

# 2009 Voters Guide



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



Joe Visconti	republican
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## **Biographical Information:**

Joe graduated from Hall High in 1974 and the University of Hartford in 1978. His three children, Joey, Gabriella, and Michael have all attended/ing West Hartford Public Schools. He began his career as a Sound Engineer for Local 84 at the Hartford Civic Center and Bushnell Auditorium. During the 1980's Joe worked in the family construction business and remained connected to the Arts through composing music which he began at Hall High School. In the 1990's in Florida he became an Advocate for the Disabled as Chairman of Disabilities & Possibilities Foundation and an Emmy Award winning producer for its television series. Also a New York trained Actor, destiny led Joe to step into a new role in 2003 as a Community Activist who fought against public subsidies for private developers and continues his fight on similar National issues. Joe was last year's Republican Candidate for U.S. Congress in CT's 1st District and is presently working on completing a book, releasing his latest Music CD and running a small business as he volunteers as a West Hartford Town Councilor and raises his family.

## **Response to Questions**

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

School Bus Transportation could be reduced by monitoring student participation and reaching capacity limits, saving energy, labor and the amount of buses necessary. The daily equivalent of one elementary school is absent daily in West Hartford (about 400 students) which is another cost driver.

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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?**

Regionalizing a Vacuum/Bag-it collection program utilizing a smaller group of independent leaf collection vendors along with Public Works vehicles can lower costs to participating communities. Armed with GPS tracking devices on all participating vehicles coordinated with the public online and employing energy efficient equipment, the opportunity is ripe to increase efficiencies in environmental recycling and increase public safety while providing support for labor intensive services to the public.

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

Changing demographics is West Hartford. As we have in the past, we will continue into the future, representing all residents equally. Our challenge is to hold the State of Connecticut and the Federal Government responsible and accountable for funding their mandates and revoking those which are unsustainable.

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

My Major initiative would be to accelerate funding for many of our Capital Improvement Projects such as pool repairs, energy efficient upgrades, street resurfacing and curb installations. Working with the MDC and their Clean Water Campaign as well as the State of Connecticut and the Federal Government with their available grants, West Hartford can take advantage of historically low Municipal interest rates with its AAA Bond Rating and retain its charm and property values. To keep taxes affordable by increasing funding for Capital Improvements, streamlining employee pay, pension and benefit compensation must be our top priority.

## Issues at a Glance Grid Questions

1. Should West Hartford provide more incentives to assist and encourage small businesses? **NO**
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**