The League of Women Voters of Westport
2004 VOTERS GUIDE

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

VOTE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2004 POLLS OPEN 6 A.M. - 8 P.M. Have Identification Ready

The Voter's Guide includes all candidates whose official filings were received by the Secretary of State's office as of October 7, 2004. Following are replies as submitted by candidates.

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear Westport Voters:

We often use this space to urge Westporters to go to the polls on Election Day. We know that won't be necessary this year. We know that you are keenly aware of the importance of this election and that you will turn out in force. As you prepare to cast your ballot, use this Voter's Guide to learn as much as you can about the candidates and their positions.

In these critical times, the importance of an educated electorate cannot be overestimated.

In keeping with our nonpartisan policy, the League of Women Voters neither supports nor opposes any of the candidates running for national and state office. In keeping with our mission to educate and inform the voting public, we have asked the candidates tough questions in order to elicit thoughtful responses on complex issues. We hope that voters will find this beneficial in evaluating candidates and their stances.

A sample ballot has been printed on the last page of the Guide which you may take with you into the voting booth for reference on November 2. Be sure to double check your district and polling place given on this page.

Hope Hageman and Ellen McBride
Co-presidents, Westport League
of Women Voters

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT

R George W. Bush / Dick Cheney

D John F. Kerry / John Edwards

G David Cobb / Patricia La Marche

CC Michael A. Peroutka / Chuck Baldwin

L Michael Badnarik / Richard Campagna

PC Ralph Nader / Peter Miguel Camejo

CANDIDATES FOR U.S. SENATOR

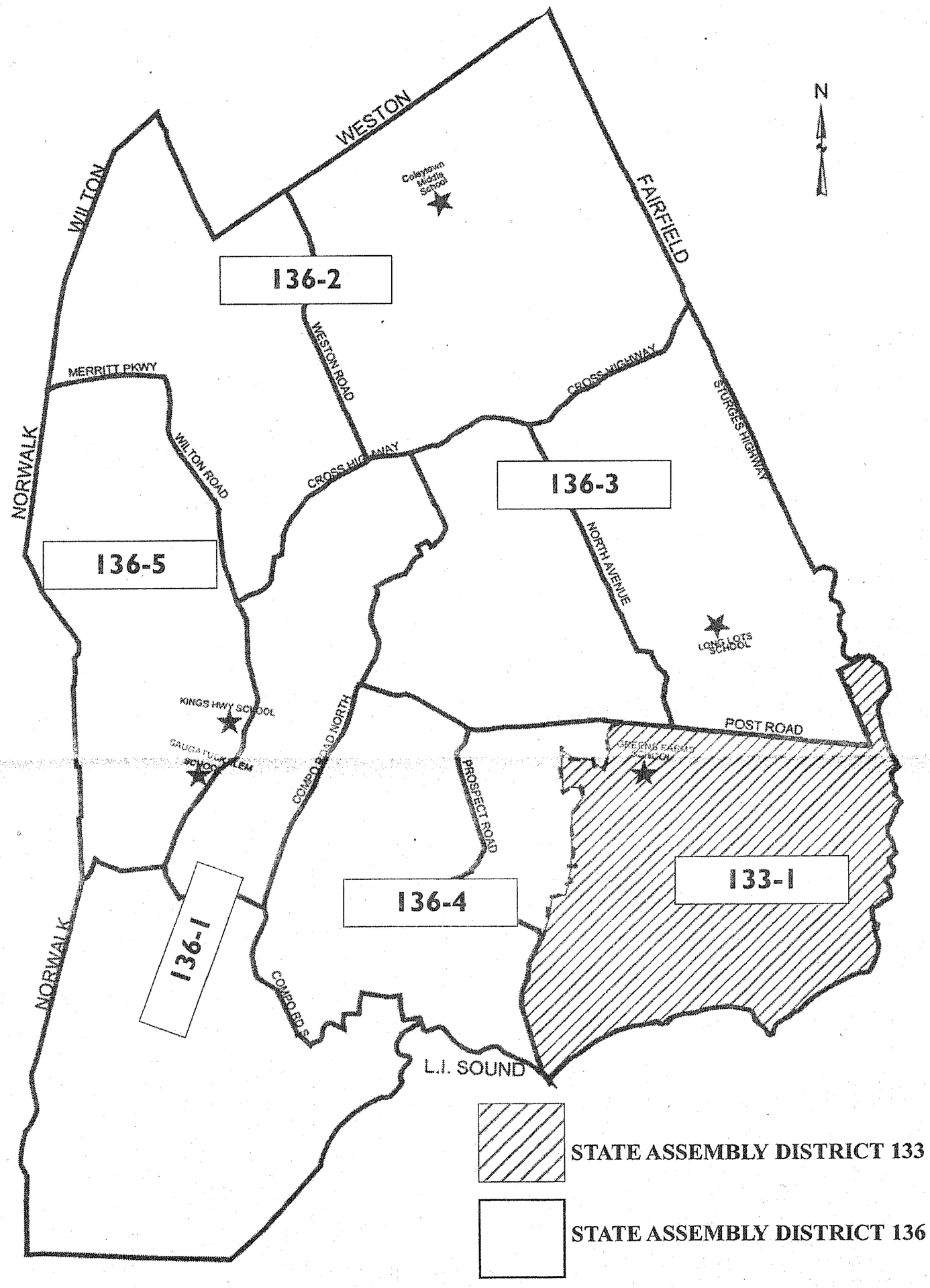
R Jack Orchulli

D Chris Dodd

CC Timothy A. Knibbs

L Leonard H. Rasch

Voting Districts



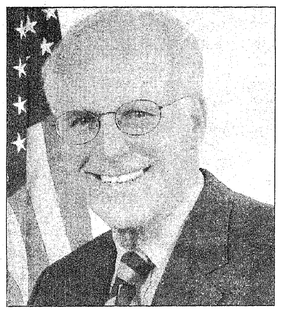
TOWN OF WESTPORT ELECTION VOTING DISTRICTS

Polling Places	Assembly District 8	Cong	Senate	RTM Districts
Saugatuck Elem School 170 Riverside Avenue	136-1	4	26	1, 9
Greens Farms School 17 Morningside Drive South	136-4	4	26	4, 5A
	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

Candidates for Congressional Representative 4th District

Two Year Term

CANDIDATES WERE ASKED TO RESPOND TO TWO QUESTIONS:



CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
Republican

Congressman since 1987. Financial Services and Homeland Security Committees; Vice-Chair, Budget Committee; Vice-Chair, Government Reform Committee; Chairman, National Security Subcommittee; State Representative 1974-1987. Led the battle to enact campaign reform; now leading bipartisan coalition to enact 9/11 Commission recommendations. Endorsed by League of Conservation Voters, Human Rights Campaign, and VFW.

