

2009 Voter's Guide

Compiled each year as a public service by the League of Women Voters of Darien

Vote Tuesday, November 3rd, 2009

Democracy is not a spectator sport

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, non-profit community organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The LWV-Darien is a local group of both men and women who strive to improve the quality of democracy by increasing voters' knowledge of candidates and issues. Go to lwv.darien.org to learn more.

Questionnaires were submitted to all candidates, asking one or more specific questions. Responses, which were limited to a specific word count, are printed exactly as submitted by the candidates. Any responses over the word limit could not be printed in full.

() signifies that the candidate is an incumbent*

Note: All offices appear in the order in which they appear on the ballot.

FIRST SELECTMAN and BOARD OF SELECTMAN CANDIDATES

Explanation of Election Procedure

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) is the executive branch of our local government and is made up of the First Selectman and four Selectmen. This year, three candidates are vying for the office of First Selectman and three candidates are running for Selectman.

The candidates who lose the First Selectman race automatically become part of the race for Selectman. It is the top four vote getters from this expanded pool of candidates who will win a seat on the BOS.

FIRST SELECTMAN CANDIDATES:

Term of Office: Two Years (Salaried)

Vote for One Candidate

Do you plan to be an activist First Selectman?

and

What is at the top of your agenda and why?

David M. Campbell (Republican)

27 Shipway Road

The term "activist" has different connotations. My approach, if I become your First Selectman, will be to embrace the job full-time with energy, common sense, and a spirit of cooperation that supports our small-town heritage. This attitude has enabled me to successfully manage and grow Ring's End, as well as give back to my hometown

through the completion of large-scale community initiatives, as Chairman of the Darien Library Building Committee and as a member of the Darien High School Building Committee.

A collaborative approach to the town budget, respecting the roles of the department heads, the Board of Finance and the RTM, will be a priority for me. I've heard residents' concerns during these uncertain economic times, and the preliminary budget discussions have already started. I've delivered high quality with fiscal restraint in my business. Jerry Nielsen, Jayme Stevenson and I pledge to do the same for Darien.

Christian Noe (Petitioning Candidate)

242 Old King's Highway South

I am running for First Selectman because I do not agree with the direction the leadership has taken Darien's on two main issues, Affordable Housing and Flooding. I feel there is a potential down side to these issues of mass distraction. We must address and resolve these issues immediately. I have economically sound plans to present to the RTM to bring resolution in a matter of months not years.

Our children's education is most important and the stadium lights are necessary for their development as young adults. Also, the stadium provides the widest spectrum of our community cheering for the home team. We need stadium lights.

Our seniors have been lost behind the issues of mass distraction. The condition of the Senior Center is shameful. Our seniors will not be neglected. I have grand plans to revitalize retired living in Darien. Hop in and hold on.

Vote Yes For Noe

Callie Anne Sullivan (Democrat)

118 Five Mile River Road

I will absolutely be an activist First Selectman. I have gained leadership experience from over a decade of service to our community on the RTM and the Board of Selectmen, experience I will use to lead the Board of Selectmen in setting direction and priorities for Darien. Continuing to hold our town budget in check, as I've done over the past two years, is at the top of my agenda. Our taxpayer's deserve no less.

Returning local control to our property owners by developing sufficient affordable housing at 35 Leroy Avenue is crucial. I will work to increase commercial property tax revenue by responsibly growing each of our business districts. Our challenge is to find ways to do more with less. Under my leadership, we will work together to identify and implement ways to streamline shared services and eliminate duplication of efforts. I am ready to lead Darien forward now.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN CANDIDATES:

Term of office: 2 Years (Unsalariated)

Vote for Two

How will you handle disagreements with the First Selectman?

and

How important is party affiliation?

David F. Bayne (Democrat)***5 Windsor Road**

I will address disagreements with the next First Selectmen as I do with the current members of the Board of Selectmen, which is to openly discuss the issue, understand its foundation and determine whether to continue to advocate my position, change my views or to seek a compromise.

Party affiliation has no place in the deliberations of the BOS. There is no Republican or Democratic way to plow or pave the roads, to run the dump, to maintain our parks, to address affordable housing laws, to mitigate flooding, etc. The decisions made in Town Hall are too important for that role because these decisions directly affect the quality of day-to-day life of every Darien resident. The first and last questions I ask in reaching every decision are what is best for the long term interests of Darien and what is the most cost efficient way to implement the decision?

Gerald A. Nielsen, Jr. (Republican)**33 Rocaton Road**

As Selectmen we must focus on what's best for Darien. Differences of opinion with the First Selectman are expected. When I was a member of the 1999 Charter Revision Commission and the Darien High School Building Committee, we made sure all points of view were acknowledged. In fact, the discussion of opposing views often led us to the best conclusion. When this is done in an open, fair manner, the debate serves as an important quality of government. That's the way Dave Campbell will run the Board of Selectmen.

Party affiliation is important but shouldn't mean a narrow, inflexible approach to problem-solving. The Republican slate, which combines fiscal restraint with exceptional leadership in both the schools and community, offers a balanced approach. I think we represent what the party expects in its candidates, as well as what voters seek in response to the challenges we face as a town.

