The League of Women Voters of Westport
2008 VOTERS' GUIDE

Prepared As A Non-Partisan Public Service • Sponsored by the Westport MINUTEMAN

VOTE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2008 POLLS OPEN 6 A.M. - 8 P.M. Have Identification Ready.

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear Westport Voters,

We often use this space to urge Westporters to vote on Election Day. We do not believe that will be necessary this year. As you prepare to cast your ballot, use this Voters' Guide to learn about the candidates and their positions.

In keeping with our mission to educate and inform the voting public, 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. As always, in adherence with our nonpartisan policy, the League of Women Voters neither supports nor opposes any of the candidates running for office.

You may take your Voters' Guide into the voting booth with you on November 4th. Be sure to check your district and polling place, both of which are listed on this page.

Pippa Bell Ader and Alison Rivard
Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of Westport

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT

Republican: McCain/Palin

Democratic: Obama/Biden

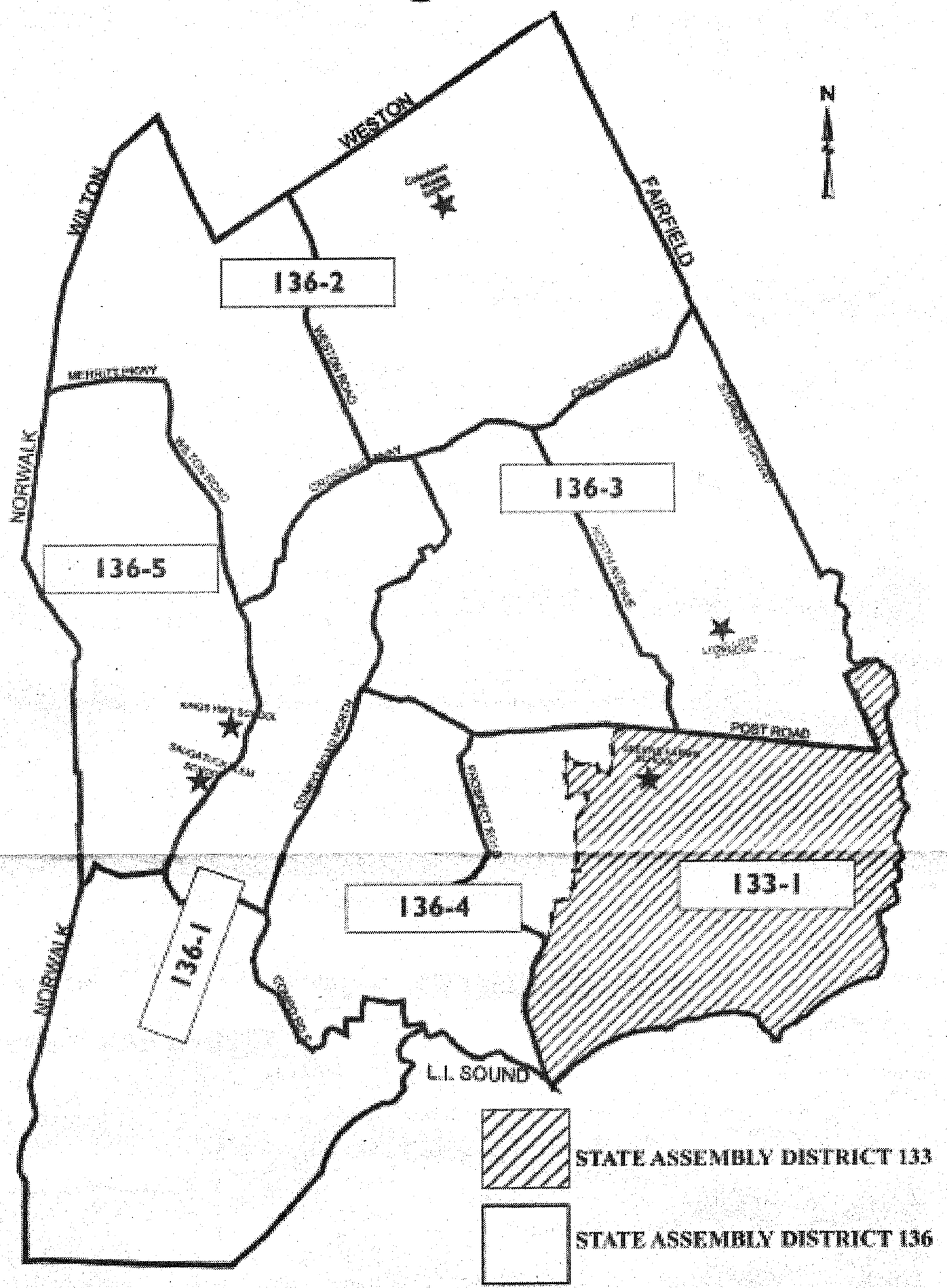
Independent: Nader/Gonzalez

Additional copies of this guide are available at the

- **Westport Public Library**
- **Westport Town Hall**
- **The Westport Center for Senior Activities**
- **and on the LWV of Westport website: www.lwvwestportct.org**

The LWV of Westport owes many thanks to Patricia Strauss, Town Clerk, for her help with this guide.

Voting Districts



TOWN OF WESTPORT ELECTION VOTING DISTRICTS

Polling Places	Assembly District 8	Cong	Senate	RTM Districts
Saugatuck Elem School 170 Riverside Avenue	136-1	4	26	1, 9
Greens Farms School	136-4	4	26	4, 5A
17 Morningside Drive South	133-1	4	26	5
Coleytown Middle School 255 North Avenue	136-2	4	26	3, 8
Long Lots School 13 Hyde Lane	136-3	4	26	6, 7
Kings Highway School 125 Post Road West	136-5	4	26	2

Sponsored by the Westport MINUTEMAN
Serving Westport and Weston
1175 Post Road East, Westport, CT 06430
203-226-8877 Fax 203-221-7540

Candidates for Congressional Representative 4th District

Two-Year Term

CANDIDATES' REPLIES ARE PUBLISHED EXACTLY AS SUBMITTED, WITHIN THE 150-WORD LIMIT SPECIFIED. CANDIDATES ARE LISTED IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY APPEAR ON THE BALLOT.

