

Voters' Guide '11



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN
VOTERS OF
GREATER
HARTFORD

Dear Voters:

The League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford (LWVGH) is pleased to bring you the 2011 Voters' Guide for the West Hartford municipal election in cooperation with LIFE Publications. This guide provides information on all of the candidates, plus a sample ballot and voting reminders.

The League and West Hartford LIFE invite citizens to read the candidates' thoughtful responses and make an informed decision on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8. Candidates for Town Council and Board of Education were asked to respond in writing to questions posed by LWVGH. Responses appear exactly as submitted.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization celebrating its 91st year. It was established in 1920, the year in which the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guaranteed women the right to vote. From its inception, the League has been committed to promoting responsible political action through informed participation of citizens in government. Our mission to produce informed voters has not wavered in nine decades of service to the community.

We hope you find the Voters Guide helpful as you prepare to vote. We also encourage you to check out the schedule for the League-moderated debates that are conducted in cooperation with WHC-TV

Channel 5. For AT&T users, Channel 99. An online version of the Voters Guide can be found on the LWVGH website lwvgh.org. Candidate profiles can also be found on MyWestHartfordLIFE.com.

*Carole Mulready, Chairman
League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford
Christopher White, Publisher
LIFE Publications*

Issues at a Glance

Would you support an effort to reinstate the senior job bank?	Would you support establishing cultural centers at libraries and senior centers?	Does West Hartford have too many polling places?	Should training be improved for those who work at the polls?	Are you committed to seeing that West Hartford establishes a dog park?	Does WH have sufficient housing for individuals who work for our town and schools?
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Candidate

Steven Adler (R)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shari Cantor (D)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Harry Captain (D)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Judy Casperson (D)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Leon Davidoff (D)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Burke Doar (R)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ethan Goldman (R)	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Denise B. Hall (R)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Clare Kindall (D)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Peter Martin (R)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jay Sarzen (R)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scott Slifka (D)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Town Council

Steven Adler Republican



The Adler family are proud residents of West Hartford for 14 years, to include my beautiful wife Darlene, our son Joshua. As a Councilman seeking my 3rd term, my municipal experience includes being a standing member on the Administration & Technology, Public Safety, Human & Leisure and Community Planning Committees. I'm also the Legislative Liaison to the Connecticut General Assembly. I'm employed as a Manager of Privacy with UnitedHealthcare's Legal, Compliance and Government Affairs Practice. I received my Masters of Science in Business Management from Rensselaer Polytechnic. Previous to my elected position I was on Town Planning & Zoning Commission. Visit <http://stevenadlerforwesthartford.blogspot.com>.

What should West Hartford's role be in helping small business?

To facilitate business opportunities and growth through creating practical zoning changes to reflect today's business climate. Zoning on New Park Avenue and southeastern region currently mirror the industrial era of yesteryear and need to change to create a new dynamic business environment for biomedical, biotechnical, office and mixed use to include affordable housing. West Hartford needs to create a high caliber economic atmosphere to be on par with Farmington, Windsor and Southington.

New Britain-Hartford Busway?

Although my wife and I use Connecticut mass transit extensively on a weekly basis, I will not be supporting this project since it will be a financial burden to our State and Community. We have existing commuter options from West Hartford into Hartford that are currently under utilized. We have to address changing the behaviors of single car drivers and encourage public transportation. Building an expensive infrastructure project is no guarantee there will be public adoption.

Statewide discussions that affect West Hartford?

As the Legislative Liaison with a strong interest in regional shared services, I've engaged state legislators on both sides of the aisle on a variety of opportunities to include creating a community college satellite campus and legislation to foster sharing municipal services such as Animal Control, Traffic Engineering and regional purchasing. With 169 municipalities in CT, we have a huge opportunity to share public services with our neighboring municipalities while managing operating costs. Farmington, Canton, Avon Simsbury and Granby work together, so can West Hartford.

