prepared as a non-partisan public service by the Westport League of Women Voters

1981 Westport Voter's Guide

FIRST SELECTMAN: The Board of Selectmen has three members, elected for four-year terms. The team with the most votes becomes First and Second Selectmen and the other candidate for First Selectman becomes Third Selectman. Annual salary for First Selectman, the Town's chief administrator, is $38,500. The Second and Third Selectmen who act as his advisors receive $1,000 annually.

Martha S. Hauhuth (D)

Qualifications: B.S./Education; P.T.A. officer; President, League of Women Voters; Representative Town Meeting—Planning and Zoning and Transit Committees; Chairman, Southwestern Regional Planning Commission; Connecticut Coastal Area Management Board; Selectman's Committees—Excess School Utilization—Solid Waste; Project Coordinator, Westport Transit District.

William Seiden (R)

Qualifications: Twenty-eight years' experience as chief executive, manager, consultant to large and small corporations. Heads William Seiden & Associates, a computer software firm. Former President, Telex Computer Corp. Chairman, Finance Committee, Westport Representative Town Meeting. Graduate, California Institute of Technology.

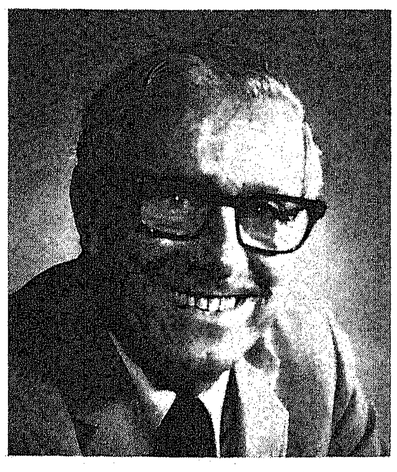
LWV QUESTION: ***How can the selectman effectively lead town government in implementing his or her policies?***

The Selectman's job calls for a broad array of leadership tools: *Cost effective administration* of Town affairs; *Negotiation* with State and Regional officials; *Advocacy* of citizens' interests before the Planning and Zoning and other Commissions; *Planning* for Westport's future; *Activism* in defense of Westport's character; *Openness* and accessibility to Westport's people; *Non-partisanship* in mobilizing Westport's human resources; *Full time* availability for a full time job; *Positive vision* of Westport's beauty, character and future.

Ralph Sheffer and I pledge our leadership skills to effective, responsible Town government.

The First Selectman must bring to bear the skills of an administrator, the techniques of modern management, and an innovative, creative approach to the operation of the government of the town. He must earn the loyalty and trust of town employees, and help them improve their skills and productivity and the organization structure within which they operate. He should assume a vigorous leadership role in long-range planning, and encourage more and better communication among the various boards and commissions and between all branches of government and the public.

SECOND SELECTMAN RUNNING MATES:



Ralph Sheffer (D)

Qualifications: RTM member 16 years, Moderator 10 successive terms; Member of Longshore Acquisition, Tax Study, Coleytown School Building Committees; Chairman of Nike Site Committee, Westport Futures Workshop, Charter Revision Commission; President of 3 successful business corporations; Recipient "Westport Citizen-of-the-Year" Award.

Barbara A. Butler (R)

Qualifications: President, Westport League of Women Voters, 1979–81 (also Voters Service Chairman, Editor of Voters Guide); Westport representative, Southwestern Regional Planning Agency; Executive Director, Chairman of the Board, Saugatuck Day Care Service; Member, Executive Committee, Alumnae Board of Directors, Marymount College, Tarrytown.

LWV QUESTION: ***What one project do you feel requires immediate action? Specifically, how could this be accomplished?***

OVERCOMMERCIALIZATION—The next wave of commercial development will undoubtedly be the rehabilitation of older buildings. Under the new federal tax law, developers can receive a tax credit of 15% to 25% if they rehabilitate such buildings. We must convince the P&Z Board that steps should be taken NOW to limit further the extent and form of such rehabilitation. Otherwise, developers can add 1 or 2 more floors to small buildings and increase them horizontally, as well. Immediate action by the P&Z can prevent such unrestrained commercialization.

The most urgent need is to establish the post of Community Ombudsman in Westport to serve as an open-door contact for Westporters with the processes of local government. The responsibility of the Community Ombudsman would be to coordinate forward planning and development projects such as land acquisition and the revitalization of downtown Westport; to serve as a liaison with volunteer groups, which have tremendous untapped potential for service; and to listen to the ideas and concerns of individual citizens and communicate these to the shapers of town policy.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Ours is a strictly non-partisan organization whose main purpose is service to the electorate. This Voter's Guide is one way we have of helping you to make an informed vote. Additional copies of this publication are available at the library, the YMCA, and Town Hall.

Read what the candidates have written; if you like, mark the sample ballot and take it with you to the polls; but, most importantly, VOTE on November 3. Voting districts are indicated on the map and polling places are listed next to it. The polls are open from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM. At every polling place there is a person who is there only to answer questions and demonstrate the operation of the voting machine.

To vote, you must first be registered. Citizens may register year 'round at the office of the Registrars of Voters on the first floor of the Town Hall. Remember to notify the Registrar if you change your name; change your address within the town; or, move to another town in the state.

Muriel Woolley

SAMPLE BALLOT

OFFICE / PARTY	1 First Selectman and Selectman	2 Board of Finance Vote for any Two	3	4 Board of Education Vote for any Two	5	6 Board of Tax Review Vote for any Two	7	8 Planning and Zoning Commission Full Term Vote for any Three	9	10	11 Planning and Zoning Commission To Fill Vacancies For Two Years Vote for any Two	12	13 Zoning Board of Appeals Full Term	14 Zoning Board of Appeals To Fill Vacancy For Two Years
DEMOCRATIC	Martha S. Hauhuth and Ralph Sheffer 1A	Donald S. Levy 2A	David R. Lurie 3A	Jerry Davidoff 4A	Leonard Rovins 5A	Robert A. Landowne 6A	Abraham Nad 7A	Donald H. Blanchard 8A	Rita A. Steinberger 9A	10A	Constance Greenfield 11A	12A	Alan A. McLean 13A	Arlene Jill M. Hespos 14A
REPUBLICAN	William Seiden and Barbara A. Butler 1B	Edwin K. Dimes 2B	Rita Stitzer 3B	4B	5B	Robert Horne 6B	7B	Jacqueline A. Guryan 8B	Richard H. Orenstein 9B	Anne M. West 10B	Edward H. Coy 11B	Ann C. Gill 12B	Josephine S. Fuchs 13B	Margery D. Thorndike 14B
SAVE WESTPORT NOW	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	Donald H. Blanchard 8C	Rita A. Steinberger 9C	10C	Constance Greenfield 11C	Robert H. MacLachlan 12C	13C	14C
PETITIONING CANDIDATE	1D	2D	3D	Paul F. Copp 4D	5D	6D	7D	8D	9D	10D	11D	12D	13D	14D
	1E	2E	3E	4E	5E	6E	7E	8E	9E	10E	11E	12E	13E	14E
	1F	2F	3F	4F	5F	6F	7F	8F	9F	10F	11F	12F	13F	14F

