

Candidates for Darien Representative Town Meeting

The RTM is the legislative body of the town. Its fundamental responsibilities are: to pass ordinances, to appropriate funds through approving taxes including the annual town budget and to approve note and bond issuances and to act on all collective bargaining contracts involving town employees and certified employees of the Board of Education. Attendance records for incumbents have been provided by the Town Clerk's office for your information.

Term of office: 2 years

Which Darien capital project will be your top priority and why? Include your qualifications.

DISTRICT I (Vote for any 10)

William Shedd Glassmeyer
8 Woods End Road

I am thrilled to have the potential opportunity to give back to the town that provided me both a wonderful childhood and great place for my wife and me to raise our three kids. The current capital project I would most strongly support is the Weed Beach renovation: transforming the enormous parking lot into a place that we can more thoroughly enjoy, a green space that complements the beach and shore of the Long Island Sound. Of future projects, I would aspire to alleviate traffic and develop downtown by reviving an old plan of connecting Old King's Highway North and South underneath the railroad.

Barbara J. Harrington *
6 Blueberry Lane
No response

Cassandra L. Hegarty
32 Barringer Road

I am running for the RTM to play an active role in matters affecting our town, specifically public safety and land use – two major concerns at the core of discontent among many citizens. I would like to serve as a voice that can communicate decisions being made by our government and advocate for people's issues. I have been a resident of Darien for three years and I hold an extensive background in public relations and public affairs including work with prominent political figures. I previously served as Vice President at GolinHarris, a global public relations consultancy.

Anthony Vincent Imbimbo *
157 Mansfield Avenue

When prioritizing capital projects, we on the RTM need to ask: Which ones are necessary? Which provide the greatest benefit to the community? Are there better ways to provide the same benefits? These questions should be adequately answered before we approve any spending. Other priorities include maintaining the quality of Darien's schools, preserving Darien's charm, and ensuring the financial health of the town. As an RTM member for two years, I have tried to balance all of these priorities while representing the concerns of District 1 members at RTM meetings and to members of the town's Boards and Commissions.

David H. Kahn *
20 Barringer Road

Public safety must be the top priority when evaluating capital projects. The Board of Selectmen is currently advocating several "nice to have" projects while neglecting an important "need to have" project. A sidewalk along Hoyt Street is essential for the many pedestrians who access the Talmadge Hill train station. The absence of a sidewalk and the narrow shoulder forces pedestrians to walk in dangerous proximity to the heavy traffic. The Board of Selectmen, led by David Campbell, continues to display gross negligence by refusing to take immediate responsibility for this important project.

John Price *
72 Maywood Road

The Police Station is my priority because the current facility is in no way adequate for its needs. I do qualify my answer with two comments. The first is that it needs to be done without endangering our Town's bond rating. The second is that the tax increase for the next couple of years must be kept to a reasonable level. In part this depends upon any new labor contracts having terms that reflect the current economic environment. All areas of our town government need to look for productivity increases.

Holly L. Schulz-Amatruda
543 Hoyt Street

I've been living on Hoyt Street, commuting to New York City from my neighborhood train station (Talmadge Hill) for eleven years. I'm a mother with children at Ox Ridge School, and I'm a Registered Architect with LEED^{AP} Certification. I'm running for the RTM to help increase awareness of pedestrian safety issues in our town. The installation of sidewalks on the north-end is my top priority, specifically near public transit and schools.

Timothy D. Schwarz *
52 Allwood Road
No response

John Ralph Sini, Jr. *
36 Birch Road

I do not believe that there is a single top priority capital project in Darien, but several. The clear and present need for numerous expensive facilities improvements is a result of extremely conservative fiscal policies applied in the past. These strategies have ultimately proven to be at the detriment to the taxpayer – witness the sizable expenditures currently necessary to fund improvements at Weed Beach, the Police Station and the Senior Center. As a second-term RTM member, I will support a vision for public and private projects that benefit our community while maintaining a focus on Darien’s long-term fiscal health.

