



The League of Women Voters of Westport 2013 Voters' Guide

Prepared as a nonpartisan public service.
Vote Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2013, polls open 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

President's Message

Dear Westport Voter,

Sadly in Westport, voter turnout has been lowest during an Election Day such as November 5, 2013, where your vote impacts who will represent you in Town Hall. The elected Selectmen, RTM, boards and commissions make the decisions that directly affect you and your family – your security, land use, property taxes, schools, parks, recreation, quality of life and more. Yet 7000 registered voters failed to go to the polls in the last local election! We can and must do better. Two changes in Connecticut law which permit Election Day Registration (EDR) and Permanent Absentee Ballots (PAB) should result in more Westporters voting. League men and women strive to give you opportunities to be an informed voter. As you prepare to cast your ballot, use this Voters' Guide to learn about the candidates and their positions. We have asked the candidates to answer questions that elicit thoughtful responses. We hope that voters will find this beneficial in evaluating the candidates and their stances. You may take your Voters' Guide into the voting booth with you on November 5th.

As always, consistent with our nonpartisan policy, the League of Women Voters neither supports nor opposes any of the candidates running for office. Take seriously making democracy work by exercising your Constitutional right to vote! Remember, "Westport My Town My Vote."

Liz-Ann Koos, President
League of Women Voters of Westport

League of Women Voters of Westport

Join us in making our communities, Fair, Vibrant and Strong.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. The LWV neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate. Join LWV and be directly involved in shaping the important issues in our community. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With more than 90 years of experience and over 800 local and state affiliates in all 50 states, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations.

For more information, email us at:
lwwestportct@yahoo.com

Candidates are listed in the order in which they appear on the ballot.

Candidates' replies are published exactly as submitted and conform to the word limits specified by LWV of Westport.

Candidates for Judge of Probate Vote for one

LWV Question: What steps would you take to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Probate Court?

Lisa K. Wexler Republican

1. Many in our community cannot attend the Court during regular business hours. I will ask to open the Court regularly for evening sessions.

2. The Probate Court issued new rules and forms in July of 2013, some of which are causing confusion. I will review all and distill them into plain English.

3. New state regulations require that many more copies of documents be mailed than in the past. I will request that we permit emailing of some documentation, with confirmed receipt, so as to minimize legal fees, time and paperwork.

We need to remember that fifty percent of people who come before the Judge will be without an attorney. The Court is most effective when the people who need us have their questions answered and their concerns respected. I promise to do both.

Johns Hopkins University, B.A. New York University School of Law, J.D. Lived and practiced law in Westport since 1989, married to Bill Wexler, mom of Jon and Joanna. Concentrates in wills, trusts, probate and real estate.

Email: lisa@lisawexlerforprobatejudge.com



Kieran J. Costello Democrat

The effectiveness and efficiency of the Probate Court is impacted by the skills of the Probate Judge, the Probate Court staff and the attorneys who practice in the Court. I would take several steps to make the Court more effective and user friendly. Firstly, I would ensure that all decisions are made as thoroughly and expeditiously as possible. Having been a Court-appointed Special Master in the Superior Court I have the requisite skill set to make decisions thoughtfully and without delay. Secondly, I would ask local lawyers to provide pro bono services to those in need of legal advice who simply cannot afford to pay. Thirdly, I would require the Probate Court staff to be accessible to the public to answer questions. Finally, as Probate Judge, I would not permit attorneys to engage in out of court conversations with me regarding pending cases as those conversations unfairly prejudice judicial proceedings.

Actively practiced law for twenty-one years; Teaches college level Probate Law for nineteen years; Involved in hundred of guardianship, conservatorship and estate matters; SVolunteers for Seniors and abused women

Email: kieranjcostello@yahoo.com



Candidates for First Selectman and Selectman

LWV Question: What operational and organizational changes will you make in town government?

Jim Marpe Republican

As a senior partner at Accenture, I successfully planned and led large organizations through complex operational and organizational changes. That professional experience, along with my years of Board of Education and non-profit leadership, uniquely qualifies me for the First Selectman position. I have already spoken with every department head to develop a baseline of where we are and opportunities for improvement. My Board of Education experience will prove crucial as we identify and implement opportunities between the Town and the Schools. I will seek to reduce paperwork, streamline processes and improve the experience for every resident interaction with Town services. I will review the purpose and effectiveness of the over 50 appointed boards, committees and commissions that currently report to the First Selectman.

A more efficient town government can result in both lower taxes and improved services. I have the experience to lead Westport into the future.

Accenture senior partner. Board of Education chairman, Westport Family Y trustee, Westport Rotary, Y's Men, Homes With Hope. Wharton MBA. Wife Mary Ellen and daughter Samantha. 24-year resident.

Email: jimmarpe@marpekaner.com



Helen Garten Democrat

This is your town, and we can make town government more responsive, transparent and efficient so it works better for you. I'll hold weekly Brown Bag lunches where you can ask questions and exchange ideas. I'll keep you informed about plans for Westport's future and add interactive features to the town website for your feedback. I'll reorganize town departments and leverage technology to make your dealings with Town Hall faster and easier, whether you are planning a home renovation or obtaining a permit. I'll build closer relationships between Town Hall and neighborhood and community groups so we can work together to preserve Westport's unique character while offering a greater variety of retail, restaurant and housing options and exciting social and cultural events. And I'll provide the hands on financial management Westport needs to ensure the resources that will allow our schools and community to thrive and Westport to remain affordable.

A.B. Princeton. J.D. Harvard. Harvard Law Review. Business Law Professor 25+ years. Board of Finance 8 years, served as Chair and Vice Chair. Saugatuck River Watershed Partnership. Westport Sunrise Rotary.

Email: oaktop@optonline.net



LWV Question: In conjunction with the first selectman; on what two initiatives would you focus your energies?

Avi Kaner Republican

As chairman of the Board of Finance, and the owner of a business with hundreds of employees, I am uniquely qualified for Second Selectman. Residents will significantly benefit by having both Jim and me at the helm, steering the town toward our mission of making Westport one of the top five places to live in the United States.

One of my initiatives will be the implementation of long range strategic financial planning. Pension reform, initiated under my leadership two years ago, will continue as union contracts soon reopen. Our conservative financial discipline will ensure we're in a solid position to prioritize needed infrastructure improvement.

Other initiatives will focus on increasing our property values. While supporting our world-class schools, we'll focus on other town assets, preserving Westport's character and desirability. Doing so requires both strategic and operational leadership. We have the proven track record in both the private and public sectors.

Chairman Board of Finance and pension boards, investment management committee, audit committee. Owner, Morton Williams Supermarkets. Former Principal, Booz Allen. Columbia University BS, MBA. Wife Liz; children Julia, Jack, Jonathan.

Email: avikaner@marpekaner.com



LWV Question: In conjunction with the first selectman; on what two initiatives would you focus your energies?

Melissa Kane Democrat

The First Selectman and I will work to better support Westport's town jewels so that they can continue to play an important part in our lives for years to come. These include our schools, beaches, Library, Arts Center, Town Farm, Senior Center, Playhouse and Earthplace, as well as additional not-for-profit community, environmental and educational projects. We will strengthen, leverage and forge new town/private partnerships to enhance these institutions and ensure that they are fiscally sound for the long term.

We will expand our tax base and minimize personal taxes by attracting innovative businesses: start-ups, sustainably sourced markets and restaurants and locally-owned stores. This will reinvigorate our downtown while retaining the character that makes Westport so special and protecting our environment.

My experience and perspective compliment Helen Garten's compassion and proven financial and managerial leadership. Together we will ensure that our wonderful town continues to thrive.

Melissa is a longtime Westporter, mother of two, successful business owner, RTM member, Vice-Chair of Green Village Initiative, former Library Trustee, and active in numerous cultural and educational organizations.

Email: katz_kane@yahoo.com



Thank you!

The League of Women Voters of Westport thanks Westport Town Clerk, Patty Strauss, and Tom Henry, Editor of the Westport Minuteman and their staffs for all their help in producing the Voters' Guide. This guide was paid for with funds from the Westport LWV Ed Fund. You can send your tax deductible donation to: LWV Ed Fund, PO Box 285, Westport, Connecticut 06881-0285

Candidates for Board of Finance Vote for any three

LWV Question: In light of the Affordable Care Act and other future pension and employment benefits, how will you balance funding these current and future liabilities while maintaining town services?

Jennifer Tooker Republican

Westport deserves high-quality town services, delivered in an effective and efficient manner. To deliver these services we need to attract quality employees with competitive compensation and benefits packages. However, these packages must be affordable by taxpayers, and we must understand their full cost. We cannot repeat the OPEB fiasco. Understanding and controlling long-term costs is a core competency of mine. I bring the financial acumen, business experience and attention to detail developed over a 20 plus year career in reinsurance. I combine those skills with my experience on the Board of Education where we work every day to deliver a superior academic experience for the children of Westport, effectively and efficiently. With my extensive and firsthand knowledge of the education budget, which is 60% of total town expenditures, I will add value to the Board of Finance from Day 1.

22 years with Gen Re, Member, Board of Education, Married with 3 young children, Member, Westport Sunrise Rotary, WSA soccer coach, University of Notre Dame, BA in Economics

Email: jentooker@gmail.com



Blake Benke Democrat

Addressing our pension liabilities and employment benefits while also maintaining our excellent town services at current levels is a delicate juggling act. This will require a multi-part solution such as:

- Creating an attractive environment to allow businesses to thrive. This includes targeting key industries such as hedge funds, advertising & marketing, the creative arts, restaurants, etc.
- Reviewing our investment allocations to maximize return while minimizing downside risk and volatility
- Exploring town assets for potential sale
- Identifying cost centers that could be converted into potential profit centers
- Smartly managing "fee for services" resources like Parks & Rec to grow revenues
- Investigating participating in the ACA's exchanges where the federal government picks up some of the tab on medical costs

Across my career, I have proven experience executing many of these ideas. For others, I would partner with resident experts in order to grow our revenue base while managing our town expenses.

