



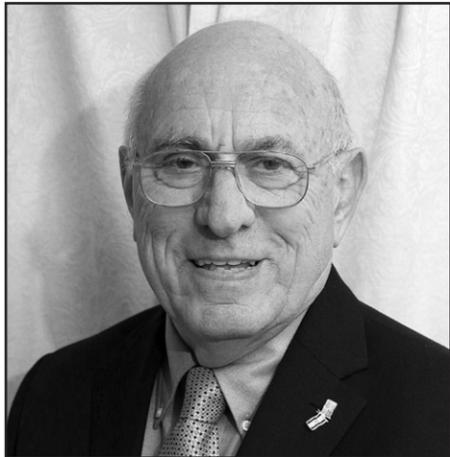
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

2015 Bloomfield Voters Guide

TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Joel Neuwirth

Republican



Bloomfield is enjoying a resurgence in new activities /for example new facility for jn ney mfg/two new crec schools/new businesses/additions at seabury and duncaster/also at cigna. secondly we have to maintain a succceccful relations with current businesses and continue our visits to established companies also we need to expand the role thatour bloomfield chamber of commerce fulfills in engaging local business and makes them part of a vital strong base for their success and growth For the long term we need to maintain a fair tax rate for the business sector. We need to work closely with the experts to be aware of market changes and opportunities for future growth.

E. Leon Rivers

Democrat



Councilman E. Leon Rivers has been a resident of Bloomfield for the past 36 years. He currently resides at 24 Stuart Drive in Bloomfield, CT. Councilman Rivers serves as a Chairman of the Administration & Education Subcommittee as well as the Golf Subcommittee for the past four years. Among his interests within town, he has served as a past Supervisor with the Department of Leisure Services for 19 years and remains active on various boards and commissions such as: the Youth Adult Council, Commission on Aging, member of the Democratic Town Committee and Co-Chair of Voting District 1. He has been married to Mrs. Jeanette Rivers for the past 50 years whom they have two children and two grandchildren.

Question #1

The town of Bloomfield recently completed revaluation of all residential and commercial properties in town. As a result, we were able to lower the property taxes to most residents. Spending has been held flat. Our spending must be kept in line with our tax collection rate which is 98%. In regards to addressing specific concerns within town, the current infrastructure is badly in need of upgrading. The Senior Cen-

ter, Library and Public Works facilities must be addressed. The question is how do we handle these projects? Do we consider a phased in approach to address each project one at a time or do we propose a bond referendum for them all.

Question #2

In support of our current Plan of Development for the Town Center as well as the entire Bloomfield community we must continue to work with local merchants as a Council on a regular basis. In addition, we must reach out to new businesses to help to reduce taxes as well as provide tax incentives whenever possible.

Question #3

The Bloomfield Police Department states that there does not seem to be a significant drug problem in the Town of Bloomfield that we are aware of. However, we are not exempt as a town from addressing drug issues.

Sydney Schulman

Democrat



Schulman has served as Bloomfield's Mayor (2003 - Present) and Deputy Mayor (1993 - 1997 and 1999- 2002) and is past chair of the Economic Development Subcommittee. He is employed as an attorney with Schulman & Associates and is also Past President of the Bloomfield Lions Club and Beth Hillel Synagogue. In addition, he has served as Council Chairman for Connecticut Lions Multiple District 23; President of Connecticut Lions Charities, Inc.; and President of the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation, Inc. He is married to Elba Cruz Schulman and has seven children and 13 grandchildren.

Question #1

While obviously I would like to see no increase in taxes, or even a decrease, I think a rule of thumb goal would be no increase beyond the current year's cost of living percentage rate. There are no programs I would like to see trimmed back. I would like to see certain senior services and enforcement of grass, noise and dilapidated housing ordinances enhanced.

Question #2

For the next year, revitalization of the Center of Town from Filley Park south to the south side of Park Ave. and from the mall where Papa John's Pizza and St. Francis Dialysis are located to the Ocean State Job Lot mall is my first priority. Although that is also longer term, I have two or three other priorities longer term. I would like to see an economic revival of the Granby Rd./Tobey Rd. area. Also, Northeast Bloomfield, including the part of Day Hill Rd. in Bloomfield is ripe for new manufacturing

and other development such as a medical devices research and development business.

