



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF CANTON
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lwvcanton.org

Canton League of Women Voters
2015 Municipal Election Voter Guide

The League of Women Voters of Canton is pleased to bring you this Voter Guide for the offices of Canton First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education.

With the support of the community, the Canton LWV encourages informed and active participation in government. Unaffiliated with any political party, the League hosts Candidates' Nights, encourages voter registration, publishes "Know Your Town, and studies public policy issues. It recently completed a study of mental health services in the Farmington Valley. The League welcomes new members. Men and women of all political parties or unaffiliated are invited. "Know Your Town, the mental health study and membership information are all available at the League of Women Voters of Canton's new website: <http://lwvcanton.org>

First Selectman Candidate Questions:

1. What experience will you bring to the position of First Selectman?
2. On what two initiatives would you focus your energy?
3. How might the town increase community members' participation in referenda, elections, and other community-wide decisions, as well as in volunteering for boards and commissions?

Leslee Hill, Republican

1. Member of Canton Board of Education since 2008; vice chair 2011-2012; chair 2012 – present. Member of Capital Region Education Council, Board of Directors, and legislative action committee. 2001 – 2004 member of Southborough, Massachusetts Advisory (Finance) Board; budget liaison to fire department, public library, and school district. 2002-2004 member of Southborough, Massachusetts Housing Authority. Attorney admitted to Connecticut state and federal courts; practiced law in the areas of business and banking law and litigation.
2. I would focus on determining the next steps in much-needed road improvements, including updating the pavement management study to reflect work already completed with bonded funds, and re-evaluating priorities for spending paving dollars in future budgets. I would also focus on implementing the Plan of Conservation and Development by working closely with the various boards and agencies to forge good communication and ensure common goals and a coordinated effort that is well-publicized to the community.

3. Participation in government increases when people's efforts are welcomed and valued. As I have done on the Board of Education, I would foster open, respectful dialogue between the Board of Selectmen and the community. I would implement a plan of communication from the First Selectman's office, using town-wide email and the town website, with updates from boards and agencies, answers to frequently-asked questions, and the status of ongoing initiatives, to encourage informed citizen participation.

Tom Sevigny, Democrat

1. By drawing upon twenty-seven years of experience in emergency management and over fifteen years of researching and advocating for improved land use and environmental policies, I believe I have the knowledge to help guide Canton. Furthermore, my four years of experience on the Board of Selectmen has only solidified my belief that active citizen involvement through charrettes and other consensus building workshops leads to smarter decisions and a feasible vision for Canton's future.
2. Two specific initiatives would be the development of the Collins Company and the preservation of the land near Satan's Kingdom. Regarding the Collins Company, we need to take a proactive approach to not only move development forward, but to ensure that future development enhances and complements Collinsville. Regarding the land near Satan's Kingdom, the people have spoken. I will take steps to preserve the land so that we can protect our small town, rural character.
3. First, as I have continually advocated, the town must involve the community in the decision making process on issues from the beginning and not at the 11th hour. Empowering citizens through charrettes and consensus building workshops will help us overcome the "my voice does not matter" attitude that permeates our political discourse. Second, I would ensure that boards and commissions be treated as partners. Together, we can find the answers to the problems confronting Canton.

Board of Selectmen Candidate Questions:

1. What experience will you bring to the Board of Selectmen?
2. What objectives would you like to see the town achieve or work toward?
3. How might the town increase community members' participation in referenda, elections, and other community-wide decisions, as well as in volunteering for boards and commissions?

Beth Kandrysawtz, 4-year term, Republican

1. Elected to the BOE in 2007, I served on every committee with two years as Vice-Chair and three years as Chair. I was elected to the Board of Finance in 2013 and have been Vice-Chair during that term. In addition, I have managed a private company for 30 years as CFO and more recently as CEO. Throughout these different opportunities, I have been

a champion of excellence, fiscal prudence, and an advocate of transparent communication.