18	19 Representative Town Meeting Vote for any Six SEE ROW - E - BELOW
18A	19A
18B	19B
18C	19C
18D	19D
18E	19E
18F	19F

HOW TO VOTE BY MACHINE

1. Pull the red handle of the curtain lever to the right as far as it will go, and leave it there. This will close the curtain around you and unlock the machine for voting.
2. Register your vote for candidates in one of three ways:
   a) Simply turn down the pointer over the name of each candidate for whom you wish to vote, and leave it down. If you are permitted to vote for more than one candidate for an office, it is indicated at the top of each column, directly under the office designation.
   b) OR, pull the party lever of your choice. (These are located on the extreme left, over the party designations.) This will automatically turn down the pointers over *all* the names on that party row.
   c) OR, pull the party lever of your choice and then turn up the pointers over candidates for whom you do not wish to vote. Then, turn down the pointers for candidates of other parties for whom you do wish to vote.
3. When you have finished voting, LEAVE THE POINTERS DOWN OVER THE NAMES, move the red handle of the curtain lever to the left as far as it will go, and leave it there. This will register your vote and return the pointers to their non-voting position, after which it will open the curtain.

NOTES:

- In the case of an office to which two or more candidates are to be elected, you can turn down the proper number of pointers *anywhere* in that group, even though one be directly below the other.
- The machine is so arranged that you cannot turn down more than the proper number of pointers for any office. Therefore you need have no fear of spoiling your ballot by voting for too many.
- You may WRITE IN the name of a candidate who does not appear on the ballot. Write-in slides are located over the space for questions. Do not open one unless you intend to use it.
- There is no danger of anyone's knowing how you vote, as the movement of the curtain lever returns the pointers to their non-voting position before the curtain begins to open.

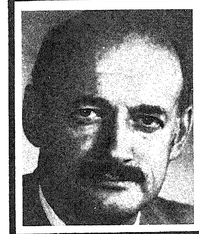
Membership in the League is open to any citizen of voting age. We welcome inquiries and contributions (we are non-profit as well as non-partisan!). Please write to Box 285, Westport, CT 06881, or call 226-1670 to receive further information.

BOARD OF FINANCE

vote for 2

The Board of Finance has six members serving staggered four-year terms. They review and endorse all appropriations, including the annual budget, set the tax rate, prepare and issue the annual Town report.

LWV QUESTION: ***One of the duties of the Board of Finance is to endorse appropriations. What type of expenditures do you feel will receive priority during the next four years?***



Donald S. Levy (D)

RTM: eight years—Chairman-RTM Public Protection Committee; Finance Committee; Transit Committee; Rules Committee; Recreation Committee. Proposed Budget cuts exceeding $1,000,000. Chairman-Advisory Committee—Educational Planning; Chairman-Little League; Babe Ruth Baseball; Cub Scouts. President & Treasurer-Retail Store Chain. Graduate-Tufts University-Economics & Government Majors.

(Answer based on question being, "—*should* receive priority—.") Although I firmly believe in sustaining the multi-faceted quality of life we Westporters now enjoy, certain problems must be anticipated immediately: 1) In order to equitably distribute the tax burden, a completely new assessment is an unconditional must. 2) In this inflationary period the cost of borrowing is astronomical. Since every dollar we now borrow costs a dollar more in interest than it did four years ago, bonding for capital projects should be kept to an absolute minimum. 3) Our beaches, schools, excellent police and fire departments all merit support; however, every single expenditure has to be carefully examined with a firm commitment to NO further increase in taxes.

David R. Lurie (D)

As a professional business manager, three term RTM member, 20 year Westport resident and two children through the school system, I believe that I can bring the type of sensitive and sensible value judgements to presently overextended and overexpanded budgets.

Past Boards of Finance have "endorsed appropriations" rather than questioning both their need and town priorities, resulting in Westport being number one in Connecticut in per capita expenditures.

Decreased Federal and State aid is certain. Increasing inflationary wage pressures are certain. Unless we reduce the tendency to unimaginatively solve problems or achieve goals by only one method—spending money, we can expect accelerating tax increases.

The Board must take an activist position in promoting and pressuring all budget centers to creatively obtain increased value for every dollar spent.

Edwin K. Dimes (R)

Thirty-one year resident and practicing attorney in Westport; Incumbent member Board of Finance; Wesleyan University B.A.; Yale Law School L.L.B., former member RTM, Public Site and Building Committee, Planning and Zoning Commission (alternate); Recreation Commission; Selectman's Committee on Longshore; numerous community services.

Clearly, basic appropriation requests must have priority. Services (education, police, fire, public works, town administration) must be kept at a decent and safe level. Capital equipment and structures must be maintained. Interest and principal on Westport's increasing debt must be paid. Contract negotiations for our people must be honored. After that, we're going to have to pick and choose as to where or whether we spend our money. Westport has reached the point where it can no longer buy whatever it wants and leave payment to future generations.

Rita Stitzer (R)

Westport resident 13 years, RTM member 4 years. Served on P&Z, Environment, Education, Transit, Rules, and Ad Hoc Library Committee. Recent experience in town affairs has developed the expertise and knowledge needed for the Board of Finance.

The townspeople's desires for more open space, improved library and public safety facilities, as well as the increasing expenses of running the town, will be top priorities.

These priorities will have to be balanced against the desire and abilities of the townspeople to pay for them. Obtaining this balance will be especially difficult because of the declining support of local expenditures by the federal and state governments.

A vote for me will place me on the Board of Finance where I can help with the fiscal decisions.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

vote for 2

The Board of Education has 5 members serving staggered 4-year terms. It functions primarily as a policy-making and planning agency of the Town's educational system, consulting with and relying on the school staff for the administration and implementation of plans.

