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1991 WESTPORT Voter's Guide

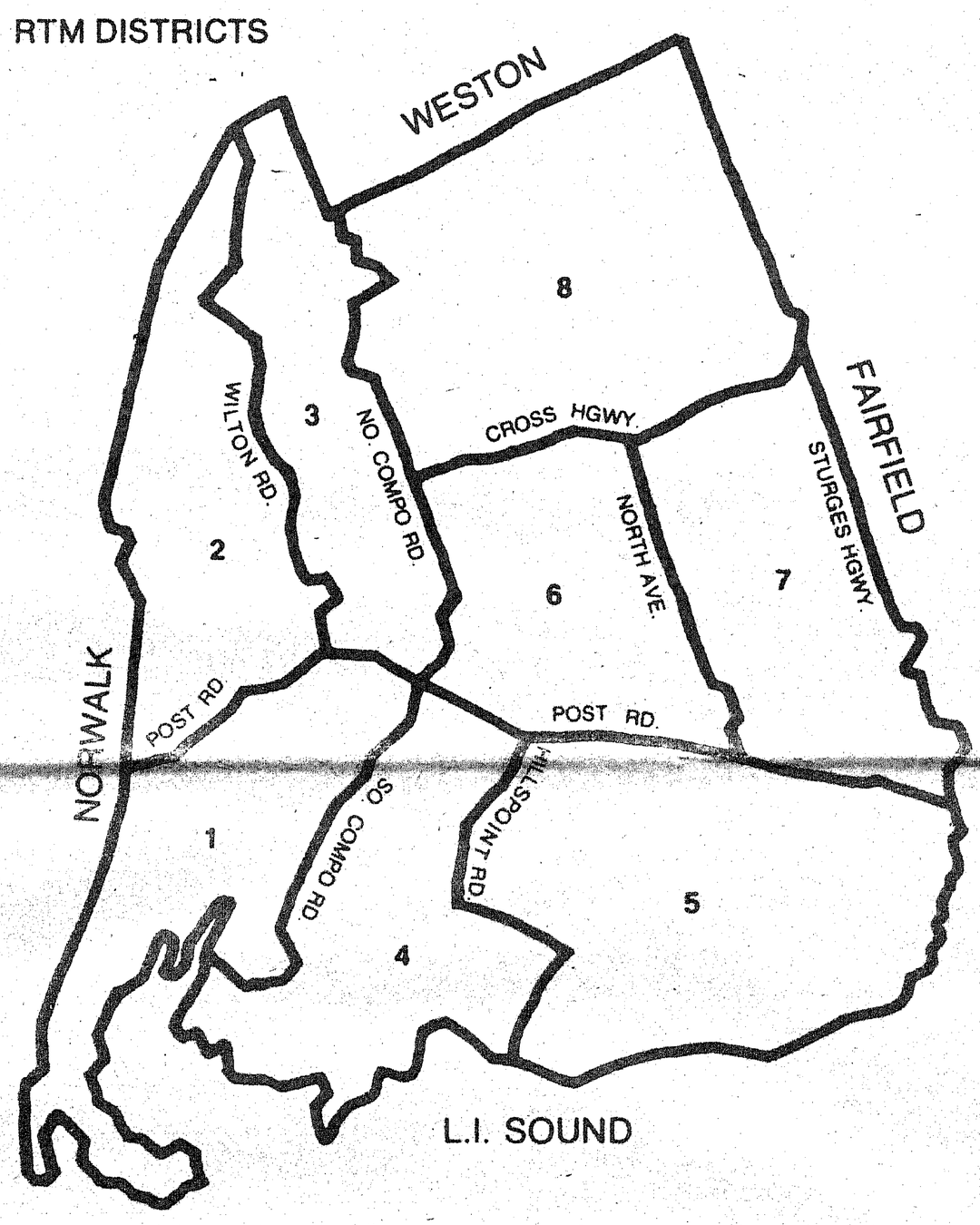
Prepared as a NONPARTISAN PUBLIC SERVICE by the

WESTPORT LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS

LWV

The views expressed on these pages are those of the candidates and have not been edited.
The candidates are listed in the order in which the parties appear on the voting machine.

RTM DISTRICTS



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

DISTRICT 6 & 7
Long Lots School Gym
Hyde Lane

Handicapped-accessible machines available

Voting in Person

A sample ballot and a dummy voting machine will be on display at your polling place and officials will be on hand to answer questions.

When ready to vote, give your address and name to the checkers. Your name will be checked against the official voting list. You will be directed to a voting machine.

To close the curtain, move 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 and unlock the machine for voting.

Register your vote for candidates:
Simply **TURN DOWN** the pointer over the name of each candidate for whom you wish to vote. **THERE IS NO LONGER A PARTY LEVER.**

A MESSAGE FROM THE WESTPORT LEAGUE

This Voter's Guide has been published to give you nonpartisan information about the candidates running for office in Westport. Use it to help you to make informed choices at the polls – bring it with you when you vote. The Guide has been produced with the help of Westport Bank and Trust, Ed Mitchell's, the Westport-Weston Board of Realtors and many who have contributed to the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

Eleanor Lowenstein

Eleanor Lowenstein, President
Westport League of Women Voters

THE LWV EDUCATION FUND

This Voter's Guide has been funded to a great extent by contributions to the League of Women Voters Education Fund. The Education Fund is used for citizen education projects such as the Guide and other activities that help you to use government services better and to understand and participate in government. You can help to support these services and keep them going by making a tax-deductible donation to the Education Fund. Checks may be made payable to the **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATION FUND** and sent to:

Westport League of Women Voters
P.O. Box 285
Westport, CT 06881

VOTE!
Polls Open
6 AM to 8 PM
November 5
VOTE!

BOARD OF FINANCE

Vote for **4**

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.

LWV Question: How do you envision the effects of the new State taxation package on Westport's finances? Do you think it will necessitate changes in Westport's budgeting?

PENNY A. BRAY - Republican

Qualifications: *Current member of Board of Finance; Elected Representative Town Meeting - three terms; Committees: Finance, Employee Compensation, Special Binding Arbitration, Chairman Environment; Vice President - Aviation Technical Consultants, Inc.; Teaching certificate; Specialist in common sense; "Not afraid to say no!"*

Reply: The effect of the State's financial condition was felt in Westport before the current taxation package was enacted and will continue more severely now. The State mandates that we provide certain programs, however, the State is reducing the financial support in many areas. We are being forced to directly pick up costs for these programs with no visible increase in services. Changes in budgeting will absolutely be necessary; spending must be prioritized. The Board of Finance MUST wield a sharp pencil, MUST monitor closely what we ask our Town to provide in order to minimize tax increases.

J. DONALD WARREN, JR. - Republican

Qualifications: *Current Member of Board of Finance; CPA; Partner, Coopers & Lybrand; Formerly with Financial Accounting Standards Board and US General Accounting Office; Vestry, Christ & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church; Active in Westport Youth Activities; Outstanding Accounting Alumnus, George Washington University and Lamar University; Member AICPA and Institute of Management Accountants.*

Reply: The current state of our economy impacted Westport in the last budget process due to reduced State funding for mandated programs. The recent State taxation package is an effort by the Governor to resolve a significant budget deficit. The more funds needed in Hartford to reduce this deficit and fund existing programs will directly impact Westport's receipt of State funding. Since reduced State funding is likely to continue in the future, the Board of Finance must continue to focus on the priorities of Town expenditures to minimize increases in Town taxes. We cannot be all things to all people.

