

# 2009 Voters Guide



**The League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford**

[www.lwvgh.org](http://www.lwvgh.org)



Judy Casperson	Democrat
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## **Biographical Information:**

I was born and raised in Denver, Colorado in a warm and loving family with 6 siblings.

I attended public and private schools graduating from Parks College in Business. I have accepted a position with M. W. Financial wealth management team.

My husband Olaf, our 2 daughters and I moved to West Hartford upon his retirement from the Air Force. Living 9 years on Auburn Road, I have served 6 years on the Bridge Family Center Board of Directors, school PTO's, Valley Community Church volunteer.

West Hartford embodies the best of our living experiences from Colorado and around the world with excellent schools, great public safety and services for seniors, families and young people alike - and a thriving destination downtown. I would choose it all over again.

## **Response to Questions**

### **1. Which West Hartford services can be reduced and still be viable (assume no increase in state aid)?**

The economic downturn combined with our continued lack of full funding of state aid for West Hartford has meant that we have to be very creative and to prioritize. Fortunately, while our residents have seen some changes to service delivery, we have been able to avoid elimination of essential core services. The cooperation of the town council and our unions helped us to stay strong in this challenging economic recession without risking our safety or services. We will endeavor to continue to make wise choices while seeking long-term State and federal assistance and, if reductions cannot be avoided, we should first maintain our priorities in education, public safety and senior services.

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**2. West Hartford and Bloomfield partner to operate the Health Department. What additional regional cooperative efforts could ease our economic situation?**

I will work towards any type of government partnership that will help us save money for our taxpayers without reducing the quality of our services. Based on my business background, I believe that some efficiencies can be achieved by reducing administrative overhead and combining bidding and procurement functions with neighboring towns and regional organizations.

**3. What are the biggest challenges and opportunities of our changing demographics?**

The challenge is affordability. West Hartford draws young families for our schools, young professionals for our services and growing social scene, and seniors for our safety and town services. Maintaining quality services is important but I want to ensure that West Hartford remains affordable through thoughtful planning.

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

I want to work to ensure that West Hartford remains affordable for our senior citizens and attractive to young families. I have said that after our years of travel, my family was blessed to find West Hartford. My husband and I plan to retire here and we hope that our children will return here to raise their families. That will mean maintaining our strong schools and managing our taxes for seniors and those on fixed incomes.

## Issues at a Glance Grid Questions

1. Should West Hartford provide more incentives to assist and encourage small businesses? **YES**
2. Would you support reducing activities at senior centers to save money? **NO**
3. Should the town provide additional safe bike lanes? **YES**
4. Would you support an ordinance requiring developers to replant a tree for every tree removed in West Hartford? **YES**
5. Do you support prioritizing energy efficiency upgrades in the capital improvement budget? **YES**