LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTPORT

2002 VOTER'S GUIDE

VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

POLLS OPEN 6 am to 8 pm

A Message from the League of Women Voters of Westport

Dear Westport Voter:

Here is your Voter's Guide prepared by the League of Women Voters of Westport. It is published annually as each November election approaches.

The Guide represents several things. Among them is our non-partisan commitment to helping voters pull those little levers with some knowledge of the candidates and the issues. It represents also our conviction that we live in a community whose citizens believe that the right to vote entails a responsibility to compare and contrast – thoughtfully – the candidates and their views on these issues.

The LWV is also very aware that we now live in a different "information age." Of course we can read about what the candidates say in response to our questions. But we may not have asked the questions you consider most important. For that reason we list on page 22 other ways to become even better informed . Don't overlook the opportunity of engaging a middle or high school student in your household in the search for answers. You'll be educating yourself and at the same time teaching that participation in the democratic process is serious work. DEMOCRACY DOES NOT FUNCTION ON AUTOMATIC PILOT.

We offer on page 20 some very practical advice on HOW TO VOTE for first-time voters and people new to town. Call the LWV at 226-6701 if you need further direction. We will see that you get it.

Take note too that the LWV has arranged a forum for local candidates (State Senator and Representatives and Judge of the Probate Court) to be at the Police Classroom on Sunday, October 27 from 3:00 to 4:30. Come, listen to their statements and ask your questions.

Finally, we would like to point out that the cost of producing this Guide is the major financial expenditure of the League of Women Voters of Westport. We encourage voters, candidates and businesses alike to contribute to our tax-deductible Education Fund if you have found this publication helpful.

Sincerely,

Katy Goldschmidt

Katy Goldschmidt
President, LWV Westport

The League of Women Voters Education Fund

This Voter's Guide has been published in part by contributions to the LWV Education Fund. The monies from this fund are used for citizen education projects. The Guide and other publications and activities of the League are intended to help voters utilize government services knowledgeably and to participate actively in the democratic process. You can show your support for this goal by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Education Fund.

Checks may be made to **The LWVUS Education Fund** and sent to:
League of Women Voters of Westport, P.O. Box 285, Westport, CT 06881

How to Vote

Officials will be on hand at all polling places to answer your questions and demonstrate the voting machine.

REMEMBER TO BRING IDENTIFICATION TO THE POLLS. Voters must show a pre-printed ID before voting. Acceptable forms of ID include a driver's license, a Social Security card, a library card or else the voter must sign a statement attesting to his/her identity.

IN PERSON: Please bring proper identification and give your address and name to the identity checkers. They will direct you to a voting machine. Step by step instructions on how to operate the machine are available on page 20 of this Voter's Guide.

WITH CHILDREN: State law allows a child up to age 16 to accompany a voter, who must be his or her parent or guardian, into a voting booth.

BY ABSENTEE BALLOT: Applications for an Absentee Ballot are available in the Town Clerk's office in person or by mail. The Absentee Ballot application can also be downloaded from the Town of Westport website (www.westportct.org).

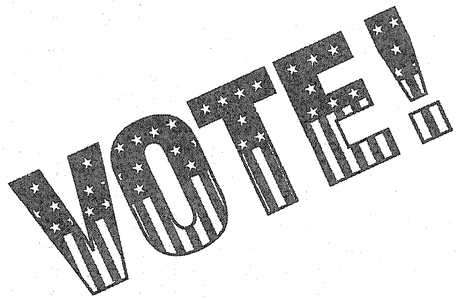
You may vote by absentee ballot only if you are:

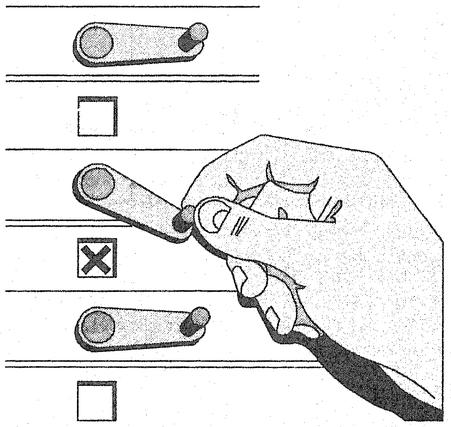
1. Out of town during all voting hours (6am to 8pm)
2. Ill or physically disabled.
3. Prohibited by your religion from voting that day.
4. In the Armed Forces.
5. An election official working at another polling place.

Completed ballots must be received by the Town Clerk by 8pm on Election Day, so ACT NOW to vote absentee BY MAIL. You may vote absentee IN PERSON in the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall any weekday between 8:30am and 4:30pm before November 5th. Also, the office will be open Saturday, November 2 from 9am to Noon.

IF YOU ARE 18 YEARS OLD OR A NEW RESIDENT: The cut-off date for registering to vote was October 22. BUT, if you have moved into town since that date, or become a new citizen or will turn 18 on or before November 5th, you may still register to vote in this election. Contact the Registrars of Voters at 341-1115.

HOW TO USE THE VOTING MACHINE: To close the curtain and unlock the machine for voting, move the red handle of the curtain handle as far to the right as it will go and leave it there. To register your votes, simply TURN DOWN the pointer OVER the name of the candidate for whom you wish to vote, and LEAVE IT THERE. Returning the red handle to the left opens the curtain and registers your vote.



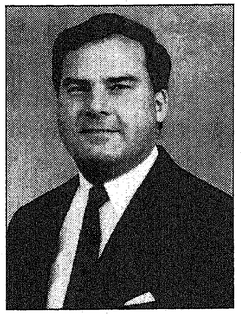


CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR

(Term of Office – 4 years)

LWV Question #1: *Will you propose any changes in the state tax structure next year? Please explain.*

LWV Question #2: *Should local property taxes remain the major funding mechanism for public education?*

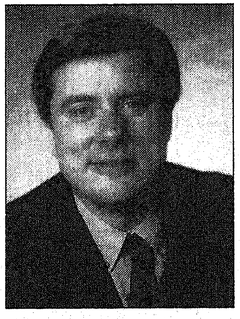


John G. Rowland (Republican)

Answer #1: I support lowering taxes whenever and wherever possible. I do not support raising the income tax and have successfully pushed for reductions. Families earning less than $40,000 per year now pay no income tax at all. I also support measures to lessen the local property tax burden. Now in place is a property tax credit of up to $500 per filer, delivering property tax relief directly to those who pay them. Property taxes are already held down by state assistance. Because the state does not have county government, the state is very generous to local governments with major projects such as local roads, sewage treatment plans, and other areas. This aid, combined with a $700 million increase in local assistance for education and other important program areas, has helped to mitigate local property tax increases.

Answer #2: The state must not retreat from its commitment to fund local education. We have increased funding by more than $200 million since I first took office, and we have also spent more than $2 billion to build schools in more than 60 cities and towns. Local communities contribute to education through the property tax, and thus state assistance helps to reduce the burden on cities and towns in this respect. State assistance is provided through the ECS grant and other categorical programs. The current combination of state and local financing provides a strong foundation for our children's education.

Background: On January 6, 1999 Governor John G. Rowland was sworn into a second term as Governor of Connecticut. Since first being elected in 1994 he has exercised responsible budgeting, spending restraint, and an overall improvement in the quality of life in Connecticut. Governor Rowland's command focus on the economy has resulted in $2 billion in tax cuts and bringing 150,000 new jobs to our great state. Governor Rowland was born and raised in Waterbury and is a graduate of Villanova University. Governor Rowland and his wife Patty reside in Hartford and have five children between them – Kirsten, Ryan, Scott, Robert John, and Julianne.