Jayme J. Stevenson (Republican)**65 St. Nicholas Road**

My leadership roles with the Darien High School and Royle School Parents' Associations, the Nature Center Board and the Depot Board over the past 15 years have strengthened my ability to thoughtfully listen and reach consensus on issues involving many points of view. My job as Selectman is to understand the facts and details of an issue and have open, respectful dialogue with my fellow board members. Dave, Jerry and I are committed to creating opportunities for the public to express their opinions as well. We will not always agree, but through this process, I am confident that the best decisions will be made.

Party affiliation is a fundamental philosophy that can serve as an important blueprint for decision-making. I think voters should understand a candidate's party identity, even if municipal races are typically decided by overall qualities such as character, integrity and experience.

TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk directs the administrative work of the Town according to state statutes. Examples are issuing and filing of licenses, permits, filing Town minutes and keeping Town records.

*Term of Office: Two Years (Salaried)
The candidate for Town Clerk is unopposed*

What are your qualifications?

**Donna E. Rajczewski (Republican)*
15 Bayberry Lane**

I have enjoyed the opportunity of serving as Darien's Town Clerk since January 2000 and wish to continue to do so. A graduate of Beaver College, I received certification as a "Certified Connecticut Municipal Clerk" in June, 2004, and continue to attend bi-annual Town Clerk Conferences, County Meetings, and workshops to keep current on continuing changes in procedures and legislation related to the Town Clerk's Office, i.e. Land Record recordings, elections, vital records.

TOWN TREASURER

As custodian of the Town's funds and securities, the Town Treasurer invests and reinvests them, and manages cash flow.

*Term of Office: Two Years (Salaried)
The candidate for Town Treasurer is unopposed*

What are your qualifications?

**Joan D. Hendrickson (Republican)*
97 Hoyt Street**

I'm running for my third term as Town Treasurer. I've improved investment income performance even during challenging economic times and written Darien's first Investment Policy. I spent almost 30 years as a banker, consultant and finance company official. My last corporate position was at Daimler Benz Interservice Corporation as Group Leader and Senior Manager responsible for global risk management for several business lines. Also, I served as Chief Strategist for the U.S. financial services business.

TAX COLLECTOR

Responsible for assuring the Town receives the monies due from taxes levied, the Tax Collector issues tax bills and uses a combination of customer service and legal means to collect payments in a timely manner.

*Term of Office: Two Years (Salaried)
The candidate for Tax Collector is unopposed*

What are your qualifications?

**Robert A. Locke (Republican)*
53 Echo Drive North**

I was appointed Tax Collector in 1999 by the Republican Town Committee. They continued to support me over the past ten years and during this time, I have taken the required courses to become a certified Connecticut Municipal Collector. As a resident of Darien for over 42 years, I enjoy staying and working in the community.

BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance (BOF) is responsible for formulating and recommending the Town's financial policy. The Board is made up of seven members who serve overlapping terms.

*Term of Office: Four Years, Unsalariated
Vote for three candidates*

How will you prioritize capital projects in this economy?

Martha A. Banks (Democrat)*
17 Harbor Road

Darien's total annual tax levy is the sum of the town's operating and capital expenses less any revenues collected (investment income, real estate conveyance taxes, etc.). At present, Darien's revenue collections are significantly reduced and careful management of town expenses is more important than ever. In fact, many capital projects are on hold. Going forward, capital projects will be evaluated against the following criteria: Priority – defined by the BOS/BOE. Financials – costs and any applicable savings and tax burden. Benefits – meets an identified need (social services, recreational, safety, operational savings, etc.). Comprehensiveness – scope, estimated cost and timing are delineated and alternatives have been considered. Context –project's relationship to/impact on long-term capital plan and town economics. The best decisions come from careful analysis and collaboration between town bodies.

I have served on the BOF for 5 years and am currently vice chair. I have an MBA from Wharton.

Lorene E. Bora (Republican)*
38 Nearwater Lane

During the past year, our current Board of Finance membership has been cautious with regard to capital expenditures. We remain sensitive to the uncertainty that continues in the economy, and the impact that our town's exposure to the FIRE (finance, insurance, real estate) sector creates. During the next year, I would not expect a fundamental shift. Capital projects have been and should continue to be prioritized as follows. First, we must fund projects which ensure the health and safety of our residents. This must always be our top priority. The next priority for capital projects should be expenditures needed to maintain our existing infrastructure, in order to spread costs over time, and so that necessary repairs do not go for so long that they become more costly or have to be done on an emergency basis. Third, I would prioritize expenditures that bring quality of life to our citizens.

Joseph C. Duwan (Republican)
116 Nearwater Lane

As a former CPA, investment banker and investment analyst, I bring a broad range of experience to the Board. As a new member of the Board of Finance, I will balance the need to maintain fiscal responsibility with the on-going need to invest in the capital projects that will improve the quality of life here in Darien.

I'm a twenty-year resident of Darien with three children that have gone through the Darien school system. Maintaining the quality of our schools is a major priority since it benefits everyone through property valuations. The major capital investments in our schools have been made, but the town is now facing major investments with flood control, a police station, and Weed Beach. Prioritizing these projects requires a cost/benefit analysis that will give us the greatest pay-back in terms of improved quality of life and safety relative to the investment made.