LWV QUESTION: ***How will the Board of Education in the forthcoming years reduce its budget even though technological tools necessary to prepare our students are becoming more costly?***

Jerry Davidoff (D)

Over 20 years as a local lawyer and active citizen, and keen interest in matters educational, which led to Board of Education membership, are training and experience which helped to quality me. But most important, I think, has been the parenting, with my wife, of two children who have gone all the way through the Westport schools, and who greatly benefitted by that experience, and my participation as a parent in their education.

Educating children is a community's significant contribution to nation and world. Buildings crumble; the human spirit endures. Nurturing that spirit is vital, lest democracy falter. Educational expenses escalate proportionately to inflation in the economy. We cannot shortchange our children as to personnel or technology.

The challenge—to define *need* correctly—is ongoing for Board members. I accept that challenge.

Leonard Rovins (D)

B.S.; LL.B.; Resident 28 years; Recreation Commission; Charter Revision Commission; Board of Education 1971–1981 (Chairman 1971–75); President, Westport Citizens' Planning Association; President, Connecticut Association Boards of Education; Director, National School Boards Association; Senior Partner N.Y. law firm; Col.-Inf. (USAR Ret.).

Review existing programs thoroughly and allocate available funds based upon educational goals. Develop long range plans for staffing and facility utilization based upon projected enrollments. "Depoliticize" Board relations, and deal openly and honestly with Town agencies, staff, students and public, particularly in budget development and administration.

Paul F. Copp

Only candidate with children in the Westport School System; not a member of any political party, and for a non-partisan board; Consultant/Entrepreneur—founder of scientific engineering organizations; father—graduate school dean; mother—teacher; served on active in youth related activities: CC-scoutmaster T-100, sports-WECAN etc.

Inflation will be balanced by the declining student population and subsequent consolidation of schools; efficiencies in curriculum, and in the bidding process for goods and services will further reduce costs.

Desirable sophisticated technological tools must be carefully integrated so that the learning process does not become mechanical and impersonal, with the potential loss of the development of character in our students by our teachers.

PLANNING AND ZONING FULL TERM
vote for three

The P&Z has 7 members serving staggered 4-year terms. They are responsible for developing a Town Plan, securing the most desirable use of land within the town, regulating the density of population, and drafting zoning regulations necessary to the success of the Plan.

LWV Question: ***How can the rights of individual property owners be reconciled with the desires of the community?***

Donald H. Blanchard (D) (Save Westport Now)

Westport attorney, interested in land planning and environmental law, especially water quality and protection. Member, Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality, appointed by the legislature as advisory board. Member, A.B.A. Committee on Environmental Quality. Has followed P&Z closely for two years.

Westport now operates with a 1959 Town Plan, partially up-dated in 1975. The only fair way to reconcile 1981 community desires with the rights of property owners is to rewrite the Town Plan. The extensive public hearings process would give all concerned an opportunity to be heard.

As homeowners, we are a community of "individual property owners". The P&Z must protect all of us through land use restrictions based upon the community's needs. A new Town Plan would identify those needs and provide a sense of fairness and control.

Rita A. Steinberger (D) (Save Westport Now)

Twenty-year Westport resident; RTM, three terms; Chairman, RTM Environment Committee, two terms; Member; Rules, Ad Hoc Transit and Health and Welfare Committees; Administrative Aide to Deputy Majority Leader, State Senate; 1981 Law School Graduate; Law Clerk to two Superior Court Judges.

Obviously all residents, and especially property owners, have a personal stake in the future of our community. For lack of a better phrase "balancing of the equities" is the terminology used to describe the process of weighing individual right versus town need.

An over-simplification of this complex problem would be to permit, as far as possible, individual landowners reasonable use of their property while always remembering that a commissioner serves at the pleasure of the whole town and must make decisions that will reflect sensitivity toward all our desires.

Jacqueline A. Guryan (R)

A Westporter since 1970; involved in community affairs; a parent, former businesswoman and registered nurse with Elderhouse and the schools. Intimately familiar with Westport's Planning and Zoning regulations and meetings (formerly with S.O.S.) and acutely aware of community needs and proper planning.

A good town plan must maintain a delicate balance between the regulatory nature of zoning (to lessen congestion, prevent overcrowding of land, avoid undue concentration of people) while promoting the town's welfare and protecting the rights of individual property owners. If Westport is to maintain its residential character we must develop creative zoning regulations that satisfy individual financial needs and community desire to limit commercialization. Creativity and intelligent administration of P&Z regulations must be combined with consistent and conscientious application of those regulations.

Richard H. Orenstein (R)

Univ. of Michigan 1962. Current P&Z member, experienced businessman and administrator. As president of two companies, I have organized the decision making process, and made decisions among several competing options. These business oriented procedures are directly portable to P&Z activities.

I believe that the Commission's regulations should be made more specific and applied consistently, clarifying the intent of the regulations and the commission's decisions to *all* property owners and the "community".

Individual cases must be decided on their own merit. By communicating the Town Plan, developing the regulations and encouraging full public forums, the "community" and property owners can have significant input into the commission's decisions.

Reconciliation is built into the structure through the election of commission members. By encouraging participation, concensus can be a reality for all participants.

Ann W. West (R)

B.S. University of Wisconsin Economics 1933. L.L.B. St. Johns University, New York, 1948. Admitted to Bar of New York, 1949. Trial practice 1949 to date. Observer PZ meetings one year. Interim appointment to Commission July 1981.

Westport is in a transitional state from small to larger. Control of anticipated growth is essential. Inevitably, conflicting interests arise which the P&Z must resolve within the guidelines, weighing individual against community interests. Residents participation is essential, not in protest after the fact, but understanding and input in future planning itself.

The P&Z must consider in depth Westport's future with particular respect to commercial vs. residential development, with emphasis upon increasing need for housing. Intelligent and informed understanding of the community is needed. Lines of communication must be kept open.

PLANNING AND ZONING TO FILL VACANCIES FOR TWO YEARS *vote for two*

Constance Greenfield (D) (Save Westport Now)

Twelve years a Westport resident with active involvement in community affairs, including: President Kings Highway PTA; President Friends of Wilcox Children; Sunday School teacher; United Fund. Two years P&Z Observer: acquaintance with P&Z regulations; awareness of responsibilities and limitations of other town boards.

For most of us, buying a house is the biggest investment we'll ever make. The laws must, and do, protect our investment. Laws protect commercial investment, too. Individual property owners have rights that are protected by law.

However, there are also laws that protect our community's health, safety, and welfare. Laws protect us from air and water pollution, excessive traffic and noise, fire and flood. If there's a conflict between individual and community needs (not desires), the decision in favor of the community must be reached with fairness and due respect for individual rights.