ROY E. FUCHS - Democrat

Qualifications: *Professional - Commercial banker; almost fifteen years' additional financial management experience with a Fortune 50 company. Community Service - Chair Finance Subcommittee of School Study Committee; member of School Facilities Study Committee; member of School Facilities Study Committee. Education - Tufts Undergraduate; Stanford MBA. Family - Wife, Jacquelyn. Westport resident for fourteen years...**

Reply: The new package increases taxes. The most direct effect will be to reduce state funding to Westport. A second could be a reaction by taxpayers who may increasingly seek to draw the line where they have the greatest access - locally. One process change I recommend is to integrate the annual budget into a three year planning process. When presenting each annual budget, the First Selectman and Superintendent of Schools would also provide a budget outline for the following year and a year three plan which identifies key/emerging issues. The sum, we must spend prudently and in line with agreed to longer term goals.

CARL W. LEAMAN - Democrat

Qualifications: *Board member since 1983; Vice Chairman 1990-present; Proponent of long range planning; 28 years in the New York financial community; Undergraduate degree in Economics; Graduate study in Finance; Resident since 1969; Two daughters K-12 in the Westport school system.*

Reply: The taxation package will lead to higher taxes for most Westport residents reinforcing the idea of "no more taxes" at all levels of government. Local government must respond by providing necessary services in the most productive ways possible. Long range planning and productivity increases will the important aspects of Town finances. The budgeting process will remain the same but those services which are marginal and do not meet a real need will be cut. The Town should be prepared for further cuts in State aid and plan for that impact on taxes and services.

ELEANOR C. SOLOVAY - Democrat

Qualifications: *1991-To date - Admissions Director, Mediplex of Westport Nursing Home; 1985-1989 - Administrative Assistant to First Selectman; 1973-1985 - Member, Westport RTM, Rules Committee, Education Committee, Public Works Committee, Health and Social Services Committee, Recreation Committee; 1990-To date - Member, Board of Directors, Westport YMCA; Education: B.A. Wellesley College.*

Reply: The State has increased our taxes dramatically. Therefore it behooves the Town to keep our taxes down. It becomes more important than ever to scrutinize the expenditure of Town funds in order to maximize the effective use of our financial resources. The basic question to be asked is: "How can the Board of Finance best fulfill its function as a check and balance on Town expenditures while still maintaining Westport's special and unique qualities?"

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

NOTE: Each candidate has been allotted 50 words in which to state his/her qualifications and 100 words in which to respond to the LWV question(s). Any response exceeding these limitations has been cut. The candidates' responses have been printed verbatim and have not been edited in any way. Some changes in punctuation have been made, however, in order to provide a consistent format.

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT...

Applications for absentee ballot may be obtained by contacting the Town Clerk.

226-8311

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

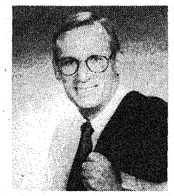
1. absence from the town during all hours of voting
2. illness or physical disability
3. active service in the United States armed forces
4. religious tenets which forbid secular activity on eclection or primary day
5. service as an election official at a polling place other than the official's usual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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Vote for **3**

The Board of Education has seven 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: What is your philosophy of public education and how will it affect your decisions on (a) staffing, (b) curriculum, and (c) class size?



BENJAMIN F. TILEY - Republican

Qualifications: *Participant in public service projects (Exit 18 Weigh Station) and local government (RTM). Experience in education: course development, teaching and administration with IBM's Education Department. Business, marketing and technology skills: 30 years in the IBM business world. Strong interest and desire for the job.*

Reply: Public education should provide for children's physical, intellectual and social needs with the goal of educating to respect themselves and their country; and with competent skills to enter the workplace as a productive, caring member of society; balanced against the fiscal responsibility of the community. Staffing must be qualified and paid commensurate to that skill level. Curriculum must cover basics skills supplemented by the changing skill requirements demanded by the 21st century. Class size is difficult to address as a specific. The learning process is dependent upon appropriate class size and teaching style and can vary by grades K-12.

THEODORE W. YOUNGLING - Republican

Qualifications: *Board member since 1988. Negotiating, Building and Insurance Committees. Ten years RTM Chairman Education Committee. Resident since 1965. Wife Corinne, special education teacher. Four grown children attended Westport schools. Four growing grandchildren will attend Westport schools. Twenty one years volunteer work—Westport EMS, PAL football, Booster Club, coaching Staples football.*

Reply: There is no greater responsibility in local government than the education of our children. I have a long standing interest and commitment to education, the students, and the people who teach our children. With four years on the Board and ten on the RTM I feel I understand the process and the system. I believe I have demonstrated I have the energy, time, and skills needed to play an effective role. Excellence must be pursued not assumed. Accountability is a vital process. The examination and evaluation of our programs, facilities, learning environment and student performance is an ongoing process.

ALICE R. CZUCZKA - Democrat

Qualifications: *Member of Board of Education since 1987. Currently member: negotiating team for all unions, Cooperative Educational Services, liason Public Site and Building Committee, Staples PTA board. B.S. in Education. Westport resident 18 years. Three children attended (two currently) Westport schools. Served on numerous Community Boards since 1974.*

Reply: These are my goals: Children who are knowledgeable, responsible, caring, community-minded. Students who are active problem-solvers, critical thinkers, lifelong learners. A school system flexible enough to meet the needs of all our children—carefully monitored, regularly evaluated. A competent, professional staff, modeling the enthusiasm for learning, sharing, growing, and secure in the knowledge of solid community support. Class size in keeping with optimal performance at each grade level; particular emphasis on smaller numbers at lower grades in keeping with educational research. A carefully-monitored budget responsive to system needs, but responsibly cognizant of community economic realities.

GLORIA E. HUNTER - Democrat

Qualifications: *Twenty-six years years experience as Westporter, educator,—more as parent—gives me perspective on what Westport schools are doing right and should build on; what requires change. Committed to cost effective school problems. Available full time for board business.*

Reply: My philosophy of education envisions a structured but flexible learning atmosphere where students can attain their full potential as citizens of the community and the world. As adults, our students should be literate, mathematically able, economically self-sufficient, responsible and caring, thinkers who can not only solve problems but ask the right questions. I would expect staff to be good role models for these attributes; I would promote curriculum that is challenging and relevant to a varied student population; I would support class size that is appropriate to the subject matter.

LILLIAN P. KOEGLER - Concerned Taxpayers

Qualifications: *Social Studies teacher, White Plains, N.Y. Middle schools, 1964-85, member of Humanities team and city-wide Curriculum Committee. Ursula Laurus Award, College of New Rochelle. President, Westchester County Taxpayers, 1981-2, Issue: Annual computerized residential re-assessment. President, Parents Roundtable, 1987-9; Advocacy: Parents rights in education. Member: St. Luke's Parish, Westport Woman's Club, Historical Society, Nature Center.*

Reply: We should endeavor to make a child's years in school the BEST years—in terms of acquiring not just the necessary skills and knowledge needed to be a competent adult, but also a life-long love of learning. Competent, dedicated teachers are essential to successful education. Class size should be determined by the nature of the subject taught, and not arbitrarily set. We need to graduate citizens of character and integrity. Curriculum should serve these goals. Whatever is taught should reflect community standards, always with respect for the sensitivities, religious beliefs, and values of each student.

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

BOARD OF TAX REVIEW

Vote for **1**

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

LWV Question: How does your background and experience qualify you for this position?

GARSON F. HELLER, JR - Republican

Qualifications: *Westport resident 27 years. Member RTM 14 years and Board of Tax review past 10 years, Chairman last 8 years. Chairman of Town Computer Committee 6 years under 3 First Selectmen, and member of Revaluation Task Force. Director, Facilities Engineering at SIAC (computer subsidiary of both stock exchanges) since 1979.*

Reply: Graduate of Yale University with degree in Chemical Engineering. Over 30 years experience in computer systems with extensive analytical, mathematical, and problem solving know how. First member of RTM to identify the flaws in the inequitable 1979 revaluation, and led the effort to adjust the Grand List and make it fair for all taxpayers. Served on the Task Force that recommended a new revaluation which was completed in 1985. As Chairman of the Board of Tax Review (since 1983), heard appeals and adjusted new Grand List which according to State evaluations has been one of Connecticut's best since 1985.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Vote for **4**

The planning and Zoning Commission 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.