Shari Cantor Democrat



Shari Cantor is a life long West Hartford resident. She has been married for 26 years to Michael Cantor, managing partner of the patent law firm Cantor Colburn. They have four sons. Josh, a Clark University graduate is participating in a year of service at City Year Boston. Sam is a junior at Tufts University, Ben is a freshman at UCONN, Storrs and Jacob is a freshman at Hall High. Shari has been a member of the Council since 2004. She is Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee and Community Planning Committee and liaisons to the Senior Citizen Advisory Commission and Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools. Shari also President of the UConn Hillel Board of Directors, a member of the local American Heart Association Board and participates in various other non-profits. She is an avid runner and biker, often for civic causes.

What should West Hartford's role be in helping small business?

West Hartford has been and remains supportive and desirable to small businesses. We have a dedicated director of Business and Community Development who performs outreach and counsel to new and current businesses, primarily small businesses. Our Chamber of Commerce is also a great resource for all businesses.

What will you do to make sure the New Britain-Hartford Busway works for the benefit of West Hartford?

We have stated our position that we do not support the Busway, however if the Busway does go forward the Mayor has detailed in a letter to the Governor regarding the Council's conceptual issues with this project and our specific problems that need to be addressed. We will continue to monitor and meet with the necessary people to alleviate our concerns.

How will you personally get involved in statewide discussions that affect West Hartford?

I have and will continue to be updated on state issues that affect West Hartford and meet with our representatives, communicate with state officials and testify on bills that impact us. The current issues that impact West Hartford include the Busway, ECS, property tax reform, sales tax, unfunded state mandates, state budgets, CROG and MDC.

Full text of Town Council questions:

- What should West Hartford's role be in helping small business?
- What will you do to make sure the New Britain-

Burke Doar Republican



Married to Carole Doar with 3 Children enrolled in West Hartford Public Schools.

Executive at TRUMPF - a global manufacturing company in Farmington, CT.

Former Judicial law clerk to Louis J. Freeh (Ex-Director of the FBI).

Graduate of Princeton University and Albany Law School.

Youth Basketball Coach.

What should West Hartford's role be in helping small business?

Reexamine the permit process and its forms to make sure it is "lean" and entrepreneur friendly for all types of small business such as beauty salons, landscapers or other professional services. Ensure that our sidewalks are well maintained. Make sure our streets feel safe. I would encourage additional police foot and bike patrol. A police officer on the sidewalk enhances our Town retail centers. Work to improve the parking especially in Elmwood and Park Road. Review metered parking. Work to lower, not raise, property taxes on our commercial property owners. If the taxes keep going up, the rents go up as well. This makes it even more difficult for our small businesses who lease our commercial properties to earn a profit.

What will you do to make sure the New Britain-Hartford Busway works for the benefit of West Hartford?

I am opposed to this expensive and unnecessary public works project. I will continue to seek reconsideration of this project from our state elected officials. If it does go forward I will work to prevent West Hartford residents from incurring the expensive burden of maintaining the pedestrian access ramps and platforms.

How will you personally get involved in statewide discussions that affect West Hartford?

If I am elected, once a month, I will invite Beth Bye, Andy Fleischmann, Joe Verrengia and Brian Becker for an early (before 7:00 am) breakfast at a West Hartford coffee house. Our discussions will focus on the burdens of existing and proposed Connecticut state mandates on West Hartford - especially the unfunded ones or those which would diminish the quality, diversity and character of West Hartford's neighborhoods.

Hartford Busway works for the benefit of West Hartford?

- How will you personally get involved in statewide discussions that affect West Hartford?

Town Council

Harry Captain Democrat



Appointed to the Town Council in March 2011; elected, reelected and served on the BOE for eight years (2001-09). Prior to moving to WH, he was elected to the Enfield BOE. Married to Heather (Horrigan) Captain for 22 years; they have three children: Jeffrey (Emory University, Hall 2009), Matthew (Hall 2012), and Katie (Hall 2015). A Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Internal Auditor, Harry is employed as a Second Vice President in Corporate Procurement at The Travelers. He earned a MS in Professional Accounting from the University of Hartford and a BSBA in Computer Information Systems from Western New England University. Harry is a Justice of the Peace, a member of the Democratic Town Committee and the Church of St. Timothy, serving as a Lector.