DISTRICT II (Vote for any 13)

Elisabeth C. Bacon *
59 Delafield Island Road

Can we in Darien live without enhanced walking trails and a refurbished bathhouse at Weed Beach? Probably. Is the actual usage of the Senior Center sufficient enough to fully justify the cost associated with the shuffle of town facilities? Probably not. But would we all benefit from a modern and efficient police facility, one that allows for improved technology, responsiveness and the recruitment of top talent? I believe so. When push comes to shove, 24/7, we depend fundamentally on our local government to provide a public safety operation that is ready, willing and exceedingly able.

Michael Anton Harman *
3 Andrews Drive
No response

Kirk P. Hoffman *
35 Dickinson Road

I am undecided as to which project constitutes the “best” project for Darien. I am waiting to learn more details on all the projects, particularly as some proposals (i.e. the renovation/location of the Senior Center) continue to change. I believe each capital project should be approached cautiously, and the cost reviewed in the context of the overall Darien budget, particularly in light of the uncertain economic environment. Capital projects should be prioritized with preference given to cost-effective projects that are necessary for public safety and/or are able to be used by a broad base of Darien residents.

James Henry Howe *
52 Old Farm Road
No response

Susannah M. Maguire *
35 Fitch Avenue
No response

Spencer J. McIlmurray *
27 Pheasant Run
No response

Cecilia Mundt *
149 Old Kings Highway, South
No response

Christian Noe *
242 Old Kings Highway, South

Connecticut has nearly 10% unemployment and rising. Municipal bond rates are going up. Municipal Bankruptcy has driven municipal bond insurance from .4 to 2 percent. Two years ago Darien had 117 million dollars of debt at 5.2M percent. It was rewritten at 2.3%. Those rates are climbing and although Darien is still AAA "investment grade" bond Connecticut is not. Connecticut taxes will likely rise making CT very undesirable for Employers and Smart Money. The State of Connecticut is in a very bad position. I will do my best to derail all capital projects at this time. Vote Yes for Noe

Sarah C. Seelye *
1 Siwanoy Road

The Darien Senior Center has been tossed back and forth from the back burner to the front for too long. Over the years there have been various ideas on how to handle this issue and the building is now falling apart. Our seniors and our town deserve the time and attention to this matter and have it completed. There are good ideas that have been presented and I intend on learning about each one. When the time comes to vote I will be informed and make a decision that will have the best interest of the seniors in mind. Thank you.

Barbara L. Thorne *
37 Dickinson Road

There is merit in each capital project currently before the town. A senior center study and building concepts have been awaiting decisive action since early 2000s. A police station that meets the needs of a 20th century professional force is shovel ready. Plans are also ready to enhance Weed Beach. Of these, the most immediate need is for a senior center to accommodate present and future programs. RTM members can only act upon what comes to them. I will vote to support capital projects that are fiscally responsible and meet the needs of our citizens.

Marc E. Thorne *
37 Dickinson Road

My top priority capital project is a safe, comfortable, and suitable home for the Senior Center that meets their current and future program needs. Also high priority is the addition/renovation of the police station. The Weed Beach improvements are worth doing, but are not as urgent. Capital spending to renovate 35 LeRoy for the Board of Ed is a mistaken priority – the best use there is to help address our town's well-known needs for affordable housing. Board of Education offices should be in rented space and their meetings should be held in Town Hall or in a school.

District III (Vote for any 7)

Charles Edward Brode *
29 Hillcrest Avenue
No response

Robert Cardone *
17 Park Lane

In my estimation, the top capital project in Darien is the need to fix the flooding problems that affect our community. We need to make sure that our friends and neighbors do not have worry every time it rains heavily. The task of finding a solution to this issue should be our top priority as a town. Until this flooding problem is properly resolved, all other capital projects, including affordable housing, should be secondary in priority for Darien.

Terrence J. Duffy, Jr. *
One Lantern Lane
No response

Dana H. Fead *
21 Hillside Avenue

The Police Station is the top capital project that the town of Darien is facing now. It is extremely outdated and barely meets minimum requirements to function. The need for renovation is both immediate and extreme.

