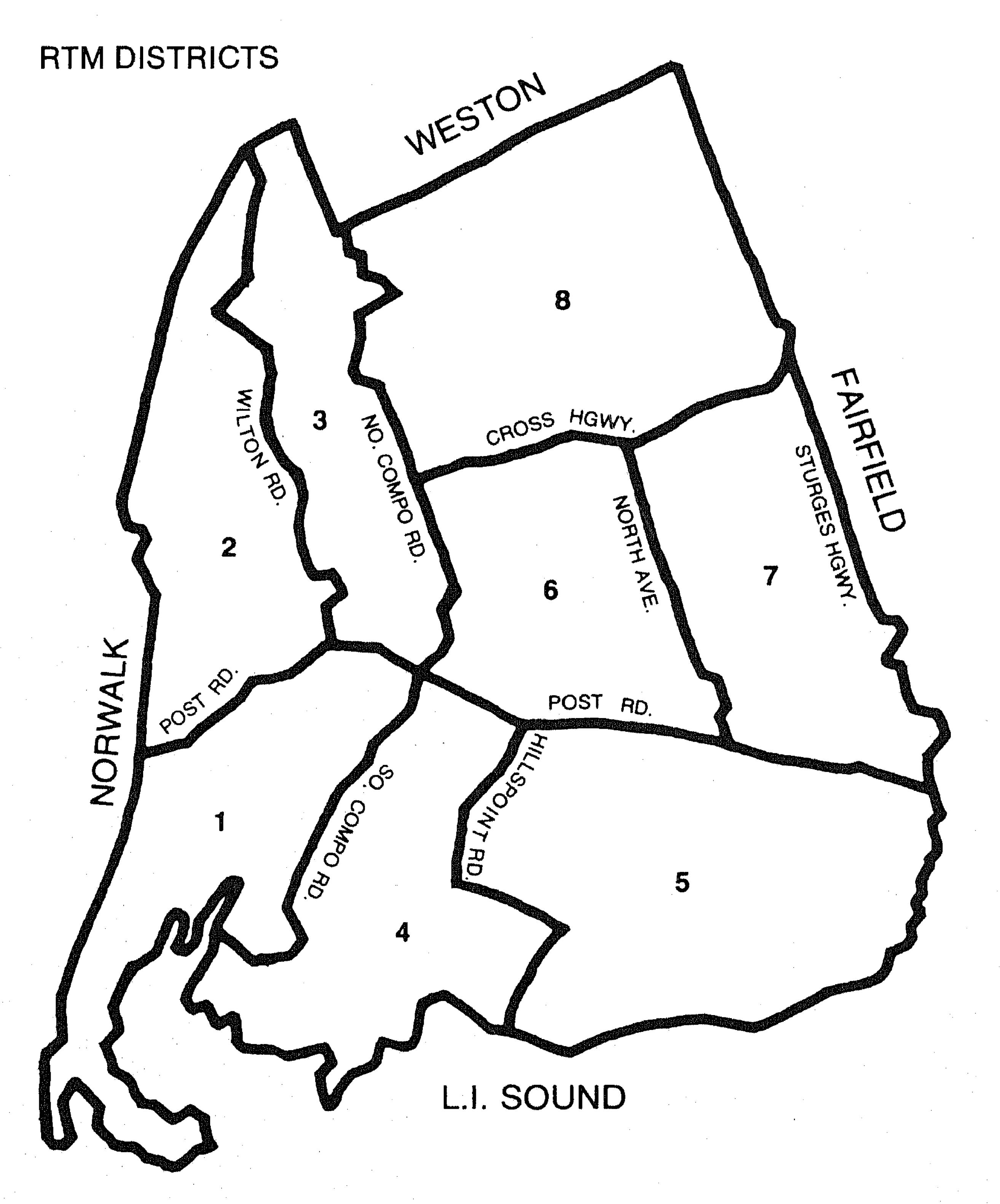


# 1987 Westport

# Woten's Gunde



POLLS OPEN FROM 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. NOVEMBER 3

#### POLLING PLACES

DISTRICTS 1 & 2:

Bedford Middle School Gym
Riverside Avenue

DISTRICTS 3 & 8

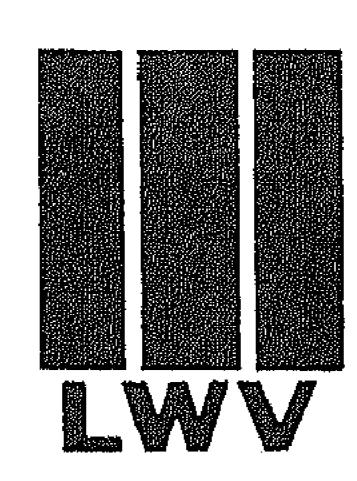
Coleytown Elementary School Gym
Easton Road

DISTRICTS 4 & 5
Westport Arts Center Gym
17 Morningside Drive South

DISTRICTS 6 & 7
Long Lots School Gym
Hyde Lane

Electors who need special assistance are requested to call the Registrars of Voters' office (226-8311, Ext. 140) for an appointment.

VOTE! It's your future.



#### A MESSAGE FROM THE WESTPORT LEAGUE

Westport's League of Women Voters launched an experiment in the local election of 1981 by mailing a copy of the Voter's Guide to every residence in town. It was so well received that the League has decided to do the same in all future local election years. In the years of general elections the Voter's Guide will continue to appear as a League-produced insert in the newspaper. The League is a nonpartisan organization that publishes this guide as one of its traditional ways of helping the public cast an informed vote.

May we suggest that you read what each candidate has written, make your decision, mark the sample ballot provided and take it with you to the polls. We urge you to exercise your RIGHT TO VOTE on November 3. Voting districts and polling places are indicated. The polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. At every polling place there is an official ready 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 Town Hall. Remember to notify the Registrars of Voters if you change your name, change your address within the town, or move to another town in the state of Connecticut.

Latricia Lorio President

#### 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 the following way:

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. There is no longer a party lever.

3. When you have finished voting, LEAVE THE POINTERS DOWN OVER THE NAME. 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.

4. Any elector who requires assistance to vote for reasons of blindness, physical disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the elector's choice, other than the elector's employer or agent of that employer or agent of the elector's union.

5. NO ONE may enter the voting booth with you unless you ask for help. NO ONE is permitted to electioneer or solicit votes for a political party or candidate inside the polling place or within 75 feet of the polls outside.

#### 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 may 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. In order for the write-in to be counted, the candidate must have registered with the Secretary of State by October 20.

There is no danger of anyone's knowing how you vote, as the movement of the curtain lever returns the

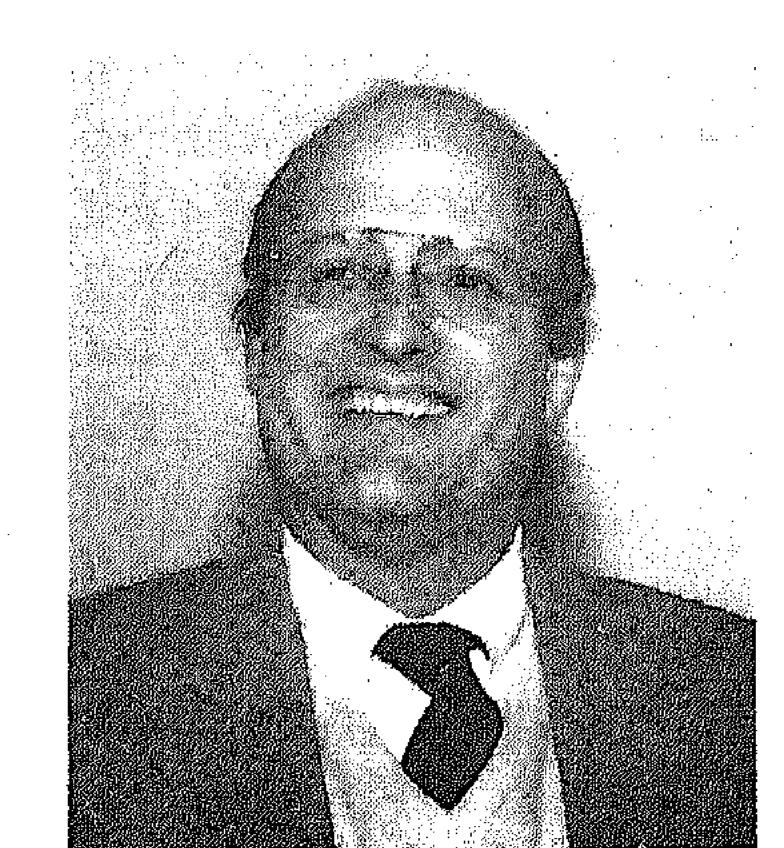
pointers to their non-voting position before the curtain begins to open.

 Absentee ballots can be returned by mail or in person to the Town Clerk prior to Election Day. Mailed ballots only will be accepted (up to 8 p.m.) on Election Day. The Board of Finance has seven 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.

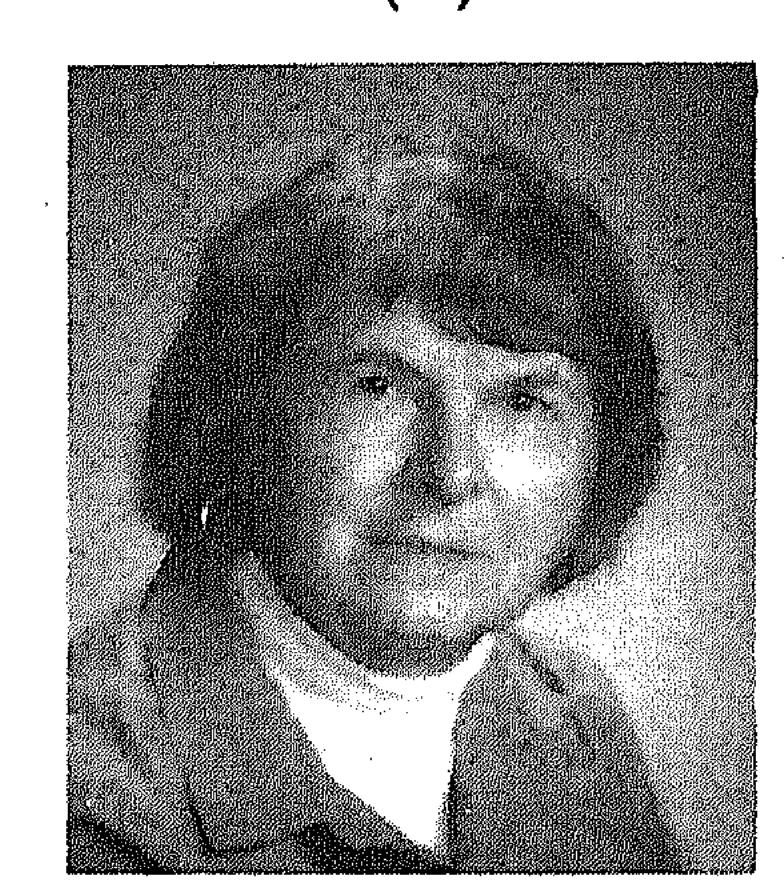
# BOARD OF FINANCE

vote for 4

**LWV QUESTION:** Now that Westport no longer has a large budget surplus, in what ways would you fund such proposed capital expenditures as the Bridge Street bridge, a sewage treatment plant, traffic improvements, etc.?



