

2009 Voters Guide



The League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford

www.lwvgh.org



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Biographical Information:

- Life –long town resident
- West Hartford Board of Education, 2005-
- Nurse Supervisor- B.A, Holy Cross; B.S., Cornell University
- Grown sons attended West Hartford Public Schools

Response to Questions

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

As a life-long resident and member of the school board, I have a genuine appreciation for our neighborhood school system-and the will and desire to fight to maintain it. I also remember the turmoil a democrat board inflicted on our town a decade ago when they voted to eliminate neighborhood schools, and to invalidate decisions parents made regarding where their families would live and which elementary school their children would attend.

The racial imbalance statute is outdated and singles out/ punishes those towns that have a diverse student population. To suggest, as this law does, that West Hartford can have an elementary minority population of nearly 40% and at the same time be racially isolated while ignoring West Hartford's natural diversity is ludicrous. The board has an obligation to retain qualified legal counsel and challenge this statute that goes after West Hartford.

Despite their repeated failures to do so, the board majority continues to ask the state to believe they can be successful in convincing parents to have their children leave their neighborhood schools and waste time (and money) on school buses to go to another school in the district. This board majority needs to acknowledge that most parents and children are happy with their neighborhood schools, whether that neighborhood is Charter Oak, Smith, Bugbee, Duffy, Morley or any other.

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Regrettably, the current board leadership has chosen to keep the public in the dark concerning exactly how they plan to respond to the state mandate. Postponing public discussion until after the municipal elections is a disservice to the community and shows disdain for the very people the board was elected to serve. West Hartford and our children deserve better.

- 2. Can West Hartford maintain a quality school system without a budget increase next year assuming no increase from state aid? Explain.**
Yes. High spending never guarantees high results. Quality instruction and cost effective practices in our schools count the most.
- 3. What can be done to promote respect for differences and to decrease bullying in the schools?**
All bullying must be eradicated because of lifelong harm to children that results.
- 4. If elected, what initiative would be your top priority?**
The Racial imbalance law penalizes the natural diversity of our West Hartford Schools and threatens to dismantle the towns' neighborhood schools. I am committed to challenging this law, which I am convinced is not in the best interest of our town or its schoolchildren. It is imperative that this board stop trying to appease a law without educational merit. We must take steps immediately in order to give our best to the real educational needs of our students.