



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WESTPORT

## 2021 Westport Voter's Guide

Prepared as a nonpartisan public service

Vote Tuesday, November 2, 2021. Polls open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Dear Westport Voter,

This Voter's Guide is a nonpartisan forum for candidate information, intended as an essential source of knowledge for you during this year's local elections. Local elections may not generate big headlines or TV coverage, but their results have an immediate and direct impact on your life. Carefully read the candidates' answers to our questions and consider their brief bios, remembering that these folks are your neighbors who will decide the amount and disposition of your tax dollars, select and hire municipal department and agency heads and impact the quality of your child's education - their influence is significant and meaningful.

The Voter's Guide is just one part of the Westport League's commitment to voter education. If you think that our democracy is worth working for, join us. Visit our website at [lwvwestport.org](http://lwvwestport.org) or call me at 203-227-2980 to learn more.

Sincerely,

Celeste LaCroix,

President, League of Woman Voters of Westport

### Candidate Debates

On Monday, October 25th at 7:00 p.m., The League of Women Voters of Westport will hold a debate for First Selectman, Board of Finance and Board of Assessment Appeals candidates. [*This is a virtual event*]

On Tuesday, October 26th at 7:00 p.m., The League of Women Voters will hold a debate among the candidates for the Board of Education and the Planning & Zoning Commission. [*This is a virtual event*]

The events will be telecast on channel 79 and accessible on the web at the following link:

<https://www.westportct.gov/government/departments-a-z/office-of-information-technology/live-and-archived-meetings>

### IMPORTANT VOTER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

**You can register to vote in Westport if you meet the following criteria:** You are a U.S. citizen and Westport resident who will be 18 by Election Day. You meet the criteria above and have completed confinement and parole if previously convicted of a felony.

**To register to vote you must provide one of the following:** Learner's Permit, your Connecticut Driver's License Number, Social Security Card, or your Connecticut non-driver ID number. Alternatively, provide a copy of one of the following with your registration application: current and valid photo ID, Government Issued Document that shows your current name and address, automobile documentation (insurance or registration), utility bill, government check, bank statement, or paycheck.

## Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen consists of the First Selectman and two other Selectmen, no more than two of whom may be members of the same political party. The First Selectman is the Chief Executive Officer of the town. The term of office for each member is four years. The executive authority of the town is vested in the Board of Selectmen, except to the extent that such authority is expressly granted to the First Selectman.

## Candidates for First Selectman and Selectman

## Vote for One

### Office of the First Selectman

The mission of the First Selectman's Office is to set town policy and implement it through the departmental structure, develop long-term planning objectives, provide management guidance and oversight to town departments, initiate new projects, provide direction to town committees/boards, and to represent and promote the town in appropriate civic, business, and public functions. The Selectman's Office also pursues grant opportunities and coordinates with state officials, legislators, neighboring towns, and regional inter-governmental organizations. Administratively, the mission includes providing direct citizen assistance by ensuring concerns and issues are appropriately addressed in a timely, efficient manner. The First Selectman has 17 direct reports, encompassing all elements of town government, with the exception of the Westport Public Schools system.

**LWV Question: What is your vision for Westport? What do you believe to be the greatest challenges in achieving that vision and how do you propose to address them?**

### Jonathan Steinberg (D)



Westport is a special community: world class schools, amazing amenities and a unique arts heritage. But there are opportunities to make Westport better than ever. I will:

-Transform Downtown, embracing its most prominent feature – the Saugatuck River. We'll shift Jesup Green to the river, add a playground, connect river parks and walkways, and promote recreational boat traffic. Downtown will become a vital, diverse, happening place.

-Confront the biggest issue in town – increasing, maddening, dangerous traffic. We'll demand DOT improve traffic flow with smart traffic lights, enhance pedestrian and bicyclist safety with better bike lanes and traffic calming measures, and discourage Waze from diverting highway traffic by creating traffic speed zones on bypass roads.

-Refocus our capital budget to reflect our priorities: truly fixing our aging elementary schools, investing in Compo/Longshore, and addressing climate change resilience issues all over town.

-Continue our proven pandemic leadership, always keeping us safe through science-based decision making, listening to medical experts while prioritizing keeping schools and businesses open.

Six-term State Representative; Chair, Public Health Committee. Seven years RTM; 3-time Deputy Moderator. Healthcare marketing executive: Bristol-Myers, Mount Sinai Hospital. Long-time Westporter: Staples '74, B.A. Yale; M.B.A., NYU. Proud dad of Staples grads: Rachel, Margot, Charlotte.

### Jennifer Tooker (R)



My vision for Westport is to be the best place to live, work, and play in the region. The new residents and businesses who now call Westport home are clear indicators of the Marpe-Tooker Administration's success. With unparalleled management experience in both the private sector and local government, I will continue to deliver exceptional results for

Westport. Our greatest challenge and opportunity is to respond positively to residents' post-pandemic lifestyle choices. I plan to tackle this challenge with dialogue and transparency. To do this effectively, we must engage both our life-long and new residents in ongoing, robust communication and ensure every Westporter knows their voice is heard and respected. My expertise is in building relationships and trust among various stakeholders so that together we can accomplish important goals. Success doesn't happen by accident. It takes leadership. I am the only candidate who possesses the right skills and temperament to continue to lead Westport forward.

Jen Tooker is Westport's current Second Selectwoman and is a retired financial services industry executive with over 20 years of management experience. She is a former member of Westport's Board of Finance, Board of Education and Conservation Commission. Jen is married and has three children.

### TJ Elgin (L)



TJ Elgin, a First Selectman candidate of Westport. TJ moved into Westport as a young child with his family and went through the Westport school system. After going through Staples, TJ went off to college and studied a variety of different courses. TJ worked with many brewing companies in Connecticut and decided to start his own with his wife Denise, Full Moon Brewing Co. They have done fundraisers all over Westport through collaborations with other breweries and our brews since 2017. They have helped many organizations such as The Westport Library, Westport Historical Society, and many more. Right after they created Full Moon Brewing, they decided it was time to create their own nonprofit. Something Wolfy Inc was born, it's a 501(c)3 nonprofit based in the town, its focus is to help build back the farming industry in Connecticut, build businesses, and create farm-to-community products. Since then, TJ also built Wolfy's Wonka, a new Wild take on the infusion of foods and all things edible. For more information on the businesses, you can check out [somethingwolfy.com](http://somethingwolfy.com). You can check out TJ's platform, views, and his running mate Louis at

[www.VoteWestport.com](http://www.VoteWestport.com)

### Office of Selectman

The Selectmen have the powers and duties vested in them by the General Statutes, except those expressly vested in the First Selectman. All contracts and any renewals, extensions, amendments or modifications of any contract to which the town is party, including grant-eligible school building projects, is subject to approval by the Board of Selectmen, except contracts authorized by the General Statutes to be made by the Board of Education and contracts which any other agency of the town may be authorized to make. The Selectmen serve in an advisory capacity to the First Selectman.

## Candidates for Selectman

### LWV Question: How do your skills and experiences complement those of your running mate?

#### Candace Savin (D)



In 2019 I stepped up to lead the Board of Education at a time when the Board faced several daunting challenges. Under my leadership the Board installed effective professional leadership, returned our students to Coleytown Middle School, and regained the trust of the parent community. And when covid-19 hit, my steady and determined leadership successfully guided

our school community through the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic while keeping the doors of learning open.

Jonathan Steinberg and I have clear records of accomplishment and getting things done. Jonathan works exceptionally hard for the people of Westport and understands the issues better than anyone. He is super-smart, has a huge heart and is in this race for the right reasons. He loves Westport and he cares deeply about its future. I wanted to run with Jonathan because we share a passion for public service that guides us in all of our work.

A graduate of Johns Hopkins University and Duke University School of Law, I began my career as a New York City prosecutor. After moving to Westport in 2002 with my young family, I built a thriving real estate law practice.

Together, Jonathan and I will make Westport better than ever.

#### Andrea Moore (R)



I am thrilled to run for Westport Board of Selectmen alongside Jen Tooker, an accomplished leader with unmatched experience and integrity. I am a life-long Westporter who is committed to serving our Town, and I believe my deep ties to the community, along with my experience in local government and

a long history of service with many local organizations and non-profits, makes me uniquely positioned to be an advocate for the needs of our residents. As your next Second Selectman, one of my key responsibilities will be to expand and enhance Town Hall's communications with all our constituents, and to be a resource for new residents looking to learn more about and get involved with our wonderful community. Jen Tooker and I have diverse and complementary skills sets and experiences, and we share an unwavering commitment to ensuring Westport is a wonderful place to live, work, play and raise a family.

