

2009 Voters Guide



The League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford

www.lwvgh.org

Responses by question:

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

Andrew Bannon-Guasp

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.

Ellen Burchill Brassil

The state racial imbalance law distracts us from addressing the educational needs of our schoolchildren. Latest standardized test data shows that we have fallen behind in most all performance outcomes when compared with school districts like us. In order to identify and implement effective educational programs and strategies with a proven track record of success, we first must challenge the archaic racial imbalance law that lacks educational merit, threatens our neighborhood school model, would divert resources to construction and transportation costs, and is harmful to all children, including those most in need of our support.

Elin Katz

My priorities:

- preserving reasonable class sizes
- maintaining West Hartford's excellent neighborhood schools
- providing essential programs and services that meet the needs of students of all abilities and backgrounds
- designing a budget that promote academic achievement in the schools while meeting the fiscal challenges of the current economy without overburdening taxpayers
- increasing dialogue and communication between the Board, parents, schools, and taxpayers
- re-examining school nutrition programs

The schools support our children, our home values, our community, and our future. Please support them – and me – on November 3.

Clare Kindall

My top priority is to maintain the high quality of our schools, and to ensure that every child has the tools to succeed, while maintaining fiscal responsibility. That's why I worked to save programs such as full-day kindergarten and K-12 foreign language last

2009 Voters Guide

year. In the immediate future, I am committed to the implementation of the EDC report recommendations on how to make our special education programs better, especially in the middle schools and high schools. The achievement gap remains a local, state and national concern, and I am closely monitoring how well our District Improvement Plan closes that gap.

Naogan Ma

- Preserve our quality neighborhood schools
- Be fiscally responsible while protecting vital educational programs
- Improve our curriculum in order to prepare students to be more competitive globally
- Develop better communication between schools and homes

Lib Spinella

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.