The League of Women Voters of Westport

2006 VOTERS GUIDE

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

VOTE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2006 POLLS OPEN 6 A.M. - 8 P.M. Have Identification Ready

Candidates' replies are published exactly as submitted by our Oct. 12 deadline, within the word limit specified. Candidates are listed in the order in which they appear on the ballot.

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

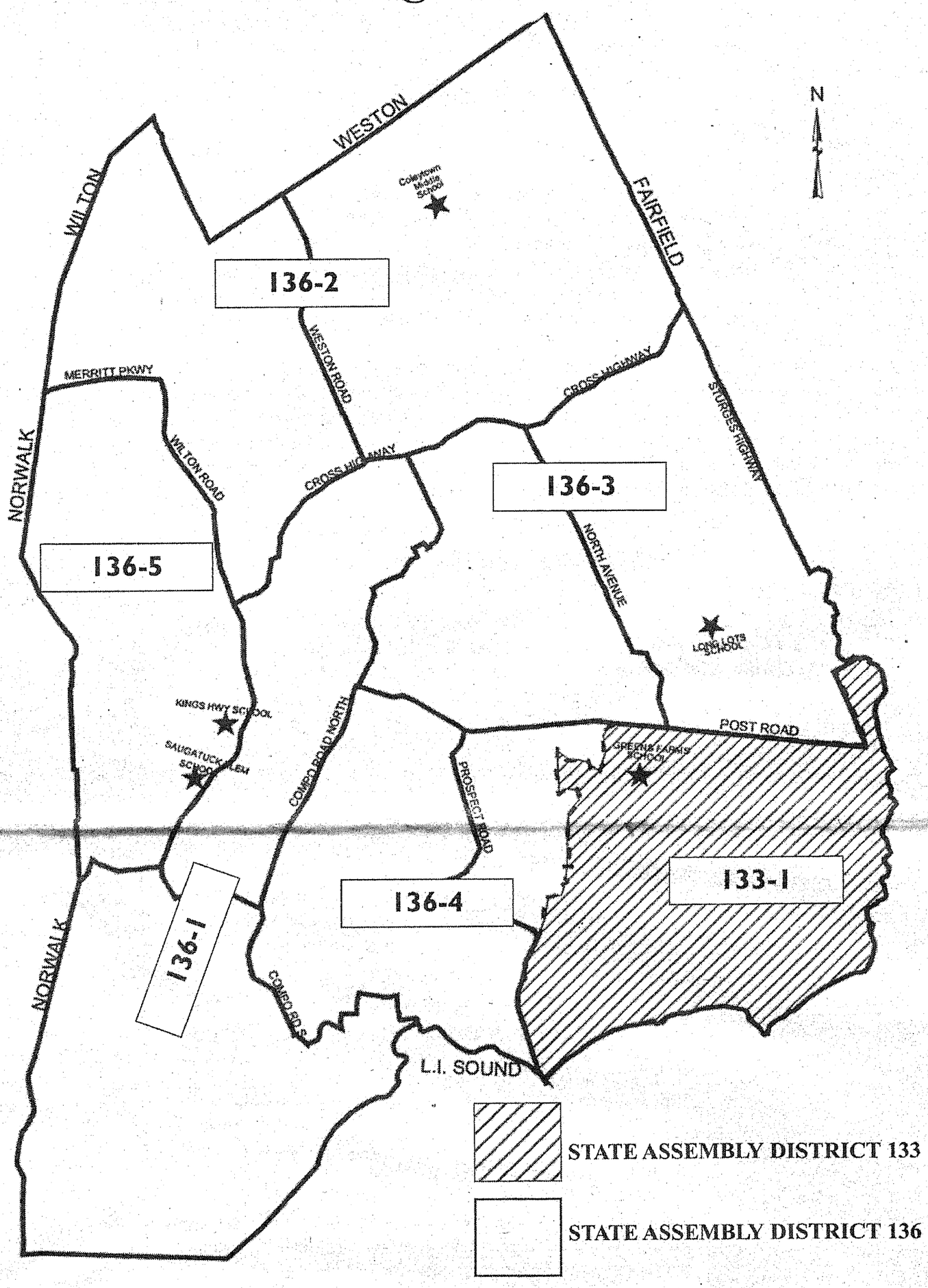
Dear Westport Voter:

Your vote counts! That message has really rung true in the past few elections and this one will be no exception. With a number of hotly contested races we know you are keenly aware of the difference one vote can make. Your voice can only be heard if you cast your vote on Tuesday, November 7th. Absentee ballots are available from the Town Clerk's office, which can be reached at 341-1110.