Andrea Moore is the current Vice Chairwoman of the Westport Board of Finance. She is a former Westport RTM member and has had a 15+ year career in the financial services industry with positions in institutional equity sales and investment banking. Andrea is married with three daughters.

#### Louis D'Onofrio (L)



TJ Elgin and I are both advocates for social changes and are environmentalists. Our combined experiences as both successful small business owners will help us, once elected, reduce the mill rate and stop frivolous spending. We also advocate increased transparency in town departments. My personal experiences as a health care provider, former Health Department Clinic Director, and board member on the Westport's Reopen School Community, and parent of two small children in town will drive me in ensuring our community is safe and cared for while also maintaining our liberties. I have been in healthcare for over 14 years and have worked for the federal government, state government, local municipalities and in the private sector. I have managed large staff, organized financial budgets, led educational accreditation applications, and have called attention to government officials that have violated laws. Neither TJ nor I owe any special interest groups, corporations, or large donors any favors. Our campaign is run solely on small contributions from Westporters that want liberty, trust, and integrity back in town hall.

Candidates are listed in the order in which they appear on the ballot. Candidates' replies are published as submitted, not edited, unless shortened to conform to the word limits specified by LWV of Westport.

## Remember to Vote—Tuesday, November 2

## Board of Finance

- Exercises all the powers and duties respecting the annual budget of the town and other town appropriations, the determination of the tax rate, and the preparation and publication of the town report
- Recommends, subject to the other provisions of the town charter, the issuance, reissuance, refinancing, repurchase or the call of bonds and other instruments of indebtedness, and any lease, acquisition or disposition of real property
- Hires independent auditors who have the authority to audit all of the books and records of the town in accordance with General Statutes and accounting standards applicable to municipalities
- Notifies the Moderator of the Representative Town Meeting of its action on appropriation requests within one week of such action

## Candidates for Board of Finance      Vote for Up to Three

**LWV Question: What new ideas will you bring to the Board of Finance in order to meet demands for improved infrastructure and municipal services, while controlling expenditures?**

### Brian Stern (D)



In my three terms as a BOF member, and six years as chairman, I have strived to bring discipline and structure to decision making. We have invested heavily in infrastructure, improved senior services, a new school, a new library, the beach, Longshore, and a new Levitt Pavilion. Our debt is lower, our credit rating is Aaa, and our tax rate has been flat. Our Democratic team is proud of this report card and we intend to build off sound processes we have established. This will not be easy since we shall certainly invest further in school facilities, complete Longshore and finally do something with Barons South. If we are to keep taxes low, (a key imperative), we need discipline and restraint in our annual operating budget, and we must continue to support Westport's grand list. Concepts of prioritization, productivity and elimination of wasteful spending will be key components of making good decisions. With your support and encouragement, we shall continue with the progress made. Lots more to do!

### Michael Keller (R)



Collaboration across all levels of our Town government and the Town's stakeholders is key. The COVID-19 pandemic altered – perhaps permanently - the way people work, live, interact, and enjoy the many amenities our Town offers. We need to keep focus on maintaining our AAA credit rating and sustain a stable mill rate by prioritizing the capital projects we tackle within the framework of a fiscally responsible, comprehensive plan with input from our Town's citizens as to what infrastructure and municipal services are most important. This is best achieved through honest and open discussion to identify opportunities to reduce costs where possible and find solutions to fund the projects necessary to maintain our unparalleled education program and town amenities/services. I firmly believe in ensuring that our Town continues to offer world class education and that our schools remain among the best in the state, but we must simultaneously employ a measured approach to investing in our Town with a comprehensive plan while appreciating and planning for the increasing long term liabilities the Town faces down the road.

Westport resident for 6 years with wife and two children attending CES, partner in Northeast litigation firm, lead local CT office, youth sports coach.

Candidate Lee Caney (D) did not respond

## Board of Education

The Board of Education consists of seven elected members, and no more than four may be members of the same political party. The term of office is four years. The Board of Education is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the public school system in the town and has all the other powers and duties conferred or imposed by law on Boards of Education.

## Candidates for Board of Education

## Vote for Up to Four

**LWV Question: What do you believe to be two of the most compelling strategic initiatives to be considered by the BOE as it deliberates the development of its 2021 Strategic Plan?**

### Kevin Christie (D)



Social emotional learning for every student: We must ensure tools are in place at all grade levels to support our students. We are in our third school year of disruption related to the pandemic, and additional disruption prior to that for those impacted by the CMS closure. Further enhancing the district's focus on SEL for the short and long term effects of these circumstances will be critical if we are to live up to our mission of preparing all students to reach their full potential as life-long learners

and socially responsible contributors to our global community. Prepare our facilities for the future: Yes, we must ensure proactive systems are in place to keep our buildings open and safe. We must also ensure our facilities will support future educational needs and the district's strategic plan.

Bio: 15+ years of finance, investment banking, and strategy at IBM, Merrill Lynch, and The Madison Square Garden Company. MBA, Kellogg | Northwestern. BS, Union College. Treasurer, Coleytown Elementary School PTA. Coach, Westport Soccer Association. Dad of 3rd grade twins. Husband to Gina.

### Christina Torres (D)



Christina feels the two most compelling strategic initiatives to be considered by the BOE to be facilities management and the equity study. First, in order to ensure the health and safety of our school buildings for students, staff, and families alike, the district must prioritize proper and regular maintenance of our facilities. Failure to do so would jeopardize the health of all stakeholders and the ability to continue educating without further disruption. Second, the equity study and subsequent decisions will send an important message of empathy and consideration to students and the community. We have a wonderful opportunity to establish ourselves as leaders in equity, in addition to academics.

Christina Torres is a NYC native who moved to Westport with her husband and two daughters in 2019, before the pandemic. Professionally, Christina has spent 18 years in education. After a career shift from Advertising, Christina spent 10 years teaching in Special Education before moving into Assistant Principal and Director of Special Education roles. She presently continues to serve as an Assistant Superintendent in Westchester and also teaches graduate education at both Pace University and Fordham University. She is a proud Staples Players mom and member of the Kings Highway PTA.

### Robert Harrington (R)



We need to be considered: Full and comprehensive school facilities long term plan: I strongly believe our district is moving too slow and we need a clear roadmap with a maintenance plan for all buildings, regular testing & an accelerated capital plan to upgrade our school buildings with an immediate focus on LLS, CES and KHS.

Class size strategy for our district: Our class sizes are becoming too inconsistent and resources are not being allocated equally. We are ignoring class size limits in some cases

- An active community member & campaigner on multiple school related issues over a number of years - Public Schools budget, fully restoring Coleytown Middle School, and advocating for COVID-19 vaccinations for Westport's teachers
- 20 Year career in Global Finance focused on Strategic Planning
- Work in diverse teams where it's critical to ask tough questions, make decisions - and own them
- Born in UK, proud to recently become a US Citizen
- Married to Claire Harrington - a pre-school teacher, have lived in Westport for over 15 years; four children including a Staples High School graduate & three daughters currently attending Staples
- BA Honors - University of Oxford, UK

### Dorie Hordon (R)



The Strategic Plan is an exciting opportunity to refresh and strengthen our schools. I am interested in how we can build up the curriculum by putting more emphasis on engaging and investigative learning. COVID demonstrated that sitting and staring at a computer screen is tough for many kids, and not particularly inspiring! Even before COVID

there has been less of an emphasis on this type of learning. These opportunities could include field trips, team building activities or a selection of vocational classes and programs in areas such as healthcare, information technology and engineering. I also believe faculty development is an important piece. Exposing faculty to new techniques and ideas keeps engagement levels high and teachers motivated. As a former teacher, I can attest personally to this.

Dorie Hordon has served on the Westport PTA for many years and just completed her tenure as PTA Council Co-President. She was previously Co-President of the Bedford Middle School PTA and a member of the Executive Board at Greens Farms Elementary. She has a professional background as an educator, having taught at the Spence School in New York City. She and her family have lived in Westport for 15 years with three children enrolled in our schools.