Blake Benke is a VP at a major international bank, NYU MBA, Graduate of the United States Naval Academy and Marine Corps Veteran who is raising his sons in Westport.

Email: blake9976@yahoo.com



Brian Stern Democrat

The total benefits cost for Westport was \$26m in 2012, or 25% of our town budget, and has doubled over the past five years. Even with this increased burden, Westport has been able to maintain and improve services while holding annual tax increases to an average of 1.9%. The long-term solution is to prudently renegotiate our bargaining unit contracts. This process has started, but will take time due to contract longevity. One positive is the reduced budgetary pressure of the great recession, however, there is no choice but to remain cautious and creative, as we invest in the future Westport. My financial priorities are education, family oriented amenities (beach, Longshore, library etc), and services for seniors, while delivering value for money to tax payers. In this difficult balancing effort, it is fundamental to maximize the effectiveness of funds currently budgeted. Productivity and the elimination of waste is absolutely essential.

Current BOF member; Chairman Audit committee; President four divisions of Xerox; Member several Multinational Corporate Boards; MBA Harvard Business School; Westport resident 36 years; Fabulous wife Barbara, and three grown boys.

Email: brianstern1@optonline.net



Lee Caney Democrat

In order to maintain Westport's first-class schools, recreational facilities and services for seniors, while at the same time keeping property taxes from increasing significantly, the BOF must look for creative and novel ways to deliver value for money to the taxpayers. This will be difficult given the rising employee benefit costs that continue to burden our taxpayers and which now constitute roughly 25% of our budget. One long term solution is to renegotiate new labor contracts and to move from defined benefit plans to defined contribution plans, but this will take time. A near term solution is to find ways to improve efficiency in our government by eliminating redundancies, requiring increased productivity and in certain cases outsource certain tasks where it makes sense. For almost 20 years, I have been finding creative solutions for my clients on complex financial and tax matters which should be instrumental in helping Westport.

Law firm partner (tax law). AB in Economics, Cornell University, JD, UCONN Law School; LLM Tax Law NYU Law School Soccer and Baseball coach. Founder of Freezing for a Reason.

Email: leecaney@gmail.com



Candidates for Board of Education Vote for any four

How would you improve the Westport school system without an increase in the budget? If you needed to increase funding to one area where would you make cuts?

Michael McGovern Republican

Every day, students carry thousands of web-enabled devices- laptops, tablets, smartphones- into our schools. Yet the BOE still spends nearly \$1 million annually on computer hardware. As part of the Westport 2025 initiative, we must unlock the potential of web-based instruction, and leverage the technology that is part of daily life. We must re-direct technology spending away from hardware and towards instructional software, and adopt a more modern view of instructional materials, substituting cutting edge web-based learning for textbooks which are instantly obsolete. This will unlock significant savings from reduced hardware spending, will improve the quality and relevancy of the curriculum, and help teachers be more productive. Outstanding teaching and learning, the safety and well-being of students and staff, protecting the investment of Westport's taxpayers in our schools- these are our promises. Working closer with the Town to save money through shared services will help us keep them.

Vice Chairman, BOE. 6 years on BOE. 17 year resident of Westport with wife, Ginny, and 4 children (all Westport Public School educated). 25 years investment banking experience. Columbia MBA.

Email: michaeljmcgovern@gmail.com



Karen Kleine Republican

As PTA Co-President for the past four years, Temple Israel Youth Committee Chair, Westport Library Teen Planning Committee member and community volunteer, I have seen great things happen when the schools, parents and our community work together to benefit our youth. Our great schools can be even better with this kind of partnership.

As an advocate for both parents and students, I will work with our community and schools to promote new, collaborative changes that will allow our children to get the best education possible while also supporting their physical and emotional health.

Westport is fortunate to have an enviable blend of fine teachers and administrators, as well as a community of bright, well-educated people—and we all have a vested interest in our schools. I would welcome the ideas and suggestions of the parent community and commit to providing you with a voice on the BOE.

Co-PTA President at King's Highway School and Coleytown Middle School. Chair of Youth Committee and Religious School Committee member at Temple Israel. Married with 3 children. BA-Dickinson College.

Email: kklein3@gmail.com



Jeannie Smith Republican

The Westport 2025 Initiative and the State Common Core Standards are key platforms to equip Westport's children with the skills needed for the 21st century. Administrators and teachers can leverage instructional technology and curriculum modifications to enable our students to be successful and meet the goals of these initiatives. Educating and engaging both parents and the community on new learning expectations is essential to achieving academic excellence for all of Westport's children.

The 2013-14 school budget process was filled with difficult funding choices. As a member of the Board of Education, I worked with my Board colleagues to cut over \$1 million from the Superintendent's proposed budget. I will continue to seek creative approaches to effectively balance our children's classroom experience and cost savings.

Current Westport Board of Education Member, 11 years as a Westchester County public school Teacher. NYC private school Educational Consultant. Masters in Teaching, Fordham University, Mother of four children.

Email: jeanniedsmith@gmail.com



Remember to bring ID 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.

Make sure to exercise your right to VOTE this November 5, 2013.

The Voter's Guide was paid for by the League of Women Voters Ed Fund. You may send your tax deductible check to:

League of Women Voters
of Westport
P.O. Box 285
Westport, CT 06881

Brett Aronow Democrat

Preparing our children for the 21st century continues to be vital to the mission of our schools. More is expected of our children than when we were kids, so something more-and different-must be provided for them. We should focus teacher development—already budgeted-on the 21st century skills our children need to succeed: critical thinking, collaboration with others and resiliency in problem solving. In addition, further improving teachers' ability to differentiate among different types of learners would greatly benefit students with no increase in budget. Balancing increased expenses in one area with a decrease in other areas is specifically the Board's charge each year. In order to achieve a modest but impactful decrease in class sizes, I propose cuts only in areas that would not affect the classroom experience, such as utilizing energy audits, promoting operational efficiencies, and carefully reviewing costs for supplies requested by the administration.

Current member, BOE. Extensive experience in municipal finance, management and education policy. Past Co-President, PTA Council and Green's Farms PTA. Parent, three Staples students. MBA, Stanford; BA, Dartmouth.

Email: baronow@optonline.net



Elaine Whitney Democrat

Westport's children attend world-class schools. I am passionate about maintaining that excellence and preparing each of our students to reach his or her full potential as a learner and contributor to an increasingly global economy. I have a five-year track record of proactively improving our educational programs while simultaneously achieving the lowest operating budget increases in over a decade.

Examples of educationally impactful investments made by the Board at modest or no net cost include reducing the maximum class size in 2nd grade and introducing new courses, including Mandarin and engineering in the middle schools. These and other improvements have been made by generating operational efficiencies outside of the classroom, engaging with the public, and rebalancing our allocation of resources as needed.

The Board has set ambitious new goals to further strengthen our programs in the coming year, and I look forward to collaborating with my colleagues to realize them.

BOE Chair. Extensive experience in management consulting. Past Long Lots PTA co-president. Selected for statewide leadership positions in education. Three children attending/graduated from Westport schools. MBA, Northwest (Kellogg); BA, Yale.

Email: elainewhitney@optonline.net



You may take this Voters' Guide into the polls with you

Candidates for Planning and Zoning Vote for any three

LWV Question: What is the Planning and Zoning Board's role in balancing the character of the town with changes needed for the future?

Alan Hodge Democrat/Save Westport Now

The Planning and Zoning Commission works best when it accurately understands the needs and wishes of the widest cross-section of the community it serves and then reflects those needs and wishes responsibly. Westport has a unique character, which is enjoyed, by long established residents and newcomers alike. Change is inevitable but the Planning and Zoning Commission's reaction to that change is not inevitable. With a proper understanding of the needs of the community of Westport both now and into the future, the Planning and Zoning Commission has the ability to ensure responsible and proportionate growth to meet the present and future needs of the community without damaging the character of the town. The Planning and Zoning Commission should work to gain the widest possible understanding of what Westporters want to be preserved and what they want to be conserved. A responsible attitude to growth has never been more important.

Westport resident since 2005; Lawyer for 25 years; Mediator for 15 years; educated in England and Scotland; my wife is a teacher and counselor; my daughter attends Staples.

Email: t.alan.hodge@live.com



Andra Vebell Democrat/Save Westport Now

The Board's role is first to understand what the character of Westport is. One characteristic we all can agree on about Westport is charm. Generations of residents have worked very hard to protect that charm. This characteristic is not a haphazard occurrence. Issues like traffic, building height, signage, usage of commercial properties—these will all play a critical role in future Planning and Zoning decisions and the future of Westport.

Times do arise, admittedly, when change is warranted. And then it is our role to do our due diligence to become fully informed on all sides of the issue and be in sync with the residents of Westport. If, with the change we can hold up this concept of charm, like a mirror in front of our faces, and still see our beautiful Westport, then it may be the right time to proceed cautiously in the direction of responsible progress.

Andra Vebell is a native-born Westporter and attended Westport Public Schools. She graduated from Cornell University and works as a commercial broker in Stamford. She is married with two sons.