2. The biggest challenges facing Canton are the cost of maintaining infrastructure and creating cost efficient ways of providing services. We need to update the existing pavement management study and create a facilities plan that encompasses all our buildings and needs. Initiatives should be openly discussed with the public and present a joint effort between the town boards and agencies. Careful management of financial resources and strategic planning for the future will be priorities.
3. It is important to engage the community in the decisions that will affect the future of Canton. Clear communication making use of websites, social media, and traditional publications make information more accessible and encourage participation. It is important that the town Boards invite ongoing conversations with the community so people feel part of the decision making process. With more participation in the process, I believe more people will turn out to help decide the outcomes.

William Canny, 2-year term, Republican

1. I am a lifelong resident of Canton, graduate of Canton High School and we are raising our children here. I'm genuinely committed to our town's excellence. I've been a Member of the Board of Finance for the past 4 years, member of the Republican Town committee and have served as an alternate on the inland wetland watercourse agency. I have a strong understanding of the town charter and its plan of conservation and development.
2. A conservative fiscal focus within Canton's plan of conservation and development, keeping Canton thriving while maintaining its small-town feel, assessing and anticipating current issues, seeking community voices in decision-making, and giving proper priority to land use, infrastructure, community facilities and services in order to enhance Canton's vitality while maintaining its tremendous quality of life and quaint feel. I will strive to preserve Canton's historic identity and its vast landscape while promoting futuristic goals.
3. Citizen participation is a key to our community therefore meetings, upcoming events, opportunities, need to be advertised through multiple venues, including publications and social media and networking. Residents need to know they will be heard when they attend or volunteer and so ample time needs to be given for public input and active roles need to be given to willing participants. It needs to be clear that opinions matter and every voice impacts crucial decisions.

Benedict Holden, 2-year term, Green

1. I will bring a lifetime of experience in business and politics to the Board. Four years of membership on the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Energy Committee has been an education in listening to others and building consensus to get stuff done. I am

proud of the work I've accomplished for our town and look forward to the broader range in the purview of the BoS.

2. I want the town to accomplish the unfinished business our old board leaves. I will make the town friendlier to citizens with ideas and initiatives. I hope we are able to be more amenable to our employees too. We need, also, a small food market in Collinsville, in town public transportation, electric energy independence for town facilities, and some low cost family-sized housing.
3. I hope openness, congeniality and the sense that you, personally, make a difference will build community participation. If we had competitive elections we might have better voter turnout and participation. Uncontested elections are un-American.

Larry Minichiello, 2-year term, Republican

1. Over time I've learned to effectively listen and work with others so as to reach consensus and implement plans of action. As Chair of the Pedestrian and Vehicle Safety Committee I collaborated with others to develop a report, of which we were all proud, that has greatly contributed to the Canton Plan of Conservation and Development. As Chair of Board of Education I worked with fellow members to bring about the district's first strategic plan.
2. Exceed the expectations of all citizens by providing the best police and fire services possible. Continue the effort to upgrade roads and ensure the best river water quality possible by maintaining and enhancing Canton's water treatment plant. Allow the private marketplace to thrive without expensive, inefficient and risky government constructs. Ensure that all who live in town can afford to continue to do so. Get the town garage and Collinsville traffic light completed!
3. As a Board member, I will hold our town volunteers in highest regard and give them all the support my position is capable of delivering. I will promote debate that engages any and all! The beauty of a democracy is that, when citizens with diverse opinions are allowed to fully participate, the best decisions are made.

Michael Pendell, 2-year term, Democrat

1. In my day job, I am a trial attorney that passionately fights for working people harmed by corporate malfeasance. My experience has taught me how to speak to people, how to successfully advocate for common sense solutions, and how to simplify difficult concepts so they can be easily understood. Most importantly, my experience as a trial lawyer has taught me how to listen to people.
2. We should foster smart economic growth while maintain our unique small town identity. We need to further develop and implement an energy conservation plan. We can do a better job identifying and addressing the needs of Canton's elderly and special needs community. The town has an important decision to make in the near future

about paramedic service. Under our current arrangement, the average wait time for paramedic service is 17 minutes. 17 minutes is a long time if a life hangs in the balance. As a father with 3 small kids I find that statistic unacceptable.

