

# 2009 Voters Guide



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



Steven Adler	Republican
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## **Biographical Information:**

In 2007 Councilman Adler was elected to the West Hartford Town Council and assigned to the town's Public Safety and Administration and Technology Committees. He was also appointed Legislative Liaison to the State Capital. Prior to the Town Council, Councilman Adler served on Town Planning and Zoning, Inland Wetlands Commissions and was the town's representative to the Capital Region Councils of Government on regional matters.

Councilman Adler is employed as a Manager of Risk Services and Crisis Management with Hartford Life. He earned a B.S. in Public Administration and M.S. in Business Management. The Adlers have lived in West Hartford for 12 years.

## **Response to Questions**

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

The integration of the Board of Education (BOE) and Town Information Technology Departments as one single operating function. I would recommend the BOE take the lead on managing all town wide IT hardware, software and infrastructure planning and business requirements since BOE has a significant IT demand and more mature service delivery capabilities in providing technology services to our community. This proposed IT shared service model would reduce operating costs by reducing staffing needs, improve procurement planning and allow BOE and town administration to use common IT infrastructure.

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

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There are many cost savings opportunities in this area. Connecticut has 169 government entities which means there are a number of administrative services that are duplicated throughout the state. This gives West Hartford a huge opportunity to partner with neighboring towns using municipal shared agreements with such back office functions as animal control, building code enforcement, tax assessors and human resources. For the record I am strongly against sharing such services as police and fire departments and education. Currently many Connecticut municipalities have implemented successful regional cooperative relationships with their neighboring towns and are now enjoying the cost saving benefits from these smart decisions.

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

#### Challenges

- Identify affordable housing solutions for our growing baby boomer generation and middle class families who want to have a long term living relationship in West Hartford.

#### Opportunities

- An increased diverse population amongst our residents improves our public perception of social inclusion while supporting the human rights of everyone.

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

To make West Hartford affordable for everyone! With Connecticut unemployment at 9% and investment and income levels eroding, the town needs to become more focused to managing our taxpayer's dollars. We can do this through managing our operating costs with stronger discipline, negotiating more equitable employment contracts, implementing municipal cost sharing agreements and institute a pay of performance program with all town employees. In addition I want to propose the creation of a West Hartford Economic Development Commission to identify new industrial and technology business ventures to grow our tax grand list to reduce the tax burden on residents.

### 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**