Question #3

"Community Policing," as we practice and as the Chief is committed to, is critical. There needs to be a close relationship between our schools, parents and the police department to identify youth with drug and/or mental problems, so there can be a diversion of such youth into treatment before or at the early stage of criminal activity. We are fortunate to have such a relationship, but it needs to be enhanced and made stronger. Also, we need to take a "zero tolerance" stand with anyone caught in Bloomfield with a gun without a permit, or certain other defined deadly weapons. Any such arrest should be followed with a plea to judicial authorities for incarceration and limited plea bargaining.

Derrick Seldon,

Democrat



Seldon is a resident of Bloomfield since 1999 and is married to Andrea Delores Seldon and has three children and one grandchild. Seldon said "My motto is "Leadership Through Service." I believe the job of elected officials is to serve the citizens that voted for them with the services and trust they expect and deserve. I have served as a town councilor for the past two years chairing the Community Services Committee and serving on the Finance and Golf Committees. I previously served on the Board of Education for eight years, two years as Secretary and four years as the Vice-Chair."

Question #1

I believe the appropriate balance between cutting taxes and cutting spending is determined by the need to continue providing quality social and public services to the residents of Bloomfield. We must exercise extreme care when cutting taxes or spending, to ensure that residents continue to receive the services they have become accustomed to. The program I want to see enhanced is the town's affirmative action plan. I believe it is imperative that Bloomfield's hiring practices strive to take the steps necessary to ensure that the town's staff is reflective of the demographics of its residents.

Question #2

My number one priority for economic development during the next year is the commencement of the apartments designated for Jerome and Bloomfield Avenues. The apartments will bring additional residents to the center of town thereby increasing revenues for current businesses. My long term priority for economic development is tied to the construction of the apartments with a redevelopment of the town

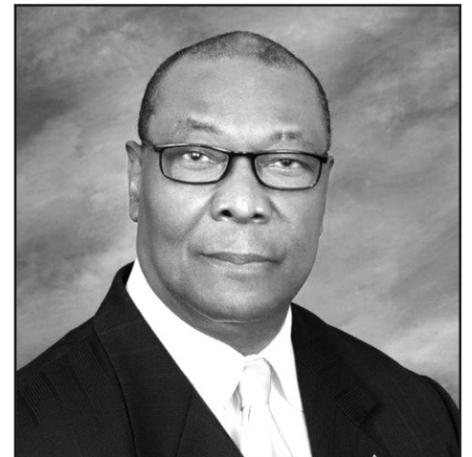
center. I believe that a redevelopment of Wintonbury Mall, Filley Park and Prosser Library will increase pedestrian traffic in the center of town which will in turn improve the value of homes and attract additional businesses to Bloomfield.

Question #3

I think it is important for residents with drug issues be provided with programs that assist them in improving their lives and the lives of their families. Accordingly, the police department and other town departments must develop programs that address the needs of those residents as well as keeping our community safe.

Joseph Washington

Democrat



As a member of Bloomfield Town Council, Washington has been Chairman of the Council's Public Safety and Economic Development and Planning Committees. He is also Co-Chair of 2nd District Democratic Town Committee. He holds a degree in Political Science and has attended the University of Hartford, Central Connecticut State University and Greater Hartford Community College. He worked for the United States Post Office in the Executive Administrative Service from 1984-2005. He also served four years in the United States Air Force and three years in the United States Army Reserves.

Question #1

Enhance our town's financial stabilities over a long period of time with professional managers. Example: Gorman and York Property Advisors. This will enable our town to drive down cost and maintain stability in Bloomfield. Greater conditions and living situations will aid in the growth of positive environment. These elements could lead to a possible cut in spending.

Question #2

An increase of revenue could capitalize upon the improvement of the budget for the first year. The budget would be funded by state grants and general funds per year for four to five years. This funding will provide continuity regarding planning and development. The use of this approach will encourage economic growth by stimulating development where feasible and appropriate.

Question #3

Improving community awareness of crimes and it's reductions through affirmative action goals and time tables. Community programs such as Police Explorers, Police Cadets and Firemen Explorers programs are now in place within our town. Treating drug use as an illness as opposed to crimes is needed. Research should be an ongoing priority. We need more hospitalization treatment of drug users as opposed to incarceration of drug users.