The League of Women Voters believes that democracy depends on the informed and active participation of all its citizens. This Voters Guide is assembled for you, so that you can learn about the candidates and their positions and make an educated decision on Election Day. We hope you find this Guide helpful.

Eileen Flug
Laura Gallagher
Co-Presidents
LWV of Westport

Voting Districts



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.

TOWN OF WESTPORT ELECTION VOTING DISTRICTS

Polling Places	Assembly District	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 Newspapers
Serving Westport and Weston
1175 Post Road East, Westport, CT 06430
203-226-8877 Fax 203-221-7540

Candidates are listed in the order in which they appear on the ballot. Candidates replies appear exactly as published on LWVCT website. Statewide candidates limited to 75 words per answer.

Candidates for Governor
Four Year Term

CANDIDATES WERE ASKED TO RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:
What are the two most important issues facing Connecticut today, and how would you address them?

M. Jodi Rell, Republican

Biography

Governor M. Jodi Rell was sworn in as the 87th Governor of Connecticut on July 1, 2004, after nine years as Lieutenant Governor. Her start in state government began 20 years earlier when she was elected State Representative, serving the 107th District. Governor Rell was born in Norfolk, Virginia. She attended Old Dominion University and Western Connecticut State University. She and her husband Lou live in Brookfield. They have two adult children and one grandchild.

Answer

Sustaining economic growth and ensuring our children get the best education possible are the most critical issues facing our state – and are inextricably intertwined. As Governor my top priority has been preserving jobs – including 31,500 at the U.S. Navy sub base – and creating new ones through smart investments in growth industries such as bioscience, pharmaceuticals and nanotechnology. We are also investing in education programs, from pre-K to post-doctorate, to ensure the success of future generations.

John DeStefano, Democrat

Biography

John Destefano, Jr. has been elected Mayor of New Haven seven times since 1993. His fellow mayors elected him President of the National League of Cities, and his innovative policies have been replicated across the nation. John is a life-long Connecticut resident. His father was a cop, his mother a beautician. His wife and two sisters teach in Connecticut public schools. Prior to his election, he served in city government for more than ten years.

Answer

Health Care and Jobs are pressing issues that must be addressed by our public servants. As Governor, I will fight for Universal Health Care, closing corporate tax loopholes to fund my plan. Furthermore, I'll cover all state mandates, including women's health issues such as prescription contraceptives, cervical cancer screenings and mastectomy hospital stays. I will also work hard to create 200,000 new jobs and ensure pay equity for the women across the state.

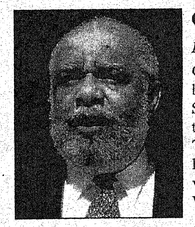
Joseph A. Zdonczyk, Concerned Citizens

Biography

Retired businessman. Founder Concerned Citizens Party. After high school graduation, enlisted and served in Army of occupation after WWII in Japan. Studied for priesthood with Marian Fathers, Stockbridge, Mass. Attended Catholic University in Washington 2 years: 1 year at Waterbury UConn branch. Married . Waterbury
born; residing in Wolcott for the last 34 years. Executive Producer "You and Me Against The World" public access program seen in 9 Conn. Towns.

Answer

Connecticut is the highest taxed strate in the nation; the highest per capita bonded debt. We work 4 1/2 months a year just to pay our taxes. Put the state budget to referendum to reign in spending.
Connecticut military personnel have lost thier lives in Iraq. As a Governor, I would exempt the National Guards from serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and deploy them along the border to protest this country against terrorist infiltration.