Edward H. Coy (R)

I have been a Westport resident and property owner for the past 21 years. I want Westport to retain the small community atmosphere I once knew and stop the proliferation of commercialization, confining it to well defined areas agreeable to the community at large.

Each P&Z change must be given individual attention and scrutiny. Attention should be focused on the preservation of the community as we know it, trying to maintain, to the best of our ability, those qualities that made each of us move here and remain. If we can keep this atmosphere, I believe we shall be doing the best for the community as a whole.

Ann C. Gill (R)

B.S. Horticulture, Landscape Design U. of Connecticut. Complete knowledge of all State and local zoning laws. 27 year participation in Town. 6 year member and present chairman P&Z. Have consistently worked for reduction of commercialization in Westport.

All property owners have rights given them by the Constitution and the public has the right under State Statutes to protection of its "Health, Safety and General Welfare." Thus the dilemma of the Commission and Town.

The Commission must weigh all sides of an issue and through Public and Informational Hearings arrive at a reasonable decision. The key word is "*reasonable.*"

The P&Z has taken the lead in reducing commercial development. Since Oct. 1979, using *reasonable guidelines* the Commission has made four major changes limiting potential commercial development.

PLANNING AND ZONING *cont'd*

Robert MacLachlan (Save Westport Now)

Law degree; Businessman, specializing in negotiations; Student of P&Z affairs since 1979; Made comparative study of permissible commercial building size in Westport, Greenwich and Darien; Outspoken critic of secret negotiations to permit commercial building at 228 Saugatuck Avenue.

By study and analysis. For example, I attach a list of commercial buildings under construction, approved or pending. Of these I think only Wright Street is operational. Assume a total of 500,000 square feet. That represents 2000 parking spaces and 5,000 to 8,000 vehicle movements per day *additional* to the traffic that is already choking our streets.

If elected I would advocate a study of the relationships between commercial building and traffic and pending its completion the immediate reduction of Floor Area Ratio on the Post Road from .35 to .25.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS *FULL TERM vote for 1*

The ZBA has 5 members serving staggered 4-year terms. They review appeals for variance from P&Z regulations.

LWV Question: ***How can the rights of individual property owners be reconciled with those of his neighbor?***

Alan A. McLean (D)

Thirty years of psychiatric, medical and management experience at Cornell University and IBM (Eastern Area Medical Director). President, American Occupational Medical Association. I will work to conserve Westport's residential and business communities and emphasize sharply limited commercial growth.

Failing amicable discussion and a legally acceptable solution, fair and equitable application of existing laws and regulations is fundamental to the process of reconcilation. In my view a strict "constructionist" or rigid interpretation of such rules is contrary to equitable justice. One must carefully consider precedent, prospective damage to each party and be thoroughly conversant with each case.

Josephine S. Fuchs (R)

I have served as an Alternate on the ZBA for one year, and thus am experienced in the Board's function and operations. As an elected member, I shall be qualified to serve the town fully from the start in an objective and equitable manner.

Where rights are in conflict, a compromise must be worked out. This often can be attained with architectural modification and landscaping. If a compromise cannot be worked out, I would generally vote to maintain the status quo, for a variance can only be given under an established hardship.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TO FILL VACANCY FOR 2 YEARS *vote for one*

Arlene M. Hespos (D)

Temple U.-R.N.; Columbia U.-B.S.; NYU-M.A.; course work towards Doctorate. Wife, Mother. Instructor-Southern Ct. State College. Formerly, sub. science teacher; school nurse. Two years Commissioner of Conservation. Member-LWV, WILPF, Teacher/Naturalist Nature Center; Historical Society.

The property rights of private citizens must be protected. The ZBA is a means by which property owners can be assured of equal and fair treatment. The board stands between the public and the individual property owner to protect the latter from unnecessary hardship. The Commission is indepensable to the zoning process both constitutionally and practically.

Each case is judged individually without any preconceived ideas and in conformity to the governing rules of law as reasonable conclusions from the facts presented. Decisions are made with consideration for conserving public health, safety, convenience, and property values. Variances are granted when they ...*

Margery D. Thorndike (R)

Westport resident 17 years. Past president Owenoke homeowners' association, active in Cub Scouts, church choir, fight to save Cockenoe Island as open space for Westport. Smith College BA magna cum laude, 30 years in publishing. Now Senior Editor Reader's Digest.

The essence of the homeowner's protection lies in the judicious and sparing use of variances by the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA is a quasi-judicial board which judges each application by criteria set up in the state statute and by case law. No variance can be granted unless the zoning regulations create a *unique* hardship for the property owner—one that is not self-created, nor strictly financial. The power to vary the zoning regulations, which protect all Westport homeowners, is one that should indeed be used sparingly.

BOARD OF TAX REVIEW *vote for two*

The Board of Tax Review has 3 members with staggered 4-year terms who review appeals for revision of tax assessments. Annual salary $200.

LWV Question: ***What do you expect will be the Board of Tax Review's most important task during your term?***

Robert A. Landowne (D)

Member Board of Tax Review since 1977 and well acquainted with the present status of assessments. Employed as Director of Clinical Chemistry and Computer Operations, St. Joseph Hospital (Stamford). Former Professor of Medicine, Yale Univ. and Sr. Research Chemist, American Cyanamid Co. President, Westport Interfaith Housing Corp. Ph.D., Chemistry, Yale Univ.

I served during the recent reassessment process and was instrumental in the amicable completion of the proceedings this spring. I feel it is important to continue the ongoing process, in cooperation with the Town Assessor, of further improving Westport's property evaluations. This means additional review of sales to assessment ratios and making changes, both up and down, where justified to achieve even greater equity.

Abraham Nad (D)

With 25 years experience in major corporations and my own business, I bring seasoned judgment to the tax review process. My background in finance and as a CPA enable me to ensure that all taxpayers are treated equally and fairly.

I will help restore confidence among property owners of Westport in the fairness and equality of tax assessments in the town. Equalization of taxes is an ongoing process which requires the cooperative efforts of the assessor and the Board of Tax Review. As a member of the Board, I intend to ensure that this cooperative effort is our primary goal.

Robert Horne (R)

I am a graduate chemical engineer from Cambridge University with an MBA from Harvard Business School. I have twenty years business experience where I have addressed a broad range of problems including the evaluation of businesses for sale or acquisition.

The most recent town reassessment was a disaster. Many individual residencies have suffered dramatic increases in valuation while many commercial properties are not carrying their fair tax load. The most important task for the Board of Tax Review is to resolve these inequities. This will involve clear thinking and many months of hard work.

