less than 50% and are near insolvency. They must be converted to defined contribution plans. The 52 retirement age must be extended and contributions increased as well as co-pays on

healthcare. Cost of living increases must be frozen until pensions are fully funded. Borrowing should be restricted to infrastructure improvements, not for operating budgets. Suspend corporate giveaways, the state EITC and eliminated duplications, waste and fraud through an Office of Inspector General. Technology can also be harnessed to deliver timelier, efficient services. Nonprofits should be used to deliver needed services for half the cost. Billions can be saved to stem the tide of fleeing taxpayers.

PHILIP SHARLACH, Democrat



Without cutting ANY state programs, Reduce the Employer WORKMENS COMPENSATIONS TAX by over \$240mm, by disallowing CT DOL unemployment filing by individuals who (A) do not live in CT; (B) earned non-CT income, live in another state, yet able to collect in CT. and (C) revise procedure if you work for 4 weeks you can collect for 26 weeks.

Establish NY/CT Transportation Authority, (NYCTA), similar to NY/NJ Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to fund our commuter/freight rail infrastructure. NYCTA will be a Non-Government Organization (NGO) public/private partnership with open market public financing. My concept, published in most area papers, We Can Get There from Here, July, 2014, was recently proposed by the NY TIMES Editorial, Oct. 4, 2014, "Minding the Transit Gap".

Senate District 28

Vote for 1

TONY HWANG, Republican



With our economic recovery and job creation lagging behind other states and our families and businesses facing one of the largest tax burdens in the country, it's time we finally got our financial house in order. We must do what many families have already done: live only within our means.

We must stop the excessive borrowing and adopt state budgets that demonstrate true fiscal accountability; that do not increase spending.

In fact, there are many ways we can create a more efficient state government without sacrificing the quality of services we provide. For instance, the state provides some of the same social services that many of our neighborhood nonprofits provide. The only difference: nonprofits deliver them at nearly half the cost. We need to look at privatizing where it makes sense and saves money. That's but one example of the common-sense, socially-responsible approach I will employ as your state Senator.

KIM FAWCETT, Democrat



In 2015, our state must redefine spending priorities, reduce expenditures and focus on its core mission. That mission should include investment in public safety, education, infrastructure and programs critical to supporting our most vulnerable citizens. With these priorities in mind, we must be willing to consider eliminating programs and services that don't make the grade. Cutting spending is serious business and must be done thoughtfully. Connecticut is in the midst of overhauling its budget practices

-- a major undertaking. I am a strong supporter of the performance-based budgeting system now being implemented. It allows us to set goals for spending, measure results and strategically fund only programs that are achieving results. Empowered with more data on where our tax dollars are being spent and whether that spending is worthwhile and achieving goals, we can cut ineffective programs and ensure that we are investing in ones that succeed.

Representative District 136

Vote for 1

BRANDI BRIGGS, Republican



Connecticut's economy is stagnant, and job growth over the past four years has been far too weak. An unfriendly business climate and the state's highest tax increase in history are partly to blame for Connecticut's ongoing troubles. Another key contributing factor is our crumbling transportation infrastructure, which prevents Connecticut from attracting new businesses, makes delivering goods and services too expensive, and affects residents' jobs, home values, and their quality of life.

We must upgrade our transportation system, prioritize our resources on Metro-North and I-95, and develop a long-term strategic plan to get Connecticut moving again. To properly fund these critical infrastructure improvements, we should permanently protect the Special Transportation Fund and ensure these resources cannot be spent on unrelated projects. We must also reform the state's prevailing wage law so we can keep down construction costs and properly fund the most essential transportation projects.

JONATHAN STEINBERG, Democrat



In any legislative session, there are scores of bills with "fiscal notes," meaning that they will involve expenses to operate the program. It's sometimes hard to predict, in advance, what a proposed bill will cost. Even anticipating higher revenues, the projected budget deficit dictates that the only way Connecticut can currently afford to implement new laws is to find a way to reduce operating costs elsewhere -- we can't raise taxes again. I've supported Results Based Accountability, a methodology which holds state programs accountable based

on their own stated goals -- with agreed-on metrics to measure success. It's worked in other states and is gaining traction across state agencies in Connecticut. If a program fails to meet its goals in a reasonable period, we can decide whether to cut its budget, change the program, or outsource its services to a third-party provider which can do the job more effectively and efficiently.