Clifford W. Thornton, Jr., Green

Biography

Clifford W. Thornton, Jr., 61, is a retired African-American businessman. After spending 25 years as a middle manager at SNET, in 1995, Cliff founded Efficacy, a non-profit to educate the world about drug policy reform. A Hartford native, Mr. Thornton and his wife Margaret now live in Glastonbury. He has five daughters and two granddaughters. Cliff, an Army veteran, earned a bachelor's degree in Marketing from Waterbury's Post University in 1986. Cliff enjoys jazz music.

Answer

The two most important issues facing Connecticut today are the lack of a disciplined policy process and the economic stagnation of our state. Connecticut needs to consider the ramifications of legislation. A long-term policy study institute could gauge the effectiveness of bills using critical thinking hurdles. Connecticut needs green economic reform, like rebranding Bradley Airport and attracting real international flights. Every one million new passengers at Bradley would create 10,000 new jobs in Central Connecticut.

Candidates for Lt. Governor
Four Year Term

QUESTION FOR CANDIDATES FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:
If elected Lieutenant Governor, what would you plan to accomplish during the next four years?

Note: Additional questions and answers are available at www.LWVCT.org

Michael Fedele, Republican

The LWVCT had received no response from this candidate by deadline.

Mary Messina Glassman, Democrat

Biography

A New Britain native, Mary Glassman built her life around public service. Mary received her J.D. from the University of Connecticut and has worked in the State Capitol, most recently as Chief of Staff to the Lt. Governor. Mary and husband, Andy, reside in West Simsbury with their 3 children.

Answer

As Lieutenant Governor, I would implement Universal Pre-K to ensure children arrive at school ready to learn. I would implement Universal Healthcare ensuring every person has access to quality, affordable care. I would elevate the burden of energy costs by working to promote conservation and renewable energy sources. Finally, I would help raise families and children out of poverty by implementing an Earned Income Tax Credit rewarding people who work for a living.

Jose E. Garcia, Concerned Citizens

The LWVCT had received no response from this candidate by deadline.

Jean de Smet, Green

Biography

Born March 4, 1955 • League of Women Voters, Mansfield Chapter • Magna cum laude, English, University of Connecticut, 1978 • Master Union Electrician • Recording Secretary, IBEW • Founder, Willimantic's 3rd Thursday Street Festivals • Environmental and Community Activist • Co-Chair, Connecticut Green Party • Many Windham committees and regional organizations • Too many state and national environmental, civic, art and advocacy groups to list • Windham's Romantic Willimantic Cupid 2003

Answer

As Lieutenant Governor I will serve as a moral compass and voice of the people for the Governor to counter the lobbyists, legislators and corporations which vie for the Governor's ear. To create a lasting legacy, I will bring broad diversity of citizens onto every commission and agency. This will counter the effects of political appointments and beaurocracies and ensure that the State of Connecticut is representative and accountable to all of our citizens.

Candidates are listed in the order in which they appear on the ballot. Candidates replies appear exactly as published on LWVCT website. Statewide candidates limited to 75 words per answer.

Candidates for U.S. Senator - Six Year Term

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR U.S. SENATOR:
1. Do you believe that lobbying reform is needed? If so, what reforms do you support?
2. How would you balance the need to protect the public against terrorism and individual freedom/the right to privacy?
3. More than 40 million Americans are uninsured, and health insurance premiums are skyrocketing. What short-term and long-term steps do you support to address this crisis?

Alan Schlesinger, Republican

No Biography Provided

Answers

1. Lobbying reform is needed. The recent gift and dinner value ceilings don't begin to address the real risk to our system of government. Until we have public funding of elections, the dramatic incumbency advantage will continue to exist. Our election system is antiquated and just begs corruption. We must allow the Justice Department full investigative powers over Congress just as they have over state and local officials.
2. I would err on the side of protecting our citizens. Throughout our history, the United States has had to balance individual rights with National Security. Even during WWII many citizens had their mail opened and read by American Intelligence if the mail was sent or received from certain countries. We live in dangerous times, we have to be vigilant at every level to protect ourselves from another 9/11 or even worse.
3. Health Care Reform will require the injection of competition and patient involvement in the cost of care and billing decision making. We need to have insurance for major procedures and the use of Health Savings Accounts for recurring costs and procedures. If employers do not provide their employees with insurance, these expenses should be completely tax deductible before AGI in order to be fair to uncovered employees and the unemployed.