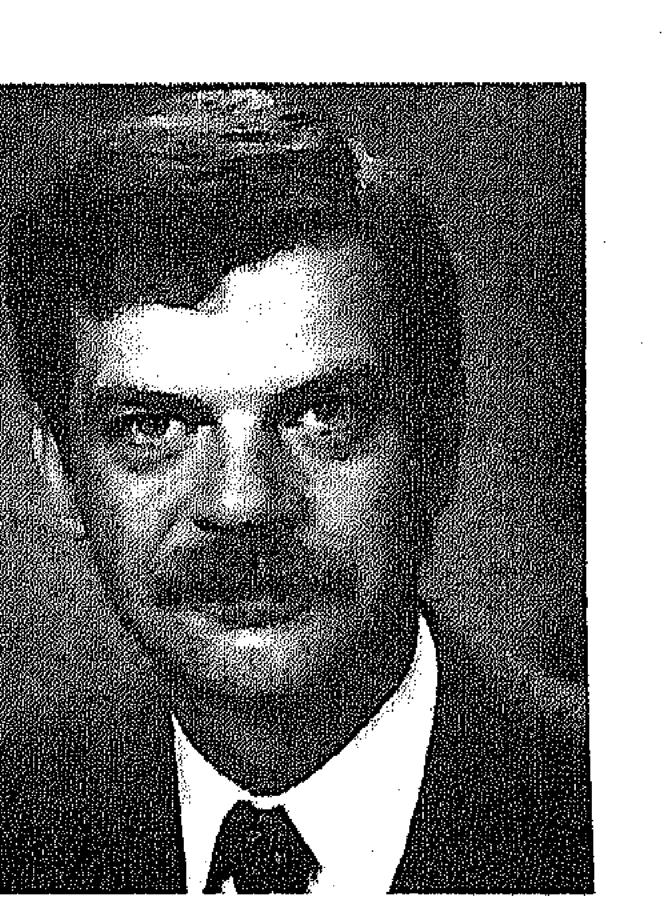
MARK A. SMITH (D)



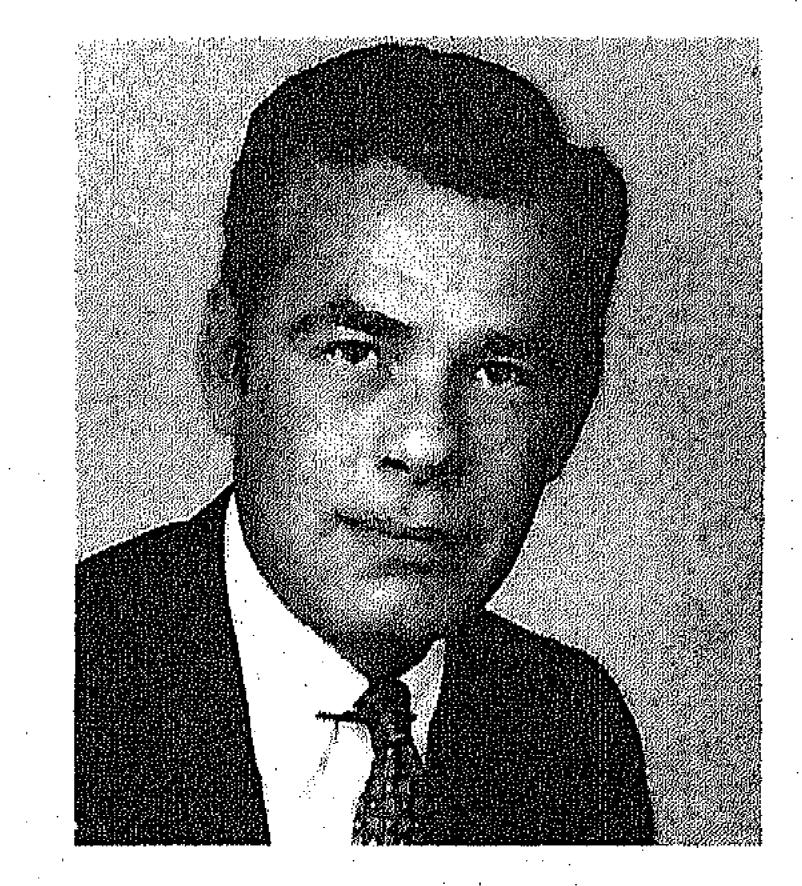
MARY M. JENKINS (D)

Qualifications: My education, work experience, and commitment to community service qualify me: EDUCATION: BA, Liberal Arts; MBA, Finance. WORK EXPERIENCE: Corporate Finance; Successful Entrepreneur. COMMUNITY SERVICE: YMCA Board; Big Brothers/Big Sisters. TOWN GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE: Six year RTM Member; Finance Committee; Chairman, Parks and Recreation Committee; Selectman's Ethics Committee.

Qualifications: BA Skidmore College; League of Women Voters president— New Canaan '59-'61; Westport Planning & Zoning Committee member— '68-'75, Brought Site Plan Review to Westport; RTM member—'75-'87, Finance Committee chairman-'76, Moderator—'77-'86; Westport resident since 1964; Married: four children, five grandsons.



CARL W. LEAMAN (D)



BERNARD G. RETHORE (R)

Qualifications: Member of the Board of Finance since 1983. Chairman Bond Timing Committee and Capital Finance Committee 1981-1983, member and Chairman Railroad Parking Committee 1978-1983. 24-year career in the financial community. Chase Manhattan Bank 1963-1969; Salomon Brothers 1969 to present. Westport resident since 1969.

Qualifications: Incumbent member, Board of Finance. Westport resident 14 years. Company president. Twenty years' senior business and government experience. BA—Yale; MBA—Wharton. Married 25 years, 7 children—pre-school to law school. Wife, Marilyn, teacher at Christ and Holy Trinity Pre-School. Cares about Westport. Can make hard decisions.

Reply: Bridge Street Bridge—If town takes over the bridge, state will design/rehabilitate bridge at state cost, not at town cost. Town's costs will be ongoing maintenance and insurance costs following rehabilitation. Sewer Treatment Plant—Town should bond, as well as pumping stations. Federal and state grants should be sought. Individual sewer lines should be benefit assessed. Traffic Improvement Costs—Costs should be passed on to state and federal programs where appropriate and doable. Purely local costs should come out of Public Works operating budget, CNREF, and possibly bonding on major projects. Baron's Property—Should be funded by combination of bonding, RPAF and CNREF monies, and redeployment of town assets.

Reply: Large capital requests rarely take the Board of Finance by surprise.

The Five-Year Capital Forecast projects large expenditures—the Baron's property has been listed for over ten years; the Sewer Fund receives money yearly to meet needs like a new sewerage treatment plant; and the Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund projects expenditures under \$500,000—like traffic improvements. The bridge will cost little now, but this generation might help the next by banking money toward future repairs.

Surpluses will continue —\$2-3 million annually—and help to lower future mill rates.

Bonding for large capital expenditures directly affects the taxpayer so Board of Finance members must approach them with judgment, fiscal fairness and a grasp of their long range impact on Westport's personality.

**Reply:** We have a surplus of \$2,500,000-\$3,000,000. The Board maintains a surplus of 5% of expenses to meet unforeseen expenditures.

I co-authored the Town's Capital Expenditure policy which established guidelines for financing with bonds or cash. The intent is to meet small capital expenditures (under \$500,000) from the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund reserving the issuance of bonds for major expenditures. I strongly believe that expenditures should be financed on a cash basis whenever possible and will continue to urge increases in the Cash Fund. This minimizes the impact of capital expenditures on the tax rate.

I developed the Sewer Reserve Fund concept to finance major improvements which will reduce the debt service component of the sewer fee and assure the facilities are maintained.

Reply: In the final analysis, the Board of Finance doesn't fund projects, Westport's taxpayers do. But, as a Board member, I will continue to work toward moderating the tax burden by: balancing the short- and long-term effects of capital projects on tax rates; minimizing the cost to Westport of bond funding; and, urging benefit assessment when project benefits can be tied to specific users.

The key question really is: 'what expenditure limits and priorities should Westport set?' This is a question for those who decide what expenditures will be made—the First Selectman and the RTM.

I will influence any debates on funding to urge that we commit only to the things Westporters really want—at a price in taxes they can and will support.

(continued on next page)

#### BOARD OF FINANCE (continued)



EDWARD R. KARAZIN, JR.

Qualifications: Member of Finance Board past four years. During my time on the Board, we had two tax decreases. Former Prosecutor for Westport. Westport attorney. Westport resident 39 years. Two children attended (one attending) Westport Public Schools. Senior citizen parents live in Westport. My voting record supports education and

Reply: The budget surplus under the Republican controlled Board of Finance has never been used for capital projects. A substantial portion was used at year end to reduce taxes paid by the tax payers. As to other capital projects it is important to look at the project and determine if it is necessary and if the cost is reasonable. If we get by those threshold issues, the question then becomes how to fund the project. Funding can be by bonding or from general tax revenues. An anticipated improvement to the sewage treatment plant will cost \$1,000,000.00. Republican foresight created a fund which will pay for three quarters of that project. The rest is bonded over 20 years to be paid by user fees not taxes.

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education has five members serving staggered four-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.

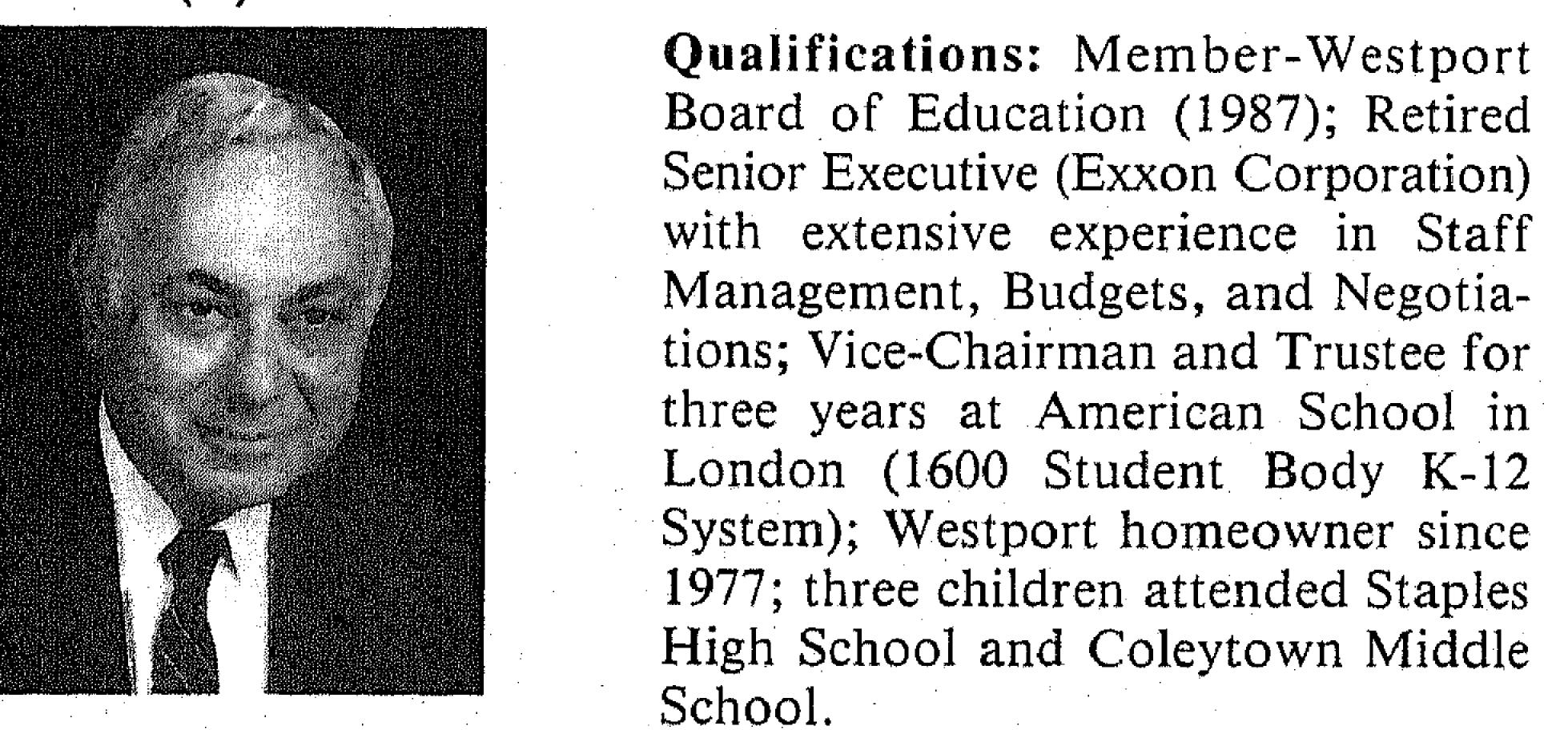
LWV QUESTION: As enrollments continue to decline, how can the Westport school system attract and retain new teachers? Can it maintain the diversity of curriculum needed to meet changing student needs and career objectives?



ALICE R. CZUCZKA

MARY LANA BROWN

Qualifications: B.S. in Education, 3 children 10, 13, 15 in Westport Schools. Resident 14 years. Currently



GEORGE J. DEMAKIS

member Health Curriculum Committee and PTA Boards of CES, CMS, Staples and Council. Co-chair After School Enrichment Program. Served on various Community Boards since 1974 including Counseling Service, Child Care Council, and Visiting Homemakers.

Qualifications: Member Board of Education since 1986; PTA Council President (1984-1986); PTA President Long Lots (1983-1984); Both children have gone through the Westport School system and now attend Staples; Westport Young Woman's League— Ways & Means Chairman, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Founder of the Minute Man Road Race; Associate in Science degree: Penn Hall Junior College.

