The League of Women Voters of Westport

2007 VOTERS GUIDE

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

VOTE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2007 POLLS OPEN 6 A.M. - 8 P.M. Have Identification Ready

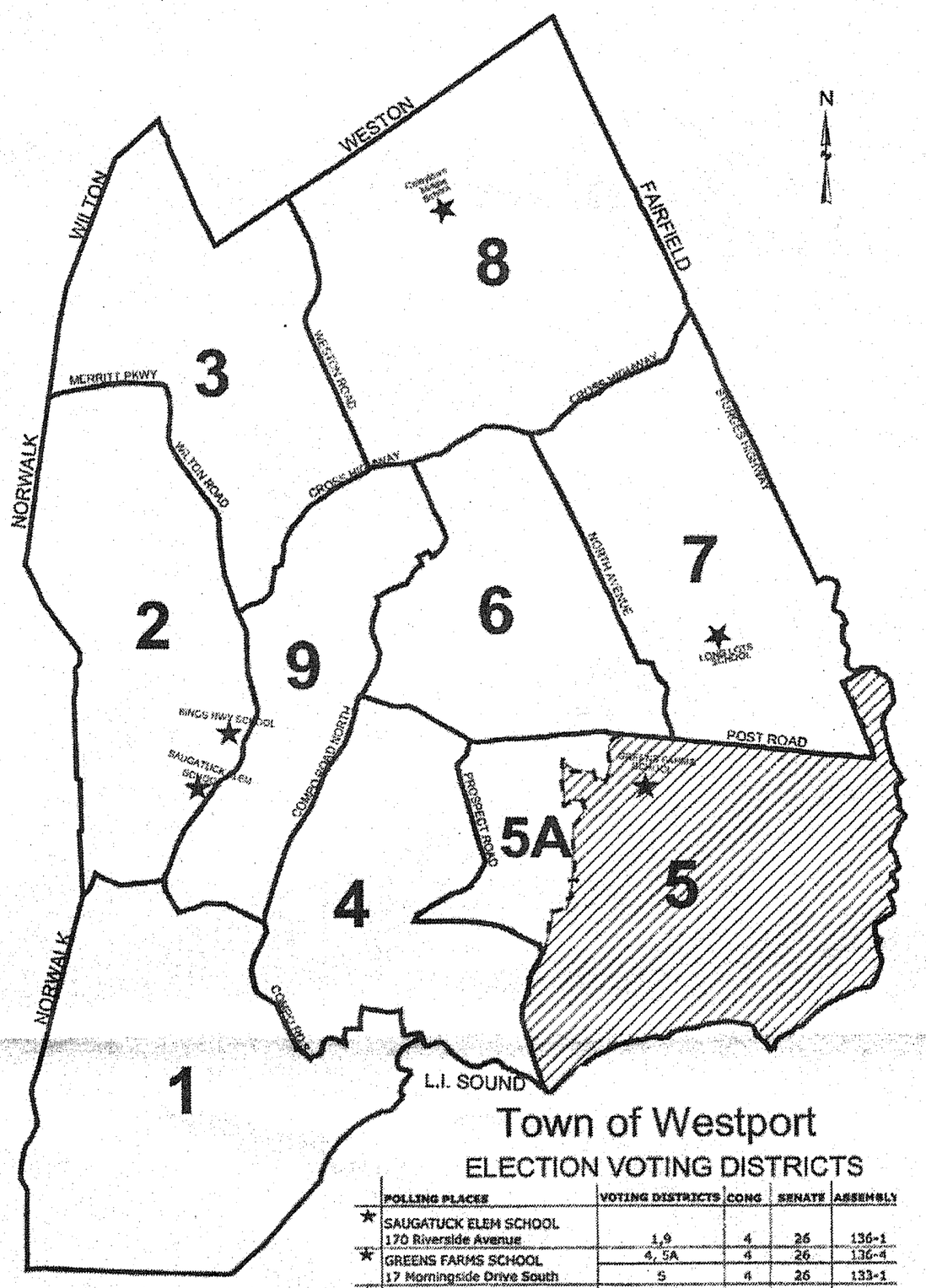
Candidates' replies are published exactly as submitted by our Oct. 5 deadline, within the word limit specified. Candidates are listed in the order in which they appear on the ballot.

Dear Westport Voters,

This Voter's Guide, prepared as a public service by the League of Women Voters of Westport and generously sponsored by the Westport Minuteman, is a helpful tool for educating yourself about our local electoral candidates and their positions. Remember, you can even bring it into the polling booth with you. As you may know, the polls will look slightly different this year, as all of Westport will be using the new optical scanning machines to vote. No more levers to pull! Take a minute to read the simple directions at the bottom of the page. The League encourages informed and active participation in the electoral process. Please go to the polls on Tuesday, November 6th, and exercise your right to vote.

Pippa Bell Ader
Co-President of the League
of Women Voters of Westport

TOWN OF WESTPORT VOTING DISTRICTS



LEGEND
SOLID LINE_____RTM District
DASHED LINE-----Assembly District
ENTIRE TOWN -4TH Congt. District
ENTIRE TOWN -26TH Sen. District

Town of Westport
ELECTION VOTING DISTRICTS

	POLLING PLACES	VOTING DISTRICTS	CONG	SENATE	ASSEMBLY
★	SAUGATUCK ELEM SCHOOL 170 Riverside Avenue	1,9	4	26	136-1
★	GREENS FARMS SCHOOL 17 Morningside Drive South	4, 5A	4	26	136-4
		5	4	26	133-1
★	COLEYTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL 255 North Avenue	3,8	4	26	136-2
★	LONG LOTS SCHOOL 13 Hyde Lane	6,7	4	26	136-3
★	KINGS HIGHWAY SCHOOL 125 Post Road West	2	4	26	136-5

The 2007 ballot has 2 sides. Make sure to mark your VOTES on both sides of the ballot.

Additional copies of this guide are available at the

- Westport Public Library,
- Westport Town Hall

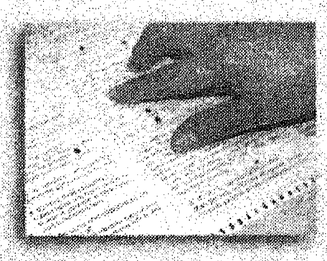
and the

- Westport Senior Center

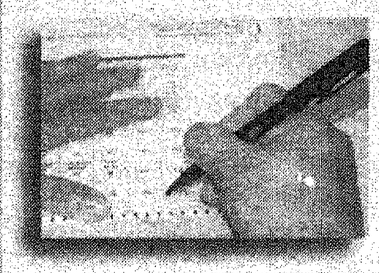
The LWV of Westport owes many thanks to Patricia Strauss, Town Clerk, for her help with this guide.

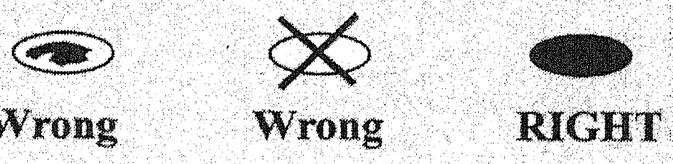
3 EASY STEPS TO VOTING

1 Pick up your ballot and read all directions carefully.

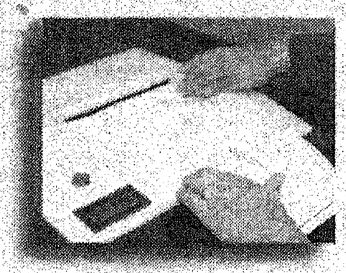


2 Make your selection by filling in the oval with the pen provided. Make sure you COMPLETELY fill in the oval of the candidate or issue of your choice. If you make an error, please return your ballot to the election official and request a new ballot. If you need to write in a candidate, do so on the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



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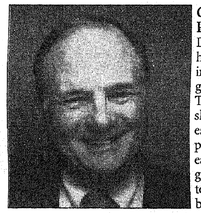
Candidates for Board of Finance

Four Year Term - Vote for Any Four

The Board of Finance has 7 elected members serving staggered 4 year terms, with no more than 4 members from the same political party. Currently remaining members on the Board are 2 Democrats and 1 Republican. The Board is responsible for the fiscal overview of the Town. The Board hires the independent auditors who report to the Board, reviews the annual budget (prepared by both the First Selectman and the Board of Education) and holds public hearings on the proposed budgets. The Board designates funding methods, but usually does not initiate or propose spending. The Board determines the amount to be raised by taxation and sets the mill rate. The Board approves transfers of funds in the Town budget, but not the Education budget, and may approve additional Town appropriations. The Board publishes the annual Town Report. The Board has all the other powers and duties conferred or imposed by law on Boards of Finance.

