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STATE REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES - 125TH DISTRICT VOTING DISTRICT 1 & 2

TOM O'DEA

(R) UNCONTESTED

Submission not received by print deadline. Please see LWVNewCanaan.Org for responses.

NEW TO TOWN?

- With Connecticut-issued ID, register online: MyVote.CT.Gov
- Out-of-state ID: Download form at MyVote.CT.Gov, or register at Registrars' Office, Town Hall.

4TH DISTRICT DEBATE (VIRTUAL)

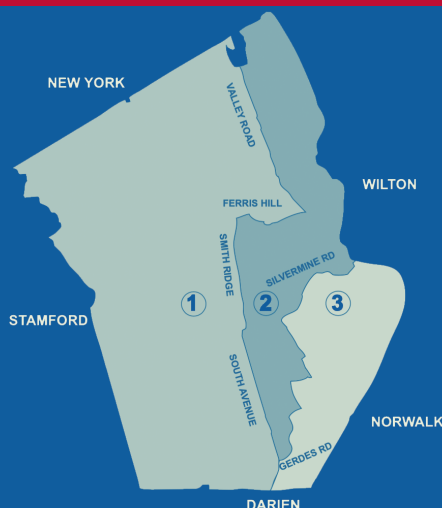
Sunday, October 18th, 4 pm

Advance registration required through WestportLibrary.Org

LWVNC 2020 CANDIDATES DEBATE (VIRTUAL)

Monday, October 19th, 7 PM, NCTV 79

Submit candidate questions in advance via LWVNewCanaan.Org by 12 pm October 19th.



- 1 Polling at: New Canaan High School, 11 Farm Rd.
- 2 Polling at: Saxe Middle School Gym, 468 South Ave.
- 3 Polling at: Saxe Middle School Gym, 468 South Ave.

More voting information: www.newcanaan.info
Registrar of voters: 203-594-3060

2020 LWVNC VOTERS GUIDE
PO BOX 383
NEW CANAAN, CT
06840
LWV LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS' OF NEW CANAAN

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2020 VOTERS GUIDE

League of Women Voters of New Canaan

Candidates tell us:

- 1) How they feel CT should balance economic development and health/safety in response to COVID-19;
- 2) The three things that need to happen for CT's economic expansion and what would they would do to facilitate that; and
- 3) Two social issues that they expect to address in the state legislature in the next two years and what their positions are.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES - 142ND DISTRICT - VOTING DISTRICT 3



LUCY DATHAN
(D) INCUMBENT

My husband Matt, our three children, and I call Silvermine home. I have spent my business career as a CFO, helping to devise strategies for technology companies to ensure they are working collaboratively and efficiently with all stakeholders. Connecticut needs a comprehensive and stable vision for its fiscal future and I have deftly applied the expertise acquired in 25+ years in the finance and accounting sectors to this end.

1. During COVID-19, my priority has been our physical and fiscal wellbeing. I have worked with the relevant agencies to secure resources like food and healthcare, fix issues with unemployment applications, and help businesses apply for financial aid. We in the legislature have expanded tele-medicine, brought additional COVID-19 testing sites to our community, opened a COVID-19 recovery center at Silver Hill Hospital, expanded affordable childcare options for front-line workers, and delayed due dates for state income and municipal property taxes. I worked directly with the Board of Realtors, Governor Lamont, and DECD Commissioner Lehman to ensure the functioning of real estate transactions during the State's shut down. While we continue to be guided by public health experts, we have an opportunity to build a stronger state and I am focused on our state's financial health. Businesses must have the appropriate access to testing and PPE so that they can operate safely.

2. It is vital we reinvest in Connecticut to encourage businesses to remain in the state and purchase their equipment and materials here. This hinges on our ability to update our transportation system, which is the single most important factor in alleviating poverty and wealth inequality, and also benefits our environment while reducing congestion on our roads. Also, improving job training opportunities by investing in vocational and technical trade schools to prepare workers for the 21st century jobs employers are looking for when they consider where to headquarter their businesses, while guaranteeing community colleges across the state are debt free. Finally, reinstating the Angel Investor Tax Credit to foster new business opportunities. This is the time to be encouraging investment into our biotech sector, as medical technology companies race to invent COVID vaccines. One method of financing a business-friendly environment is to provide sales tax reimbursements for investments up to \$500,000.

3. I believe in affordable, accessible healthcare to meet all residents' needs. We must have a public option for those without access to private healthcare. Quality healthcare is especially important for seniors, particularly during COVID-19. I am a defender of health equality within the state, sponsoring multiple bills that support women's reproductive health, as well as capping the cost of Diabetic supplies including insulin. I have continued to fight for mental health parity, and am working on peer recovery support legislation.