Bill Curry (Democrat)

Answer #1: Connecticut's tax system is badly broken. It's over reliance on property taxes is squeezing our families, short-changing our schools and children, undercutting local services, choking business, and driving sprawl. To address these pressing issues, we are proposing nearly $730 million of desperately needed tax relief. When fully implemented over four years, the Curry-Jepsen proposal will cut the total local property tax burden by 13%. The plan establishes a $50 million Emergency Property Tax Relief Fund to provide immediate aid for communities hardest hit by high property taxes.

Answer #2: No. If we do so we will continue to see schools forced to cut programs, fire teachers and eliminate classes. By committing to a $730 million increase in public education funding, the plan enables the State to meet its obligation to shoulder its fair share of local public education costs. When fully implemented, the State will – for the first time in its history – fund more than 50% of total local public education costs. The State will also increase its support to K-12 public education for Special Education. Today, Connecticut's local governments spend more than $1 billion for special education, approximately 60% of the total cost. Special education costs are some of the fastest growing and most difficult to plan for expenses. The Curry-Jepsen plan will cover at least 50% of the special education costs in every town and city

Background: Born in Hartford in 1951, Bill Curry attended Georgetown University and the University of Connecticut's School of Law. Bill Curry served as state Senator from 1978-1982. He practiced law and led a national anti-nuclear movement from 1982-1990. He was elected Comptroller in 1991. In 1995, he became Counselor to the President. Bill returned to Connecticut in 1997 to be a visiting Fellow at Yale University. He is writing a book about the White House and is a management consultant for start-up businesses.

(Term of Office – 4 years)

CANDIDATES FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LWV Question #1: *Will you propose any changes in the state tax structure next year? Please explain.*

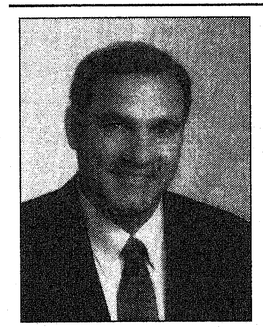
LWV Question #2: *Should local property taxes remain the major funding mechanism for public education?*

M. Jodi Rell (Republican)

Answer #1: We have been very active in reducing taxes whenever possible. This past year, with the budget difficulties we faced. We accepted delaying the effective date of some tax cuts and increased taxes on cigarettes. I believe raising taxes whether by changing rate schedules across the board or for certain taxpayers, should be the last financial resort, not the first budgetary priority.

Answer #2: The state must continue- and if financially possible, enhance – its funding commitment to cities & towns in order to assist in paying the cost of education. We have increased funding dramatically over the past eight years. At the same time we have spent over $2B in school construction aid to cities & towns. I would, however, welcome a review of the ECS formula to better ensure equity & effectiveness.

Background: Before becoming Lt. Gov, Jodi Rell served in the CT General Assembly representing the 107th District. Lt. Gov. Rell & her husband Lou reside in Brookfield. They have two grown children, Meredith and Michael.



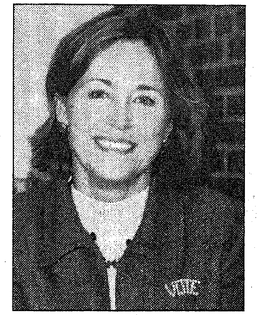
George Jepsen (Democrat)

Answer #1: The Curry-Jepsen Administration will make property tax relief our number one priority. In the first year of our plan to reform the property tax system, we will establish a $50 million Emergency Property Tax Relief Fund to aid communities hardest hit by high property taxes. We are proposing, over four years, $730 million in needed relief. In so doing, the state will finally reach its constitutional obligation to fund 50% of local education costs. By decreasing the burden on local municipalities to pay the ever-increasing costs of education, Connecticut towns will have able to make smart, far-sighted choices for economic development. We, as a state, will contain sprawl, preserve open spaces, support local services, and most importantly, improve our children's school systems.

Answer #2: It is imperative that Connecticut ends its reliance on the property tax to fund public education. A Curry-Jepsen Administration will provide $730 million in property tax relief to meet the state's long un-kept obligation to fairly fund local education. Connecticut's current system of education funding violates the decision of its own Supreme Court, which ruled that the state should pay at least 50% of the total cost of local public education. Despite the greatest economic expansion in decades, Governor Rowland failed to exercise the leadership necessary to fairly fund education. State aid to local education actually declined during the Rowland Administration. In this year alone, John Rowland proposed cutting nearly $47 million of education funds and he insisted that special education equity grants be cut altogether, further burdening our most needy towns.

Background: George Jepsen grew up in Connecticut and attended Dartmouth College and Harvard University. In 1982, George served as General Counsel to the Carpenter's Union Local 210. In 1986, George was elected to the State House of Representatives; in his second term he was selected as Assistant Majority Leader. In 1990, George was elected to the State Senate. He has served as Senate Majority Leader since 1997, and previously as Chair of the Judiciary Committee.

About the New Voting Districts...



Dear Westport Voter,

Once every ten years, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, the law provides for a redistricting plan of our representation at the Federal, State and Local legislative offices. The process began in April 2000 when you completed your U.S. Census survey. The final report provided statistical information to show geographic shifts in population, as compared to the census of 1990. The State Reapportionment Commission then began the task of planning for redistricting of the U. S. Congressional, State Senate, and State House of Representatives. And now, the results are in!

Westport will continue with representation in the 4th Congressional District, the 26th State Senate District and the 133rd and 136th State House of Representatives. The geographic boundary lines for the House of Representatives have changed. Now, the 133rd district is reduced to a small section located in the southeast corner of town. The population in the 133rd district is 2,262 or 1,409 voters, and shares representation with a portion of the Town of Fairfield. The remainder of Westport is represented in the 136th district and has a population of 23,487 or 14,368 voters.

Last Spring, your Registrars of Voters, Mabel Johnson and Nita Cohen, successfully implemented the boundary line changes that will affect our voting process on November 5th. All but 81 voters will continue to vote in their same, familiar polling places. The League of Women Voters has personally called all voters affected, providing them with their new voting location.