Email: avebell@optonline.net



David Lessing Democrat/Save Westport Now

The key value that the Planning and Zoning Board can provide is one of balance. Change is inevitable and often positive – the Board can shape that change in a way that ensures we do not lose the attributes that make Westport so attractive. Most of us moved to Westport and stay in the town not because it “has potential”, but because we like it already. When we decide to change key characteristics of our town, we need to start with the question, “What problem are we trying to address?” Only when we have a clear answer to that question can we decide whether any changes are needed and, if so, which ones would most effectively advance the needs of our town.

Moved to Westport in 2010; four children (fourth generation Westport residents)

Occupation: C.O.O, U.S. Field Management, Morgan Stanley

Education: Harvard College, Harvard Law School

Interests: Coaching Little League baseball, swimming

Email: lessing.david@yahoo.com



David B. Press Coalition for Westport

Planning & Zoning commissioners need imagination to properly serve Westport. The character of Westport today includes Parker-Harding Plaza, Longshore, the library, Winslow Park and the Senior Center, all of which required the imagination of civic leaders in the past who were willing to act.

Compared to when I moved here in 1985, online shopping, email, cell phone and renewable energy have changed the way people live. Commissioners need to recognize that change happens and can be important for Westport's vitality, which is one of its many attractions.

To satisfy future needs, commissioners require the imagination to work with those in the public and private sectors with ideas and projects that will enable Westport to continue to be a remarkable place to live. While on the P&Z Commission, I initiated the changes in the restaurant zoning regulations and supported the lights at Staples. That is the kind of imagination I offer.

28 year Westport resident; Married, 3 adult children attended Westport schools; Municipal bond portfolio manager; B.A. History, Syracuse University; MBA Finance, Columbia University; Served on Westport P&Z 2003 thru 2011

Email: pressbox1@aol.com



Glenn J. Payne Coalition for Westport

Westport will change, everything does (the Alternative is bleak). We would not be enjoying the town of Westport if we hadn't changed from the Pequot's hunting ground, and Green's Farms and one lane dirt roads.

Much of the town is developed so the opportunity for change will be incremental. But we have incremental opportunities that have been missed by inaction: car parks where there should be people, pavement where there should be trees, etc. Change should be positive and changes should be positively auctioned.

Many of us moved to Westport for the schools and fall in love with the town. But we tend to move away after the kids leave school. P&Z needs to ensure the reasons we loved the town to remain relevant and desirable for the current and next generation of residents. Just as the Pequots and Greens have passed on a better place for their contribution so should we.

My education (3 degrees) and professional experience (CEO) is biased towards understanding the present, planning for the next step and leading an organization on the journey.

Email: glenn@rivercoach.net



Denise Lassman Torve Coalition for Westport

The P&Z must protect that which gives Westport its special character, while enhancing the town's vibrancy and quality of life. Westport's character is all encompassing; it is our treasures that range from the physical jewels of our beaches, rivers, ponds, and woods, to our various diverse neighborhoods, and the creativity and vitality of our community as reflected by its many civic organizations and activities. As Westport continues to evolve, the P&Z must think ahead and plan to accommodate for the future needs of its residents and for the businesses that serve them. I am committed to a P&Z that works towards these goals by seeking community input; by creatively modifying regulations so they further enhance the community's ability to adapt and improve; by ensuring that open space remains as accessible as possible to the community and by acknowledging that the quality of place is about the quality of life.

16 year resident with 3 children attending Westport schools; former journalist, and Executive Director WHS, First Night; Co-Chair, Longshore 50th committee; Outreach Director, Stand For The Troops; principal, Connections PR

Email: DeniseRose01@aol.com



Candidates for Zoning Board of Appeals Vote for any two

LWV Question: Since variances are granted according to state statute, how much leeway would you give petitioners seeking a variance and what in your opinion constitutes an acceptable hardship?

Wally Sutherland Republican

As a ZBA commissioner, determining what is a hardship is at the heart of what a commissioner does. A ZBA commissioner must judge each variance application on its own merits. Each case is unique and should be reviewed objectively and without any preconceived opinion. A commissioner has to balance the concerns of neighbors, with the desires of the applicants. They need to balance the intent of our zoning ordinances against the practical ability for the applicant to comply with them. They need to determine if the “hardship”, whether caused by physical conditions of the site or due to changes to regulatory requirements, is beyond the applicants control, and not self created, and that the variance won't adversely impact the use or value of neighboring properties. We also need to make sure that the variance sought is the smallest possible and that there are no other alternatives that would not require a variance.

It will be my honor and a privilege to be able to serve the community that means so much to me and my family, as your next ZBA commissioner. Thank you.

I've been a Westport resident for more that 40 years, raised my family here, and now watch my grandchildren take advantage of all Westport has to offer.

I want to see the character of our town protected for future generations.

Email: wsutherland2@optimum.net



Remember to bring ID 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.

Sheri R. Gordon Democrat

The ZBA is a quasi-judicial board that determines when a property owner may obtain a variance from the local zoning regulations. Variances are granted only where an applicant can demonstrate the property in question has unique characteristics that create a “legitimate hardship” warranting relief from our regulations. Examples of legitimate hardships might be an undersized or oddly shaped property, one with steep slopes or wetlands, the need to comply with FEMA requirements or a need to protect the health and safety of the public. Financial hardship is never sufficient to qualify for a variance. Matters before the ZBA must be judged on the unique facts of each property and weighed against the needs of the neighborhood and the Westport Town Plan of Conservation and Development. Each ZBA member must ensure that all applicants receive a fair, impartial and unbiased hearing.

Sheri Gordon has been a resident of Westport since 2007 and has been an unelected, volunteer alternate on the ZBA for 5 years. She and her husband Paul A. Gordon are the parents of three children, ages 5, 9 and 11. Sheri is active in the Long Lots PTA, PAL Cheerleading, and the Westport Soccer Association. Sheri is a graduate of Cornell University and NYU Law School and is an attorney licensed in New York.

Email: sheri.gordon@gmail.com



Bernard Deverin Democrat

First and foremost the Zoning Board of Appeals operates under strict guidelines so any variance decision will be considered and granted with those mandated guidelines in mind. Having said that, it is imperative to treat each case on an individual basis and thoroughly look at all aspects of the request for variance. As one of five members on the Board, I will offer an impartial, unbiased and fair opinion or decision on the particular circumstances. Variances are granted based on establishing a legitimate hardship as defined by the CT State Statutes and in accordance with the Town's Zoning Regulations. On the bigger picture, although the ZBA decides on a case by case basis, the individual's hardship also may affect other properties, the surrounding area, have impact on the Town of Westport, etc. An individual hardship should not have an adverse effect on the health, safety or character of the community.

Twenty years on Wall Street; presently owns Westport Builder Group. His wife Midge works at the Westport Y. They have four children. They are a 16 yr. resident of Westport.

Email: Bernard.Deverin@WestportBuilder.com



Candidates for Board of Assessment Appeals Vote for any two

LWV Question: What should taxpayers know about their rights and responsibilities in the appeals process? What is your definition of hardship?

Elaine Arnow

Taxpayers have the right to appeal their assessments and should know that the Board of Assessment Appeals will evaluate all appeals with fairness and integrity and all who come before the BAA will be dealt with in a conscientious, thorough, and unbiased manner.

To appeal, taxpayers must call the Assessors Office to make an appointment by the middle of February and they will be heard by the BAA in March during the hours of 7pm- 11pm. It is their responsibility to bring with them their field card, maps, and comparables if they feel the town assessors erred in the evaluation of their property.

My definition of hardship would be if the subject property is challenged by wetlands, steep slopes, or the structure of the house. It would be hardship if the home was prevented from being enlarged because of wetland setbacks.

Served on BAA for past 8 years; Realtor in Westport 29 years; Former teacher in Westport and Weston schools; Columbia University, M.A.; CT native, Westport resident 57 years; Married, 5 children, all Staples grads; Volunteer, Am. Heart Assoc., Am. Cancer Research

Email: elarnow@optonline.net



Jeffrey Jacobs

As a Westport resident for 20+ years, I firmly believe that all citizens have a right to be treated respectfully by their Town representatives, particularly those serving on the Board of Assessment Appeals. In addition, I pledge to be open-minded about all appeals of property assessments.

I truly wish that all Westporters were aware of their rights to obtain property tax relief in connection with the assessment process. As property taxes have risen in recent years, there is a greater need to publicize the existing programs to provide "hardship" relief to those most in need. There should be greater public awareness of the existing programs for residents who are 65 and older as well as for the veterans' exemption.

Long-term service to the Town of Westport: SWRPA representative (8 years); Charter Revision Commission (2000); Westport Public Library trustee (8 years); ZBA alternate (4 years); Attorney, business executive; professor.

Email: jeffjacobs@aol.com



Candidates for RTM, District One Vote for any four

LWV Question: What are Westport's most pressing needs and how do they relate to your district?

Matthew Mandell

District One is a unique and wonderful place to live in Westport. I'm honored to have served this community for the past eight years. D1 has its own commercial district, is the hub of transportation and with Longshore and the beach is also the center for recreation. The stresses of traffic, town infrastructure and taxation that affect the rest of the town are often compounded here and having a representative who keeps a watchful eye out and responds effectively is important to have.

Ensuring that Saugatuck is redeveloped smartly, protecting the Old Saugatuck neighborhood, keeping tabs on the new sewer line while monitoring how the golf course and the beach are run and modified are all things on my radar. The safety and education of our kids and the interests of our seniors will always be my concern as well as my personal goals of historic and open space preservation.

Married with two Staples students. Earthplace Trustee. Established Partrick Wetlands and Slice of Saugatuck. Initiated expansion of restaurants at National Hall. Softball, soccer and basketball coach. Chair RTM P&Z Committee.