Jon E. Zagrodzky (Republican)*
30 Crimmins Road

When considering capital projects, it's important to be clear about the separate roles of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. It's the Selectmen's duty to set an overall strategy for the town, which includes prioritizing capital projects. It's the duty of the Board of Finance, whose main constituency I would argue is the taxpayer, to decide how much capital spending is appropriate and how to pay for this spending.

My own view is that we should approach additional capital spending with caution. As a town, we still carry a significant debt load from the construction of DHS and Tokeneke Elementary. Servicing and retiring this debt is an additional burden to taxpayers beyond the town's normal operations.

This said, the Board of Finance shouldn't be obstructionist and say 'no' to everything. Rather, we should do our best to balance the needs of the town with prudent financial management.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

The nine members of Darien's Board of Education (BOE) are elected by the Town. They are responsible for observing state statutes and laws in administering the operation of the Darien school system. The BOE is an independent authority responsible for formulating education policy. Its annual budget must be approved by the Board of Finance through the general budget adoption process.

Each year three members of the BOE are elected. All candidates this year are unopposed.

*Term of Office: Three Years (Unsalariated)
Vote for Two Candidates*

***How will you manage the trade-offs between budgetary constraints
and an excellent education?***

Amy M. Bell (Republican)
37 Fairfield Road

I know Board of Education members face the challenge of weighing expectations for high quality education in Darien against the tax dollars required.

As the only newcomer to the Board, I bring a somewhat different perspective which I hope will be healthy for difficult budget deliberations. I will draw upon my experiences as a PTO Co-Chair, Vice Chair and a Council of Darien School Parents Budget Representative, and will continue to advocate for all Darien children in the budget process. At the same time, based upon my participation in other town issues, I believe that residents hold the Board of Ed responsible for prioritizing wants vs. needs in any particular budget.

I will work to seek the best information, try to think creatively as well as with common sense, and respectfully balance the sometimes competing points of view that accompany spending decisions in any town.

Elizabeth Hagerty-Ross (Republican)*
15 Old Parish Road

Budgetary constraints have been a challenge that the Board of Education faces every year. With today's economy in turmoil and with increasing costs and under-funded state mandates this has only intensified our challenge. An excellent education is the ultimate goal set in Darien for our children. Our administrators continue to improve our school system and raise the academic bar, which has helped Darien become a high achieving district.

We must challenge our administrators to re-evaluate current programs and curriculum to see if there are ways to deliver them more effectively. The members of the Board must encourage the administration to seek out economies of scale that will help us control our costs. The taxpayers of Darien have always been supportive of our educational system. Therefore, it is our responsibility to manage our budget to have the greatest impact on our schools but to minimize the impact to our taxpayers.

George A. Reilly (Democrat)*
5 Musket Lane

The pressure to restrain the Board of Education's budget is not new. The Board's obligation is to determine the financial resources required to continue Darien's superlative academic, co-curricular and athletic programs and what enhancements to the programs are important and timely in light of budget reality. Enhancements must be made regularly to course offerings, facilities, technology, Special Education resources and throughout our schools. If enhancements were not made our schools would not have an early intervention program for elementary children with developmental issues (SRBI), or Mandarin Chinese courses, or air conditioning at Middlesex. In these and scores of other ways the schools are providing opportunities and experiences that foster healthy development of students' minds and bodies. Having determined reasonable budget requirements, the Board of Education must defend them to the Board of Finance and the RTM which should balance the demands of an excellent education with what is affordable.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

The Board of Assessment Appeals hears citizens' cases for adjusting the Grand List values determined for their properties.

Both candidates for the Board of Assessment Appeals are unopposed, although voters will be directed to vote for only one of the candidates on the ballot

*Term of Office: Four Years (Unsalariated)
Vote for One Candidate*

What are your qualifications?

**Kevin Patrick O'Connor (Democrat)
2 Chester Road**

I was appointed to the Board of Assessment appeals in 2007 and have served through two appeal sessions, including the difficult 2008 revaluation. Through my occupation in the financial services industry, I have gained extensive experience with statistics and computer-based models. I combine my experience with an ability to listen carefully. As a volunteer for the town of Darien, I can objectively evaluate each homeowner and commercial appeal presented to the board.

**Christopher Peters (Republican)
218 Old Kings Highway North**

As a member of the Board of Appeals for six years, I have a full understanding of the appeal process. As a 40-year town resident, I have the knowledge of the unique influences that can affect values in every neighborhood. As a professional global real estate investment manager, I am aware of the individual factors that can raise and lower a specific property's assessments.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION – FULL TERM

The six member Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) has authority to adopt a Town Plan and to determine zoning and subdivision regulations. It functions independently of other bodies in Town government in performing its legislative, executive and quasi-judicial functions.

On the ballot there will be two columns of P&Z candidates. The first column directs the voter to choose two of the three candidates listed to serve for a full four year term. The second column has only Vickie Hanna Riccardo listed and voters will be asked to elect her to fill a two year vacancy.

*Term of Office: Four Years (Unsalariated)
Vote for Two Candidates*

***P&Z gives direction and shape to our Town.
What qualifications and background do you bring to such an important job?***

Frederick B. Conze (Republican)*

24 Royle Road

Fred Conze has had a forty-year career in Real Estate Development, project management and finance. Since locating in Darien he has served on the Board of the YMCA, six years in the RTM, a member of the Southwest Regional Planning Association, and most recently completed his sixteenth year on the Planning & Zoning Commission, serving as its Chairman for the past three years.