Board of Education (1987); Retired Senior Executive (Exxon Corporation) with extensive experience in Staff Management, Budgets, and Negotiations; Vice-Chairman and Trustee for three years at American School in London (1600 Student Body K-12 System); Westport homeowner since 1977; three children attended Staples High School and Coleytown Middle Reply: In order to recruit outstanding teachers, Westport must capitalize on its reputation as an excellent school district. Salaries must be kept competitive and opportunities for professional development and leadership expanded. When job satisfaction wanes, good teachers look elsewhere.

Exploration of more in-house curriculum is important before adopting new and costly programs. Content must be as important as skills taught.

Let's turn the "negatives" of declining enrollment into positives, by exploring corporate partnership, shared programming with neighboring towns, and more imaginative course

The kindergartners of today will be the graduates of the year 2,000. By encouraging students to become problem solvers and creative thinkers we will be giving them the best preparation for a career possible.

Reply: We will continue to attract and retain new teachers due to our innovative Mentor, Teacher Leader, and extensive Staff Development programs.

Due to declining enrollment, we have consolidated to two middle and three elementary schools to assure continuity and diversity of program. We are using interactive TV communications to link other school systems together with Staples in order to maintain courses. This type of educational technology must be expanded. The educational needs of our students can also be met by offering some courses for one semester or every other year. We can be creative and forward in our thinking and still be fiscally responsible.

Reply: While declining enrollment may restrain new teacher hiring, Westport must continue to seek out the highest quality young teacher candidates to fill open positions. To attract and retain quality teachers, our school system must remain a desirable, vibrant, and innovative one which offers teachers, in addition to competitive salaries, opportunities to expand their capabilities through involvement in training programs, teacher leader recognition and curriculum planning.

Recent studies have indicated that declining enrollment should not have a significant effect on the diversity of curriculum. However, continuous curriculum reappraisals must be supported by the Board of Education to assure further strengthening of core courses, development of new programs to meet future student needs, and elimination of studies which are no longer fulfilling these needs.

(continued on next page)

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION (continued)

Reply: Declining enrollment makes teacher recruiting and retention more difficult but not impossible. A good salary schedule, an attractive community, and an exciting school system with good working conditions for teachers are the most valuable selling points. Perhaps working with the Town toward making affordable housing available in Town projects for new teachers should be explored.

With a decreasing enrollment it will be up to the Board to decide what courses in our curriculum make the difference between an excellent and an average education. Critical courses have to be offered even with budget and personnel limitations. Meeting changing student needs and career objectives might best be served by a solid liberal arts curriculum.

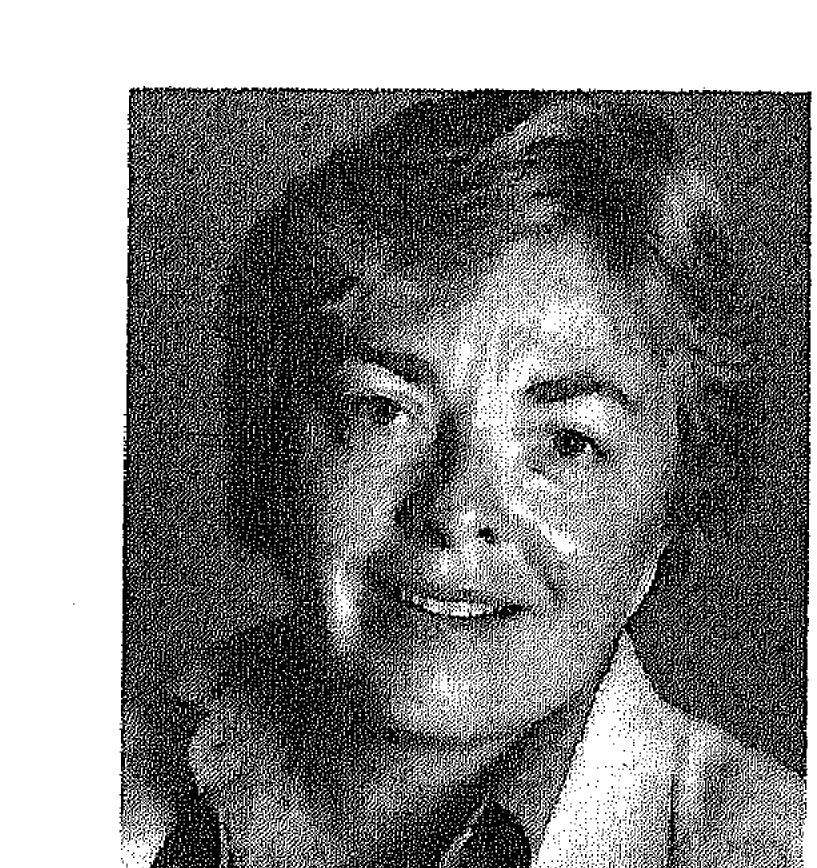
Reply: Aside from the issue of tenure, which affects the retention of new teachers as we consolidate schools, Westport is not having a problem of attracting teachers. There is a long range plan for school consolidation that is flexible and attempts to minimize the effect of change on staff and families. Teachers will continue to be attracted to Westport if the Board of Education and administration provide the leadership and environment conducive for communication in the planning and decision making that affects them. This includes the encouragement of creativity and personal development. The system can maintain diversity of curriculum if there is a vision of a curriculum beyond school buildings and seeks cooperative ventures between the community, business, and other school systems.

Qualifications: My qualifications include Ten years on the RTM, Fifteen Years creating and managing a successful business and Twelve Years teaching and coaching on College campuses. Six Years on the RTM Education Committee allowed my participation in Budget Process, Contract Negotiations and to observe The Board's Personalities, Problems, and Methods.



THEODORE W. YOUNGLING

Qualifications: 12 years teacher and substitute Westport Schools; President PTA Council and former Bedford Junior High School; Member Saugatuck, Kings Highway, Coleytown Elementary, Staples PTA Boards; State PTA Legislative Vice President, and Executive Board officer; Member Coalition for Public Education; 17 years resident; parent of three children who attended Westport Schools.



CHRISTINE H. PERRY (Petitioning Candidate)

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

# BOARD OF TAX REWIEW

vote for 1

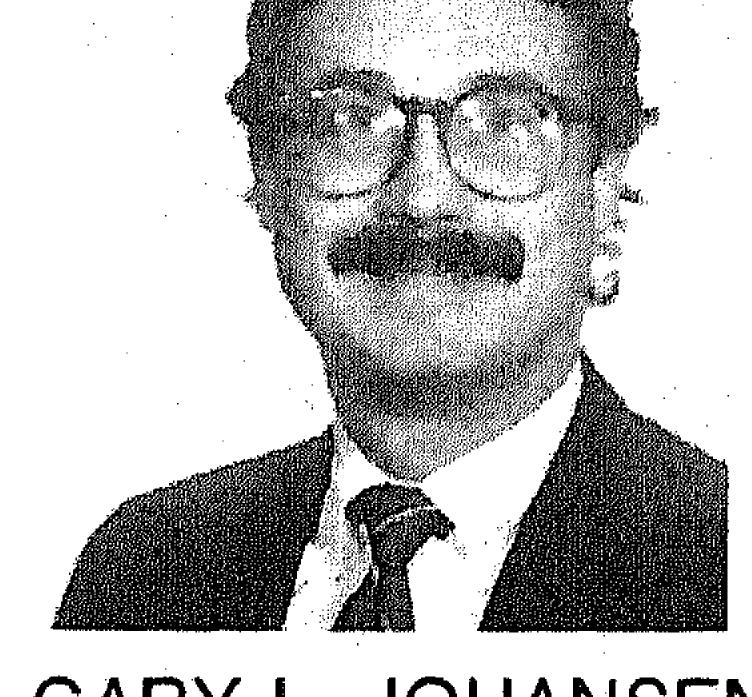
LWV QUESTION: If the surrounding environment changes, for example, loss of water views, how does this affect neighboring homeowners' assessments?

Reply: In determining the assessed value of real property, I would consider many factors, including changes in the surrounding environment. If a property owner's view of a scenic sight becomes obstructed, and all other factors remain the same, then the assessment should be adjusted to reflect the lower value of the property. In such a case, as in all cases brought before the Board of Tax Review, I would listen carefully to the property owner's appeal, inspect the property, and consider comparable property values. I would do my best to render a just and equitable decision. No person should pay more than his or her fair share of taxes. At the same time, everyone, including commercial property owners, has an obligation to pay an equitable

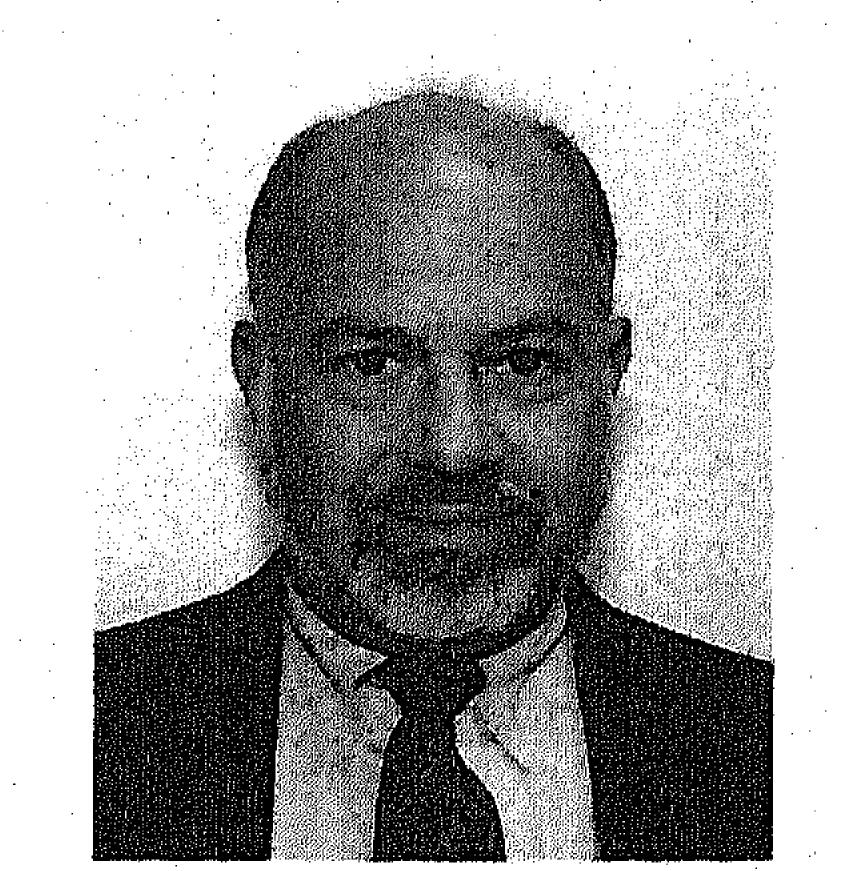
Reply: The function of the Board of Tax Review (BTR) is to listen to citizen appeals and to determine if individual assessments are fair and equitable based on market values relative to the time of the most recent reassessment. The relative value of properties are constantly changing. The BTR does not perform a reassessment, nor does it change assessments to reflect changing market values.

The suggested 'loss of water views' affect on property value is typical of factors that change market value over time and require market condition comparisons to determine new relative values. This is a reassessment process, not a BTR function which is to adjudicate on an individual basis property owner's questions of valuation.

Qualifications: I am an attorney and am knowledgeable of real estate and tax law. I am conscientious and fair. My experiences include serving as law clerk to a federal judge, assistant city attorney, legislative assistant to a U.S. Senator, and corporate counsel. I am active in Westport's Greens Farms Association.



GARY L. JOHANSEN



GARSON F. HELLER, JR.