Email: matthew@westportd1.com



Diane Cady

Property taxes are of great concern to many residents of District 1. The storm Sandy was destructive and costly to residents. The Town has lessened tax relief to seniors. It is the job of each of us on the Representative Town Meeting to watch for budgeting expenditures by the town and schools that add to the taxpayer's burden.

Some relief: FEMA has made funds available to residents with homes that would benefit from elevating above funding. Call Fire Department 203 341 5000.

Very attractive senior housing on the Town's (Barons) property will be available in 5 or 6 years, about 2019. The difficulty is that only 39 units (30%) will be at the level of affordable. Many living on tight incomes will not be served and we need to increase this number of units.

Four terms, RTM, 50-year resident of Westport. Chair, RTM Environment Committee. Former co-chair Westport's 1st Tree Board. Unsung hero, Red Cross. Master of Social Work, full time practice.

Email: dcady@optonline.net



Don Bergmann

For my wife, Sheila, noise. For me, here is a list. **QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES:** "emerald necklace"; downtown river front, "village district" and vitality; Saugatuck River dredging; a sidewalk running the full length of the Post Road; good golf course greens; beautiful parks and trees. **FINANCIAL ISSUES:** elimination of retiree medical benefits; controlling/limiting school expenditure increases; **DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:** Westport needs to plan, not react; Zoning Board of Appeals is too permissive in granting variances, especially for tear downs and re-builds; **GOOD GOVERNMENT:** support responsive Town leadership that confronts issues and makes decisions; hire a Town Planner and/or pursue and hire a Town Manager; integrity in the process and implementation of government. **FOR DISTRICT ONE,** Saugatuck Center revitalization, commuter issues, waterfront, beaches, traffic and let us never ignore Saugatuck Shores area.

Westporter since 1979; married, Sheila, two grown children, Marshall and Joanna, attended Westport schools; retired, former General Counsel of NYSE listed corporation; speak my mind; DNA similar to Don Quixote.

Email: donlbergmann@sbcglobal.net



Chris Tait

District 1 proudly houses some of Westport's crown jewels, including: Compo Beach, Longshore, and beautiful beachfront communities. It is essential to the town that these wonderful resources remain at the quality that Westporters expect and deserve. These amenities are what keep's Westport the town people chose to live in, which in turn improves our real estate values. We must protect these assets by funding their maintenance and improvements in a fiscally responsible way, without neglecting the school system that so many benefit from. Westport has been a great place to grow up in, and I want my girls to have the same wonderful experiences at the beach, on the water, and at school that I was lucky enough to have.

Chris Tait, born and raised in the very district he is running for Westport RTM. Married with two daughters in the Westport Public Schools. Chris is in Hospitality/Real Estate.

Email: ctfldcups@optonline.net



Candidates for RTM, District Two Vote for any four

Joseph P. Arcudi

The biggest challenge for Westport Government today in this economy more than ever is maintaining Westport's fine services, education, recreation and public protection while keeping taxes reasonable.

The RTM was established in Westport in 1948 as a non-partisan legislative branch of our Town Government.

In my 24 years on the RTM no one ever came before the RTM with a request and said it wasn't a good idea.

Our job as RTM members is to study every request and decide if funds should be approved.

Biographical information: Graduate of Staples High School and Fairfield University. Longest serving RTM member (24 years). Deputy Moderator for four years. Westport First Selectman for four years. President of Westport Little League and Babe Ruth League. Twenty-two year coach of Westport boys and girls teams.

Email: jparcudi@gmail.com



Catherine Calise

Among the pressing needs is the condition of our recreational facilities at Longshore and Compo Beach. Also, we need to work to improve pedestrian safety on our roadways, including improved bicycle pathways.

A significant upcoming issue is the development of senior housing on Barons South. Increased development in District 2 and all of Westport will eventually have an impact on our infrastructure, recreational facilities, our public school system, availability of services and ultimately our town budget and tax rate. These are issues which need to be monitored closely to achieve a fair balance in community growth and the impact it will have on our quality of life.

Specifically in District 2, an important issue is the potential proposal of a new firehouse at Riverside Park. I will continue to work to locate the firehouse elsewhere to preserve our open space and protect our residential areas.

I'm a native Westporter, my family has been in Westport since the early 1900's. A graduate of Staples High School, I have a B/A in Math/Economics from UC Santa Barbara.

Email: clcsold@yahoo.com



Jay Keenan

The needs of Westport vary from maintaining our investments in our school system and infrastructure to managing our long term debt and preserving open space. The goal of an effective RTM member is to become informed about these topics that concern your district and the Town as a whole. This involves attending board and commission meetings, attending RTM committee meetings, gathering background information from various Town Departments, researching to find out what other Towns in our area did in similar situations; then analyze the short and long-term results of those decisions. You must put your personal politics aside and look at the issue from the point of view of those who will be most affected by your vote. In the end you hope that common sense will prevail and you make the decision, which will most benefit the Town of Westport, and it's citizens.

Principal DGK Architects, RTM 2005-13, 16 Year resident, Staples Building Committee, Trustee Earthplace, KHS Air Quality, Building Maintenance Committee, Coach; 39 Seasons. Married to Caroline, (children: Conor, Callie, Carrick)

Email: cjayk3rd@gmail.com



Craig Fisher

I think that Westport's most pressing need is to strike a proper balance between the continued growth of the town and the preservation of the many qualities that make Westport such a special place. I do not think that these two concepts are mutually exclusive ideas, and I believe that a balance can be achieved. As a parent of two young children, I think that it is important to think of Westport as a town that is forward-minded when it comes to growth. At the same time, I place tremendous value on the sense of community, history and culture found in Westport. These are the qualities that attracted my family to Westport when we moved here in 2010, and these must be preserved. This balance cannot be achieved in a vacuum. The views of all Westport residents are important and must be heard as we move ahead together.

My wife Dina and I have two children (Leah and Sasha) that attend Kings Highway School. I was raised in Dallas, and I have been a practicing attorney since 1995.

Email: cafishernyc@gmail.com



Neil Phillips

I believe that some of the pressing problems currently affecting our town are traffic congestion, particularly concerning various streets which feed into the Post Road and downtown; maintenance and upkeep of the Longshore Golf Course; and school security measures in light of Newtown. As a member of the RTM, I will work diligently to ensure that these issues are not just talked about, but that real ideas and solutions are considered to better improve our town.

I am a 25+ year resident of Westport, father of twin boys in Kings Highway Elementary and a trusts and estates attorney practicing in Southport.

Email: npp@lmcplegal.com



Louis M. Mall

The most pressing issues facing Westport today are traffic and pedestrian safety. Westport has experienced four pedestrian deaths and four serious injuries in the past four years. That is not a record to be proud of. We need a comprehensive traffic study and review that will determine volume, speed and safety requirements to accommodate ongoing development.

With the initiative of Downtown 2020, the revitalization of Saugatuck, the development of the YMCA at Mahackeno, The Inn at National Hall and Save the Children, District 2 will feel the brunt of additional traffic congestion on major roads. This will lead to encroachment into residential neighborhoods, and more importantly, to a threat to public safety.

Westport's plans for the future should place Public Safety and Quality of Life first and foremost. That is what will continue to make Westport a great place to live.

A 30 year resident of Westport, Lou, wife Joan, and daughter Tessa, are members of St. Luke. Lou is a member of the RTM Education, Compensation, and Public Protection Committees.

Email: loumall@optonline.net



Candidates for RTM, District Three Vote for any four

LWV Question: What are Westport's most pressing needs and how do they relate to your district?

Medha Thomas

With the recent and proposed developments to our lovely town; it is imperative that we balance the benefits of revitalization, downtown and otherwise, with the needs of residents for peaceful streets, safety and security. In our District 3 alone, the new location of the Westport Y, the imminent move of Save the Children and other upcoming changes will shift our landscape in a way that requires a fresh look and a proactive citizen to represent the both the interests of young families and longstanding residents.

Not only will I work to secure the future of Westport financially, but will work to ensure those funds improve the future of our children and generations to come through investments in schools, parks and rec and other vital departments while requiring a transparent local government.

An entrepreneur, local activist, non-profit professional and, most importantly, wife and Mom to two young children in Westport, Medha Thomas has made it her mission to connect and support communities over the past decade with the largest non-profit local parenting forum, CT-Moms Online.

Email: medha311@gmail.com



Sylina Levy

With 3 children in school, world-class education is paramount to preparing our children for the future. I am on the Coleytown Elementary School Executive PTA, as the VP Communications/Webmaster, and providing top-notch technology for our children is important. I have a Masters Degree in International Business (MBA) from the University of Ottawa and I understand how crucial education is in preparing our children to compete in the global market.

I grew up in a multicultural environment in Montreal, Canada. I immigrated to the United States in 1997 working for United Technologies/Pratt & Whitney on the business side of Aerospace. I got married in 1999, and we moved to Westport in 2000. I am raising 3 children, ages 9, 10, and 12 and I am an avid volunteer in their schools and in the community.

Email: SylinaLevy@me.com



Lyn A. Hogan

Westport's District 3 has been my home for almost 14 years. My husband and I moved to Westport from Washington, D.C. in 1999, and have been on Cross Brook Lane with our two children ever since.

I am proud to currently represent District 3 after having been appointed this past May to fill Hadley Rose's open RTM seat. Since then, I have worked diligently on the Special Sewer Extension Committee, have taken part in votes on the budget and the new town Blight Ordinance among others, and sit on the Parks & Recreation and Human Services committees. I ask you for the opportunity to continue serving District 3 to address the issues so many of you have told me are important. From continuing to cost-effectively improve our town's education system and helping our town's seniors "age in place" to adding sidewalks, widening bike lanes and increasing rail station parking, there is much work I hope to do for you!

