

VOTER GUIDE questions for all candidates:

1. What motivates you to run for this office?
2. What qualifications and skills do you bring to the table?
3. If elected, what will be your top three priorities?

Common Council, District A**• Kadeem Roberts (D/WFP)**

1. What motivated me to run for office were those individuals in my community that taught me what it means to be “great” no matter the circumstances. In Norwalk Connecticut, we all come from different backgrounds and lifestyles. Growing up as a child in the city of Norwalk I was fortunate to get inspiration from many people in my community. Those individual’s in my community made it their responsibility to make sure that I wasn’t just labeled as just another statistic. Those that inspired me also made sure I excelled in and out the classroom by making sure education was my main priority. My family made sure that I was well taken care of by teaching me wonderful work ethics and tools that I would need in order to accomplish my dreams. Attending college inspired me to be grateful for the opportunity I was given to receive a wonderful education, and

2.

- B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies, Minor Elementary Education
- MPA: Masters in Public Administration; Concentration in Local and State Government; Published Thesis 2018
- Certified Grant Writer
- Proactive Leader
- Public Speaker
- Innovative
- Community Leader
- Transparency
- Dedication
- Flexibility
- Organizational and planning skills
- Motivation and enthusiasm

3.

- Demographics, Diversity, Transparency, and Inclusiveness
- Advocates for quality education for all
- Work towards a quality development that serves the whole community
- **David Heuvelman (D/WFP)**
 1. I believe that in the next 25 years, local governments will play an even greater role in shaping our national debate. We need our local governments to be strong, and compassionate to the needs of our diverse and growing population. I believe that I have the right skills to help us along this journey. I would also like to make this city a strong example of how solutions out way the problems. Our future generations deserve this.
 2. I have spent my career working in the entertainment and events industry. We work on deadlines with budgets that reflect the needs and wants of our clients. Distinguishing between the needs and wants, making the needs happen and trying to find ways to serve wants as well is a skill that I possess. We have a population with varying needs and wants. Identifying these, tearing them apart and finding the overlap that serves is what I think our government should be doing. Compromise is key. No one ever gets everything that they want. But if I can work hard to find the middle ground without giving up on my core value that everyone should be served well, then I think we can continue to move Norwalk forward and stave off stagnation, and neglect.
 3. First Priority is to help the city find a way through the Wall Street Area conundrum. There is so much noise around this issue that I feel we have forgotten the most important part of this problem. Getting it finished and helping that wonderful area to thrive.

Second would be to help support the schools and the BOE. I would like to see a permanent committee that works with the BOE and keeps the information flowing between the two bodies for the betterment of our city.

Third is our environment. Namely Smart Stewardship of our green spaces and committing to improving our tree coverage in the urban core of Norwalk. Trees are the best defense in our clean air battles and we need to look at our planting and maintenance practices and make sure that we are staying out in front of this issue.

Common Council, District B

- **Ernie Dumas* (D)** [no responses received]
- **Darlene Young* (D/WFP)**
 1. What has and continues to motivate me are the things that I observe and experience daily in the community that I have lived in and served for 27 years. A section of South Norwalk has been neglected, overlooked for a very long time, but is now going through a transformation again that continues to displace socio-economically disadvantaged people and will continue to do so if we are not intentional about shining a light on why and curb how it is happening.
 2. I am a person who intrinsically cares about the social, emotional and economic wellbeing of others. I consider myself to be a thinker and problem solver. I'm not interested in lingering with a problem, issue or concern but would rather use my energy to work towards finding common sense solutions. During my 27 years of service to the City, I've had the awesome opportunity to work with young people from across the City, seniors and the NPD. In addition, I currently participate on a few boards and have a leadership role in the District I represent.

3. a.) Ensuring equity of resources and meaningful opportunities for those who have lived without impactful access for generations, ultimately improving the quality of life of our residents regardless of zip code.
- b.) Supporting revitalization that supports diversity and balanced, smart growth principles. Norwalk is growing like so many other cities across the country. This population growth will obviously impact our schools, our infrastructure and our ability to support the needs of the many communities/neighborhoods in the City. It is imperative that decisions are made mindfully, with integrity and irrespective of party politics.
- c.) Supporting open and inclusive government processes. We all know that you can't please everybody and naysayers and conspiracy theorists are forever. The City has done a fairly good job of creating opportunities for residents to voice their concerns. However, there is always room for improvement and with that in mind, a new City dashboard system was created