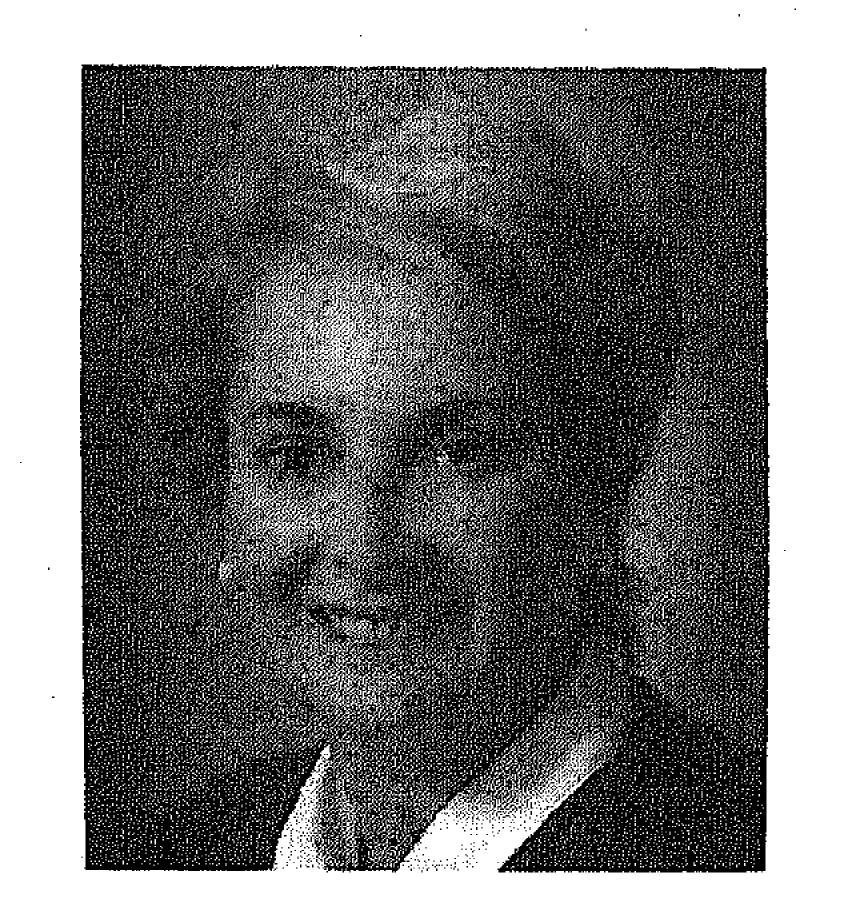
Board of Tax Review for the past five years and Chairman the last four. I served on the RTM for fourteen years. I was a member of the Selectman's reassessment study committee and influential in the funding for the recent

Qualifications: I have been on the

reassessment.

# PLANNING AND ZONING

The P&Z has seven members serving staggered four-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.



vote for 4

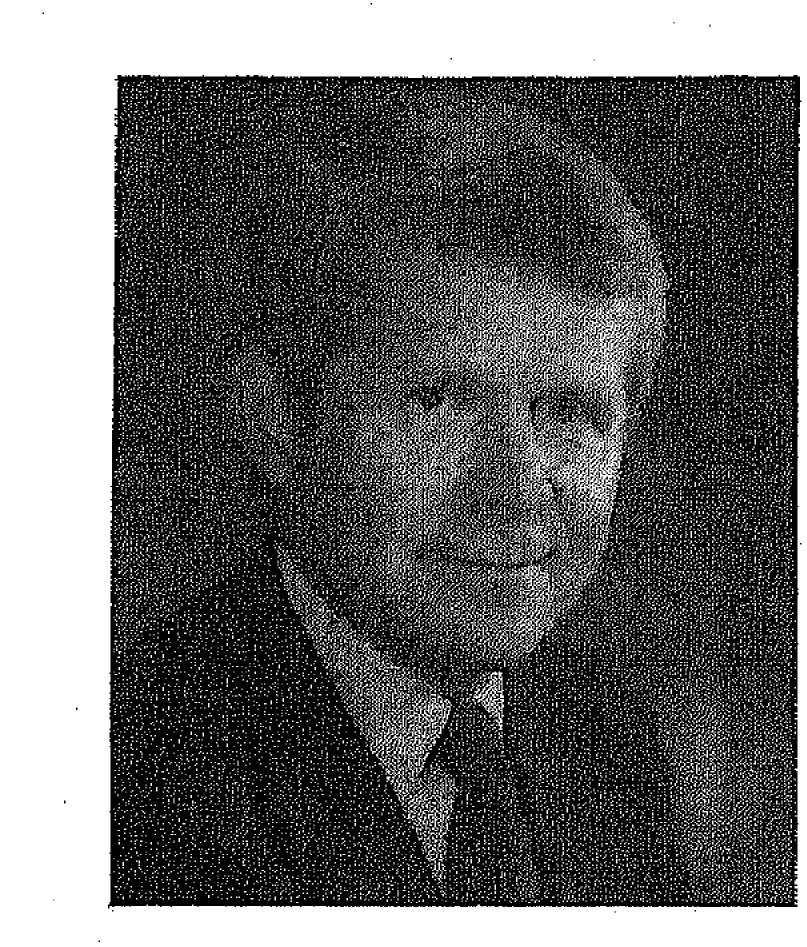
CONSTANCE GREENFIELD (Save Westport Now)

Qualifications: Eighteen years a Westport resident. Active involvement in community affairs. For six years, have worked on P&Z to: control development, protect residential areas, increase public participation in planning decisions, and to give everyone a fair hearing.

Reply: Open space: Valuable town-owned open space must be retained; an annual contribution of at least \$300,000 should be made to a Land Acquisition Fund so that more valuable land for open space can be purchased; some parcels should be sold after extensive public hearings—to help buy more valuable land.

Housing: Existing buildings on town-owned land are best for moderate-cost housing, because new construction is too expensive. The town should proceed cautiously with alternative forms of housing, if Westport is to remain a single-family town and if roads and services and recreational facilities aren't to be over-burdened.

Social: I support a permanent Arts Center at the Greens Farms School and a larger Senior Center, perhaps at Staples.



WILLIAM F. BALCH

Qualifications: Businessman—28 years in investment industry. 14 years as entrepreneur/owner investment counseling firm. Experienced in community affairs. Served several years as president of 177-unit homeowners association. Member Historical Society, Power Squadron, Minuteman Yacht Club. B.A.-Dartmouth College; M.B.A.-Amos Tuck School of Business Administration.

Qualifications: Four years P&Z

Commission—Hofstra University,

Engineering—Teledyne MEC, office

in town—initiated work on new Town

Plan—worked for reducing commer-

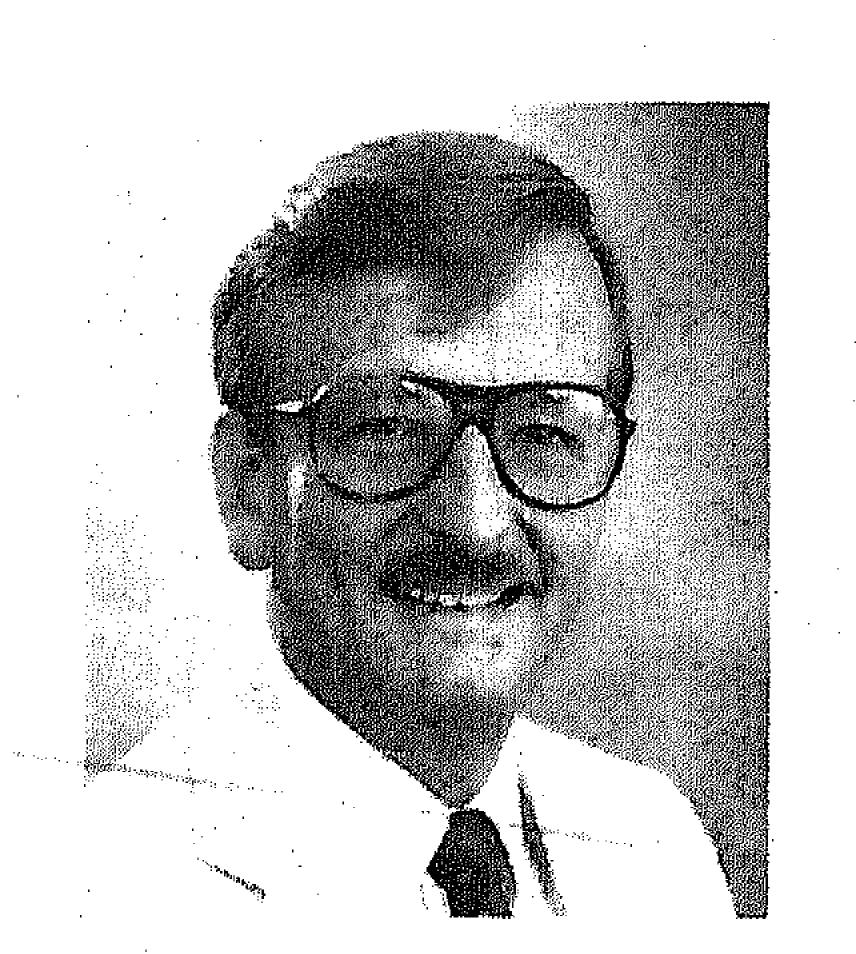
cial development and as head of Land-

scape Committee for four years have

demonstrated my commitment to

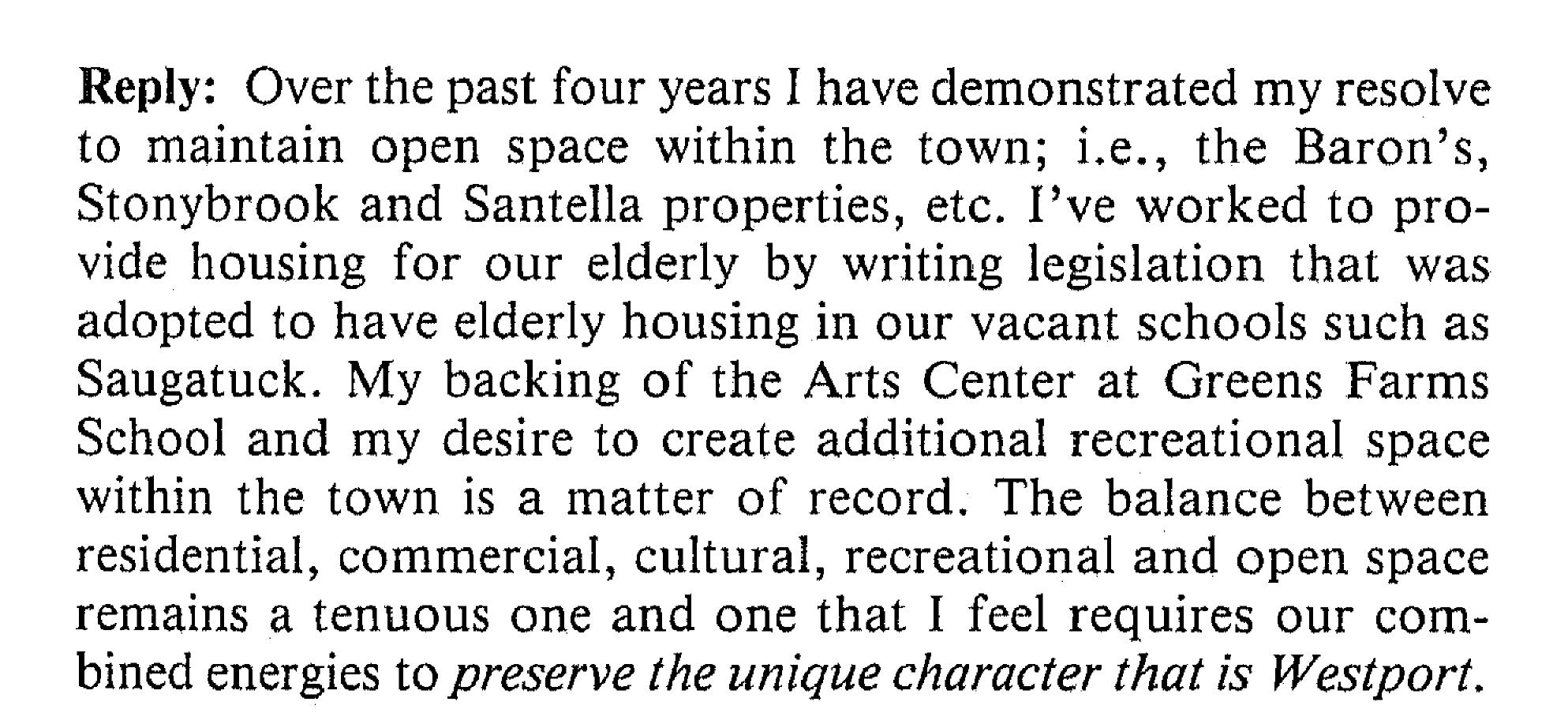
reduce visual impact of commercial

Reply: The guiding words in considering the acquisition, use and disposition of town-owned land are: Preserve, Protect and Enhance. We must do everything we can to preserve the unique residential character of Westport. We must always ask how proposed solutions will effect the goal of protecting property values and we must continually search for innovative methods for enhancing the lives of all Westporters. Preservation of open space will unquestionably advance these goals, yet other uses will in some instances be preferable. Alternative housing for the elderly and use for cultural or social purposes will often represent desirable enhancements—BUT—careful consideration of the impact on neighborhood traffic density, availability of services and ability to finance the program must come first.