### Board of Assessment Appeals

The Board of Assessment Appeals has all the powers and duties conferred or imposed by State law on all Boards of Assessment Appeals. State law requires at least three sessions of the Board of Assessment Appeals to hear residential and commercial property appeals for the Grand List that is filed by the Assessor. The Board continues to meet until all appeals are reviewed and notices are mailed to all applicants. This enables the Board to file the final Board of Assessment Appeals Approved Grand List which is required prior to the Board of Finance meeting where the Mill Rate is set.

### LWV Question: What best qualifies you to implement Connecticut state statutes that govern assessment appeals?

### Candidates for Board of Assessment Appeals      Vote for Up to Two

#### Ifeseyi Gayle (D)



I have over 10 years of experience in Healthcare credentialing and reimbursement. In this role, I ensure that providers maintain annual updates and follow policies and procedures ensuring compliance with accreditation and NCQA regulatory standards. In addition, I ensure that facilities obtain ACR accredited radiology equipment for reimbursement.

While working for Yale New Haven Health System as a Clinical Reimbursement Coordinator, I wrote appeals letters to payors based on state/local statutes and their policy resulting in significant overturning of denied claims (such as Medicare, Medicaid and private payor). My familiarity and understanding of applicable state statutes helped in facilitating in the highest revenue recovery the department has seen in over 10 years by assertive follow-up and escalation process as needed.

These same analytical and assertive skills would make me an ideal candidate to implement Connecticut state statutes that govern assessment appeals.

#### Joseph Sledge (R)



Our Board of Assessment Appeals (or BAA) consists of three elected members serving terms of 4 years. Connecticut law provides for hearings for real estate & personal property as well as motor vehicle assessment appeals. State law requires at least three sessions to hear appeals for the Grand List filed by the Tax Assessor. This local forum provides

the opportunity for a taxpayer to have their case heard by the local BAA in an informal hearing. If the taxpayer is not satisfied with a determination by the BAA, they may appeal to Superior Court.

Through this process, the BAA strives to assure that the tax burden of all taxpayers is borne fairly. I firmly believe that this process is a fair, open, and transparent one. It has been my pleasure to have served on the BAA for the past 4 years.

I have been a Westport resident for more than 30 years and have two children who attended Westport schools. I am a retired real estate investment management professional with over 40 years of experience in all aspects of real estate investment management.

Candidate Lynette Pineda (D) did not respond

### Planning & Zoning Commission

Beside the powers and duties conferred or imposed by state law on Planning and Zoning Commissions, the Commission is required to update the Town Plan of Conservation and Development at least every ten years and determines the manner in which zoning regulations are enforced.

The Planning and Zoning Commission holds an average of two public hearings every month to review subdivision, special permit, and zoning amendment applications. Site plan applications are also reviewed at these meetings. The Commission usually meets two additional evenings per month in a work session to discuss planning issues.

## Candidates for Planning & Zoning

## Vote for Up to Three

### LWV Question: What are the most important values you hold with regard to the mission, philosophy and direction of Westport's Planning & Zoning Commission going forward?

Below is the collective response of Democratic candidates Danielle Dobin, Michael Cammeyer and Neil Cohn:

As evidenced by our remarkable record as current P&Z Commissioners, Michael, Danielle & Neil value preservation, sustainable economic development, the environment & improving Westport's amenities. When we joined the P&Z, downtown was on life support due to repressive regs, businesses shied away from relocating here, outdoor dining was strictly limited, live music frowned upon & the P&Z had ceded control over multifamily to private developers. Terrible choices were being made with regard to traffic like the then P&Z saying no to relocating 1 Wilton Road @ the Bridge downtown. In contrast, our team revitalized downtown, expanded outdoor dining, improved our parks/fields & thoughtfully diversified housing. We are planning for climate change & working to aggressively confront traffic/infrastructure challenges like new commuting patterns & creating sidewalks. We successfully changed the tone at P&Z to be inclusive, responsive and collaborative.

#### Danielle Dobin (D)



Elected Chair of the P&Z with two decades of commercial real estate & zoning experience as an attorney & investor. Active community volunteer with the PTA. Danielle lives with her husband,

two sons & their dog in the Compo/Longshore area. MS in Real Estate Finance from NYU, JD from Georgetown Law & BA in Political Communication from GWU.

#### Michael Cammeyer (D)



Elected Secretary of the P&Z. Michael lives with his wife and two sons who attend Col-eytown Middle School. Current commissioner of basketball league. Past commissioner of soccer league. Active sports dad and coach. Healthcare M&A Banker. MBA in Corporate Finance from Fordham University and MS in Finance from the University of Wisconsin.

#### Neil Cohn (D)



Neil has served on P&Z since 2018 and was an environmental advisor to Obama's first Presidential Transition. Neil is a cleantech investor and is currently focused on Chia, an eco-friendly blockchain designed to deliver sustainable growth and prosperity. Neil also serves on Westport's Public Arts Commission and Little League board. Neil lives in Westport with his wife and three kids.

#### Jack Whittle (R)

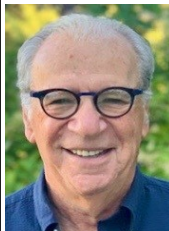


I firmly believe the most important aspect of the P&Z's mission is to serve the needs, interests and desires of Westport's residents. Their interests must be placed first in every development proposal, every proposed use of Town-owned land, every proposed text amendment, every sub-committee convened by the P&Z and in every planning exercise the P&Z undertakes. In order to accomplish that mission, the views

and interests of the Town residents must be more than simply considered – they must be given firm weight – and in order to gain the public's input the *philosophy* of the P&Z must be to welcome, encourage, and foster public input and dialog. This means holding meetings when the largest possible number of Town residents can attend, rather than at the convenience of commissioners. This also means allowing members of the public to speak freely, and ensuring that all matters are discussed in open public sessions. This also means the Commission must drive towards more engagement with the Town residents. Going forward, the *direction* of the P&Z should be to serve the interests of the Town's residents, and seek to understand what the residents want.

I grew up in Westport and chose to raise my own family here; I am an attorney; and I was previously elected to the P&Z in 2011 and again in 2015.

#### Ron Corwin (CFW)



Planning & Zoning is the expression of neighbors. It is how we manage where we live, work, shop, and send our kids to school. It is both democracy at the local level and an agency of change. My values for P&Z are to provide a fair, efficient and equitable forum for applicants and the public on all land use applications, proposals and planning. The P&Z plays an important role in the life of our town. It is a forum for open, transparent and civil discussions

which should:

- Add to the vitality of our town;
- Protect its natural beauty, and ecological well-being;
- Preserve critical environmental areas;
- Integrate aesthetics and historical character that define Connecticut;
- Manage continuity with the past;
- Provide a variety of transportation choices;
- Address community facility and infrastructure needs;
- Increase housing opportunities and choices; and,
- Promote sustainable Initiatives

When I chaired the P&Z (2007 to 2012) among other initiatives, we approved major increases in the number of restaurants, permitted outdoor dining, lights at Staples and Bedford sports fields, addressed issues of historic preservation, doubled the number of permitted home offices, and approved the relocation of the "Y" at Mahackeno.

I welcome the opportunity to serve again.

### Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals shall have the following powers and duties: (1) To hear and decide appeals where it is alleged that there is an error in any order, requirement or decision made by the official charged with enforcement ; (2) to hear and decide all matters including special exceptions and special exemptions under section 8-2g upon which it is required to pass by the specific terms of the zoning bylaw, ordinance or regulation; and (3) to determine and vary the application of the zoning bylaws, ordinances or regulations in harmony with their general purpose and intent and with due consideration for conserving the public health, safety, convenience, welfare and property values solely with respect to a parcel of land where a literal enforcement of such bylaws, ordinances or regulations would result in exceptional difficulty or unusual hardship so that substantial justice will be done and the public safety and welfare secured.

## Candidates for Zoning Board of Appeals

## Vote for Up to Two

**LWV Question: What are your qualifications to serve as a commissioner of the Zoning Board of Appeals which hears and decides appeals of zoning enforcement action?**

### Josh Newman(D)



In 2013, my wife Lisa and I purchased land in the Saugatuck Shores neighborhood with the dream of building a home. Due to the small plot of land and existing home, we were quickly introduced to the ZBA process. I took this as an opportunity to learn the process, watch countless hearings on public access TV and present modifications to the board. While our

family has since moved across town to the Coleytown neighborhood, my love of ZBA began when we built our beach house.