Dennis J. Maroney *
10 Miller Road
No response

Stephen P. Olvany *
49 Echo Drive North
No response

H. William Smith, III *
2 Tyler Drive
No response

DISTRICT IV (Vote for any 8)

Joan V. Davis *
29 Dubois Street

A longtime Darien resident and a Smith College graduate, I have been on the RTM for 24 years, 22 on the Education Committee. While all the capital projects are important, I feel that a new senior center and renovation of the police station have top priority. Both facilities need updating and renovating the present Senior Center is probably not feasible. The importance of a first class Police Station cannot be underestimated. I would have liked to use 35 Leroy Ave. for affordable housing, but at present it seems this option is off the table.

Nora R. McIlree *
4 Bishops Gate Road

There are “nice to have” capital projects but I think work on the Darien Police Station is a current necessity. Providing renovations to support our police force is essential. Safety and a well-functioning police facility are important to every resident. I believe only “must have” capital projects should be considered. In this slow economic recovery, Darien’s priority should be to keep taxes low and only contemplate capital spending when necessary. I think town government should be guided by fiscal restraint so that Darien continues to have strong finances. I’d like to keep property taxes low and town debt manageable.

Brian J. Rayhill *
6 Pleasant Street
No response

Anita Rycenga *
38 Walmsley Road

It 's difficult to choose one of the capital projects as a priority as they all merit consideration .The Police HQ is my top priority after having seen Chief Lovello's presentation. Record retention requirements and computers demand more storage

space, an increase in the number of female officers require separate areas, firing range should be a covered area due to close proximity to library, etc. I would however like to see the project value engineered and a projected operating budget so we can consider the impact on the Town's budget. Next I'd love to see the seniors get a new center.

Carolyn P. Schoonmaker *
231 Old Kings Highway South

A new senior center is long overdue. I favor moving it to Town Hall because it is conveniently located, has ample parking with an elevator, has space for its activities, and is near to Social services, the Health Department and other town services. The Board of Education will fit nicely into 35 Leroy Avenue and the other rooms can be used for a variety of groups and activities. A few years ago Public Health & Safety Committee toured the police HQ. As chairman of PH&S, I have spoken a few times for funding this capital project which is truly necessary, even if scaled down.

Samuel V. Schoonmaker III *
231 Old Kings Highway South

Attorney in lower Fairfield County for the past 49 years. BA and JD Yale University. Resident of Darien since 1967. Finding a location for the Board of Education and the Senior Center are the highest capital priorities, closely followed by a substantial renovation of the Darien Police Headquarters, The Police Headquarters is overcrowded and lacks modern facilities, as does the Senior Center. The Board of Education would be comfortably accommodated at the Old Library site.

DISTRICT V (Vote for any 9)

Mark R. Adiletta *
69 Holly Lane
No response

Mark S. Dailey *
59 Holly Lane
No response

Jack H. Davis *
45 Greenwood Avenue

Capital projects are unlike other town budgets – there is line item veto so BOE projects should be added. I have three top capital projects – Senior Center, Police Station and MMS gym floor replacement. The reasons are simple – long overdue and increase costs to maintain. As RTM F&B Vice Chairman, I would like the town to explore expediting several large BOE capital projects – bond them – and reap the benefits of low interest

rates, low construction costs and return on investment. These include energy management systems for schools and \$100M+ projects listed last year as Priority 2 and 3.

Robert C. George, MD *

11 Stephanie Lane

There are two capital projects which deserve priority. The police station is a priority. The present building was for another time, and the current staff, so important to our wellbeing, is laboring in an outmoded facility. The 2nd priority is the Senior Center. Though progress here has been slowed by the political process, we owe our seniors better. The present building is a tear down and there are other productive uses for that property. If I were forced to choose, which I would rather not, I would choose the police station.

Joanne K. Hennessy *

72 Holly Lane

I currently serve as Vice Chair of the RTM Planning, Zoning, and Housing subcommittee and would like to continue to serve. I believe that growth in Darien should be controlled, that increasing density should be carefully monitored to avoid overcrowding our schools and overburdening our infrastructure. The RTM serves a check and balance function in our town and it is important for citizens to be involved.