LWV Question: Connecticut state statute requires that every town with a Planning and Zoning Commission have a Zoning Board of Appeals. How can these two boards work together to serve the best interests of Westport?

RICHARD B. BENSON - Republican

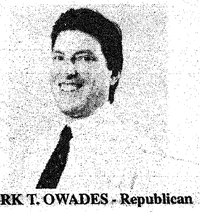
Qualifications: Sitting Republican P&Z Alternate; 12 year resident; Independent real estate professional, 10 years zoning experience; Spearheaded 2 recent zoning matters: Approval of Compo Beach Playground, New height regulations for residences South of Amtrack Tracks; Active in numerous civic organizations: United Way; Westport Rotary Club, Westports of the World; Rec. soccer & Little League coach.

Reply: The P&Z functions as the administrative (Planning) and legislative (Zoning) land use body. As zoning has evolved since 1932, numerous non-conforming lots, homes, and uses have been created. For property owners to enjoy reasonable use of their properties in situations that do not meet the current P&Z regulations, a safety valve, or appealate body is necessary. The ZBA serves that function. In general, the two land use boards should function independently, but in the interest of uniformly implementing the Town Plan of Development, both boards should share similar planning/growth philosophies. Periodic joint orientation/planning work sessions would be helpful. Eliminating commercial. . .*

LEONARD P. KAMINSKY - Republican

Qualifications: I retired from a major textile corporation where I was a Vice-President of the marketing division. Having lived in Westport 26 years, with 4 children going through the school system, I feel that I am familiar with the town, its needs, its desires, and its concerns.

Reply: It is very important that the commissioners of Planning and Zoning and the Zoning Board of Appeals fully understand their functions and communicate on a regular basis to discuss any possible differences. With the P and Z being a legislative, administrative body and the ZBA being quazi-judicial the ZBA must be extremely cautious in granting any non-conforming usage, particulary where it infringes on a residential area. There is a perception that the ZBA has not always done this. These issues should be discussed on a regular basis and resolved, not legislated.



MARK T. OWADES - Republican

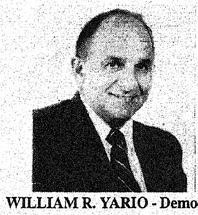
Qualifications: 16 Years of systems consulting to a variety of Financial, Commercial and Labor organizations has given me the ability to bring together wide ranging viewpoints into a coherent plan. I am married to a lifelong Westport resident, have a daughter in Westport schools, and have ties to the area for 20 years.

Reply: The P&Z is a policy making body obligated to be consistent and respectful of past precedents. The ZBA is an appellate body obligated to view each case independently and on its own merit. As such, the ZBA does not necessarily take past precedent into account. This structure provides the citizens an appeal from unfavorable rulings outside the court system. It is appropriate that the two bodies be independent. Coordination on planning issues is desireable in order to maintain a consistent outlook on zoning issues, but an independent appellate body is necessary to avoid a lawsuit after an unfavorable ruling.

CARLA L. REA - Republican

Qualifications: Foreign language teacher, legal translator, homemaker. Presently ZBA alternate, P.T.A. Board member. Former: RTM member (P&Z and Public Works Committee), RTC member, League of Women Voters. Founding member W.S.O.I. and Festival Italiano. Westport resident-16 years, married to lifetime Westporter, 3 children. Teaching degree from: Instituto Magiistrale S. Elisabetta, Rome Italy.

Reply: I am sure the question is posed because of the rift that developed when the P&Z enacted restrictions preventing the kind of appeals that the ZBA could review. The P&Z should foster an environment where town zoning issues can be discussed in a fair and open format. Each Board serves a different purpose. Both Boards serve the Town of Westport. If elected, I would be the only member to have served on both commissions. I believe this experience along with my other qualifications for this office will help the P&Z and ZBA work together.



WILLIAM R. YARIO - Democrat

Qualifications: My engineering experiences range from research to managing complex projects which help me see the long term consequences of actions. Member of Simsbury Connecticut Planning Commission, Capitol Region Council of Governments, Hartford region Planning Commission, Simsbury Recreation and Cultural Commission, Simsbury Community Development Action Plan, Long Island Sound Task Force.

Reply: The Planning and Zoning Commission (P & Z) and the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) should have the same objectives and goals. Both bodies must have a common basis for decision making and excellent timely communications. Since the Town Plan of Development and the Town's related regulations and laws is the basis for establishing goals and objectives, both bodies must be familiar with these documents. The week to week liaison between the two boards should be primarily through the Towns professional staff with overall direction from the boards. If permitted by law periodic meetings between the two boards to dicuss the Town Plan . . .*

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

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Vote for **3**

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

LWV Question: Connecticut state statute requires that every town with a Planning and Zoning Commission have a Zoning Board of Appeals. How can these two boards work together to serve the best interests of Westport?

JUDITH S. McCLELLAN - Republican

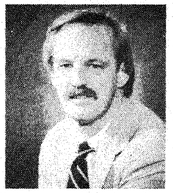
Qualifications: Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for two consecutive terms - 8 years. Intense interest in future of Westport. Graduate of Purdue University; Double Major - Chemistry, Biology. Entrepreneur - Catering. Westport Resident - 15 years. Married - Mother of three Staples Graduates.

The Zoning Board of Appeals is a quasi-judicial body according to State Statute. It operates independent of the Planning and Zoning Commission as it should. However, the Board is able to recommend changes or modifications of the existing zoning regulations. Communication is accomplished by way of the Planning Director.

JOHN E. WATSON - Republican

Qualifications: I am a second generation Westport resident. I graduated from Staples High School in 1977, the University of Michigan in 1981, and earned an MBA in Finance from Sacred Heart University in 1986. Professionally, I am a banker working for Village Bank, Port Chester, NY.

Reply: Connecticut State statute requires every town with a Planning and Zoning Commission have a Zoning Board of Appeals to offer residential and commercial property owners relief from zoning regulations which prove to be an exceptional difficulty or unusual hardship. Typically, such a variance results in a significant neighborhood/community improvement. The ZBA and P&Z must work together with more open communication and coordination. Although spirited discourse will balance the needs of all citizens, a better understanding of the goals of zoning boards and the rights of property owners will benefit the citizens of the Town of Westport.



WILLIAM L. SCHEFFLER - Democrat

Qualifications: Has been an attorney specializing in land use matters for over a decade; is just completing four-year term (the last two as Chair) on this Board. Grew up in Weston, remembers vividly (and fondly) how Westport used to be, and seeks to integrate that Westport with today's Westport.

Reply: By recognizing the charter each receives in the statutory scheme, and by acting within that charter. The goal of a properly functioning PZC is the establishment of a uniform plan; the goal of a properly functioning ZBA is the provision of a safety valve from the unintended pressures that such uniform plans inevitably create. These dual goals are in place to protect all landowners, and, when allowed to operate normally, do so. When a PZC or a ZBA attempts to usurp or eliminate the prerogatives of the other, it partially eliminates the checks and balances created by statute and experience.

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

RTM

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: What do you consider to be Westport's main priority at this time? How can the RTM help to meet such a challenge?

DISTRICT 1

Vote for **5**

JOSEPH P. ARCUDI

Qualifications: 1960 - Staples; 1965 - Fairfield University - B.A Economics; 1973 - Present Arcudi's Restaurant; 1969 - Present RTM; 1981 - Present President, Westport B.R., coached 12 years; 1985 - Present President, Westport L.L., coached 15 years; RTM Deputy Moderator; Chairman, Employee Compensation Committee; Has served longer than any RTM member in town history.

Reply: Westport's main priority is to keep the Town Budget increases as small as possible while still providing quality education for our children and quality services for our citizens. This is a tall order but one that can be achieved with careful budgeting. I believe we can and should do more for our older citizens. The RTM must be willing to cut the bottom line when necessary.

