



Windsor/North Central CT League of Women Voters

VOTERS GUIDE 2020

To the voters:

The Windsor/North Central CT League of Women Voters is pleased to bring you the Voters Guide for the November election which provides information on the 2020 State Legislative Candidates. All of the candidates received questions developed by the LWV; they provided answers and short biographies. The League believes that by reading the candidates' thoughtful responses, citizens can make their own informed decision on election day, Tuesday, November 3.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization celebrating its 100th year. It was established in 1920, the year in which the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guaranteed women the right to vote. From its inception, the League has been committed to promoting responsible political action through informed participation of citizens in government. Our mission "to produce informed voters" has not wavered over the 100 years of service to the community. This year has been marked by numerous 100 anniversary events.

We hope that you find the Guide helpful as you prepare to vote. You will find helpful information on voter registration deadlines and how to check if you are registered.

Finally, we invite you to become a member of the League of Women Voters. Contact Membership Chair Heidi Kelsey at Heidi_kelsey@yahoo.com

Kathy Carroll
Voter Service Chair, Windsor/North Central LWV

2020 Voters' Guide Questions for CT Legislative Candidates

1. What is your view of police accountability, evaluation, and how should it be structured in CT?
2. Given the rise of remote learning, how will you help close the digital divide, assuring that all children have access to learning opportunities?
3. How do we balance the evolving renewable energy sources with the fossil fuels we

SENATE



REPUBLICAN John Kissel 7th District

John Kissel has been the 7th District State Senator for 14 terms, is a member of the Judiciary, Transportation and General Law Committees. He is active in many Enfield civic organizations, and a long supporter of seniors. He is a corporate attorney for Eversource.

1. I totally endorse our men and women in blue who put their lives on the line every day for us. As Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, I spent well over 40 hours on the bill that was voted on in July. I still voted against it. There may be problems in other parts of the state but I think the Windsor and North Central CT police are fair and even handed.
2. I was on a call with our Commissioner of Education 3 weeks ago before school started. I know the idea is to get kids together, but my youngest son is 16 and says at school he has to walk certain paths, eat alone and always be 6 feet apart from his friends while wearing a mask. I do not disagree with the health precautions but is this getting kids together?
3. The big question is how do we get power into Connecticut. Natural gas is being asked for in my district but some folks oppose it. Wind and solar sound fine but are very expensive. Paying to keep the Dominion nuclear plant on Connecticut's shore going seems to be contributing to an increase in everyone's bills. If we could only tap into Canadian Hydro-Power we in Connecticut could be better off, but the states to our north do not want new transmission lines.



DEMOCRAT Frederick Moffa 7th District

Fred Moffa is an optometrist at Granby Family Eye Care, and serves on the Granby Board of Finance. He wants to focus on affordable health care, and different funding avenues for public education.

- 1.It's entirely reasonable to be both pro-law enforcement and still feel accountability is needed. Accountability and providing more resources for crisis resolution actually helps police officers, by taking responsibilities off their plate and allowing them to focus on their primary objective, to "protect and serve". They don't need to be social workers, mental health experts or substance abuse disorder experts. In my view, one of the primary benefits of accountability measures remains that municipalities have higher-quality applicants and avoid officers who may abuse their authority to recklessly and willfully violate citizens' civil rights.
2. All public school systems should provide ChromeBook-type laptops and assess the high speed Internet access each student has. We are one of the wealthiest, most advanced societies in the world. School districts should receive federal funding to make this possible.
3. In Connecticut we have taken the initiative, recently, to switch to natural gas, a less-polluting carbon fuel. It's worthwhile to have natural gas as the fuel of choice as we increase the modernization of our electrical grid, providing a grid to 100% clean energy sources. Modernization of the grid will also allow us to better embrace solar and wind, and re-evaluate nuclear energy generation, all of which avoid greenhouse gas emissions. Grid modernization will also allow for micro-grids. These micro-grids will allow for more stable power delivery from renewables.