What specific fiscally responsible steps will you promote to bring about our economic recovery?

Christopher Shays

Republican

- Remove toxic financial instruments to renew financial market liquidity, preserving Americans pensions, 401(k)s, college savings, bank accounts, homes.
- Improve regulatory oversight preventing financial meltdown.
- Maintain low tax rates.
- Expand bilateral free trade.
- Create jobs by improving our transportation, energy, water infrastructures and turning brownfields to greenfields
- Attract businesses to cities creating jobs and increasing revenues
- Pass long-term energy plan: requiring conservation; increasing investment in renewables (solar, wind, geothermal); expanding domestic oil, natural gas, nuclear power production.
- Extend unemployment benefits, expand trade assistance, create more effective job training programs.
- Fully fund No Child Left Behind and IDEA. Increase funding: college loans; Early and Head Start programs; student access to technology; literacy initiatives; new math and science SMART grants.

Prominent moderate, leading reformer, expert on terrorism, strong urban renewal advocate, nationally recognized environmentalist. Senior member, Government Reform, Homeland Security and Financial Services Committees. Ranking Member, National Security Subcommittee. NYU: MBA, MPA.

Jim Himes

Democrat/Working Families

For decades, our prosperity has rested on a simple promise: if you work hard and play by the rules, you'll have a real shot at the American Dream. Raised by a single working mom, I learned the value of that promise firsthand. Now, between my Wall Street and non-profit experience, I understand how our economy works and how to get it back on track. We need to build confidence in our markets by restoring the sensible oversight that can prevent abuses like the sub-prime fiasco. And to restore consumer confidence and stimulate the housing market, I've proposed specific tax credits for education, homeownership, and savings. Ultimately, our economic future depends on our innovative capacity and creating new jobs. We can accomplish all this responsibly by ending the misguided investments of recent years - including tax breaks for oil companies and the Iraq War, which costs us $13 billion a month.