LORNA B. CHRISTOPHERSEN

Qualifications: Westport Resident since 1950. Elected offices: RTM 1971-77, Bd of Education 1977-81 (Chairman 2 yrs), RTM 1983-91. RTM Committees: Recreation, Health & Safety, Railroad Parking, Public Works, Planning & Zoning, Public Protection, Employee Compensation, Education. Selectman's Committees: Saugatuck Playground, Beautification, Bicycle Path (Chairman), Senior Citizen Housing.

Reply: How to deliver "improved" basic municipal services "necessary" to Westport as a whole, balanced against the "perceived" needs of special interest groups. Given the economic reality of greatly reduced State and Federal Funding, increasing unemployment, a flat Real Estate Market and Connecticut Income Tax the next 2 years will be a tight rope act balancing hard decisions and shrewd compromises between perceived and actual need. The RTM must make every effort to build a strong consensus dedicated to control municipal spending, study each and every issue and seek out alternatives, realizing we can not be all things to all people.

SONYA M. CLARK

Qualifications: C.P.A., M.B.A., major in taxation; B.S. in accounting, forty years of experience in public accounting including auditing of public schools and public libraries. Knowledge and experience to ask the right questions and understand the budgets and other financial information as well as financial planning for the community's future.

Reply: Westport's main priority at this time: Essential services to be maintained/continued-and at what level, must be determined and prioritized. These services must also be quantified in terms of long term budgeting. A system of checks and balances must be established and adhered to as a means of controlling costs and reducing them (the costs that is) without destroying the education, social and physical structure (roads, etc.) of the town (i.e. the quality of life). The RTM should be knowledgeable about how the numbers evolve that they vote on and perhaps monitor what is happening to help establish an atmosphere of fiscal . . .*

BETTY LOU CUMMINGS

Qualifications: An active and willing volunteer for 25 years ... serving as a Board and/or member of many community organizations. RTM member-4 years; Publicist-Westport Continuing Education; Former PTA President-Staples & Saugatuck and Founder and Chairman of Westport's Apple Festival for 8 years. B.S. & M.A.-Michigan State University.

Reply: I should say taxes as a main priority, but that's a never-ending saga! My pet priorities are the maintenance ... upkeep & undated use of our town's assets ... our "gems" e.g. schools, recreation ... all of the town's properties. A solid master maintenance plan should be in place with a "sensitive nature" to the unexpectant or a new needs assessment with the ever-changing population. a Teen Center? a Life-Care Center? etc.? The RTM can create the best wheel (not the most expensive) to roll us into the 21st Century with equity!

JORGEN F. JENSEN

Qualifications: Westport resident for 30 years with wife Pat; three children attended Westport school system. Represented District 1 for the past four years. Member RTM Public Works, Health & Social Services, and Transit Committees. Prior member Conservation, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Flood & Erosion Commissions.

Reply: As your RTM member I will work to maintain our superb schools and town services. This will be a tough year for many of us as recession continues and taxes increase. Fortunatey, we have several study committees working hard to find more efficient and cost effective means of operating. I will support improvements in productivity and spending reductions to keep 1992 budget increases to a minimum. Several important capital projects must be funded but we have already anticipated bonding for such projects as additional classrooms for our growing school population, improvements at Longshore, and the conversion of Saugatuck School to senior housing. . .*

SYLVIA KOMAROW

Qualifications: 22 year resident. Background in Art, Architecture, Business Management. Held leadership positions in many volunteer organizations. Member D.T.C., Board member D.W.W., Former P. & Z. commissioner. Helped formulate Town Plan. Member many conservation and preservation groups. Five children attended Westport schools. Dedicated to quality of life in Westport.

Reply: More than ever, our problems are financial. Let's consider ways to turn some of our office space glut to residential use. Let's be very protective of our shore and park areas, and historic places. Let's improve traffic without compromising safety. Let's uphold and safeguard our regulations. Westport has a wonderfully diverse population. Let's cherish and enjoy this diversity by keeping affordable and friendly. Let's be environmentally aware and cooperative. An effective R.T.M. needs people who diligently attend meetings, study issues carefully, and are responsive and responsible.

JOSEPH J. VALIANTE, JR.

Qualifications: RTM incumbent, District #1, seeking re-election to 3rd term; Native Westporter, 3rd generation; Many family members are Westport residents; Familiar with changes due to Town's growth; Knowledgeable of Town's needs; Awareness of responsibilities of government and citizens; Member, Westport Fire Department, 23 years service.

Reply: As a native Westporter and member of the Fire Service, the well-being of Westport's citizens is of prime importance - not only from a Life Safety view-point but also a quality of life view for all members of the community, young and old. To be a sharing, caring community, Westport must be a blend of people of all ages and from all socio-economic backgrounds. The RTM has an important role to play in these hard economic times. There are hard choices to be made in endeavoring to provide the citizens of Westport with such advantages as superior Emergency Services, quality education . . .*

DISTRICT 2

Vote for **4**

JAMES A. GALAMBOS

Qualifications: Director Prodigy Services Company from 1985; Executive V.P. Compu-Teach (educational software company) 1983-5; Research Faculty Yale University 1980-3; Ph.D. U. of Chicago, 1980; Researcher Oxford University (England) 1973-5; B.A. U. of Pennsylvania, 1973; Married, 2 children; Active in community and schools; Westport resident since 1985.

Reply: Our main priority is to increase the *quality of life* for Westport residents while carefully scrutinizing each tax dollar spent. In this recessionary time, we must carefully hold the line on escalating costs and seize opportunities to enrich the facilities and services we provide for our residents. The RTM plays a pivotal role in this by carefully evaluating budgets to insure that the tax dollars wisely allocated and that waste and inefficiency are discovered and removed. Making Westport's taxes work hard for Westport's residents is the RTM's biggest job.

WALTER D. HARRIS

Qualifications: Experience: 4 years on RTM, lifelong (27 year) Westport resident. Education: Westport School System and Bachelor's and Master's in Electrical Engineering from MIT. Dedication: Excellent attendance and studious voting.

Reply: With a recession and rising state taxes, our priority must be to do more with less. On the RTM, I will continue to help by scrutinizing every expenditure, asking if we are paying too much for each purchase or salary group. Raises for taxpayers are no longer automatic; neither should town or school employee's raises be automatic. On the other hand, we must reward increased productivity. Finally, to return these decisions entirely to the Town, I will continue to push for repeal of Binding Arbitration, which now allows the State to dictate how much we pay our employees.

MARY VAN SICLEN

Qualifications: I have always had a strong interest in the social and civic matters of our community and I feel I would like to put my energies to constructive use. When looking for a community in which to settle eight years ago, we selected Westport for its many wonderful characteristics and . . .

Reply: One of the factors contributing to a strong community is a strong school system. It is imperative to maintain high standards and innovative programs. Yet it is essential for the taxpayer to have an accurate accounting of how the dollars are spent. Also, while a strong business community is also essential, I would want the RTM to keep an eye towards the overdevelopment of our community.

DISTRICT 3

Vote for **4**

CATHERINE C. GOLDSCHMIDT

Qualifications: Know how to listen; Westporter 25 years; served on 89-91 RTM Education, Library, Ethics Committees; balanced perspective on school budget: worked in System 21 years - now living on retirement income; involved with efforts to protect drinking/recreational water sources, remove household hazardous waste; have a sense of humor.

Reply: Westport's most important task is to recognize that some services put in place when labor was cheap and state monies reliable, are now luxuries, even in a supposedly "affluent" town. In education, environmental protection and human services, we need to ask: are we going beyond mandated requirements? is there overlap of function in the personnel who carry these out? RTMers can promote re-assessment by diligently attending related Board/Commission meetings. It is essential to become informed committee members, working as a team, to insure the town budget ultimately reflects our awareness of the changing human needs of this community.