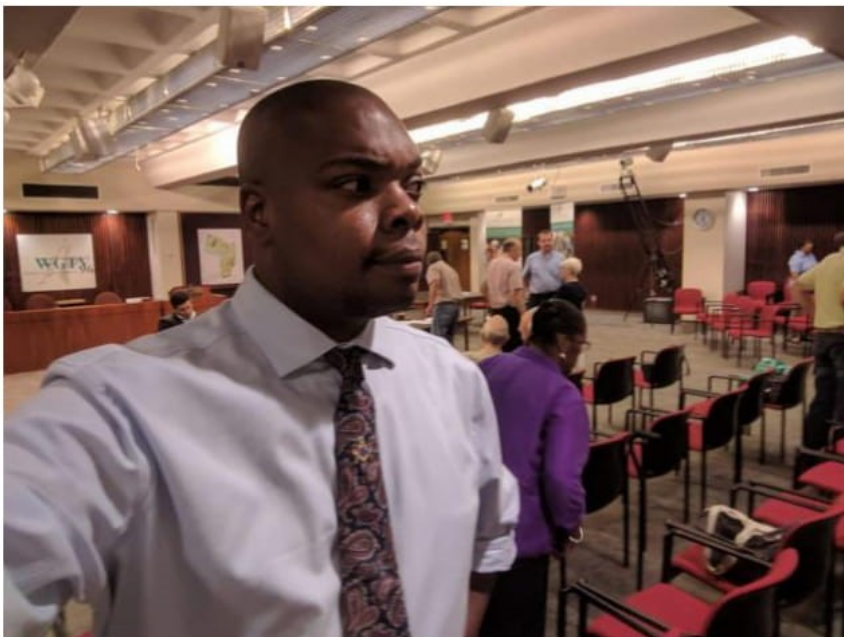


DEMOCRAT Douglas McCrory 2nd Senatorial District

Douglas McCrory was State Representative for Hartford's 7th Assembly District, then State Senator for the 2nd District of Hartford, Bloomfield and Windsor. Doug promised accountability and accessibility, and is committed to strengthening neighborhoods through education, economic development and civic engagement. Doug taught at Sarah J. Rawson Elementary School, was Vice Principal at Lewis Fox Middle School. Doug founded the Benjamin E. Mays Institute with a fellow teacher, which emphasized positive self-esteem and core education values. Doug continuously encourages young people to become engaged civically, and to register to vote. A former college scholarship basketball player, Doug has coached for Hartford's Northend Little League, the Hurricanes and the Boys & Girls Club. He believes in teaching the value of academics combined with the physical discipline of sports. Doug graduated from the University of Hartford with an MBA, and a Master's in Elementary Administration from Sacred Heart University and is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. A Blue Hills resident and Hartford native, Doug lives with his wife, Foye Smith, Hartford's Probate Judge, and their son Cairo.

1. I have long been an advocate and supporter of police accountability. I support legislation which requires police officers to intervene when a colleague is using excessive illegal force, overhauls police training, sets standards for police departments across the state, the authorization of an independent statewide council to revoke the certification of any police officer, the elimination of qualified immunity for claims against police officers, and the prohibition of vehicle searches without probable cause and the driver's consent.
2. For over 20 years I have been an educator. I have experienced the challenges and joys that come from being a teacher. I will continue to advocate for our students and teachers to receive the funding and training needed for them to be successful. Especially during the time of the pandemic, I want to make sure our teachers and students have the support they need.
3. It is important that we continue to fund research into new more efficient renewable energy sources and protect our environment from the dangerous impact of using fossil fuels. I have seen and supported companies which are a Class 1 renewable energy source.

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES



REPUBLICAN Charles Jackson 5th District

Charles Jackson is a Constable for Town of Windsor, and a Member of Hartford Area Cable Television Access Commission (HACTAC).

1. I believe officers should be held to the same firearms standards as private individuals. More officers should have a specialty, social work over criminal justice. Only 1% of all crimes involve the need for a firearm. Recently two Windsor citizens lost their lives to senseless violence, with one survivor who received little guidance from police or from the hospital. An officer with a social work background would've been helpful. A Public Review Board with teeth would spot the need for an officer with Social Work experience. The people deserve a police dept that isn't a strong arm force, but one that citizens can get help from.

2. Windsor students are loaned digital devices to access their classes, and submit homework. However, there are many that don't have internet connectivity. The Members of HACTAC have worked closely with local Internet Service Providers. Comcast Xfinity offers Internet Essentials, a low cost internet service. Every student is instantly qualified, and the cost is very minimal. Now if you couldn't afford to pay there is a way that someone else could pay the internet cost for the student. Comcast offers a rebate of over \$169 towards the purchase of a new device.

As a parent of two, I can tell you distance learning is a job of its own. Keeping our children on task is our biggest issue.

3. I would mandate that every government owned building go solar, as most are flat roofed. Start with solar farms on our public buildings. Then I'd remove the credit check function in the installations, and replace it with electric bill payment history.