My goal with every application that comes in front of the ZBA is to find the balance between keeping with the character of our town and its zoning guidelines, while understanding each unique application and the specific hardship the applicant is facing.

I'm currently a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and have been since 2019 after serving as an alternate for most of 2018. It's truly an honor to be able to serve this town and give back to this wonderful community.

### Amy Wistreich (D)



I was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate in June of 2019 and after a successful year as an alternate, appointed to a full board member and Secretary of the ZBA in May 2020.

I bring considerable experience in the architecture, engineering and building industries to the ZBA along with a devotion to civic duty.

I started my career at Kohn, Pedersen, Fox Architects and Planners and then transitioned into the insurance and surety industries specializing in professional liability for architects and engineers, risk management and bonding for large scale construction projects. For the last two decades, I have been dedicated to raising my family along with prioritizing community service work. I have been actively involved at the board level with numerous educational and religious organizations in the various communities I have lived. As a result of my community work I was awarded a two year Wexner Fellowship in 2014. I graduated from Syracuse University, majoring in Environmental Design. I am proud to serve the town of Westport and I am looking forward to continuing to serve the ZBA for the next four years.



## Representative Town Meeting

The Representative Town Meeting (RTM) is the legislative body of the town. It consists of 36 elected members: 4 members from each of Westport's 9 RTM districts.

The powers and responsibilities of the RTM are provided in the Town Charter and Connecticut General Statutes. Among these are:

- Adopting the annual town and education budgets.
- Approving town appropriations over \$20,000.
- Enacting ordinances of the town.
- Reviewing certain appropriations, bonds, leases, sales and purchases of town property.
- Reviewing certain changes to zoning regulations (text amendments), changes to zoning boundaries, and negative 8-24 reports (regarding certain purchases, sales, leases and uses of town property).
- Reviewing certain changes to regulations concerning the use of town recreation and other public facilities.
- Reviewing negotiated and arbitrated labor agreements with town and Board of Education employees.

**LWV Question: Communication from RTM members to and from their constituencies is, more often than not, lacking. How will you undertake your responsibility to communicate your positions to those you represent and to seek their input? Please be specific.**

## Candidates for RTM District 1

## Vote for Up to Four

### Liz Milwe



For 10 years, I served on the RTM. As a lifelong Westporter, I know the challenges of living in an area that is affected by storms and rising sea levels. Recognizing these problems, I fought (and won) the effort to restore FEMA

grants to lift our houses above sea level, to extend the guarantee on sewer pumps installed near the beach and spearheaded an initiative to ban companies from tossing phone books onto private properties. I opened my home for meetings, collected feedback from D1 residents, and then took action. I will continue to host open forums in my home or backyard, and will also create a newsletter and organize zoom meetings that offer updates on issues. I believe gathering people is vital to building community, and I hope constituents will call or email me. I am a good communicator, and believe in the 24-hour rule on responding to inquiries.

### Abby Tolan



I will ensure open communication with a combination of email, social media presence, and in-person gatherings. A quarterly newsletter, distributed via email, will introduce pertinent issues and upcoming votes. The impacts to the community will be discussed, my perspective offered and input solicited. An RTM District 1 dedicated social media page will further serve as an information source and a forum for discourse. Throughout the year I will be present at town events and will host coffees to further foster communication.

I have been a Westport resident for 9 years. I am a mother of twin boys, now 9th graders at Staples. Prior to moving to Westport I was a NYC public school teacher in middle school humanities and high school special education. I am active in the community, having served as PTA president, SPED parent rep, member of TEAM Westport, and Earthplace volunteer. Most recently I joined Sustainable Westport.

### Matthew Mandel



Communication is everything. For 16 years I have sent out periodic emails informing my constituents and my RTM colleagues of issues they needed to be made aware of and where I stood on those topics. Whether about hearings

to attend, letters to write or events for their families to enjoy I have been in touch and will continue to do so. I am always accessible and invite all of you, especially our new residents, regardless of district, to join my list and stay informed. Email me at: [mathew@westportd1.com](mailto:mathew@westportd1.com).

We live in an incredible town with so much to offer. We have great schools, wonderful amenities, and room to breathe. As a board member of Earthplace, Executive Director of the Westport Weston Chamber of Commerce and an RTM representative my goal is always to be out in front ensuring it stays that way.

### Chris Tait



As Chairman of Parks and Recreation Committee, I supported the improvements and ongoing maintenance of all of our beaches/parks. It is essential to the town that these wonderful resources remain at the quality that we expect by funding their maintenance and improvements in a fiscally responsible way, without neglecting the school system. I am also supportive of a traffic committee to determine the best way to manage the increased traffic.

I intend to continue communicating with my constituents in person and to be visible in the community - as I believe in person is the best way to understand differing views and get results. I also plan to expand my communication via email blasts to enable interaction with constituents on different schedules.

Born and raised in the very district I am running for re-election/ Westport RTM District 1. I am married with two daughters that attend Westport Public Schools.

### Kristin Mott Purcell



Over the last year, the RTM has addressed key issues around education, infrastructure, recreation, residents' health and well-being, and inclusive and creative growth strategies. Since open and transparent communication is essential to best serving our community's needs, I have appreciated and welcomed the thoughtful input from my Westport neighbors and constituents. I look forward to the dialogue increasing - thanks to e-mail, facebook and the return to in-person events. I humbly ask for the opportunity to continue to serve District 1 and help preserve and enhance the unique qualities that make Westport our family's community of choice.

\*RTM District 1 representative since 2017 - Education, Parks & Recreation, Long-Term Planning and Code of Conduct committees

\*Saugatuck-based small business owner. Board Member of Compo Beach Improvement Association, National Charity League of Westport, Westport Garden Club and longtime Parks & Recreation soccer/basketball commissioner. Married mother of two Staples students.

### Rick Jaffe



Communication between me and my constituents to my knowledge is not lacking. I answer emails addressed to me, and often have dialogs with constituents. I meet with constituents who request it. I email, sparingly and only with important information, to those of my constituents for whom I have an email address, and invite others to write to me [rjaffe@westportct.gov](mailto:rjaffe@westportct.gov) to subscribe.

As your incumbent, I believe I have earned your vote. Experience Counts. I work hard, studying the issues, listening, discussing, then acting based on what I believe is good for our District 1 residents and Westport. My only agenda is to maximize the quality of life, cost effectively, for all of us. Heavy RTM Committee load, where the work is done in preparation for RTM meetings: Finance; Long Range Planning; Public Protection; Employee Compensation; Chairman, Information Technology. MBA, Finance and Accounting. Former Chief Technology Officer. Former Chief Compliance Officer.

**LWV Question: Communication from RTM members to and from their constituencies is, more often than not, lacking. How will you undertake your responsibility to communicate your positions to those you represent and to seek their input? Please be specific.**

## Candidates for RTM District 2

## Vote for Up to Four

### Jay Keenan



Residents in RTM District 2, please feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns at any time. My contact information as listed on the Town website is [jkeen@westportct.gov](mailto:jkeen@westportct.gov).

25 Year Westport Resident, 8 Term RTM Member 2005-2021, CMS Building Committee 2019-2021, CMS Task Force 2018-2019, Chair RTM Public Works Committee, Planning & Zoning Committee, Employee Compensation Committee, Staples School Building Committee 1999-2009, Trustee Earthplace 2006-2012, Selectman's Building Maintenance Committee 2007-2016, KHS Air Quality Committee 2007-2008, Youth Sports Coach - 46 Seasons, Lehigh University, Principal DGK Architects.

### Louis Mall



I respond to all phone calls and emails from constituents who identify themselves from District 2. After careful consideration of their point of view, I form my opinion based on the facts and what I believe to be in the best interest of ALL Westporters.

Lou is a 36+ year resident of Westport where he lives with his wife Joan. He is Chair of the RTM Compensation Committee and sits on the Education, Public Protection, Public Works, and Ethics Committees. He is a member St. Luke Church and volunteers as a mentor and facilitator for a 24/7 Dads program with St. Joseph Parenting in Stamford.

### Christine Meiers Schatz



I created a website/blog ([www.rtmreport.com](http://www.rtmreport.com)) to communicate with my constituents and all Westport residents. With four young kids it became a challenge to maintain – especially during the pandemic – but I'm planning on resuming regular posts in the near future. In the interim, I've been reaching out to specific residents or groups when we have an agenda item that I know will be of particular interest to them.