Common Council, District C

- **John Kydes* (D/WFP)**

1. My children are the primary motivator to run for office. If re-elected, I will continue to advocate that the Board of Education be properly funded so that they and all Norwalk public school students can have a quality education. Not only is their education important to me but helping to shape Norwalk into a place they will be proud to call home is motivation enough to continue my work on the Common Council.
2. I believe first and foremost that any elected official should always be open to alternate opinions. To be close-minded and have a my-way-or-the-highway mentality is not helpful when making decisions that affect others. I am proud to say that I have and will continue listening to the concerns and opinions of my constituents.
3. I have learned in my time on the Common Council that residents are most passionate about taxes and their quality of life. To keep taxes sustainable while continuing to improve on our infrastructure and City amenities is a balance that needs constant attention. Our increasing senior population deserves the same attention as our younger residents and if re-elected, I will continue to take the needs of all residents into consideration when making decisions.

- **George Theodoridis (D/WFP)**

1. As a young person who plans to spend the rest of his life in Norwalk, I feel that it is my duty to volunteer my time.
2. As a local realtor and a lifetime Norwalk resident, I believe I have the insight into what the city needs and how to best address those needs.
3. My top priority if elected is to work on initiatives that will keep taxes sustainable and the quality of life high.

- **Michael Foley (R)** [no responses received]

- **James Anderson (R)** [no responses received]

Common Council, District D

- **George Tsiranides* (D/WFP)**

1. Being born and raised in Norwalk, raising my own children here and opening three businesses that have all served our community has given me a strong sense of commitment and pride in the continued growth and overall strength of our city. After serving a term as councilman I feel I have a greater grasp on the responsibilities of the position and have open lines of communication with the mayor, other members of council and the municipalities to be a strong voice for my district.

2. I feel one of my greatest qualification is the time already spent in City Hall, prior to being on the Common Council, I was a Commissioner and served on many boards and committees. That is where the real understanding of Norwalk and its residence is learned. Over the past 20 years I have gone from working corporate in Manhattan to owning 3 successful Norwalk based businesses. In that time, I have learned the importance of open communication and transparency in building trust and meaningful relationships.

3. To remain fiscally responsible to keep taxes down, continue to expand senior tax relief, and increase funding to our schools.

- **James Page (D/WFP)**

1. Hello Everyone, my name is James K. Page. As a community leader throughout Fairfield County, I am excited to be your candidate for the 2019 Common Council election. I am Inspired to continue to serve and give back to the City of Norwalk and its community because the city of Norwalk has done so much for me and my family. I have been afforded the best education through St. Joseph Catholic School and Brien McMahon High School. My parents raised me and my siblings in a great community where they owned their home in Norwalk for over 40 years. Norwalk is a great place to live! People from all over the state recognize Norwalk is perfectly located within Connecticut's borders. It is become known as the hottest city to live in on the East Coast.

We all are aware of some of the key points of interest and concern—taxes

2. Next month, I will successfully complete a four-year term on the Board of Estimate and Taxation. As a board member, I have worked collaboratively to recommend four of the city's Operating Budgets and four of the city's Capital Budgets. Also, I have worked closely with all the department heads in Norwalk to responsibly distribute taxpayer dollars in the most appropriate ways. For the past four years, I have worked in collaboration with the Board of Education to fund their strategic plan and to make certain the appropriate funding is available for students, teachers, administrations, and for the upkeep of our schools.

I have over 20 years' experience in working in the accounting and finance environment, specifically within the public, private, and nonprofit sectors where I served as the Chief Operating Officer. I am a passionate transformational educator who teaches entrepreneurship, accounting, and other business courses. I currently serve as the

3. A continual effort to lower taxes as well as close the achievement gap are the two biggest challenges facing the city of Norwalk. While we have witnessed a decrease in taxes, I believe there is still room for improvement. However, job well done for those who were responsible for the changes that have been made, to date. Lastly, the third priority is flooding. This year, as a member of the Board of Estimate and Taxation, I voted yes to fund the flooding project. Today's rain produced flooding in areas, I have never seen before. There is a significant cost attached to this project, however; it must be address.