AL JOHNSON

Qualifications: Completing fourth term on the RTM where I serve on the Finance, Education and Ethics Committees. Only member selected as an Observer during negotiations leading to the present Teachers' and Administrators' contracts. Only RTM representative appointed to the School Committee by the Board of Education. Member of LWV, Y's Men, AARP.

Reply: These are very difficult times with unemployment, foreclosures, bankrupcies and state taxes all increasing while home values and commercial/retail businesses remain depressed. The RTM is working hard to ease these pressures. Through our new guidelines and persuasion the rising cost of labor contracts and budgets have been sharply reduced. As a result the Town's present tax rate is up 4.9% compared to 10.9% previously. More must be accomplished. My personal goal is to hold this to no more than 3% next year. We will be taking unprecidented action in this direction on October 1st.

REMEMBER
The RTM candidates for your district are located in the lower right-hand portion of the ballot, starting with row 16E. ***Double check your ballot and don't forget to vote for the RTM.***

RTM

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.

CAROL A. LeKASHMAN

Qualifications: *Moved to Westport in 1970; since then have witnessed local growth; suffered as a commuter; appreciated our schools through watching my sister's kids. Am an architect, interested in urban planning (M.Arch.'91 - CUA). Have ten years experience in banking operations and consulting along with MBA from Wharton '75; BA, Wellesley '73.*

Reply: Westport spends too much; its main priority must be to reduce the budget. I would like to offer my experience and training to help the RTM identify areas of potential cost reduction and methods for implementing such savings. Reduce inflated budgets, by conscientious cost accounting and financial reviews. In time, it should be possible to reduce taxes, too. Oversee the implementation of such cost-effectiveness and efficiency measures once identified by active participation and involvement, in both general RTM meetings and committees. As a trained urban planner, I strongly believe I can help the RTM meet this challenge.

MARY D. MIX

Qualifications: *Local attorney, 33 years resident of Westport, four children attended Westport schools. Eight years on RTM, including Education Committee, Chairman Finance Committee, Chairman Ethics Committee, Co-Chairman Binding Arbitration Committee. Interest in government (Phd. History and Political Science), education (taught History and Politics of Education), and Finance (LLM in Tax Law).*

Reply: Westport's main priority is to maintain an acceptable level of town and educational services while giving exceptionally careful scrutiny to all expenditures in a recessionary economy. The RTM, especially the Education Committee on which I serve and the Finance Committee of which I am Chairman, can help to meet this challenge in two ways. First, we will continue to review very carefully all appropriations which come to us. Second, we are sending a clear message to the Town administration and the Board of Education that all expenditures will be reviewed in light of their reasonableness during these hard times.

WARREN C. ROSSELL

Qualifications: *Westport resident for almost 30 years; All 4 children graduated from Staples; Retired from career in advertising.-VP Creative Director, TV Producer, Department Manager; Graduated from Amherst College. Master's Degree in Communications from Syracuse University. LT (jg) US Navy; Currently active in Y's Men of Westport and Retired Senior Volunteers.; Wife Ann works as a writer and public relations consultant.*

Reply: I love living in Westport, and want to keep it that way. I believe the main priority for all of us is to continue to make our town an ideal place to live for everyone ... from young families and singles to older retirees. This means providing the most possible school system, town services, support programs for the arts, sports and recreation, and a much-needed senior health care center, while guarding against over-commercialization. All of this requires tax dollars, and if this figure gets out of hand, it is no longer an ideal liveable community for many. It is up to the RTM to become cognizant of all town functions, scrutinizing budget allocations so we get the best possible results from our expenditures.

DISTRICT 4

Vote for **5**

JANET S. CANNING

Qualifications: *Have served one term on the RTM. Past President - Kings Highway PTA, Bedford PTA and PTA Council. Actively involved in educational and musical activities since moving to Westport in 1979. Currently enrolled in a Health Advocacy Program at Sarah Lawrence.*

Reply: Westport needs to retain those special ""Quality of Life" factors that attracted most of us to this town in the first place, draw our children (and former residents) back, and make our senior citizens wish to remain. This is very difficult to finance with a declining Grand List, little hope of federal or state aid, and many taxpayers on limited fixed incomes or unemployed. The RTM will need to do a delicate balancing act whose success will depend on the RTM remaining a non-partisan body interested in the present and future well-being of the WHOLE town.

CHRISTOPHER C. DUNHAM

Qualifications: *2-term RTM member; committees: employee compensation, public works. Former positions: Board of Finance member; P&Z alternate; chairman, Selectman's Committees on Baldwin Parking Lot Assessments and Railroad Parking; Westport representative to SWRPA. Patent lawyer; commuter; homeowner; Westport resident 45 years; educated Westport public schools, Wesleyan, Columbia.*

Reply: The priority: to maintain top-quality schools and public serives in a time of continuing economic difficulty. The RTM's job: (1) controlling costs through its power to approve employee contracts, by insisting on reasonable salary settlements and insurance give-backs; (2) working closely with town departments to evaluate critically all spending requests, with a sharp eye for possible savings and items that can sefely be deferred; (3) voting for necessary appropriations despite pressure-group demands for unwise budget cuts; and (4) protecting the tax base against tax-abatement schemes for commercial developers.

NANCY E. HOLSON

Qualifications: *RTM: seeking third term. Chair, Environment; Ad Hoc Sewer Committees. Member, Education; Ethics Committees. Business Background: Divisional Manager, The Holson Company. Owner/Operator, "Junque." Officer: Trade and Neighborhood Associations. Participant: Substance Abuse Forum, Zoning Roundtable. Member: LWV, PTA. Parent - Amy (grade 2) and Daniel (grade 1) Schwartz.*

Reply: In this difficult economy, the temptation to keep taxes low at any cost is great. Quick fix budget reductions, however, have long term impact on the quality of town services (fire, police, schools, etc.). A responsible RTM must be sensitive to the plights of townspeople experiencing financial difficulties, but work toward budgets which maintain or improve levels of services which enhance residents' lives. The RTM has the fiscal power to define the town's priorities. As a member, I shall continue to take the long term view and support budgets which reflect the commitment to keep Westport vital and desirable.

DAVID R.T. WOOD

Qualifications: *Renovator; Portfolio Manager; Author; Licensed Real Estate Broker; Money Management Expert; Had Senior Management Positions at major international corporations (including General Motors & Renault); Previously elected, twice, to the RTM; Chairman, Parks & Recreation Committee; Member, Finance committee; BME, Clarkson University; MBA, Harvard University.*

Reply: Westport's priority MUST be: To maintain the present level of services at the lowest possible cost. To do this you simply have to increase the productivity of each department that provides these services. If there is no increase in productivity, there should be no increase in employee compensation. Annual increases in compensation, without equal increases in productivity, are the root cause of inflation. And we must refuse to grant any increases in compensation that have not been earned by increased productivity. The RTM approves all budgets and should, I believe, deny any request that does not adhere to this principal.

JONATHAN B. WALKER

Qualifications: *Member of old Westport family. K-12 alumnus of Westport schools. A good understanding of Westport's past gives me a clear perspective on how to help manage my hometown's future. Currently serving on RTM. AGAINST controlled development. FOR quality school system and town services at a fair price.*

Reply: Westport's a great place to live. Our main priority should be to keep it that way for now and for generations to come. In these tough economic times, maintaining Westport's high quality of life becomes an extra challenging balancing act. On the one hand, we must do our best to find budget savings wherever possible. On the other hand, we need to guard against making overly deep and arbitrary cuts. If we're not careful, cuts made to ease short term pain may in the long term diminish our quality of life and decrease the value of our homes.

REMEMBER

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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.