Lyn A. Hogan, a former aide to President Bill Clinton, holds M.P.A. and M.S. degrees from Columbia University and has held volunteer positions with the P.T.A., Democratic Town Committee, Project Return, and Girl Scouts among others.

Email: lynhogan@optonline.net



Bill Meyer

During 9 terms as a member of the RTM I've been greatly influenced by the reports from the RTM committees responsible for that issue. They spend many hours researching all aspects of the issue. Also, I value the advise and counsel of my many friend who take a great interest in Westport matters. As the 16 year chairman of the RTM Parks & Rec Committee I'm in constant with users of the department and the Parks & Rec Director. However, my main concern for my constituents is that we maintain balance on quality of life issues, looking prudently at educational budgets, administrative costs, and property taxes.

Sunrise Rotary, First Night, Little League, Friends of Senior Center, WCT, AARP, Saugatuck Church, Active Y's Men, LWV, Meals on Wheels, Mentor, 16 year old boy, two intercity Bridgeport agencies.

Email: Wfmeyer@optonline.net



From the Registrars of Voters

Questions?

Call the Registrars

Kevin M. White, Sr., Republican Registrar 203-341-1117

Marla J. Cowden, Democratic Registrar 203-341-1116

for it. The voter will need to have someone enter the polling place and request curbside assistance, as election officials are not able to monitor the parking area outside the polling place.

Election Day Registration

Residents who have not registered to vote prior to Connecticut's normal deadlines, may register and vote at Town Hall between 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM on Election Day. You must bring current, valid identification which proves both your identity AND Westport residence. Driver's licenses and Social Security Cards are the most commonly used acceptable forms.

Permanent Absentee Ballot

In 2013, Connecticut began allowing individuals who are permanently physically disabled to receive permanent absentee ballot status. To be eligible for permanent absentee ballot status, an elector must file with the Town Clerk an absentee ballot application together with a certification from a primary care provider stating that they have a permanent physical disability and are unable to appear in person at their polling place. After filing, the elector will receive an absentee ballot for each election, primary and referendum. In January of each year, the Registrars of Voters will send written notice to each elector with permanent absentee ballot status to determine if the elector continues to reside at the address on the permanent absentee ballot application. If the elector fails to respond to the notice, the permanent absentee ballot status will be removed, but the elector will remain on the voter registration list.

Temporary or last minute illness or mobility issues

Curbside voting is available for voters who cannot get inside the polling place. Two Assistant Registrars, from opposing parties, will bring the voter a ballot, assist the voter as necessary, and take the completed ballot to the tabulator to process the vote. The secrecy of the voter's ballot will be preserved as long as the voter is able to fill it out. If you know that you will need curbside voting assistance on Election Day, please call the Registrars' Office and arrange

Candidates for RTM, District Four Vote for any four

Kristan Hamlin

Westport is an extraordinary town, but there are areas for improvement. We need to keep our schools at the top of the state, maintaining class sizes between 18-20 students. Education is a top priority. We should spend wisely, not recklessly: ensuring fiscal responsibility, maximizing the benefit of our expenditures, but never compromising educational quality.

More parking space is needed at the train station. Westport residents should receive parking permits on a more expedited basis.

We should consider expanding boating/marina space for more residents.

Natural disaster preparation: we should consider burying wires, as Europe does.

Our police need to work harder and leaner, and be accountable to the residents, investigating thoroughly alleged crimes, not just issuing traffic tickets to residents.

In downtown Westport, we need to balance commercial revitalization with preservation. We need to balance maintaining our town's quaint New England charm, with an exciting downtown area that also looks beautiful.

Attorney, author, former Assistant U.S. Attorney; Board of Directors, then Advisors, Westport Historical Society; Chair, Longshore 50th Anniversary; raised here 3 children, all presently Cornellians. Family here since the 1600s.

Email: kph@petershamlinlaw.com



David Floyd

Westport is fortunate to have a wealth of individuals who dedicate extensive amounts of their time to solving important issues. However, even a town as rich as Westport has pressing needs. First, we need to expand downtown's attraction from a day-shopping spot to an all-hours area. Supporting initiatives such as the Westport cinema and rezoning to permit additional dining and entertainment options is important. Second, we need to continue the work we've done on pensions and cost control. Much progress has been made over the last few years, but I'm concerned about the tendency to lose focus once the economy improves. Much of the rationale for belt-tightening has been linked to the recent economic woes of our country, but the pressures on the Westport budget will only get worse as time goes on. Last, we need to strive to maintain our civility in government and everyday interactions.

Elected to the RTM in 2011. Westport resident for 16 years (all District 4), married for almost 21. He and Lainie have 2 sons (Andy, Casey) attending Staples.

Email: dsfloyd@gmail.com



Clarissa Moore

Westport must strive for excellence while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Our schools need to constantly adapt to enable our children to meet the challenges of a changing world. The RTM must vigilantly maintain and enhance the beauty of our town, beaches, natural resources, and historic sites. We must support the cultural arts that have long given Westport its unique character. Let's work together to build a consensus and keep Westport as a beautiful, caring community. Additionally, the RTM must serve as guardian of taxpayer monies. We must recognize funds come from our own and our neighbors' pockets and spend responsibly. I believe my educational and work experience in the field of finance coupled with my track record of service to Westport, our schools, and our community organizations qualifies me to serve on the RTM - District 4. I respectfully ask you to vote for me on Election Day.

Former Partner (20+ years) investment firm, Past President GFS PTA, Trustee Westport Playhouse, Near & Far Gala Chair, Pink Aid, PYD, BA Yale, MBA Finance Dartmouth (Tuck)

Email: CMooreRTM4@gmail.com



Jeff Wieser

Westport is blessed as a great place to live. We continue to need to balance the requirements of maintaining that status with the expenses of doing so. We have serious pension conversations coming up; we have ongoing discussions of planning the future of Westport, and we have the ongoing requirement to keep our schools - and our recreation space - in the best possible shape. We can do all of that, but it will continue to be a question of balance.

Chair RTM Finance Committee. Westport resident since 1985. Pres, Homes with Hope. Princeton Univ, A.B.; NYU, MBA. Wife Pat; three grown children and three wonderful grandchildren.

Email: jwieser@optonline.net



Jonathan A. Cunitz

Westport's needs permeate every district. Most importantly, we must maintain the excellent quality of our schools, continue to improve our recreational facilities and parks and move ahead on projects for affordable senior housing. Downtown planning is essential to develop a vibrant environment for residents of all ages and to take steps to prevent future flooding. I have become knowledgeable of Westport's needs having served as a member of the Westport ZBA (1997-2001) and RTM Long Range Planning, Environment, Health and Human Services, and IT Committees (2007-2013). I am an active member of the Town committees responsible for preserving the Mill Pond environment and for creating the Sherwood Mill Pond Preserve. I will continue my leadership as Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee to support orderly changes and improvements to our downtown, parks, schools and cultural resources.

B.S. Engineering, Lehigh; M.B.A. and Doctor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School; faculty member, NYU, UConn; Executive of Xerox, Chase Manhattan Bank; 35+ years as corporate financial management consultant.

Email: jonathanRTM4@cunitz.us



Candidates for RTM, District Five Vote for any four

LWV Question: What are Westport's most pressing needs and how do they relate to your district?

Dewey J. Loselle III

Maintaining quality of life for all by preserving/protecting neighborhoods and improving Downtown. Also improving quality/integrity of government and cost effectiveness. I have worked closely with Greens Farms Association to prevent commercial incursions into our residential neighborhoods. Worked to stop commercial B&B initiative in Green Farms. Led effort to stop new dangerous commercial driveway, from Post Plaza shopping center onto Morningside Drive, directly across from Greens Farms Elementary School driveway. Was co-sponsor of anti blight ordinance to protect neighborhoods and preserve property values threatened from blighted properties like on Wake Robin. I am RTM representative to Downtown 2020 initiative working to develop master plan for downtown to protect and improve downtown with respect to traffic, parking, sidewalks, trees, river access, streetscapes, flooding. Co-author of proposed RTM Ethics Code. Also directly involved in Employee labor negotiations to reform Health Care, Pensions and OPEB costs. On Town Maintenance Committee to improve/maintain Westport's infrastructure.

22 Year Westport Resident, 2 Children thru Westport Schools, Incumbent RTM Member, BA (Government) Boston University, MPA New York University, Former Management Consulting Partner (Public Sector) KPMG & Deloitte Consulting
Email: dloselle@optonline.net



Peter Gold

Over the 30 years I have lived in town, Westport has seen many changes with many more to come. These changes need to be carefully considered to make sure they enhance the quality of life at a reasonable cost. This means a stronger planning process, both long-range and for specific projects, which considers all aspects of the issue, whether it be cost, impact on traffic and transit, aesthetics and historic preservation, demographics (e.g., services for seniors, starter houses for new families or for children moving back to town), and the overall impact on Westport's character. Strict standards need to be maintained for granting zoning changes and zoning variances. At the same time, attention must be paid to providing town services efficiently. There are small changes that can be made at little or no cost that would improve town services and the quality of life in Westport.

30 year Westport resident. Former RTM member on transit, long-range planning and employee compensation committees. 38 years' experience consulting on employee benefits for governmental plans. Current member Citizen's Transit Committee.