Question 1: Explain how the US Government can balance national security needs and priorities with the preservation of personal freedoms.

We treasure our civil liberties. Our greatest civil liberty, life, is seriously threatened by Islamist terrorism. With proper protections and vigorous oversight, legislation like the PATRIOT Act helps protect American lives.

The cold war strategy of containment, reaction and mutually-assured destruction has been replaced by the need to detect and prevent terrorist attacks. By extending to terrorism cases the tools available to law enforcement in other types of cases, we enhanced our ability to successfully detect and prevent terrorist activities.

For instance, the FBI can now get a court order to produce business records in a terrorism investigation — the same authority they have always had in criminal investigations. To ensure there are no abuses, law enforcement must meet a higher evidentiary standard to obtain a court order, and every six months the Justice Department is required to fully inform Congress how many orders were obtained and how they were used.

Whenever the government takes on greater authority it must simultaneously provide for greater oversight by Congress and the courts. I will continue to monitor the PATRIOT Act, as well as any proposals to modify it, to ensure it is an effective tool while still ensuring our civil liberties.

Question 2: Addressing the growing depletion of the Social Security trust fund and Medicare, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan recently said: "...we owe it to our retirees to promise only the benefits that can be delivered...if we promise more than our economy has the power to deliver, ...we must recalibrate our public programs so that pending retirees have time to adjust... If we delay, the adjustment could be abrupt and painful." Explain why you agree or disagree with Chairman Greenspan's statements and what proposals you will make to avert insolvency in the Social Security trust fund and Medicare.

Social Security faces deficits in 2018 and goes bankrupt by 2042. Medicare costs will climb from $267 billion today to over $2 trillion by 2030. Both programs must be strengthened to handle the demands of baby boomers.

Reform should take place now, be carefully structured and achieve broad, bipartisan consensus. If we wait much longer the cure may kill the patient.

First, the Social Security benefits of current retirees and those close to retirement must be preserved as is.

Younger Americans should be given the opportunity to invest a portion of their Social Security contributions in broad-based indexes of stocks, bonds and/or government securities. This will improve returns on their investments regardless of short-term market fluctuations, and help maintain Social Security's solvency. Even if markets perform poorly, over time workers will realize greater returns than under the existing system.