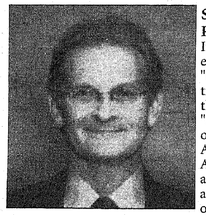
LWV Question: How would you improve the budget process, make it more transparent and involve the public at an earlier stage?



CHARLES HABERSTROH
Republican
During four years on the BOF I have worked diligently to improve transparency in the budget process -- but more is needed. The fiscal year budget process should start earlier. That way, estimated budget requests can be publicly vetted by the BOF as early as possible, permitting it to give meaningful budget guidance to the Town and School District before final budget submissions.

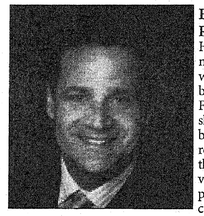
In addition the BOF should perform a budget review of common functions between the town and schools, including but not limited to Payroll, Human Resource Management, Health Reserves, Building Maintenance and IT, in order to realize maximum efficiencies and savings to taxpayers. I would also foster better communication between Boards, creating better transparency to the public.

Background: BOF 4 years: Schools, Audit, Gov't Efficiency Subcommittees; RTM 2 years: Finance Committee; Rotary Immediate Past President, Staples Boys Basketball Association President 10 years; CastleKeep Investment Advisors CEO; Harvard College.



STEWART REIFLER
Republican
If elected, I will use my knowledge, skills and experience to "build" a better and more transparent Board of Finance through the creation of four "balanced" committees that operate year-round: Town Appropriations; School Appropriations; Governance and Procedures; and Revenues and Efficiencies. One member of each party will serve on each committee. The public will be strongly encouraged to participate in the process: first at the committee meetings, where the bulk of the Board's work will occur, and then again at the Board meetings, where final discussion and action will be taken. The Board and committees will each have a Charter, an Annual Agenda, and nonpartisan Governing Procedures; any change will require a supermajority vote.

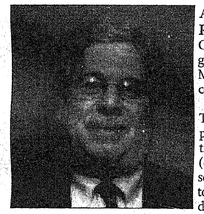
Background: Attorney at Vedder Price; formerly with PricewaterhouseCoopers and Weil Gotshal; Westport Public Library Trustee; expert in executive compensation and corporate governance; BA, Bard College; JD magna cum laude, New York Law School (Law Review).



EDWARD IANNONE
Republican
Having attended nearly every BoF meeting and planning session that was held to produce our current budget, I offer two suggestions. First, the individual departments should hold public meetings well before presenting their budget requests to the board. This gives the public an opportunity to provide feedback earlier in the process so that department heads can consider, prioritize and include it in their plans.

Second, transparency and cooperation between departments need to be encouraged. They should be motivated to explore synergies to be achieved by combining redundant functions. For example, I think the payroll and accounting systems of the schools and the town should be combined, resulting in a significant savings of taxpayer dollars with no degradation in the quality of education or town services.

Background: Cantor Fitzgerald Partner, Chartered Financial Analyst, Naval Academy, 20 years financial experience on Wall Street and government, Lacrosse Coach, PTA, Married, 3 young children.

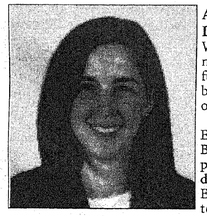


ALAN PHILLIPS
Republican
Our existing budget process has a great deal of transparency. Meetings are broadcast live and are covered by two local newspapers.

To encourage further transparency and public participation, we should limit executive (closed) sessions to sensitive personnel/contract issues. We need to also make available the earliest drafts of the town and school budgets on the internet with hard copies available at Town Hall.

As a CPA and entrepreneur, I believe an important area requiring greater transparency is communication around operational, managerial, and system efficiencies across the school district and the town. The current "silo" structure limits these public discussions. The resulting savings can be used to reduce our tax burden while maintaining or improving services across our population - young families, empty nesters, and seniors.

Background: CPA, Co-owner SportsCenter of Connecticut , former owner nationwide finance company, Westport resident since 1988, wife Barbara and four children. Past President Conservative Synagogue.

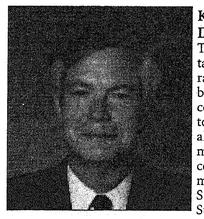


ALLYSON STOLLENWERK
Democrat
We can immediately involve members of the public more fully in the budget process if we better inform them of existing opportunities for participation.

Early in the budget cycle, the Board of Finance hosts public planning meetings with Town departments and the Board of Education. Board subcommittees, like the one I chair on enhancing revenues, meet publicly to review areas of the budget in detail.

To increase attendance at these sessions and make them true channels for transparency, we should promote them at schools, the senior center, and other community groups; utilize technology to allow live participation via the internet; and document outcomes on the town website.

Background: Member, Board of Finance. Member, Board of Assessment Appeals (2003-05). Stanford University BA. Yale Law School JD. Senior executive, Save the Children. Former corporate securities lawyer. Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General of the U.S. (1998-99). Married with a two-year-old son.



KEN WIRFEL
Democrat
The Board of Finance must take an early role in the preparation and review of the town budget. Given the growth and complexity of the budget, and to better balance the needs of all of our residents, the BOF must engage in an open and continuing exchange of information with the First Selectman's Office, the Superintendent, and the Board of Education from the earliest stages of preparation through final presentations to the BOF.

The town has taken positive steps this past decade to open the process to the public but more can be done. One easy step? Start meetings earlier.

We should also explore the use of interactive technology to expand citizen participation in public and televised meetings.

Background: 15 year resident. Attorney in private practice. Former Ass't. U.S. Attorney, NYC. Vice-Chairman and Founding Parent, Cooke Center for Learning and Development, NYC. Former President, Minute Man Hill Tax District.

Candidates for Board of Education

Vote for Any Three

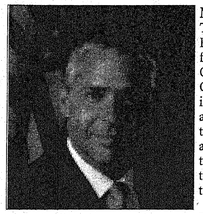
The Board of Education has 7 elected members serving staggered 4 year terms, with no more than 4 members from the same political party. Currently remaining members on the Board are 2 Democrats and 2 Republicans. The Board is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the public school system in the Town and has all the other powers and duties conferred or imposed by law on Boards of Education. Notice of regular meetings and agenda are published at least three days before each meeting in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the Town.

LWV Question: How would you improve the budget process, make it more transparent and involve the public at an earlier stage?

SANDY DEFELICE, Republican
I am running for the Board of Education (BOE) for the specific purpose of improving communications among the administration, other boards, committees and the public, especially during the budget process.

I recommend that public input be collected early in the school year through online or phone surveys, and through planned town/ BOE work sessions. BOE meetings must be restructured to accommodate this new process. Webcasts should be implemented for the public unable to attend. The PTA should be continually leveraged to help inform and position issues within the school community. Strong short and long term forecasting (including a 5-year capital plan), coupled with effective cross communications will result in a more transparent budget process.

I am currently the Director of Retail Sales for multi-billion dollar information technology company; wife and mother of a kindergartner in Westport.