Mother of four  
Harvard undergrad, UVA law, litigator, and current financial industry arbitrator  
Connecticut Certified Municipal Official  
5 years' experience in the financial sector  
Founder of Westport non-profit related to resident health/safety

### Harris Falk



Born and raised in New York, I learned to drive a car and moved to Westport 10 years ago with my wife, Liz, and two children. My eclectic background has seen me in various roles including, as an Assistant Director for the Governor of New York, Chief Technology Officer/VP of a marketing/events company, Director of Information Technology at the Whitney Museum of American Art, and even a Pipe Organ Builder. I serve on the Board of Coney Island USA, a non-profit located appropriately enough in Coney Island. As a member of the RTM, I currently serve on the Environment, Library, Museum, & Arts, and Information Technology committees.

## Candidates for RTM District 3

## Vote for Up to Four

### Mark Friedman



An incumbent, I've engaged District 3 voters both in-person and electronically. On March 3, 2020, I helped to organize a discussion of Westport's budget at Town Hall. I contacted several hundred voters about this public meeting, inviting them to share their thoughts with the D3 RTM Representatives. With the tragic arrival of COVID, I emailed constituents about social distancing and later, the Census and Westport's property taxes.

In the RTM, I've worked hard to improve our quality of life. On the Education, Technology, and Long Range Planning Committees—and the Special Committee on RTM Conduct—I advocate for: strong schools; efficiency and cybersecurity; the environment; and civil discourse. An attorney and an accountant, I value fiscal discipline and vision. A PTA volunteer and basketball coach during my boys' elementary and middle school years at Coleytown Elementary and Middle, I currently focus on RTM matters and enjoy taking family strolls.

### Arline Gertzoff



I answer all constituents questions and inquiries. To improve communications I would create a biannual forum to listen to and discuss concerns, and questions,

Arline P. Gertzoff is a 65 year resident educated in the Westport schools and a BS and EdM from Boston University as well as post grad studies in the US and Europe. My work experience as an educator includes social studies and history grades 7-12 (International Baccalaureate) and college counseling locally and in Belgium. On the RTM I serve on the Library Arts Committee and Health and Human Services. My key concerns are affordable housing, preserving Westport's character including Long Island Sound as a New England town and continued diversification.

I volunteer regularly at the Westport Library and am actively engaged in DWW, DTC, and UN-ASWCT

### Ross Burkhardt



The RTM must play a much bigger role in reaching out to the Town as a whole, and a modest budget for these activities should be established. Along with a regularly updated website, the RTM must establish itself on social media platforms,

such as streaming meetings on Facebook Live Stream. The RTM could also distribute a monthly newsletter. Individual RTM members should establish themselves on Twitter, Facebook, and email, and monitor them regularly. A postcard from time to time could also be effective. The representatives from each district should, as a group, hold smaller forums. For example, District 3 members once held a special meeting on the Town Budget. Westport Resident for 43 years; served on the P&Z and the Housing Authority; Master's degree in Community Planning; Thirty years of not-for-profit leadership including Executive Director, Broad Park development Corp. (Hartford) and President and CEO of New Neighborhoods, Inc (Stamford).

### Jimmy Izzo



To better communicate with our constituents as RTM members, we need to take advantage of today's technology. The RTM needs to work with our IT Department and Town Clerk to develop an RTM website that we can access and share information.

Westport Native 5 term RTM member, RTM Public Protection Committee Chair.

### Don O'Day



Recently retired after a forty-year career in Financial Services where I was a Chief Financial Officer and a Managing Director. As an elected official, transparency is at or near the top of my responsibility to the people I serve. Both my career, and my extensive public service to Westport, have been well served by my personal commitment to never assuming that my employer, my staff, or my constituents simply understand my views. I have an absolute obligation to make those views clear – not once, not twice, but as many times as it takes. I have found the best way to communicate is through social media, texts, emails and succinctly stating my views at public meetings. However, the most effective way to communicate is face to face or over the phone. I plan to continue to communicate in as many ways as possible if I'm elected to serve RTM District Three.

**LWV Question: Communication from RTM members to and from their constituencies is, more often than not, lacking. How will you undertake your responsibility to communicate your positions to those you represent and to seek their input? Please be specific.**

## Candidates for RTM District 4

## Vote for Up to Four

### Andrew Colabella



An RTM member is always to be proactive, effective, efficient, transparent, and fair. Everything starts with you. The people make the wheel move and always ready to get involved beyond my district. I campaigned and went to every food establishment to proactively engage in changing their behavior while producing cost savings. I actively sought public engagement in the naming of the high school football field and track. I actively taught and spoke to children in school about the RTM, sustainability and SRO's. An RTM member is vigilant in their efforts. My goal always: address the subject before it becomes an issue or someone is harmed. From requesting traffic devices installed, cutbacks, education, transparency of meetings and inclusion, I look forward to continuing public engagement in my next term while finishing my masters at Fairfield University's Fellowship Government Honors Program. The goal is Westport first, always. Proud to serve all.

### James Bairaktaris



As a member of the RTM, I would be happy to be able to communicate with members of District Four across various outlets. Specifically during the pandemic lockdown - social media became a strong community-based asset for not only sharing ideas, but initiating dialogue between "strangers" about the world around us. Using those social mediums would allow constituents to blend their RTM district news and conversations into their daily lives - fostering stronger interaction and communication virtually. With face-to-face conversations remaining an integral part of our community - annual (or more frequent) whole district meetings and specific days set aside for speaking with neighbors would allow easier access to RTM members overall.

### Jeffrey N. Wieser



Communication with our constituents is the lifeblood of the RTM. I rely on the dialogue I have maintained with many constituents over the years, and I read carefully the emails I receive when formulating views on a vote. I encourage those emails, because it is the best way to determine the views of our District voters. At the same time, I am careful not to burden constituents with the many "maintenance" issues that we deal with every month. The balance is a fine one and as such I seek input from voters on issues that are important to them. I encourage any Westporter to email me at [wieser4rtm@gmail.com](mailto:wieser4rtm@gmail.com)

Candidate Noah Hammond did not respond

## Candidates for RTM District 5

## Vote for Up to Four

### Peter Gold



RTM members *must* make their views known to their constituents. For two years I wrote a monthly article for *Greens Farms Living* magazine on issues important to Greens Farms residents and now write a monthly article on RTM meetings for Dan Woog's 06880 blog. I also make my views known by talking to constituents at town meetings, at meetings of community organizations (including the Greens Farms Association), and during ordinary encounters around town. My e-mail address and phone number are readily available; I read and reply to emails and I always answer my phone. I welcome talking to constituents about their concerns and matters before the RTM.

40 year resident. Two children. Five-term RTM member; Transit, Public Works, Long-Range Planning, Ordinance Committees. Director, Westport Transit District. Attorney with 38 years' governmental benefits consulting experience. Former Board member: YMCA, Children's Community Day-care. Volunteer at Library, Playhouse, Sound Cyclists.

### Dick Lowenstein



My constituents have had no trouble contacting me, either directly or through the Town's website email list. Unfortunately, reaching them is not that easy. If other RTM members have good ideas, I am ready to follow! And I am ready to serve my district and my town again.

In 1983, my wife, Ellie, and I moved to Westport with our three children, all of whom went through the Westport school system. For 16 years, I had represented Greens Farms on the RTM, where I chaired the Transit, Employee Compensation, and Public Protection Committees. After taking a six-year "leave" in 2013, I returned to the RTM in 2019 and started where I began, as chair of the Transit Committee. It has been an interesting 24 months, all but 3 of them under the Covid cloud.

### Karen A. Kramer



I joined the RTM to help our town. Westport is the trifecta of great schools, proximity to NYC and amazing parks and beaches. Growing at a rapid pace brings more traffic. We need to maintain balance. I am deeply committed to the challenge. A 33 year old resident of Greens Farms, I've raised kids through the school system, and helped reopen Greens Farms Elementary. I've Served on the board for Greens Farms Association and sold real estate here. I continue to fight Post Rd Plaza to prevent them from getting a third entrance across from our elementary school. I serve for love of town. Please re-elect me so that I can continue to

serve.

### Claudia Shaum



I'm excited to be running for RTM to represent District 5! I'm running for RTM so that I can use my skills and experience to help our community address the key issues we face as a Town. With my background, I'm well-positioned to help the RTM become more visible, accessible and responsive to the citizens of Westport.