RTM

THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING is a non-partisan legislative body. Its 40 members, chosen on the basis of population from eight districts, are elected for two-year terms. The RTM derives from the original New England open town meeting and all citizens are welcome to attend its sessions, although only elected members may vote. RTM candidates must: 1) be registered Westport voters, and 2) reside in the districts they will represent. RTM members may not hold any other town office while serving.

LWV Question: ***What direction do you want the town to take in the next 10 years in view of the financial restraints presently imposed on government?***

RTM

District 1

vote for five

Andrew C. Ackemann

Westport must immediately undertake preservation of its unique character and financial stability. We must expect to continue growing, without sacrificing residential or environmental quality. Where commercial development occurs, it must be carefully regulated and contribute significant tax revenue. Public properties should be effectively utilized or profitably liquidated. Our educational system must be preserved and strengthened. Westport's senior citizens must not be forced away burdened by onerous taxation or property restrictions.

Joseph P. Arcudi

I believe that we should pay special attention to lowering the cost of our town government. I believe we should address the problem of elderly housing immediately. Our senior citizens should not be forced to move out of town.

I believe most Westporters would like to keep our schools at their present high quality. We should spend the money necessary to do this but not one penny more.

G. Kenneth Bernhard

It is apparent that the Town of Westport has failed to set priorities on the expenditure of its monies. The expense of thousands of dollars on the Staples swimming pool, which the Town fears now it cannot afford to maintain, is a classic example.

I would urge the Town of Westport to establish a priority list. I urge that town services be reduced, with emphasis being placed on the quality of its endeavors rather than the quantity. The Town of Westport is overextended and is failing in those things that are most important to its citizens.

Thomas E. Capasse

Reagonomic cutbacks in Federal Funding, the collapse of the municipal bond market, inflationary cost push, taxpayer revolt—together these spell widening budget deficits for local governments in the foreseeable future. How is Westport to fund this gap without further levys? Austerity cuts in non-essential, "specialized" programs, budgeting primarily for increases in non-discretionary costs, deferral of expansionary capital projects and *limited* and even-handed employment of user-charge fees.

Rita V. Hooper

As the Town enters a period of austerity the administration must recognize the need for careful planning and budgeting on a prioritized basis. New programs, projected, but not initiated, may have to be postponed, and some services minimized. Capital projects also may experience some delays.

Rudolph Francis Mutter

Westport is still a bedroom community, but during the past ten years has also become a regional center for shopping, dining, the theatre, night clubs and especially offices. The fact that more people come to Westport than leave for work and recreation must be considered when deciding which services must and/or should be provided. At the same time, we must guard the quality of life for all the residents of Westport.

Vincent R. Sandercock

LET'S TAKE CARE OF WHAT WE HAVE. Westport is endowed with outstanding facilities that make it a special place to live—Compo Beach, Longshore, Jesup Green, Cockenoe, the Saugatuck River, Levitt Pavilion. I'd like to see us devote any surplus funds and resources to developing and maintaining these facilities. The payoff will be more fun and more secure property values. And PLEASE: let's really do something about controlling commercial growth.

District 2

vote for four

Eugene E. Cederbaum

Westport must carefully manage its assets; set equitable budget priorities; and maintain the quality of life enjoyed today and expected tomorrow.

To accomplish the above, the RTM requires complete disclosure of information by elected officials and boards.

The needs of education, mass transit, senior citizens, land use and daycare must be fairly recognized.

The goal of responsible government is to meet increasing needs within financial limitations but without unbearable sacrifice.

Jeanne D. Harris

No response.

Rees S. Himes, Jr.

I am a fiscal conservative, intent on keeping Westport a quality suburban town. No further commercial development. Limited cluster housing. Maintain town services we now have with no expansion. Obviously inflation will increase costs but costs should be kept at or below the inflation rate. If one service needs to increase its share of town revenues another must reduce its share. Schools and our library are vital. Recreation is important.

Randolph W. Meyer

First, we need a non-political review of the recent property assessment. Taxes will be an increasing burden and we all must feel we are being treated fairly. Next, we must review the community plan defining Westport's goals for residential/commercial development. That plan *must* include estimates of town revenues and expenditures for each alternative. I favor limiting commercial development, but would like to know the impact on the town budget.

Mark A. Smith

To enhance Westport's lifestyle, even under today's financial constraints, we should consider the following: 1. Encourage more affordable housing to spread the tax base and stop population decline, 2. Undertake new town zoning plan to more carefully control development, 3. Maintain educational excellence, 4. Recycle, lease, or sell all town-owned surplus property, to town's benefit, 5. Continue to offer excellent recreational amenities but place cost burden more upon users rather than taxpayers.

John E. Terrell

The Town needs to up-date or establish a new town plan with each activity rated by urgency/expenditure. It should be reviewed each year so there is an orderly implementation to preclude excessive expenditures and/or bonding in a short period.

Depts. should present budgets in dollar and mill rate percentage for past 5 years so citizens are aware of expenditures and growth of each service and its tax implication.

District 3

vote for five

Eleanor C. Atwell

It is imperative that Westport looks, in the future, to it's own tax resources, to determine where this town will be in 1991 and beyond. We can no longer count on the infusion of state and federal monies to fund our worthwhile, but sometimes unattainable goals. Therefore any administration must submit to the RTM and other governing bodies priortized goals which are realistic and fit the town's financial capabilities.

Andrew F. Fink

The two greatest concerns of Westport residents are over-development and taxes. The RTM should act to control each.

With respect to development, the RTM must exercise its limited role to control commercialization, while respecting private property rights.

Taxes can be controlled by limiting expenditures and finding other sources of revenue. The RTM must approve only those appropriations fully justified, and must increase user fees for specialized services.

Mary D. Mix

I serve on the RTM Finance and Education Committees and am familiar with both town and school budgets. High taxes concern me greatly, but I believe inflationary pressures make some budgetary increases inevitable.

I want the town and school system to budget tightly, spend judiciously, and keep increases to the minimum compatible with acceptable quality services.

I also want us to plan wisely for open space acquisition within our means.

Peter B. Neiman

My prescription for direction: 1) Establish a strategic vision of what we ideally want Westport to look like in 10 years, considering; traffic, commercial development, financial stability, recreation, educational services, overall quality of residential life. 2) Set a price tag on achieving the complete vision. 3) Prioritize and scrub the vision against financial realities. 4) Use this exercise to establish positive, yet realistic policies for the town.