3. Voters have to feel like their voice matters. People stop participating in the process of government because elected officials don't listen to the people who put them in office. An elected official should be representing the will of the people. When people feel like they have a champion representing their wants and needs, they are inspired and incentivized.

William Volovski, 2-year term, Democrat

1. My most important experience is living here my whole life. I think I understand the town's character and I want to give something back to the town that has given so much to me. I have also worked in municipal government for almost 30 years. I am a good listener and communicator, and work with people from all walks of life on a daily basis.
2. The town needs to continue to work to repair and properly maintain its roads and infrastructure. We also need to find an acceptable location and an affordable plan to replace the town garage. We need to plan carefully for smart commercial development to reduce the residential property burden, and to look for sensitive ways to develop downtown Collinsville.
3. The town should use social media and get more people to sign up for email alerts to keep abreast of town activities and meetings. People get their information in many different ways today, not just through traditional media.

Board of Finance Candidate Questions:

1. What experience will you bring to the Board of Finance?
2. How will you balance funding for upcoming liabilities (such as more road improvements, maintenance, rising insurance costs, etc.) with maintaining town services?
3. As a member of the BOF, how would you critique the budgets of the BOE and the BOS?

Arnold Goldman, Republican

1. I have operated two successful businesses as well as not-for-profit entities. I was treasurer of the Sam Collins Day Committee for 10 years and remain treasurer of the North Canton Volunteer Fire Association. I've served on the Board of Assessment Appeals and Parks & Recreation Commission. I was president of the Canton Chamber of Commerce and helped them achieve independence. I was honored to accept their Business Person of the Year Award in 2010.
2. Voters indicate their priorities through the democratic process and by informing their elected leaders. A balance must be struck between meeting the needs of as many

residents as possible, while being mindful of the impact of taxation on our neighbors. There will always be a need for compromise and no constituency can expect to attain every priority at every cycle. In the long run, every resident should be satisfied that their priorities have been met.

3. It is imperative to prioritize “needs” from “wants” while seeking to balance many competing interests in the fairest, most transparent and inclusive manner possible. Each cycle every constituency should expect some of their priorities to be met, but not all, as the BOF attempts to balance these competing priorities. Responsible budgeting requires differentiating short, medium and long-term expenses, all while keeping the limits on revenue, the tax income taken from residents, in mind.

Kenneth Humphrey, Republican

1. For this election period I bring 6 years of experience from being on the Board of Finance. I helped in keeping the taxes and expenditures in check through the Great Recession while reflecting our town’s values and concerns and maintaining a healthy and robust financial budget. Our work isn’t finished.
2. The balance of wants versus needs is a monthly concern and challenge of the Board of Finance. Canton does not have the tax base to take on many ‘nice to have’ projects that we wish we could; but through diligence and forward thinking we can take on road improvements while paying for town services and have some nicety, new track and field, all while keeping taxes in check and within the limits of our residences.
3. A critique of both boards is a monthly assessment. Part of the BOF’s responsibility is not just keeping the budget in balance but also to keep expenditures in-line with the budget and within the overall yearly plan of revenue/expenditures. In addition there is a yearly independent financial audit of the town’s finance. The BOF commissions the audit and the findings are briefed to and answerable to the BOF.

Mary Tomolonius, Democrat

1. I have extensive experience developing, assessing and negotiating town budgets, including the Boards of Selectman, Finance and Education; my own business and a state-wide organization. I oversaw the Canton High School renovation, the largest single project to date in the town of Canton. I work hard to achieve consensus with my fellow board members to ensure we create a budget that is fair, balanced and achievable, and that encourages our town to growth and sustainability.
2. Canton needs to invest in its infrastructure to ensure the productivity of our town and citizens. Town services need to address our residents’ needs: town buildings need regular updates and roads need to be repaired in a timely manner. Frankly, the more proactive and forward-thinking we can be – while operating within a reasonable budget – the sooner we can address infrastructure issues before they degrade into situations that can cause irritation, harm and significantly greater expense.