The urgency of protecting our planet cannot be overstated. We must protect our finite supply of natural resources. To this end, I have taken a stand against the utilization of single-use plastics. I also introduced a bill requiring the Insurance Commissioner to conduct a conclusive study reporting on the consequences of Climate Change. I have sponsored bills calling for bans on Styrofoam and PFAS chemicals, which are dangerous environmental pollutants.



FRED WILMS
(R) CHALLENGER

I was honored to be your State Representative from 2015 -2019. I have a unique finance background: of the 187 legislators I was the only one who was a banker plus chaired their town's fiscal authority. I started my banking career on Wall Street after graduating from Northwestern University and the University of Michigan. I am currently a Senior Vice President at Webster Bank, working with small businesses in lower Fairfield County.

1. We need to continue to follow the CDC guidelines for the COVID virus, and continue our balanced, measured approach. That means wearing masks and social distancing, while at also looking for ways to further reopen our economy. With our COVID cases low, reopening our schools with an in-person/online hybrid model makes sense. Next we need to keep taking measured reopening steps for our restaurants, health clubs, salons, spas, etc. Switching gears, with COVID putting many out of work or on reduced earnings, it made no sense for the State employees to receive a \$350 million pay raise this July. Out of basic fairness, I would have voted to suspend the increase. Lastly Governor Lamont recently extended his emergency powers through February 2021. Because I believe in checks & balances, the full Legislature should vote then on next steps.

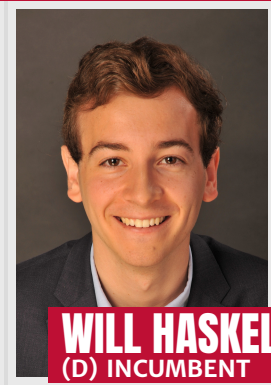
2. We need to get our fiscal house in order. The State budget has billion dollar structural deficits, plus over \$100 billion in unfunded retirement liabilities. COVID has made these worse. We need to restructure the state employee union contracts in line with the private sector. Second we need to make our tax code and regulatory structure more business friendly. We can achieve this without always increasing taxes- as our 2017 GOP budget showed. I have a unique finance background; in addition to my banking career, I chaired my town's fiscal authority for eight years. I was involved in negotiating union contracts and outsourcing government services. Because of those municipal experiences, at the State I was tapped to be the sole GOP member on the pension sustainability commission. I was made the ranking member of the Appropriations collective bargaining subcommittee plus was a leading architect of the 2017 GOP budget.

3. Crime & Social Justice. The New Canaan police are nationally accredited, have served us well and deserve our support. While most of the police reforms in the recent legislation were good, I support restoring qualified immunity for our police officers. Taking that away only hurts good cops. The way to handle bad officers is through reform of the binding arbitration process, so mayors/police chiefs are not overridden by unaccountable arbitrators.... America has always been a nation working towards a better tomorrow. However it has become clear that we need to redouble our efforts in creating more opportunities for all. To that end I support a major expansion of Charter schools, which bring educational opportunities to underserved families. I also support further outreach for minority owned businesses. I believe we create a more just society by fostering more opportunities, more possibilities and more hope.

Voting Information

- For in-person voting on Election Day (November 3, 2020): Voting District 1 votes at New Canaan High School and Voting Districts 2 and 3 vote at Saxe Middle School.
- Absentee ballot applications will be sent to voters who were registered to vote by August 26th, or you can download them from MyVote.CT.Gov, or pick them up at Town Hall. Fill out the application and return ASAP.
- Absentee ballots will be mailed back to those who applied beginning October 2nd.
- Mail ballots early, or return to Ballot Drop Box outside Town Hall. Absentee ballots must be received by the Town Clerk by 8 pm on Election Day or they will not be counted.

STATE SENATE CANDIDATES - 26TH DISTRICT - VOTING DISTRICTS 2 & 3



WILL HASKELL
(D) INCUMBENT

I grew up in Westport and was elected to the state Senate in 2018. I spent my first term leading efforts to enact common-sense gun regulations and invest in transportation improvements for Fairfield County. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, I successfully fought for a no-interest loan program for small businesses, promoted expanded absentee ballot eligibility, and helped constituents make it through the crisis with student loan assistance, mortgage moratoriums, and other emergency programs.

1. Science – not politics – must be our driving force in dealing with the public health and economic effects of COVID-19. The path is clear: our economy cannot fully reopen until we get the virus under control. This effort requires widespread testing, mask-wearing, social distancing, and responsible leadership. In the meantime, government must step in to help families and small businesses financially survive widespread closures. I've fought for a no-interest loan program for small businesses and supported a mortgage moratorium and rent relief program here in Connecticut – all while embracing comprehensive public health initiatives. With a second wave likely on the way, we must continue to support our first responders, halt the spread, and provide financial assistance to those in need. Only if we take the virus seriously can we fully reopen and get our businesses back on their feet – sooner, safer, and stronger.