I'd like to see the power companies aggressively look at solar not as a competitor, but a resource. If elected I will work with power providers to find prime candidates for solar investments. They are perfect partners for the electrical providers. The more companies and residents that participate in solar, the less fossil fuels the electrical service providers will have to burn. In turn the sustainability period will have been lengthened.

Open space is also vital to our well being, and worth saving.



DEMOCRAT Brandon McGee 5th District

Brandon McGee has served 4 terms in the CT House of Representatives. He is the House Chairman of the Housing Committee, and Chairman of the Black Puerto Rican Caucus. He is the marketing and communications coordinator for the Capitol Region Education Council in Hartford.

A Hartford native, Brandon is an advocate for equity in education, criminal justice reform, voter registration and empowerment for people of color and their communities.

As a strong advocate of quality education for all and service to the community, he also serves on the Education Committee and the Human Services Committee.

1. I am in full support of the 71-page bill that significantly reforms policing in CT, mandating all officers wear body - cameras, banning of chokeholds in most cases and creating a new independent inspector general to investigate deadly use of force by police and of course the most controversial provision of the bill includes changes to what's known as qualified immunity, making it easier for those who believe they have been wronged by police.
2. Not all homes are safe, healthy environments for school-aged kids to learn and grow. Access to such technology is far from universal. It has been a goal of mine in fighting for relief for the families I represent. I will continue to work alongside Gov. Lamont, public and private partners, municipal leadership and community stakeholders to address the long-standing digital gap—and connectivity challenges we currently face.

Housing, health care, labor and education were all flashpoints that members of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus took on during our tele-town hall series this past spring. I also had the chance to hold a town hall with education leaders in the municipalities I represent and hope to continue this dialogue.

With education, we can provide increased opportunities, create pathways to economic mobility and but into the school-to-prison pipeline. I often focus on housing as a means of promoting equity, I know that discussions in education must be tied to the quality of life of those who receive it. Reforms during COVID-19 and the days that follow it must be holistic in this sense.



DEMOCRAT Bobby Gibson 15th district

Representative Gibson is an educator and coach, who has won many championships. Gibson is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and is currently the First District Social Action Chairman. Gibson is on the Board of Directors of Discovering Amistad. He is also a Trustee and Usher at Hopewell Baptist Church. Gibson has received awards as an educator, and from Connecticut High School Coaches Association, Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches 100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut, The Links Incorporated, Prince Hall Foundation of Connecticut, The Institute for Cross-Cultural Awareness and Transformative Education, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, The Greater Hartford Interd denominational Ministerial Alliance, Hopewell Baptist Church, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Gibson is an Assistant Majority Leader, Vice-Chairman of the General Law Committee, and is on the Education and Appropriation Committees. Gibson's priorities are education, the environment, seniors, and the fair living conditions of all Connecticut citizens. Gibson sponsored and passed Public Act 19-12, the Inclusion of African American Black, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies in Connecticut schools. Gibson seeks to approve bipartisan legislation, for the betterment of all Connecticut residents.

1. As your State Representative I fought for the PAB. We have many fine officers that protect and serve. This bill was designed for the bad ones, the ones who have killed and sparked the BLM movement. The bill has many great components such as police oversight, body cameras, and training.
2. As an Educator I have planned, worked, and spoken in forums to ensure our students have laptops and access to the internet. I have met with superintendents, principals, and teachers to understand their needs, and I have helped to secure funding for distance learning.
3. As an Environmental Champion I have held and spoken at several educational forums on climate. At these forums I have helped to educate our communities on the importance of developing and using renewable sources of energy, and eliminating sources of energy that pollute our air, water, and land. We must continue to pass legislation that reduces carbon emissions that result from the usage of fossil fuels.



INDEPENDENT Danielle Wong 15th District

Councilor Danielle Wong is an accomplished professional holding a successful record in project and business management and a champion for social justice and Women's rights. In 2019, she was asked to run for Town Council, and shortly after a successful campaign, she was asked to run for State Representative to represent Bloomfield and Windsor. Danielle is a Progressive Democrat consistently challenging the status quo. She believes in increasing funding for our children's education, expanding job opportunities and prioritizing our infrastructure while ensuring equitable economic development for residents. She believes in protecting our environment and protecting our population's most vulnerable.