3. We need to balance the wants of the Board of Finance, the ability of our residents to bear costs and the diversity of the unique community who live and work here. Mandatory requirements have to be funded and infrastructure needs to be maintained. Prudent economic development enables Canton to move more of the tax burden to commercial taxpayers and allow both our new and our long-term residents the ability to thrive in our community.

Board of Education Candidate Questions:

1. What experience will you bring to the Board of Education?
2. What should the board's priorities be?
3. If the school needs to increase funding to one area, where would you cut, if necessary?

Peg Berry, Democrat

1. I have served on the Board of Education for four years. During that time, I've chaired the communications and curriculum committees, and served on the finance/facilities, policy, and negotiations committees. I also served on the Kindergarten task force, and special Technology, principal search, and teacher evaluation committees. I have built strong relationships with our teachers, administrators, and other board members, and look forward to continuing to serve the Town of Canton for another term.
2. We continue to face challenges of offering Canton's students the finest education while delivering a fiscally prudent budget. I believe we need to invest in and use technology thoughtfully and appropriately to expand educational opportunities for all of our students, seek new ways to help students of all abilities achieve success both in Canton's schools and when they leave, and support our teachers and administrators who, I believe, are some of the best in Connecticut.
3. I believe our investment in technology will yield future savings in textbooks and supplies and I would scrutinize these areas. Also, we should examine our athletic budget, considering cost-per-student to ensure we offer sports that serve the most students, potentially combining or reducing budget for sports with the highest per-student cost. And, we monitor enrollment numbers closely, and expect to see enrollment decline in the coming years, which might offer additional savings opportunities.

David Briggs, Republican

1. As a member of the Canton Board of Education for the past 4 years, I bring with myself the experience and knowledge base that will help the board continue to provide Canton parents with the exceptional educational experience they have come to expect for their children. I also have a professional background in graphic design, and with that comes an appreciation for the arts and the value they have in a one's education.

2. One of the main priorities of the board is to provide the town of Canton with a fiscally responsible yearly budget. Over the last 4 years the board has adopted a budget that not only addresses the current needs of the school district, but also one that plans for future needs and obligations. The Board of Education is constantly looking to ensure every school in the district has all the tools and personnel necessary for a successful school year.
3. With a fiscally responsible budget and the professional guidance from our group of administrators, the board currently has the ability to handle most situations that would require additional funding. In the event that cuts were necessary, maintaining our high level of academic instruction would continue to be priority one.

Joseph Scheideler, Democrat

1. I was a social studies teacher, coach, and administrator during the 37 years I served in the Canton Public Schools, including being the founding principal of Canton Middle School in 2004. I served on the school building committee and was a member of the Canton Committee of Concern. I chaired the Connecticut Association of Schools Middle Level Board for seven years. A Canton resident since 1978, my three children attended and graduated from the Canton Schools.
2. The Board's top priority is to support success, high achievement and opportunities for all students. Maintaining an environment that promotes excellence in teaching and learning and educating the whole child is vital. Policies and programs that prepare students to be successful, productive and responsible citizens must be supported. Canton's limited financial resources must be used in the most creative and effective manner to maintain its high quality schools.
3. To grow, organizations must sometimes consider shifting priorities. Funding increases must be carefully considered, clearly justified by the administration, and directly related toward improving student success. The administration would be expected to identify areas where funding might be reduced and priorities shifted. Consideration must always be given to supporting programs that have the greatest impact on students. I would listen to community input, evaluate the alternatives, including the area of proposed increase, and vote accordingly.

Helen Treacy, Republican

No response received.