1962 V.S.

# CANDIDATES' SCOREBOARD

*Compiled By*

## The Westport League of Women Voters

1962

THE QUESTIONS

1. Would you meet the rising costs of State government by a personal income tax? By increasing existing taxes? By other means?

2. Should the formula for state aid to education include state-set standards of curriculum or program? Do you favor an equalized grand list as the basis for distribution of such aid?

3. In view of recent Supreme Court decisions, do you believe a Constitutional Convention should be called for the purpose of revising the present system of representation in both houses of the General Assembly?

4. Are you in favor of abolishing the party lever on the voting machine? Making its use optional? Continuing its present mandatory use?

*The candidates for State Legislature answered questions 2 and 4 plus a third which reads as follows: Do you believe State aid would help solve the financial problems facing commuter railroads? If so, would you favor a State subsidy, reduction in taxes, or grant?)*

## For State Senate

**FREDERICK POPE, JR.**

**Frederick Pope, Jr. Republican, Redding Road, Fairfield, Telephone: CL 9-4357.**

**Education: Harvard College, A.B., 1942 (46); Harvard Law School, L.L.B. 1949.**

**Occupation: Practicing Lawyer.**

**Past Experience: 3 terms as a member of the House of Representatives in Hartford; Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, 1957-1958; Chairman, Republican Platform Committee, 1958; Service on the Finance and Judiciary Committees, the Legislative Council, the Interim Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedure, and other such bodies; Service as an officer and board member of numerous civic and charitable organizations; 13 years as a lawyer in general practice; Service as a combat leader in the parachute troops in WW II; 10 years of political activity and campaigning in the nine towns in the 25th District.**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

1. I do not favor a state income tax. It is probable that further increases in existing taxes will be necessary in the next two biennia in order to bring the budgets into balance. Ultimately, the rising costs of state government must be met, not by new or increased taxes, but out of increased tax revenues resulting from an expanding industrial economy. This will require, on the one hand, the implementation now of policies and programs designed to reduce the cost of state services, and on the other, a broadening of the tax base through industrial growth. I favor the establishment of a long-range capital expenditures budget system and the implementation of similar procedures with respect to our biennial operating budgets.

2. Primary and secondary education are primarily matters of local concern even though the state must bear a portion of the cost of such education through the medium of shared taxes and grants-in-aid. State aid, therefore, ought not to be used as a device to control or dictate curriculum or program; it ought only to be conditioned on the meeting of certain minimal standards. I do not know that an "equalized grant list" formula would be more equitable than the present formula which is based essentially on average daily attendance (ADM).

3. I do not favor the convening of a constitutional convention at this time. I do, however, strongly favor the redistricting of the state senate and the reduction of the size of the house to one per town. I believe that these things ought to be done by the legislature and I am hopeful that they will be done no later than in the 1965 session. I have some doubts as to the applicability of the principles set forth in the recent Supreme Court decision in **Baker v. Carr** to the Connecticut situation. However, an answer to this question should be forthcoming since I understand that the LWV is about to institute such an action in the U.S. District Court in New Haven.

4. I favor the making of the party lever optional. In this connection, however, I favor the "short ballot," that is to say, the elimination of the offices of Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller and Attorney-General as elective offices, and the election of the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor as a unit.

**NORMAN HEWITT**

**Norman Hewitt, Democrat, 10 Brooklawn Terrace, Fairfield, Telephone: FO 7-8208.**

**Education: Bachelor's degree, City College of New York. Law degree, Harvard University.**

**Occupation: Attorney.**

**Past Experience: Member of State Senate, 1959-61; Chairman of the Committee on Public Health and Safety; President, Bridgeport Area Mental Health Association; Active in community projects with the Junior Chamber of Commerce; Chairman of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Community Council; Intelligence Agent with U.S. Army in Germany investigating communist espionage activities.**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