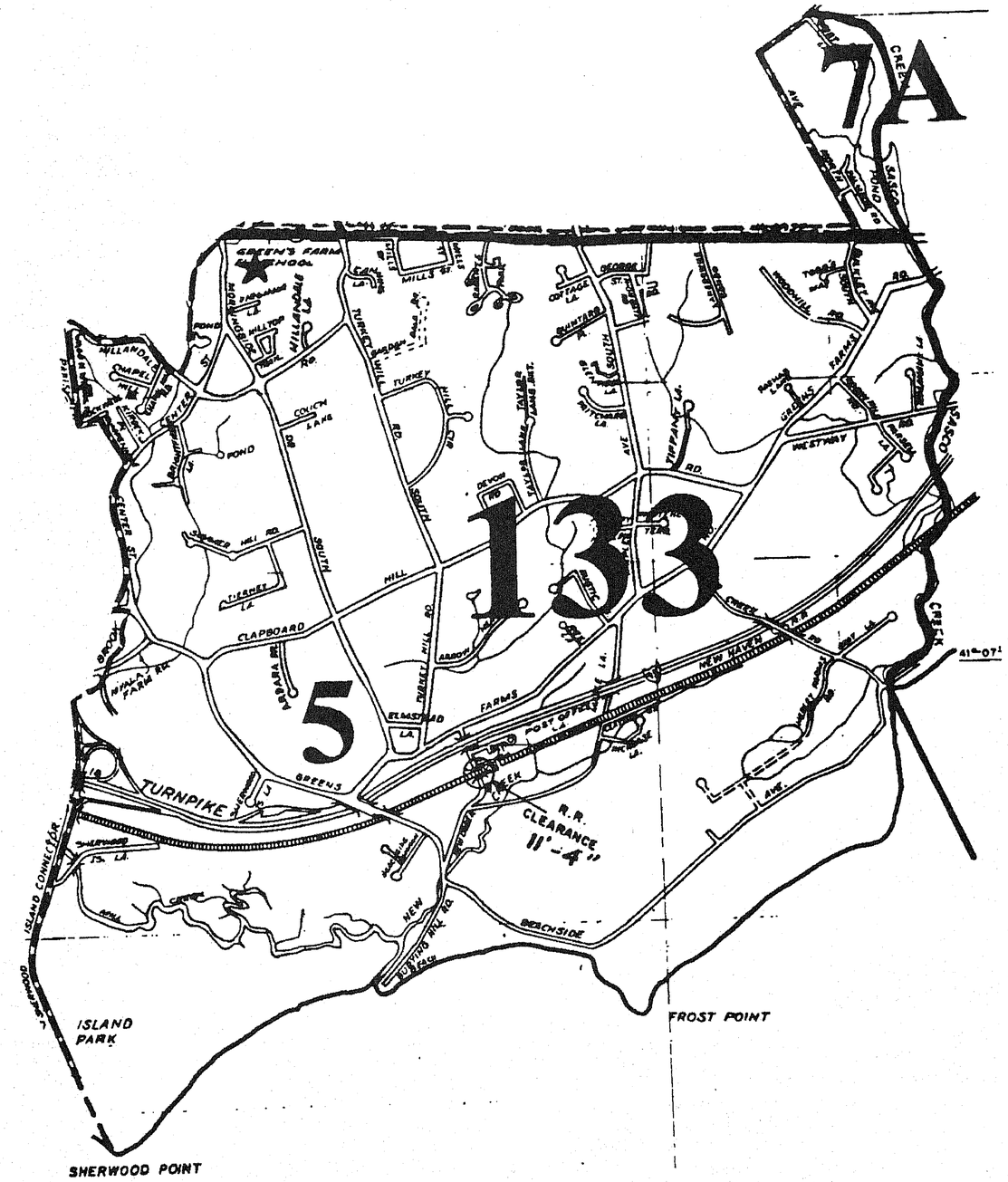
Refer to the map indicating the new boundary lines. Use the map to verify your polling place. The Registrars of Voters will be sending postcards to each household reminding them of their voting location. If you are having difficulty knowing where to vote, call the Registrars of Voters Office at 341-1115 for assistance.

Please remember, it is your democratic right to vote. See you on November 5th!

Sincerely,

Patricia H Strauss

Patricia H. Strauss
Town Clerk

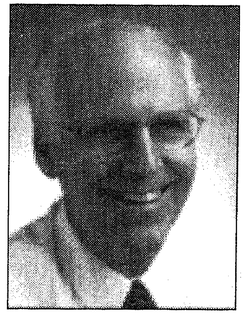


CANDIDATES FOR US REPRESENTATIVE 4TH DISTRICT

(Term of Office – 2 years)

LWV Question #1: *Should the federal government provide for a basic level of healthcare for everyone?*

LWV Question #2: *With escalating medical costs affecting everyone, but mainly seniors, do you support any measures to make medical care and prescription medications more affordable?*



Christopher Shays (Republican)

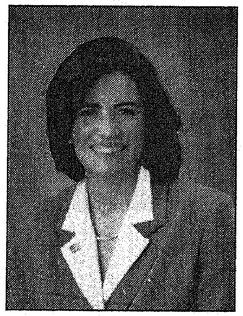
Answer #1: Providing health care coverage to the 40 million uninsured Americans is the single greatest challenge facing our health care system. We need to make health care more affordable and provide coverage to our most vulnerable populations. First, we need to fully fund Medicare and Medicaid, the federal government health programs for seniors and the poor, and help expand the HUSKY Program in Connecticut, which covers low-income children. I'm also a strong advocate of expanding Community Health Centers, and support President Bush's proposal to double to 20 million the number of low-income people served by these cost-effective, compassionate facilities. Finally, we need to lower the qualifying age for Medicare from 65 to 55, provided the full cost is paid for by the beneficiary.

Answer #2: I support making health care more affordable by enacting cost containment measures: medical malpractice reform, expanding tax-free Medical Savings Accounts, making health insurance tax deductible, and creating "purchasing alliances" which allow individuals and small businesses to band together to purchase insurance.

I support adding a prescription drug benefit to Medicare and voted to provide all seniors with such a benefit. The House bill gives seniors a choice between two competing drug plans. I also voted to allow individuals and pharmacists to import FDA-approved drugs from countries where they're sold at lower prices.

Prescription drugs are an increasingly important part of modern medicine. Seniors shouldn't have to worry about whether they can afford medicines needed to stay healthy, maintain their independence and extend their lives

Background: Congressman since 1987. Committees: Financial Services; Science; and Government Reform, Chairman of its National Security Subcommittee. State Representative, College Instructor, Realtor, Business Consultant, Peace Corps Volunteer. BA, Principia College; MPA and MBA, New York University. League of Conservation Voters "Environmental Champion;" National Taxpayers Union "Taxpayer's Friend;" Citizens Against Government Waste "Taxpayer's Hero." Raised in Darien; Stamford resident for 29 years; Bridgeport residence since 1998.



Stephanie H. Sanchez (Democrat)

Answer #1: We have only nibbled at the medical insurance crisis facing this nation. Now the downturn in the economy, aging baby boomers and rapidly rising medical costs are working to bring this issue once more to the forefront. It may be that we have to revisit the concept of national health insurance while understanding that changes can only be made in incremental steps. To begin with, we need to deal with the need for additional hospital funding, deal with rising costs of individual procedures and make sure we solve the very real nursing crisis in this country. We should study of mix of insurance provided by both public and private entities and come up with a plan that is comprehensive yet fiscally responsible.

Answer #2: I support the compromise prescription drug plan currently being drafted in the Senate. This bill would provide all seniors a discount on every prescription drug they buy. It provides catastrophic protections by covering drug costs over $4,000. It requires no new or additional premiums for beneficiaries, so every senior will come out ahead. It's a good deal for taxpayers, because the cost of this compromise plan would be roughly $400 billion over the next 10 years — half of some of the costliest proposals considered by Congress. In addition, I support the efforts of Senator Schumer to make it easier for generic drugs to come to market while still protecting the needs of pharmaceutical companies to research and develop new drugs.

Background: Born in Washington, D.C., interested in politics since childhood. Vietnam-era veteran of US Navy, degree in Economics, taught college-level accounting, and owned IT business for nineteen years. Was Project Director and Director of Information Systems in other companies. Currently an IT infrastructure consultant, and State Chair, CT Libertarian Party.