What should West Hartford's role be in helping small business?

Attracting, retaining, and working with entrepreneurs for the betterment of the WH business community is a priority. Business is an economic engine that provides residents with opportunities for work and services while generating commercial tax revenue that helps reduce the residential property tax burden. WH has a Director position dedicated to Community Services and Economic Development working with both business and neighborhood associations to promote WH as a destination where business succeeds.

What will you do to make sure the New Britain-Hartford Busway works for the benefit of West Hartford?

As someone who commutes by Connecticut Transit bus, you may be surprised to learn that I was NOT a proponent of the New Britain-Hartford Busway. I don't foresee the volume of bus riders necessary to justify the cost. I continue to support light rail believing that rail attracts more commuters. I hope the busway doesn't happen, however, if it does I will meet and work with the DOT to make the WH stop as successful as possible.

How will you personally get involved in statewide discussions that affect West Hartford?

I am committed to working with our state delegation, the Governor's office, or any committee involved in statewide discussions affecting WH. I'm particularly interested in meeting with the Governor's recently formed task force reviewing how the state funds education to ensure WH receives our fair share of dollars under fair distribution rules. I'm also interested in panels that address property tax reform.

Ethan Goldman Republican



CFO mid-size manufacturer; CPA; Harvard Business School graduate; University of Pennsylvania Wharton School undergraduate; Major, United States Army Reserve, retired; Treasurer - WH Youth Soccer; Treasurer - Greater Hartford Jewish Federation; member of Beth El Temple

What should West Hartford's role be in helping small business?

It is in West Hartford's interest to have strong local businesses. While the town has a responsibility to regulate its local business, it is also in the town's long-term interest to have these businesses, whether restaurants, retail, service related or manufacturing, succeed. The town needs to work within its existing budget and re-create an "ombudsman" position that local businesses would be able to contact when they need assistance in addressing bureaucracy, whether from the town or higher. The less time that the businesses spend working on paperwork, the more they will prosper - which work to West Hartford's benefit; by having a more stable tax base and/or more employment opportunities.

What will you do to make sure the New Britain-Hartford Busway works for the benefit of West Hartford?

First, I should note that because of the State's fiscal situation, I oppose the construction of the Busway. I understand the rationalization for building the Busway is that only \$96 million of the \$567 million project will be paid by Connecticut but that is \$96 million that the State will need to borrow. In addition, once built, it will require a significant annual subsidy to operate. From a West Hartford perspective, I see it having a negative impact on Elmwood - bringing considerable disruption without bringing beneficial economic activity. If elected, I will work to stop the project. If it is built, I will work to minimize its impact on West Hartford.

How will you personally get involved in statewide discussions that affect West Hartford?

It depends upon the issue and how it impacts on the Town. If important, I would try and work with other members of the Town Council to contact the West Hartford legislators and see if they could solve the problem. If I couldn't solve the problem through collaboration, I would make my opposition known and work through the channels available to get the problem corrected.

Voting Reminders

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8. The last day to

Judy Casperson Democrat



My family - husband Olaf; daughters Brianna and Taralynn and I have lived in West Hartford since 1999 and have enjoyed being a part of this great community. After being a military family that has had to relocate often, it's been a privilege to settle in West Hartford and call it home. As the manager of TD Bank in West Hartford Center I have the opportunity to build investments into our community and help people understand and manage their finances. Working at street level in West Hartford Center, I have the chance to hear and speak with you all about the joys and challenges of living in West Hartford. Here I am able to see and understand the impact of local government and business decisions.

What should West Hartford's role be in helping small business?