After a lifetime living in NYC, I moved to Westport CT in 2014 with my husband, Paul, our 2 children and 2 dogs. We settled in Greens Farms, and love living here. I spent my career in Public Relations and Communications - creating, planning and implementing global campaigns for cosmetics, personal care and lifestyle brands at companies like Estee Lauder, Avon and Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia. After moving to Westport, I became involved with my children's schools, serving on PTA Executive Boards at BMS and SHS, most recently as PTA Co-President at SHS.

**LWV Question: Communication from RTM members to and from their constituencies is, more often than not, lacking. How will you undertake your responsibility to communicate your positions to those you represent and to seek their input? Please be specific.**

## Candidates for RTM District 6

## Vote for Up to Four

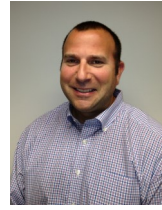
### Candace Banks



What I have enjoyed most about my 10+ years as a community volunteer & activist in Westport is that it has afforded me the opportunity to develop a broad network of engaged individuals within our town. I am proud that my District 6 neighbors feel comfortable calling me regularly to discuss local issues that are meaningful to them. These conversations have been a valuable guide during my first term in the RTM. I will continue this level of engagement with my neighbors while focusing on outreach to those who are new to the area.

13+ year resident of Westport. Elected to RTM to represent District 6 in 2019. Member of the Education Committee, Public Protection Committee, Transit Committee, and Rules Committee. Past President of Long Lots PTA & PTA Council. Trustee of Green's Farms Church. Alumna of Wellesley College and University of Chicago Law School.

### Seth Braunstein



The "R" in RTM stands for "Representative" and I take the role of representing our community very seriously. Input from the community is really the key to making sure important issues are effectively placed on the RTM's agenda and that the arguments being made for or against a specific issue are representative of what the community desires. Please feel free to call or email me. I promise to be responsive and am convinced that understanding all viewpoints, not just the ones being advocated for the loudest, is crucial to making the best decisions.

My family and I have enjoyed all Westport has to offer for the last 16 years. Wife Sara and I have one son that graduated from Staples and is now away at college. I am employed by a CT based financial boutique. BA from University of Chicago, MBA from NYU Stern.

### Jessica Bram



I take very seriously the "R" in Representative Town Meeting: that my primary responsibility is to represent the opinions and interests of District 6 families, and to convey those perspectives back to the RTM in RTM appropriation decisions and ordinances under consideration. To do this, my District 6 colleagues and I designed an e-newsletter to keep constituents informed, provide contact information, and encourage responses via phone or email. I will continue to seek the assistance of my neighbors to introduce me to the many new families of school age children who have relocated to Westport this year.

Chair of RTM Health & Human Services Committee

### Cathy Talmadge



Over the past 12 years District 6 has faced numerous critical issues. My activities regarding those issues and my longevity on the RTM has contributed to developing personal relationships with many of my constituents. They are comfortable contacting me via, phone, email and conversations around town. I take pride in following up and have established a database for outreach. With more controversial issues I generally call large samples of my constituents to solicit their opinion and discuss the subtle issues that may not be explicit in the press.

My husband Tom and I moved to District 6 in 1987. Our daughter attended Westport Schools. I have been an active volunteer in the community sitting on numerous Boards including Earthplace, Friends of Sherwood Island and was instrumental in the founding of the Wakeman Town Farm and continue as co-treasurer. I have also served on the RTM for six terms.

## Candidates for RTM District 7

## Vote for Up to Four

### Brandy Briggs



I believe that accountability and transparency are the keys to a well-functioning local government, and I am dedicated to effective, respectful communications with residents of District 7 so they are aware of the issues that impact our community and they have a forum to have their voices heard. To foster the exchange of information and ideas, I have a dedicated RTM email address for constituents to reach me, and I plan to launch a new Facebook group with other RTM District 7 members and residents to keep in constant communication on local matters. The more I can communicate with District 7 residents, the better I can represent their interests.

Married; Three children, Westport schools; Attorney, RTM District 7 (4 terms), Ordinance (Chair), Education, LMA Committees; Past-President, Westport Young Woman's League; Grade Level Advisor, Past Board member NCL; LLS, BMS, SHS PTA member; JD-University of Colorado School of Law, BS-Boston College

### Jack Klinge



I communicate positions by speaking at RTM meetings, neighborhood gatherings, interviews with media, word of mouth. Available to answer questions/emails. Collect input via in-person discussions, phone/emails, being long time resident, asking questions and reading all local news. Will continue on constituents behalf to deliver affordable quality of life for Westporters of all ages. Endorse challenging, accountable education; multiple recreation opportunities; superior, timely services and open communications. Committed to making your RTM a pro-active body to achieve these goals.

24 year RTM member. Committees: Education, Recreation, Health, Public Works, Planning. Practical common sense solutions to problems/opportunities. Sub teacher Westport schools 20 years (Coach K); Mentor Program; Cornell Interviewer; Adjunct Professor SHU; Youth sports manager. President Friends Westport Senior Center; Home Meal Deliveries; Westport Service to Seniors Award (2X); Health/Human Services Committee. Masters Engineering Cornell 1961; MBA Harvard 1965; USN Active Duty 1961-63; 55 Year Resident

### Ellen Lautenberg Hendel



RTM members in District 7 have an email list for many constituents in the district which has been used to communicate occasional important developments. I will:

- Continue to use the email list to communicate updates
- Provide my contact information and ask them to email or call me with any questions or concerns
- Plan to host occasional gatherings for people to discuss issues
- Encourage them to look at the agenda for RTM meetings and to email me with opinions on upcoming issues
- 10 years in financial services; Law Degree

- Moved to Westport in 1995; 2 children attended Westport schools, K-12  
 - **Prior:** PTA - Executive Board, Long Lots; Co-President, Bedford; Executive Board, Staples; PTA Council; Board Member of Temple Israel (2003-2008)  
 - **Current:** Active Supporter, Wakeman Town Farm; Board member, Children's Environmental Health Center at Mt. Sinai Hospital

### Lauren Karpf



As an incumbent RTM member, I believe in open, honest and transparent communication with my constituents, whether by phone, email, posts to my Facebook RTM page or in person. I regularly communicate with town leaders and members of town boards, participate in public meetings, and actively solicit the viewpoint of my constituents. I receive emails on a regular basis from District 7 residents regarding all aspects of Westport life, ranging from school matters to traffic, human services, proposed ordinances and health and safety. I value such ongoing communication so that I can best represent my constituents through my votes and comments.

RTM member 7 years. Chair of RTM Education Committee and member of Parks/Recreation & Ordinance Committees. Attorney with experience in Employment Law and Education Law. Volunteer mentor, coach, and Girl Scouts troop leader. Former 3-term Board President of Westport preschool. Married with three children.

**LWV Question: Communication from RTM members to and from their constituencies is, more often than not, lacking. How will you undertake your responsibility to communicate your positions to those you represent and to seek their input? Please be specific.**

## Candidates for RTM District 8

## Vote for Up to Four

### Wendy Batteau



I believe frequent direct communication with my constituents is essential for our full understanding of issues and my understanding of how to be your best advocate. For 14 years we've been talking and listening to each other respectfully via phone, email, at public events, and around town. Additionally, scheduling group get-togethers has been difficult but districtwide zoom "office hours" should be easy. Social media: which are your favorite sites/blogs? How about WWPT call-ins and Library podcasts? Please contact me – we work best together. [wbatteaurtm8@gmail.com](mailto:wbatteaurtm8@gmail.com), [wbatteau@westportct.gov](mailto:wbatteau@westportct.gov). My phone and town meeting schedules, agendas, information packets, and links are on westportct.gov.

28-year Westporter, 14 years RTM. 5-term Chair, Environment Committee, spear-headed nationally-acclaimed local environment/health protections. Former Chair, current member Health/Human Services and Library/Arts Committees; member, Planning/Zoning and Rules Committees. Past Education and Public Works. Nonprofit boards. Certified substitute teacher. Child: Westport schools. Me: Brown/Stanford. 30+ year multi-award-winning book and media developer/publisher/executive.

### Lisa Newman



The lack of communication channels between the RTM and community members was one reason I felt motivated to seek a seat on the RTM. So immediately after joining the RTM, I built an email list of ~1,500 district constituents and began sending out the meeting agendas and materials ahead of every meeting, urging constituents to send in thoughts or questions on any issue. This email list also enables me to connect with D8 neighbors through difficult times like severe storms and COVID. I've been able to help D8 neighbors with everything from scheduling vaccines to getting swift attention for downed trees.