Representative District 143

Vote for 1

GAIL LAVIELLE, Republican



Connecticut's spending and borrowing continue to outpace revenues. Even after its record-high tax increase in 2011, Connecticut faces a deficit of almost \$3 billion in the next biennium. Reducing ongoing, structural spending will provide the means to keep and grow our tax base by offering people and businesses tax relief, and to make critical investments in areas like transportation and education.

Possible spending reductions include:
- Renegotiate contracts for new state employee hires. Examples: replace defined benefit plans with defined contribution plans, raise minimum retire-

ment age, increase active employees' share of pension fund contributions, change how base salaries are determined for pension calculations

- Reduce annual operating subsidy to New Britain busway
- Transfer clients from public facilities like Riverview Hospital to privately run community nonprofits to provide them better quality care and more cost-effective services
- Reduce borrowing costs by halting large incentive payments to companies like Bridgewater

KEITH RODGERSON, Democrat



We must encourage private investment around historic assets and near transit. Our communities need new resources to modernize zoning codes to conform with master plans. We need to get CT out of the railroad business and return the corridor's tracks and bridges to Amtrak to save \$4 billion and the government largess. We need to invest in IT planning and infrastructure so the state can attract and retain financial institutions, data centers and good jobs. We will boost revenues and growth not by implementing recommendations from corporate far right lobbyists and out-of-state tax founda-

tions but by making key investments in our infrastructure allowing businesses to move people, goods and information efficiently. We need to encourage vibrant and tax-productive business growth through regulatory reform and beyond Wal Mart-like interest. We need to cultivate an environment that provides opportunity for the type of private investment that will create good jobs and make great places. The state needs to evolve back into a tight pattern of vibrant villages, towns, neighborhood centers, and cities alongside robust rural agricultural production.

For information about joining the League of Women Voters contact Jackie Gordon 203-803-3725



Dan Debicella
Republican Party, Independent Party
Website: www.debicella.com

Biography: Dan Debicella is the Republican and Independent party nominee for Congress. First in his family to go to college, Dan has led a business career at McKinsey, Pepsi, and Bridgewater Associates and served in the Connecticut State Senate.

Q: What should Congress do to improve job creation in the United States? What if any action should Congress take on a federal minimum wage?
A: It is time we had "adults in the room" in Washington who will start putting our country ahead of their political parties, and our families above their own political careers. I firmly believe we need to get beyond the partisan blame-game, and come up with solutions to create jobs. In my campaign, I am promoting three ideas that Republicans and Democrats can come together on: tax simplification, training for the long term unemployed, and immigration reform.

Q: Would you recommend any changes to Campaign finance laws? Do you support expanded federal requirements for disclosure of the money behind political ads?

A: We need to have complete transparency of political donations. No one should be allowed to make a political ad without full disclosure of who is paying for it. Current Super PACs should be required to give a full listing of their donors posted on the Internet for all to review.

Q: What is your position on Federal Firearms regulations for example universal background checks, restrictions on firearms trafficking and other measures?

A: I support every law-abiding American's right to own a gun, but believe that a universal background check is the best way to ensure that guns stay out of the hands of criminals and those with mental illness. Both extremes in this debate are wrong, and we need a sensible middle ground that preserves gun owners rights while keeping guns away from those who would do evil. Universal background checks are the best way to do that.

Judge Of Probate

Vote for 1

LISA WEXLER, Republican



Johns Hopkins University, B.A.
New York University School of Law, J.D.
American Jurisprudence Award for Constitutional Law, NYU Law
Westport Probate Judge since November, 2013
Appointed to CT Legislative Commission on Juvenile Justice Oversight
Board Member, Jeffrey Modell Foundation for Primary Immunodeficiency Disease
Advisory Board Member, Jane Doe No More
As Judge, conduct weekly free seminars on

topics of probate jurisdiction, such as estates, conservatorships & mental illness proceedings

Westport resident since 1989, married to Bill Wexler, mom of Jon and Joanna



Jim Himes
Democratic Party, Working Families Party
Website: www.himesforcongress.com

Biography: Congressman Himes was elected to represent Southwestern Connecticut in 2008. He currently serves on the Intelligence and Financial Services Committees.

Prior to his service in Congress, he ran the NYC branch of the Enterprise Community Partners, a nonprofit focusing on urban poverty and worked as a banker in New York.