- **Tom Keegan (R)**

A: I was first inspired to run for Common Council by several factors and more by who than what. I was approached by our District's leadership and asked to consider running. I was humbled by their confidence in me. I spoke with family and friends and they encouraged me to run. I have always been interested in local issues and their effect on Norwalk's residents. I would read about issues like the Poko project, the mixed use 95/7 Spinnaker project that became a mall, rock crushing affecting South Norwalk and others. I would read about the many "Champions" advocating for a better Norwalk like Mr. Ernie Dumas, Diane Lauricella, Diane Cece, Donna Smirniotopoulos and our mayoral candidate Lisa Brinton and how they would fight to make Norwalk a better place to live. I have always been an others before self-type of person so I agreed to run in hopes that I

2. I have been a Police Officer for 42 years. The last twenty-five years as a Lieutenant. A while back one of my subordinates told me that I was respected by the group because I had earned it. He said I consistently put the group above my own needs. I was very humbled by his statement. I believe that decisions should be made not for selfish reasons but for the common good. During my career I've learned how important it is to be a good listener. Listening to what people have to say is paramount to good decision making. I know I can collaborate with others to get things accomplished. I was fortunate to do just that as The President of Cranbury Elementary PTO for four years and as The President of NAA which is one of the strongest advocating organizations for youth sports in the city for the past sixteen.

Priorities

1. To prioritize conversation and engagement with the people of District D. I believe that listening to others leads to good decision making.
2. Work closely with The Board of Education to fully renovate or build a new Cranbury School. The school no longer fits the needs of the children. The electrical infrastructure needs to be updated, the school has no air conditioning and the cafeteria and gymnasium share the same space.
3. Fully fund our Parks and Recreation capital requests. Our public spaces where our children play soccer, baseball, field hockey, etc. and where we as adults spend our leisure must be maintained and improved upon where necessary. I have been advocating for this for nearly 20 years as President of The Norwalk Athletic Assn.

WEBSITE: <https://keegandickens.com/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/DistrictD2019/?eid=ARDU5UnjKub-JDt0dO7szVry4aPkEgRvvySq-n8S240FRsDjcz1nbCF3YEwOE3tvSazcTH4hgdqmc6Wf>

- **Carl Dickens (R)**

1. Seventeen years ago when my wife and I moved to the area because of a job promotion we began to look at area communities to settle down. Norwalk kept moving to the top of the list and so we purchased our home on East Rocks Road. Slowly over the years that feeling we got that made us fall in love with Norwalk has been eroding. Quality of life a bit stagnant or eroding as well. Congestion, Infrastructure issues, home prices dropping and continued building without concern for the present or the future. I could either sit on the sidelines and complain or try to do something about what I was hearing from neighbors and friends. I chose to try and do something about it.

2. I am a resident, concerned citizen, with a deep background from my professional career of problem solving and managing large amounts of revenue. I am not a yes man, a good listener, and I build bridges not walls.

3. Having traveled in my job all over this country to big and small cities it is the same everywhere. Lack of revenue, over crowding for the size of the community, crumbling infrastructure, schools needing help and support, traffic congestion, and overall quality of life.

Listening to the residents of the city regardless of political affiliation. Being an advocate for District D and the city. Reaching out and creating meaningful dialogue with other cities in the state and out of the state who have increased their revenue and quality of life without taxing their citizens and business to the point of they either stay or leave.

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Common Council, District E

- **Tom Livingston* (D/WFP)**

1. Norwalk is definitely moving in the right direction. The grand list is growing, crime is down, and there is economic development citywide. We are also fully funding our schools and are in the midst of a major school building program. But there is more to be done. As Council President, Chair of the Land Use and Building Management Committee and member of the Public Works, Planning, and Ordinance committees, I've learned much about the operation of the city and believe that I've been able to help the city constructively deal with the challenges it faces. I am seeking reelection because I want to build upon the strong foundation we've laid down over the past few years to ensure that Norwalk reaches its full potential.

2. I am a lawyer and 32 year resident of Norwalk. I am also an adjunct at the University of Connecticut School of Law where I help students develop counseling, negotiation and other legal skills. And, as Council President, I have worked closely with the Mayor, fellow Council members, and city staff to address issues throughout Norwalk. My approach is always to work with everyone – from all backgrounds and on both sides of the aisle – and listen and learn so that I can make the best decisions. I pride myself on my ability to work with others in a non-confrontational manner and look for “win-win” solutions, where possible. As a member of the Common Council, I have not lost sight of the fact that it is not about any one individual, but about what is best for the citizens of District E and Norwalk.