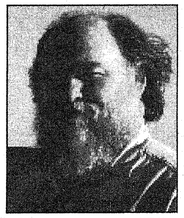
Michael Anthony Carrano

Libertarian

An economy, being a chaotic system, entails a sensitive dependency on initial conditions. This means that even slight adjustments to the system create small variables that progressively transfigure into unprecedented economic shockwaves. In fact, this recession is a direct repercussion of politicians, who aren't economists, tampering with a system that's as far outside of their area of expertise as are quarks in a cloud chamber.

According to Ludwig von Mises, the father of Austrian economics, history argues solely for one system: laissez faire capitalism. Ayn Rand was right: not only is capitalism the soundest economic policy, but it's also the most ethical since no other system punishes the helmsman of unscrupulous industry in equal magnitude. In conclusion, market deregulation is our only option.

American-born autodidact M.A.Carrano is the intellectual architect behind Imperativism: a multidisciplinary approach to critical thinking and value analysis. An experimental philosopher, he lives in North Haven.



Richard Z. Duffee

Green

Three decades of bailing out banks on odd-numbered years made banks addicted to bail-outs. I'll pay no more to banks. I'll loan money to people with variable-rate mortgages and loans and have the loans re-negotiated at lower and stable rates. I'll prevent bankruptcies from medical bills. I'll abolish the Federal Reserve Bank; the Constitution gives the right to control the money supply to Congress and Congress had no right to alienate that power. I will drastically increase taxes on every business with production plants in other countries. I will not allow any CEO to pay himself more than 5 times as much as the least-paid employee. I will guarantee the right to work and an income at least half the median, and abolish the right to expected profit on investment. I'll require expenditure bills to state the origin of funds and tax bills to state the purposes of money raised.

Candidates for State Senator 26th District

Two-Year Term

CANDIDATES' REPLIES ARE PUBLISHED EXACTLY AS SUBMITTED, WITHIN THE 150-WORD LIMIT SPECIFIED. CANDIDATES ARE LISTED IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY APPEAR ON THE BALLOT.

1) Given the worsening international, domestic and human consequences of the current energy crisis, describe in detail your ideas for both immediate and long-term solutions for Connecticut. 2) What more can Connecticut do to improve the accessibility and affordability of health care?

Toni Boucher

Republican

State Representative, Board of Education Chair, Selectman, State Board of Education, Business executive, entrepreneur and director, MBA, series 7&63, mother of 3, married 38 years.

1. We must increase domestic oil and gas production and promote widespread adoption of alternative energy. There is no excuse, however, for not addressing the one factor the legislature controls: we must cut and cap the gas tax. One of Connecticut's gas taxes goes up every time the price of gas rises! The state makes windfall profits while only a fraction of that revenue is reinvested in transportation. I will work to create tax credits for fuel cell and renewable energy technologies; and to provide incentives for consumers to adopt these technologies in their homes, businesses and vehicles. I will encourage universities to focus on green technology talent and research. The state must take more responsibility for conservation programs and implement a comprehensive state energy policy.

2. Our strategy must provide high-quality healthcare to the 6% of Connecticut residents who are uninsured, without damaging the system that insures 94% of the state. With Governor Rell, we created the Charter Oak Health Plan, which is beginning to provide coverage to thousands of previously uninsured people. Charter Oak puts affordable healthcare within reach of small business employees, people between jobs, recent graduates, and early retirees.

We also must lower costs for those who currently have insurance by limiting the number of health insurance mandates. While individual mandates may seem fair, state law now includes 50 separate ones, which collectively result in large increases to your premiums. Moreover, with some of the highest medical malpractice costs in the nation, our doctors in high risk specialties are being forced to leave their practices. I will continue to lead efforts to reform burdensome regulations that drive up malpractice and health insurance costs.

John Hartwell

Democrat/Working Families

1. We're in an economic and energy crisis. Gas and home heating oil prices are skyrocketing, and everyone is feeling the pinch. We need a comprehensive energy plan of investment, generation, and conservation.