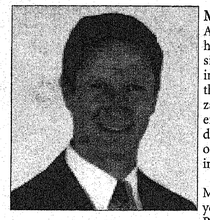


MICHAEL MCGOVERN, Republican
The budget process begins each year with the adoption of the Board's Goals. These provide the Administration with Objectives for the upcoming year, and the budget is developed to meet those Objectives. On September 26th, 2007, when the Board adopted its Goals for 2007-2009, I recommended that the Goals be published in our local newspapers, in order to provide greater transparency and public involvement in the budget process. This recommendation was enthusiastically received by my fellow Board members and the Superintendent. I believe that the broad dissemination of the Goals will enable all Westporters to be more informed about the priorities of the BOE and the timing and potential impact of these Goals on the budget.

Background: Board of Education Member; Trustee, Regis High School, NYC; Westport resident 11 years; Four children in Westport schools; MBA (Columbia); Twenty years investment banking experience with JPMorgan and HSBC.

FAITH TAYLOR, Democrat
I've attended BOE meetings for over ten years, and have been struck by both the tremendous budgetary challenges and the need for public participation in this process. We've gained accessibility and transparency through televising meetings, as well as offering budget documents online and budget workshops. Less educational jargon in the budget document, and more "user-friendly" annotations, will help. We need more budget workshops, well publicized, accessible and convenient to the public. Early interaction with the RTM and BOF is critical. Board members should venture into the community during the budget process, to gain input and to provide information. Virtual interaction with the public, by live e-mail questioning during the meetings, is the next step.

Westport Public Library Trustee; President, Friends of Westport Public Library; PTA Co-President, Bedford Middle and Staples High School; Co-President, PTA Council, Member, Westport Youth Commission. Three children (2 Staples graduates, one sophomore) Non-profit administrator.



MARK MATHIAS, Democrat
All budget meetings are held in public and most are televised. We have work sessions with the Board of Finance and an all-day session devoted to budgeting. Where I believe the public can be involved at an earlier stage is through community involvement of the PTA, RTM, and other stakeholders to work with their organizations to provide input to the Board of Education. This will ensure that questions and concerns are considered early in the deliberation process, thereby ensuring that everyone has had an opportunity to discuss and understands what items are included in each year's budget.

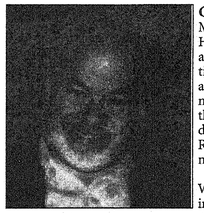
Mark Mathias is an information technology executive with 30 years of experience. He has served four years on the BoE, two as BoE Vice-Chairperson.

Candidate for Board of Assessment Apeals

Vote for One

The BAA consists of 3 elected members whose term of office is 4 years with no more than 2 members of the same political party. Currently remaining members on the Board are 2 Democrats. The BAA has all the powers and duties conferred or imposed by law on Boards of Assessment Appeals. At least 3 sessions are required by State law to hear residential and commercial property appeals for the Grand List that is filed by the Westport Assessor. The Board continues to meet until all appeals are reviewed and notices are mailed to all applicants. This enables the Board to file the Final Board of Assessment Appeals Approved Grand List which is required prior to the Board of Finance meeting to set the mill rate.

LWV Question: How will you ensure that the taxpayers know their rights and responsibilities under the assessment appeals process?



GARSON HELLER, JR., Republican
Member - Board of Assessment Appeals ("BAA") for 25 years. Have spoken to groups of taxpayers on how to prepare for their assessment appeal, and am willing to answer individual's questions over the phone. At the appeals hearing, members of the BAA are willing to answer questions and help with an appeal. Before making an appeal, the property owner should have a good idea of their property's 100% market value on the most recent assessment date, currently 10/1/2005. Reason for the appeal is important. Reasonable "comps" should be included, if available. This information is available online, or at the Assessor's office in Town Hall.

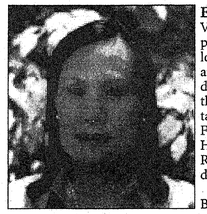
Westport resident 43 years; graduate of Yale; retired after a career in engineering and computers; member RTM 14 years. All three children graduated from Westport Schools and wife, Velma Heller, retired from Westport School System, is running in District 9 for her 4th term in RTM.

Candidates for Zoning Board of Appeals

Vote for Three

The ZBA consists of 5 elected members; no more than 3 may be members of the same political party. Currently remaining members on the Board are 2 Democrats and no Republicans. In addition, there are 3 alternate members of the ZBA; no more than 2 may be members of the same political party. The ZBA has all the powers and duties conferred or imposed by law on Zoning Boards of Appeal.

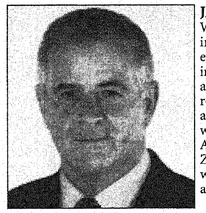
LWV Question: How can the decisions of the ZBA preserve the character of the town and address environmental issues within the context of the new Westport 2007 Plan for Conservation and Development?



ELIZABETH WONG, Republican
Variances must be consistent with the principles and underlying philosophy of Westport's Town Plan. Analysis of the short and long-term effect of variances on the conservation, preservation, and restoration of Westport's resources is vital when accommodating the needs of our thriving community. Consideration of the regulations and resolutions of other government entities pertaining to an application, such as the Conservation Commission, Flood and Erosion Control Board, State DEP, CAM, FEMA, Health Department, Historic Commission, and Architectural Review Board ensures an informed, cohesive and harmonious decision.

Background: Current ZBA Vice-Chairman (8 yrs.), Member (10 yrs.); Land-Use Paralegal, Maslan Associates, P.C.; Neighborhood Preservation and Housing Policy, NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal. League of Women Voters. Former PTA Executive Board - KHS and BMS. M.S. Urban Planning, Columbia University. 26- year Westport resident. Husband, James Wong, M.D.; daughter, Alicia.

WILLIAM R. HARRIS, JR., Republican
I have a keen personal interest in preserving the character of the town I moved to over 50 years ago. As a former commercial oysterman working Westport waters I directly felt the impact of poor environmental practices. However, the ZBA is strictly defined as "an administrative agency which exercises quasi-judicial functions to provide relief in cases where literal application of the Zoning Regulations...produce(s) undue hardship..." The ZBA's job is to provide a fair, neutral, and open forum for residents to make their case for extraordinary circumstances that could not otherwise be addressed. As a quasi-judicial body, the personal biases of those who sit upon it should not pre-determine their decisions. The key is that variances are granted fairly and the decisions perceived to be so by all our citizens. In short, capricious decisions can destroy the town. Well reasoned and fair decisions can preserve it.



JAMES EZZES, Democrat
When an application for a variance is reviewed, all pertinent zoning regulations and ordinances are considered. The request is evaluated and comments considered from town departments, including Conservation and Engineering, and a decision is made as to whether a "hardship" exists as defined by the local zoning regulations and state statutes. The Town Plan for Conservation and Development is an important component. As a community we are trying to maintain a small town, residential "feel". Although architecture/ aesthetics cannot be part of a decision, the ZBA can make an evaluation as to the size and bulk of a building; whether it is in harmony with the neighborhood and doesn't adversely affect the surrounding area environmentally.

James C. Ezzes has been a member of the ZBA for 12 years; ten years as Chairman. A former entertainment industry executive, Mr. Ezzes, a residential contractor, is a fifty-four year resident of Westport.

Candidates for Planning and Zoning Commission

Vote for Any Four

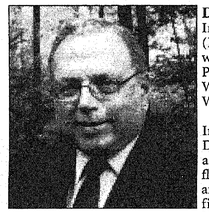
The P&Z has 7 members serving staggered 4 year terms with no more than 4 members of the same political party. Currently remaining members on the Board are 3 Democrats and no Republicans. There are 3 alternate members whose term of office is 2 years; no more than 2 alternates may be members of the same political party. In addition to the powers and duties conferred or imposed by state law on Planning and Zoning Commissions, the Commission is required to update the Town Plan of Conservation and Development at least every 10 years, and determines the manner in which zoning regulations are enforced. They hold an average of 2 public hearings every month to review subdivision, special permit, and zoning amendment applications; site plan applications are also reviewed at these meetings.

LWV Question: Which aspects of the new Westport 2007 Town Plan of Conservation and Development would you consider a priority for immediate action?