Introducing competition and choice to Medicare is a viable alternative to reducing benefits or increasing taxes.The best way to keep Medicare viable is to slow the growth of healthcare costs. I support tax-free health savings accounts and allowing Americans to buy FDA-approved prescription drugs from Canada, and am working to put and end to frivolous lawsuits that drive costs higher.

DIANE FARRELL
Democrat

Diane Farrell is serving her seventh year as Westport's First Selectwoman. As First Selectwoman, and in her four previous years as an elected member of the Board of Finance, she has provided tax relief to seniors three times, produced seven consecutive balanced budgets and fought for funding for public schools.

Question 1: Explain how the US Government can balance national security needs and priorities with the preservation of personal freedoms.

One of the challenges of a free society is balancing freedom with the legislation needed to keep our citizens safe. In Congress, I will provide oversight on the Patriot Act to eliminate the sections that infringe upon our civil rights while doing little to protect national security such as examining library usage, declaring published Supreme Court cases 'secret,' and the attempt to incarcerate U.S. citizens without access to an attorney or a fair hearing. It is imperative that we do everything in our power to ensure the safety of our citizens so they can go about their daily lives free of fear. Much more can, and should be done at the national level to support our first responders and to improve security at our most vulnerable points such as our airports, harbors and border crossings. As your Congresswoman, I will fight for Fairfield County to get its fair share of federal homeland security funding to ensure our district's rail system, bridges, and the state's coastline are protected from terrorist attacks. Our close proximity to the New York Metropolitan area presents us with a far greater threat than is found in other areas.

Question 2: Addressing the growing depletion of the social security trust fund and Medicare, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan recently said, "...we owe it to our retirees to promise only the benefits that can be delivered...if we promise more than our economy has the power to deliver,...we must recalibrate our public programs so that pending retirees have time to adjust...If we delay, the adjustments could be abrupt and painful." Explain why you agree or disagree with Chairman Greenspan's statements and what proposals you will make to avert insolvency in the Social Security trust fund and Medicare.

Chairman Greenspan is right about the direction of our government's spending priorities with respect to the current needs of our country's seniors and retirees. In order to avoid a fiscal crisis in the near future, our government must be honest to its citizens regarding its debts and deficits, must be correct in its program estimate costs when it comes to funding Medicare and our nation's defense and must redefine its spending priorities to better address the needs of our seniors, the education of our children and the infrastructure of our economy. No one understands how we can pay for a war, cut taxes and provide essential services to our citizens without borrowing from the future. In Congress, I will work with a new administration to restore responsibility to our federal budget by rolling back part of the Bush administration's tax cut, eliminating some corporate tax breaks, and enacting tough spending caps.

Candidates for State Senator 26th District

Two Year Term

CANDIDATES WERE ASKED TO RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

In Connecticut, local property taxes fund local school districts. How can you reconcile the mandate for an equal and excellent education for all of Connecticut's children, with the disparity in property taxes?

JUDITH G. FREEDMAN
Republican

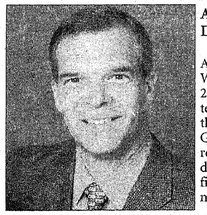
Deputy Republican Leader Republican Leader Higher Education Committee; Appropriations sub-committees: Education; Regulation and Protection; Attended Boston University, University of Michigan, Southern Connecticut, BS., MS,; Member:Westport Women's Club, Weston Kiwanis, American Association University Women; Married, one child; Former: Vice Chair Westport Board of Education; teacher; importer .

In 1977 our Supreme Court ruled the disparity between the towns and the ability to levy property taxes created inequities between school systems and pronounced Connecticut's method of education funding of $250.00 per pupil unconstitutional.

Over 27 years the legislature developed various formulae to assure funding equity. A sliding scale formula gives more money to poorer communities and less to wealthier (based on property taxing ability).

The formula is unwieldy with components having little relationship to ensuring the quality of education is equitable. The legislature needs to re-design the formula assuring it addresses educational issues. Dollars for specific programs need to be targeted toward creating quality programming in all school districts. The legislature must revisit the issue of funding special education. This past budget cycle the legislature was able to increase the ECS grant for all towns.

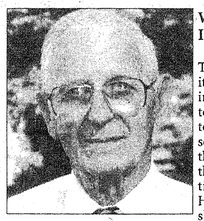
The Supreme Court ruling in Sheff v O'Neill requires the state to reduce racial isolation. I successfully led a bipartisan effort to create public charter schools, increase funding for magnet schools, vocational schools, expand public school choice and encourage interdistrict cooperation. These programs are designed to meet the issues raised by both court decisions. They should be expanded, but should remain voluntary.