Ned Lamont, Democrat

Biography

Ned founded Lamont Digital Systems, in 1984. He's a graduate of both Harvard and the Yale School of Management and a former newspaper editor. In addition to helping raise his children and running a business, Ned has brought innovation to his many community activities. He spent eight years in local government, chaired the state investment advisory council, served on many civic boards, and he also runs a business training program for Bridgeport High School students.

Answers

1. Absolutely. The current system in Washington breeds corruption. There are 63 lobbyists per legislator, and it seems like lobbyists and congressmen have become one and the same. To help combat this problem, I would advocate serious curbs on lobbyists gifts (I am accepting no Washington lobbyist money for my campaign) and I would also advocate comprehensive earmark reform. The practice of earmarking has skyrocketed in the last 6 years, and I would fight it strongly.
2. America must not compromise basic Constitutional liberties during the war on terror. While increased surveillance and covert intelligence are necessary in defense of our country, we also have laws such as FISA, the Federal Intelligence Surveillance Act, to protect against political abuses of such wiretapping and government search and seizure. The recent Hamdan decision correctly rebuked the Bush administration for hugely overstepping its bounds, and I hope it will affect change in the administration's MO.
3. Short-term, the most important thing for us to do is fix Medicare Part D to allow the government to negotiate for lower prices as a single buyer. Long-term, I believe employers should be required to pay their fair share for insurance for all full-time employees. The federal government must provide subsidies to those who can not afford health care and help small employers buy into a pool to reduce costs and protect against catastrophic expenses.

Timothy A. Knibbs, Concerned Citizens

Biography

I was born in Connecticut. I have a BS in Math Ed from Maranatha Baptist Bible College in Watertown, WI. I currently work full time for UPS and am a member of Teamsters local 671. I also work part time for Macy's.com. My wife is a music teacher. We have three daughters. I am a member Central Baptist Church in Southington. I have been active in the Concerned Citizens Party since 1992.

Answers

1. The most significant thing that can be done is to limit the federal government's ability to hand out millions and even billions of dollars to the items listed in article I section 8 of the Constitution. Until we do that any lobbying reform is useless. Most of the abuses that we read about are all ready illegal and interest groups will continue to line up like pigs at the trough to get their hand outs.
2. I am concerned our Constitutional rights. The Constitution provides protection from warrantless searches. It is a falsehood that it would take to long to get a warrant. There are federal courts that are available to approve such warrants twenty-four hours a day. There should be no compromise when it comes to our Constitutional rights. We need to be vigilant as citizens and respond quickly and severely to attacks as a country.
3. First every dollar spent on healthcare should be tax deductible. This would decrease the real dollars necessary to pay for insurance. Next we need to set limits on certain type of malpractice suits. Then the states should allow people to group together to purchase insurance at group rates. Spending money on healthcare is not a power that is given to congress in the Constitution.

Ralph A. Ferrucci, Green

The LWVCT had received no response from this candidate by deadline.

Joe Lieberman, Connecticut for Lieberman

Biography

Joe Lieberman has spent his career in public service fighting to make Connecticut a better place to live, work, and raise a family. As a state senator, Attorney General, and U.S. Senator, Joe Lieberman has fought for civil rights, protecting the environment, expanding educational opportunities for everyone and promoting economic growing through innovation. Born in Stamford, Joe Lieberman is married to Hadassah Lieberman. They have two sons, two daughters, three granddaughters, and one grandson.

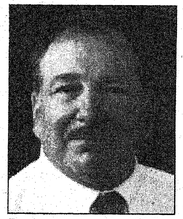
Answers

1. Lobbying reform is critical. That's why I fought for a bill the Senate passed to increase the frequency of reporting requirements for lobbyists. It would limit gifts to Congress, improve monitoring of campaign contributions by lobbyists, and require Congress to provide a government reason for their earmarks. My committee also passed another bill that would require the federal government to create a searchable website for the public to see where the government spends taxpayer dollars.
2. Terrorism, like we saw on 9/11 presents new threats to our homeland, but we should not sacrifice civil liberties to defeat that threat. I oppose the Bush Administration's policies like the NSA wiretapping program that circumvents the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. I believe we should work in a bipartisan way to develop creative solutions within the framework of the Constitution to defeat terrorism while protecting our civil liberties, including our right to privacy.
3. Quality, affordable health care for everyone must be our goal. To get there, we should expand initiatives like the State Child Health Insurance Program that will make health insurance for children more accessible about the Small Employers Health Benefits Program that would make it easier for small businesses to provide insurance to their employees. As a Senator, I will continue to fight until every person in Connecticut has the health care they can count on.

