

The League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford asked the candidates for West Hartford Town Council to respond to an online only question to provide voters with an additional opportunity to get to know the candidates. This question is in addition to the **Voters' Guide** questions that are available in print in the October issue of *West Hartford LIFE* and on this website.

Candidate Responses for League of Women Voters
online question.

[Why are you running for office?](#)



Why are you running for office?

Steven Adler – Republican

As a 3rd term candidate I'm very concerned about our ability to balance municipal services against the residents' capability to continue to pay. With federal and state municipal aid at risk, increased pension pressures and escalating healthcare costs, along with the fact that 80% of our grand list is driven from home and personal properties, the tax burden will continue be squarely placed on the residents of West Hartford as many of us struggle to manage household costs. Over the last few years you have made financial changes in your homes, likewise government is no different.

Shari Cantor - Democrat

When I joined the Council, West Hartford was doing fine but now it is a community that is ranked as one of the best towns in America to live, work and raise a family. I want to preserve the success that we have worked hard to achieve. I profoundly care about this community. I grew up here, I have raised four sons here, I have elderly parents that still live in the house that I grew up in. For me, West Hartford is all about community and leadership is not about politics, it is about people.

Harry Captain – Democrat

I'm running for office because I enjoy serving and I believe in service to the community where one lives. People serve in many ways; by paid vocation or volunteer. They serve as teacher, coach, clergy, troop leader, health care provider, public safety person, or fill-in-the blank. My choice, for almost 9 years, is policy maker/public servant. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve. I ask for your vote on November 8 and support for the next two years

Judy Casperson – Democrat

West Hartford a unique community combining the best of every community, state or country where I have lived. I wanted to be part of the local leadership that is accessible and works to ensure that West Hartford is the best place to live, learn, work and worship. All of these attributes have garnered national acclaim and I hope to make it an even better place for the community and businesses working with a strong team of thoughtful town leaders. We are a AAA bond rated nationally recognized best place to live and I will work to keep it growing.

Leon Davidoff – Democrat

I thoroughly enjoy serving on the West Hartford Town Council. I value community service and cherish the opportunity to address the issues that face our town. I take seriously the responsibility of being a dedicated public servant. I apply common sense principles in all of my decision-making, and I work diligently and cooperatively with my colleagues to find common ground that serves the best interests of the Town and all its residents. In sum, I want to continue my work to keep West Hartford a first-rate affordable place to live, to work and to raise a family.

Burke Doar – Republican

I have the communication, analytical skills, judgment and integrity to be an effective Town Councilor. I believe in consensus and working together to implement policies and programs which will benefit all the residents of West Hartford. We must provide our residents with a greater opportunity to save for their retirement, save for their children's higher education, invest in a new small business or spend in our town's retail shops. A Town Councilor's most important duty is to examine every property tax dollar collected to ensure that the expense is necessary for enhancing the quality and efficiency of our Town's services.

Ethan Goldman – Republican

I decided to run for the West Hartford Town Council, because I am concerned about the town's long-term fiscal situation. In 2010, West Hartford had more than \$345 million of long-term obligations - \$125mm in net pension exposure, \$80mm in net long-term medical and \$140mm in municipal bonds. That is more than \$5,000/household and it has grown significantly over the last 6 years.

We must find better ways for the town to reduce its long-term financial obligations. Otherwise the town will become uncompetitive in terms of its affordability, when compared to the other towns in our region.

Denise Berard Hall- Republican

As a fiscal conservative, I believe that we must stop the current trend of higher spending in return for fewer town services. My financial background and knowledge of municipal finance in particular, combined with my experience as Minority Leader of the Town Council provides me with the tools to address the challenges ahead and offer the solutions we need now. I want to put that background to work to ensure that all four generations of my family can continue to afford to live in WH

Clare Kindall – Democrat

As Chair of the Board of Education, I am proud of how well we on the Board worked together. In difficult economic times, we passed fiscally-responsible budgets that put students first and did not sacrifice quality.

Various national magazines have rightly listed West Hartford as one of the best places in the country to live. Home values are stable and businesses continue to thrive. We have maintained a “triple-A” bond rating. Over the past decade, the Democratic team provided cordial and effective leadership. My experience on the Board will allow me to continue that tradition of leadership on the Council

Peter Martin – Republican

The current Town Council majority is failing West Hartford. We need a change of leadership.

Jay Sarzen – Republican

I have spent my career solving problems -- both as a management consultant and in my current role at MassMutual. Right now, we have a problem in West Hartford in that spending growth threatens to outstrip the ability of taxpayers to support this spending. Simply put, the Democratic majority has neglected to "bend the cost curve" to more accurately reflect today's economic realities. I want to offer a better solution to the Town's fiscal problems while finding alternatives to the "business as usual" approach that the Democrats have pursued, as though there are no other means.

Scott Slifka – Democrat

This is my hometown, and serving as its volunteer mayor has been a tremendous honor and incredibly rewarding experience. Generations of West Hartford residents have provided volunteer service to make the town what it is today, and I feel an obligation to continue this tradition of stewardship. Every day I wake up and have the opportunity to make a difference in our town, to have a direct impact upon the lives of my neighbors, or to help someone I've never met who is in need. That's an enormous responsibility, but also a wonderful feeling.