Transportation and buildings are two major users of energy, and we need to change our approach to both to succeed. Investing in alternative energies and sustainability will drive down energy costs in the long run, is good for our environment and for our quality of life.

My ideas:
- Dedicate gas taxes to public transportation to make it a more effective alternative
- Extend rail service to New Milford, reducing Route 7 traffic
- Establish "subway schedule" local rail service between New Haven and Greenwich
- Increase parking at every station and expand connecting shuttle bus service
- Invest in alternative energy
- Rewrite building codes to promote "green" buildings
- Reward businesses that invest in conservation measures

2. We need affordable health care for families and small businesses, without adding an expensive new bureaucracy. The cost of healthcare is stopping entrepreneurs from starting new ventures, killing existing businesses, bankrupting families and increasing taxes.

Small businesses, schools, towns, and non-profits should be able to join the State healthcare plan to drive down costs. Allowing small businesses to buy into the State healthcare plan will encourage new startups. This plan would also cover teachers, police officers, and other crucially important municipal employees, helping to reduce property taxes.

Healthcare is a right, not a privilege, and we must make sure that all children are covered. I know what it means to have to consider your family's healthcare coverage when thinking about changing jobs or going out on your own. Affordable health care is the way to ensure the long-term prosperity of Connecticut's residents, businesses, and the economy.

Candidates for State Representative District 136

Two-Year Term

CANDIDATES' REPLIES ARE PUBLISHED EXACTLY AS SUBMITTED, WITHIN THE 150-WORD LIMIT SPECIFIED. CANDIDATES ARE LISTED IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY APPEAR ON THE BALLOT.

1) Given the worsening international, domestic and human consequences of the current energy crisis, describe in detail your ideas for both immediate and long-term solutions for Connecticut. 2) What more can Connecticut do to improve the accessibility and affordability of health care?

Nitzy Cohen

Republican

1. Growing up in Jerusalem I had no clue that one can regulate the temperature in which they live in, take a shower at any time of the day, or that a teenager can have a car. And then I came to America! Wow! 24/7 air-conditioning, heat, hot water, and cars for everyone! Heaven! ? However, at what financial price and environmental costs? I believe we can do better than present situation by supporting:
- Fuel cell technology - build fueling stations, convert state and municipal fleets to fuel cell operated cars and buses.
- Solar energy - train and license as many contractors
- Assisting low-income citizens heat their homes
- Permanent gas tax cut, especially capping the wholesale gas tax.
- Allowing 5,000 state employees to telecommute, taking 5,000 cars off the road, reducing emissions and gas consumption.

For more information, please visit my web site www.nitzycohen.com

2. In Connecticut, 92% of the population has health insurance. For the 8% uninsured, Governor Rell introduced the **Connecticut Charter Oak Plan;** the goal of the Charter Oak Health Plan is to provide universal access to affordable health care coverage to Connecticut adults of all incomes. I support the plan, its goals and its cost effectiveness. In addition, I support the **Keep long term care at home** program which enables people who need long-term health care to receive it at home rather than at nursing homes which is a cost-effective alternative. As a businesswoman I recognize the costs for businesses and individuals that make Connecticut an expensive state to live in. We have seen escalating state budgets and taxes, while our population has decreased in the past two decades. I want to make Connecticut affordable for our seniors, our college graduates and businesses. Let's make Connecticut hospitable again!

www.nitzycohen.com

Joseph Mioli

Democrat

1. These past 4 years our efforts significantly improved transportation, environment, healthcare, business, senior and veteran benefits and energy assistance. Last year's budget reflected an impressive 50.6% increase in State contributions to Westport. I defeated a proposed income tax increase. Our current priority should be energy conservation, promoting the use of carpooling, telecommunication for public employees and by offering mass transit commuters tax credits. Efforts should include supporting the construction of new fuel cell generators and regulation of commodities (i.e. electricity) based on production cost and reasonable profit. Continue to promote new fuel efficient cars and the use of gasoline and natural gas for vehicles. Bulk goods shipping should be encouraged by sea and railway. Energy efficiency and education programs promoting energy conservation should be supported. Long term solutions include policies to further develop and promote the use of renewable energy forms: solar; wind, thermal, hydro and fuel cells.