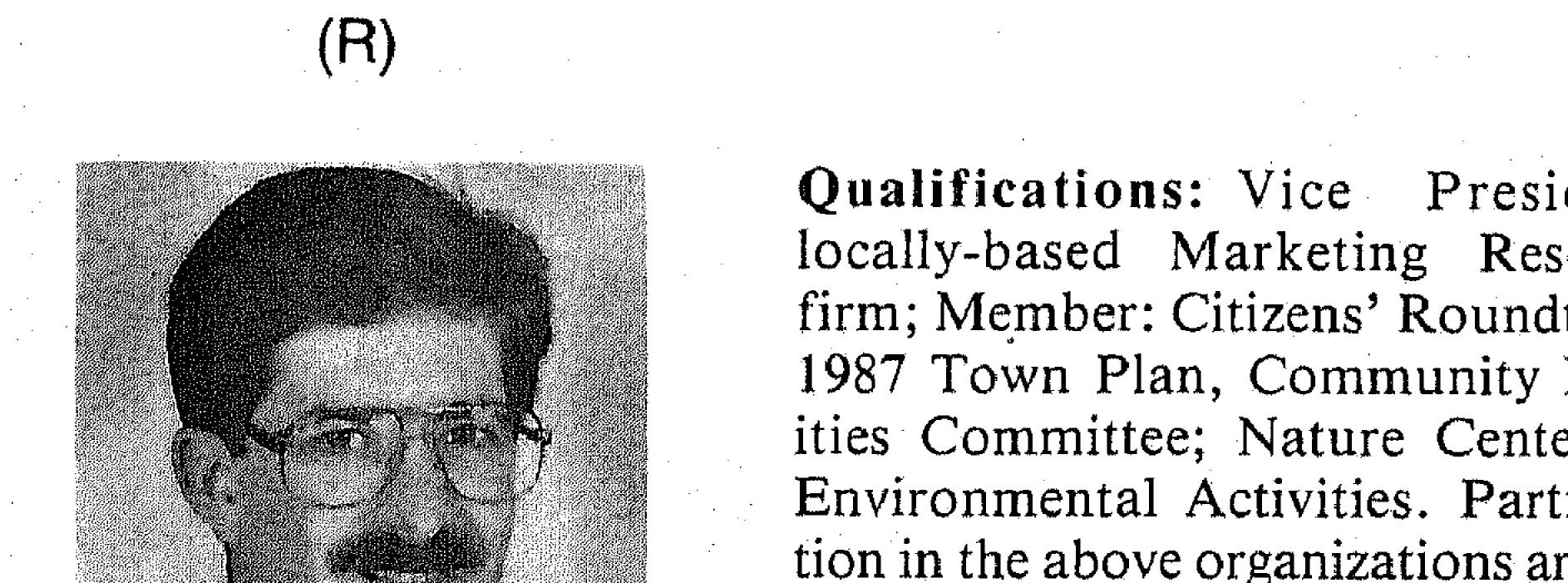


THEODORE W. MUELLER

Qualifications: Vice President, locally-based Marketing Research firm; Member: Citizens' Roundtable, 1987 Town Plan, Community Facilities Committee; Nature Center for Environmental Activities. Participation in the above organizations and my business experience combine to provide me the opportunity to understand the issues Westport faces today.



Reply: The disposition of town-owned land should be examined on a case-by-case basis. Each parcel should be carefully evaluated with an eye toward its current use, economic value on an if-sold basis, environmental sensitivity and impact of the sale on surrounding properties. Properties which have economic value and a favorable tax-base potential should be sold, but only to further the acquisition of more suitable space. The town should maintain or acquire a sufficient inventory of open space while providing for social and cultural services. Any provision for moderate/alternative housing, though sorely needed, should not jeopordize Westport's unique character.



development.

JAMES D. MURPHY

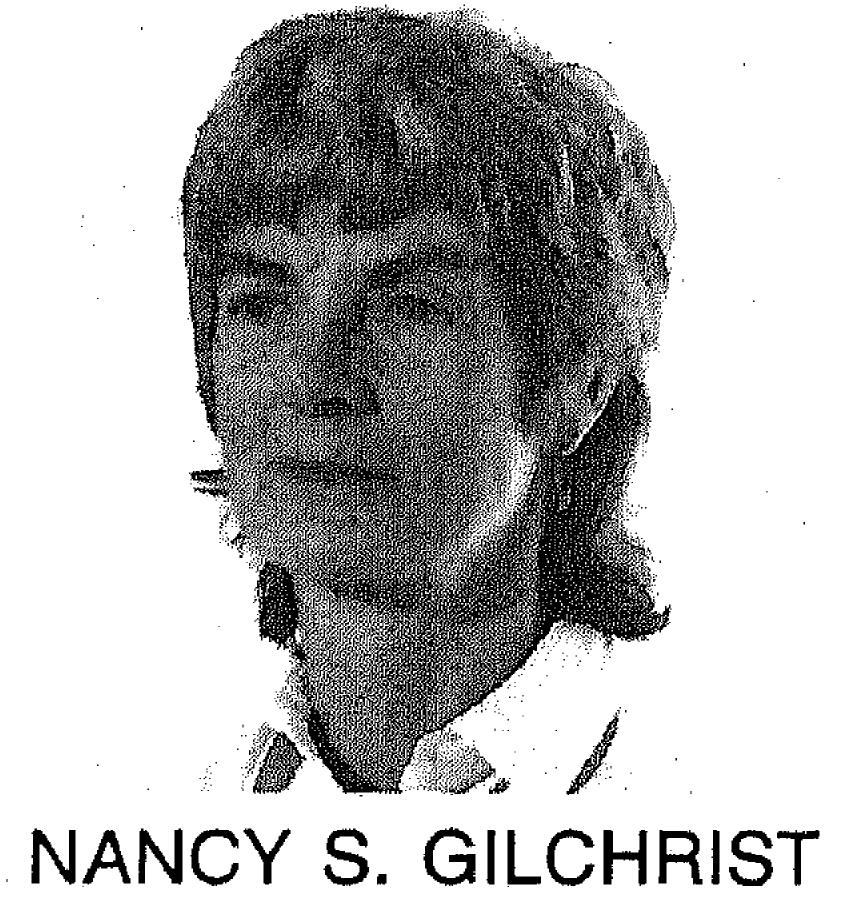
LWV QUESTION: What are your views regarding the disposition of townowned land for such demonstrated needs as open space, moderate and alternative housing and social and cultural services?

# PLANNING AND ZONING

vote for 4

Reply: We are fortunate to still have an opportunity to guide the future growth of Westport. Westport must now, and in the future, protect its open space. As the town develops to capacity, saving park areas and accessible waterfront properties will be even more critical. The rights of our elderly we must also protect. Whether this is done through recapturing the vitality of no-longer-used schools or through planned residential communities, the town must determine how they will participate. The cultural arts have long played a great part in making Westport the dynamic town that it is. We must continue to encourage that role and make possible their participation and presence. It is one that enriches us all.

Qualifications: Scripps College; Northwestern University. Elected to Representative Town Meeting-4 terms. Chairman, Planning & Zoning Committee RTM. Rules Committee RTM-8 years. Voters Service Chairman, League of Women Voters. Delegate to State LWV Convention. Marketing Consultant to pharmaceutical and major consumer product companies. Westport resident 28



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

# ZONING BOARD OFAPPEALS

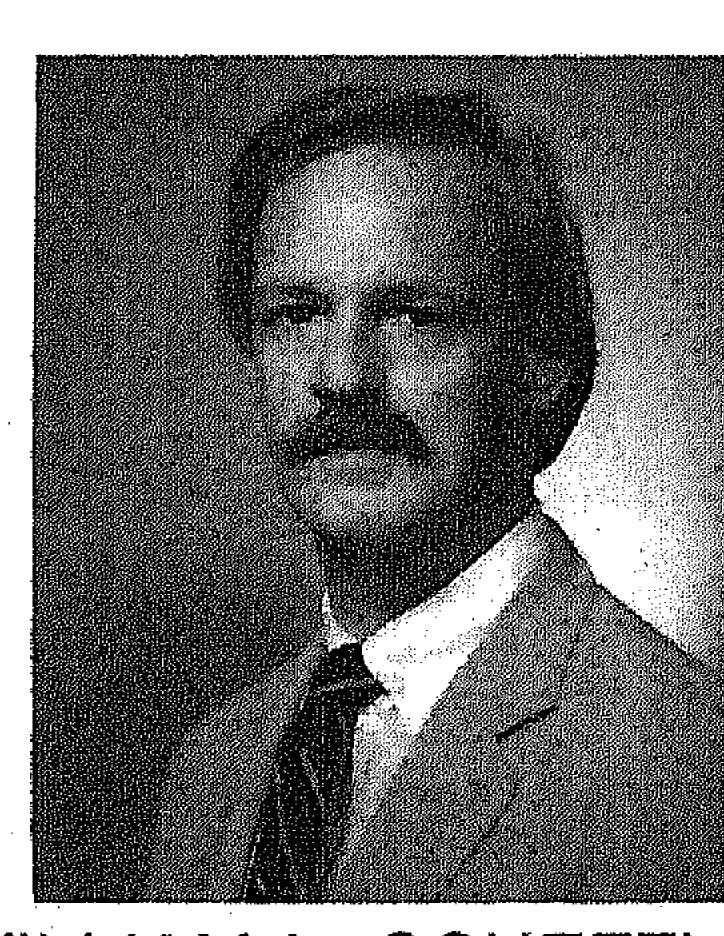
vote for 3

LWV QUESTION: Are too many variances being granted that adversely affect the ecology of the community and the variety of available housing? Please explain.

Reply: The ecology of the community and the availability of housing are established by the comprehensive zoning plan adopted by the Planning and Zoning Commission. ZBA's function is to review applications for variations from that plan and to grant those applications that meet the Board's legal requirements; in doing so, it must balance the zoning regulation against the hardship imposed on a particular landowner, and must be mindful that it is the only escape valve through which unintended pressure imposed by zoning can be released.

Thus, all varieties of available housing should be explored, and granted, by ZBA, if the grant of a variance will alleviate the hardship, but the ZBA cannot be permitted to change the ecology of Westport.

Qualifications: I am a land use attorney who, having grown up in Weston, is intimately familiar with Westport's land use history and concerns. For ten years I have represented applicants before land use agencies in New York. I train others in land use, and regularly attend land use conferences and seminars.



WILLIAM L. SCHEFFLER

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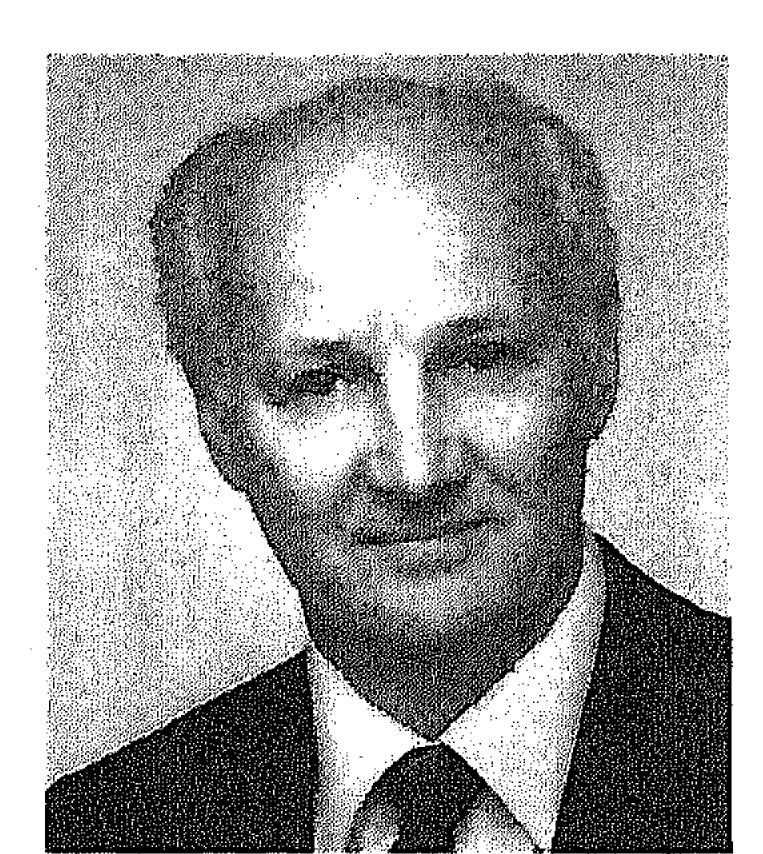
VOTE \* VOTE

