

## CANDIDATES FOR RTM DISTRICT FOUR • VOTE FOR ANY FOUR

**LWV Question: What are Westport's critical needs and how do they relate to your district?**



**VALERIE S. FISCHEL**

Answer: Among Westport's most critical needs are our continuing efforts to strenuously maintain the town's current quality of life through vigorous environmental protection, constant improvement of schools, the library, beaches, parks and all of Westport's cultural forums and events. But, above all, in order to maintain our individuality as an open and welcoming community, we must strive to attract people of all ages and backgrounds by continuing to offer affordable housing and relatively low taxes. Insofar as my own district #4 is concerned, it is still my belief that all the needs of all Westport districts are inextricably intertwined and therefore each district is equally impacted by our attention to all of the above recommendations.



**GENE PAUL SEIDMAN**

Answer: A strong educational focus is very good for all our citizens, while simultaneously ensuring high real estate values. I have concern for people on fixed incomes, who are having difficulty paying the increased property taxes. I am committed to ensuring that the Tax Rebate Referral Program remains available for all who need it.

The real estate revaluation in town was a disaster. I will work to ensure that the new valuations are done fairly across the board. I will work toward making Westport an even better community. I will never say what's wrong with something, unless I have an idea about how to solve that same problem, not only for the people in District 4, but for all the citizens of Westport. I am a pragmatic optimist.

Background: Grew up in Westport - Member, Westport T.A.M.E. Committee - Member, Westport Youth Commission - Advisor, Builders Beyond Borders - Coach, soccer, basketball, baseball - Managing Partner NY, BrightHouse (candidate exceeded 150 word limit)

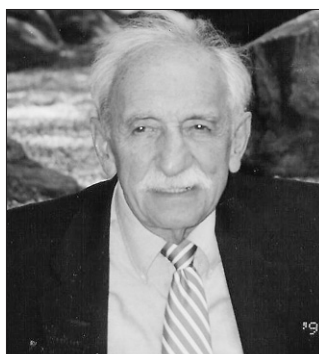
## CANDIDATES FOR RTM DISTRICT FIVE • VOTE FOR ANY FOUR



**RICHARD A. LOWENSTEIN**

Answer: Two years ago, school-building spending would have been critical. Today, supporting an aging population with its evolving needs looms as an important requirement. Public safety is high on the list, too, as recent natural disasters have shown that preparedness is key to survival. District 5, bordering on the Sound with two major creeks running through, must be ready. That's why I helped organize the recent townwide emergency preparedness meeting. As your four-term representative and chair of the RTM's Public Protection Committee, I'll always work for first-class, always-ready fire and police departments. Although I watch tax dollars, I am not afraid to spend money where needed. In what was reported to be an RTM first, I took the initiative in getting the administration to increase the

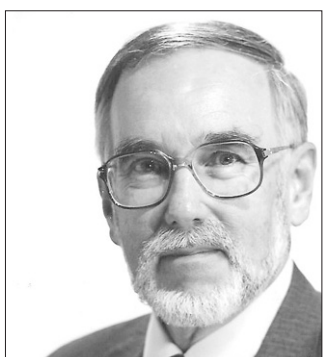
Human Services Dept. budget \$30,000 for essential services for residents in need. And Green's Farms has its share of those residents.



**RALPH HYMANS**

Answer: The critical issues: school resources and facilities, traffic safety particularly by schools and family neighborhoods, maintaining Westport's "village quality of life", taxes that meet the community's needs after assurance of budget cost-effectiveness, "open governance" responsive to the public, maintaining a diversified affordable community for our seniors and public employees.

Background: Former RTM Member 10 years. Education Harvard College and Harvard Business School Former President of Westport AARP, CPA, Formerly CFO of International Company, Adjunct Accounting Professor, Partner of Financial and Tax Planning Services Company, 26 year resident.