TIM WETMORE , Republican
Timothy Wetmore is an architect, Member Westport Planning & Zoning Commission since 2005, Member School Building Committee, Staples/Long Lots Subcommittees, Westport resident since 2007, Married-Lorraine, father, of three, Parishioner Assumption Church.

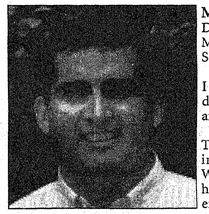
I would consider our most urgent priority is to strengthen existing protections found in the Zoning regulations to safeguard residential neighborhoods from the intrusion of unwanted commercial activities and, high density multi-family developments.

Westport isn't alone in its struggle to maintain control over our community's identity in the face of state mandated mechanisms (8-30g) that allow developers to bypass local regulations. We must join with other communities to combat these efforts in Hartford. We must employ new strategies to regain control by strengthening special permit criteria, investigate sewer allocation plans which will limit the size of possible developments, perform comprehensive reviews of established residential zones, while establishing viable mixed use/ multi-family zones along appropriate commercial corridors.



DAVID PRESS, Republican
Incumbent - Four years, 22 year Westport resident; Married (Martha) with 3 adult children (Elizabeth, Dan and Kathryn) who attended Westport schools, Portfolio Manager with Strategic Partners Investment Advisors; MBA (Columbia) and CFA, Westport local history researcher and writer, Member of Westport Historical Society and Friends of the Westport Library.

Immediate action is needed to repair Westport's infrastructure. Decades of deferring stream improvements, culvert replacements, and storm drainage upgrades means major and repeated road flooding in Westport during storms. Flooding damages businesses and homes, cracks roadways and erodes shoulders, enters septic fields, and harms trees, shrubs and lawns. The investment Westporters make in their homes and businesses needs to be complimented by the Town's timely infrastructure investment. Delay only increases the cost and damage. This is within the power of the Town and where there is a will there is a way.



MIKE KRAWIEC, Republican
Director Commercial Mortgage Acquisitions - Allianz of America Married (Sharon) with 2 children attending Kings Highway School, Coach - Westport Little League

I will immediately work to address the needs of Westport's residents for affordable housing while limiting the increase in density and maintaining the integrity of our single family neighborhoods.

The town's infrastructure and facilities are at capacity. Further increases in density will only reduce the quality of life for Westport residents. Slow progress in creating viable affordable housing has resulted in single family neighborhoods being threatened by developers seeking to build high density condominium and apartment complexes under state statute 8-30g.

The Planning and Zoning Commission must display leadership and enact regulations encouraging development of a limited number of affordable multi-family units in appropriate areas of town that maintain the community's character, maintain the integrity of our single family neighborhoods and do not further increase traffic congestion.

HELEN BLOCK, Republican
A key aspect of the 2007 Plan of Conservation and Development must be to preserve and enhance our environment. It is the underlying need relevant to the quality of life in our community. One immediate action is to enact a septic management ordinance. This measure will assist with protecting our water and recharge areas, will prevent unnecessary dependence on sewers and may have a positive impact on overdevelopment. We must take the lead to create zoning, which addresses some of the challenges of our demographics but uses available infrastructure in areas best served by public transportation and services. We must collaborate with other town departments to deed restrict the numerous existing apartments to reach a moratorium so we may plan in ways that do not erode town character and focus on town wide needs. Lastly, maintaining single-family residential zones is an immediate priority, which I will continue to champion.

ELEANOR LOWENSTEIN , Democrat
For the first time, the Westport Town Plan calls for an Implementation Committee. Creating this committee, with representatives from appropriate town commissions and departments, is the No.1 priority, as the committee can ensure that the plan is followed in a timely manner.

The most immediate Plan actions to take are:
Reduce traffic and ameliorate congestion; Address housing needs of the workforce and long-time residents, considering traffic, transportation availability and demand on municipal facilities; Stepped-up open-space preservation, both public and private; Revise storm-water controls to reduce flooding, control rainwater flow and improve water quality for our rivers and LI Sound.

Background: Since 1996, chair (and co-chair) of the Planning and Zoning Commission; managed the development of the 1997 and 2007 Town Plans. Non-profit elderly housing, board member. Past president, Westport League of Women Voters and Long Lots PTA. Past board of Staples PTA, PTA Council.

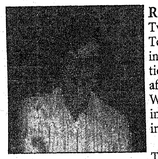
Candidates for RTM

District One - Vote for Any Four

LWV Question: How will you use the 2007 Plan of Conservation and Development of Westport to address the critical needs of your district and the Town as a whole?

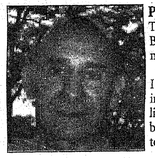
DIANE D. CADY
Continued work to preserve and protect Long Island Sound, beaches, Saugatuck River, streams, brooks and wetlands, particularly by rewriting and strengthening the ordinance called Waterway Protection Lines. Support maintaining and adding to open space and trees. Continue to work for the protection of the threatened Saugatuck area, particularly by improved and enforced zoning standards. Support limitation of home size to fit the scale and proportion of the neighborhood. Vote for diversity and affordability of housing: town workforce, singles, seniors. Encourage an overall and coordinated plan for downtown Westport plus sidewalks and bike lanes across town. Fiscal responsibility, particularly with regard to increased debt.

Background: Chair, RTM Environment Committee. 47 year Westport resident. Raised 3 children who went through Westport schools. Former President, Westport Young Woman's League. Led initial campaign for flood control, Compo Beach; found assistance for elevating houses over flood levels.



ROSE ANN PRESTON
Two years on the RTM has doubled my awareness of the importance of Town Planning and its implementation to Westport's future. Faced with intense pressure from developer "teardowns" and proposed increased densities in family neighborhoods, we must strive to preserve single family, affordable, workforce, and historic housing or lose the character of the Westport we know. Saugatuck, with its RR station and I-95 ramps, is in imminent danger of becoming a motorist's nightmare that could negatively impact traffic patterns throughout town.

These problems need our attention now. As chair of the RTM Transit Committee and a member of both the RTM Public Works and P&Z Committees, I 'm in a unique position to ensure that recommendations in the new Town Plan can become a reality. Hard work and close attention to detail will preserve Westport's character and diversity.



PETER CHELICO
The Plan lists all the important issues that we face and should serve as our BLUEPRINT for the future. As a member of the RTM, I will use the Plan as my guide, and will urge departments and commissions in town to do the same.

I believe that our most important priority is to take the Plan and translate it into achievable goals, with targets for meeting such goals, including a time line to do so. We need to have the discipline to reach our goals and not get bogged down in endless debates and disputes. I encourage town residents to actively participate in this process.

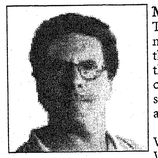
I hope that I can act as a catalyst in this effort. I believe in bringing people together and creating the consensus that we need to maintain the special nature of our town.

I would be honored to represent District 1 on the RTM.

JUDITH STARR
28-year resident; served on PTA Board of children's schools; serving third term on RTM, member RTM Planning & Zoning, Public Protection, Environment, Rules Committees, Chair, Public Works Committee.

The "Top Three" values identified by residents at the planning forums are: preserving open space, maintaining our community's character, and controlling traffic. These should be the guideposts as we navigate land use demands. The plan recognizes the longstanding goal to sewer Saugatuck Shores, crucial to protect the health of Long Island Sound and our beaches.

District 1 is a microcosm of Westport: open space (including Compo Beach and Long Island Sound), single family neighborhoods, a commercial area, and traffic. What happens here reflects what happens throughout town, and vice versa. The "Top Three" are preservation-oriented goals that residents have clearly articulated. Any land use decisions that might be appealed to the RTM, I would evaluate within these citizen-given guidelines.



MATTHEW MANDELL
The first two philosophies of the Town Plan are "Conserve and protect natural resources" and "Protect residential neighborhoods." These form the foundation of my dedication to the residents of our community for the past seven years. Westport and specifically the Saugatuck area are at a critical juncture as the intent to develop, at a higher density, places pressure on our quality of life in terms of traffic, school enrollment and recreation. Increased taxes ensue, affecting all, especially our seniors.