DISTRICT 5

Vote for **4**

LAWRENCE O. AASEN

Qualifications: *Twelve years of hard work on the RTM. Served on Public Protection and Arts, Museum & Library committees. Twenty eight years experience in Westport civic, church and community activities. Ph.B. degree-Univ. of North Dakota; M.S. degree-Boston University.*

Reply: Westport's main priority at this time is to spend less money. The town can no longer afford big salaries, big budget increases. Most of our salaries are now generous and we should consider a freeze on increases. One exception: the First Selectman's office. What can the RTM DO? The RTM can just vote "NO." The RTM must also question and keep a careful eye on all contracts, legal expenses and the purchase of new town equipment.

NATHANIEL W. GIBBONS

Qualifications: *I have responded to every call or letter constituents gave me. I have practical experience working with RTM committees, town commissions, and reviewing administrative budgets. I live and work in Westport. I thoroughly read and question every item on the RTM's agenda before voting on it.*

Reply: A positive future for Westport is a managed future one that strikes a balance between the efficient use of tax revenues and maintaining town services. Education costs make up about half of our town's budget, and student enrollment in elementary schools is increasing strongly. The RTM's main challenge will be to provide for these pupils without sacrificing other town services, or without resorting to double digit mil rate increases. I will work to limit property tax increases to between 4 and 6 percent annually.

RALPH HYMANS

Qualifications: *Resident of Greens Farms for 15 years; Certified Public Accountant specializing in taxes and financial planning; formerly CEO of international toiletry and cosmetic corporation; merchandising executive in the department store field; educated at Harvard College and Harvard Business School. Fresh new voice to work hard and be responsive to the critical budgetary issues effecting taxes. . .**

Reply: I believe Westport's main priority is the challenge containing spending without sacrificing the quality of services expected by residents, while maintaining the environment and residential values. I believe the RTM can meet this challenge by working hard to understand and be critical of the budgetary needs while having a firm understanding of their constituents priorities. The RTM must also be cognizant of the importance of the quality of life expected in Westport. The RTM must have new insight into quality government and fiscal responsibility.

WANDA E. A. KOKOSZKA

Qualifications: *Accessible to all constituents. Responds to all questions and statements; open minded; a sense of humor; throughly does homework with no nonesense. Community Services: Incumbent Member - Environment, Parks and Recreation Committees; Greens Farms PTA President; Trustee Westport Library; District Cancer Fund Coordinator; Director-at-Large Westport Women's Club.*

Reply: Westport's main priority is to have fiscal sanity now and in the future. To limit unnecessary spending so as not to have what's happened at the federal or state level ever happen here (A BIG DEFICIT). To meet this challenge one as an R.T.M. member must attend meetings, get input and ask questions. The bottom line of course is the final vote after debate by the R.T.M.

EVERETT G. SUSSMAN

Qualifications: *Resident of Greens Farms for 25 years. Education: Dickinson School of Law, Trinity College, Staples High School, Long Lots Junior High School, Greens Farms Elementary School. Employment: Attorney: admitted in Connecticut and New York. Sole practice law firm based in Westport.*

Reply: The RTM must preserve Westport's assets: our strong educational system and cultural attractions; e.g., the Levitt Pavilion, Longshore, and the Senior Center. It should also assist our young families and senior citizens and protect our real estate values. The RTM is, by definition, a REPRESENTATIVE body and, as such, exists to transform the voice of the people into concrete action. As a member of the RTM, I will address the concerns of my constituents and vote to uphold Westport's way of life.

FREDERIC S. URY

Qualifications: *Resident of Westport since 1977; Married, two children in Westport Public School system; Partner in Westport law firm of Rubenstein & Ury; Past Chairman Westport Little League; Past President of Westport/Weston Community Council; Past President United Way of Westport/Weston.*

Reply: Maintaining Westport's A) quality of life; B) Excellent public school system; and c) quality of recreational Services. RTM must work to stabalize and increase tax base by working with Town administration, other Town organizations, and commercial landlords to develop a plan to lease the vast amount of vacant commercial space in town. Strive to have Town Government become more efficient to maximize tax revenue. Develop more volunteerism in Town.

DISTRICT 6

Vote for **5**

JAMES W. CALL

Qualifications: *Finishing second term on RTM. Member of Finance and Public Works Committees, Advisory RTM member of Public Sites and Building Commission and Transit authority. Prior corporate experience with two Fortune 500 companies in Research, Engineering, Regulatory Affairs, Safety and Loss Control, Planning and Management. A 21 year love of Westport.*

Reply: Nurture a community of citizens with the diversity of Westport. That can work together to build a children's beach playground, play at charity golf and tennis tournaments, revitalize and enjoy the "Great Race," fight over but improve our schools at reduced cost, care for the elderly and support a soup kitchen. Public administrators must operate government and education within affordable limits for these citizens to live. Not just wealthy or average but young families with mortgages and mature citizens on fixed incomes. The RTM through legislative power and oversight position can force these desireable results.

RONALD F. MALONE

Qualifications: *Civic accomplishments and demonstrated effectiveness, as well as responsiveness to the electorate, are desireable traits for those seeking election to the RTM. A lifelong Westporter and retired Chief of Police with a record of worthwhile accomplishments, I have both the necessary skills and vision desireable for election to the RTM.*

Reply: Westport's main priority at this time and for the foreseeable near future is to maintain and improve its already excellent public services, in light of a stabilized Grand List and the likelihood of little increase in monies for these needs. The problem is compounded by the shift of service burdens from federal and state governments to local entities. The RTM will be instrumental in meeting the challenge by prioritizing needs continually, by effecting efficiencies in government, by establishing appropriate public/private sector linkages, by stimulating volunteerism, and by seeking voter input into public policy-making and government operations.

THOMAS J. MURPHY

Qualifications: *Resident of Westport for 24 years. Education: B.S. Mathematics, Boston College. Work Experience: 2 years with FBI as Cryptanalyst, 31 years with IBM in technical, sales and managerial positions. Since retiring from IBM: programming consulting work; volunteer work with Literacy Volunteers; volunteer work with Bridgeport School System.*

Reply: In a word - taxes. Town taxes have risen 52% in the last 5 years; 18% since the town election of 2 years ago when the current administration was elected on a "hold the line on taxes" platform. Now we are being threatened with tax increases to solve the problems of over commercialization and vacant office space. The RTM can help by being more stringent in it's review and approval of appropriations and budget requests. Also, the RTM should play a lead role in insisting that free market forces be allowed to resolve the vacant office space problem, - not the Westport taxpayers.

Voters Have Pull

LWV Question: What do you consider to be Westport's main priority at this time? How can the RTM help to meet such a challenge?

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

RTM

PATRICIA A. PORIO

Qualifications: *Knowledgeable in workings of Town government. President of League of Women Voters (3 years). President and Vice President PTA. Willing and able to explore all sides of issues - not a single issue candidate. Westport resident for fifteen years. Familiar with needs of a broad spectrum of residents. Will make tough choices.*

Reply: The people need true representation. The RTM is our voice, and my priority is to assure my constituents that they will be heard. Westport must continue to provide the quality of service we deserve, including growth. Planning and zoning regulations should reflect the needs of our community. Housing options should be explored while ensuring the character of our town. Recreation and educational facilities should remain excellent with continual examination of future needs. We must explore our interdependence on a healthy business economy. And we must recognize this, and other issues, with an eye toward cost control. Together, we'll do it.

WILLIAM P. RAINES

Qualifications: *Semi-retired communications executive with time, energy and concern to continue to represent our district effectively. Experienced in dealing with Westport government: as taxpayer and parent (since 1965); as leader in successful campaign for vital neighborhood improvement (1985-90); as member RTM ... Committees on Finance/Environment/Recycling ... (since 1990).*

Reply: Westport's main priority must be to maintain, in the face of rising costs and limited tax base growth, the essential qualities ... including excellent schools, police & fire protection and recreational facilities ... that have made our Town a wonderful place in which to live and raise a family. By devoting the necessary time to working closely, year around, with Town departments in analyzing and prioritizing our needs against the reality of our finite resources, RTM members can increase their effectiveness is evaluating annual budgets, appropriations requests and labor contracts.