2. Connecticut has many health care programs aimed at lower income families(incomes below $50,000), but thousands of families still need assistance. Even a family with a combined income of $100,000 cannot afford to pay up to $20,000 for annual healthcare. The Charter Oak Health Plan is a good start to addressing healthcare. We must maximize Federal monies and implement a market based health care system with a cost-sharing State/Employer/Employee triad, with the State contribution coming from tobacco settlement monies. Insurance companies need to create a "catastrophic illness pool" with contributions based on the total number of company enrollees, reflecting a fair cost-sharing program. Healthcare professionals and hospitals must be adequately compensated. This year we assigned a panel to analyze current healthcare programs affecting Connecticut residents. This report will be delivered by January 2009, and include a proposal of recommendations to improve and expand current and new healthcare programs.

Candidates for State Representative District 133

Two-Year Term

CANDIDATES' REPLIES ARE PUBLISHED EXACTLY AS SUBMITTED, WITHIN THE 150-WORD LIMIT SPECIFIED. CANDIDATES ARE LISTED IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY APPEAR ON THE BALLOT.

1) Given the worsening international, domestic and human consequences of the current energy crisis, describe in detail your ideas for both immediate and long-term solutions for Connecticut. 2) What more can Connecticut do to improve the accessibility and affordability of health care?

Amanda Parks

Republican

1. and 2. Any plans to solve problems, including energy needs or health care access, are only realistic if we increase business revenue for the State. We have to solve our State's problems without taking more money from the homeowners. CT's economic decline started when we lost our manufacturing base. The revenue for the next generation of manufacturing is going to come from the worldwide demand for alternative energy products. **I want Connecticut to be to Alternative Energy Production for the next generation what Silicon Valley was to computers for the last generation.** Connecticut needs to bring in the high-paying, high-tech jobs that will help our citizens help themselves by providing decent wages and benefits as well as providing revenue to the State's budget that can be earmarked for expanding the Husky Healthcare Plan and providing aid for utility expenses for struggling citizens. I will work hard to attract these high-tech jobs and their associated tax revenue by making it clear to that industry that we want Connecticut to be the center of their universe. Some region is going to reap these benefits. Why not Connecticut? We already have many of the assets and infrastructure businesses want along with a well educated work force. These new, high-tech and high-paying "green" technologies will sustain the tax base for decades and are the only way to pay for the programs that the people of CT desire.

Amanda Parks is a 4th generation Fairfielder who has proven herself as a principled innovator. She and her father started and funded a school in Bridgeport and she is the only local candidate that refused to partake in the $5million that the current State Legislature hypocritically voted itself to spend on their own campaigns.

Kim Fawcett

Democrat

1. As a member of the Energy and Technology Committee, I have helped develop a mix of tax incentives to promote both energy efficiency and clean energy. These include a permanent discontinuation of the state sales tax on the purchase of Energy Star furnaces, CFLs and weatherization supplies, as well as rebates for Energy Star appliances and the elimination of the 6 percent sales tax on high mpg vehicles.

In addition, I have supported the development of an emerging alternative energy industry. The 2007 energy bill promoted the use of alternative fuel for electricity generation, including ethanol, biodiesel, geothermal energy and hydropower. In 2011, 8 percent of our state's electric energy must be generated by alternative energy sources. By 2020, 20 percent of electricity production in Connecticut will be from alternative energy sources.

Through such policies, we are supporting the growth of vital solar, wind, hydro and biodiesal fuel sources.

2. In 2007, I was appointed to serve as Vice Chair of the Health Care Cost Containment Committee. Our committee was charged with drafting legislation to help create affordable health insurance options for Connecticut's municipal governments, small businesses and self-employed individuals. We passed legislation that would have allowed interested businesses or local governments to join the State Employee Benefit Plan, giving them unprecedented access to excellent benefits at affordable rates. While the bill was ultimately vetoed by the governor - forcing Westporters to wait at least another two years to see any relief from rapidly rising insurance premiums - I will continue to be an outspoken champion of health care reform that provides all Connecticut residents with access to affordable, quality health insurance.