Joseph H. Spain (Republican)*

126 Leroy Avenue

As the League's question suggests, this is an important job. While my background as an attorney and an engineer were my major qualifications when I first ran for this post in 1997, I believe that today my strongest qualification is my experience in office as a member of the Commission. The position is one of steady and continuous learning about the Town (where I have lived for 42 years), about principles of good planning and about the concerns and different perspectives of so many people all across our Town. And, from all of this, I have come to conclude that our Town Plan is on a solid foundation as it carries forward its primary objective of maintaining the residential character of our community.

Eric J. Voigt (Democrat)

61 Middlesex Road

I bring to the Planning and Zoning Commission a professional background in land use and environmental law as well as experience in Town government. I have been a member of the Darien Representative Town Meeting (RTM) since 2007, where I

currently serve on the Public Works Committee. I previously was a member of the RTM's Planning, Zoning and Housing Committee.

During my tenure representing District 3 on the RTM, I have developed a broad understanding of how our Town bodies, such as the Planning & Zoning Commission, Environmental Protection Commission and the Department of Public Works, interact to produce Darien's development patterns. I take a special interest in the impact of Planning & Zoning decisions on flood mitigation and related environmental issues.

I am a partner in the law firm Mound Cotton Wollan & Greengrass in New York City, and have been a resident of Darien since 2005.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION – VACANCY

Term of Office: Two Years (Unsalariated)

Vote for One Candidate

Vickie Hanna Riccardo (Democrat)

33 Red Rose Circle

The Planning & Zoning Commission considers Darien's Zoning Regulations, its Plan of Conservation and Development, and other codified law to make its decisions about land use/development applications. Before becoming an at-home mother, I was a securities lawyer. My practice was code driven, just as the Commission's work is.

The Commission has the delicate task of balancing the competing interests of the Town (as expressed by the codified law); the wishes of private and public property owners who want to develop, improve or re-develop their properties (as expressed in their applications); and the concerns of their neighbors (as expressed in their testimony about such applications). Mothers weigh competing interests every day.

Volunteer experiences: RTM (Rules, PZ&H, and TGS&A Committees), Charter Revision Commission, Darien LWV, YWCA, Tokeneke School. I was appointed to fill a P&Z Commission vacancy in September.

CONSTABLES

The primary role of an elected constable is properly to serve legal notices to Town citizens so they may respond to the governmental organization or agency having jurisdiction.

All candidates Constables are unopposed.

*Term of Office: Two Years. Unsalaries.
Vote for any Two Candidates*

What are your qualifications?

David W. Morgan (Democrat)*

14 Anthony Lane

I, David William Morgan Sr. have been a Constable for over 10 years in the Town of Darien, CT 06820. During that span of time I have fulfilled the duties of the office thoroughly and judiciously.

William John Slinsky, Sr (Democrat)*

10 Brookside Drive

No Response

Joseph Tarnowsky, Jr. (Republican)*

9 Richmond Drive

No Response

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

The Representative Town Meeting (RTM) is determined annually by elector vote and cannot exceed 100 members. Legislative powers for the Town are vested in this body. Members are not elected based on party affiliation. Its responsibilities include passing laws and ordinances, appropriating money, and approving collective bargaining contracts involving Town employees.

Although any Darien registered voter is eligible for election, to be elected, a candidate must receive at least twenty-five votes.

Ballots will vary depending on the voting district. There are write-in candidates in some of the districts, but you must ask at your polling location or at the office of the Town Clerk for information. Write-in candidates must receive a minimum of twenty-five votes to serve on the RTM.

Attendance records for incumbents have been provided by the Town Clerk's office for your information.

Term of Office: Two Years (Unsalariated)

***Why do you want to serve on the RTM; and
What do you think are important RTM issues?***

DISTRICT I

(17 Seats) Vote for any 12

John A. Bishko*
7 Knollwood Lane

I have been on the RTM and the Planning Zoning & Housing Committee for 2 ½ years. I have enjoyed participating in town government and think this experience plus my background in finance will assist me in representing my district. All branches of town government must work together and avoid the friction that has recently existed. Our biggest issues are flood abatement and the town's ability to keep taxes moderate enough so that any residents, especially the elderly, are not forced to relocate. If elected I will continue to welcome comments from voters in my district.

David H. Kahn
20 Barringer Road

I have gotten to know many local politicians while advocating for pedestrian improvements for Darien commuters who use Hoyt Street to access the Talmadge Hill train station. I decided to run for the RTM this year after finding the responsiveness and

accountability of our government to be underwhelming. I have connected with many of my neighbors who believe this is an important project. I intend to use my contacts to advocate for and participate in the critical issues facing the community including taxes, the future of the library site and flooding. Local government is key to the democratic process.

Peter K. Kelly*
103 Pembroke Road

No Response

Donna L. Melz
10 Point O'Woods Road South

I graduated with a BS degree from University of New Hampshire and an MBA from Babson College. After working for 20 years in high tech sales, I married in 2000, took a break from my career and have been busy raising our six year old twins. I am currently serving as co-chair on the Ox Ridge School fundraising committee. I am running for RTM as a candidate who is interested in an open-minded and reasonable approach to town government. My interests include making Darien a place where families with children want to live and stay.