(Term of Office – 2 years)

CANDIDATES FOR STATE SENATE DISTRICT 26

LWV Question: *A Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition study has highlighted the disappointing results of Connecticut's welfare to work program. What changes do you propose to help transitioning workers get and keep higher-paying jobs and lift children from poverty?*

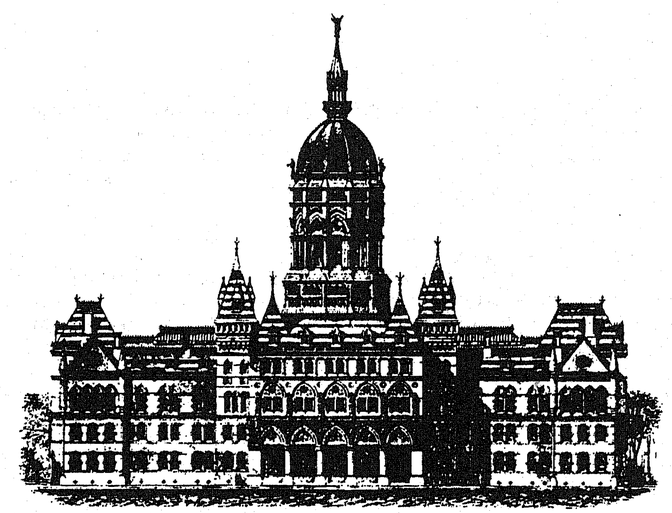
Judith G. Freedman (unopposed) (Republican)

Answer: Connecticut is working to transition people from welfare to becoming productive citizens. The State safety net includes funds for job training, education and day care programs that allow and enable welfare recipients to gain the skills needed to enter the workforce. Another component is the availability of HUSKY health insurance for poor families.

The state has a major commitment to providing free preschool programs to children in poverty. The state wants to make sure future generations will NOT be welfare dependent. The hypothesis behind the states obligation is based on involving children early in the educational process as a way of helping them become productive adults.

The dollars we spend on the transition must be evaluated in the context of the total budget and budgetary constraints. The success or failure of each program needs to be objectively assessed while at the same time the state meets the obligations to the elderly, mentally ill, and disabled.

Background: Deputy Republican Leader; Chair Program Review and Investigations Committee; Appropriations sub-committee, Education; Former V. Chairman Westport Board of Education, teacher imported; Attended Boston University, University of Michigan, Southern Connecticut, B.S., M.S.; Member: Westport Women's Club, AAUW; Married, one child.



Could you be the one?

Westport voters deserve a choice.

Could *you* be the right choice?

Next year, *your* name and *your* opinions could be included in this LWV Voters' Guide. It's easy to become a candidate for the Representative Town Meeting. All that's needed is a petition signed by at least 25 voters registered in your RTM district.

Why run for the RTM? To get involved with your town government. To serve your community. To add your voice to the decision-making process.

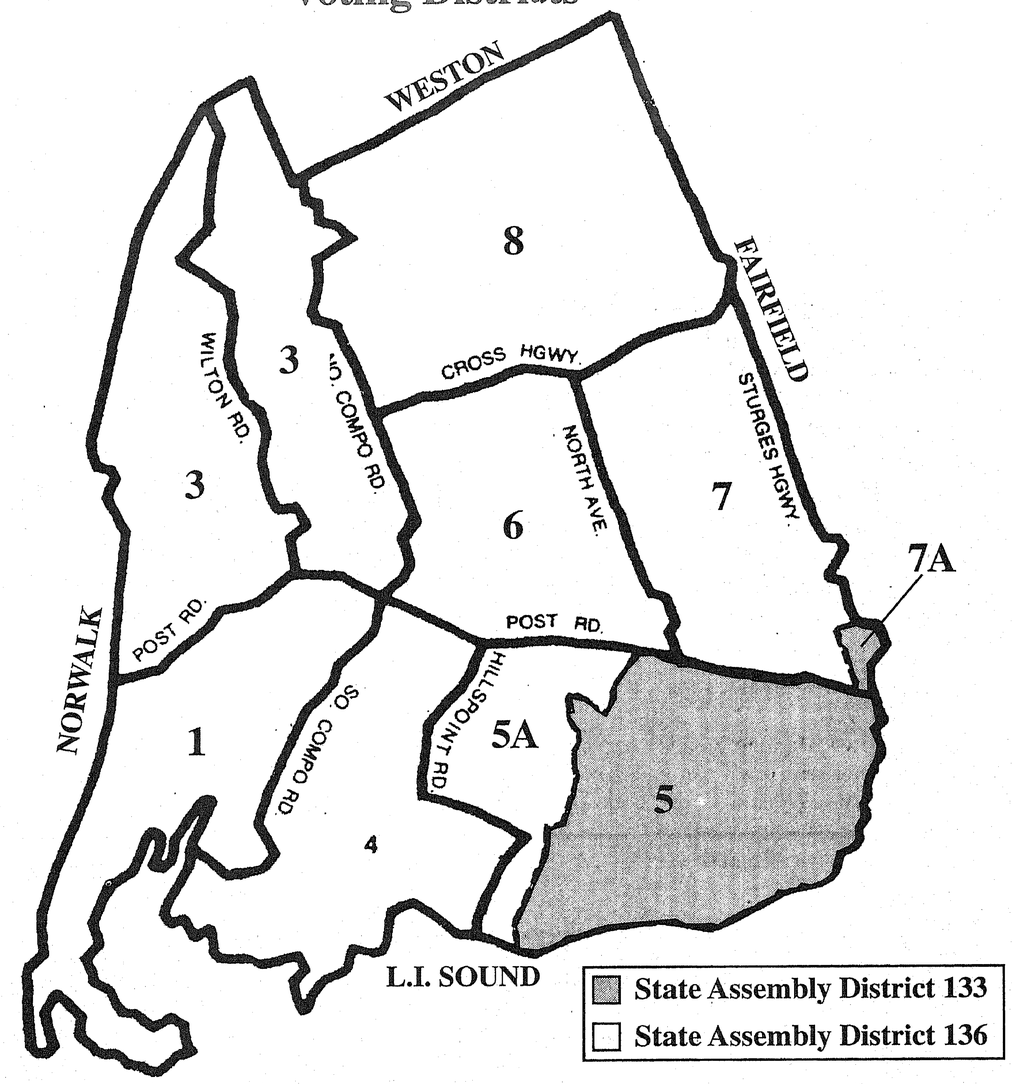
What is the RTM? The Representative Town Meeting is Westport's legislative body. And, for expenditures greater than $20,000, the RTM is the town's appropriating body. Established in 1949, Westport's RTM is one of only eight RTMs remaining in Connecticut. The Representative Town Meeting blends elements of the traditional New England "town meeting" with the more modern "town council" form of government. Westport's RTM is non-partisan; no political party designations are permitted on the ballot or nominating `petitions. RTM members serve for two-year terms and are elected in odd years. The RTM is currently comprised of 36 members from eight districts. But, watch for new RTM districts over the coming months.

What exactly does the RTM do? The RTM adopts our local laws (which are called "ordinances") and approves the town's annual budget and appropriations throughout the year.

How to sign up? Petition forms can be picked up from the Town Clerk's office beginning Tuesday, July 22, 2003. Signed petitions must be filed by Tuesday, September 9, 2003 with the Town Clerk (Town Hall, Room 105, 110 Myrtle Avenue, Westport). For further information about this and other election matters, contact the Town Clerk's office at 341-1110 or townclerk@ci.westport.ct.us .