Christine B. O'Sullivan

Westport should move to insure its character and strength by thoughtful budgeting in the next decade.

Priorities include: Planned, not haphazard, growth of commerce, strict zoning requirements; Acquisition of open space, particularly downtown, better use of space owned, e.g. Jesup Green; Maintaining public transit, upgrading as ridership increases; Improving roadways and traffic controls; Maintaining recreation service—user financing where reasonable; Considering in-house apartments for less expensive alternative housing.

Edward C. Saenz

I believe Westport's government must establish priorities in lieu of the new system of federal distribution of funds. The town must reorganize expenditures, reducing those services that are directly related to population since we have less people than ten years ago. However, a new library must be built, police and fire departments must be kept modern and excess town property must be sold while retaining Westport's traditional residential atmosphere.

Robert Seskin

The qualities that make Westport such a desirable place to live and work have to be preserved in the future. Therefore, I would like to see Westport create a long range plan to properly provide for our needs in the areas of education, recreation, open land, ecology, and housing for the elderly and the young.

John Sibley

Westport should endeavor to properly maintain its capital investments—all public buildings, roads, sewers, bridges, and the beaches. However, the town must refrain from making unessential capital expenditures that would further increase its debt. Taxes must be kept under control so that our citizens will not be forced out of town because of extravagant town spending and the high cost of debt service.

Stephen Tate

I want our town to use its planning and zoning powers and its financial resources to keep the community from becoming a ghetto for the moderately wealthy. We must continue to encourage housing suited to all age groups and income levels. Capital outlays should strengthen the facilities that have made Westport a unique community. I am particularly anxious to see plans for a new library go forward without further delay.

District 4

vote for six

John H. Barton

Most people choose Westport to live in because of the ambiance of the community and its first-rate educational system—both of which are threatened.

The building of the office complex on Greens Farms Rd., near Hills Point Rd., and the proposed development of Gorham Island, are examples of questionable expansion which threaten the charm of our community.

The educational system is jeopardized by cutbacks in both state and federal funding; as well as a few people bringing politics into the ministerial running of our school . . .*

Elroy Brody

Local governments will have to pick up the increasing financial burden of programs previously funded mainly by the federal government.

Greater consideration must be given to the why, where and how to raise our tax revenues and closer supervision given to its disbursement in order to get the maximum return for each dollar spent.

Ecologically and aesthetically planned development can broaden our tax base and preserve the town's character.

Norman W. Flint

Stop overbuilding (offices) on our narrow streets. Our priorities must be support for what we need and use most: education, public servants; roads, beaches, drainage, public buildings. For all new projects let us do what we did for the town garage—set aside money in the Capital and Non-recurring Fund. Spend finally when we have the dollars in hand.

Penelope Lind

In order to maintain our uniqueness and our high standards, we must elect new leadership. We need women and men capable of welding creative solutions to nitty-gritty problems, and we must start by re-evaluating our priorities. In order to determine reasonable budgets, RTM members must scrutinize each department's cost effectiveness and responsiveness to human need.

I believe we need to moderate commercial growth, examine the question of more condominiums, offer greater support to our educators, as well as maintain our unique recreation facilities.

Marion C. Mahone

I would like Westport to accept with excitement the challenge of raising and spending its own money.

To insure the residential character, I would rezone and enforce the WPLO when applicable. The state should be urged to tax business and home real estate more equitably.

Unused school buildings should become library, fire, or police facilities.

Owners of desirable recreation land should be honored for donating property to the town.

Thomas L. Nadeau

The largely healthy enthusiasm business shows for being here must include fair sharing of government's burdens—through equitable taxation and town leadership which inspires civic pride and participation.

Injustice in residential taxation and zoning must neither force present neighbors out, nor prevent our parents and children from remaining—in affordable housing.

Prudent fiscal RTM oversight can help keep reins taut, preserve our residential character—and still save Gorham Island!

Aaron C. Schechter

It's great to work close to where you live. But at what price? We came here 18 years ago to a small "town" with a wonderful and unique quality of life. Now it's a small "city" and growing. Has quantity improved Quality? The cost of keeping the Westport privelege for the next 10 years must be born fairly by all—Commercial as well as residential.

Eleanor C. Solovay

Westport must continue to provide good services for its citizens—e.g. police and fire protection, road maintenance, solutions to drainage problems, strong schools etc.

As I have done during my past 8 years on the RTM, I will carefully scrutinize all proposed capital projects.

Theodore W. Youngling

All phases of our town government face the challenge of maintaining our facilities and services, improving those that show need, and do all of this with a "shrinking" dollar and increasing costs. This can be done with tight management and good planning by both elected and professional officials.

To preserve Westport does not mean we can reverse all of the changes that have occured. I don't think we can buy back Westport as we knew it, but we can do more to regulate, legislate, and control what happens. Commercial development must be . . .*

District 5

vote for four

Lawrence O. Aasen

In the next ten years Westport must practice the old New England slogan: "Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without." We must do this with all our assets. Most critical will be what we do with the 70 remaining "open" acres. These acres must not sprout more office buildings, more traffic, and more congestion.

David H. Harrison

I'd like to see the Town develop a clear plan for where it would like to be ten years from now. Based on that plan, Town officials should work with residents to establish *priorities* for expenditures. The challenge will be to hold ourselves to those priorities—to accept the fact that in responding to limited financial resources, not every project can be funded.

Kathleen L. Lehn

No response.

K. Burr McGhee

Westport must gear itself to live within its income. State and Federal money will be sparse if at all available for capital projects, therefore we must set our priorities carefully. We should be ready and able to fund our needs in favor of our desires.

Warren W. Middleton

The maturing of civil government into a body more in tune with the public's attitudes. Whether it be marina expansion or land purchases for public use or changes in educational procedures, each RTM member should above all maintain contact with many constituents so that his or her stance truly represents, as far as possible, the attitudes of the people served.

Michael A. Nayor

The 80's must be a period of major planning and retrenchment. Development is not synonomous with "progress". We should reallocate the tax burden equitably; and embark upon long range, professional planning to ensure proper land use, without condemnation, and the maintenance and improvement of existing town resources and facilities. Our school system must receive continued support, public transportation must be made adequate, and necessary public works projects must finally be undertaken.

District 6

vote for six

Thomas F. Conroy

This year's tremendous jump in our real estate taxes following the re-assessment coupled with our appalling Town bonded debt, which will hit home owners most severely by 1984, mandates a careful control on any additional capital expenditures and a searching review of all Departmental budgets. Why, for instance, is the per-capita cost of educating a child in the Westport school system the highest in the State?