West Hartford has been responsive to the growing and changing needs of businesses. There is thoughtful planning and zoning to bridge community and business development. We have a Business and community development director who is an integral resource for new and existing businesses. The Chamber of Commerce supports and connects business owners as well as working to showcase business.

What will you do to make sure the New Britain-Hartford Busway works for the benefit of West Hartford?

Address concerns of residents and businesses affected by the project. If the busway is constructed we will work to make it a positive resource in WH with bus schedules, developing resources to support increased rider needs with adequate parking and public safety.

How will you personally get involved in statewide discussions that affect West Hartford?

I will continue to stay current on state issues; while continuing to work to build relationships with state representatives and communicate on issues that affect the state and West Hartford.

register is Nov. 1. Polls are open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Register to vote weekdays in the registrar's office, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street. Remember to bring your ID. All polling places are handicap accessible. Your completed ballot can be fed into the electronic reader in any direction. Voting equipment for visually impaired available. At the polling place, refer any questions or problems to the moderator. To find polling places: www.westhartford.org/vote; click on Government; then voting district information; click the first letter of your street address.

Town Council

Denise Berard Hall

Republican

Serves as the Republican Minority Leader, having first been elected in 2009. She is an SVP in Webster Bank's Treasury Department. A Conard High School graduate, she received her BA from UCONN and an MBA from RPI. She previously served on the Town's Risk Management Advisory Board, the Investment Advisory Committee and as Treasurer of the West Hartford Veterans Memorial Committee. Hall is a former President of the Board of Trustees of Mercy Housing & Shelter, member of its finance committee and associate member of the Government Finance Officer's Association.



What should West Hartford's role be in helping small business?

Three years ago, West Hartford eliminated the Economic Development position, and folded the responsibility into the Community Services Department. Farmington has a Director of Economic Development and an Economic Development Commission. The Hartford Business Journal recently sighted Farmington for its low taxes, low commercial vacancy rates, and high paying professional jobs contributing to its position as a leading hub for Central Connecticut economic development. WH has many talented residents who would serve ably on a commission, providing feedback to the town and bringing fresh ideas. We should reinstate the Director position and form a similar commission to market West Hartford to targeted businesses, identify sites, and ease the process to help them get established quickly so they can focus on their business.

New Britain-Hartford Busway?

The best thing we can do is to continue to oppose the Busway project! I have attended meetings with the Design District regarding their response to the coming disruption from the Flatbush Avenue flyover construction project. This has the potential to have an extremely negative impact on their businesses. It is vital that the town oversee the construction project, with assistance from the residential and business neighborhoods to ensure their interests are protected. I would advocate the same if the Busway moves ahead.

Statewide discussions that affect West Hartford?

I follow regional, state and national issues and have provided input ranging from protesting budget increases at MDC to testifying before Congress in July on how pending regulations will affect community and regional banks that employ our residents and provide credit to our businesses.

Leon Davidoff

Democrat

Seeking re-election to his third term.

J.D., Case Western Reserve University; B.A., Clark University

He is chairman, Administration and Technology Committee; Member, Finance and Budget Committee; Member - Human and Leisure Services Committee; Past Chairman/Member of Town Plan and Zoning Commission; Twice Elected to Newington Town Council

Past President, Newington Chamber of Commerce; Past Treasurer, Aiken School PTO; Past Rotary Club President & Paul Harris Fello; Justice of Peace Attorney and Co-owner, The Paper Station; Member of Emanuel Synagogue; Married to Alexis, Father to Rebecca and Ilana



What should West Hartford's role be in helping small business?

As a small business retailer for over 18 years, I understand the challenges of running your own business, the importance of establishing relationships with your customers, vendors and other business owners; and I have learned how local government can work cooperatively with the business community. Open communication is the key to fostering a successful business-government relationship. Further, local government needs to actively maintain the streets and sidewalks (infrastructure), keep the business and commercial districts inviting to existing and potential businesses in order to promote economic development.