We must protect open space, promote smart growth and act on behalf of Westporters first. As an advocate for maintaining and enhancing the character of our neighborhoods and town, I will continue to work successfully with my constituents, other residents and Town bodies to achieve these goals.

I'm Director of the Partrick Wetlands Preservation Fund, an Executive Trustee of Earthplace, formed the Neighborhood Groups Gathering and enjoy coaching soccer and softball.

BROCK HOTALING
Westport's Development and Conservation Plan accurately reflects the town's culture and character. Its tenets, however, come in wholesale conflict with the state's 8-30g affordable housing statute (10% "deed-restricted" target against our current 1.3% reality), increasing the potential for budget-draining lawsuits against town taxpayers and destruction of ambience and property values. The Plan's usefulness as an outline of objectives can only be realized by proactively and innovatively addressing the increasing pressures of state law, already witnessed in recent development plans put before P&Z. District 1 must not bear the entire burden, but should work with other district representatives to create a comprehensive Westport Action Plan that roadmaps our incentives for cooperative developers to maintain the Plan's principles (and Westport values) while avoiding a downward spiral of conflict with the state.

My skills in conflict resolution, innovation and results-oriented planning, drawn from business and non-profit executive leadership, are needed for what's coming.

Candidates for RTM

District Two - Vote for Any Four

LWV Question: How will you use the 2007 Plan of Conservation and Development of Westport to address the critical needs of your district and the town as a whole?

SEAN TIMMINS
The Town Plan addresses many different subjects, several of which are relevant to District 2. I will continually reference the plan when appropriate to reinforce out towns ongoing commitment to the preservation of open space for the prevention of urban sprawl. I will also continue to represent the interests of our constituents and their children with regard to schools, finance and public safety.

Sean and his wife Mary Alice moved to Westport in 1994. They have twin 8 yr old daughters named Madison and Victoria who are in 3rd grade at Kings Highway Elementary School. Sean and his wife recently restored the historic Lewis Partrick home c.1823.

Sean is a member of the Westport Volunteer Fire Department, Board Member of Earthplace, Director of the Partrick Wetlands Preservation Fund and Member of the Kings Highway Tools for Schools Committee.

DOROTHY S. HARRIS
The Plan will be very useful to demonstrate what my District 2 constituents and fellow Westporters would like to have happen in Westport; it is, after all, the voice of the people. On the whole I am delighted with the document as it can be used to support many items which I believe, i.e., not moving/modifying the "blue" (sewer) line, building a strong downtown (inclusive of a community center, YMCA and other sense-of-community-building items), preservation of open space, increase of good environmental stewardship and acknowledgement that we have to address our housing requirements (relative to 8-30g, senior housing & "McMansions").

Background:
38 year District 2 native, EMT with Westport Volunteer Emergency Medical Services for past 16 years, RTM since 7/07 (filled vacancy) - on Public Works and Information Technology Committees; Founding President/current Board Member - The Alliance In Limiting Strays (TAILS), a Westport-based spay/neuter nonprofit founded in 2001.

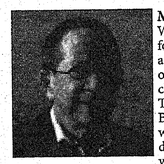
LINDA BRUCE
The actions we take today will lay the groundwork for realizing the goals of the ten year plan. Prioritizing our needs and wants across the town is critical to the good stewardship of our natural, physical, and financial resources.

Conservation and development is important in how it will affect our infrastructure and our quality of life. Effective use of our financial resources must be considered. The RTM's responsibility for the town budget is integral to the town plan.

Westporter since 1989. Community involvement with leadership positions on numerous boards and committees. Married; two children at Staples. Professional experience in investment banking and venture capital in the biotech industry. MBA University of Chicago.

JAY KEENAN
Staples School Building Committee, KHS Maintenance Study Committee, Trustee Earthplace, Selectman's Maintenance Committee
Partner; Delgado Gilbride & Keenan Architects
Married; Caroline, Father, Conor, Callie, Carrick

The Town Plan is a useful guide in the decision making process, for issues brought before the RTM. The plan looks into the future and contains many ideas, wants, and needs for the Town. The RTM's role is to evaluate these ideas in a fiscally responsible way while considering the views of various competing interests. Common sense is most important in the decision making process. More important is the need to strengthen our zoning regulations to protect residential neighborhoods from multi-family developments disguised as affordable housing projects (8-30g). These applications left unchecked will have a cascading effect on our school system, taxes and infrastructure. WE must decide how the Town will be developed, not developers or legislators in Hartford.



MICHAEL GUTHMAN
We are fortunate to live in a town like Westport that has so much going for it. We have a fine school system, excellent parks and recreation areas, and have been largely successful in preserving the residential character of our town. However, as is pointed out in the 2007 Plan, we are faced with challenges and opportunities that impact District 2 and the entire town. These include: traffic, parking, and the prevention of overdevelopment. But we also have exciting opportunities. I am particularly interested in working to increase the vitality and relevance of downtown in residents' day-to-day lives. There are many decisions to be made in the next few years about the library, the police department, the Barons properties, etc. I want to be sure that the decisions are well thought-out and appropriately implemented.
Background - You can read about me and why I'm running at www.guthman4rtm.

The 2007 ballot has 2 sides
Make sure to mark your VOTES
on both sides of the ballot

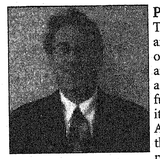
Candidates for RTM

District Three - Vote for Any Four

LWV Question: How will you use the 2007 Plan of Conservation and Development of Westport to address the critical needs of your district and the town as a whole?

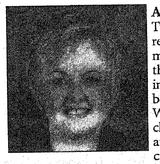
BILL MEYER
My main concern for Westport is that we maintain balance on quality of life issues, looking prudently at educational budgets, administrative costs, and property taxes. The Town Plan (which is currently in draft form only) is mainly written by the Planning & Zoning Commission so the RTM has only nominal input.

Background. A six term RTM member most active Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Committee and serve on the Education and Human Services committees PRESENTLY on Board of Directors of the following Westport organizations. Sunrise Rotary, First Night, Little League, (umpire 20 games a year on the Bill Meyer girls softball Field), Y's Men (former president), AARP, Friends of the Senior Center, and Westport Community Theatre. Saugatuck Congregational Church Council, deliver Meals on Wheels…

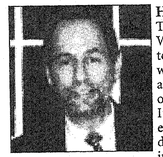


PETER GOLD
The 2007 Plan is a vision of what Westport should be in the next ten years and suggestions on how to get there. It should serve as a check and balance on proposed changes to Planning and Zoning rules, a guide when setting and implementing Town policies and priorities, a way to monitor progress and a springboard to stimulating continuing discussions on the Town's future. However, given anyone's inability to accurately foresee the future, its use must be tempered by common sense when the unexpected happens. As a member of the RTM's Long Range Planning Committee, I contributed thoughts and ideas of my own and of residents of my District during the planning process and provided comments on the various drafts of the Plan.

Resident since 1982, two children, consultant specializing in employee benefits, member of RTM Long Range Planning, Transit and Employee Compensation Committees, former soccer coach 10 seasons.



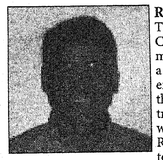
AMY ANCEL
Two top concerns of the 2007 Town Plan are protecting the environment and residential neighborhoods from overdevelopment and commercial encroachment. These issues are particularly relevant to District 3, as we are facing many threats to our residential character from commercial development and increased traffic. Also at risk is the health of the Saugatuck River. There has been little adherence to past town plans by our leaders and regulatory boards. We have simply reacted to developers' demands for a very long time. I intend to challenge that and will use my position on the RTM to influence our boards and commissions to uphold the Town Plan, to honor the people's vision of conserving Westport's assets, and to not pander to special interests. Throughout my 19-year residency here, I have championed these causes and believe that, as stewards of Westport's future, we need to start adhering to and implementing that vision.