Peter W. Nelson*
14 Hamilton Lane

No response

Mary K. Ness*
7 Knollwood Lane

If elected this will be my third RTM term, I think this experience, combined with my financial background, provide qualifications that will help me make informed decisions on matters that come before the RTM. I hope to represent our district on an impartial nonpolitical basis working together for Darien. I think the biggest issue we face now is a budgetary one of balancing taxes and services. In terms of town priorities, I consider flood abatement and provision of basic safety needs such as fire and police services/facilities as priorities, but hope to listen to my District and its opinions.

Lois J. Schneider*
31 Maywood Road

The RTM is an excellent opportunity to serve the town and work to maximize the effectiveness of the people and financial resources. My primary interest and activities relate to the educational system where the principle concerns are quality education under the constraint of limited resources and growing enrollment at the high school and special ed requirements. In addition, I believe that we need a unified town government process that focuses on the major issues of flooding, housing and land planning. I hope to continue to serve the town combining many years of town government and business experience.

Flora J. Smith***42 Hamilton Lane**

During my 22 years in town, the RTM has presided over critical financial, educational, environmental, recreational, health and safety, and zoning issues. Representing District I and serving as former Chairman of Public Works, as well as Vice-Chairman of Finance and Budget, has been an honor. I am the current Vice-Moderator of the RTM. Important issues now before the town include budget control and taxation, flood mitigation, the future of the old library site, and proposed zoning changes. I am a former DHS executive PTO member and Post 53 parent. I am currently employed by Goldman Sachs in New York.

Jennifer Sommer**6 Point O'Woods Road South**

I would like to serve on the RTM given my desire to play an active role in serving our town government. I have been previously Chairman of District One. Important Issue include: Practical Planning and Zoning, Quality Education and Fiscal Responsibility. I support the addition of more family restaurants and convenient retail stores. The standard of excellence in our education system must be maintained. This is and always will be a huge differentiator for Darien. Appropriate Fiscal Responsibility must be displayed and town officials need to plan accordingly during these tough economic times. I am also supportive Private/Public partnerships.

Edward Reilly Tierney ***7 Maywood Court**

No response

Thomas Brady Valentino, III**2 Stonewall Lane**

No response

DISTRICT II
(17 Seats) Vote for any 9

Dennis Kelly Cummings, Jr.
9 Morley Lane

At the age of 23, Dennis Cummings recently graduated with a Masters of Education from Boston College. He earned his B. A. in History from Boston University in 2008. He seeks to join the RTM to help give back to the community that helped raise him as well as fulfill a strong sense of civic duty. He believes that fiscal responsibility, a strong sense of pragmatism, and better communication with the electorate can all lead to a stronger community and a stronger RTM. He encourages town members to contact him so that he can better understand their opinions and needs.

Martin David Magida*
2 Dogwood Lane

No response

Jeffrey L. Marston*
49 Goodwives River Road

I believe that people have a fundamental responsibility to support our representative democracy by voting, serving, thinking, and expressing their opinions about issues at all levels. The RTM is a classic government entity that bridges the general public and elected and appointed, specialized officials.

Darien needs to retain its largely residential character; retain its AAA bond rating; restrain spending; use its vast intellectual resources to govern intelligently; promote a gradual increase in affordable housing; NOT spend large amounts of money on low efficiency flood-control projects; and, maintain its high-quality school system.

DISCTRICT III
(18 Seats) vote for any 11

Carolyn Golden Bayne*
5 Windsor Road

Public service has been an important part of my life. I seek re-election to a third term on the RTM because I enjoy reaching out to Darien residents to discuss current town issues.

The RTM may be asked to vote on some important and controversial issues, such as a ground lease at 35 Leroy Avenue for affordable housing, flooding mitigation projects, sports lights, and a leash law. The most critical aspect surrounding the RTM, however, is that members be willing and able to take the time to educate themselves on the issues in order to make informed and considered decisions

Michael J. Burke
199 Hollow Tree Ridge Road

I will work to see that the challenges we face in Darien are considered openly and are resolved to ensure our continued prosperity. As a Metro North commuter with sons in Holmes School, I understand how Darien's continued success is critical to our families.

Issues like affordable housing and the flood plan require that the RTM investigate, debate and vote in the best interests of the community.

As a litigation attorney and trustee of my alma mater, I am well versed in studying issues, getting answers to difficult questions and reaching compromise. I will bring these skills to the RTM.

Eugene F. Coyle*
15 Echo Drive

Darien has been our home for 43 years and I would like to remain a part of the process that makes it so precious. Taxes, spending, flooding and affordable housing will be challenging issues. RTM 22 years. Currently serve on the Rules Committee, Town Government Structure & Administration Committee, Board of Ethics (Vice Chair), Channel 79 advisory board, also a Justice of the Peace. Time Magazine 1943-1993, Worldwide Director of Operations. Marine Corps WWII and Korean War- 5 years. United Nations – one year. Judge Advocate Marine Corps League.