Q: What should Congress do to improve job creation in the United States? What if any action should Congress take on a federal minimum wage?

A: The future of job growth and innovation demands that we have the best educational system in the world and 21st century infrastructure. It is unacceptable that my constituents often find themselves delayed by Metro North or highway traffic. Congress should pass legislation I helped introduce that would establish a National Infrastructure Bank (H.R. 2553), which would help fund critical infrastructure projects, attract private investment in public works projects, and create thousands of jobs in the process.

No hardworking American should live in poverty. I support following Connecticut's lead by raising the federal minimum wage to \$10.10/hour.

Q: Would you recommend any changes to Campaign finance laws? Do you support expanded federal requirements for disclosure of the money behind political ads?

A: We need less money in our politics, not more. The Supreme Court's rulings in the *McCutcheon* and *Citizens United* campaign finance cases have unleashed a torrent of money into our political system at a time when large donors already have far too much influence. As a cosponsor of legislation to overturn *Citizens United* and a strong supporter of public financing for political campaigns, I will continue doing everything I can to level the playing field for the millions of American voters whose voices are being muted.

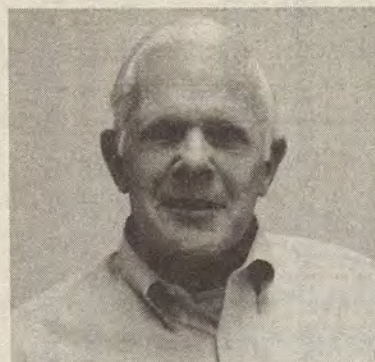
Q: What is your position on Federal Firearms regulations for example universal background checks, restrictions on firearms trafficking and other measures?

A: The tragedy at Sandy Hook was a heartbreaking example of how gun violence continues to plague our country. Unfortunately, Congress has so far failed to follow Connecticut's lead in passing tough, sensible gun violence prevention measures. I will continue urging Congress to pass commonsense legislation to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill while preserving Second Amendment rights. I have cosponsored legislation to strengthen background checks. I also support banning high-capacity gun magazines, making gun trafficking a federal crime, and preventing those on the terrorist watch list from purchasing guns.

Registrar Of Voters

Vote for 1

KEVIN WHITE, Republican



Prior to my appointment as Registrar in June 2013, I had been an election official since 2009. I have worked at all but one of the Town's multitude of polling places. Before then I spent twenty-five years with several financial institutions and nearly fourteen years in education with twelve years as a program administrator and two years teaching graduate school.

I look forward to continue to serve all the Westport electorate, and to increase the expansion of voter accessibility to all those eligible.

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MARLA COWDEN, Democrat



Registrar of Voters since 2010. Served on the Secretary of the State's Committee to develop procedures for the implementation of Election Day Registration. Developed a statewide program to test the capacity of the Connecticut Voter Registration System. Instructor at statewide election official conferences. Through pilot programs and analysis has streamlined the election process and office procedures to reduce costs for Westport taxpayers. RTM member, 2 terms. On the townwide school building committee. Served as PTA and PTA Council Co-president. Commercial experience as CPA specializing in audit and process reengineering. I hope to continue

working with the Secretary of the State's office to create efficient, effective systems and procedures to enhance the experience of voters in Westport as well as statewide.

TOWN OF WESTPORT ELECTION VOTING DISTRICTS

POLLING PLACES	RTM STATE	SENATE	ASSEMBLY
Saugatuck Elem School	1,2A	26	136-1
170 Riverside	2,1A		143-1
Greens Farms School	4	26	136-4
17 Morning Side Drive South	4A,5	28	136-5
Coleytown Middle School	3	26	136-2
255 North Ave	8		
Long Lots School	6	26	136-3
13 Hyde Lane	7		
Westport Public Library	9	26	136-6
20 Jessup Rd			