HADLEY ROSE
The 2007 Town Plan was formulated with the input of the citizens of Westport. It addresses a complex set of issues. But what it all boils down to is preservation, conservation and anticipation. We need to preserve what makes Westport Westport: our natural resources, the beaches, rivers and open space. We need to protect our neighborhoods from overdevelopment. The Plan sketches out strategies to deal with anticipated changes. It talks about how we can use creative new zoning regulations and enforcement of existing ones to control growth in a rational way. It also discourages us from expanding the Blue Line that might promote more intensive development, especially here in District 3.

I'd use the Plan as a guideline when land use and related issues come before the RTM.

Background - 15-year resident. My children attend(ed) the Westport schools. 4-year RTM member. Member - RTM Education, Public Works and Compensation committees.



ROBERT GALAN
The Town Plan is a guideline made by the Planning & Zoning Commission with input from electors, as well as the RTM and other commissions and boards. Making the town plan functional generally requires a series of public hearings by the corresponding board or commission to enact anything new within the plan. I would have a list of priorities from the Town Plan based on the needs and concerns of the electors of the district as well as broader issues germane to the town at large. I would then work to ensure that these issues were brought before the corresponding RTM committees and the corresponding boards and commissions in the town for enactment.

I was appointed to the RTM in July 2007 to fill a vacancy. Prior to this I was an alternate on the Planning & Zoning Commission from 2005-07.

Candidates for RTM

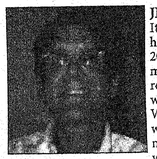
District Four - Vote for Any Four

LWV Question: How will you use the 2007 Plan of Conservation and Development of Westport to address the critical needs of your district and the town as a whole?

GENE SEIDMAN
I was involved with the 1997 Plan, and will see to it that the best ideas of the current plan will be implemented during my next term. I oppose 8-30g "affordable housing" projects and will work to preserve "Open Space" while mitigating traffic congestion. We need an orchestrated and thoughtful downtown "Master Plan" which integrates the library, Levitt, Art Center, Toquet Hall, the Senior Center and, hopefully, the YMCA. "Thinking Green" means more sidewalks and bicycle paths. I see a mandatory annual septic maintenance ordinance, a new police, fire department. and EMS facility, and Parking Harding and Jessup Green developed into a beautiful waterside garden park.

I have coached, served on the Youth Commission, and advise for Builders Beyond Borders. I am a marketing consultant and regular guest on Sirius Radio. I am married to Ana Rogers, with sons Julian and Gabriel. I am proud to serve RTM District 4.

LIZ MILWE
The 2007 Plan of Conservation & Development reflects the important environmental & conservation needs of our town and our future. As a resident of Compo Mill Cove, I value the importance of these conservation efforts and as a member of the Sherwood Mill Pond Advisory Board have been working with a group of concerned citizens to address silting, pollution and invasive plant species around the pond while creating a plan for a passive recreational park for bird watching and kayaking. The 2007 Plan encourages improvement and enhancement of town owned properties, which hopefully will include appropriating funds for Sherwood Mill Pond. The Town Plan also identifies several important issues - workforce housing, public transportation and enhancing community facilities. However, the plan does not address the priorities expressed by our "kids" including creating public after school transportation service, increasing student orientated community facilities and providing a safe driving service for teenagers.



JEFF WIESER
It is important for any enterprise to have a set of guiding principles. The 2007 Plan has clearly been created with much thought, and it has been reviewed by many citizens concerned with maintaining what we all know is Westport's excellent quality of life. I would be very careful to act in a manner counter to any aspect of the plan which has gained such acceptance. I do, however, recognize that a Plan is exactly that: a plan and not a set of legislative acts. I will review any critical issue with the attention it deserves. I will represent my district with the care that is required when an issue comes before the RTM, drawing on my experience as a banker with HSBC, and as a resident of, and volunteer in, Westport with wife, Pat, and three children, since 1985.

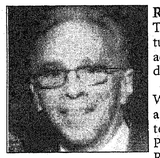
VOTE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2007
POLLS OPEN 6 A.M. – 8 P.M.

Candidates for RTM

District Five - Vote for Any Four

LWV Question: How will you use the 2007 Plan of Conservation and Development of Westport to address the critical needs of your district and the town as a whole?

JOHN BOOTH
The plan of Conservation and Development is appropriate for the town as a whole, with emphasis on residential properties, but not completely applicable for District 5. What makes it different is the combination of residential, commercial and civic entities. Residential properties predominate in single family dwellings and condominiums. Commercial properties include retail stores and office buildings. Town properties include the recycling center, public works garage, a commuter parking lot, the Green's Farm fire station, sewage pump house, Green's Farms Elementary school and adjacent playing field, and Green's Farms Academy. In a category by itself is the Green's Farms railroad Station. RTM Representatives for this district must guard against further encroachment of residential properties, if this area is to retain its residential character. I intend to do this, as I have done as an incumbent representative since I was elected in 1993.



RICHARD LOWENSTEIN
The 2007 Town Plan opens an opportunity for the RTM to determine if its actions are consistent with the Plan's direction.

When the new RTM convenes, I will ask it to examine agenda items in terms of their compliance with the Plan and to require submissions to the RTM to have a Town Plan impact statement:

1. Does the Town Plan apply and, if yes, does the submission conform to the Plan?
2. If it does not conform, why not?

I would apply this "test" to all agenda items, whether proposed by the Town Administration, Board of Education, the Westport electorate, or the RTM itself.

Background: I am a 24-year resident of Westport and an RTM member since 1997. I am chair of the RTM Public Protection Committee and serve on the Public Works, Transit, and Library Committees. Previously, I was a Westport Library trustee for nine years.

CHRIS GRIMM
No response.

Candidates for RTM

District Six - Vote for Any Four

LWV Question: How will you use the 2007 Plan of Conservation and Development of Westport to address the critical needs of your district and the Town as a whole?

RON MALONE
Required reading and reference for all Westporters The Plan is an excellent compilation of information about our Community and the characteristics that challenge our thinking and the need in some instances for change. The Plan's mission statement parallels my own thinking, that of maintaining the integrity of our neighborhoods, as well as protecting the environment. Twenty First Century problems defy easy solutions; the health, welfare and safety of the old, the young and those in between, all need our attention and consideration. Complex issues require hearing all viewpoints, use of critical thinking, sound judgment, commonsense, and decisive actions.
Seventy one year residency, successful twenty three years police experience, sixteen years worthwhile RTM service, years of volunteerism, working daily in Town, and desiring to be of service to others with as much effect as possible, hopefully gains your support.

ANN MARIE FLYNN
The 2007 Plan of Conservation of Development is a guiding path for Westport and tells where we would like to be in 10 years.

Some critical needs would be to embrace 'smarth growth' principles, 'green building strategy, protection of our historical and natural resources, welcome the commitment we have for our schools and address community facility issues. Roadway safety and congestion will continue to be troublesome until a variety of transportation choices are made available.

I would encourage my constituents to be aware of our present position on this road for change and use their ideas and volunteerism in achieving our goals and the town's. As each lights their candle of help our future is brighter and our goals nearer to completion.

Three term R.T.M. member - (and Lover of Westport) - RTM Committees: Public Protection - Parks and Recreation - Planning and Zoning - Library, Museum and Arts.

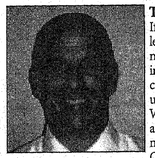
JOANN DAVIDSON
The Town Plan encourages us to consider what kind of Town we want for the next 10 years. I will use it as a guide at budget time. Is there funding for services we need? Are departments properly staffed? When development is planned, RTM committees watch progress on housing, traffic, parking, water quality, and green spaces, all in the Town Plan. Committees also review education, transportation, parks and recreation, our infrastructure, health and safety. We need to guard Winslow Park open space, put in a new ordinance requiring septic maintenance, and revive the "Emerald Necklace" concept for downtown.