New Britain-Hartford Busway?

For the record, I have never been a supporter of the busway. In the early 1990's, when this idea surfaced, I was a member of the Newington Town Council, and I questioned the necessity of this transportation option. Then and now, I think we should be investing our limited transportation dollars into mass transit concepts such as high speed rail between Hartford to Boston and Hartford to New York. Also, a commuter rail system would have more ridership than this busway proposal, and would remove more commuters from our congested highways.

Statewide discussions that affect West Hartford?

By being an active participant with CRCOG; testifying on issues at legislative hearings; meeting with members of our state legislative delegation; connecting with those decision-makers in person, by email or by telephone to inform them how they can best serve the interests of the residents of the Town of West Hartford.

Peter Martin

Republican

I am an attorney at a law firm in Hartford. I live in West Hartford with my wife and two children. My pledge to West Hartford residents is to make this Town a safer and much better place to live, raise children and retire.



What should West Hartford's role be in helping small business?

First and foremost, we need to reduce crime to make sure our streets are safe. Several high profile events have unnerved our residents. Second, the Town needs to do a better job providing basic town services so that our streets are adequately paved and storm water system kept clean and free from debris to avoid future flooding. Finally, reducing red tape in permitting/approval processes, easing parking fees and improved collaboration by the town with the WH Chamber of Commerce.

What will you do to make sure the New Britain-Hartford Busway works for the benefit of West Hartford?

The only way for the busway to work for the benefit of West Hartford is to stop it before it starts. This ill-conceived project will cost over \$1,000 an inch, has already forced local businesses to close and will continue to divide our town. It is inconceivable to me that the council majority and our representatives in Hartford continue to support this project when not one of them can articulate a good reason for it.

How will you personally get involved in statewide discussions that affect West Hartford?

I pledge to reject any plan by the State Board of Education to mandate busing of West Hartford students. West Hartford's representatives at the State Capitol do a remarkably bad job at keeping our town councilors abreast of what policy initiatives are before the Statehouse that affect our town.

You can make a difference

Why not join the League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford? You could help to prepare voters' guides like this one. Or you could become involved in studying important issues in our communities such as education, health care, or the environment.

E-mail Libby Swietek at flkm@aol.com or call 860-523-1771 for more information. Membership forms are available at www.lwvgh.org. For any questions regarding voting, contact the Registrars of Voters office in Town Hall at 860-561-7451.

Registrars are Eleanor Brazell (Republican) and Carolyn Thornberry (Democrat).

Town Council

Clare Kindall

Democrat

A graduate of Wellesley College and the University of Virginia School of Law, I am an assistant attorney general, representing the State on energy issues. I am married to Mark Kindall, a West Hartford attorney, and my son Keith is a sophomore at Hall High School. After five years serving on West Hartford's Board of Education, two as its Chair, I am running for Town Council to help make West Hartford an even better place to live, start a business, and raise a family.



What should West Hartford's role be in helping small business?

Especially in tough economic times, we must consider how our decisions locally affect small business. I will advocate for additional business-friendly parking in the Center, and to enhance parking convenience. I will reach out to business groups throughout town - the Chamber, Elmwood, Park Road, the Center/Square and Bishops Corner businesses - and listen to ways the Council can help. Finally, I would maintain Town staff dedicated to supporting and growing business in town.

What will you do to make sure the New Britain-Hartford Busway works for the benefit of West Hartford?

I oppose the Busway and would prefer a high-speed rail stop in West Hartford. Nonetheless, if the Busway is constructed, we need to make sure adequate parking and strong feeder linkages exist so it is convenient and fully used. We also need to work with the State and local businesses to attract new businesses and appropriate development in the Busway corridor to support travelers and maximize the promised economic, environmental and traffic-saving benefits.

How will you personally get involved in statewide discussions that affect West Hartford?

