

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF FINANCE

VOTE FOR ANY THREE (FOUR-YEAR TERM)

LWV Question: *In this difficult financial climate, how would you maintain the quality of Town services?*



BOB ZAPPI

Republican

Maintaining quality Town services AND keeping taxes low is the real challenge. It requires financial discipline, bi-partisan leadership and cooperation within the Town. I would rather consolidate duplicate town and school departments than reduce the quality of our excellent school system and Town services. Combining redundant budget items eliminates waste and makes our Town's operations more cost efficient. Beginning December, I will identify specific areas for consolidation including Health Insurance, Payroll Processing, Financial Operations, Information Technology, Maintenance, and Legal Services.

Demand more from your elected officials. Insist on cooperation not controversy. Don't settle for political speak like "Protecting our Town". Ask candidates for specific ideas, how they will accomplish them and when. Bob Zappi will diligently work for you on the Board of Finance.

Bio: Successful Entrepreneur; CEO of Catalyst and NYU Adjunct Professor. Former Managing Director of MCA. Wife Cathy and sons Chris & Mark are 21 Year residents.

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AVI KANER

Republican

We have chosen to live in Westport because of its best schools, parks, beaches, library, public safety, and sense of community. The severe recession and market contraction, however, have had a profound effect on our financial well-being and the values of our homes, threatening our ability to continue to deliver excellence across the board. I have worked diligently on the BOF to ensure a 0% tax increase for the upcoming year, while at the same time sought opportunities for financial improvement. "Benchmarking" our services to neighboring towns is crucial in identifying efficiencies and best practices to maintain the quality of our services. I have also advocated for redesigned municipal pension plans to

eliminate the market risk from Westport tax payers, and prevent cuts in services.

Bio: Four year elected member of the Board of Finance. Owner of Morton Williams Supermarkets. Former Principal at Booz Allen. Columbia BS, MBA. Wife Liz, and children Julia, Jack, and Jonathan.

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BRIAN E. STERN

Democrat

Westport is not immune to the current financial crisis. To maintain our exceptional standards of education and municipal services, every component of service delivery must become more efficient. We have no choice but to be wise, cautious, frugal, and creative. We must simplify processes, cut overhead, make better use of prior investments (especially information technology), stop organizational duplication, and improve our procurement practices. Westport can afford excellent services but we cannot afford waste. One thing is for certain: our great teachers, safety officers, and other dedicated municipal employees, should be involved and empowered to implement sound

solutions. Our difficult decisions have to be fact based, and most important, devoid of unproductive partisanship, and bickering. I look forward to serving our incredible town.

Bio: Westport resident 32 years; alternate on P and Z; soccer coach; 35 years at Xerox (progressed to become President of four divisions); Boards of four public multinational companies; Harvard MBA.

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HELEN A. GARTEN

Democrat

My priorities for preserving and enhancing our excellent services: (1) Control mushrooming pension costs that are diverting an increasing percentage of precious tax dollars from other uses. We can fund our obligations in ways that guarantee financial security to our employees without increasing the burden on taxpayers. (2) Minimize the impact of unexpected revenue fluctuations on our budgets. We can develop a financial forecasting model that helps us understand the implications of today's budget decisions and identifies future funding gaps. (3) Make government more efficient by sharing services among departments. If we target areas where combining functions will improve

service delivery and free our education and municipal employees to focus on their core responsibilities, we can build consensus for change and cost savings will follow.

Bio: Vice Chair, Board of Finance. Chair, Audit Subcommittee. A.B., Princeton. J.D., Harvard Law School. Professor of Law, specializing in business, finance, securities. 25 year Westport resident.

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CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION

VOTE FOR ANY FOUR (FOUR-YEAR TERM)

LWV Question: *How can the Board of Education continue to develop educational goals, and at the same time, control costs?*



MICHAEL J. MCGOVERN

Republican

When I served as Co-chairman of Westport's first Community Conversation About Education last March, the message from the participants was clear: we must ensure that our students graduate with the 21st Century skills needed to have successful careers and fulfilling personal lives. This requires continuous improvement in our curriculum and teaching methods, which cannot be achieved without setting clear and measurable goals. Westporters understand that education spending is really an investment- in our homes, in our children, in our future. But they expect their tax dollars to be invested wisely. They expect town and school leadership to work together to maximize efficiency. This is my highest priority- to make

sure we spend what we need to keep our schools great- but not one dollar more.

Bio: Thirteen year resident; Board of Education Member 2005-2007; Trustee, Regis High School; Three children in Westport Schools, one 2009 Staples graduate; Twenty-three years in investment banking, J.P. Morgan and HSBC.

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JIM MARPE

Republican

I have championed continuous improvement of our schools through a restructuring approach that is intended to reduce costs without diminishing the quality of our great education. First, update educational goals to reflect the evolving requirements of the 21st century, then balance those goals with an openly constructed budget that Westport taxpayers can afford. Throughout my career, I helped clients build organization-wide consensus on "must have" capabilities versus "nice to have". That same discipline must be applied to the trade-off of curriculum and costs. New programs must align with BOE goals. Sunset or restructure programs that do not meet long-term

student needs. Delivering 21st Century education through goal based prioritization and cost effective restructuring will keep our schools great and affordable.

Bio: Board of Education Vice Chairman; Westport Y Trustee, Westport Rotary, Stamford Symphony Chairman; Accenture Retired partner; MBA (Wharton); 20-year resident; married (Mary Ellen), daughter (Samantha) Staples 2002.

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ELAINE EVA WHITNEY

Democrat

The strength of our curriculum, staff, and educational programs is of paramount importance. The BOE must proactively and continuously evaluate our programs and performance.

Many programmatic changes with educational merit are cost-neutral, some actually reduce costs, and others require investment. But the driver of our decisions should be ensuring that we do our best, within the resource constraints we have, to meet the educational needs of all children at all instructional levels and of all ability levels.

In any economic environment, the BOE has a fiduciary duty to use Westport's resources prudently and effectively. I will continue to work hard to reduce costs where feasible while ensuring program integrity, both on the board and as a BOE representative on the government efficiency committee.

Bio: Currently serves on the BOE. Former management consultant and LLS PTA co-president, with three children in our elementary, middle and high schools; BA from Yale; and MBA from Northwestern (Kellogg).

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DONALD G. O'DAY

Democrat

The Board of Education not only can, but MUST control costs while working to reach the goal of constantly improving our schools for all students.

The BOE, working with the school administration, town government, teachers and parents (particularly the PTA) must do two important things relative to fiscal management: 1) understand what the town is willing and able to spend, and 2) work within that budget to reach our goals and objectives.

To that end, we must eliminate programs that have diminished relevance before adding new programs. Further, while administrative spending is important, classroom and technology spending is more important and that must be our focus.

Difficult spending choices are made at home and in our businesses. Our schools are not exempt from that reality.

Bio: Financial professional for over 30 years as a CFO and business manager. Westport resident for 15 years with 3 children that all greatly benefited from the Westport's schools.

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