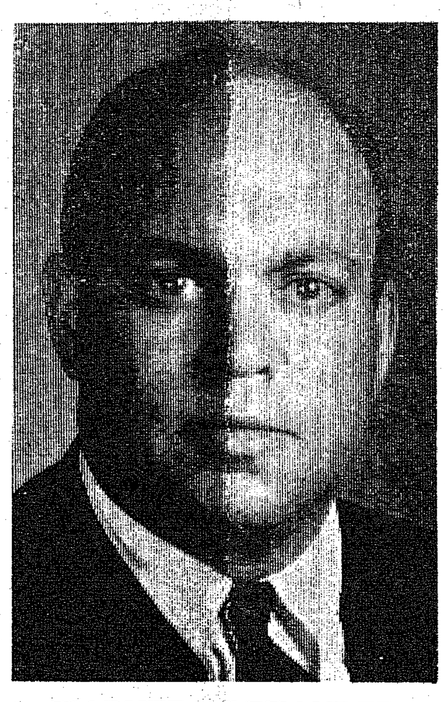
1. Opposed to personal income tax. Possible increases in existing taxes will depend upon the General Fund budget required for the 1963-65 biennium. Strongly favor a vigorous effort to encourage and assist new and existing industry in order to expand the tax base.

2. The State Education Department should prescribe minimal standards of curriculum and program since, under the statutes, it is primarily responsible for public education in the state and local Boards of Education are its agents. I favor an equalized grand list as well as other measures to reform the assessment and tax system. It should be recognized, however, that equalization is a difficult nd complex subject and must be effected with great care.

3. I favored a Constitutional Convention long before the Supreme Court decision. The principle of representation on which the State Senate is based is equitable and democratic, but a statute is required to bring actual district sizes into line with this principle. The basis of representation in the House should be revised to make that body more responsive to the needs and wishes of the people of the state as a whole.

4. I favor optional use of the party lever.

## Legislature



**WARNER ALEXANDER**

**Warner Alexander, Democrat, 1 Hickory Hill, Westport, Telephone: Office—CA 7-7294, Home — CA 7-1903.**

**Education: BA Rutgers University, 1951; LL.B Yale University, 1954.**

**Occupation: Attorney.**

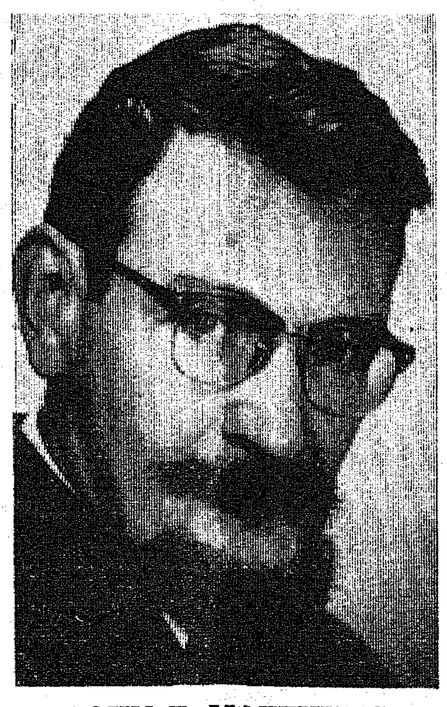
**Past Experience: Broad experience in the practice of law in Westport and extensive participation in political and other community activities.**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

1. Standards of education should remain an item of local initiative and responsibility, but local schools should meet minimal educational standards set by the State. An equalized grand list throughout the state would serve to simplify the distribution of educational grants.

2. Intelligent voters welcome the opportunity to vote for individual candidates on the basis of merit. However, our governmental system depends on the continued existence of responsible political parties. Therefore, voting a party lever is an option that should not be denied a voter, the optional use of a party lever may well serve to fill this need.

3. State aid of whatever nature cannot alone serve to cure the interstate problems of commuter railroads. The problem is regional in character and requires regional solutions. I believe that Federal aid is necessary for the solution of this problem, but that the states affected may not ignore their responsibilities in this area.



**JOHN F. MATTHEWS**

**John F. Matthews, Democrat, 6 Stony Brook Road, Westport, Telephone: CA 7-2060.**

**Education: B.A., University of Cincinnati; other study at Harvard, Columbia, Northwestern and the New School.**

**Occupation: Writer; Associate Professor, Brandeis University; and Lecturer, City College of N.Y.**

**Past Experience: Business background includes advertising (Kenyon & Eckhardt) and considerable experience on management side of theatre and motion pictures. Also have served as Department Chairman in two universities.**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

1. (a) State aid to education should certainly be made conditional on minimum standards of performance by local school systems. Many communities have programs plainly inadequate to prepare graduates for college or citizenship in today's competitive world — and to give additional funds without insisting on higher standards is sheer waste. (b) I favor an equalized grand list.

