

2009 Voters Guide



The League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford
www.lwvgh.org

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Joe Verrengia	Democrat
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Biographical Information:

A life long resident of West Hartford. He was educated in the West Hartford Public Schools and attended Wolcott Elementary, St. Brigid, Talcott Junior High and Conard High School. He also attended Northeastern University. He is a nineteen-year veteran of the West Hartford Police Department. Verrengia is a two term incumbent on the Town Council. He serves as Chairman on the Community Planning and Physical Services Committee and serves on the Human Services Committee. He also serves as a Commissioner to the Metropolitan District Commission.

Response to Questions

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

No one service is exempt from being reduced. I will continue to evaluate all town services to ensure that we are providing them in the most efficient manner. I will continue to prioritize town services with an emphasis on public safety and education.

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

As a Commissioner of the Metropolitan District Commission I believe there are cooperative opportunities within the MDC particularly in the area of public works. I will continue to explore other cooperative opportunities especially now that we are in this very difficult economic climate.

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

West Hartford's demographics have changed. I am proud to live in a town that is rich in diversity. I believe our town has done an excellent job in identifying the changing demographics. Like anything else with change I think there is room for improvement when it comes to meeting the challenges of our diverse community

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but I also believe as a community we can work together to meet those challenges and opportunities.

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

Without question my top priority will be to balance a budget that protects the integrity of our town and services at a price that our residents can afford. The downward spiral in our economy has made balancing a budget very difficult this year and I expect the next budget to be even more challenging. With your vote and continued support for the past five years I pledge to rise to the challenges that lie ahead and to represent you in a manner that you've come to expect.

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**