Email: pgoldrtm5@gmail.com



John F. Suggs

During my five years serving on the RTM, I have actively sought out and listened to my constituents and have learned that our most pressing needs include: ensuring the continued quality of our schools; policies for seniors "aging in place"; minimizing property taxes by implementing strict fiscal discipline and cost saving measures like reforming the Town's Pension system and sharing duplicate services between the Town and BOE; encouraging local business development while vigilantly protecting our Greens Farms neighborhood from a creeping expansion of commercialization off of the Post Road into the neighborhood. (One example: The recent attempt by the Post Plaza owners to install a commercial driveway on Morningside Drive South directly opposite the GFS - which we successfully fought.) It is both an honor and privilege to serve on the RTM, working to preserve the unique quality of life Westport offers young families and senior residents alike.

I am managing director of an environmental and public health organization. My professional experience includes: asset management analyst, public policy and community development. I have an M.S. and an MBA.

Email: JSuggsRTM5@Gmail.Com



Seth Braunstein

District Five's most pressing needs echo the needs of all of Westport. As a community we must continue to protect the unique nature of our town, focusing on all that we hold dear while also making sure that we don't ignore the need to occasionally embrace thoughtful change that enhances the quality of life of our residents.

It is essential that we take an analytical approach to issues while recognizing that decisions have an impact on individuals. Simply accepting "the way things have always been done" must give way to finding the best solution and most efficient way of providing for the needs of the people of Green's Farms and all of Westport.

As an RTM member I will work to help define standards that meet the expectations of our community and then look to make sure that there is accountability when those standards are implemented.

Westport resident since 2005. Issue driven - not party affiliated. Helped push passage of Westport's anti-blight ordinance. BA, Economics, University of Chicago. MBA, NYU. Married to Sara, son attends BMS.

Email: BraunsteinforRTM5@gmail.com



Paul F. Rossi

Westport town government must be continually mindful of the socioeconomic diversity of our community. We must strive to maintain the delicate balance between offering top notch schools, services and facilities while keeping Westport an affordable place to live and work for all. Post Road East and the Green's Farms district have been challenged with store vacancies and small businesses that have been forced to close or move to surrounding towns. Residential development, while good for increasing our tax base, is reducing open land and affecting our delicate ecosystem. As we transition to new town leadership, we must challenge traditional norms in our efforts to maintain a vibrant, inviting and prosperous community that caters to all walks of life.

Paul moved to Westport in 1996 with his wife Marguerite. His three children attend Westport Schools. VP Business & IT Consulting for Gartner of Stamford. Member: RTM Education, Parks & Rec, IT (Chair) committees. Active in School, Youth Athletic and Church community service.

Email: pfrossirtm5@gmail.com



Candidates for RTM, District Six Vote for any four

Brandi Briggs

Westport is undoubtedly a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. However, there are several issues that must be addressed to ensure Westport continues to deliver high-quality services and amenities for residents over the long-term. We must continue efforts to reform pension and benefit plans to guarantee our fiscal health without raising taxes or jeopardizing the quality of schools. Putting Westport on sound financial footing enables us to invest in the needed upgrading of our infrastructure. This is important in District 6, a high traffic area where several roads and sidewalks are in disrepair. District 6 has a large senior population, so it is important that Town services are delivered at a cost that doesn't drive seniors from their homes. I will work hard on behalf of the shared goals of District 6 residents: excellent schools, world-class amenities, and a strong Westport for the future.

Married, Three children; Attorney-Trusts/Estates, Civil Litigation, Elder Law; Board Member Westport Young Woman's League; LLS PTA; JD-University of Colorado School of Law, BS-Finance/Marketing-Boston College

Email: brandibriggs12@yahoo.com



Cathy Talmadge

Continuing to reduce tax increases by creating permanent cost savings through functional reorganization and increased productivity. We recently achieved the first real pension reform through legal arbitration. Funding pension costs, the largest component of our budget, and renegotiating these agreements as they come up for renewal is critical to our economic viability.

A plethora of initiatives which could permanently transform large parcels of town owned land will have significant impacts on our infrastructure. The Post Road East from Compo to South Turkey forms the southern boundary of District 6 and will be impacted by these projects.

Westport's schools, Senior Center, Longshore, our beaches and other green spaces, the Library and a multitude of community organizations create a strong sense of community. Over the past few years we have defrayed improvements where possible but we now need to develop a comprehensive plan for maintaining and enhancing these jewels.

25 year resident, active volunteer, businesswoman and three-term RTM, Cathy is a dedicated member of the RTM's Finance, Environment, Public Works, Ethics and Chair of the Transit Committee.

Email: CathyTalmadge@optonline.net



Cornelia Olsen

In Westport we are trying too hard to be perfect in all areas. Our competitive nature spurs us to overspend on our schools and our town amenities, and our children feel the pressure keenly. In District 6 this is played out in the schools where it is not OK for children to explore, and also not OK for children to fail, and where young parents feel inadequate as parents and even as hosts for playdates. Our town is becoming too expensive to live in, both financially and emotionally. We need to breathe easier, to learn to relax, and to get along with our neighbors. Otherwise, people will flee the Land of McMansions when their children have finished school and the remaining population will bear the burden of a new crop.

Married, Westport resident for 23 years. 2 children matriculated from Westport Schools. RTM District 1 2011-2013

Email: cornart@optonline.net



Paul Lebowitz

Growth, while generally good for the town, needs to be managed with both vision and careful planning. Westport has several extraordinary large construction projects which will enhance the enjoyment and utility of our downtown area. The Levitt Pavilion, Barons South, Bedford Square, Save The Children building, the KemperGunn house, all need to be integrated into Westport's master plan for growth.

While I support the Westport 2020 plan I also think that we can do even more. We have a rare opportunity get involved with the developers of these projects now to assure our vision and ideas get included in the finished product.

The future of our downtown area is up to us. Each citizen has a stake in the outcome of these projects. I encourage anyone who wants to see more green space, walking malls, bike paths, enhanced parking areas, swimming pool options, better transportation options, etc. to GET INVOLVED.

Principal and founding member of Westport Mortgage LLC., a Mortgage Lender located in Westport. Since 1996 Paul has helped thousands of people refinance and purchase homes in Connecticut.

Email: pleibowitzrtm6@hotmail.com



Hope Feller

District 6 enjoys a residential area between our town shopping district and school areas. Thus, we are affected by what happens in and near our Main Street.

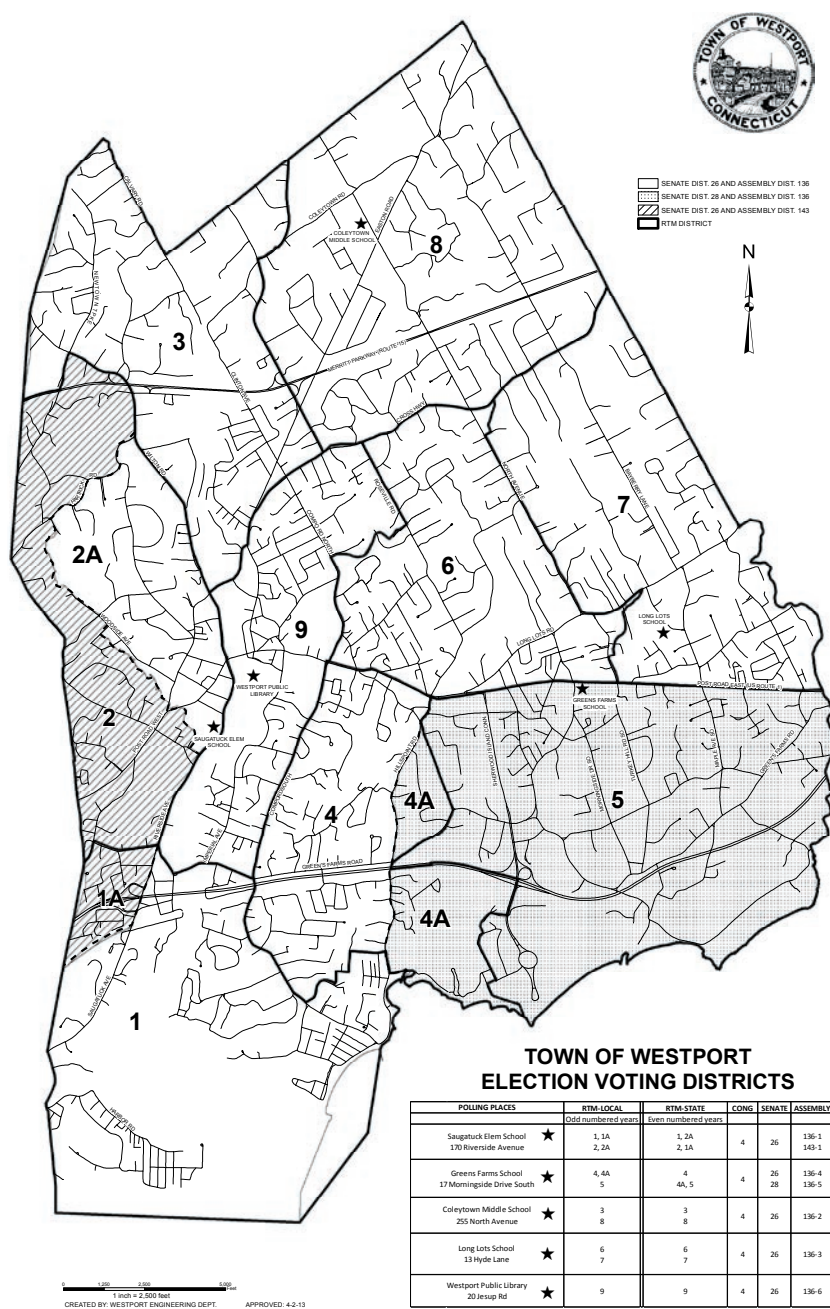
Presently, our Main Street area, Library, Levitt Center and town owned Barons South, are going through a revitalization period. These decisions affect District 6 in as much as daily traffic in and around our major streets may become congested by not only the construction process, but possible permanent rerouting, changes in traffic flow, or street closures.