Not quite ready for elective office? Serving on the RTM is a wonderful experience. But, you don't have to run for office to participate. Any member of the Westport electorate may speak at any RTM meeting. And, don't forget to vote for the RTM during next year's election. Look for your RTM candidates in the lower right corner of next year's ballot.

Voting Districts



Polling Places	State Election Voting Districts	Assembly Districts
Saugatuck Elementary School 170 Riverside Avenue	1, 2	136-1
Greens Farms School 17 Morningside Drive South	4, 5A 5, 7A	136-4 133
Coleytown Middle School 225 North Avenue	3, 8	136-2
Long Lots School 13 Hyde Lane	6, 7	136-3

CANDIDATES FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 133

(Term of Office – 2 years)

LWV Question: *What are your 3 top priorities for the next legislative session and by what methods would you seek to realize them? Please be specific.*

Cathy C. Tymniak (unopposed) (Republican)

Answer: The state budget and tax reform are the most pressing issues facing Connecticut. It is my objective to demand accountability for your hard earned tax money through a common sense approach to spending. I will push for a cost benefit analysis of all programs. If revenues are down, we must cut spending, not raise taxes.

I will continue to support preserving open space to maintain and protect our environment while keeping a delicate balance between nature and our energy needs. I will work closely with towns affected by the moratorium on new electric transmission lines.

As always, I will continue to communicate my constituents' concerns to Hartford regarding quality healthcare issues , highway safety, mass transportation with increased access and improved schedules, fighting against unfounded state mandates, maintaining educational standards for students, protecting children with a review of policy and procedures to ensure children can best be served at the local level, finding a way for seniors to get more home care and services, and ensuring we have resources to fight terrorism.

Background: Mother of three, community activist with special emphasis on youth, disabled and historic preservation, legislator since 1999, member of legislature's Childrens, Appropriations, Insurance and Real Estate Committees.

If you like this guide… let us know!

Call… (203) 226-6170

Write… LWV of Westport, P.O. Box 285, Westport, CT 06881-0285

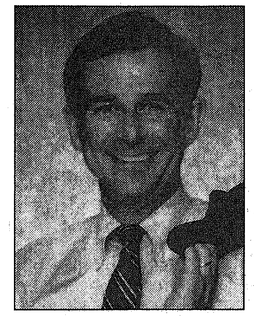
or E-mail… www.lwvwestport@lwvct.org

We are a non-partisan organization which welcomes women and men as members, and this Voter's Guide is only one of our many projects aimed at strengthening democracy through an informed and active electorate.

(Term of Office – 2 years)

CANDIDATES FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 136

LWV Question: *What are your 3 top priorities for the next legislative session and by what methods would you seek to realize them? Please be specific.*



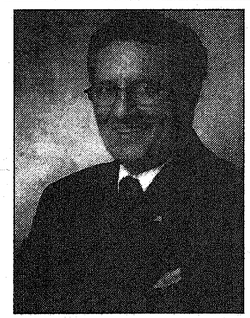
Ken Bernhard (Republican)

Answer: The first priority will be the formulation of the next budget. For the past 8 years, the fiscal projections anticipated a surplus. This year we know we will have a deficit and that the next legislature will have to either cut spending or increase taxes. My mission will be to ensure that the right choices are made.

The next priority will be to continue and expand the legislature's initial efforts to deal with the state's traffic problems. The transportation Board's recommendations must be implemented and new money allocated to enhance the state's efforts of dealing with this long term problem.

The third priority is to ensure that the legislature's interest in protecting open space and cleaning up Connecticut's air and water is not diminished because of the state's fiscal problems. New ideas must be formulated and enabling legislation for public/private initiatives must be passed.

Background: As a 25 year resident of Westport having served in multiple public offices including town attorney, third selectman and state representative, I am uniquely qualified to effectively represent Westport in the Connecticut General Assembly.



Joseph S. Mioli (Democrat)

Answer: The three top priorities for the next legislative sessions are: solving the transportation crisis, combating water and air pollution and improving health care.

To solve the transportation problem, which has only worsened during the past decade, we will use the gasoline tax to subsidize greater mass transit. That means more buses and commuter trains, as well as additional freight trains and container ships. And by orchestrating truck lanes during off-peak hours, we will free our interstates of tractor-trailers at rush hour.

Cleaner water will flow from the expansion of upgraded sewage treatment facilities and being vigilant against water company land development. To guarantee cleaner air we must shut down the "sooty six" power plants, replacing them with cleaner, more efficient facilities. We also support tax breaks to hybrid car buyers.

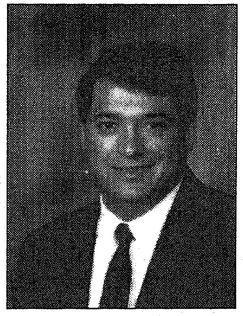
Improved health care will come with the courage to combine public and private funds to offer coverage to all our citizens. We will also work with pharmaceutical companies to lower your prescription costs.

Background: Joe Mioli served in the Army from 1962-1964 and in 1968 co-founded and ran the Westport Pizzeria. He helped found the Westport's Downtown Merchants Association and is a life member of the American Legion.

CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

(Term of Office – 4 years)

LWV Question: *Do you support continued use of the lever-operated voting machines? Please explain your reasoning and any replacement system you would favor.*



Ronald S. SanAngelo (Republican)

Answer: Yes. Connecticut's current voting machines have provided dependable and accurate service to millions of voters for years. Their track record has been outstanding. I have spent a great deal of time talking to Registrars from all across the state who feel that they are getting excellent service from our current machines. Most agree that we do not need to replace them at this time. Connecticut uses a uniform style of voting machine, the mechanical automatic voting machine, which is different from the type that lead to the controversy in Florida last year. While Federal legislation is pending that may help Connecticut purchase new machines, I believe these dollars would be better spent on more important issues facing our state such as improving education.

Background: As House Ranking Member of the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee from 1997 to 2000, I led the effort to pass legislation that gave voters unprecedented access to campaign financing information. Now, voters can access campaign finance reports instantly on the Internet. In 1998, I led the fight to ban 'soft money' from Connecticut elections. All money contributed to Connecticut campaigns now only comes from legitimate sources, open to public scrutiny.

Susan Bysiewicz (Democrat)

Answer: Lever voting machines have served us well over the past 60 years. Supplies of refurbished machines are diminishing because they have not been manufactured since 1982. I have advocated for legislation to test electronic voting machines in an actual election, at no cost to the taxpayers, as recommended by the bipartisan Voting Technology Alternative Commission. This legislation failed in the 2002 session. Electronic voting machines would enable more than 300,000 blind or disabled voters to vote privately and independently for the first time. I have worked with Senator Dodd to secure federal funding for states to update their voting technology.

Background: During my tenure, Connecticut became the first state in the country to provide free access to real time business information on the Internet. We also designed a national recognized system, enabling the public to view campaign finance forms over the Internet. As a legislator, I chaired the Government Administration and Elections Committee, and also practiced corporate law from 1986-1994. I authored *Ella: A Biography of Governor Grasso*: our nation's first woman governor. I live in Middletown with my husband and three children.