The RTM is where any citizen can be heard when these and other issues are debated. You can also watch on Channel 79.

Background: RTM 4 years. Resident 51 years. Three children through Westport schools. Green Energy Task Force. League of Women Voters. Conservation Commission. Retired Westport teacher.

JOYCE COLBURN
As a commisioner on the P&Z(alt) I have spent the past 18 months helping to develop the new town plan, which prioritized the most important issues among Westporters. These are taxes, conservation of open space, traffic and congestion, and protecting residential areas from the encroachment of commercial development.. In addition we need to focus on housing for a growing elderly population, buying land as it becomes available to improve school facilities, and creating better infrastructure for the Police dept., Fire and EMS, all who have outgrown their buildings. As an RTM member I will use my knowledge of the past and current POCD to address these concerns and bring about a large impact on our town and District 6. I want to maintain Westport's historical character while promoting its future.

I've been a Westport resident for over 34 years and earned a Masters Degree from Columbia University.



THOMAS VAN RIPER
If elected I look forward to working with the local boards and commissions to leverage this comprehensive guide to enhance the quality of life and the community character of Westport. This would include traffic and drainage improvements, protecting residential neighborhoods, and restricting commercial development to existing commercial zones. My small town Wisconsin values, combined with 18 years of Wall Street experience (10 commuting from Westport), allows District 6 to have a representative that understands and appreciates all points of view. My RTM candidacy is an extension of my community volunteer efforts, including serving on the advisory boards of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County and the Westport Basketball Association; volunteering at the Westport Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Norwalk Hospital, and Bridgeport's Charles Smith Foundation; and coaching several youth sports teams. I live on Marc Lane with my supportive wife Susan, Long Lots students Andrew and Emma, and our wonderdog Biscuit.

CATHERINE CASSEL TALMADGE
The 2007 Town Plan is the vision for Westport's future and addresses the concerns we all share regarding overdevelopment, traffic congestion, commercial encroachment into residential neighborhoods, preserving open space, environmental protection, quality education, affordable housing, town services and infrastructure. As a District 6 RTM member, I intend to ensure that the town boards and commissions adhere to the spirit of this document, which by its very nature is the mandate of the people. The new plan is ambitious in its vision. Thus, the key lies with the RTM's oversight and exertion of fiscal responsibility, budgetary restraint and fair taxation in its implementation. I intend to listen to my constituents and work directly on their behalf in this effort.

As a 19-year District 6 resident and former Fortune 500 executive, I have the experience and ability to work productively within the RTM's purview to make this vision a reality.

REMINDER
This year's ballot has TWO sides.
Make sure to mark your VOTES on both sides of the ballot.

Candidates for RTM

District Seven - Vote for Any Four

LWV Question: How will you use the 2007 Plan of Conservation and Development of Westport to address the critical needs of your district and the town as a whole?

JACK KLINGE
As Chairman of the RTM Long Range Planning Committee I am totally involved in this project since inception; analytically as well as providing input in meetings. This Plan is most important for the town as we move forward proactively dealing with downtown and neighborhood development, moderate income housing, open space purchase and utilization and more. The key is to actually PLAN not just react, which is the role of our Committee as we work with all town agencies and. We MUST have oversight which has been lacking in the implementation of previous plans. The new plan should be both a set of prioritized objectives as well as a roadmap to reach where Westport should be in ten years. I will help see that this work is done properly and in a timely and affordable basis. Westporter 1966, RTM ten years, substitute in schools, President Friends of Senior Center, Masters Engineering Cornell and MBA Harvard. Active sea duty USN.

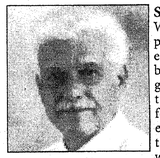
ALLEN BOMES
I will continue to support the critical needs of my district and the town (which are equally important) by working towards maintaining our excellent education system while minimizing tax increases, keeping strong tax abatement and tax deferral programs to protect our seniors, preserving our fine recreation facilities and endorsing other quality of life issues. The Town Plan (which is currently only in draft form) is prepared and implemented by the Planning & Zoning Commission with minimal input from others. Also, it mainly focuses on land use issues over which the RTM has very limited jurisdiction. Therefore, it is doubtful whether the RTM can effectivey use the Town Plan to address the critical needs of the town.

Member of the RTM Finance, Parks & Recreaton and Long Rnge Planning Committees, the School Building Committee, Emily Mclaury House Restoration Committee, Westport Little League Director and CFO/Treasurer of First Night.

LISA S. ROME
As an RTM incumbent, I believe Westport's critical needs are similar to those of District 7. Using the 2007 Town Plan, focus should be on:

- Funding open space acquisition and preservation
- Protecting residential neighborhoods
- Addressing long-term needs of Police/EMS/Fire
- Enhancing senior and youth activities
- Developing a plan to reduce traffic congestion/reconfigure parking
- Increasing awareness of historic resources
- Prioritizing needs to maintain a strong educational system and quality of life improvements through prudent fiscal policies

Sixth-term RTM Representative; Deputy Moderator of RTM; Chair Health and Human Services; on Finance, Public Protection, Employee Compensation, Rules and Ethics Committees; Physician; Clinical Instructor in Medicine, Yale; past Fairfield County Board ADL; LWV; Former Board of Directors, Domestic Violence Crisis Center; former WYWL sustainer; past Little League Coach; B.A. M.Ed. Child Study, Tufts



STEPHEN RUBIN
Westport's 2007 Plan of Conservation and Development is just that, a plan. It will be up to all of us including the RTM to address each and every issue over the next many years. It is not a stand alone magic bullet that will automatically serve all needs and wants. I will use it as guide for both reference and direction. Every resident had the opportunity to be part of this plan with help from paid professionals therefore it is a very valuable document and tool that I will not ignore. As each district clearly has individual requirements I would like to think that whatever happens in any part of town results in affecting the wellbeing of all of our great Town of Westport. Thanks to all of you and the LWV and please come out to vote.

Candidates for RTM

District Eight - Vote for Any Four

LWV Question: How will you use the 2007 Plan of Conservation and Development of Westport to address the critical needs of your district and the town as a whole?

LOIS SCHINE
As a member of the RTM for the past ten years I have participated in numerous discussions regarding the Town Plan. I currently serve on the Long Range Planning , Planning and Zoning, Finance and Rules Committees. The most important feature of the Plan is the Implementation Committee. I have suggested which groups should be represented in that committee and feel that it is most important to create such a body.
The acquisition and protection of Open Space have long been issues which I have been involved in and will continue to be. There is one large tract of land left in private ownership in the district and I have promoted the possibility of town ownership. District 8 is a residential area and needs to remain as such. Although the traffic issue is a difficult one it is important to be creative in trying to alleviate it.

MICHAEL REA
No response

JONATHAN PHILIP STEINBERG
District 8 is primarily residential, so I'm concerned about intensive development. The Town Plan seeks to balance homeowners' rights to build their dream homes with the contrasting desires to maintain the Town's character and avoid overdevelopment. As house sizes and property coverage increase, so do environmental risks. I'll sponsor RTM ordinances requiring septic system maintenance and enhanced conservation of sensitive ecosystems.

More broadly, the Plan endorses efforts to promote downtown Westport as a gathering place for cultural and community activities, not just a shopping destination. Serving on the RTM Long-Range Planning Committee, I will continue to push for a specific and actionable Downtown Plan to be implemented expeditiously.

To preserve Westport's superior educational programs while observing fiscal responsibility, we must explore appropriate budget reform, achievable through improved operational efficiencies.

Jonathan Steinberg: 25-year Westport resident, graduate of Staples High and Yale University. Jonathan and Nancy have three children in Westport schools.