**JOHN W. BOOTH**

Answer: One of Westport's most critical issues is an equitable way to balance the needs of the town and the ability of taxpayers to pay for them. Taxes will continue to rise, as result of a growing school population and the cost of other town services. We are in danger of taxing citizens on fixed incomes beyond their ability to pay, forcing many of them to leave town. Tax Deferral and

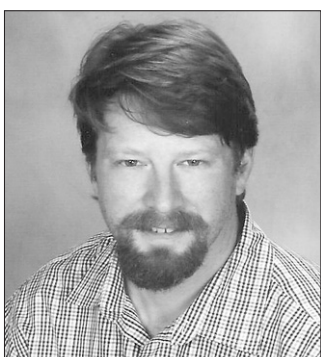
Abatement helps relieve some of the burden, but state law limits such programs to those aged 65 or older. When benefits are improved, the cost must be borne by other taxpayers, including young lower income citizens. Hence the need for balance. In the final analysis, the RTM must make the hard fiscal decisions. As chairman of the RTM Finance Committee, and a member of the Tax Deferral and Abatement Committee, I've had the opportunity to address those issues.



**HELMUTH W. KRAUSE**

Answer: I don't see a need for an additional cell tower on the Stauffer property, two is enough for our district. De-silting (dredging) Muddy Brook is certainly a perceived need by those who are affected by flooding, while others enjoy the babbling brook and consider it very photogenic for fashion photo backdrops. The drinking prohibition ordinance, if passed, can do more harm than good, if children's motto is "drink we must". Social ills cannot be legislated away; the police are not the babysitter of our youngsters. My most urgent wish for our town and nation would be to have parents rise up and re-claim their authority over their own children, and not make it a government (public), responsibility.

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**CHRIS GRIMM**

Answer: Westport residents benefit from high-quality services provided by Town government - especially our public schools, which are among the finest in the nation. These services must be maintained to both insure our quality of life and improve our property values. But Westport's leaders must take a more disciplined approach to spending, as budget increases (and the associat-

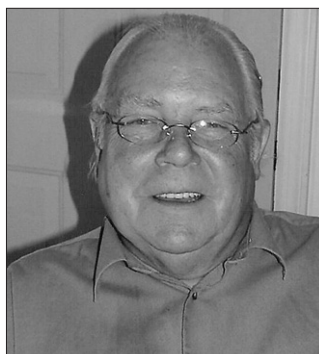
ed tax increases) have a disproportionate impact on long-term residents of Westport, especially Seniors. Our leaders must focus on appropriately managing Westport's growth, as unchecked development taxes our infrastructure and erodes our open space. "Spot" zoning should be discouraged, as it introduces instability to residential neighborhoods, while failing to address our affordable housing shortage. District 5 residents know that I firmly stand with them on this issue. An updated Conservation & Development Plan should preserve open space, while encouraging a centrally located community center - either the YMCA or an appropriate alternative.

## CANDIDATES FOR RTM DISTRICT SIX • VOTE FOR ANY FOUR



**ANN M. FLYNN**

Some of the critical issues that relate to the town of Westport and my district are: The tax revaluation, Affordable housing for low-income families and Seniors, Maintaining an excellent school system, A sensible underage drinking ordinance to protect our youth, Traffic jams that are happening in Connecticut - both state and local. We want to make Westport an affordable community and encourage diversity. Our 'affordable' housing percentage is below the State requirement. Our Seniors have become a part of the 'back-bone' of volunteers for Westport. Their efforts should be recognized through generous tax abatements. Many families move to this town for our school system. These issues must be addressed in our coming RTM meetings and a realistic answer given to them.



**RONALD F. MALONE**

Answer: Effective and responsive government continues to be the critical task for all Westporters and their elected representatives. District Six needs are universal to what is needed for our community's governance. Excellent health, welfare and safety services are expected. Superior education resources are the norm and should continue. Successful insight as to the possible and desirable legislative action for local government without disastrous impact on taxpayers is the challenge for the 21st Century. Present diversity of age and economic status should not be lost because of failure to understand the priorities and need for tax rate stability. Memory of our institution's successes and failures is necessary to have a vision of future possibilities.

Background: Successful as a small businessman, police chief and active volunteer, my lifelong commitment is to hear all voices, prioritize needs, and to leave things better than when found.

**VOTE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2005 POLLS OPEN 6 A.M. - 8 P.M. Have Identification Ready**