Through my work at the Attorney General's Office and my experience running a campaign for a state constitutional officer, I have developed good relationships with officials and leaders throughout state government that will improve our town's access to information and statewide decision-makers. On key issues, I will:

1. Work to reform local education financing, using my school board experience
2. Maintain close contact with our legislative delegation and statewide leaders; and
3. Collaborate with Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

Jay Sarzen

Republican

B.A. - Trinity College; M.B.A. - University of Notre Dame. West Hartford resident - 5+ years. Lives in Duffy district with wife, Amy, and son. Coaches Little League T-Ball. Member of First Church of Christ, Congregational. Has solved problems in the automotive industry, banking industry, and as a management consultant. Currently works at MassMutual as an internal provider of advice to business units on a wide range of strategic and tactical topics, including efficiency projects (trained as a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt).



What should West Hartford's role be in helping small business?

Businesses exist to serve public demand, not bureaucrats. To best help businesses, West Hartford should be unobtrusive. Reducing fees and using common sense when granting permits or enforcing regulations are the best ways to help. The basics such as ensuring public safety and maintaining roads are a given. Business development should be the private sector's domain. Property tax relief might allow more discretionary income to flow to West Hartford's small business community.

What will you do to make sure the New Britain-Hartford Busway works for the benefit of West Hartford?

I will work to prevent the Busway from being started by working with state leaders to ensure that federal funds for this project do not flow to Connecticut. There is no foreseeable benefit of this boondoggle to West Hartford. Should it come to fruition, I will work with the town, residents, community/business groups and other stakeholders to provide ardent oversight and minimize the impact on West Hartford.

How will you personally get involved in statewide discussions that affect West Hartford?

I will reject any effort by the State Board of Education to mandate busing for students who are in schools deemed to be "racially imbalanced" and I will strongly encourage West Hartford's Board of Education to support that position. I would also foster a stronger relationship with our state representatives, who do not seem to have kept our town councilors abreast of what policy initiatives are before the Statehouse that could affect our town.

Scott Slifka

Democrat

A lifelong West Hartford resident and graduate of Hall High, I live on Grennan Road with my wife, Noelle, and 3 year-old daughter, Betsy. I received my B.A. and J.D. from George Washington University and I work as Corporate Counsel to LEGO Systems, Inc. I have served as on the Town Council since 2001 and as Mayor since 2004.



What should West Hartford's role be in helping small business?

Our role is to create an environment for investment. West Hartford has become a nationally-known retail destination by controlling spending, prudently deploying our public assets to leverage private investment and maintaining direct relations with our business community. Blue Back Square and the revival of Park Road are excellent examples of this public-private partnership. Next, we must redouble our marketing efforts to attract new businesses and strengthen those already here. Additionally, the new State law providing municipalities with a percentage of local sales tax revenue provides an opportunity to explore specific incentives for small businesses.

What will you do to make sure the New Britain-Hartford Busway works for the benefit of West Hartford?

I have opposed the Busway from the start. It will fail and be a supreme waste of taxpayer money. So, the best way for the Busway to work is for it not to be built at all. On April 4, I wrote to Governor Malloy and detailed several specific concerns about the Busway's impact upon Elmwood, including poor station design, impact of construction on local businesses and potential impact upon the Town budget and infrastructure. If the State insists on proceeding, I will ensure that these items are addressed. In particular, it must maintain its commitment to include a West Hartford rail stop in future Springfield/New Haven rail plans.

How will you personally get involved in statewide discussions that affect West Hartford?

Much of my time as Mayor is spent representing West Hartford at the Capitol and before regional and state organizations. Most notably, I serve on the Boards of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority and on the CRCOG Policy Board. These efforts, as well as my informal regular discussions with legislators, commissioners, Mayor Segarra and Governor Malloy, have been invaluable in giving West Hartford a stronger regional and state voice. I will continue this commitment.

Board of Education

Bruce Putterman *Democrat*

Elected to Board of Education in 2003, currently Vice Chairman. Married to Teri Bayer with three children: Alex (Hall), Jack (Hall), and Karolina (KP). Self-employed as planning and marketing consultant since 2000. Member of Beth El Temple.