Candidates are listed in the order in which they appear on the ballot. Candidates replies appear exactly as published on LWVCT website. Statewide candidates limited to 75 words per answer.

Candidates for Secretary of the State - Four year term

QUESTION FOR CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY OF THE STATE:
The duties of the Secretary of the State are disparate and wide-ranging. If elected, what would be your priorities over the next four years?



Richard J. Abbate, Republican

Biography

Richard J. Abbate, Republican candidate for Secretary of the State, was born May 2, 1945 in New Haven, CT. He was educated in New Haven public schools and graduated from Notre Dame High School in West Haven in 1963. Abbate attended Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport, where he graduated in 1972 with a B.A. degree in English/Communication Arts.

Begin in 1980, he served as Commercial Revitalization Coordinator for the City of New Haven. He also served as the General Manager and Lead Driver for the American Spirit Racing Team. In 1988…*(candidate exceed 75 word limit)*

Answer

As the newly elected Secretary of the State, my first priority would be to bring Connecticut, as quickly and thoroughly as possible, into full compliance with the federal Help America Vote Act. Our state is not now, and will not be on November 7, 2006 in full compliance with this important voting rights initiative. I will work to restore a bi-partisan balance to the important staff positions in the office of the Secretary of the State. It is my intention to name an experienced Democrat… *(candidate exceeded 75 word limit)*

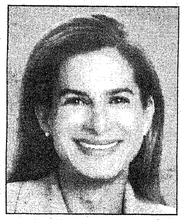
Ken Mosher, Libertarian

Biography

I have lived in eastern Connecticut my whole life, growing up in Groton and Preston. I graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1985 with an engineering degree in Computer Science. I now live in Andover and have served on the Region 8 Board of Education since 2003. I have been active in the Libertarian Party since 1996. I also run a small business selling specialized tropical plants through my web site, dragocactoid.com.

Answer

There is nothing more sacred in a representative republic than the integrity of the voting process. If elected I will be ensure that the entire voting process, from registration through vote counting is above reproach and verifiable. Voter registration is badly compromised by "motor voter" and mail-in registration. Fatal security issues plague the new electronic voting machines being installed nation wide. The "Campaign Finance Reform" law must be repealed or struck down.



Susan Bysiewicz, Democrat

Biography

Susan Bysiewicz has served as Secretary of the State since 1999. After graduating from Yale College and Duke Law School, she practiced business law in New York and Hartford. She represented the Middletown area in the State Legislature from 1993-1999 and served as co-chair of the Elections Committee and on the Judiciary Committee. She is the author of "Ella: A Biography of Governor Ella Grasso." Susan lives in Middletown with her husband and three children.

Answer

To continue and expand our efforts to:

- create new jobs by helping entrepreneurs and small businesses;
- support reforms that protect the integrity of our political process, including electio campaign finance and ethics reform;
- to operate our office in a fiscally responsible way that saves taxpayer dollars;
- promote consumer privacy and protection;
- increase voter participation and registration;
- enhance voter confidence by providing secure, accurate and accessible voting technology; promote citizenship and public service

Jean Marie Burness, Concerned Citizens

The LWVCT had received no response from this candidate by deadline.

S. Michael Derosa, Green

The LWVCT had received no response from this candidate by deadline.

A sample ballot has been printed on page 8 of this Guide.
You may take this with you into the voting booth for reference on November 7

First Time Voters – Vote With Confidence

- ❑ Enter booth and pull lever to close the curtains and activate the machine.
- ❑ Make your selections for candidates by pushing the lever down over the name of your choice for that office.
- ❑ You can change your lever vote as many times as you like before pulling the handle to open the curtains. (This is not true of "write-in" voting; see instructions below.)
- ❑ "Write-in Candidates can be entered in the space above the levers. Use the pencil that hangs from a string in the left corner of the voting booth. Lift the clear sliding cover and "write-in" the name of your candidate. Be sure you are lifting the cover above the office for which your candidate is running.