Darlene H. Nicholas (Libertarian)

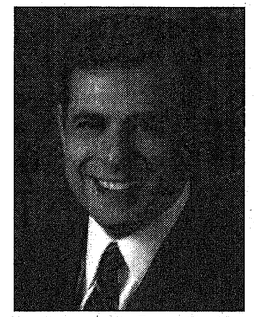
Answer: The particular technology used to facilitate voting must be the one that minimizes voter confusion, simplifies SOTS administration, and provides excellent auditing to minimize the possibility for fraud. I will support any alternative that can be proven substantially superior to the current system. If it ain't broke, I will not spend taxpayer money fixing it. Other areas needing change include removing barriers to businesses and eliminating burdensome regulations. Licensing and certifications have become an extortion racket for the state. Professional organizations can fulfill any necessary testing and certification requirements in any particular profession or industry. One example might be giving the task of licensing drivers to the auto insurance companies, who have the most to lose if people have more accident claims.

Background: Darlene Nicholas, a Connecticut native, lives in New London with her husband Allen, a former Vietnam era Green Beret, and their two sons David and Daniel. Ms. Nicholas has degrees in chemistry and technical writing plus an MBA. She wrote and systematized management procedures for UNC Nuclear Industries for 11 years. For the past 12 years, she has worked at local businesses, developed several business and marketing plans, and established her own legal services business.

(Term of Office – 4 years)

CANDIDATES FOR TREASURER

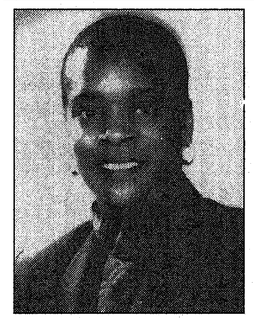
LWV Question: *What are your top priorities in the next term as Treasurer and what measures do you advocate to accomplish these goals?*



Ross Garber (Republican)

Answer: The Connecticut State Treasurer's office has long been plagued by cronyism, mismanagement, and blatant corruption. Our last State Treasurer is in prison, having pled guilty to public corruption charges. Despite this, the office has eluded meaningful reform. Connecticut's treasurer has virtually unchecked authority to direct billions of dollars in state employees' pension funds. While most states have a Board of Trustees to oversee professional fund managers, Connecticut's treasurer continues to have unfettered authority, leading to gross abuses of the public trust. When elected, my top initiatives will be: To install a legitimate, non-partisan Board of Trustees to oversee the operation and management of the state pension funds. To implement a comprehensive integrity program so that all employees of the Treasurer's office understand and comply with the highest standards of ethics. To provide more information to Connecticut's citizens about the Treasurer's Office and its operations.

Background: Ross Garber was born and raised in Connecticut. He received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Connecticut. Before running for office, Ross worked for the Hartford firm of Shipman & Goodwin in the areas of government investigations and corporate integrity law. He has been hired by the country's largest companies to investigate allegations of corporate fraud and wrongdoing, and to recommend preventative measures. Ross is married with a 4 year-old daughter



Denise L. Nappier (Democrat)

Answer: Having restored integrity and professional and achieved legislative approval of comprehensive Treasury reform to protect pension investments, I will continue advocating tougher accountability standards and work with the independent Advisory Council to continue solid top-20th percentile fund performance. I will continue to save taxpayers money with effective financial management ($196 million saved in state bonding) and advocate full-funding of our state pension fund to lessen the burden on taxpayers. My priorities also include building on four consecutive record-setting years returning $38 million in unclaimed assets to residents, making the nationally recognized CHET college savings program even more affordable for families, and promoting financial education, especially among young people. Efforts I have initiated to expand opportunities for Connecticut businesses will continue, as will efforts to recapture funds lost to the pension fund by corporate greed or malfeasance ($933 million recaptured), and my commitment to effective, sound management of the state's financial resources.

Background: Denise Nappier is the first woman elected Treasurer in Connecticut. With thirteen years experience managing public pension funds, her commitment to the highest standards of excellence, professionalism and integrity is evident in the management of state resources. A native of Hartford, she was elected five times as City Treasurer, was Executive Director of Hartford's Riverfront Recapture and Director of Institutional Relations at UConn Health Center. B.A. from Virginia State University, M.A. from the University of Cincinnati.

Photo not submitted

Timothy A. Knibbs (Concerned Citizens)

No response received.

Photo not submitted

Ken Mosher (Libertarian)

No response received.

CANDIDATES FOR COMPTROLLER

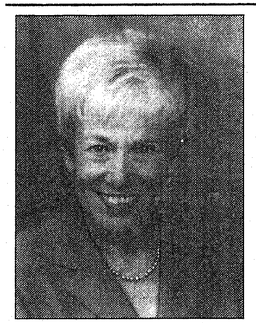
(Term of Office – 4 years)

LWV Question: *What are your top priorities in the next term as Comptroller and what measures do you advocate to accomplish these goals?*

Photo not submitted

Steve Mullins (Republican)

No response received.



Nancy Wyman (Democrat)

Answer: I have been honored to be the citizens' budget representative in state government and an independent voice for CT taxpayers. I am eager to do so for another four years. Quite simply, our priorities are the same – fiscal restraint, honest budgeting and protecting our state's financial and human assets. If given the opportunity, I will perform the constitutional duties of my office, and: continue to lead our multi-agency effort to put our state government's computer systems squarely in the 21st Century; look for more ways to assure good and open government (as I did with the searchable bonding database on my website) by opening the state's books to public scrutiny in an effort to enhance accountability; once again, attempt to put the buying power of the state behind families and small businesses who are facing double-digit increases in their health insurance premiums.

Background: 1979-1987 – Tolland Board of Education (Vice-Chairperson) 1987-1995 – State Representative (53rd). Chairperson of Education Committee; Chairperson of Appropriations Subcommittee. Named "Legislator of the Year" by the Connecticut Education Association. In 1994, Wyman became the first woman elected State Comptroller in Connecticut history – she is the chief fiscal guardian for Connecticut's taxpayers. Wyman and her husband, Michael, live in Tolland. They have two daughters, Stacey Papa and Meryl Wyman, and three grandchildren.

Leonard H. Rasch (Libertarian)

Answer: Advance payments by the State of Connecticut and/or its agencies put the taxpayer's funds at risk. Taxpayer funds should be treated as a fiduciary trust. I would review all prepayment arrangements and require excellent credit or a different arrangement, to the extent that existing law would permit me to do so. I would also emphasize the value of GAAP reporting over a "cash" basis. Cash basis reporting can be manipulated for political purposes, and such manipulation is unacceptable. Finally, I would look for reasonable ways to have the State pay its bills as quickly as possible. This would improve the State's bargaining position with suppliers and is the best policy for dealing with them.

Background: Born in Washington, D.C., interested in politics since childhood. Vietnam-era veteran of US Navy, degree in Economics, taught college-level accounting, and owned IT business for nineteen years. Was Project Director and Director of Information Systems in other companies. Currently an IT infrastructure consultant, and State Chair, CT Libertarian Party.