While serving on the RTM currently, I am a committee member on much of these projects, and am mindful that these changes do not make our already busy streets, become overcrowded and gridlocked.

Big and exciting changes to our 'landscape' in the near future offer chances to get involved and offer up your voices. Come to meetings with me and learn more about our town!

Greetings! I have lived in Westport for almost 20 years. My now grown, 3 girls grew up here and attended our schools. I work full time, and volunteer locally.

Email: hopekaren@aol.com



Candidates for RTM, District Seven Vote for any four

LWV Question: What are Westport's most pressing needs and how do they relate to your district?

John Klinge

Primarily, Westport's needs involve all citizens and are not District specific. The timeless challenge of maintaining Services (roads, security); Education that produces athletic championships, award winning theater and exceptional scholars; Facilities like beaches, marinas, golf course within a budget affordable for property owners regardless of age/wealth/income.

Specific issues include shifting town employees smoothly to Defined Contribution Retirement Plans; protecting open space (Belta Farm on Bayberry); ensuring that projects like sewer extensions are transparent and communicated properly and on timely basis to involved petitioners (I'm Chair of sub-committee dealing with this including hardship cases): making available senior housing on Baron's South in manner benefiting all tax payers moving ahead on Downtown Plan that creates a Westport prepared for next fifty year.

Solutions to these issues will benefit citizens regardless of District. However, since "all politics is local," District residents please call me regarding any problems directly affecting them.

Married & Westport 49 years. RTM 1997-2013 (Education, Recreation, Pub works). Cornell, Harvard MBA. US Navy. Boards- Senior Friends, Safe Rides Homebound meals. Substitute teacher. Service Awards - Seniors, Rotary, Woman's Club.

Email: jgklinge@aol.com

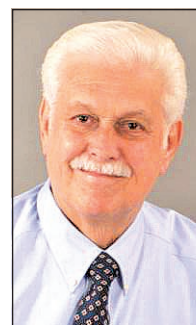


Stephen Rubin

My experience as a member of the RTM since 1993 has taught me that what relates to one district also concerns our entire town. No one district is an island. We must plan for our growing senior population while maintaining a balance with our increasing needs in our educational system. Maintaining the value of our homes is of the utmost importance. Westport must stay as a community that we want to remain in as seniors as well as a place we want to move into with our family. With your support and vote, I will continue to work hard for you on the RTM as my perfect voting and 100% attendance record shows. As in the past, I am always available to you so let's together continue to keep Westport a great place to live. Thank you.

Resident for 31 years. My RTM committees include: Education, Health and Human Services, Rules, Public Protection, Information Technology and the First Selectman's Special Building Maintenance Committee.

Email: smrubin@optonline.net



Allen S. Bomes

We have a limited amount of tax dollars, so while we have done a reasonably good job keeping our expenses under control, the high cost of the medical and pension benefits of town employees remains a concern. If we concentrate on getting control of these costs, we will enhance our ability to maintain our excellent schools and improve quality of life issues such as getting better town services, improving traffic flow, helping with the development of the Baron's property and the upgrading of other town assets including Longshore, Compo Beach and the downtown area. These issues affect everyone in town and not just one district.

Five-term incumbent and member of the Finance, Environment, Ordinance and Long Range Planning Committees. Community service includes the treasurer and CFO of First Night Westport.

Email: bomesa@optonline.net



Arthur Ashman

The issues facing RTM District 7 are reflective of those issues facing all Westport residents. Our greatest challenge remains maintaining our high standards of community services, including the excellence of our schools, while keeping our taxes at reasonable levels. Westport has maintained fiscal discipline and kept our credit rating high at a time of great challenge. As a seasoned member of the RTM, I have appreciated the opportunity to serve District 7, where I have lived for 15 years, and contribute to our community at large.

Hearing from my constituents is a duty I take seriously and a pleasure I enjoy. As a voice for my district, I welcome comment and dialogue about issues concerning each resident. I have kept an open mind on all views on an issue before personally taking a position. Obtaining a consensus of opinion and devising suggested directions is essential before arriving at meaningful conclusions.

Founder of Ashman Department of Implant Dentistry, NYU College of Dentistry; Clinical Professor (20 years); Entrepreneur/CEO of 3 biotech companies bought by big board companies; Dental Surgeon/Implant Specialist (35 years).

Email: aash@mac.com



Candidates for RTM, District Eight Vote for any four

Lee Arthurs

Westport's most pressing needs are continued excellence in our schools and vision for the future, improving key town assets - especially Compo Beach and the Library, and maintaining our underlying infrastructure. Westport also needs a strong commitment to first responders - especially in light of the recent significant storms, to the environment and open spaces, and to our seniors. The key to accomplishing these goals is strong, active financial management especially in light of our upcoming pension and OPEB obligations. I am committed as your RTM member to this path.

All of these needs relate directly to the needs of District 8. Some are local such as our needs for road repaving and bridge repair. Others, such as improving the facilities at Compo Beach, improve the lives of all Westporters.

rectly with your concerns or if there is any other way that I can help you.

Member of the RTM serving on the Finance and Ordinance Committees. I am a 21-year Westport resident married with three children. I worked in finance for 25 years.

Email: lmarthurs@gmail.com



Carla L. Rea

As a member of the RTM, I serve on both the Long Term Planning and Planning and Zoning committees. The need to inventory where we are and strategically plan for our Town's future becomes more and more obvious as various town services, commercial interest and organizations propose new usages. Conducting a comprehensive study of our Town's traffic, parking and downtown area is our most pressing need. I can best represent my district by speaking in favor of these planning efforts and regulations to help guide us as a community to a better place while insisting on keeping our small town appeal and residential character. While my districts tree lined streets provide us with rural charm, dangerous trees on town roads has caused much hardship as evidenced by recent events. I will support the efforts of the Tree Board to address these needs.

Thank you, looking forward to continue to serve you.

40 year resident, volunteer and businesswoman. Current RTM district #8. Former Chair P&Z, Alternate ZBA. Teaching degree, Rome, Italy. Married, 3 Children.

Email: Carla@carlrealty.com



Wendy G. Batteau

Westport is emblematic of good will, good living and best practices because we work hard to realize these ideals. Needs begin there and meet at the budget. We must enhance town services and facilities while keeping taxes and fees reasonable. District 8's limited access to sewers and town water, distance from downtown and Post Road amenities, and small but highly-traveled roads serving destinations like schools, religious houses and the Merritt underline certain town needs: traffic management; increasing availability of public works and protection services; preserving community character while serving evolving populations; enforcing zoning and conservation regulations; safeguarding environmental and public health. These must be balanced with such other Westport priorities as informed planning; expanding seniors' options; bolstering the excellence of our great schools and resources like Longshore, Compo, the Library and cultural venues; strategic financial management; attracting new businesses/revenues; infrastructure maintenance; increasing teen recreation opportunities; and improving resident-government communications.

Publishing executive (former); 21-year resident. 3-term RTM: chair HHS, member Public Works, LM&A, Environment, Long-Range Planning, Ethics committees. Green Task Force; PTA: national nonprofit boards. Brown and Stanford universities.

Email: wgbatteurtm@optonline.net



Peter Knight

1. Need to maintain Westport as a highly desirable Town in which to live, raise a family and retire - therefore prioritize quality of schools, security of neighborhoods and facilities for Seniors.
2. Need to contain growth of government expenditure - therefore need to focus on efficiency and professionalism. Keep property tax increases to an absolute minimum.
3. Improve major public Town attractions - a) Longshore Golf course in need of substantial redesign and upgrade of facilities (club house, restaurant) b) Compo Beach - changing facilities have deteriorated - dirty and not adequately maintained.
4. Protect the environment and public health against effects of excessive wild life, especially deer population. All of the above relate to my District (8) but No. 4. especially as we have mostly rural lots. Deer spread the ticks that carry Lyme disease, threaten collisions on our roads, devastate our gardens and destroy nesting habitat for bird life.

Born in UK. BA Trinity College, Dublin; Retired international banker - New York, Europe, South America. US citizen since 1992; Wife Michela. Home in Westport since 1975. Two daughters, three grandchildren.

Email: Pknight191@aol.com



League of Women Voters of Westport

Join us in making our communities Fair, Vibrant and Strong.

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join the League and be directly involved in shaping the important issues in our community.

Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With more than 90 years of experience and over 800 local and state affiliates in all 50 states, the League is one of

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For more information:

Email us at:

info@lwvwestportct.org

Visit our Web Site:

www.lwvwestportct.org

To Join: Send a check for \$50.00 for an individual or \$75 for a household to:

League of Women Voters of
Westport
P.O. Box 285
Westport, CT 06881-0285

Lois Schine

The most pressing need for Westport is implementation of comprehensive planning for the entire town. The state requires every town to develop a Plan of Conservation and Development every ten years. Unfortunately, in the past, many of these plans have failed to be implemented. He RTM Long Range Planning Committee on which I serve requested that the First Selectman appoint a Plan Implementation Committee to track and enforce the execution of the plan. This has happened and some progress is being made. Appointment of the Downtown 2020 Committee is one step in the right direction but other areas of town need attention as well.

With two schools in District 8 speeding traffic on our north-south streets and on Route136 where some site lines are short is a major concern. Security in schools is an issue which need follow-up when the Security Survey now being done is reported.