Once you lift the sliding cover for a "write-in" space, a vote is registered even if you do not write anything in the space. Therefore, you cannot change your vote from a "write-in" back to a lever selection once you have raised the sliding "write-in" cover.

- ❑ IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP, PLEASE ASK THE BOOTH ATTENDANT TO BRING THE MODERATOR TO YOU. THIS IS YOUR RIGHT AND YOU ARE NOT INCONVENIENCING ANYONE..
- ❑ When you have finished selecting your candidates, leave the levers in the down (selected position). When you pull the handle to open the booth curtains, your vote is registered by the machine and the levers automatically reset for the next voter.

VOTE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2006 POLLS OPEN 6 A.M. - 8 P.M. Have Identification Ready

Candidates are listed in the order in which they appear on the ballot. Candidates replies appear exactly as published on LWVCT website. Statewide candidates limited to 75 words per answer.

Candidates for Treasurer - Four year term

QUESTION FOR CANDIDATES FOR TREASURER:
How would you describe your overall approach to managing the public's money?

Linda Roberts, Republican

The LWVCT had received no response from this candidate by deadline.

Denise L. Nappier, Democrat

Biography

As Connecticut's chief elected financial officer, State Treasurer Denise Nappier's high standards and financial expertise brought integrity back to the office and professionalism to the management of state resources. She led the fight for comprehensive Treasury Reform, which effectively strengthened oversight and accountability, and her innovative programs saved taxpayers more than $500 million and recovered more than $1 billion. Prior to being elected State Treasurer, Denise Nappier served nearly 10 years as Hartford City Treasurer.

Answer

First and foremost, to uphold high standards of integrity, professionalism and accountability in safeguarding public funds; to achieve as high an investment yield as possible with the lowest level of risk; and use financial expertise and resourcefulness to reduce the tax burden on residents and businesses. With top-rated funds, hundreds of millions of dollars in achieved savings, and high marks for cleaning up my predecessor's criminal scandal, our priorities are bringing solid results for Connecticut.

Steven Edelman, Libertarian

The LWVCT had received no response from this candidate by deadline.

Mimi M. Knibbs, Concerned Citizens

Biography

I am married with three children. I have a bachelors degree in music and I recently completed my masters degree in education. I am employed by the Wallingford school district.

Answer

Fiscally conservative. The responsibility for managing that money should not fall to one individual. There should be at least a five member panel that is chosen in part by the governor and state assembly. It should have rotating members so that there is less probability for corruption. The treasurer should fight for full funding of all state pension funds. Pensions for those enter the system should be scaled back if they retire out of state.

S. David Bue, Green

The LWVCT had received no response from this candidate by deadline.

Candidates for Comptroller - Four year term

QUESTION FOR CANDIDATES FOR COMPTROLLER:
How would describe the state's overall fiscal health?

Cathy Cook, Republican

Biography

Cathy Cook is a fourteen year State Senator where she is honored with bipartisan praise as an expert in the state budget. Recipient of numerous awards for her work on behalf of businesses, education and people with disabilities, she is a National Legislator of the Year for BIO, the worldwide organization of biotechnology. She has authored legislation providing a national model for employing people with disabilities and was instrumental in "Saving the Subase" in Groton.

Answer

Connecticut's fiscal health needs TLC from leadership who will convince legislators that we cannot sustain a debt burden of $6450 per person and an unfunded pension liability of $1969 each. High income baby boomers retire in large numbers in the next 5 years and the state revenue stream will slow down. Many do enjoy a high quality of life, but we need a disciplined government that will rein in spending to support future economic health.

Nancy Wyman, Democrat

Biography

The first woman elected State Comptroller since the office was created in 1786, Nancy is the chief fiscal guardian. Wyman first elected statewide in 1994 and re-elected in 1998 and 2002. Prior to her election as State Comptroller, Wyman served as 53rd District State Representative (1987-1995). She was Education Committee House Chairperson and Chairperson of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education and was named "Legislator of the Year" by the Connecticut Education Association.