WESTPORT HAS THREE DIFFERENT BALLOTS DUE TO MULTIPLE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS

SAMPLE BALLOT

State of Connecticut
 Official Ballot
 Westport, Connecticut

November 4, 2014



State Election
 All Districts

OFFICE	1 Governor and Lieutenant Governor	2 Representative in Congress	3 State Senator	3 State Senator	3 State Senator	4 State Representative	4 State Representative	4 State Representative	6 Treasurer	7 Comptroller	8 Attorney General	9 Judge of Probate	10 Registrar of Voters
PARTY	1A Thomas C. Foley and Heather Somers	2A Dan Dubicella	3A Tony Hwang	3A Tony Boucher	3A Toni Braggi	4A Gail Lavelle	4A Jonathan P. Steinberg	4A Gail Lavelle	6A Timothy M. Herbst	7A Sharon J. McLaughlin	8A Kia Westby	9A Lisa K. Westby	10A Kevin M. White
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B Dannel P. Malloy and Nancy Wyman	2B Jim Himes	3B Kim Fawcett	3B Philip Sheridan	4B Jonathan P. Steinberg	4B Keith Hodgerson	4B Jonathan P. Steinberg	4B Keith Hodgerson	6B Denise L. Neppier	7B Kevin Lembo	8B George Jepson	9B George Jepson	10B Maria J. Cowden
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1C Dannel P. Malloy and Nancy Wyman	2C Jim Himes	3C Kim Fawcett	3C Philip Sheridan	4C Jonathan P. Steinberg	4C Keith Hodgerson	4C Jonathan P. Steinberg	4C Keith Hodgerson	6C Denise L. Neppier	7C Kevin Lembo	8C George Jepson	9C George Jepson	10C Maria J. Cowden
WORKING FAMILIES PARTY	1D Thomas C. Foley and Heather Somers	2D Dan Dubicella	3D Tony Hwang	3D Philip Sheridan	4D Jonathan P. Steinberg	4D Keith Hodgerson	4D Jonathan P. Steinberg	4D Keith Hodgerson	6D Timothy M. Herbst	7D Sharon J. McLaughlin	8D Kia Westby	9D Lisa K. Westby	10D Kevin M. White
INDEPENDENT PARTY	1E Thomas C. Foley and Heather Somers	2E Dan Dubicella	3E Tony Hwang	3E Philip Sheridan	4E Jonathan P. Steinberg	4E Keith Hodgerson	4E Jonathan P. Steinberg	4E Keith Hodgerson	6E Denise L. Neppier	7E Ralf W. Maurer	8E Stephen E. Fournier	9E George Jepson	10E Maria J. Cowden
GREEN PARTY	1F Joe Visconti and Chester Frank Harris	2F Dan Dubicella	3F Tony Hwang	3F Philip Sheridan	4F Jonathan P. Steinberg	4F Keith Hodgerson	4F Jonathan P. Steinberg	4F Keith Hodgerson	6F Timothy M. Herbst	7F Ralf W. Maurer	8F Stephen E. Fournier	9F George Jepson	10F Maria J. Cowden
PETITIONING CANDIDATES	1G Joe Visconti and Chester Frank Harris	2G Dan Dubicella	3G Tony Hwang	3G Philip Sheridan	4G Jonathan P. Steinberg	4G Keith Hodgerson	4G Jonathan P. Steinberg	4G Keith Hodgerson	6G Timothy M. Herbst	7G Ralf W. Maurer	8G Stephen E. Fournier	9G George Jepson	10G Maria J. Cowden
WRITE-IN VOTES													

VOTE ON THE QUESTION(S)
 YES NO
 1. Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to remove restrictions concerning absentee ballots and to permit a person to vote without appearing at a polling place on the day of an election?

SAMPLE BALLOT FOR DISTRICT 136-5, 143-1, 136-12, 3, 4, 6

Constitutional Amendment Question and Information

Vote on the Questions
 Yes _____ No _____

1. Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to remove restrictions concerning absentee ballots and to permit a person to vote without appearing at a polling place on the day of an election?
 EXPLANATORY TEXT AS TO THE CONTENT AND PURPOSE
 If this constitutional amendment passes, it would give the General Assembly greater authority to pass a law allowing voters to cast their ballots without having to (1) appear at their polling place on Election Day or (2) provide a reason for voting by absentee ballot.
 FURTHER EXPLANATION

The state constitution contains provisions regarding the administration of elections in Connecticut, including requiring voters to cast their ballots at their polling place on Election Day, unless they qualify to vote by absentee ballot. Under the constitution, voters my qualify for an absentee ballot if they will be out of town, are sick or have a physical disability, or the tenets of their religion prohibit secular activity on election day. Because these restrictions are in the constitution, the General Assembly does not currently have the authority to pass a law that changes them. The constitutional amendment would eliminate these restrictions.