#### Join the WESTPORT LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

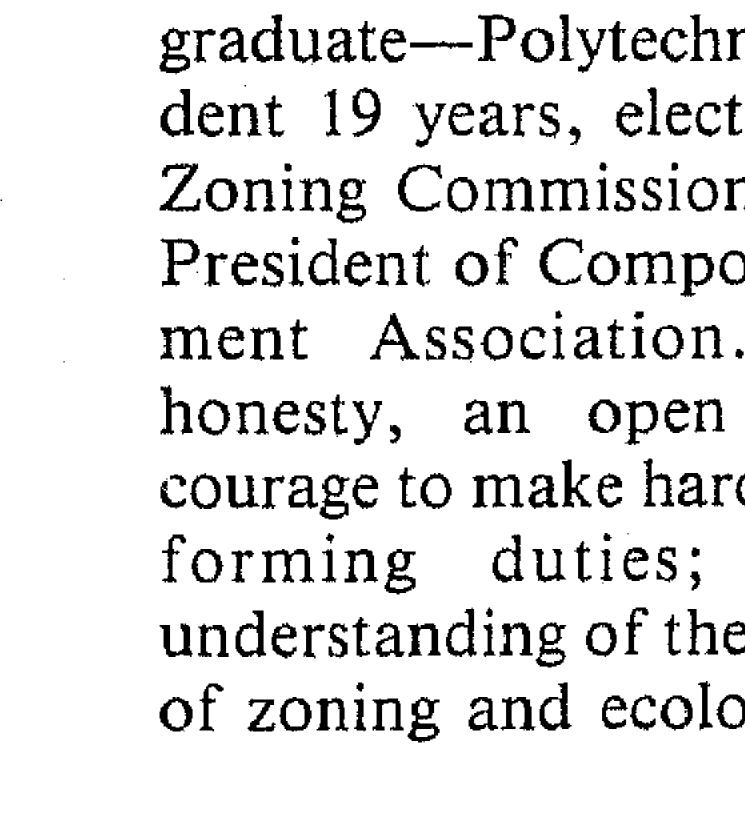
P.O. BOX 285 WESTPORT, CT 06881 226-6170

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I'm interested. Send more information.  I'm unable to join now but would like to be League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization operation.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	·		

#### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (continued)



DAVID R. JONES





JUDITH S. McCLELLAN

Qualifications: Engineer (Norden), graduate—Polytechnic of Wales, resident 19 years, elected Planning and Zoning Commission 4-years, former President of Compo Beach Improvement Association. Demonstrated honesty, an open mind and the courage to make hard decisions in performing duties; has excellent understanding of the technical factors of zoning and ecological issues.

Qualifications: Westport resident—11 years; Purdue University Graduate— Chemistry—Zoology; Manager— Seasonings; Volunteer—Community activities; Vice-Chairman—Zoning Board of Appeals; Re-election—4 years experience. Insight and knowledge to make intelligent, fair decisions for Westport citizens.

Reply: Variances for applications involving ecological issues (wetlands, septic systems, drainage) should only be considered by ZBA, providing prior approval is granted by Conservation, Health Authorities, Flood and Erosion. An increasing number of applications are for variances to allow expansion of small homes on small non-conforming lots. These applications in particular have to be reviewed with extreme caution. Hardship that relates to the property itself, must be proven; the impact on surrounding neighborhood and infrastructure considered carefully. Financial difficulty alone is not sufficient grounds for variance. The town's stock of smaller "starter homes" is depleting, but within the framework of zoning checks and balances, ZBA actions should have only a limited impact on the overall variety of available housing, particularly singlefamily homes.

Reply: The shortage of "affordable" mid-size houses has increased requests for permits to expand existing small houses by both new owners and long-time occupants. Most expansions have been accomplished within the framework of Planning and Zoning regulations; only a small percentage of the total by variance. In some small-lot districts, it might appear otherwise when extensive permitted expansions have led others to pursue neighborhood "gentrification" by variance. It is hardship found in the land, however, not in the pocketbook, that determines whether a variance is justified.

Ecological impact—coverage, drainage, light and air, water supply, wetlands—is a major consideration in my deliberations. My past decisions reflect that concern.

#### VOTE \* VOTE

From the people who bring you the Presidential Debates...

## AN INVITATION TO DEVELOP YOUR OWN POLITICAL PERSONALITY

Get involved in

-nonpartisan political action

LUCY BEDFORD - - studying issues

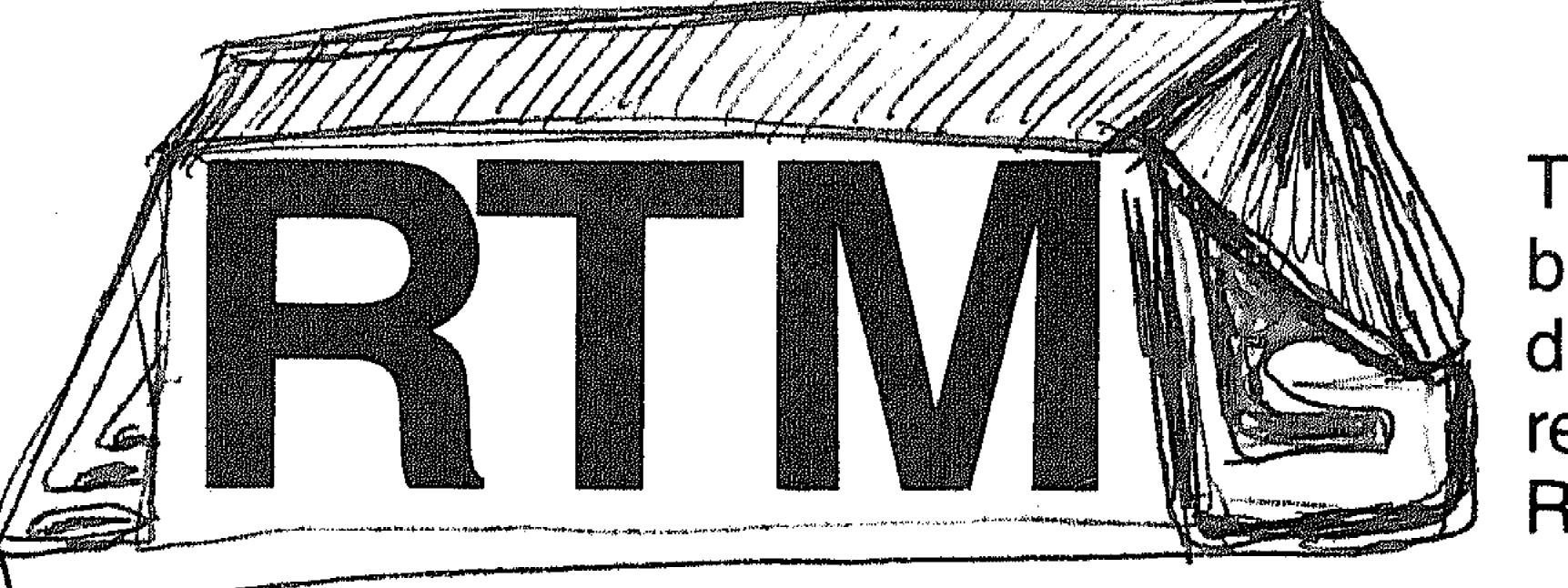
- -ZBA update (local)
- Teenage Pregnancy (state)
- --- Primaries (state)
- --- Agriculture (national)
- ---Basic Human Needs (national)
- -taking action and lobbying at local, state and national levels

--informing the public

- --- Voter's Guide
- -- Candidates' Meetings
- --- Monthly Cable TV Program
- --- Voter Registration
- -Election Night Reporting
- -Nonpartisan Fact Sheets
- --- Continuing Education Government Course

-participating in government process

-Observer Corps



THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING is a nonpartisan legislative body. Its 36 members, chosen on the basis of population from eight districts, are elected for two-year terms. 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: Is the RTM still an effective, non-partisan form of town government? Should Westport consider alternatives to a representative town meeting?

# District 1

vote for 5

#### Joseph P. Arcudi

Since my election to the RTM in 1969 I have had the opportunity to work with many fine people. One need only look at the voting record of individual members to see that party affiliation has had little or no effect on decisions. I have always felt that the RTM is an effective, non-partisan body.

I do not think that an alternative form of government would be an improvement.

#### Lorna B. Christophersen

No response.

#### Betty Lou Cummings

Positively, the Westport RTM is a very effective nonpartisan form of our town government. "We the People" speaking out, which they do, is critical to the issues pertaining to our town; issues that have no business being political in resolution.

Where else can the voices of concerned groups or even the voice "crying in the wilderness" rally to be heard! No, do not consider alternate methods to our Westport RTM—it is working!

#### Joyce C. Drew

The RTM is a viable media to ensure the residents of Westport have an opportunity to express their concerns, ideas, needs, likes and dislikes regarding current issues. Its effectiveness depends upon the general populace coming forward, in a responsible way, to let their position be known.

Should a consensus indicate the RTM is not meeting the needs of the community then ALL alternatives should be investigated; otherwise, the time and effort is better used elsewhere.

#### Jesse Englander

Fortunately, our town is still small population-wise. We know, not only our friends and neighbors, but may know town officials on a personal basis. Consequently, our representative form of government is viable and will continue to be so proportionate to the dedication put forth. This dedication must come from not only the R.T.M. but from all town citizens. We must keep ourselves informed on all issues. To this aim I continue to pledge myself!

#### Jorgen F. Jensen

Member of the Flood & Erosion Control Board. Previously served on the RTM, Conservation Commission, and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Director, Aspectuck Land Trust. Active in town affairs for 25 years. Working as Personal Financial Planner for Investment Center.

I believe that the nonpartisan RTM has served Westport well. Most RTM members are very responsive to citizens concerns and the RTM meeting is a vital forum for important town issues.

#### Judith K. Starr

Yes. The RTM links us directly to our government, the closest thing to the traditional town meeting. It's apolitical in design; people run and serve their constituents directly, with no intermediary party. In many cases, such as the budget, the RTM has the final say.

The resurgence of interest, the abundance of candidates this year, indicates that others share my faith in the RTM as a viable voice in our governmental process.

#### Joseph J. Valiante, Jr.

RTM stands for Representative Town Meeting. Preceded by nonpartisan, it insures in my view the most effective form of government for Westport at this time. To me, as a candidate for and hopefully, as an elected member of this legislative body, it means that I will have the opportunity to represent all of the people in District 1 without regard to political affiliation. Issues must be decided on what is best for the Town of Westport...\*

### District 2

#### Tracy R. Boyer

The RTM remains an effective form of popular government that derives its strength from the collective views of ordinary citizens.

Westport has a colorful tradition where every issue is a burning issue to someone. It is the RTM that provides the necessary balance and perspective for the town as a whole.

The alternative to a vital RTM is town government run entirely by politicians. Imperfect as it is, the RTM serves Westport

#### Walter D. Harris

The spirited debate in the RTM over town issues, in which the members join with the public in searching out the best ideas, proves that the system works well, encouraging participation from all quarters. It would be a shame to make the body remote from the "average citizen" by requiring party endorsements. The simple petition nomination process brings out nonpoliticians, often the most fair and thoughtful. Westport can confidently continue with the RTM system.

#### Alan S. Landis

No response.

#### Barbara J. Lippard

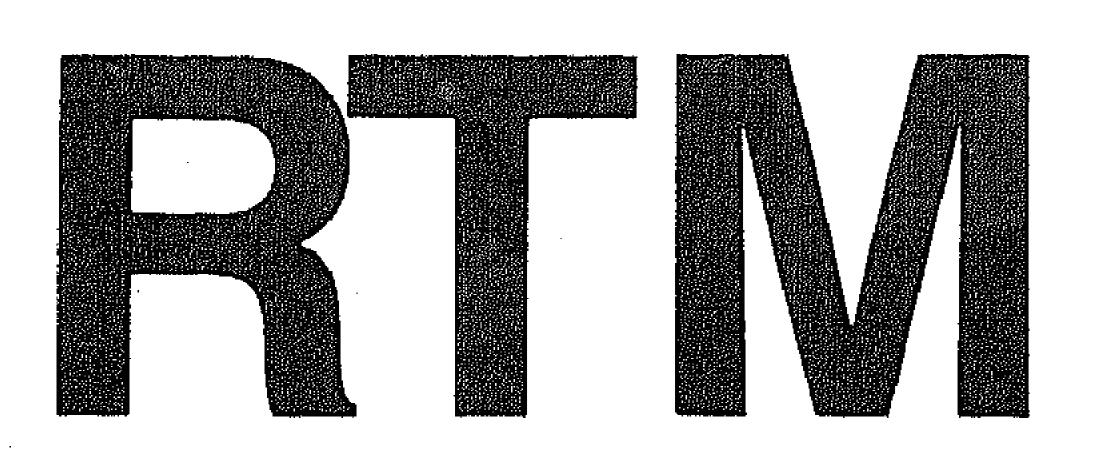
Lets talk about alternatives to a representative town meeting system in Westport. Can you name a better one, one that represents the voters as well as elected officials, one that is more democratic? I can't.