1. I believe the absence of Police accountability in this country has contributed to the systemic oppression and generational deficits in the black and brown community. The Police structure we have to today, meant to support public safety, is not working and will not until we address the history of it's racist culture. For example, while law enforcement prioritizes its resources on nonviolent and low level drug offenses, the Police focus less on tactical approaches to address real and harmful crimes like human trafficking. While we plan for a more effective Police structure in the long term, I believe every city and municipality should require a Citizens Review Board with subpoena power, where members are appointed by the people.
2. While we continue to adapt to the distance learning culture, we must address the intersectionality between healthcare, employment, affordable housing, and education. By addressing the root cause and the barriers to basic human needs, we begin to close the inequity gaps families with children face with access to learning opportunities.
3. We must thoughtfully plan now for a carbon free future, which includes the mass exodus of jobs in the fossil fuel industry. By ensuring that non-profit groups like the Urban League or Habitat for Humanity are getting the funding and support they need to train black, brown and people of color, we then accomplish the goal of diversifying the energy industry while building a pipeline for clean energy jobs to support the transition away from the fossil fuel industry.

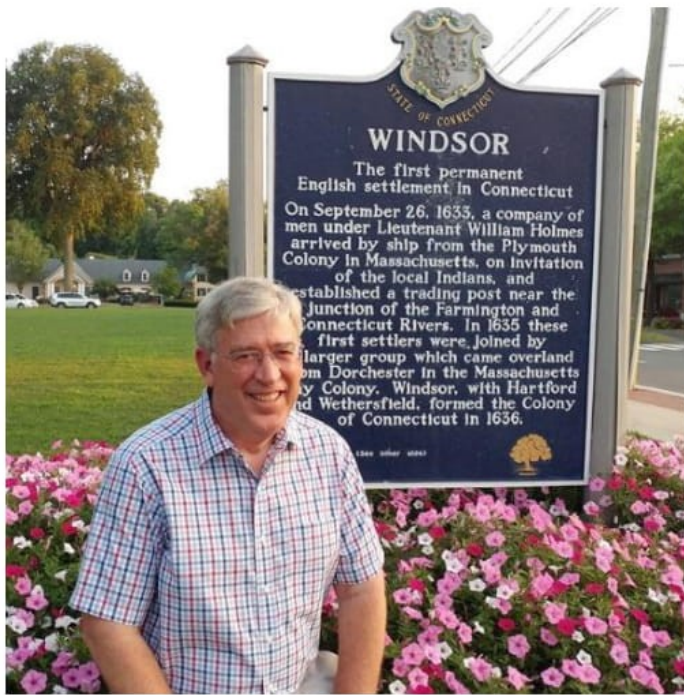


DEMOCRAT Jane Garibay 60th District

Jane Garibay was elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives in 2018. With her lifetime record of service and leadership, she is committed to bringing honesty, integrity, and common sense to our state legislature. Garibay's legislative priorities are rooted in three critical issue areas: strengthening communities, protecting hard-working families, and reforming state government.

Garibay presently serves as the Director of First Town Downtown Inc. Prior to her election to state government she was the Executive Director of the Windsor Chamber of Commerce for nearly twenty years. Garibay, a Windsor native, is a graduate of Windsor High School.

1. While public safety is vital, persistent structural inequities due to racial discrimination in policing have plagued our country. It is every citizen's duty to confront and deal with this reality with empathy. Police must be held accountable for their delegated power, which means providing them with the proper resources and training to better handle complex situations. I supported the most recent police accountability bill because I believe we need to constructively repair the bridges that have been burned between our police forces and the populations they are pledged to protect.
- 2) The state government must do all it can to guarantee that every public school student has access to the technology necessary for equal remote education. Some of this can be done by passing legislation, but we should also explore public/private partnerships with technology companies to get this technology into students' hands more quickly. Meantime we need to address some deeper problems, such as property tax structure, that allow some towns to provide for their students while others cannot.
- 3) We must develop a comprehensive and innovative plan in the General Assembly that invests in renewable energy, e.g., requiring that newly acquired state properties be powered by solar energy. The State also needs to anticipate the difficult job transition that will result from these energy changes; we must devote resources to assuring that residents looking to transition their skills have access to necessary training. There will be difficult decisions to be made, but fortunately we have the resources to facilitate a transition to renewable energy while also creating good jobs.



REPUBLICAN Scott Storms 60th District

Scott Storms is a lifelong resident of Windsor Locks and the managing partner of Storms & Storms, a family owned law firm. He is currently a selectman for the Town of Windsor Locks. His extensive involvement in civic activities and volunteer service has extended well past the borders of his home town.