All Town boards and officials must use extreme fiscal caution and responsibility otherwise we will face endless referenda.

Roy M. Dickinson

We need to increase efforts to stem commercialization by tougher zoning, higher taxes on commercial property and town acquisition of key sites, especially along our waterways.

We need to limit expenses by insisting on efficient town government, plus asking reasonable user fees to offset the cost of town owned facilities. Most of all we need to work together to maintain Westport appeal and preserve the value of our homes.

Arlene P. Donahue

We must have controlled growth and steady improvement in services. We must identify those programs which give Westport its character and ensure their continuation. In addition, we need innovative methods to encourage voluntary funding for non-essential but desirable programs. Most important is greater community involvement in town affairs and a better-informed electorate which understands the financial impact of each issue. The town's direction must reflect the public wish.

Michael David Greenbaum

During the next ten years, Westport, should direct itself to enhancing the sense of community which brought us here. I believe the following program can be accomplished within the bounds of prudent fiscal management: commercial growth—restricting it; open space-preserving and expanding it; public education—improving its quality; library—increasing its size and relocating it conveniently; recreation—expanding facilities with users sharing the costs.

Mary M. Jenkins

Westport's diverse population, beauty, fine schools and exceptional recreational facilities can be maintained in the years ahead if the administration: a) emphasizes even handed maintenance of what we have rather than costly new projects; b) stresses responsible fiscal management to keep the mil rate as low as inflation allows; c) maintains an open administration, responsive to citizen ideas and concerns, and creative in its approach to innovative proposals.

Philip M. Perlah

With inflation increasing the cost of Town services, and taxpayers resisting increased taxes, Westport must more carefully evaluate which programs to support. Taxpayers must receive maximum benefit from Town expenditures with minimum overhead. User fees will increase. Although some fiscal relief may come from projected declining enrollment, educational expenditures must meet the needs and expectations of parents, students and non-parent taxpayers. Commercialization should be restrained by stricter zoning regulations.

Michael Anthony Rea

The financial restraints on government today will not be resolved tomorrow. The next decade promises to test our town's ability to cope with such restraints, while improving the "quality of life" most Westporter's expect and desire. Our direction will depend on how efficient and effective Westport's Town government will be. Priorities like our education system and our recreational facilities must be supported and grow with us in this decade. I look forward, as a life-time resident with a young family, in contributing to this effort on the RTM.

Douglas R. Wood

The challenge of the coming years will be to strike a balance between maintaining and enhancing our quality of life, including additional open space, excellent schools and reduced commercialization, and keeping the tax rate at an acceptably low level. This will require a continuing effort throughout town government, not only to spend cautiously, but to do so with sufficient wisdom to avoid diminishing permanently the character of the town.

District 7

vote for five

Ira W. Bloom

Westport should direct itself toward preserving the quality of life we enjoy and carefully allocating funds to those programs which invest in our future: 1. The fascination with large office buildings and other uncontrolled development should end; 2. Programs and plans relating to education, housing for the young and elderly, and a new library should be maintained; 3. Private financing for activities and programs by those who use them should be adopted.

C. Richard Foote

My goals for the next ten years are really no different than my desire since being elected four years ago; that is, good responsible, efficient government. Concurrently we need to limit the spread of ugly commercial growth, provide the capability for adequate housing (at no cost to the taxpayers), maintain a good town to live in and provide adequate public protection (police and fire) in the most cost effective manner.

Samuel R. Friedson

1. Stop Real Estate purchases; 2. Freeze salaries of elected and appointed officials at 1980 levels; 3. Stop Heneage personnel pension plans; 4. Make all town recreational facilities self-supporting; 5. Auction unused schools, vehicles, equipment and land; 6. Initiate yearly referendum on all major capital expenditures; 7. Reasses immediately. (Cost: $250,000. which is half estimated $500,000 in legal fees to town attorney on reassment lawsuits); 8. Properly routed public transportation, hopefully self-supporting; 9. Stop Counting on Federal Handouts!

Marion H. Lang

A fifteen year resident and two term member of the RTM, I believe that during the next ten years we must work to attract a diverse population which will keep Westport the stimulating and vital community it is today. Our major priorities, regardless of the financial restraints, must be to maintain our excellent educational and recreational facilities, to support different types of housing, and to discourage further commercialization.

Anthony J. Lowe

Four major areas of concentration: Commercialization kept to a minimum. Assess at replacement rate to enhance Westport's tax base and make it less attractive to builders.

Capital expenditures should be kept to a minimum with only the most necessary projects proceeding.

Education budgets should be realistic and as low as possible without lowering educational standards.

Recreational facilities should be kept up but not expanded unless paid for by users.

Walter L. Schlenker

We should strive to: maintain educational achievement levels that meet the needs of our children; maintain the dignity and usefulness of our senior citizens; teach children, in need of aid, to cope with family crisis and provide child care, where necessary; protect the beauty of Westport from potentially excessive commercialism and vandalism.

Monetary priorities must be identified to make intelligent transfers of funds while controlling costs.

Patricia Ann Swift

The reorganization of town government spending is needed to help reduce expenses inflicted on each taxpayer due to the financial restrictions imposed by the government. We should try redeveloping and utilizing more of town owned existing buildings. Stop overspending on unnecessary projects or projects that are inefficiently completed thus costing more to the taxpayers and the town.

Samuel C. Zurich

Living within a balanced budget is vital.

Increases in property taxes should stabilize. Efforts should be made to determine other sources of income.

Essential services, including education, should be maintained at the highest affordable levels. Care should be given to preserve our recreational facilities. Further housing provisions should be made for those on fixed incomes.

We must maintain the balance which continues to identify the personality that is Westport.

District 8

vote for six

Jean F. Bodkin

We have little choice — residential property taxes must not rise. Commercial property needs to be reevaluated; Commercial creep ended; government expenses cut to the bone; our ambitious building programs curtailed.

We must maintain what we have, but retrenchment is the word. Our population is shrinking—let's not make Westport a city for people who don't live here!

The RTM must have the courage to represent its real constitutents.

Irwin Donenfeld

Our main goal is to make sure that the quality of life in Westport does not deteriorate, as it will if we do not develop a flexible town plan which can balance the needs of our ever-changing population. We must assure every citizen of his importance and eliminate the present polarization of our community. We must appreciate that each dollar spent may not benefit every individual at all times.