Answer

Connecticut's fiscal health is stable and its economy continues to show modest growth, but it appears a slowdown is on the horizon. The state ended 2006 fiscal year with a budget surplus of $940 million, but there is real potential for budget deficits in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Fortunately, about half of this year's surplus was deposited into the emergency Rainy Day Fund, bringing the fund to over $1 billion for the first time.

NO PHOTO SUPPLIED

Richard C. Connelly, Jr., Libertarian

Biography

Richard C. Connelly Jr. is a resident of East Hartford an a inventory coriander .He has been active member of the Libertarian Of Connecticut since 1996 .In 1998,2000 he ran for State of Representatvie in the 11th District. In 2005 he ran foe town council in East Hartford on the Independant Party. He is also Political Director. Richard has organized a outreach booth for the Libertarian Party at Gay Pride Fest for the past 6 years. He alos *(candidate exceeded 75 word limit)*

Answer

The Fiscal health of cConnecticut is in good shape. It could be improved by given the residents of Connecticut more of what they earn back. Also by have less regulation on business so that they will move to the state. Have people be more Self Reliant and more Personal Responsibly.

Colin Daniel Bennett, Green

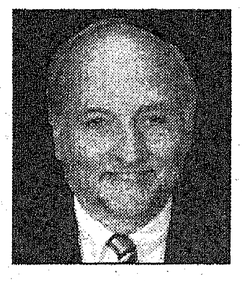
The LWVCT had received no response from this candidate by deadline.

Don't forget to bring an I.D. with you.

Candidates are listed in the order in which they appear on the ballot. Candidates replies appear exactly as published on LWVCT website. Statewide candidates limited to 75 words per answer.

Candidates for Attorney General - Four year term

QUESTION FOR CANDIDATES FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL:
As Attorney General, what would be your priorities over the next four years?



Robert Farr, Republican

Biography
Bob Farr has been the 19th District's State Representative for 26 years, representing West Hartford, Avon and Farmington. He served as the Republican leader of the Environment, the Appropriations and the Judiciary Committees. He is respected for his initiatives, including fighting to get criminals off the streets, preventing drunk driving, reducing young people's smoking, welfare reform, supporting education and working to protect citizens from losing their homes to the State by eminent domain.

Answer
My priorities will be to reduce the current $1.6 Billion child-support arrearage uncollected by the current AG, establish accountability, vigorously enforce our laws, represent officers and agencies of the State and work to promote job creation in Connecticut by making regulations and laws controlling businesses clear and easier to understand thus avoiding unnecessary lawsuits. I will refocus the office so that its primary function will not be self-promotion of the Attorney General.

Richard Blumenthal, Democrat

The LWVCT had received no response from this candidate by deadline.

Nancy Burton, Green Party

Biography
I have enjoyed careers in journalism, the law and anti-nuclear activism. Please visit my campaign website, www.voteburton.org (http://www.voteburton.org), for a more detailed biography. Please visit the website of the Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone (www.MothballMillstone.org (http://www.MothballMillstone.org)), an organization I co-founded and presently direct. I live in Redding with my husband, William H. Honan, former Culture Editor of The New York Times and author of four books. We are the proud parents of three grown chidren.

Answer
As Attorney General, I would institute legal action to close the dangerous Millstone and Indian Point Nuclear Power Stations, the gravest threats to our state's security and the health and safety of Connecticut residents. I would help transform Connecticut to an energy self-sufficient economy, through radical implementation of clean, green, sustainable energy technologies. I would serve as the "people's lawyer" and work hard to cleanse state government of its Rowland-residue climate of cronyism and corruption.

Judge of Probate

Four year term (Unopposed)

QUESTION FOR CANDIDATE FOR JUDGE OF PROBATE:
What do you consider the primary responsibilities of the Probate Court and how does your background equip you to meet them?