2. For too long, lawmakers in Hartford authorized wasteful spending that entrenched Connecticut in debt. In my first term, I fought to shrink the size of state government to 1950s-levels and protect the \$2.7 billion in our rainy day fund to support CT in times of hardship. Moving forward, we must embrace three central tenets: continue to eliminate wasteful spending (I wrote and passed a bill to incentivize state employees to cut costs), support fair tax rates that bolster business growth (I fought to repeal the business entity tax, which placed an undue burden on small businesses), and build a modern workforce in CT (as Chair of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee, I constantly speak with business owners about the training their prospective employees need). I will continue to fight for these efforts to ensure that we mobilize during this crisis and foster long-term growth in Connecticut.

3. We're approaching the most consequential election in a generation. My Republican colleagues in Hartford have diminished voting access by blocking an amendment to permit early voting and seeking to prevent mail-in voting during COVID-19. But I believe that no voter should have to choose between their health and casting a ballot. That's why I've promoted legislation to ensure that all CT voters can vote by mail in November. I'll continue to expand access to absentee ballots, support early voting, and modernize our election system to enhance accessibility. Furthermore, no woman should face discrimination or encounter barriers to her reproductive freedom. I've fought – and will continue to fight – to close the wage gap, combat sexual harassment and assault, and ensure that a woman's fundamental right to choose and make decisions about her body is preserved in CT, regardless of federal efforts to take this away.



KIM HEALY
(R) CHALLENGER

I am a wife, mother of four, an accountant, former auditor with PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Treasurer of the Wilton Library. My husband and I raised our family in Wilton. I have volunteered with AARP preparing taxes for seniors and also for low-income families. I am running to repair Connecticut's economy and ensure there is a brighter future with better opportunities for our children in our beautiful state. I will represent OUR community's interests not special interests.

1. Local solutions are typically the most expedient way to address issues as they arise. We should empower our local officials to make decisions for their towns as the specific needs and concerns of each may differ. Connecticut should incentivize local manufacturing of PPE and testing materials and equipment that are needed to address Covid-19 to ensure an adequate supply going forward for our first responders, nursing homes, and the general public. Even with government assistance, many families are struggling and individuals are suffering from isolation and depression due to Covid-19. While it is beneficial to outline general safety guidelines, businesses must be allowed to safely open again. Nutmeggers want to work and support their families. Too many of our residents have been financially compromised. We must safely and prudently restart Connecticut's economy to deal with the inevitable problems in the post-Covid economy. Relying on a bailout is not a plan.

2. Governmental bureaucracy stifles innovation and is a barrier to entry for new companies. I will make CT business friendly by eliminating overburdensome regulations and licensing requirements. Many post-COVID-19, employees have increased flexibility to work from home, and employers also have greater flexibility in determining where their offices are located. We need to reduce tax rates to encourage more businesses to move to Connecticut, which will increase net tax revenue. I will advocate to make Connecticut's personal and corporate tax rate competitive with other states. The Democrat supermajority policies of the last 40+ years have not brought marked improvements in economically struggling urban neighborhoods. We can create more economic opportunity zones. I will work with industry leaders from our seven towns to facilitate partnerships for entrepreneurship, private capital funding, and mentoring within economically disadvantaged communities. Our future is bright when it is built on finding common purpose, not division.

3. Equality of access to education is an imperative for ALL students statewide. We must address the failures of at-risk districts to appropriately educate students. The solution is to emulate successful school districts or give parents better options. If the schools their children attend cannot perform, we should allow for new schools to compete like many other states.

The Democratic Party's proposal to seize planning and zoning power from our town would overburden each town's infrastructure, reduce their ability to manage costs, and harm the local character of our 169 towns/cities. Worse, it does not address income inequality or fix failing schools. The most direct way to address these important issues is to provide better employment opportunities. We must encourage commercial growth and entrepreneurship in Connecticut. The legislature must eliminate unnecessary red tape and unfunded mandates, reduce taxes on businesses, and create opportunity zones in economically depressed communities.

Go to our online Voters Guide to:

- Look up candidates' legislative goals, plus historical in-office voting and service records.
- Read what candidates think voters should be thinking about this season.
- Watch a short video from each candidate to voters in the 18 - 35 age bracket.
- Get further info on voting, polling, registration, and absentee ballots.
- Find out where to go to learn more about national candidates.

