

# 2009 Voters Guide



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



Shari Cantor	Democrat
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## **Biographical Information:**

She is a life long resident of West Hartford having attended West Hartford Public Schools and graduated from the University of Connecticut. She worked as a CPA at Coopers and Lybrand and Cigna. She has been married to husband, Michael for 24 years and has four sons. Shari has been a member of the Council since December, 2004 and serves as Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, member of the Community Planning Committee, and Liaison to the Senior Citizen Advisory Commission and the Foundation for Public Schools. She is a member of the Board of the American Heart Association in CT and an executive Board Member of the Hillel for the University of Connecticut.

## **Response to Questions**

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

Actually, past budgets have already reduced lower utilized services including, pool hours, office hours of some departments, library hours and mailings to residents. The budget includes reductions in capital expenditures, streamlining and adjusting trash, snow removal and leaf pickup while preserving the service as a whole. We continue to look for these opportunities.

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

Regional participation also includes MDC and CRRA. We purchase energy and health insurance in consortiums to reduce costs. Service to residents and cost are always our primary concern. We look at opportunities with other municipalities

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and when appropriate we do a cost benefit of regional efforts. If it will benefit our residents, we will pursue regionalization to provide services at reduced costs.

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

We are an economically and culturally diverse community. These demographics mirror those of our country. The needs of our residents vary dramatically. These varied cultures make us richer as a community but the economic situation has increased the need for assistance in fuel, food pantry, transportation, education and health and wellness education. We continue to balance the needs of the community and while maintaining our AAA bond rating keeping West Hartford financial secure.

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

In today's economic environment we have real financial concerns and challenges. There will be little or no revenue growth in the next year. Therefore, maintaining West Hartford's quality of life is a growing challenge. Our residents increasingly turn to town services in these financially stressed times. Our focus over the last couple of years has been to streamline town operations and reduce costs while maintaining most town services and a top quality education system. My top priority has and will continue to be to maintain the enviable quality of life in West Hartford while being as cost efficient as possible.

### **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**