NO PHOTO SUPPLIED

Kevin O'Grady, Democrat

The Westport-Weston Probate Court is the local Court which has jurisdiction over and protects those who can not help themselves, including child abuse and neglect matters, protection of minors who receive monetary awards, and of aging people who are unable to handle their personal, medical and monetary affairs. We also handle guardians and conservators for the mentally retarded, the addicted and the mentally ill. With Hall Brooke Hospital we have many cases dealing with the addicted and the mentally ill. All of these cases require the Judge to balance the rights of the ward and his/her protection. Our largest responsibilities are the probating of decedents' estates and the supervision of trusts.
As an attorney representing clients in these matters, including many pro bono cases over twenty years and as Judge for the last eight years I try to meet these responsibilities.

Registrar of Voters - Four year term (Unopposed)

The LWV asked the candidates to include a statement of background as it pertains to Registrar of Voters.

Judith L. Raines, Republican

As one of two Westport Registrar of Voters, my responsibility is to serve all voters, regardless of party affiliation, by planning, overseeing and safeguarding the election process. This will be my second four-year term. In the 2005 municipal primary, I tested optical scanners and conducted a survey, results of which and analysis were distributed throughout Connecticut. I am involved in production of a video on voter registration and new voting equipment. I serve on two committees for Connecticut's Registrars of Voters Association. My skills and experience as an attorney and consultant have proven helpful in implementing and interpreting election law and managing change. Having volunteered with numerous organizations, including the League of Women Voters, I have experience in recruiting and training volunteers, who are an integral part of the election process. Education: Lehigh University (B.A.), University of Connecticut School of Law (J.D.). Born and raised in Westport, CT.

Nita S. Cohen, Democrat

I have been involved with the electoral process for more than fifty years, as a member of the League of Women Voters of Milford, Ct. and then of Westport, and then as a moderator at the polls in Westport for twenty years, and, finally, as registrar of voters (D) since 1993. I am a lifelong Democrat and I am pleased to say that I have never missed an election since I registered to vote in Brooklyn, NY at the age of twenty-one.
My records list my services as registrar at three presidential elections, four elections for governor, and four elections of Westport's First Selectman.

SAMPLE BALLOT

Assembly District 136 | **District 133**

OFFICE / PARTY	1 Governor and Lieutenant Governor	2 United States Senator	3 Representative in Congress	4 State Senator	5 State Representative	6 Secretary of the State	7 Treasurer	8 Comptroller	9 Attorney General	10 Judge of Probate	11 Registrar of Voters	5 State Representative
REPUBLICAN	1A M. Jodi Rell and Michael Fedele	2A Alan Schlesinger	3A Christopher Shays	4A Judith G. Freedman	5A Bill Harris	6A Richard J. Abbate	7A Linda Roberts	8A Cathy Cook	9A Robert Farr	10A	11A Judith L. Raines	5A Cathy C. Tymniak
DEMOCRATIC	1B John DeStefano and Mary Messina Glassman	2B Ned Lamont	3B Diane Farrell	4B Craig Rebecca Schiavone	5B Joe Mioli	6B Susan Bysiewicz	7B Denise L. Nappier	8B Nancy Wyman	9B Richard Blumenthal	10B Kevin O'Grady	11B Nita S. Cohen	5B Kim Fawcett
LIBERTARIAN	1C	2C	3C Philip Z. Maymin	4C	5C	6C Ken Mosher	7C Steven Edelman	8C Richard C. Connelly, Jr.	9C	10C	11C	5C
CONCERNED CITIZENS	1D Joseph A. Zdonczyk and Jose E. Garcia	2D Timothy A. Knibbs	3D	4D	5D	6D Jean Marie Burness	7D Mimi M. Knibbs	8D	9D	10D	11D	5D
GREEN	1E Clifford W. Thornton, Jr. and Jean de Smet	2E Ralph A. Ferrucci	3E Richard Z. Duffee	4E	5E	6E S. Michael Derosa	7E S. David Bue	8E Colin Daniel Bennett	9E Nancy Burton	10E	11E	5E
CONNECTICUT FOR LIEBERMAN	1F	2F Joe Lieberman	3F	4F	5F	6F	7F	8F	9F	10F	11F	5F
WRITE-IN VOTES	1G	2G	3G	4G	5G	6G	7G	8G	9G	10G	11G	5G