ARLO ELLISON
Democrat

Arlo Ellison is a resident of Westport living with his wife of 20 years and their four daughters. In business he recently ran the Energy Products Group of Glencore Ltd where he had responsibility for a $7.5 billion division. Mr. Ellison believes fiscal responsibility is government's top priority.

I will work hard to expand statutory grants to all of our towns for our children's educational needs. Over dependence on property taxes for education funding shortchanges our children living in inner cities and creates an unfair burden on many senior citizens who own property but live on fixed incomes. Our state government distributes funds to our cities and towns through a number of grant programs, the largest and most important of which is the Education Cost Sharing program or ECS. The program was originally intended to fund 50 percent of K-12 education costs on a statewide basis. Over time, and in response to budget pressures, the share of educational expenses covered by ECS grants statewide has dropped to about 40 percent. Many of the more affluent towns in this district have less than two percent of their educational costs covered by ECS, while our inner city schools are chronically under-funded. I propose to expand ECS grants to the original 50 percent level and to modify the ECS... formula to create a more equitable distribution among our municipalities. I will accomplish this by insuring that the tax dollars you and I pay to Hartford are used responsibly, not wastefully.



WILLIAM A. GULYA
Independent

There does exist a great disparity in education appropriations in Connecticut. The only way to create equality in funding is to elect legislators who have a sense of fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers of their district so that they receive a greater portion of the tax money sent to Hartford. The State Senator should work closely with the State Representatives of their district on this problem.

The first objective of education should be academic excellence and not sports or other programs.

Additional copies of this guide are available at the Westport Public Library and the Town Clerk's office.

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

Candidates for State Representative District 133

Two Year Term

CANDIDATES WERE ASKED TO RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Outline a plan for resolving Connecticut's transportation crisis. How would you finance your plan? How would you enlist support for your proposals from legislators outside of southwestern Connecticut?

CATHY C. TYMNIAK
Republican

Mother of three, community activist with special emphasis on youth, the environment, the disabled, and historic preservation, legislator since 1999, member of the legislature's Childrens, Appropiations Committees and rankinking member of the Banking Committee, former member of the Real estate and Insurance Committee.

We implemented a 10-year, $264-million Connecticut Transportation Strategy Board plan addressing traffic congestion, improved rail stations, expanded parking, reduced truck traffic on I-95 and increasing use of waterways. $60 million has been voted for the purchase of new and refurbished rail cars. Now, we must replace the entire 30-year-old rail fleet with more than one billion in state bonding. With daily ridership exceeding 90,000,the demand for new cars is a matter of safety and necessity.

The state Department of Transportation must accelerate and be held accountable for its slow progress on transportation improvements and the construction we have authorized. The DOT must design the next generation of rail cars immediately and be prepared for a future engineered towards all aspects of mass transportation.

I will work diligently for bipartisan cooperation and with the Governor to ensure the expenditure and implementation of all necessary funding for new rail cars and highway safety. We must prevent further congestion of our vital I-95 artery as an economic lifeline for all of New England and have the necessary number of State Troopers assigned to patrol our highways and protect travelers.

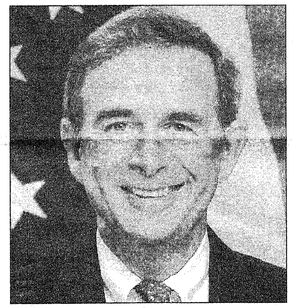
NO NOMINATION
Democrat

Candidates for State Representative District 136

Two Year Term

CANDIDATES WERE ASKED TO RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Outline a plan for resolving Connecticut's transportation crisis. How would you finance your plan? How would you enlist support for your proposals from legislators outside of southwestern Connecticut?



KEN BERNHARD
Republican

I have been active in public service for 25 years, formerly serving as Westport's Town Attorney and Third Selectman and now as its four term State Representative. With experience and seniority as an Assistant Minority Leader, I have effectively represented our community in legislative and state matters.

Transportation Plan:

The first step is to implement the long term recommendations of the Transportation Strategy Board, improving rail and water modes of transportation. New commuter rail cars must be purchased, new rail lines considered, ferry terminals built, and roads and bridges repaired. Funding would come from a graduated, modest increase in the gasoline tax and federal subsidies. Connecticut's truck weighing stations must be enhanced and improved.

The second step to resolving the transportation crisis is to convince the motoring public that they must be part of the solution. For example, if each motorist, who commutes daily on I-95, car-pools just one day a week, there would be no traffic congestion during the commuter hours. The state, working with businesses and through tax incentives, must create an effective and accessible car pooling plan.