1. Continued training and performance evaluations are essential to maintaining high quality standards for officer conduct, periodic review of policing procedures must be undertaken to be responsive to the evolving needs of the community, and police community outreach must be meaningful. Any police misconduct or citizen complaint of misconduct should be dealt with in a serious, open and just manner. To demonize or vilify all the men and women who protect and serve our communities based upon the actions of a few who have acted outside the bounds of established practice and procedures only leads to greater mistrust and public safety concerns.
2. In order to achieve "tech equity", we must provide students and parents access to "take home" technologies; increase student and parent access to the affordable internet technology; establish community based technology support and resource services for parents and students through our public libraries, schools and community centers; and align student curriculum and learning with the critical skills that will be required in twenty first century home and workplace environments. As a state legislator, I will support programs to make devices and internet access more affordable to low and moderate income families through government educational subsidies and/or tax incentives and credits for producers who support affordable alternatives for those who can least afford equitable access.
3. We must transition from fossil fuel dependency to renewable energy technologies. We must also be mindful of over burdening taxpayers and consumers with excessive taxes, user fees, and surcharges especially affecting the high cost of energy distribution and utility bills. As a state legislator, I will work to support the development of programs which encourage and establish energy efficiency and conservation, and will support the inclusion of educational initiatives which foster a greater understanding of renewable energy, conservation, climate change, and environmental outcomes.



DEMOCRAT Jack Henrie 61st District

Jack Henrie serves as the elected Suffield Town Treasurer. He is an MBA and CPA with 30+ years as a CT entrepreneur and small business owner. He plans to bring his business experience to help solve CT economic challenges.

Responses to the questions were not provided.



REPUBLICAN Tami Zawistowski 61st District

Tami Zawistowski has served as State Representative since 2014. In 2019 she was named Legislator of the Year by CT Conference of Municipalities and received a Town Crier Award from the CT Council of Small Towns. She is Ranking Member on the Planning & Development Committee and serves on the Transportation and Appropriations Committees. Tami is a small business owner of a used and rare book company for 20+ years. She was previously Executive Vice President of a federal bank, and Assistant Director of the UConn School of Business Real Estate Center.

1. By rushing to get a police accountability bill through a special session - rather than waiting for the January 2021 session when legislation is vetted through the committee process and public hearings – the legislative majority approved a bill that by the proponents' own admission requires revisions. While I support many parts of this bill (increased training, release of disciplinary records, etc.), eliminating limited qualified immunity creates a new cause of action for police officers to be sued in state court. This opens up the possibility of unfounded lawsuits resulting a financial burden to municipalities and officers, many of whom may decide to no longer serve.
2. Ready access to internet service is vital, especially with on-line learning. While access is improving, some areas of our state – both in cities and in some rural areas – are underserved. As 5G technology is rolled out with the new, smaller cells, those companies should be able to provide improved availability in those underserved areas. This should be addressed by the Governor's Council on 5G Technology.
3. A transition to renewables is a very important, but not a goal that we can instantaneously achieve. Since solar and wind do not produce energy all the time, we must fill gaps in service, either through high capacity battery storage – an emerging technology – or use of natural gas. We must also be mindful of affordability for our residents and our employers. As costs for renewables continue to fall we can more effectively make the transition to protect our environment. We need a balanced approach.

VOTING REMINDERS

Election day is November 3. The last day to register is October 27, online, in person or postmarked by mail. Election Day registration is available in Windsor Town Hall only.

- REGISTER**
- Register to vote weekdays in the Town Clerk and Registrars offices at Windsor Town Hall during business hours, 8:00-5:00 daily.
 - Online at <https://voterregistration.ct.gov>, www.411Vote.org, or Town of Windsor Town Clerk
 - DMV

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Due to COVID 19, all voters can vote an absentee ballot for the November election. Ballots must be received by 8 pm on Election Day. Mail or drop your ballot in the secure box behind the Town Hall.

- ELECTION DAY**
- Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Remember to bring a form of ID – Any pre-printed form of ID that gives your name and address OR name and photo OR name and signature: Ex/driver's license, utility bill, school ID, passport, etc.
 - Your completed ballot can be fed into the electronic reader in any direction.
 - All polling places are handicap accessible.
 - At the polling place, refer any questions or problems to the moderator.

www.411VOTE.org

CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION or REGISTER TO VOTE SEE WHAT'S ON YOUR BALLOT FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

You can make a difference – Join the League of Women Voters, Heidi_kelsey@yahoo.com.