(Term of Office – 4 years)

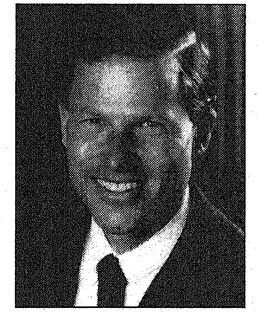
CANDIDATES FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

LWV Question: *What are your top priorities in the next term as Attorney General and what measures do you advocate to accomplish these goals?*

Martha Dean (Republican)

Answer: As Connecticut's Attorney General I will change the focus of the office by vigorously enforcing the law while depoliticizing law enforcement. I will work to win back the trust of the State in its attorney, while providing it with the legal guidance needed to properly serve the citizens of Connecticut. I will end the "sue first-ask questions later" culture that is symbolized by the current Attorney General. A lawsuit is not the answer to every problem. Our current Attorney General has driven away good companies, dramatically driven up the cost of doing business for legitimate and law-abiding businesses in Connecticut, and harmed us all with higher prices, lost jobs, and devalued pension plans. It is my highest priority for all who come in contact with the Connecticut Attorney General's Office to know that law enforcement will be fair and just. Under my leadership, law-abiding businesses will be allowed to flourish

Background: Martha Dean is an accomplished attorney. Her background includes 16 years of practicing environmental, corporate and securities law at major law firms and at her Hartford firm. Dean often represents business interests, homeowners, and consumers with serious environmental concerns. Dean is a graduate of Phillips Academy (Andover); Wellesley College; and U-Conn Law School. She is a member of the U.S. District Court (Connecticut), the U.S. Court of Appeals (2nd Circuit), and the U.S. Supreme Court.



Richard Blumenthal (Democrat)

Answer: My priorities will be to continue aggressive and proactive law enforcement against pollution of our air and water, consumer frauds and con artists, Big Tobacco, utility rate hikes, HMO abuses, telephone company slamming and anticompetitive corporate mergers. I will continue fighting to protect our environment from cables and pipelines across Long Island Sound, stop contamination of air by our Midwestern power plants, enforce corporate accountability, and battle pharmaceutical drug companies that inflate profits and prices by illegally manipulating their patents. The principal means are strong legal action in the courts – creative and constructive advocacy – when public pressure is unpersuasive. Another goal is to continue to increase the numbers and success of actions seeking to stop child abuse and neglect, and compel child support from absent parents. I often serve as an advocate for people when they have nowhere else to turn.

Background: Harvard College (1967, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa); Yale Law School (1973, Editor in Chief, Yale Law Journal); Law Clerk to United States Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun (1974-75); Administrator to United States Senator Abraham A. Ribicoff (1975-76); United States Attorney for Connecticut (1977-81); Private Practice of Law (1981-91); State House of Representatives (1984-87); State Senate (1987-91); Attorney General (1991-present); United States Marine Corps (Res.) (1969-75). Married to Cynthia Blumenthal, 4 children.

Text and photos in this Guide are published as supplied by the Candidates.

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

CANDIDATES FOR JUDGE OF PROBATE

(Term of Office – 4 years)

LWV Question: *What do you consider the primary responsibilities of the Probate Court and how does your backgorund equip you to meet them?*

Edward M. Jordan (Republican)

Answer: The Probate Court has jurisdiction over a variety of matters affecting our community, including probating wills and administering estates. Most importantly, this court is entrusted with protecting the interests of those individuals incapable of caring for themselves or their property. In appointing a conservator for the very elderly, or a guardian for the mentally ill, the court must ensure that the relationship is one characterized by trust, confidence and good faith. Those serving as conservators and guardians must be held accountable for the care, comfort and maintenance of the individual. My legal experience of serving families in crisis is exactly the experience this community must look for in choosing our next Probate Judge. As a lawyer in the US Foreign Service, I served my country protecting the rights of American citizens with sensitivity and efficiency, and received the State Department's Meritorious Honor Award for my efforts. I am fully prepared to serve my hometown and community with the same dedication and commitment.

Background: Westport resident since 1971. Admitted to the Bar in Connecticut and New York 1988. U.S. State Department 1989-94. Presently Managing Director, Channel Development Group. Education: Staples High School 1981; B.A. Allegheny College 1985; J.D. Brooklyn Law School 1988.

Kevin M. O'Grady (Democrat)

Answer: As your Probate Judge for four years, I have protected citizens of Westport/ Weston who cannot protect themselves, usually at a time of crisis in their lives or their families'. I oversee our citizens' Trusts (to $500,000,000.00) and Decedents' Estates (to $50,000,000.00) to assure that their assets are preserved and distributed to the people they choose. As Probate Judge and a local Probate Attorney for 16 years (often working pro bono), I have helped children, the mentally retarded and the elderly in guardianships, conservatorships, and abuse and neglect hearings. I also decide the competence of the mentally ill.

Four years ago I promised that no attorney or financial institution would make a windfall by charging percentage fees. As Judge, I monitor all fees and demand proof of actual time spent and the benefit to the Estate.

I have written and lectured extensively to Judges, Attorneys and the Public on a wide variety of Probate topics. I have written hundreds of wills and trusts and probated thousands.

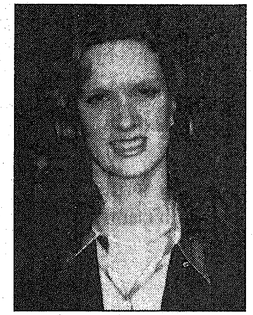
Our Probate Judge should not be serving an apprenticeship in probate law at citizen's expense. I have the knowledge of the law and the heart to make the right decision for you.

(Term of Office – 2 years)

Vote for only one

CANDIDATES FOR REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

The Charter of the Town of Westport provides that there shall be 2 Registrars of Voters who shall not be members of the same political party. The Candidates are presented by the Democratic and Republican Town Committees respectively. Both candidates will be elected.



Judith L. Raines (Republican)

Background: As Registrar of Voters, my responsibility is to serve all voters regardless of party affiliation, by overseeing and safeguarding the election process. My skills as an attorney will prove helpful in implementing and interpreting election law. Having volunteered with numerous organizations, including the League of Women Voters, I have experience in recruiting and managing volunteers who are an integral part of the election process. I am prepared to commit the time and resources to get the job done well.

Education: Lehigh University (B.A.), University of Connecticut School of Law (J.D.) Born and raised in Westport, CT.

Nita S. Cohen (Democrat)

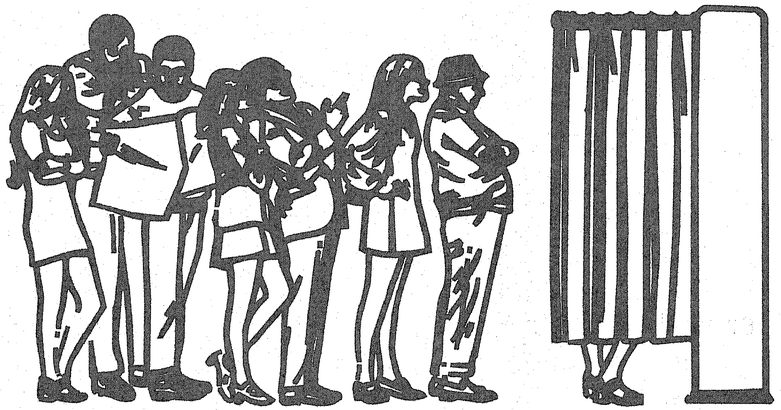
Background: Nita Salwen Cohen was born in Brooklyn, NY, educated at Hunter College, graduated with a degree in Economics. Married to Ben Cohen, parent of four children, grandparent of five. Advanced degree in Education from University of Bridgeport in 1958, advanced study at Fairfield University. She taught in the elementary grades in Milford and then created the curriculum for gifted and talented students which she taught in Milford for sixteen years. Nita has been a League of Women Voters member since 1950. She has been a member and treasurer of the Democratic women of Westport and the Friends of Sherwood Island State Park, a member of the National Education Association and the Democratic Town Committee. Six years ago Thelma Ezzes, the Democratic Registrar selected Nita as her deputy. As Thelma's health deteriorated , Nita assumed the duties of the position full time. Since then Nita has fully enjoyed the responsibility and the involvement of the job as Registrar of Voters.