3. We need to build a vibrant, forward-looking, sustainable city that attracts and retains families and businesses to grow our economy and maintain stable property values while honoring Norwalk’s unique location, history, and diversity. This includes ensuring that our schools are properly funded and quality of life issues are addressed. We also need to: (a) promote growth and jobs that fit our neighborhoods and expand our tax base, (b) support improvements to our infrastructure, including roads and sidewalks, (c) invest in our neighborhoods and provide mobility options, and (d) promote responsible conservation and sustainability efforts throughout the city. Through it all, we must be cognizant of the affect of our actions on the city budget in order to keep taxes as low as possible.

Website www.livingstonshanahan2019.com

- **Lisa Shanahan (D/WFP)**

1. My work on the Norwalk Conservation Commission and the Norwalk Land Trust has shown me the City of Norwalk on a granular, neighborhood by neighborhood level. We live in a beautiful and historic City. I have been inspired by my broadening appreciation of my hometown to pair my deeper knowledge of the City with my leadership experience and legal background to dedicate my time and expertise in service to our City. I think that Norwalk is on the right trajectory for healthy and exciting growth and I want to work on behalf of my District and the City at large to continue this growth in a sustainable way. To that end, I have enjoyed campaigning where I have met many individuals in District E to hear directly how they view our City and its progress. I look forward to continuing these conversations with my District on a regular basis.

2. My legal career and volunteer work have given me proven executive, negotiation and leadership skills.

I grew up in Norwalk and attended local schools. After I graduated from Dartmouth College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, I joined the law firm of McDermott Will & Emery in Chicago, and later The Northern Trust Company. After my family returned to Connecticut in 2007, I launched my volunteer career here in Norwalk. I have served as a leader on a number of boards that serve Norwalk, including Shakespeare on the Sound, the Rowayton Library, and the Rowayton Gardeners. I was appointed in 2019 to the Norwalk Conservation Commission and I sit on the Norwalk Land Trust. For Land Trust, I am spearheading an urban conservation mapping project for the City of Norwalk which has provided me unique insight into our City that will help me tremendously in helping plan Norwalk's future.

3. Norwalk is one of the few Connecticut cities that is growing. This growth is welcome and exciting but brings challenges.

Cities must attract young families and good paying jobs to foster and sustain healthy growth. To retain families, we need to invest in our school systems, both by supporting educational programming and updating our physical plants. We must work with local business leaders and colleges to train our citizenry and promote good paying jobs that fit our neighborhoods and increase our tax base. Most importantly, we must budget in a responsible way so that we invest in our infrastructure and provide needed services while not letting either our residents' or businesses' taxes and fees rise unduly. This growth must maintain reasonable conservation values in mind when considering development so that the quality of our life remains at a high level by improving our parks, walking/bike paths and open spaces.

Website www.livingstonshanahan2019.com

- **Peter Bondi (R)** [no responses received]
- **Ron Paladino (R)**

1. I am a life long resident of Norwalk, I deeply care about this city and I want to make a difference. I am a former business owner in Norwalk and most of my family lives in Norwalk. I have grandchildren in Norwalk and hope they will be part of Norwalk's future. This city is heading down a path of what I believe is over development, overcrowding, and heavy traffic with large dense apartment buildings and a mall that I am not sure will stand the test of time. I want to be a part of smart development and a movement towards ensuring Norwalk residents can protect their investment in this city.

2. I know Norwalk; I have lived here my entire 60 years. I have been a homeowner for almost 40 years as a result I am truly invested and dedicated to Norwalk's success. I am a former VP for WNA a former board member for WNA, the Long Island Task force, and city of Norwalk's clean and green. I have experience managing

finances and a diverse background in business. I am an excellent listener and most important I believe residents and government must work together. I am not a politician; I'm a resident, homeowner, husband, father and grandfather.

3. Priorities:

1: Preservation of Taxes

- Preserve West Norwalk, Rowayton and Brookside neighborhoods as well as our beaches and parks.
- Make zoning reform a top priority.
- Attract new businesses to Norwalk to balance the tax burden between residential and commercial.

2: Quality of Life

- Emphasize smart development. Not overdevelopment.
- Control residential cut through traffic, infrastructure overcrowding.
- Enforce ordinances such as blight, parking noise and illegal apartments.

3: Better Governance:

- increase lines of communication and fiscal responsibility
- Work in a non partisan way, to achieve goals