Rep. Fawcett and her husband Rick live in Fairfield with their three children: Kylie, 10; Cassie, 9; and Nicholas, 7.

Officials will be on hand at all polling places to answer your questions.

SAMPLE BALLOT

YOU MAY TAKE THIS GUIDE WITH YOU INTO THE POLLING PLACE.

District 136

VOTE ON THE QUESTION(S)	◯ YES ◯ NO 1. Shall there be a Constitutional Convention to amend or revise the Constitution of the State?	◯ YES ◯ NO 2. Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit any person who will have attained the age of eighteen years on or before the day of a regular election to vote in the primary for such regular election?		
OFFICE → / PARTY ↓	1 Presidential Electors for	2 Representative in Congress	3 State Senator	4 State Representative
REPUBLICAN	◯ 1A McCain and Palin	◯ 2A Christopher Shays	◯ 3A Tom Beucher	◯ 4A Nitzy Cohen
DEMOCRATIC	◯ 1B Obama and Biden	◯ 2B Jim Himes	◯ 3B John Hartwell	◯ 4B Joseph Mirto
LIBERTARIAN	1C	◯ 2C Michael Anthony Carrano	3C	4C
INDEPENDENT	◯ 1D Nader and Gonzalez	2D	3D	4D
GREEN	1E	◯ 2E Richard Z. Duffee	3E	4E
WORKING FAMILIES	1F	◯ 2F Jim Himes	◯ 3F John Hartwell	4F
WRITE-IN VOTES →	◯ 1G	◯ 2G	◯ 3G	◯ 4G

District 133

4 State Representative
◯ 4A Amanda Parks
◯ 4B Kim Fawcett
4C
4D
4E
4F
◯ 4G

NOTE:
On this sample ballot, column 4 differs for Districts 133 and 136. The rest of the ballot is the same for both districts.

Cast only one vote for each office.

Remember to bring identification to the polls.

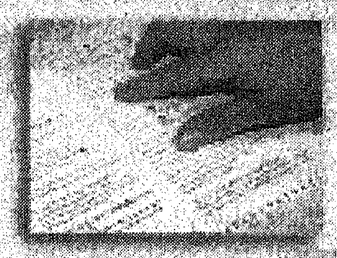
You must show a pre-printed ID before voting. Acceptable forms of ID include:

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

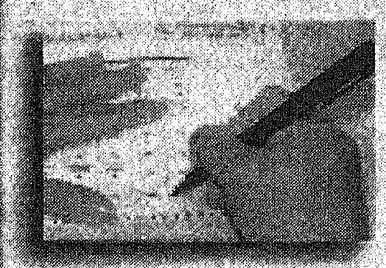
Make sure to exercise your right to VOTE this November 4, 2008.

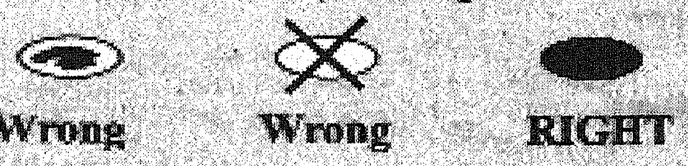
3 EASY STEPS TO VOTING

1 Pick up your ballot and read all directions carefully.

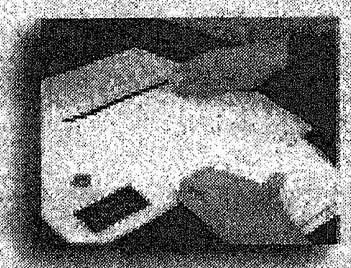


2 Make your selection by filling in the oval with the pen provided. Make sure you COMPLETELY fill in the oval of the candidate or issue of your choice. If you make an error, please return your ballot to the election official and request a new ballot. If you need to write in a candidate, do so on the line provided and COMPLETELY fill in the corresponding oval.





3 Review your ballot and carefully feed it into the Optical Scan Unit. This will cast your vote.



VOTE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2008 POLLS OPEN 6 A.M. - 8 P.M. Have Identification Ready