The Registrars of Voters need help to staff the polls on Election Day. Call for more information: 341-1115.

First Time Voters – Vote With Confidence

- Enter booth and pull lever to close the curtains and activate the machine. (see **photo 1** on the facing page).
- Make your selections for candidates by pushing the lever down over the name of your choice for that office.
- You can change your lever vote as many times as you like before pulling the handle to open the curtains. (This is not true of "write-in" voting; see instructions below.)
- ***"Write-in" Candidates*** can be entered in the space shown in **photo 2** on the facing page. Write-in" Voting: Use the pencil that hangs from a string in the left corner of the voting booth. Lift the clear sliding cover and "write-in" the name of your candidate. Be sure you are lifting the cover above the office for which your candidate is running.

  Once you lift the sliding cover for a "write-in" space, a vote is registered even if you do not write anything in the space. Therefore, you cannot change your vote from a "write-in" back to a lever selection once you have raised the sliding "write-in" cover.
- ***RTM Candidates***: In years where candidates for the RTM are running for election, you will need to look to the bottom right of the candidate panel (indicated in **photo 3** on the facing page) to find them listed (in lottery chosen order). Some voters forget to select their RTM choices because the RTM position is not highly visible and is easily overlooked.
- IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP, PLEASE ASK THE BOOTH ATTENDANT TO BRING THE MODERATOR TO YOU. THIS IS YOUR RIGHT AND YOU ARE NOT INCONVENIENCING ANYONE.
- When you have finished selecting your candidates, ***leave the levers in the down (selected position)***. When you pull the handle to open the booth curtains, your vote is registered by the machine and the levers automatically reset for the next voter.



How to Vote

Photo 1

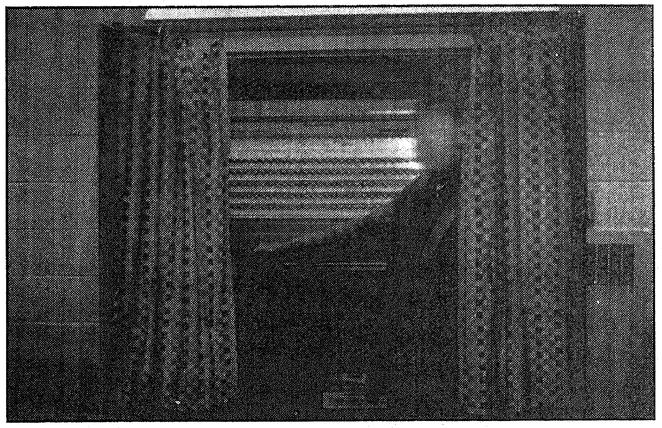


Photo 2

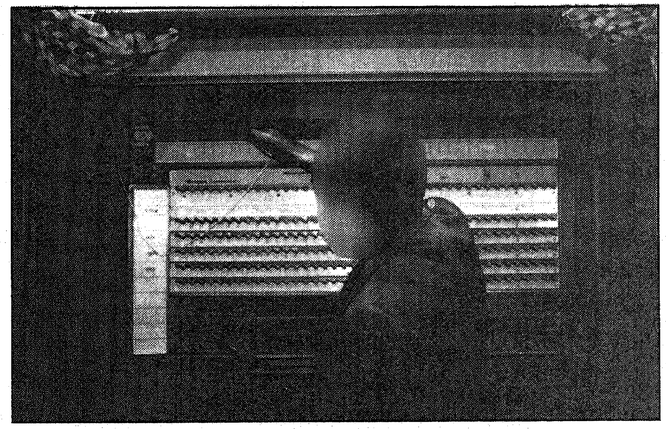
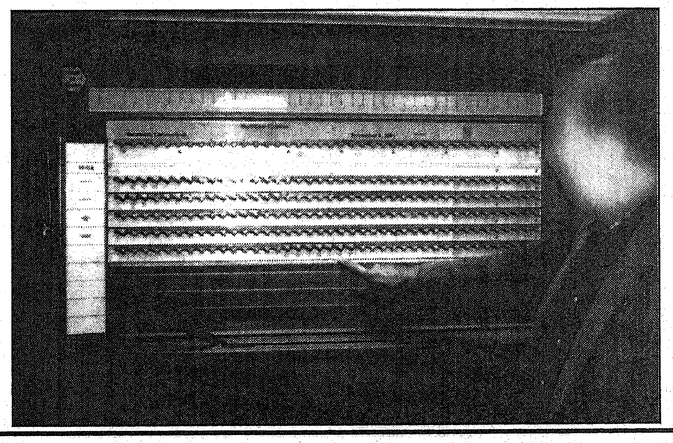


Photo 3



Voter Information Web Sites / Email Addresses

You can find additional information about the candidates on dnet.org.

Local:

League of Women Voters of Westport	www.lwvct.org/westport
Town of Westport	www.westportct.org

State:

League of Women Voters of Connecticut	www.LWVCT.org
Connecticut General Assembly	www.cga.state.ct.us
Secretary of the State	www.sots.state.ct.us

National:

League Of Women Voters	www.LWV.org
Democracy Net	dnet.org
President George Bush	email: president@whitehouse.gov
U.S. Senator Christopher J. Dodd	sen_dodd@dodd.senate.gov
U.S. Senator Joseph I. Lieberman	senator_lieberman@lieberman.senate.gov
Vote Smart	vote-smart.org
Rock The Vote	RockTheVote.org

Please keep this page for future reference.

Email us at www.lwvwestport@lwvct.org with other sites you have found useful.

Voters Have Pull

Sample Ballot

Dist. 136

OFFICE / PARTY	1 Governor and Lieutenant Governor	2 Representative in Congress	3 State Senator	4 State Representative	5 Secretary of the State	6 Treasurer	7 Comptroller	8 Attorney General	9 Judge of Probate	10 Registrar of Voters
REPUBLICAN	John G. Rowland and M. Jodi Rell 1A	Christopher Shays 2A	Judith G. Freedman 3A	Ken Bernhard 4A	Ronald S. San Angelo 5A	Ross Garber 6A	Steven Mullins 7A	Martha Dean 8A	Edward M. Jordan 9A	Judith L. Raines 10A
DEMOCRATIC	Bill Curry and George Jepsen 1B	Stephanie H. Sanchez 2B	3B	Joseph S. Mioli 4B	Susan Byslewicz 5B	Denise L. Nappier 6B	Nancy Wyman 7B	Richard Blumenthal 8B	Kevin M. O'Grady 9B	Nita S. Cohen 10B
CONCERNED CITIZENS	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C
LIBERTARIAN	1D	2D	3D	4D	Darlene H. Nicholas 5D	Ken Mosher 6D	Leonard H. Rasch 7D	8D	9D	10D
WRITE-IN VOTES	1E	2E	3E	4E	5E	6E	7E	8E	9E	10E
	1F	2F	3F	4F	5F	6F	7F	8F	9F	10F
	1G	2G	3G	4G	5G	6G	7G	8G	9G	10G

Dist. 133

4 State Representative
Cathy C. Tymniak 4A
4B
4C
4D
4E
4F
4G

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

YOU MAY TAKE THIS GUIDE WITH YOU INTO THE POLLING PLACE.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTPORT
P.O. Box 285, Westport, CT 06881

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