Cheryl Russell *

18 Holly Lane

Darien native, Graduate of Darien High School, New York School of Interior Design, Two grown children educated in Darien Schools. Holmes PTA. 10 years. RTM member since 1988, RTM Health and Social Services, RTM Rules Committee, RTM Park and Recreation Committee 1990-2010 14 years. Chairman. Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters 92-09 All capital projects are important for our town; however, we must look at each project coming forward with an open mind and be very cautious in the way in which we spend taxpayer's money.

Karin L. Sharp *

50 Holly Lane

No response

John W. Van Der Kieft III *

75 Hanson Road

Renovation of the Headquarters building for the Darien Police Department unquestionably heads my list for capital projects in town. The safety and security of our community and citizens are of paramount importance. I have inspected the present building and have found it to be severely outmoded, lacking in providing for the

coordination of departmental responsibilities, and structurally in need of some major repair. It is the victim of old age and poorly planned renovations. Chairman - Planning, Zoning & Housing Committee.

DISTRICT VI (Vote for any 11)

Frank H. Adelman *
3 Harriett Lane East
No response

Karen A. Armour *
35 Fairview Avenue

RTM member 26 years; Moderator 8-1/2 years; formerly chaired Education and Parks and Recreation Committees, cochaired Finance & Budget Committee; former member and vice chair of Public Safety. Resident 42 years. As moderator, I normally don't vote on RTM matters. Nevertheless, I cannot help but recognize the issues at hand. Our continuing challenge is to try to maximize the long-term benefits of our tax dollars. Currently, we have planned construction projects that should be completed while the economy is offering us lower costs than originally forecast: police headquarters; moving of board of education and adult activities; and Weed beach improvements.

Barry R. Baldwin *
10 Rock Spring Lane
No response

Diane G. Conologue *
216 Leroy Avenue

The Police Station and Weed Beach should be Darien's top priorities because the RTM voted to fund them in 2008. These projects were then put on hold by the 1st Selectman due to the recession. The Senior Center should come next. As a thirty-six year resident, I have served in many volunteer posts. These include the Planning, Zoning and Housing Committee of the Representative Town Meeting, twenty-two years, eleven as Vice-Chair, Republican Town Committee, eight years, and PTO Boards, thirteen years. I am currently the Chairman of RTM District VI.

Janet F. Grogan *
16 Ward Lane

I have been a member of the Representative Town Meeting since 1988, serving in a variety of leadership positions on the RTM, and in school parent organizations and civic groups as well. I support completing all the pending capital projects already approved, and then suspended due to financial uncertainty. As funds become available, I believe the most urgent use is renovating the police station because necessary work on this vital structure has been deferred for far too long.

Mary Guimond *
19 Old Stone Road

If re-elected to my third term, the capital project that will be my top priority is the moves of the Senior Center to Town Hall and Board of Education to 35 Leroy because these moves are the priority of my constituents. Nearly four years ago, at a meeting of members of the neighborhoods surrounding 35 Leroy and the Board of Selectmen, the number one preference of all neighbors present was (and remains) municipal use. My constituents are delighted with the prospect of having the Board of Education as a neighbor and an updated, wonderful Senior Center at Town Hall.

Edgar M. Hawkins III *
65 Mansfield Avenue

My top priority has to be two: 1.) new space for the Senior Center/Community Center in Town Hall and 2.) renovation of the Police Station. In my opinion they are of equal importance. The current facilities are woefully inadequate, literally falling apart as we wait for the town to act. It is time to move forward on both now – lower costs on construction and funding. Additionally, any further investment in Weed Beach facilities beyond refurbishing the bath house is a luxury in this economy that the town cannot afford.

John G. McLean, Jr. *
9 Great Hill Road
No response

Lloyd Plehaty *
187 Old Kings Highway North

The expanded POLICE STATION is unquestionably the top priority. The police deserve better facilities. More importantly, they will soon be unable to do a proper job in the present building. For example, evidence for criminal cases must be stored securely for a long time, or it becomes legally inadmissible. They are running out of room for secure storage. A Darien resident for 47 years, I've served on the RTM for 12 years and on two advisory committees. I'm a retired electronics engineer with a B.A. and M.E.E. degrees. I served in the Navy in WWII.

Richard Poli *
1 Little Brook Road North
No response