Direct communication with D8 neighbors has been a most rewarding part of serving on RTM.

Bio: 7-year Westport resident with husband Josh and our three children. Currently serving on RTM, National Charity League, as Safe School Climate Rep; Former CT public school teacher and Sacred Heart University program director.

### Rachel Steel Cohn



Rachel will work collaboratively and with integrity to ensure Westport prioritizes schools and education, green space and sustainability, preserve our reputation as a diverse and inclusive community, and ensure Westport is the best place to start and grow a business.

Rachel Steel Cohn is a business and technology executive, a wife, and mother of three school aged kids living in Westport, Connecticut. Rachel's professional recognition includes *Working Mother Magazine* Working Mother of the Year, United Nations Leadership Council: Media 4 Social Impact, One Young World Ambassador, *She Runs It* Mentor and Industry Notable, and Bob McDonald U.S.

Military Academy Cadet Leadership Senior Fellow. Rachel has served on the Board of Directors for the Westport Public Arts Collection and on the Alumnae Board of The Spence School in New York. She studied Art and Economics at Williams College, and holds an MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Candidate Stephen Shackelford did not respond

**LWV Question: Communication from RTM members to and from their constituencies is, more often than not, lacking. How will you undertake your responsibility to communicate your positions to those you represent and to seek their input? Please be specific.**

## Candidates for RTM District 9      Vote for Up to Four

**Clark Thiemann** RTM members should be open to feedback from constituents via email and also proactive about what they are voting for and promoting and why. I promise to push to all town media outlets my thoughts on controversial questions in front of the RTM and welcome any feedback I receive in making my decisions.

As a native Westporter, Staples graduate, financial executive, husband to a Westport public school teacher, son of a former Selectperson and father to two students here, the work done by the RTM is important to the continued excellence of Westport. What makes Westport special is great town facilities and events, excellent schools and relatively low taxes. I believe it is the RTM's responsibility to support the spending needs of the town to keep it highly desirable, but also ask hard questions about the money we're spending and how it aligns with those town needs and priorities.



**Sal Liccione** As a third generation Westporter who has lived in District 9 for the past 21 years, it is both an honor and a privilege to represent you on the RTM. I work hard to maintain open lines of communication with our District residents. My personal cell is (203) 434-6348. You can call or text me directly anytime. I am also a firm believer in "management by walking around." Hardly a day goes by that I am not out walking around downtown and the rest of our District. Walking around, talking to residents as well as downtown merchants, is how I learn best about what is on people's minds and identify early on any potential problems.

I am a former town employee and local community activist who previously served as a volunteer fire fighter. I serve on the RTM Parks and Rec, the Transit and the Library, Museum and Arts committees.



**Kristin Schneeman** "We have two ears and one mouth so we can listen twice as much as we speak," a wise man once said. I value all the emails we get as RTM members so I can better understand the concerns of the community, and I respond to every message I receive from constituents so they know they've been heard. I attend as many public meetings as I can

on issues of interest to District 9 so I can hear comments from the public and share my own views. I have actively sought out opinions on all sides of the issues to inform my thinking, and I aim to speak with clarity, passion and respect about the matters before us at RTM meetings.

25+ years' experience in public policy, politics, academia and media. Locally involved with PTA, Project Return and Suzuki Music School. Main Street resident with my husband and two daughters.



**Marla J. Cowden** We live in a world that is much changed in the past few years. One positive change has been the ease with which we are able to communicate unhindered by distance. I will work with other District 9 members and Town Hall to increase RTM members' ability to communicate more directly and frequently with the citizens of Westport District 9. I welcome District 9 citizens to help craft how to improve communications with those elected to serve the district. Open and Responsive = Good Government.

Registrar of Voters 2010 to 2021. Worked in CT and Federal government (Homeland Security) to analyze and address cybersecurity challenges in Elections – a national critical infrastructure. Analyzed and restructured Westport Elections management to reduce costs for taxpayers and create efficiencies. RTM member, 4 years. Town-wide school building committee member. PTA and PTA Council Co-president. Commercial experience as CPA specializing in audit and process reengineering.



**Lori Church** Hi I'm Lori Church and I hope to represent District 9 in the RTM.

One of the reasons I'm running for the RTM is so I can be more involved in our local government and then use that participation to strengthen community bonds. For the past 25 years, I've either worked or volunteered with families and young children. Most of these experiences required strong communication skills and I expect to bring that knowledge to my work in the RTM. In fact, my two teenagers often accuse me of OVER-communicating! I am a habitual note-taker; it helps me focus and process what I hear. If elected, I plan to give detailed email updates to the people in my district. My email is [Lori06880@gmail.com](mailto:Lori06880@gmail.com); I encourage anyone in District 9 to contact me with any questions, thoughts or opinions. Thank you and please vote on November 2!



**Nancy Kail** I'm listening! As your District-9 RTM Representative I will be accessible, base my positions on your input and keep you updated. Here's how:

- In Person, I welcome impromptu chats around town, and will host
- Monday Morning Meetups, Westport Library Café 10:30 am
- Via Email at [nancykailrtm9@gmail.com](mailto:nancykailrtm9@gmail.com), and my

- Monthly District-9 E-Briefs
- RTM-wide Website, Social Media, and Column in Local Press
- RTM Communications Goals and Committee Focus

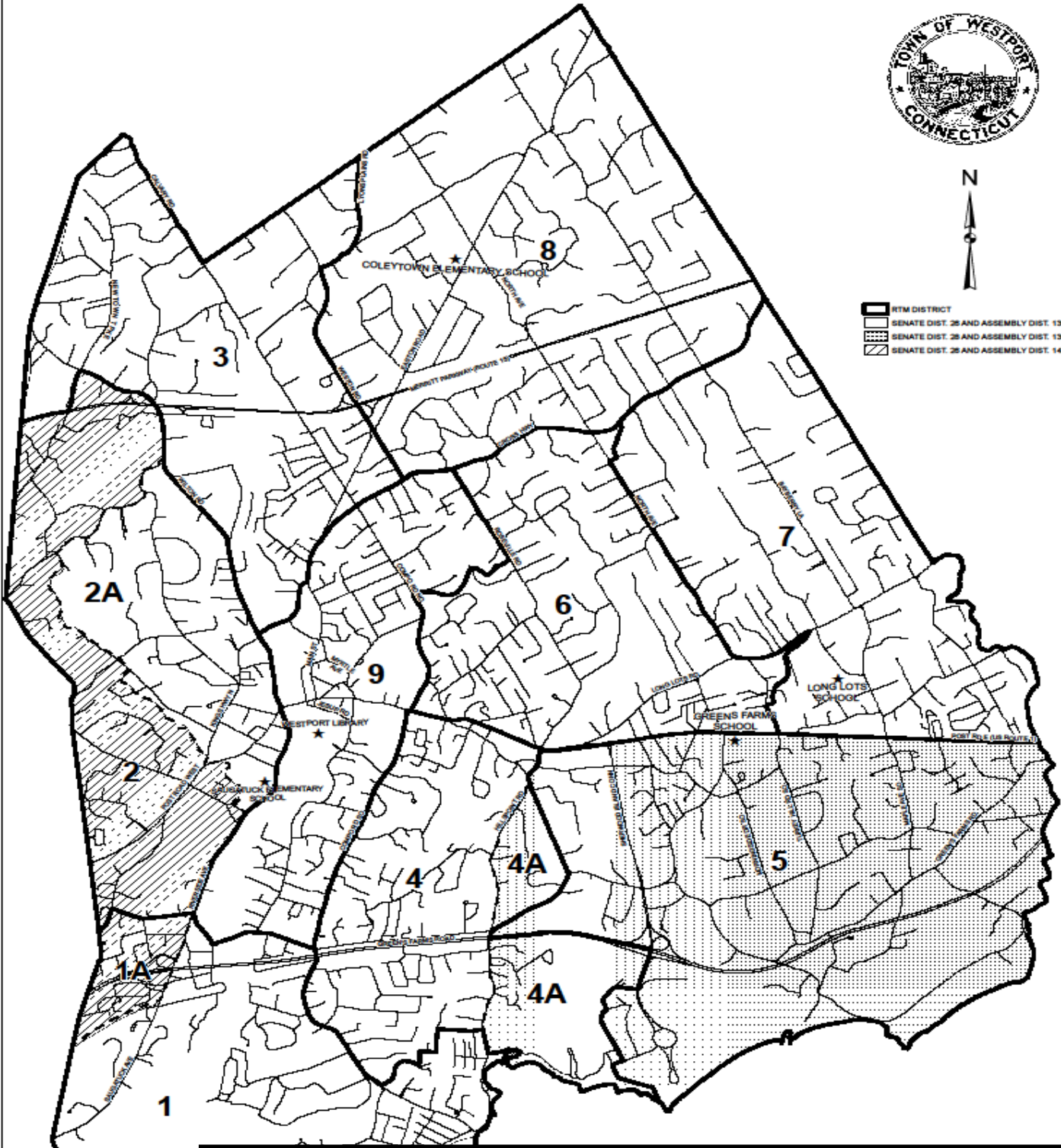
My goal: Westporters are informed and participate.