Can W.H. maintain a quality system and keep taxes low?

Since 2007, academic performance has increased and spending per pupil compared to the other 168 Connecticut towns has decreased. Our 2011 CMT and CAPT scores were the highest they have ever been. Our spending per pupil ranking was the lowest it's ever been since we started tracking it in 1970 (113th last year, top 3 throughout most of the 1970's). We are and will continue to be extraordinarily efficient. The quality of our schools is rooted in quality teachers, approach to instruction, and approach to teacher development. Quality teachers cost money, but approach to instruction and development don't. More importantly, our approach and culture attract quality teachers. That plus the partnership we have established with our teachers keep teacher costs manageable. Enrollment has declined slightly, and will decline further over the next 10 years, easing cost pressures. We had very modest tax increases the last four years. While we will continue that trend (I'm a taxpayer, too!), continuously improving our quality school system is my primary focus. We will be as responsible with your tax dollars as possible, but I believe West Hartford residents choose education over tenths of mill rate points.

Does West Hartford do enough to enable students to take advantage of regional magnet school programs?

Yes. I have always promoted giving students and parents choices. Our students can attend CREC regional, Hartford host, or West Hartford intradistrict magnets tuition-free. We are hosting a magnet fair at Conard this year and post information about magnet choices on our web site. We strike a very appropriate balance between offering out-of-district choices and promoting our own schools.

Online communication increases; what can BOE do to help families without access to computers at home?

The number of families without Internet access is surprisingly tiny. For families without access, teachers make an extra effort to communicate in print or by phone. Other ideas: work with Best Buy and Staples to provide discontinued netbooks, encourage parents WITH Internet access to buddy-up with parents without access to ensure communication flows. My dream: townwide wi-fi.

Ellen Brassil *Republican*

Elected twice to the West Hartford School Board, Board member Ellen Brassil has four sons, all in college, and is Library Director at a large medical center. She holds a BA from Drew University, a MS from Simmons College, and is completing a MA degree in the School of Education at Sacred Heart University, where she also teaches an online course for undergrads. She volunteers for St. Peter Claver Church, Hartford Hospital, and edits a book review column for *Journal of Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries*.



Can W.H. maintain a quality system and keep taxes low?

While unsustainable tax increases over the past decade have put a strain on household income for many residents and since most of our tax dollars go to the education side of the town, the Board shouldn't ask families to make cuts in their own household budgets. The Board must look to achieve optimal results in our educational investments, seek efficiencies in our system, and explore shared services opportunities with the town. More spending doesn't directly translate into better results - thus BOE priorities must favor research based practices with a successful track record, teacher accountability and instructional resources that first and foremost benefit children and touch the classroom. Our school district must engage families, the key ingredient in academic success, and begin planning for anticipated decreases in student enrollment in the near future. Our legislative delegation needs to ensure full funding of West Hartford's share of ECS money, and eliminate waste at the state level.

Does West Hartford do enough to enable students to take advantage of regional magnet school programs?

Families are encouraged to consider many different educational options for students, including inter-district magnet schools. Students are provided transportation to the magnet schools, while guidance services and teaching staff continue to inform families of the many educational options to choose from for their children to develop their talents and thrive academically.

Online communication increases; what can BOE do to help families without access to computers at home?

Households lacking Internet access must be assured of receiving vital information either in print format or through telephone hotlines and alerts. As a BOE member I support collaborative efforts with our public libraries to address digital divide issues and to promote greater computer literacy for interested families without computers.

Terry Schmitt *Democrat*

Terry has long been involved in West Hartford education support and public life. He was PTO co-president for two years at Smith School. He served three years with the West Hartford Parent-Teacher Council. Terry won his first election to the Board of Education in 2003, and was re-elected in 2007. He was Board Chair for two years beginning in 2007. His three children all graduated from Hall, and two currently are in college.