JOHN SACHS

Qualifications: *Currently: on RTM in 2nd term, Serving on Finance, Employee Compensation, and Rules Committees. Chairman: Insurance Committee. AARP Volunteer Medicare and health Insurance Counsellor. Prior: Owner successful business in town 23 + years (Insurance Agency), Financial Planning & Securities, NYC, Westport Municipal Pension Board, Town Insurance Committee, President Westport Rotary Club (1989/90). . .**

Reply: Binding Arbitration Reform. While binding arbitration is basically an effective way to settle Collective Bargaining disputes, in practice the system has, in recent years, become imbalanced. In the vast majority of cases "neutral" arbitrators decided salary disputes in favor of unions for increases considerably greater than those in the private sector. This further creates pressure to accept higher demands to avoid arbitration. For fairer implementation the RTM Binding Arbitration Committee should be reactivated to work with the other towns in the State which nearly all agree and get the legislature to redefine Binding Arbitration Criteria and add a recourse mechanism.

HERBERT WALDMAN

Qualifications: *Director, Westport Taxpayers Association; Resident since 1970; Director, Management Information and Data Processing, New York City Schools, Air Defense Command and Headquarters, USAF; Director, Management Systems, Defense Department; MBA with High Distinction, University of Michigan; Financial Consultant, Yale University; retired Colonel, USAF (Command Pilot) and as AVP, Chemical Bank.*

Reply: The main priority for Westport is to meet the needs of its citizens for the maintenance (and improvement) of the quality of life in Westport and the character and economic well-being of all residents. The general public must not pay for spending excesses for a few. As the 21st Century nears, we must decide what we value and seek to preserve it. The RTM can help by using all the powers given in the Town Charter, within a framework of appropriate Goals and Objectives it should adopt, to create the conditions that benefit its entire constituency.

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DISTRICT 7

Vote for **4**

ROBERT E. BOSTROM

Qualifications: *Attorney in New York for 12 years (partner in large New York firm). Born and raised in Connecticut. 10-year resident of Westport. Masters Degree and enrollment in Ph.D. program - Columbia University. Desire to participate on RTM as a concerned Westporter - not for personal, economic or career goals.*

Reply: Westport's main priority should be to create an atmosphere in which the will of the majority of the people is implemented through elected representatives while respecting minority concerns and in which the minority acquiesces and supports the decision of the majority. RTM members must communicate with and be responsive to the views of their District, not only their own. My 10 years in Westport have been marked by constant antagonism between various groups and various decisive issues. Fiscal responsibility, education, concerns of senior citizens, issues of commercial development and budget appropriations must be dealt with in a spirit of cooperation. . .*

DANIEL J. CARNESE

Qualifications: *Resident for 21 years; father of two children; engineering graduate from Massachusetts Institute Of Technology; Masters degree in Management; Been involved in Westport civic affairs for 19 years; expert in school and municipal operations and budgets; I work diligently to obtain the best, but cost effective, schools and Town services.*

Reply: Westport's taxes are increasing much greater than the Consumer Price Index and per capita income. We face the difficult job of overcoming typical government inertia. The RTM must insist on more cost effective school and Town staffing in exchange for salaries that are significantly greater than comparable jobs in the private sector. The staff to student ratio increased by 35% within 15 years in our schools without reporting any material change in student performance. Competent independent investigators report savings are indicated without dropping programs or educational effectiveness. Similar studies should be undertaken of the Town side of our operation.

JERRY DAVIDOFF

Qualifications: *More than thirty years of active Westport citizenship, including nine years on the Board of Education (two as chairman), raising two children here, making my living in town, presidency of the Westport Bar Association, and a continuing interest in keeping Westport an excellent place to live and work.*

Reply: The vast majority of Westporters live here by choice. We came here, and remain here, because Westport is among the most desirable of residential communities. In this difficult, almost daunting, economy the challenge is to fulfill Westporters' expectations within the limits of what our residents can afford. Two of the RTM's principal functions are monitoring the town's appropriation and budget processes, and overseeing administrative performance. The RTM's exercise of prudent management in fiscal matters, and critical vigilance concerning administration, can keep Westport not only an excellent place to live, but a town with an affordable local tax rate.

ANTHONY J. LOWE

Qualifications: *21 year resident, 12 years on RTM, 2 years RTM moderator, appointed to 7 RTM committees, past Chairman Environment Committee, Selectman's Housing Code Committee, Selectman's Operational Improvement Committee, two daughters Staples graduates, High Point Road Association, Y's Men, past Chairman Board of Trustees Green Farms Church, Finace Chairman LWV.*

Reply: The main priority for Westport is to keep expenses down and still maintain services at the present level. The RTM will help to meet this challenge by strictly and judiciously applying its prerogatives over the Town Budget and the Board of Education Budget while working and acting in copartnership with the Town Administration and the Board of Education in order to ascertain that all levels of service and cooperation are sustained at their highest operational levels while keeping costs at a minimum.

BARBARA A. MEYERS

Qualifications: *Served 2 years on the RTM - (Planning & Zoning; Arts, Library, Museum Committees)—knows how Town government operates—Has 100% RTM attendance record—has strong pro-education views—has commitment to concerns of all ages—energetic, enthusiastic, entirely confident to assist in solving the issues facing this community.*

Reply: My focus, above all, is directed at the education of our youth. It goes without saying this community is rightfully proud of its school system. However, if we are to maintain excellence, we must use the tax dollar **judiciously** and with **utmost care.** Education finances must undergo constant scrutiny to assure the taxpayer that their contribution is a positive investment which will benefit each student. Westporters are fortunate in having an excellent school system because the taxpayers know the value of a good education. Unfortunately, it cost money but it can be done with dollars well-spent.

LUCIA J. WOLGAST

Qualifications: *Graduate of Cornell Law School, where I served as Editor-in-Chief of the award-winning student newspaper. Concentration in public law. A.B. with honors from Vassar College. Girl Scout Troop Leader for three years. Attended Westport public schools for twelve years. Good, caring listener.*

Reply: Providing essential services while maintaining fiscal responsibility is key. Westporters expect a top notch educational system, quality police and fire protection, and excellent parks and recreation programs. These services add to Westport's ambiance and help maintain property values. At the same time, however, many Westporters worry about higher living expenses and taxes. Increasing numbers of people have lost their jobs or live on fixed incomes. The RTM must carefully balance the need for town services against the costs of those services.

DISTRICT 8

Vote for **5**

CAROLE DONENFELD

Qualifications: *22-year resident serving on boards and committees in education and social services in LWV, PTA, Family Center, Saugatuck Child Care, Children's Community Day Care, Staples Tuition Grants. Presently chairs 2 RTM committees: Health and Social Services, and Transit.*

Reply: Money! Money! Money—how and where it is spent! Some issues to be decided in 91/92 are employee contracts and medical give-backs; capital expenditures for Longshore and schools; tax abatements for commercial renters; and if the recession continues, an increase in expenditures in human services. The possibility that State aid will be reduced requires even greater attention to what we need, or would like, or can delay until better times. Items passed by selectmen, Boards of Finance and Education which need RTM approval for passage should be scrutinized even more carefully than in the past.

IRWIN DONENFELD

Qualifications: *Graduated Bates College, 2 years Army Air Force. Resident over 20 years, own and run a business in town 25 years. Member of RTM 8 years, chairman of Public Protection Committee, member of Parks and Rec Comm.*

Reply: Westport's priority is coming to grip with the fact that we are an aging community with a static tax base. The cost of town government will probably increase faster than our projected income, meaning larger increases in taxes, or a reduction in services, or both. The job for the RTM is to make sure our money is spent wisely, and to maintain the quality of life on which we must insist.