Sidney L. Filderman

Government must realize that its ONLY role is to serve the people. Essential town functions—public protection, education, elements of recreation, library, senior citizen help—must be maintained and operated so efficiently that we can live with and appreciate our resources and surroundings. We have to leaven good sense with concern so that quality of life in Westport is as high in 1991 as it is today—if not better.

Louis Forrest

Fiscal restraint is the theme of the 80's.

It is a time for no frills and the elimination of non essential requests by town departments.

Budgets must be adhered to, contact bidding watched and more competitive bids insisted upon.

Dollar requests must be scrutinized carefully and the Westport Taxpayer should get a full dollars worth for each dollar spent.

I shall endeavor to carry out this theme for my constituents.

Barbara L. Fry

Tending to lean towards conservation, I've been aware of over-spending in many of the Town's departments e.g. supplies and travel expenses. A central (town) purchaser could control purchases of supplies and equipment—where do we travel? Unwise contracts for construction to low bidders have proved to be a waste of taxpayer's monies as many of these jobs have had to be redone—better coordination between state and town would be a financial plus. Better supervision of these jobs is a must. The RTM has . . .*

John S. Gilbertie, Jr.

Preserving Westport residentially will require: 1. limiting apartment, condominium, and commercial growth; 2. ending zone breaking; 3. limiting government spending and taxation; 4. instituting charter changes: a. RTM adopt or reject zoning board changes by 21 votes, b. limit town spending to grandlist increase #2.5%, c. return 2 year terms to selectman's office; 5. capital spending proposals of $750.000 or more must be approved by referendum.

Raymond W. Hartman

We should: a) maintain and replace when necessary facilities and equipment we have now. Avoiding such expense leads to aggravated costs later; b) make certain that town services and employment are cost effective. Across the board employment cuts are not consistant with this principle; c) avoid acquisition of commercially zoned land for open space. Such purchases are excessively expensive and reduce tax revenue.

Joan Jansen

The town must take a fiscally reponsible direction *immediately.* By this I mean that priorities must be re-assessed and, when done, adhered to. New projects must be scaled down to feasible levels so that the Town's bonding indebtedness does not escalate beyond its ability to pay. The old New England adage, "Use it up, wear it out, make it do" should be reinstated in *all* Town departments.

Joseph R. Radigan

Westport needs to plan its future rather than simply respond to imposed restraints and external initiatives. We need to take the time to develop a well-integrated, carefully-coordinated plan to preserve the character of Westport so important to those who call Westport 'Home'. We need to assure that people have a voice in determining that future and that elected officials take actions which are compatible with that future vision.

**the views expressed on these pages are the candidates' and have been cut rather than edited*

Westport

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Guide to Local Elections

November 3, 1981

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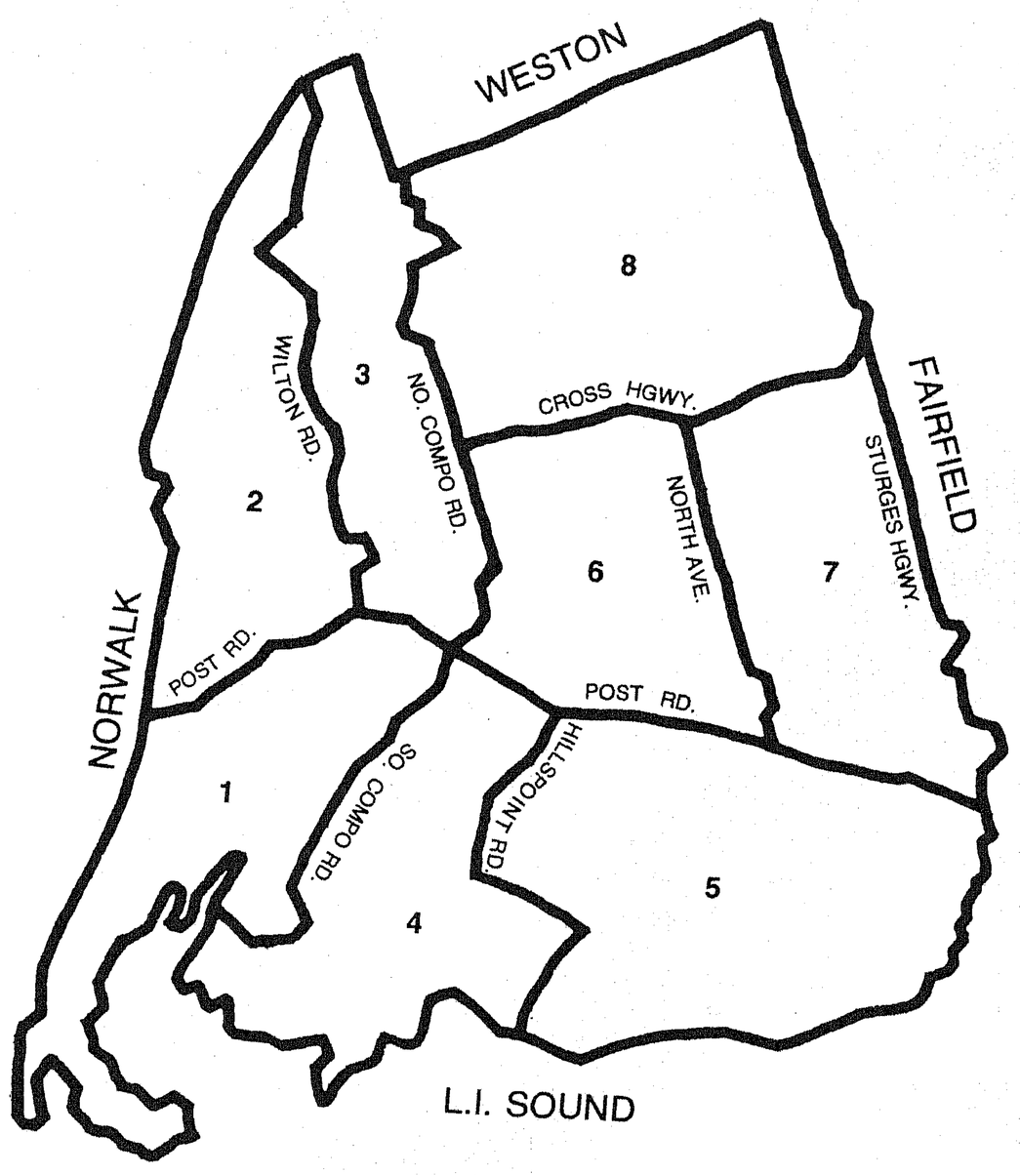

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