Have lived in Westport for 60 years; Two degrees in Engineering; Have five children who attended Westport schools; Was President of Westport-Weston Chamber of Commerce; Served numerous Westport Committees

Email: loisschine@optonline.net



The Representative Town Meeting (RTM)

The Representative Town Meeting (RTM) has 36 members from 9 town voting districts with 2-year terms. Our local representatives serve as a non-partisan legislative body. They adopt town ordinances (local laws), grant final approval of appropriations and budgets for the town and Board of Education, and hear appeals of some land-use decisions.

Candidates for RTM, District Nine Vote for any four

LWV Question: What are Westport's most pressing needs and how do they relate to your district?

Kate Boyle Kirby

Westport is a wonderful town which provides many desirable assets for its residents. However, with the privilege of owning these assets comes the responsibility for their upkeep. Finding the most efficient way to preserve and protect our community while still fostering its growth is in my view the most challenging issue our town faces. The establishment of the 2020 committee is a direct result of community concerns for the development of our downtown area. Specifically in District 9, the home of the Baron's South project, debate around the issue is wide ranging. As a member of the RTM I would use my financial background to help my fellow representatives make fiscally responsible decisions for Westport. We have made great headway in the past two years improving Westport's financial health. However, we must remain diligent in that regard and protect our town for future generations.



Kate moved to Westport in 2009. She is a member of Sunrise Rotary & RTC. Kate spent 20 years in banking and has a degree in Math and a Masters in Finance from Boston College.

Email: kateboyle65@googlemail.com

Velma Heller

Westport is a vibrant community, enriched by its residents and the variety of interests, talents, aspirations and commitments they offer. The most pressing needs of our town are directly linked to our District 9 concerns.



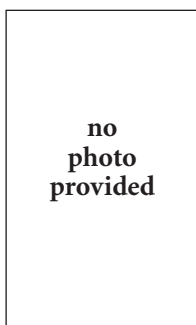
Town residents - families with children, seniors, "empty nesters" and others are our top priority. Meeting their needs implies providing excellent schools and recreation along with a quality library and first rate police, fire and human services. Senior housing is one of many pressing needs currently being addressed. Preserving and enhancing the unique character of our shore community; protecting its waterways, open space and historic structures and planning for coordinated development of downtown Westport and its nearby residential neighborhoods are vital. As we strive to protect and enhance environmental, cultural and residential assets of our town, clearly, the challenge for your RTM is to balance the needs of all citizens and spend tax dollars wisely.

RTM (2001-2013); Deputy Moderator; Education Committee, Chair; Retired Westport Teacher, Vice Principal, Principal, Director; Professor, Education (Sacred Heart University); 49 Year Resident; League of Women Voters.

Email: vhellertrm9@aol.com

Sal Liccione

Westport's most pressing problems are the lack of citizen transit bus service and the lack of a Master Plan for the downtown area. The lack of adequate public transportation affects many in the downtown district because commuters and employees of downtown businesses in the Saugatauk area are in need of more transportation options to be able to work effectively. The lack of a Master Plan reduces public and private partnerships in the town. There needs to be more partnership between the Chamber of Commerce, the developers, business owners, both public and private. I support moving the Gun House from Church Lane to the parking lot next to the Christ Holy Trinity Church. It will bring income into the town.



My name is Sal Liccione. I have lived in the downtown area for 9 years. I work in government and small business. I am easily contacted via cell, 203-434-6348 or at home 203-557-3773.

Email: salliccione2001@yahoo.com

Eileen Lavigne Flug

Two pressing needs are: balancing affordability with providing excellence in Town functions, and planning for change in a way that creates the best Westport for the future while preserving our sense of community and our rich history. District 9 includes many areas undergoing change: Baron's South, Downtown, the Levitt Pavilion, the Library, Church Lane, and the Kemper-Gunn House. It is important that District 9 residents have experienced representation in the decisions being made in these areas. Through my involvement with the PTA, Sunrise Rotary, League of Women Voters, Friends of Parks and Recreation, Green Village Initiative, and other town groups, I regularly hear from District 9 residents and other Westporters about their views and concerns. I hope to continue to represent District 9.



RTM Moderator; Representative since 2005; Ordinance, Education, Rules, Special Ethics, and Parks and Recreation Committees. Attorney practicing in Westport; formerly in Washington, D.C. and NYC. Two children, one at BMS.

Email: eileenflugtrm@optonline.net

Rick J. Weber

Affordable Senior Housing, constant striving to have the best educational system in the Country, superior maintenance and upgrading of all recreational facilities and an unrelenting drive to improve the efficiency of all levels of government services: these are the pressing needs of Westport. If we are successful in meeting these needs, not only will the already wonderful quality of life that we are currently blessed with improve, residential real estate values will rise and more importantly, the tax list for commercial properties will increase.



We all owe a duty and responsibility to our children, who are our future, and to our Seniors, who are our legacy. Of course cost is an issue and we must always be mindful that throwing money at an issue is not always the answer. A compassionate heart, a clear and unbiased mind, a rejection of political agendas and a sharp pencil: these are the answers.

Resided in Westport for 23 years. Graduated Stanford University, 1978; graduated University of Virginia Law School, 1982. Have worked in Law and Finance over the past 30 years.

Email: RWeber@psam.com

Kenneth de Sanctis

My primary reason in running for the RTM is my concern with the over-development of Westport and its' impact on the residential and somewhat rural character of the town.



We are increasingly losing anything that resembles "open space" to development throughout town, and, eventually, if development continues unabated, Westport will take on the character of many of the towns on Long Island and in lower Westchester that are over-developed, overcrowded, and congested.

I believe town government must make every effort to preserve the residential quality of life that attracted us all to Westport. This is clearly a town-wide issue and not confined to any one district.

I have lived on Juniper Road for 24 years, am widowed, and an Unaffiliated registered voter. I am currently retired having worked for 33 years for the City of New York - 20 years with the Police Department and 13 years teaching in an elementary school.

Email: kds06880@sbcglobal.net

Sample ballot — two sides

Front

OFFICE →	1 Judge of Probate To Fill Vacancy Vote for One	2 First Selectman and Selectman Vote for One	3	4 Board of Finance Vote for Any Three	5	6	7 Board of Education Vote for Any Four	8	9	10 Board of Assessment Appeals Vote for Any Two	11	12 Planning and Zoning Commission Vote for Any Three	13	14
PARTY ↓	1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A	8A	9A	10A	11A	12A	13A	14A
REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1A Lisa K. Wexler	<input type="radio"/> 2A Jim Marpe and Avi Kaner	<input type="radio"/> 3A Jennifer Tooker			<input type="radio"/> 6A Michael McGovern	<input type="radio"/> 7A Karen Kleine	<input type="radio"/> 8A Jeannie Smith						
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1B Kieran J. Costello	<input type="radio"/> 2B Helen Garten and Melissa Kane	<input type="radio"/> 3B Blake Benke	<input type="radio"/> 4B Brian Stern	<input type="radio"/> 5B Lee Caney	<input type="radio"/> 6B Brett Aronow	<input type="radio"/> 7B Elaine Whitney	<input type="radio"/> 8B	<input type="radio"/> 9B	<input type="radio"/> 10B Elaine Arnow	<input type="radio"/> 11B Jeffrey Jacobs	<input type="radio"/> 12B Alan Hodge	<input type="radio"/> 13B Andra Vebell	<input type="radio"/> 14B David Lessing
SAVE WESTPORT NOW PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1C	<input type="radio"/> 2C	<input type="radio"/> 3C	<input type="radio"/> 4C	<input type="radio"/> 5C	<input type="radio"/> 6C	<input type="radio"/> 7C	<input type="radio"/> 8C	<input type="radio"/> 9C	<input type="radio"/> 10C	<input type="radio"/> 11C	<input type="radio"/> 12C Alan Hodge	<input type="radio"/> 13C Andra Vebell	<input type="radio"/> 14C David Lessing
COALITION FOR WESTPORT PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1D	<input type="radio"/> 2D	<input type="radio"/> 3D	<input type="radio"/> 4D	<input type="radio"/> 5D	<input type="radio"/> 6D	<input type="radio"/> 7D	<input type="radio"/> 8D	<input type="radio"/> 9D	<input type="radio"/> 10D	<input type="radio"/> 11D	<input type="radio"/> 12D Glenn J. Payne	<input type="radio"/> 13D David B. Press	<input type="radio"/> 14D Denise Lassman Torve
	<input type="radio"/> 1E	<input type="radio"/> 2E	<input type="radio"/> 3E				<input type="radio"/> 7E	<input type="radio"/> 8E	<input type="radio"/> 9E	<input type="radio"/> 10E	<input type="radio"/> 11E	<input type="radio"/> 12E	<input type="radio"/> 13E	<input type="radio"/> 14E
WRITE-IN VOTES →	<input type="radio"/> 1F	<input type="radio"/> 2F	<input type="radio"/> 3F		<input type="radio"/> 5F	<input type="radio"/> 6F	<input type="radio"/> 7F	<input type="radio"/> 8F	<input type="radio"/> 9F	<input type="radio"/> 10F	<input type="radio"/> 11F	<input type="radio"/> 12F	<input type="radio"/> 13F	<input type="radio"/> 14F

Back

OFFICE →	15 Zoning Board of Appeals Vote for Any Two	16
PARTY ↓	15A	16A
REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 15A Wally Sutherland	<input type="radio"/> 16A
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 15B Sheri R. Gordon	<input type="radio"/> 16B Bernard Deverin
SAVE WESTPORT NOW PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 15C	<input type="radio"/> 16C
COALITION FOR WESTPORT PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 15D	<input type="radio"/> 16D
	<input type="radio"/> 15E	<input type="radio"/> 16E
WRITE-IN VOTES →	<input type="radio"/> 15F	<input type="radio"/> 16F

See reverse side for ZBA and RTM candidates

You may take this guide into the polls with you