Michael Anthony D'Urso*
85 Hoyt Street

Michael knows how special Darien is; residing here since 1993, his late grandmother Jennie LoPiano living here until the mid 90's, being born & raised in New Canaan prior to attending Southern New Hampshire University where he earned a B.S. in Marketing. He and his wife Erica share conservative values and have a 2 year old son. He has served on the Public Works Committee of the RTM for almost 1 year and wishing to continue should qualify him for your trust and vote. His promise is to always vote for what is best to keep Darien 'special'.

Maria B. Ferretti
23 Phillips Lane

I have lived in Darien for the past six years with my husband Scott. We chose Darien based on the proximity to NYC, and the superb school system. We have two children, Lindsay (6) and Andrew (4). I have volunteered for several private organizations in town, and would now like to fulfill my civic duty by joining the RTM. My background in economics and education, with a strong interest in education policy, gives me a solid foundation with which to serve the community of Darien. I believe maintaining a quality school system and town planning are important RTM issues.

John M. Lamendola
15 Patton Drive

Serving on the RTM will allow me contribute to the improvement of Darien. I have lived in Darien for over 10 years, and served on the RTM previously. I have managed Little League and Babe Ruth, and served as the Treasurer for Darien Babe Ruth. I have a son in college, daughter in DHS, and another son at Hindley's ELP.

Instead of complaining about our problems, I am doing something about it. The chief problems facing the RTM (not withstanding its viability and relevance) are budgetary issues in a poor economic environment, traffic around town, flooding, and affordable housing.

Susan S. LeHan*
125 Holmes Avenue

I am a 15 year resident, a two term RTM member and a mother of three young children. By serving on the RTM, I want to continue contributing to a legislative process that has enabled Darien to construct schools, revitalize the downtown, and analyze the adequacy of our health department and our affordable housing inventory. To secure the town's long term interests, elected officials must act judiciously with future capital projects to safeguard our low tax rate. Correspondingly, we must be willing to act deliberately, on issues such as affordable housing, when the case to do so is compelling.

David Byron Martens*
11 Bittersweet Lane

No response

Thomas W. Moore*
26 Georgian Lane

I have served on the RTM for 13 years and have missed only one regularly scheduled RTM meeting during this time. I realize that the democratic process can be frustrating at times, but being a part of it and effecting change is what makes serving on the RTM worthwhile. I believe that serving in town government and representing the needs and concerns of my district is a way for me to give back to the community.

Currently, there are several important issues facing the town. However, I feel that the most immediate and critical issues are town flooding, affordable housing and education.

Seth W. Morton
20 Denhurst Place

I am bringing extensive experience to the RTM, having served there 22 years, including 17 as Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee and 7 years as Vice Moderator. For the last 2 years on the Board of Selectmen, I served on the Financial Strategic Planning Committee in addition to the other duties of the Board.

Final decisions on most issues are made by the RTM, including the Annual Budget.

Issues pending are:

1. Meeting the legal obligations of the Town to provide Affordable Housing
2. Flood Mitigation in Noroton Heights and other areas of Darien.

William H. Smith, III***2 Tyler Drive**

I have been a member of the RTM since 2003, and have served on the Finance and Budget Committee since I was first elected. I would like to continue to serve on the RTM as I enjoy studying the various issues facing the Town and working with my RTM colleagues and Town officials to develop a sound strategy for Darien's future. Important issues the RTM must consider include prioritizing capital spending, working with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education to carefully analyze operating budgets, and maintaining the excellence of Darien's schools in the current economic environment.

Robert E. Young, Jr.***14 Hillside Avenue**

I want to be re-elected to the RTM because I believe in public service and keeping up with Town issues. In the fourteen years I have served on the RTM, I have been on most of the committees and chaired the PZH committee for two. I also served as Darien's SWRPA representative for two years and have had an architectural practice in Darien for twenty five years. Darien's response to ss 8-30g, 35 Leroy Avenue, football lighting, flooding and controlling the Town Budget are all important RTM issues that merit all of our undivided attention. I would appreciate your vote.

DISTRICT IV
(16 Seats) Vote for any 8

Harry M. Artinian*

9 Park Place

The RTM is a critical component of Darien town government and is increasingly being recognized as such. I want to continue my service and use my background to help the town effectively deal with the significant emerging challenges of affordable housing, flood mitigation, property taxes, transportation and downtown development. All these issues must be dealt with against a backdrop of an uncertain economy and a State legislature which only gives Darien 3 cents back for every dollar of taxes we send them – a number likely to get worse in the near future.

Angus James Cameron*

55 Dubois Street

I have served on the RTM for six years, always trying to represent the interests of my district and my town. RTM Committees: Board of Ethics, Planning Zoning & Housing, Public Health & Safety and TGS&A. Also Chairman of CT MN Rail Commuter Council, author of "Talking Transportation", co-founder / Program Director of Darien TV79. I believe in open, transparent, participative government that is responsive to the will of the people. Big issues to come: controlling growth, fixing our infrastructure and improving transportation alternatives while always maintaining our small-town feel and identity that makes Darien so special.

Maria L. Cleary*

7 Patricia Lane

Our RTM needs responsible and reasonable individuals to work together to make the sometimes hard decisions that a town is faced with. This requires focus, concern for the community, creative thinking and an open mind. I believe I have these traits and truly enjoy being of service to my community.