STATE SENATE CANDIDATES - 36TH DISTRICT - VOTING DISTRICT 1



RYAN FAZIO
(R) CHALLENGER

I grew up in our district and attended the Greenwich public schools. After receiving a degree in economics from Northwestern, I returned and worked in renewable energy. I've volunteered in our community, tutoring in inner city schools for seven years, and delivering meals to seniors. I've written extensively on economic policy in CT and am an elected member of the Greenwich RTM. I love our community and want to serve it in the state Senate.

1. Moderation and prudence. The goal of public health policy should be to protect the most vulnerable and limit the spread of COVID while protecting jobs, personal freedom, and ensuring kids are educated. In practice, that probably means limiting large indoor gatherings, promoting masks, and focusing resources on nursing homes, while opening schools with precautions and avoiding heavy-handed lockdown policies. This is the balance born out in evidence around Asia, Europe, and the US.

2. Lower Taxes - CT has the 2nd-highest tax burden in the country. Next term, Democrats will push even higher taxes. I will oppose any new taxes and advocate for a tax reform plan that simplifies the tax code and cuts the income tax rate across the board without significantly altering the deficit. Reduce Debt and Spending- The most important public policy issue in CT is the debt and unfunded pension liabilities, which are the highest in the country. Democrats made them worse this term, allowing a 5.5% pay increase for state employees. I will advance direct reforms of benefit packages via the legislature to make them fair and sustainable. Regulatory Reform- CT is the 5th-highest regulatory burden in the country. I think the state should audit major regulations with a cost-benefit analysis, and improve or remove the worst of them.

3. Stop School Regionalization- Leading Democrats started pushing school regionalization last year and will continue their efforts if they maintain large majorities in the state Senate. The politicians who have harmed the state economy have no right to assert more power over New Canaan schools now. I will oppose school regionalization and the rise to Senate leadership of anyone who supports it. Protect Local Planning and Zoning Prerogatives- A vocal assortment of Democrats around CT have begun advocating for state controls over planning and zoning in towns like New Canaan. State bureaucrats and politicians in state government have not earned the right to take more power from town governments. I will fight to preserve home rule and also create economic opportunity for all around the state by reducing cost of living and creating jobs.



ALEX KASSER
(D) INCUMBENT

I am a graduate of two Connecticut schools – Wesleyan and Yale – and was a corporate lawyer at Skadden Arps. I'm a fearless advocate for economic growth and social progress and won an "impossible" seat by advancing proven solutions. As Senator, I've passed ground-breaking legislation on Clean Energy and Infrastructure. I introduced "Jennifer's Law" to prevent Domestic Abuse. I fight against taxes and for people -- for a safe, peaceful and prosperous future for every person.

1. The success of our economy depends on maintaining public health. The first shutdown was necessary and I hope another will never be needed. But we learned a lot from this pandemic and we can definitely "build back better" by easing regulations for businesses and eliminating red tape wherever possible. For example, we should continue to allow outdoor dining to permanently transform downtowns into thriving destinations. We need a more resilient power grid and reliable utility service. We should continue to eliminate obstacles and make it easier for individuals and businesses to succeed. Any transaction that can be done online – from notarizing documents to applying for absentee ballots – should be allowed. These adaptations will modernize our economy and draw more residents and businesses here. If we use this pandemic as an opportunity for growth and progress, we can make Connecticut the most desirable state to live and work in the country!

2. Connecticut is poised for economic growth. Thousands of new residents moved here during the pandemic, which increased your property values. This positive momentum could transform our state if more people and companies relocate here permanently. To achieve that we must PREVENT higher taxes and INVEST wisely in our SCHOOLS and INFRASTRUCTURE. Investing in our public schools benefits all taxpayers (even without children in school) because it enhances property values so mill rates won't increase. Similarly, investing in infrastructure yields a positive return for taxpayers. Upgrading highways, trains and bridges, modernizing the power grid and expanding renewable energy, WiFi and cell service will draw more residents to Connecticut. Investing in our assets while pushing back on higher taxes and wasteful spending is the best way to grow the economy, build businesses, create jobs, generate revenue and lower your taxes. This is exactly what I've prioritized and fought for as State Senator.

3. In addition to growing our economy, I am committed to ensuring safety for all. I've been a leader on preventing gun violence and passed 3 gun safety bills. In the next two years my top priorities are 1) fighting Climate Change and 2) protecting victims of Domestic Abuse. If the legal definition of Domestic Abuse in Connecticut had included coercive control, Jennifer Dulos, who died tragically last year, could have received a protective order and might be alive today. That's why I introduced "Jennifer's Law" to seek justice for her and for thousands of other women and children who suffer at the hands of abusers. Environmental stewardship has always been my priority. Climate change wreaks havoc on our country and economy and will not abate until we address it. I've sponsored numerous environmental bills and galvanized a strong coalition of support to steer us to a green future. I'm committed.