GORDON F. JOSELOFF

Qualifications: *Attended Westport schools ... Syracuse U ... as young journalist covered RTM and town government ,,, former UPI, CBS foreign correspondent and news executive ... quick study ... action-oriented ... volunteer fire, EMS, LWV, PTAs ... concerned father ... value-seeking taxpayer ... eager to serve and enlist other to help make today's Westport as special as yesterday's.*

Reply: Westport's main priority is balancing its needs and wants with its checkbook. To maintain our quality lifestyle, superior schools and superb recreational facilities, we need enhanced tax dollar values. But we also must be prepared, when challenged, to take the extra step. The RTM can: demand cost-effectiveness; seek innovative solutions; provide enlightened, eloquent leadership. Westport did not get where it is today without forward thinking and a determined quest for excellence. Although especially difficult now, we must continue that tradition. We must inspire newcomers to participate and long-timers to share their wisdom. Together we can keep Westport unique.

CARL A. MERCURIO

Qualifications: *I want to serve Westport. Westport resident for past 18 years. Married, 3 children. Employed by IBM for 32 years, the past 24 years in management. BS degree in finance, Fordham University. MBA, St. John's University. Westport Little League officer & uniform committee chairman. Choir member, St. Luke Westport.*

Reply: Westport's main priority is to recapture those qualities which have made it unique. Today Main Street has become a big business mall and local merchants are struggling to survive. Retirees find it hard to make ends meet and young adults must move away to find jobs and affordable housing. Traffic is terrible and when I talk about solutions people tell me they don't even know who their RTM representatives are. I would keep in frequent touch with my neighbors for their views on these issues and thereby only support growth in services through improved productivity and not higher taxes.

JAMES E. MYER, JR.

Qualifications: *I am a two year member of R.T.M. I have attended every meeting, I have given every issue my utmost attention, with extensive research and an open mind and ear for my constituents. I live and work in Westport. I am proud of my achievements of the past two years.*

Reply: With the ever changing demands on the town governments by state and federal agencies, it will be the duty of the R.T.M. now more than ever to insure that every dollar is appropriated wisely. There are many issues that will come before the R.T.M., throughout these next few fiscal years and we must be sure that each and every issue is scrutinized to maintain Westport's strong financial stability. If we watch our pennies, the dollars will watch themselves.

RITA B. SECLOW

Qualifications: *Two term member of the RTM. Chair of the RTM Public Works Committee. Member of the RTM Public Protection Committee. Member of the RTM Committee on Binding Arbitration. Westport resident for 31 years. School Social Worker and trained listener.*

Reply: Westport has a particularly tricky mission: to continue yet improve upon an expensive school system, superior police and fire protection, superb recreational facilities, road and sewer maintenance, outstanding library services, unique transportation system, attracting and keeping quality town employees and meeting the needs of the elderly, teens, children and needy, while keeping an eagle eye on costs. In this difficult economic climate, the RTM must be diligent in studying every issue deeply, knowing where to draw the line on expenses. As a community sounding board, through homework and consensus, the RTM can give Westporters these impressive services at an affordable price.

JANIS M. WASSERMAN

Qualifications: *7+ years as Westport's Grants Person (worked with staff, RTM, boards and commissions). Coleytown El PTA (Treasurer and Vice President). Coleytown Middle PTA Board. Family Center. Fundraiser for Little League. Soccer Team Manager. Social Action Committee - Temple Israel. 11 year Westport resident, two children in the schools.*

Reply: Cost effective choices to insure the long term well being of our community. Choices which balance the needs of all the citizens. These choices should include: plans for the maintenance of our infrastructure; sufficient police, fire and health services; and a well managed school system offering curriculum and activities so that all children will be prepared to face the challenges of the 90's and of the next century. The RTM is the ultimate watch dog. We must insure the preservation of the special qualities of Westport, while being responsive to the voices of our citizens.

GLENN ERIC WITT

Qualifications: *22 year Westport resident. B.S. United States Naval Academy, Engineering. Masters Degree Candidate, Yale University, School of Organization and Management. Part-time Finance/Accounting Associate. Volunteer work with the Outreach Management Consulting Group. Staff-member, Yale Journal of Regulation and Yale Journal of Opinion. Executive Officer, U.S. Naval Reserves.*

Reply: Today, Westport's number one priority is the maintenance and improvement of the town, especially its services and beauty, without increasing taxes through sound fiscal management. We are all very privileged to be Westport residents, and the town is a wonderful place to live and grow up in. With the continued progress of several capital projects, the town can continue to improve its infrastructure and provide for a better tomorrow. The essence of any program should be the enhancement of the town's quality of life and insuring that Westport remains a desirable place to live and work.

Your Name...

In 1993, 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 not later than the second Tuesday in September before the election. 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.

CUT OUT THIS SAMPLE BALLOT PAGE

OFFICE → / PARTY ↓	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Board of Finance Vote for any Four				Board of Education Vote for any Three			Board of Tax Review	Planning and Zoning Commission Vote for any Four			
REPUBLICAN	Penny A. Bray ☐1A	J. Donald Warren, Jr. ☐2A	☐3A	☐4A	Theodore W. Youngling ☐5A	Benjamin F. Tiley ☐6A	☐7A	Garson F. Heller, Jr. ☐8A	Mark T. Owades ☐9A	Leonard P. Kaminsky ☐10A	Carla L. Rea ☐11A	Richard B. Benson ☐12A
DEMOCRATIC	Eleanor C. Solovay ☐1B	Carl W. Leaman ☐2B	Roy E. Fuchs ☐3B	☐4B	Alice R. Czuczka ☐5B	Gloria E. Hunter ☐6B	☐7B	☐8B	William R. Yario ☐9B	☐10B	☐11B	☐12B
SAVE WESTPORT NOW	☐1C	☐2C	☐3C	☐4C	☐5C	☐6C	☐7C	☐8C	William R. Yario ☐9C	☐10C	☐11C	☐12C
CONCERNED TAXPAYERS	☐1D	☐2D	☐3D	☐4D	Lillian P. Koegler ☐5D	☐6D	☐7D	☐8D	☐9D	☐10D	☐11D	☐12D
	☐1E	☐2E	☐3E	☐4E	☐5E	☐6E	☐7E	☐8E	☐9E	☐10E	☐11E	☐12E

OFFICE → / PARTY ↓	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Zoning Board of Appeals Vote for any Three			Representative Town Meeting SEE ROW - E - BELOW								
REPUBLICAN	Judith S. McClellan ☐13A	John E. Watson III ☐14A	☐15A	☐16A	☐17A	☐18A	☐19A	☐20A	☐21A	☐22A	☐23A	☐24A
DEMOCRATIC	William L. Scheffler ☐13B	☐14B	☐15B	☐16B	☐17B	☐18B	☐19B	☐20B	☐21B	☐22B	☐23B	☐24B
SAVE WESTPORT NOW	☐13C	☐14C	☐15C	☐16C	☐17C	☐18C	☐19C	☐20C	☐21C	☐22C	☐23C	☐24C
CONCERNED TAXPAYERS	☐13D	☐14D	☐15D	☐16D	☐17D	☐18D	☐19D	☐20D	☐21D	☐22D	☐23D	☐24D
	☐13E	☐14E	☐15E	☐16E	☐17E	☐18E	☐19E	☐20E	☐21E	☐22E	☐23E	☐24E

NOTE: RTM candidates appear on the lower right of the ballot, starting at row 16E and differ for each district. Read about *your* RTM candidates on the preceding pages and enter your choices in the spaces at the right.

MY DISTRICT IS NUMBER _____

THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES TO BE ELECTED IS _____

Representative Town Meeting Candidates
1
2
3
4
5

✔ **MARK YOUR CHOICES ABOVE AND TAKE THIS PAGE WITH YOU TO THE POLLS ON NOVEMBER 5.**

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