WENDY G. BATTEAU
Good decisions are grounded in good information. The carefully researched Town Plan provides this. Though it can't substitute for frequent dialogue, I will use it as an essential reference and action plan, documenting Westporters' priorities and detailing strategies for preserving the town's distinctive character. District 8 shares the needs we must balance: preserving environment, health, neighborhoods, open space and security; controlling traffic; supporting our storied cultural and recreational assets, inspiring community; creating affordable housing, considering potential impacts; sustaining our excellent education system; maintaining infrastructure. To meet all challenges I will consider each opinion, research issues, and make fiscally prudent decisions.
Background: Create PBS kids' series, books, cd's. Senior Executive, Simon & Schuster and Random House; cofounder Sierra Club Publishing. Volunteer, CES, CMS, PYD, LWV, Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, Nature Conservancy, NRDC, and more. BA Brown, MFA Stanford/SFSU. Husband, Robin Batteau. Son at Staples. 15 year resident.

Why voting for Representative Town Meeting (RTM) candidates is so important!

The citizens of Westport who you vote to represent you on the RTM will:

* Vote on every town request for appropriations in excess of $20,000.
* Vote on final approval of the town budget
* Write town ordinances
* Serve on one or more committees that review and make recommendations regarding appropriations and ordinances.

Candidates for RTM

District Nine - Vote for Any Four

LWV Question: How will you use the 2007 Plan of Conservation and Development of Westport to address the critical needs of your district and the Town as a whole?

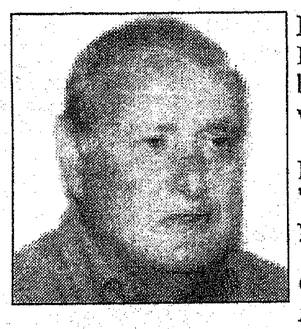
MICHAEL GILBERTIE
No response

MARIA PETTI
The Town Plan was created from a survey conducted among Westport residents to be used as guidance for the future of Westport. We need to preserve the charm and quality of life that Westport offers: maintain excellent education system and recreational facilities; preserve open spaces, environment and residential character of neighborhoods; support cultural offerings; and provide superior services to our diverse community. In doing so, we must be careful to exercise fiscal responsibility. District 9 is the center of Westport, with Main Street, Town Hall, Senior Center, Public Library, Winslow Park, Baron South, Levitt and Playhouse, as well as residential neighborhoods. Our district is integral in preserving the cherished Westport attributes because actions in District 9 affect all Westport residents.

Background: I grew up in Westport (Staples '86). RTM incumbent - Ordinance Committee Chair; Westport Young Women's League; League of Women Voters; Senior Counsel/Xerox; Fairfield University; Brooklyn Law School.

JOHN D. MCCARTHY
The key issues the plan addresses are the protection of our residential neighborhoods and the re-vitalization of downtown. As a leader of the Gorham Avenue neighborhood's fight against a 20-unit condominium development on 1.5 acres in the middle of our single family neighborhood, I have seen first hand how a neighborhood can be terrorized by a developer and shown how a neighborhood and a town can fight back. I also look forward to working to bring more of a sense of community to Downtown through focusing on the needs of residents and not those special interests who want to see parking meters and more chain stores in town.

Background Information
CFO of a technology company in Norwalk, Staples graduate (1982), MBA Wharton/BA Connecticut College, wife Susan, children attend Saugatuck/ Bedford, parents live in town, former Treasurer Interfaith Housing, attend Assumption Church, coach Little League Baseball and Softball, Soccer and Basketball



EUGENE R. BURGESS, JR.
It is not a "true" plan because it is not executable, but a framework to begin assessment and prioritization of funding items outlined in context with the Town's other needs.

I see flooding as a critical issue and is where I will focus my efforts. The '97 Plan addressed it, but it received little or no action over the last ten years.

Gene and his family became Westport residents in 1978. Born in San Antonio, grew up in Western New York, he earned BA in chemistry from Alfred University and a MBA from Michigan State. With wife Carol, they are parents to two daughters. With a business career spanning more than 30 years, Gene previously served as a senior executive in consumer package goods, biotech and software. Currently, he is Managing Director of a consulting firm advising global clients in areas of strategy, performance improvement, and fact-based decision making.

EILEEN FLUG
My priorities for the coming term are preserving the character of residential neighborhoods; supporting workforce housing; improving sidewalks, crosswalks and bike lanes; promoting safe and easy access to parks; and adopting a septic system maintenance ordinance to protect our waterways. Most of these needs are addressed in the current draft of the 2007 Town Plan. I will use the Town Plan as an advocacy tool, to push for change in these important areas in order to make Westport the best it can be.

RTM District 9 Representative since 2005. Co-President of League of Women Voters of Westport. Active in Saugatuck Elementary School PTA. Advocate for healthy food in our schools and member of the Westport Health and Wellness Advisory Committee. Practiced corporate law for 13 years, in Washington, D.C. and NYC. New England native and resident of Westport since 2002. My husband and I have two children attending SES.

VELMA HELLER
As a 43 year Westport resident, I want to preserve, the unique character of our New England shore community. The new Town Plan addresses this goal and challenges us to plan for smart development in the future. Many priorities identified in the plan impact District 9: protecting waterways, open space, local historic districts, residential neighborhoods, creating housing opportunities and downtown Westport development. These are community issues as well. The Town Plan will guide your RTM in making informed decisions about budget appropriations and ordinances that effect Westport's future. As we strive to protect and enhance environmental, cultural and residential assets, we need to consider the needs of all citizens and spend tax dollars wisely.

RTM District 6 (2001-2007), Education Committee Chair, Assistant Professor - Education Sacred Heart University; Retired Westport principal, vice principal, LWV, Friends of Senior Center, Children, Grandchildren Westport Schools

KEVIN D. GREEN
I was a public participant in the Town Plan development process and am an advocate for appropriate sustainable growth, greener energy, and a vital downtown. As an RTM member, I will work to protect our open spaces, prevent reckless growth, maintain excellent schools and fiscal prudence, advocate for greener energy, and help keep Westport a great place to live. My community activism started with my opposition to a proposed zoning change that would have allowed developers to build multi-family dwellings in all of Westport's single family zoned neighborhoods, the first of which was proposed inside the boundaries of the Gorham Avenue Historic District. I will work to resolve the affordable housing issue in a more appropriate manner. Our green energy commitment can be followed at greensgogreen.blogspot.com.

Bio: PhD Physicist with 20 years combined experience in physics research and financial markets. A 7 year Westport resident, I'm married with 2 kids.

Make sure to exercise your right to VOTE this November 6, 2007

SAMPLE BALLOT - TWO SIDES

OFFICE → / PARTY ↓	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Board of Finance Vote for Any Four				Board of Education Vote for Any Three			Board of Assessment Appeals	Planning and Zoning Commission Vote for Any Four			
REPUBLICAN	1A Charlie Haberstroh	2A Stewart Reiller	3A Edward John Iannone	4A Alan S. Phillips	5A Sandy DeFelice	6A Michael J. McGovern	7A	8A Gerson F. Heller, Jr.	9A Timothy William Wolanin	10A David B. Press	11A Michael Kravitz	12A Helen Mann Block
DEMOCRATIC	1B Allyson Stalkenwerck	2B Kenneth L. Wirfel	3B	4B	5B Faith H. Taylor	6B Mark H. Mathias	7B	8B	9B Eleanor S. Lowenstein	10B	11B	12B
SAVE WESTPORT NOW	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C Eleanor S. Lowenstein	10C	11C	12C
	1D	2D	3D	4D	5D	6D	7D	8D	9D	10D	11D	12D
WRITE-IN VOTES	1E	2E	3E	4E	5E	6E	7E	8E	9E	10E	11E	12E

OFFICE → / PARTY ↓	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Zoning Board of Appeals Vote for Any Three			Representative Town Meeting District 1 Vote for Any Four See row D below						
REPUBLICAN	13A Elizabeth Wong	14A William R. Harris, Jr.	15A	16A	17A	18A	19A	20A	21A	22A
DEMOCRATIC	13B James C. Ezzes	14B	15B	16B	17B			20B	21B	22B

RTM will be different for each district

FRONT

< BACK

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
* or you may sign a statement attesting to your identity.

You may take your copy of the VOTER'S GUIDE with you for reference when you go to vote.