As to the effectiveness of the RTM, just consider a few of the major recent issues faced by the RTM: Baron's Property Acquisition, Bridge Street Bridge, Weigh Station, Sherwood Mill Pond.

The RTM is making these critical decisions in an effective, nonpartisan manner.

Join the WESTPORT LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

\*Candidates' replies that exceed the word limit have been cut, not edited.



LWV QUESTION: Is the RTM still an effective, nonpartisan form of town government? Should Westport consider alternatives to a representative town meeting?

# District 3

vote for 4

#### Albert R. Johnson

Among many responsibilities, the RTM approves all town expenditires and makes all local ordinances. On such critical matters, voters are best served by electing their own concerned and easily accessible neighbors in each district to represent them.

Is the RTM still nonpartisan? Yes. Philosophical differences understandably exist between fiscally conservative and liberal members but this should not be confused with partisan politics. Members are conscientious and dedicated. The RTM form of government serves Westport well.

#### Mary D. Mix

The RTM is still an effective nonpartisan form of Town government. It draws a wide variety of citizens into participation in government and has met the Town's needs during Westport's growth to its present size. Many new candidates have decided to run this year, which is heartening. An alternative smaller body, such as a Town Council, would not represent our diverse interests as well as the RTM nor be as responsive to our citizens' concerns.

#### Bernard A. Nevas

No response.

#### Christine B. O'Sullivan

The RTM has become progressively creakier and crankier since my first term beginning January, 1982 and badly needs the infusion of public-spirited new blood.

It is still a remarkably viable form of government for all that. We represent the citizens in a non-adversarial role for the betterment of life in Westport and the maintenance of its many outstanding features. It is our only realistic option for a nonpartisan and responsible branch of government.

#### Robert Seskin

There is no doubt that the RTM has its faults, but in my six years as an RTM member, I can attest to the fact that it works reasonably well most of the time. I do not know of any Town Government that would work better.

To improve the RTM, we should seek hard working candidates, who would *pledge* to be truly nonpartisan and act independent of the administration.

ordinary people who simply want to do their best for the town they live in. Or at least, that's the way it should be. No one should be on the RTM who has any other interest...\*

#### Bruce H. Salvo

No response.

# District 4

ote for 5

#### Christopher C. Dunham

The RTM is still effective and nonpartisan. In the past two years we have strongly supported school appropriations, zoning regulations limiting commercial development, and acquisition of the baron's property, regardless of party pressures. RTM members generally take seriously their obligation to provide a nonpartisan balance to party politics in town government. The chief problem is that not enough people run for the RTM—but that is a problem of citizen responsibility, not governmental structure.

#### Nancy E. Holson

The effectiveness of the RTM as a form of government remains constant; the functional effectiveness varies with its membership. The better the RTM members, the better the RTM.

I grew up with a Town Meeting form of government, which ensures that citizens can determine their collective fate. The RTM is a more manageable form of the Town Meeting principle and should be preserved as it is Democracy at its fairest.

#### Penny Lind

The answer is very much tied to our national government: while a democracy may not be perfect, it's the best system we know. The RTM is as fallible as human nature, but it's a good system because it's based on

#### Elisabeth H. Saxe

As a nonpartisan, volunteer body, the RTM provides Westport with the purest form of representative government, not bound by party ideology. I believe this form of government should be preserved. Before considering alternative forms of government, if necessary the RTM should look inward, evaluate its shortcomings, resolve its problems and then move forward in a positive direction. The RTM provides an excellent way for Westport residents to have a real say in their government.

#### David R.T. Wood

In recent years the RTM has not been particularly effective in addressing, and resolving, the issues that will have a major impact on the "Quality of life" in Westport.

I believe it's effectiveness has been limited due to hidden agendas that reflect personal economic interests by some and a lack of accountability for all. I don't believe it is due to partisan politics, but we should consider alternatives that will provide greater accountability and effectiveness.

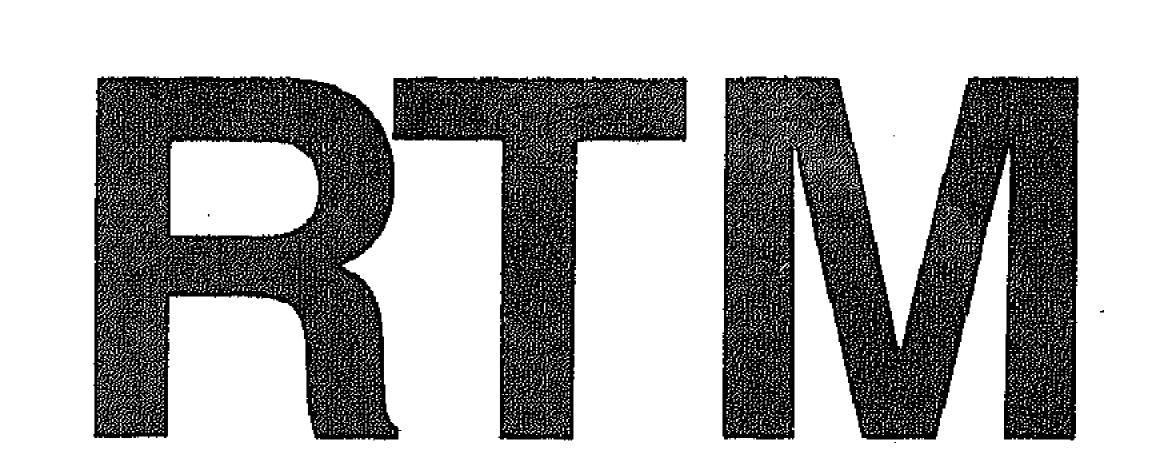
#### Jane Young

No response.

VOTE!

It's your future.

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# District 5

vote for 4

#### Lawrence O. Aasen

The RTM is still an effective, non-partisan form of town government. It is noisy—but it works! A mayor-council, commission or council manager system would give Westport fewer watch dogs. Westport's 37 RTM'ers are 37 pairs of eyes and ears to watch town hall.

#### Penny A. Bray

I feel the RTM sliding right into the laps of "special interest" groups.

If the RTM continues this slide, it will lose its effectiveness as the "grass-roots" body it was designed to be. The result will be negation of the checks and balances so vital to our democratic form of government.

Functioning under the new Town Charter with fewer members may have a positive effect. I will continue to hold a glimmer of hope.

#### Francis J. Charlton

No response.

#### Richard J. Pober

The RTM should continue as the legislative branch of Westport's government. As an elector not registered as a Republican or Democrat I, and people like me, would not be able to represent Westport if we had a partisan form of town government. The voting this year on issues such as Bridge Street Bridge and condemning the Baron's property were voted on philosophical lines, not party lines. Vote for the best candidate and not the label.

# District 6

vote for s

#### Ira W. Bloom

Speculation regarding the RTM's demise is premature. Many of us are working diligently to increase our effectiveness and nonpartisan nature. As Deputy Moderator and Finance Committee Chairman, I have helped streamline our rules, procedures and committees.

As an outgrowth of the open town meeting, the RTM should continue as an open

forum, responsive to public desires, and receptive to public input. Rather than abandoning it, I would work to improve it.

#### Horace W. Boynton

I do not believe the RTM is as effective and nonpartisan as it should be and I would like the LWV to make a study of the council form of legislature. I can see possible advantages in creating more competition for election of the smaller number of members, and in providing for a closer relationship with the executive branch and with the public. However, there are undoubtedly negatives that need to be considered, too.

#### James W. Call

As a new candidate two years ago my answer to your first question was affirmative and having served a term it remains unchanged. We should not consider an alternative but rather a better appreciation of the democratic principles of the RTM. Thorough committee investigations and reports, heated and prolonged floor debate, public input and finally majority voting by a broadly representative body is democracy in action and uniquely applicable in Westport.

#### Charlotte S. Price

I believe the RTM is an effective and necessary form of town government.

The RTM is our town's nonpartisan legislative body whose members represent our Westport citizens. RTM members must provide the town with strong and wise leadership for their decisions will effect the future of Westport.

Residents' views, in all eight districts, should have representation. Therefore, I don't see the necessity for Westport to consider alternatives to a representative town meeting.

#### John Sachs

In my own mind and in the opinion of others I spoke with, the RTM, while not perfect, is far more desirable for our town than any alternative. It enables us to govern ourselves by electing neighbors and townspeople whose interests and needs resemble ours. They are accessible to us and, for the most part, have put the good of the town ahead of politics or other considerations.

(continued on next page)

#### KEEP IN TOUCH...

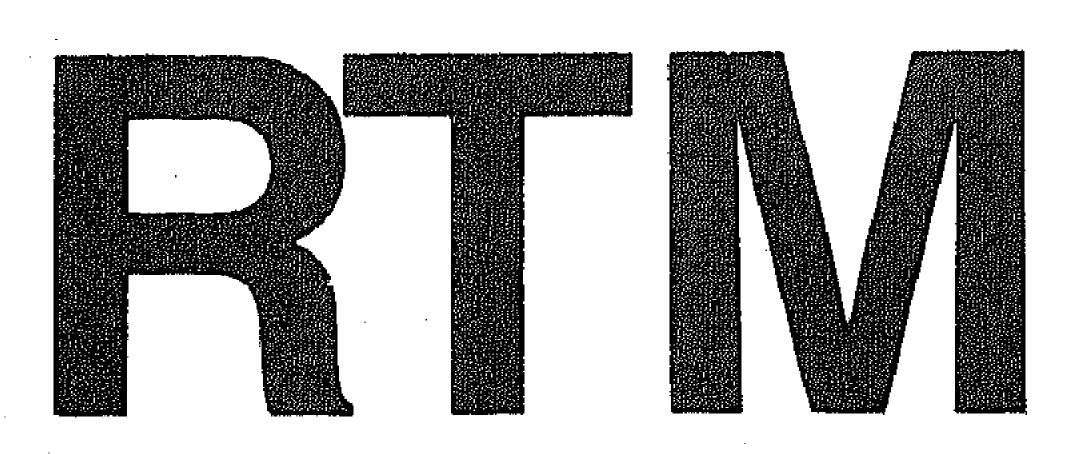
Responsibilities of RTM members include voting on appropriations made by the Board of Finance and writing ordinances for the town. RTM members also participate on one or more committees which review and make recommendations regarding appropriations and ordinances.

RTM members average one or more meetings a month and are responsible for specific concerns of their district and its individual members, and for the welfare of the town as a whole. They need your input. Write or call them with your concerns, opinions and suggestions. Meetings of the RTM are open to the public.

#### \* VOTE \* VOTE \*

#### Your Name...

In 1989, your name and your opinions could appear in this space. To become a candidate for the Representative Town Meeting it is necessary to file a petition with the signatures of 25 voters registered in your RTM District. The petition may be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office and must be filed in the same office by the ninth Tuesday before election day. Incumbents who wish to run again must file a letter of intent in August before the election. For further information about this and other election matters, call the Town Clerk at 226-8311.



LWV QUESTION: Is the RTM still an effective, nonpartisan form of town government? Should Westport consider alternatives to a representative town meeting?

# District 6 (continued)

#### Suzanne A. Schnog

One reason I am running for the RTM is that I believe it is important for Westport to maintain a nonpartisan, grassroots form of town government. RTM members can be responsive to their constituents in a direct and personal way. However, the active participation that is needed for the RTM to be truly effective has been declining. Therefore, I think Westport should continue efforts to increase such participation while concurrently exploring alternatives.

#### Cornelia Smollin

To the first question—yes.

To the second—also yes—against the day when there may not be enough townspeople with sufficient time or motivation to be an integral, unpaid part of the ongoing governance of Westport.

Should we switch to Mayor and council? Perhaps City Manager? It might be wise to choose an alternative in advance in case we are forced to eliminate the Representative Town Meeting. Let's hope that never happens.

#### Douglas R. Wood

The RTM is at least as effective now as it has been over the past decade. Its primary objective remains a free and complete exchange of views in the decision-making process, and in this it succeeds admirably.