Fairfield County's traffic problem not only affects the economic viability of the rest of Connecticut but all the New England states as well. Common sense, economic forecasts, and long term planning mandate that there be a collective resolution shared by multiple governmental and private entities and organizations.

JOE MIOLI
Democrat

I came to America from Italy in 1959, proudly serving in the U.S Army. Westport Pizzeria was created with effort and determination. After earning success as a businessman, I raised my family and then retired. As your State Representative I will work relentlessly to provide everybody with the same opportunities.

The crisis facing us today is the result of the Federal Government's 1950's policy to create a national highway system. This caused the destruction of farmland and open space and left us with urban sprawl, constant pollution and gridlock. With the support of all Northeastern states to solve our transportation crisis, the result will be relief from traffic congestion for all. We must remove all interstate trucking from our highways, instead transporting this freight by train and sea. We have three deep seaports that can be retrofitted to accommodate container shipping. We need a passageway for freight trains to cross the Hudson River. I will propose legislation to create a Connecticut Mass Transit Department independent of the DOT. This department will bring expertise, management and funding direct to this area. Bus and train service throughout Southern Connecticut should be expanded in addition to making mass transit more consumer-friendly. We need to make our existing railway system more efficient and systematically replace our old railroad cars. The cost to solve our transportation crisis is staggering, over 15 billion dollars and should be borne by the Federal Government. Our congressmen/women will have to play a big part in solving our transportation crisis.

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 2, 2004 POLLS OPEN 6 A.M. - 8 P.M. Have Identification Ready

SAMPLE BALLOT

YOU MAY TAKE THIS GUIDE WITH YOU INTO THE POLLING PLACE

DIST. 136

OFFICE → / PARTY ↓	1 Presidential Electors for	2 United States Senator	3 Representative in Congress	4 State Senator	5 State Representative	6	7	8	9	10
REPUBLICAN	◯ 1A Bush and Cheney	◯ 2A Jack Orchulli	◯ 3A Christopher Shays	◯ 4A Judith G. Freedman	◯ 5A Ken Bernhard	6A	7A	8A	9A	10A
DEMOCRATIC	◯ 1B Kerry and Edwards	◯ 2B Chris Dodd	◯ 3B Diane Farrell	◯ 4B Arlo Ellison	◯ 5B Joe Mioli	6B	7B	8B	9B	10B
GREEN	◯ 1C Cobb and LaMarche	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C
CONCERNED CITIZENS	◯ 1D Peroutka and Baldwin	◯ 2D Timothy A. Knibbs	3D	4D	5D	6D	7D	8D	9D	10D
LIBERTARIAN	◯ 1E Badnarik and Campagna	◯ 2E Leonard H. Rasch	3E	4E	5E	6E	7E	8E	9E	10E
INDEPENDENT	1F	2F	3F	◯ 4F William A. Gulya	5F	6F	7F	8F	9F	10F
PETITIONING CANDIDATES	◯ 1G Nader and Camejo	2G	3G	4G	5G	6G	7G	8G	9G	10G

DIST. 133

5 State Representative
◯ 5A Cathy C. Tymniak
5B
5C
5D
5E
5F
5G

MISSED THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE?

❑ You may be eligible for a Provisional or Presidential ballot.

At the polling place

A **Provisional Ballot** can be issued under three different situations:

1) The individual declares that they should be on the official registry list for the polling location and they are not.

2) The individual is challenged as to want of identity, disfranchisement or lack of bona fide residence.

3) The first time voter is required to present identification at the polling place.

In the Town Clerk Office

A **Presidential Ballot** in Connecticut can be issued if:

1) The individual is a United States Citizen.

2) The individual is at least 18 years old.

3) The individual is a resident or former resident of the town in Connecticut in which the individual is applying for a Presidential Ballot.

To be a former resident of Connecticut the individual must have had a bona fide residence of a town in Connecticut and must have moved from that town less than thirty days before the day of a presidential election and because of that move must be unable to register to vote for the election in his present town or state of residence.

4) The individual must not have had their electoral privileges forfeited because of a disfranchising crime.

Registration for those whose rights have matured

There will be a voter registration between 9-12 on November 1 in the Town Clerks office. This voter registration is open only to:

1) Individuals who reach the legal voting age of 18 between Oct.19 and Nov. 1.

2) Individuals who move into Westport between the dates of Oct.19 and Nov. 1. Applicants must bring movers receipt.

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