Most important issues:

1. Affordable housing - remove the threat of predatory 8-30g development, protecting our neighborhoods and property values.
2. Flooding – solutions need to be put in place before another catastrophic rain.
3. Fiscal responsibility – continue excellent fiscal management that keeps town services high and taxes low.

Frank B. Kemp*

20 Seagate Road

First, I would encourage everyone to serve on the RTM. It is both a privilege and an opportunity to contribute to our Town. I have been on the RTM since 2001, I enjoy the “duty” and hope to continue to serve. I have worked with the Public Works and the Town Government Structure and Administration Committees. I am a member of the Selectmen's Advisory Commission on Harbor Waters, active at Person-to-Person, the Darien Arts Center and the Darien Sail & Power Squadron.

Key issues for Darien are the development of downtown and affordable housing.

Andrew C. Millar***18 LaForge Road**

I have served as an RTM member since 1996 and have a demonstrated track record representing the interests of District IV.

I see 2 key issues for RTM to confront: flooding and property taxes. They are both hard to control. If returned to RTM for my 7th term, I will continue to represent your interests with courage and principle.

Carolyn D. Miller***12 Mayflower Road**

I value good government and understand the importance of listening to constituents and representing their views on issues that come before the legislative body. We must preserve the residential character of Darien and maintain our quality of life while controlling expenditures and keeping taxes reasonable in this economic climate.

I have 27 years of town government experience as Darien Tax Collector and Registrar of Voters. Currently I serve on the Representative Town Meeting Planning, Zoning and Housing Committee. I am a graduate of Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia and attended the International City Management Training Institute.

Susan E. Morrison***8 Juniper Road**

BA: English, Masters: Special Education. 27 year resident. Served on RTM for 10 years.

I feel very fortunate to live in Darien, and I think that serving on the RTM is a way to give back to the community.

We are faced with several important issues at present. Affordable housing must be addressed so we're not at the mercy of developers who seek to profit from a loophole in the zoning laws. Flooding is also a major concern. Maintaining the quality of our town services (i.e. the police station and education) in the current economic climate will be a challenge.

William D. Peters, III***32 Stanton Road**

As a lifelong resident of Darien I have served within a variety of community organizations. These experiences have allowed me to meet hundreds of residents who share my desire to preserve Darien as a unique community. As part of the RTM, I can make a difference in the future direction of Darien. I believe there are two issues that need to be addressed with priority; lighting athletic fields, and the creation of a Senior Center that mirrors the quality lifestyle they helped build and preserve in Darien.

Sandra A. Savage***22 Pleasant Street**

No response

DISTRICT V
(16 Seats) Vote for any 7

Christopher L. Camuti*
279 Hoyt Street

No response

Adele Conniff*
8 Wheat Lane

Serving on the RTM has kept me engaged in community issues.

I have listened to leash law discussions and how best to use the former library site, followed the Weed Beach Building Committee's progress, attended meetings focused on a flood retention pond in Baker Woods to protect Noroton Heights as well as heard a proposal for temporary lights for junior football.

I am able to make informed decisions.

Serving on the RTM has made me a better citizen of Darien. It has been a privilege and with your vote I hope to continue serving RTM District 5.

Eric J. Glasband
14 Edgerton Street

No response

Diana M. Nizolek*
8 Top' O'Hill Road

Our family has resided in Darien for almost fifty years. I am a member of the RTM, and currently serve on the Public Works Committee. My primary concern is that our Town, particularly the Noroton Heights area, is being overdeveloped. Our small stock of "affordable" houses is being razed and replaced by huge homes; the scale and density of the proposed Allen O'Neill project should be reconsidered. I am also concerned that the State is now interfering with decisions (such as affordable housing and flood mitigation) that should rightfully be the responsibility of our local Boards and Commissions.

Bruce G. Orr, Sr.*
4 Nolen Lane

The primary reason I am running again for the RTM remains the same as my previous two terms; to give back to the community that has given so much to me and have a direct and positive impact on the future of the Town. The important issues of the next term are:

- Identifying & modifying critical elements of the Town Charter
- Preparing & taking action on a fiscally prudent 2010/11 budget
- Cooperatively working with the BOS, BOF & P&Z on sensible affordable housing issues

James M. Patrick***22 Edgerton Street**

Serving on the RTM is an important way to give back to the Town of Darien. Flooding is a critical issue for District V's Noroton Heights shopping area as well other residential neighborhoods in town. Traffic is an ongoing concern including congestion and speeding which affect the safety of all residents. Taxes will continue to be an important RTM issue. As the current Chairman of District V, I sincerely hope to continue to serve our District and the Town of Darien.

Debra McGarry Ritchie**16 Stony Brook Road South**

No response

Allison L. Stolar**23 Fairfield Avenue**

I received my Masters of Education from the University of Connecticut and my Bachelors of Political Science from the University of Hartford. I have fifteen years of management experience with planning, budgeting, and overseeing projects from start to finish.

There are many issues that need to be addressed which include affordable housing, flooding, and infrastructure improvements. I will work with our elected officials by using all resources wisely, prioritizing issues, and putting the interests of my district first. It will be an honor to contribute to the decisions that will shape both the present and future of Darien.

Virgil E. Wenger***450 Middlesex Road**

To provide an objective and fiscally responsible view re: Town issues.