There has been, unfortunately, some apparent partisan activity in the current session; but this shall pass, and the RTM will remain a strong and effective nonpartisan legislature.

There is no need to consider alternative forms of government.

#### VOTE!

It's your future.

# District

vote for

#### Daniel J. Carnese

I am concerned whether the RTM is sufficiently "representative." Frequently the RTM seems to vote contrary to the apparent opinions of the citizens they are representing. Perhaps we ought to retain the ability to run RTM candidates without party endorsements, but introduce some better method to provide the voters with a clearer indication of the candidate's philosophies on local affairs. Voters may then more easily decipher which candidates will work for their best interests.

#### Thomas Tucker Echols

Willingness to participate in government, to commit the time and energy necessary to insure its strength, is the best measure of its effectiveness. 51 residents of Westport are vying for 38 RTM seats: a sure sign of willingness.

The reason is obvious. The RTM directs Westport; deciding to buy the Baron's property, or ban smoking in restaurants. These issues directly affect residents and the RTM provides a direct conduit for them to be heard.

#### Anthony J. Lowe

The RTM is productive and efficient, and would be even more effective if Westporters were not so apathetic about issues that are debated and decided upon in that forum. Representatives rarely hear from their constituents and are forced to vote their own conscience. For most, that vote is based on reason not politics.

Alternatives to the RTM? Always consider better ways of accomplishing goals. Interest in the RTM? 50 people are running for 36 seats.

#### William P. McGorry

No response.

#### Walter L. Schlenker

RTM plays an effective role in checks and balances needed between Planning-Zoning; Board of Finance; Board of Education; town officials. RTM public debate brings relevant information of issues into decision processes.

If the RTM was discontinued, it would be certainly replaced by a less citizen-oriented organization.

Decreases in RTM candidates, although understandable, reduce potential new talent. However, some of those remaining draw upon multiple years of Westport government experience.

#### Arnold K. Wolgast

Having served on the RTM during 1987, attended every meeting and worked diligently on both the Finance and Public Works Committees, I am convinced the RTM remains an effective nonpartisan form of town government. From what I have experienced most RTM members are conscientious and highly independent. The RTM form of town Government is representative and very effective. There is no reason and some possible danger to considering alternatives to the representative town meeting.

# District 8

vote for 5

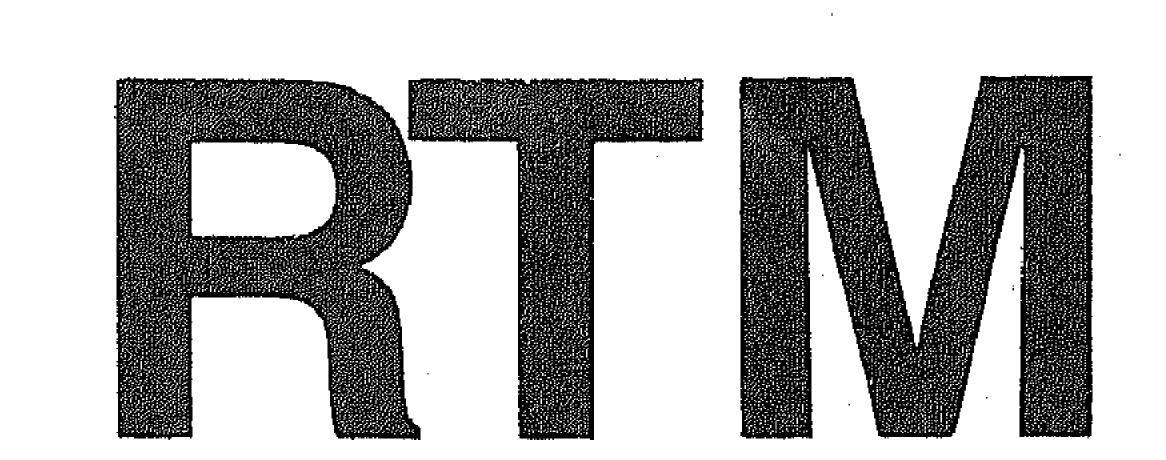
#### Carole Donenfeld

The RTM offers direct citizen contact with town government. Members are elected from town districts. Their concerns are issues affecting their constituents, as well as the broader needs of Westport. It is our "checks and balances" on city government. Most members are free of partisan politics. Few are not independent thinkers. If people are willing to serve, it should remain our "voice of the people."

#### Irwin Donenfeld

I don't think that there is any question that the members vote along lines that reflect their political philosophy. That is to say, conservative, liberal, or middle-of-the-road. It is hard to be a Republican or a Democrat when voting for a new truck, police cars, or a roof for a school. This is still the best form of town government.

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# District 8

(continued)

#### Sidney L. Filderman

Yes—the RTM is effective and a wonderful form of nonpartisan town government. It may be long winded and in too many cases, redundant, but because of its diversity and openness, it is still the closest thing we have to pure grass roots. And that can only be the best situation for a town as interesting and diverse as Westport. We can also study alternatives in an effort to do what is best for Westport.

John S. Gilbertie, Jr.

No response.

#### Peter A. Gold

The RTM is an effective form of government. Its many members provide Westport with a valuable pool of experience and make the RTM easily accessible to everyone's views. That the RTM can balance these views to reach a consensus on what is best for Westport is evidence of its effectiveness and its nonpartisan nature. Alternatives to the RTM should only be considered if the RTM ceases to provide Westport with the fine government it deserves.

#### Barbara K. Saipe

A nonpartisan candidate runs on his/her own merits and isn't dependent upon party affiliation and endorsement. The voting record of the RTM members is indicative that they do not vote according to party. Alternatives such as a strong mayor or town manager might be a more expedient and efficient form of government but they are certainly not as responsive to the people as Westport's RTM which also offers checks and balances.

#### Rita B. Seclow

The RTM has been and continues to be effective and nonpartisan. It provides a democratic forum for all voices and a proven mechanism to channel them. It works. It "don't need fixin'" yet.

Westporters always consider choices. As Westport changes, the town government, to continue being responsive, might need changing. The RTM should be aware of the availability and committment of representatives, the voters' concerns, and study other possible forms of government.

#### Adam D. Stolpen

As an incumbent RTM member, I believe it can still be an effective governmental body for our town, and should not be changed at this time.

However, it appears to be drifting away from its vital nonpartisan posture. Evolving from the Town Meeting, where each citizen's view was heard, it was never designed to deal with issues by party line.

Strong leadership and consistent debate procedures could insure effectiveness and protect the independent voter.

VOTE \* VOTE

# VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT ...

Any registered voter, if unable to vote in person, may vote by absentee ballot for one of the following reasons:

- 1. absence from the town during all hours of voting
- 2. illness or physical disability
- 3. active service in the United States armed forces
- 4. religious tenets which forbid secular activity on election or primary day
- 5. service as an election official at a polling place other than the official's usual place of voting during all hours of voting

Applications for absentee ballots may be obtained by contacting your city or town clerk.

# A Westport Government Primer

#### GOVERNMENT:

In Connecticut, power is vested in either the State or the Town government. The Counties have virtually no political power.

The New England system of open town meetings is one of the purest forms of democratic government, a system that was followed in Westport until 1949. In that year, with the population showing signs of rapid growth, a special act of the State Legislature provided the Town with a less cumbersome Representative Town Meeting. The new system delegated votes to an elected, nonpartisan group yet retained the tradition of an open meeting with public participation. Today, the meetings of the RTM are open to the public and once the representatives have concluded their discussion of a subject, any citizen may seek the floor to make his views known.

In Westport's colonial days "select" men were elected to carry out the instructions of the Town Meeting. By custom, one of the selectmen came to carry on the day-to-day activities of the group. This position of First Selectman was formalized when the Town Charter was written and today his/her duties are those of a mayor. The First Selectman's responsibilities include public works, recreation, fiscal management, public health, assessment and tax collection, public safety, planning and zoning and the general administration of Town affairs.

#### APPOINTMENTS:

Although the First Selectman is ultimately responsible for all aspects of the Town government with the exception of education, he/she may delegate direct supervision of these areas to various Town departments, boards and commissions. It is the First Selectman's duty to fill all the jobs for appointive boards, commissions and heads of departments (the daily work of many town agencies is handled by a paid staff within their operating departments). In addition, the Selectman may appoint official advisory boards which are disbanded after completing their tasks.

#### ELECTIONS:

Municipal elections are held in odd-numbered years (exception: selectmen are elected for 4-year terms). Candidates for local elected offices other than the RTM are chosen by the Town Committees of the political parties. Democratic Town Committee (DTC) and Republican Town Committee (RTC) members are elected for two-year terms by the enrolled party members in their respective RTM Districts. "Save Westport Now" is a minority party qualified to run candidates for the Planning and Zoning Commission on a third line. Nonpartisan petitioning candidates may also be included on the ballot. If the candidates endorsed by the political parties are challenged by a successful petition, a primary election must be held before the regular election.

#### INVOLVEMENT:

Small town government and low budgets are the New England style, a style that must be supported by volunteer hours. Westport's government counts over 1,000 citizens in its volunteer ranks. You can join them by giving your name to the First Selectman's office or the chairmen of the various boards and commissions:

#### VOLUNTEER

Architectural Review Board Area Nine Cable Council Beautification Committee Bikeways Committee Bridge Committee Building Boards of Appeals Capital Financing Committee Charter Revision Commission Cockenoe Island Steering Committee Joint Computer Committee Conservation Commission Downtown Advisory Committee Downtown Finance Advisory Committee BOARD OF EDUCATION Commission for the Elderly Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Energy Coordinator Ethics Committee Fair Housing Agent BOARD OF FINANCE Flood and Erosion Control Board Handicapped Persons Advisory Board Handicapped Persons Professional Advisory Committee Harbor Committee Hearing Officers Historic District Commission Historical, Archeological and Paleontological Survey Committee

Horace C. Hurlbutt Memorial Fund Distribution Committee Housing Authority Insurance Committee Levitt Pavilion Committee Pension Committee PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION Police and Fire Department Chaplains Public Site and Building Commission Railroad Parking Advisory Committee Recreation Commission Rental Review Committee REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING Saugatuck School Action Task Force Shellfish Commission Social Services Advisory Board Solid Waste Commission SW CT Agency on Aging: Housing Task Force Representative SW CT EMS Advisory Council SW Regional Highway Task Force Representative SW Regional Mental Health Board Representative SW Regional Planning Agency Representative Transit District Board of Directors **UN Hospitality Committee** Waste to Energy Task Force Westport Symbolic Heritage Preservation Westport/Weston Foundation Distribution Committee

Westport/Weston Health District Youth Adult Council Policy Group Youth Advisory Board ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

#### PAID

Assessor Town Attorney Building Inspector Civil Preparedness Conservation Department Controller Dog Warden Board of Education Department Municipal Agent for the Elderly Employee Assistance Program Advisory Board Engineering Department Fire Department Grants Administrator Harbor Master Handicapped Compliance Officer Health Department (Westport/Weston Health District) Highway Department Housing Authority Department

Department of Human Services Indices Checkers Jury Committee Justices of the Peace (Fee) Labor Negotiator Westport Public Library Maintenance Department The Nature Center for Environmental Activities, Inc. Personnel Department Planning and Zoning Department Police Department JUDGE OF PROBATE Public Site and Building Department Public Works Department Railroad Parking Department Recreation Department REGISTRARS OF VOTERS Registrars of Voters Department BOARD OF SELECTMEN Board of Selectmen Department Sewage Treatment Plant Shellfish Police Shellfish Warden Tax Collector BOARD OF TAX REVIEW Town Clerk Transit District

Note: Elected officials appear in CAPITAL LETTERS

Tree Warden

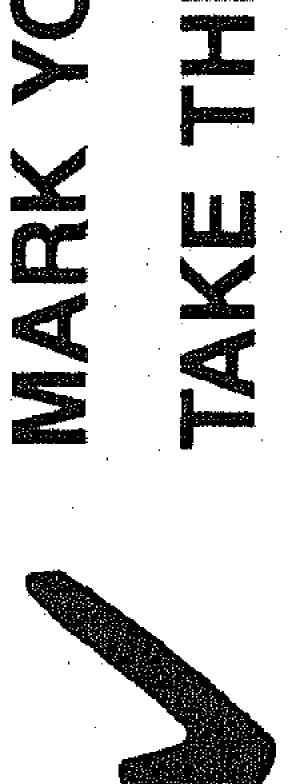
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# THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN WEETING

MY DISTRICT IS NUMBER

(1)	



Westport
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
Guide to Local Elections
November 3, 1987

Sponsored By:



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