Can W.H. maintain a quality system and keep taxes low?

The most important thing to is make sure our schools continue to do a great job, because people will be more willing to pay for good schools than for poor ones. We should all be pleased that our system had the highest test scores ever in 2009, and then beat them in 2010, and then beat them again in 2011. But no town can sustain greatness without consideration of cost, so we must continue to enhance efficiencies in our system. We have done that. Our administrative cost per pupil is lower than the vast majority of other Connecticut towns. Also, our overall per pupil spending continues to go down relative to the rest of Connecticut.

Does West Hartford do enough to enable students to take advantage of regional magnet school programs?

Our obligation is to provide the best education for every student in West Hartford. If students do not feel that their needs are being met here, then it is fine that they have some alternatives available. Given the difficulties in paying for magnet school tuitions, however, there is no incentive for us to encourage our students to leave. We try to produce programs within our own schools that are excellent in order to encourage students to stay here.

Online communication increases; what can BOE do to help families without access to computers at home?

That is a real problem, because access isn't just about having a computer. It is also about the expense of hooking up to the internet. I understand that Comcast is now reaching out to less affluent families with an "internet only" option, and that is a good plan. Meanwhile, we will provide great access at our schools, and we are pleased with the work the town does with computers and access at our libraries.

Find your polling place:

www.westhartford.org/vote

Campaign '11

**State of
Connecticut
Official Ballot**

West Hartford, Connecticut

Municipal Election

November 8, 2011

Be sure to read the instructions on the reverse side of this ballot, it will help you in voting.

OFFICE → PARTY ↓	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Town Council Vote for Any Six						Town Clerk	Board of Education Vote for Any Two	
DEMOCRATIC	<input type="radio"/> 1A Harry J. Captain	<input type="radio"/> 2A Leon S. Davidoff	<input type="radio"/> 3A Shari Cantor	<input type="radio"/> 4A Scott Slifka	<input type="radio"/> 5A Judy Casperson	<input type="radio"/> 6A Clare Kindall	<input type="radio"/> 7A Essie S. Labrot	<input type="radio"/> 8A Bruce S. Putteman	<input type="radio"/> 9A Terry Schmitt
REPUBLICAN	<input type="radio"/> 1B Steven Adler	<input type="radio"/> 2B Burke Doar	<input type="radio"/> 3B Jay Sarzen	<input type="radio"/> 4B Peter J. Martin	<input type="radio"/> 5B Ethan Goldman	<input type="radio"/> 6B Denise Berard Hall	<input type="radio"/> 7B Beth Kyle	<input type="radio"/> 8B Ellen Brassil	<input type="radio"/> 9B

Town Clerk

Essie Labrot Democrat

30-year resident of West Hartford
25 years Management and Administrative experience
University of Massachusetts BA Marketing
Communications
Town/Council Clerk 2008-present
20 years as Human Resources Consultant, Banking
and Insurance. Member of the Board of Directors for
West Hartford Community Television and the West
Hartford Symphony.

Streamlined work processes, renegotiated contracts resulting in significant cost savings; created online access for land records and general government information; initiated fees for new services that increased revenue to the Town.

Recognized by State Town Clerk's Association "Above and Beyond" Award.



Beth Kyle Republican

Beth Kyle is a 9-year resident of West Hartford and has 3 school-aged children. She is a small-business owner and has an extensive background in administrative management, licensing and credentialing.

She received a BA from Loyola University Maryland.

Beth is past-president of the West Hartford Newcomers' Club and an active volunteer at Braeburn Elementary School and St. Timothy Middle School.

Beth has worked with non-profits including The Children's Museum and the Girl Scouts of America. She is a lector at Saint Peter Claver Church and a member of the West Hartford Women's Soccer Club.



League of Women Voters Finance Drive

The League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford sincerely thanks contributors to the finance drive. Their generosity makes the Voters' Guide and other League activities possible throughout the year.

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