Important issues: Disposition of 35 Leroy: The Town should not subsidize low income housing. The property should be sold to the highest bidder, and the money returned to the Town. If Selectmen are determined to support the state proposed socialist agenda, it should acknowledge and legalize homes that have already been converted to multiple family use. If this count is insufficient to meet quota objectives, the Town should approve the construction of small cottages on two acre properties, to be made available for rent.

DISTRICT VI
(16 Seats) Vote for any 7

Elsie D. Berl*
23 Raymond Street

No response

W. Preston Bealle
54 Brookside Road

No response

Norman G. Guimond
19 Old Stone Road

I want to serve on the RTM to represent District 6 and further my volunteer participation in Darien. I'm a member of the Commission on Aging, Vice Chairman of Community Homes at Leroy Advisory Committee (CHALAC), and Disaster Chairman for the local American Red Cross having served on the Board of Directors.

Important issues include spending tax dollars prudently, supporting our seniors so they can continue to enjoy living in our wonderful town, and flooding resolution.

Holly Wade Kelly
29 Stony Brook Road

I would like to serve on the RTM because I am interested in the future of Darien. My service on the 2006-08 Charter Revision Commission gave me an in-depth education on our town government. I would like to use that knowledge to continue to contribute to all issues currently facing Darien, such as AH, Flooding, development and responsible spending. In addition to my service on the CRC, I have served two terms on the Darien Youth Commission, as a leader in a variety of community organizations and am currently working towards my Masters in Social Work.

Emily Quinn McDermott*
73 Locust Hill Road

I've served on the RTM for 2 years and would love to continue doing so because I enjoy being, and have the time to be, an active part of the engine that keeps our town running.

Some important issues facing us this past year remain on our plate: Finalizing a plan for the old library, creating some additional affordable housing units that won't upset their neighborhoods, and maintaining the quality of life we enjoy in Darien on a budget that is tighter than last year's.

As a parent, I also have a special interest in continuing to improve our schools.

Christa S. McNamara***181 Leroy Avenue**

My term on the Darien RTM has been one of the most fulfilling and worthwhile activities in which I've been involved since moving to Darien seven years ago. As a member of our community's legislative branch, I value the ability to do my part to help Darien continue to be an environment in which families wish to live and raise their children – part of a government that reflects its residents' needs, while doing so in a fiscally responsible manner. I hope to be reelected so that I may continue to represent my constituents as their voice in Town Hall.

S. Lloyd Plehaty***187 Old Kings Highway North**

Darien has an unusual form of government. I originally joined the RTM so I could find out how it works. (I haven't figured it out yet, but I'm still trying.)

The Charter badly needs revision. The RTM could do this readily using the recent CRC's output as a baseline. Unfortunately, there's a lot of disagreement and confusion.

A Darien resident for 46 years, I've served on the RTM for 12 years, and on two advisory committees. I am a retired electronics engineer, with B.A. and M.E.E. degrees. I served in the Navy in WWII.

Gary C. Swenson***4 Stony Brook Road**

RTM: 1989-to date; Rules Committee; formerly Vice-Chairman of Education Committee, TGS&A; presently Park and Recreation committee.

From the onset, my participation as a member of the RTM is, undoubtedly, my attempt to "give back" to a community in which I am proud to reside; a civic responsibility which I am honored to fulfill.

Like most towns, issues are constantly evolving. Affordable housing, flood mitigation, the ongoing need to monitor our fiscal position in these difficult economic times, are a few that are noteworthy.

John T. Whitehead***3 Pond Lane**

Darien resident over 57 years.

Member of RTM 18 years. Presently Chairman of Town, Government, Structure and Administration 5 years. Formerly Chairman of District 2 years. Formerly Chairman of Ethics Committee. Formerly Member of Education Committee. Formerly Member of Health and Public Safety Committee. Formerly Member of Tokeneke School Building Committee.

Answer Question 1- To try to help solve problems of the Town.

Answer Question 2- Keep cost down while providing services we all expect from the Town.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3
Polls are open 6 a.m. to 8p.m.

VOTING DISTRICT POLL LOCATIONS

District I

Ox Ridge School
395 Mansfield Avenue

District II

Town Hall
2 Renshaw Road

District III

Holmes School
18 Hoyt Street

District IV

Hindley School
10 Nearwater Lane

District V

Darien High School
High School Lane

District VI

Tokeneke School
7 Old Farm Road

VOTING TIPS

**REMEMBER ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd
POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 6AM TO 8PM**

Handicap voting machines are available this year at every poll location.

The moderator can explain the **write-in candidate procedure**.

If you are not sure of your **voting location**, you can check online at darienct.gov (Click on Town Officials, Boards & Commissions then go to 2009 Elected Officials for Registrar of Voters) or call the Registrar of Voters at 656-7316.

Remember to bring **proper identification** to the polls. Acceptable identification includes a driver's license, social security card or any other pre-printed form which shows name and local address, signature or photograph. A registered voter may also sign Form ED-681, "Signatures of Electors who did not present ID," under penalty of false statement if inaccurate.

If your name does not appear on the list of registered voters, speak with the Assistant Registrar or moderator at your polling location and they will pursue the matter immediately.

You must register to vote prior to Election Day otherwise you cannot to vote in this November's election.