

# 2009 Voters Guide



**The League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford**  
[www.lwvgh.org](http://www.lwvgh.org)



Andrew Bannon-Guasp	Republican
---------------------	------------

## **Biographical Information:**

- Former Conard representative to school board
- Educated in our public schools, Conard and Charter Oak graduate.
- Proponent of neighborhood schools and closing the achievement gap.
- History major at Trinity College

## **Response to Questions**

### **1. How would you address the state mandate for our West Hartford schools to be more racially balanced?**

The Racial Imbalance Law is a statute that would have us treat children differently based on race. The Board of Education has failed to live up to its moral obligation to do what is in the best interest of our students, their parents and the taxpayers. The board should retain legal counsel and mount a challenge to this statute, and do so as soon as possible

I've read dozens of pages of correspondence between our Superintendent and the State of CT on this issue that were obtained through a request filed under the Freedom of Information Act. I am outraged by references made by our own administration to our schools having "*too many minority students.*" Plans (never publicly voted on) to "*encourage neighborhood students to attend schools in other parts of the district,*" and statements like "*once we get these students away from the neighborhood*" ought to raise a red flag for those of us who view our neighborhood school system as the life-blood of our town.

Equally troubling are the board's intentions to fully reveal the details of their plan to comply with this statute after the election. How convenient.

## 2009 Voters Guide

This board has been operating in the shadows on this issue, and has abdicated their moral and legal responsibilities. It is time to finally do the right thing for our children and challenge this statute. That is exactly what I would proudly - and publicly - vote to do.

- 2. Can West Hartford maintain a quality school system without a budget increase next year assuming no increase from state aid? Explain.**

Yes, with quality instruction and a sound curriculum we can.

- 3. What can be done to promote respect for differences and to decrease bullying in the schools?**

There should not be, and will not be, any tolerance for bullying in our schools.

- 4. If elected, what initiative would be your top priority?**

My top priority on the Board of Education will be to maintain our neighborhood school system. The state wants for us to re-order our school district so that West Hartford will be in compliance with the Racial Imbalance Law. I find this to be a horrifying idea and will fight with all my might to make sure that this doesn't happen. Tied with this priority is addressing the achievement gap. This is the primary educational issue that our town faces today, and we must eliminate it.