I'm a hardworking, proud Westport native and Staples graduate. I have a Brown BA, Wharton/UPenn MBA/MA and have worked in finance, education and not-for-profit. I'm a former Greenwich CT Board of Education member. Volunteering is in my DNA. My parents, sisters and families live here. My partner Mike, three children, dog Bubba and I love our town. I'm the "Healthy Choice." Please reach out and please vote!





- RTM DISTRICT
- SENATE DIST. 26 AND ASSEMBLY DIST. 136
- SENATE DIST. 26 AND ASSEMBLY DIST. 136
- SENATE DIST. 26 AND ASSEMBLY DIST. 140



<u>RTM District</u>	<u>Westport Poll Locations</u>
1, 1A, 2, 2A	Saugatuck Elementary School Gymnasium, 170 Riverside Ave.
4, 4A, 5	Greens Farms Elementary School Gymnasium, 17 Morningside Dr. S.
3, 8	Coleytown Middle School Gymnasium, 255 North Avenue
6, 7	Long Lots Elementary School Gymnasium, 13 Hyde Lane
9	Westport Library, 2 Jesup Road

**All Polling Places will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

# Westport has Nine different ballots, one for each RTM District Candidates for Boards and Commissions are the same on all ballots

State of Connecticut  
Official Ballot

Westport, Connecticut

Municipal Election

November 2, 2021

Voting District-  
**ALL**

**1 Sheet Only. See reverse side.  
Vote on BOTH SIDES of this ballot.**

**SAMPLE BALLOT**

OFFICE PARTY	1 FIRST SELECTMAN AND SELECTMAN VOTE FOR ONE	2	3 BOARD OF FINANCE VOTE FOR UP TO THREE	4	5	6 BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR	7	8	9 BOARD OF ASSESSMENT VOTE FOR UP TO TWO	10 APPEALS	11	12 PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION VOTE FOR UP TO THREE	13
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1A JONATHAN STEINBERG AND CANDICE SAVIN	<input type="radio"/> 2A BRIAN STERN	<input type="radio"/> 3A LEE CANEY	4A	<input type="radio"/> 5A KEVIN CHRISTIE	<input type="radio"/> 6A CHRISTINA TORRES	7A	8A	<input type="radio"/> 9A IFESEYI GAYLE	<input type="radio"/> 10A LYNETTE PINEDA	<input type="radio"/> 11A DANIELLE DOBIN	<input type="radio"/> 12A MICHAEL CAMMEYER	<input type="radio"/> 13A NEIL COHN
REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1B JENNIFER S. TOOKER AND ANDREA L. MOORE	<input type="radio"/> 2B MICHAEL KELLER	<input type="radio"/> 3B	4B	<input type="radio"/> 5B ROBERT HARRINGTON	<input type="radio"/> 6B DORIE HORDON	7B	8B	<input type="radio"/> 9B JOSEPH SLEDGE	<input type="radio"/> 10B	<input type="radio"/> 11B JACK WHITTLE	<input type="radio"/> 12B	<input type="radio"/> 13B
LIBERTARIAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1C TJ ELGIN AND LOUIS ED'ONOFRIO, JR.	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	<input type="radio"/> 9C	<input type="radio"/> 10C	<input type="radio"/> 11C	<input type="radio"/> 12C	<input type="radio"/> 13C
COALITION FOR WESTPORT PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1D	2D	3D	4D	5D	6D	7D	8D	<input type="radio"/> 9D	<input type="radio"/> 10D	<input type="radio"/> 11D RON CORWIN	<input type="radio"/> 12D	<input type="radio"/> 13D
SAVE WESTPORT NOW PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1E	2E	3E	4E	5E	6E	7E	8E	9E	10E	<input type="radio"/> 11E DANIELLE DOBIN	<input type="radio"/> 12E MICHAEL CAMMEYER	<input type="radio"/> 13E NEIL COHN
	<input type="radio"/> 1F	2F	3F	4F	5F	6F	7F	8F	9F	10F	<input type="radio"/> 11F	<input type="radio"/> 12F	<input type="radio"/> 13F
WRITE-IN VOTES	<input type="radio"/> 1G	<input type="radio"/> 2G	<input type="radio"/> 3G	<input type="radio"/> 4G	<input type="radio"/> 5G	<input type="radio"/> 6G	<input type="radio"/> 7G	<input type="radio"/> 8G	<input type="radio"/> 9G	<input type="radio"/> 10G	<input type="radio"/> 11G	<input type="radio"/> 12G	<input type="radio"/> 13G

SAMPLE BALLOT  
Front Side For All Districts

32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

State of Connecticut  
Official Ballot

Westport, Connecticut

Municipal Election

November 2, 2021

Voting District 1  
Sheet 1 of 1

OFFICE PARTY	14 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS VOTE FOR UP TO TWO	15	16	17	18 REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR	19	20	21
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 14A JOSH NEWMAN	<input type="radio"/> 15A AMY WISTREICH	16A	17A	<input type="radio"/> 18A	<input type="radio"/> 19A	<input type="radio"/> 20A	21A
REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 14B	<input type="radio"/> 15B	16B	17B	<input type="radio"/> 18B	<input type="radio"/> 19B	<input type="radio"/> 20B	21B
LIBERTARIAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 14C	<input type="radio"/> 15C	16C	17C	<input type="radio"/> 18C	<input type="radio"/> 19C	20C	21C
COALITION FOR WESTPORT PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 14D	<input type="radio"/> 15D	16D	17D	<input type="radio"/> 18D	19D	20D	21D
SAVE WESTPORT NOW PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 14E	<input type="radio"/> 15E	16E	17E	18E	19E	20E	21E
	<input type="radio"/> 14F	<input type="radio"/> 15F	<input type="radio"/> 16F LIZ MILWE	<input type="radio"/> 17F ABBY TOLAN	<input type="radio"/> 18F MATTHEW MANDELL	<input type="radio"/> 19F CHRIS TAIT	<input type="radio"/> 20F KRISTIN MOTT PURCELL	<input type="radio"/> 21F RICK JAFFE
WRITE-IN VOTES	<input type="radio"/> 14G	<input type="radio"/> 15G	<input type="radio"/> 16G	<input type="radio"/> 17G	<input type="radio"/> 18G	<input type="radio"/> 19G	<input type="radio"/> 20G	<input type="radio"/> 21G

SAMPLE BALLOT  
Back Side of District 1  
\*\*\*\*\*

Be sure to complete your vote on the reverse side of this ballot.



## **Registration Deadlines**

### **Tuesday, October 26**

Online voter registration deadline (11:59 p.m.)

Mail postmark voter registration deadline

In person registration at Westport Registrar of Voters' office in Town Hall

### **Tuesday, November 2**

Election day registration 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. at  
Westport Town Hall

#### **REMEMBER TO BRING IDENTIFICATION TO THE POLLS**

You are required to provide one of the following: A Social Security card or a preprinted form of identification which shows name and address, or name and signature, or name and photo.

Acceptable forms include:

- driver's license,
- library card,
- bill addressed to you at your home,
- passport,
- personal check with name and address on it

If you do not have any of the listed documents, in most cases you may sign an affidavit in lieu of presenting ID. See the poll moderator.

**The Westport League of Women Voters would like to thank Town Clerk Jeffrey Dunkerton for his help in the production of the guide. Thank you also to Registrars Deborah Greenberg and Francesca Signore, who are deeply involved in every election, primary, or referendum to ensure the integrity of the process .**