2. While strongly believing in the principle of party government, I also recognize the need for party candidates to be voted into office on merit, not mere affiliation. Therefore I believe Connecticut should follow the practice already common in many other states, and abolish the party lever on the voting machine.

3. State aid to the New Haven RR without greatly improved management is money down the drain. Instead of handouts, I urge creation of a tri-state quasi-public body (similar to Port of N.Y. Authority) to operate commuter services under control of sound, modern, transportation-oriented executives. Some subsidy would then be justified.

**JOHN W. BOYD**

**John W. Boyd, Republican, 45 West State Street, Westport, Telephone: CA 7-9561.**

**Education: Attended local schools in Westport through ninth grade; Graduated from the Loomis School, Windsor; Hamilton College and Columbia University Law School.**

**Occupation: Attorney.**

**Past Experience: I have served one term in the General Assembly, having been elected in 1960. I also served on all three charter commissions in the Town of Westport. I was the Senior Judge of the Municipal Court of Westport for two terms.**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

1. A formula for State aid to education should, in my opinion, include certain minimum standards of curriculum prescribed by the State or some reasonable alternative to assure the use of the State funds for sound educational purposes and not merely as a substitute for local funds. State aid to education has become an increasingly substantial percentage of the educational funds spent in each town and some type of safeguard should be required. An equalized grand list is a starting basis for all towns in the state would appear to be one of the best methods for assuring fairness in the distribution of State funds.

2. I am in favor of the use of the optional party lever on voting machines. It does not seem proper to require voters to pull a party lever before they can vote. On the other hand, many people who wish to vote a straight ticket should not be denied the convenience of a party lever. In my opinion, the interest of the greatest number of voters would be served by the optional party lever.

3. Some State aid may well be required to help solve the financial problems of the New Haven Railroad. Since the railroad today pays no taxes to the State it is, in effect, receiving a subsidy. If State funds are to be appropriated for the purpose of aiding the railroad, however, it seems that a special type of organization should be set up to administer these funds and to operate the commuter section of the railroad. Such an organization might well be patterned along the lines of the Port of New York Authority. Figures which have been assembled by the Westport Commuters Association indicate that the commuters might well be put on a self-sustaining basis without further State subsidies or grants and without increasing fares. Under the circumstances, I would be in favor of a loan to get the operation under way, to be repaid by the organization over a period of years. If the loan proves not to be commercially attractive, I think the State should guarantee its fair portion of it. The public interest requires that the railroad be kept running and that its services be improved.

**HOWARD DREYFOUS**

**Howard Dreyfous, Republican, 5 Sprucewood Lane, Westport, Telephone: CL 9-8585.**

**Education: High School graduate and attendance at Columbia Business night school.**

**Occupation: Retired business man.**

**Past Experience: Chairman of the Westport Planning and Zoning Commission for six years. Under my chairmanship the proposed Town Plan was developed and adopted. Was a member of the Tax Study Committee and Implementation Committee. Was co-chairman of the "Y" drive in 1958. A commuter for 25 years. Elected to the General Assembly in 1960. Served on State Development, Cities and Boroughs and Water Resources Committees.**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

1. At the present time the State does set standards for the facilities for teaching mentally retarded and teacher qualifications. Some other State set standards such as compulsory thorough teaching of American history would be very desirable. Other State regulations would have to be weighed against my desire to maintain local autonomy. I favor the principle of distributing State assistance to the Towns on the basis of need. An equalized grand list may be desirable but it needs a lot of study.

2. I voted for the optional use of the lover in the voting machine in the 1961 session of the General Assembly and am still in favor of this.

3. The State aided the Railroad in the 1961 session of the Legislature by giving tax relief of $1,200,000 plus about $400,000 by having the State take over maintenance of Railroad bridges and overpasses. I voted and worked for both of these bill. I do not feel that the question just faces the commuter Railroad, but the problem faces the Railroad. The State and Federal Government has a great stake in a strong well run railroad. We must think of the welfare of the entire State economy and we must think in terms of National defense on a Federal level. As far as the commuter problem is concerned, I believe a Commission should be appointed to make a thorough study of a rapid transit plans such as the "Towers plan." The Federal Government subsidizes Air Transport and Steamship lines, so I firmly believe in subsidy for Railroads that are having financial difficulties.