

LITTLE COMPTON TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

• • NEWSLETTER • •



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Officers

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Vice Chair: Robert Hayden
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November 5, 2016

Vol. XVII, No. 2

SPECIAL EDITION - 2016 ELECTION

Sample 2016 Ballot

Presidential Electors For:

- Donald J. Trump
President
Michael R. Pence
Vice President
REPUBLICAN

- Hillary Clinton
President
Tim Kaine
Vice President
DEMOCRAT

- Gary Johnson
President
Bill Weld
Vice President
Libertarian

- Jill Stein
President
Ajamu Baraka
Vice President
Green

- "Rocky" Roque
De La Fuente
President
Michael Steinberg
Vice President
American Delta

- Write-in

Representative in Congress District 1 Two Year Term Vote for 1

- Harold Russell Taub
REPUBLICAN
- David N. Cicilline
DEMOCRAT

- Write-in

Senator in General Assembly District 12 Two Year Term Vote for 1

- Amy E. Veri
REPUBLICAN
- Louis P. DiPalma
DEMOCRAT
- Write-in

Representative in General Assembly District 71 Two Year Term Vote for 1

- Justin W. La Croix
REPUBLICAN
- Dennis M. Canario
DEMOCRAT
- Write-in

Town Moderator Two Year Term Vote for 1

- Scott A. Morrison
REPUBLICAN
- Write-in

Town Clerk Two Year Term Vote for 1

- Carol A. Wordell
REPUBLICAN
- Write-in

Town Council Two Year Term Vote for 5

- Paul J. Golembeske
REPUBLICAN
- Fred M. Bodington, III
REPUBLICAN
- Charles N. Appleton, Jr.
REPUBLICAN
- Gary S. Mataronas
REPUBLICAN
- Robert L. Mushen
REPUBLICAN
- Jeremy T. Allen
Independent
- Matthew D. Gillette
Libertarian
- James W. H. Turner
Independent

Town Treasurer And Collector Of Taxes Two Year Term Vote for 1

- Mary-Jane M. Harrington
DEMOCRAT
- Write-in

Assessor Of Taxes Six Year Term Vote for 1

- Robert H. Goff, Jr.
Independent
- Write-in

School Committee Four Year Term Vote for any 2

- Joseph M. Quinn
REPUBLICAN
- Peg Bugara
REPUBLICAN

- Edward H. Bowen, III
Independent
- Jana P. Porter
Independent

- Write-in

- Write-in

This special newsletter focuses on the November 8th election and includes our recommendations of who to vote for and why. This is an important election!

ELECTION: On Tuesday, November 8, 2016, local, state, congressional, and presidential elections will be conducted. This is your chance to change the course of the town, Rhode Island, Washington and the country. If you think we are experiencing bad economic times now, watch how bad things can really get if you vote for "more of the same" with those politicians who have enslaved our children with indebtedness. The national debt is now just under 20 Trillion dollars! Rhode Island's debt is 12 Billion dollars. That's \$12,000 per Rhode Island resident.

The **SAMPLE** ballot on this page has our voting recommendations for trying to balance the budget and restore freedom.

President: The presidential election of 2016 is a very difficult one for us to make a recommendation. It really boils down to Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Both have significant liabilities. Clinton is best described as "more of the same" while Trump is best described as "risky." The United States is at a crossroad of what kind of governance it will have in the future. National polls suggest that we are headed in the wrong direction. Will either candidate be able to change that feeling? We honestly don't know and for that reason, we have placed a question mark on the ballot. You will have to use your best judgment when voting for president.

Congressional Representative: We feel that Rep. David Cicilline's votes have significantly contributed to many of the social and financial problems facing the nation. He has voted against oil/gas bills that could insure energy independence, he is for internet regulation, against sanctions on Iran, for the use of tax dollars for abortion, for sanctuary cities, against expanded background checks against Syrian & Iraqi immigrants, against the continuation of small business tax deductions, against the elimination of the death tax, for the release of dangerous terrorist prisoners from our secure base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, against the Secretary of Treasury appropriating funds

These endorsements and this newsletter have been paid for by the Little Compton Taxpayers Association and have not been authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Contact us at the address shown above if you have any questions.

to Social Security in the event of a default, and more. While we don't know very much about Harold Taub other than what he has posted on his website which has the following address: <http://www.russforcongress2016.com/platform>. He appears to be the polar opposite of Cicilline and earns our recommendation in this election. Big government costs money and Taub is against that.

Senator - General Assembly: This race between incumbent Lou DiPalma (incumbent) and challenger Amy Veri is an easy one to call. Lou DiPalma is responsible for a plethora of tax increases and new taxes. He authored the very controversial Truck Toll bill including additional bills to severely penalize those who do not pay tolls (trucks and cars). He developed a plan to increase vehicle inspection fees, driver license fees, vehicle registration fees, and the gas tax in exchange for removing the tolls on the Sakonnet River Bridge (for which he originally voted). The money was to be used for the repair and maintenance of roads and bridges throughout the state. The problem is that the fees went up as promised, but the money seems to have disappeared! Along comes the Truck Toll tax, allegedly for the same purpose - road and bridge upkeep. This as Rhode Island sits at the bottom of a list of states with poor business climates. He voted in favor of teacher union arbitration which almost always results in more for the teachers at the expense of the taxpayers. He also voted to pay the 38 Studios bond - a really bad expense for Rhode Islanders. Amy Veri from Little Compton is our clear choice. She does not think that any roads or bridges in Rhode Island should have a toll and that DiPalma's drastic penalties should be rescinded. She would like to lower the sales tax from 7% to 3%, and is against Common Core as it is another federal encroachment on state's rights and local control of education. She opposes RhodeMap RI as it will increase property taxes and cause the cities & towns to lose local control of zoning and planning. Veri also is in favor of reducing business taxes, fees and streamlining regulations in order to make RI more business friendly. She is our choice.

Representative - General Assembly: The race is between two very good people, Dennis Canario (incumbent) and Justin La Croix. In looking at Canario's voting record which went along with the Democrat majority 87% of the time, his stance on business is somewhat dismal. He voted to raise minimum wages which hurts small business, he voted to raise fees and fines in various areas affecting business, he voted to increase regulations on the fishing industry, and voted to eliminate the need for voters without an ID to sign an affidavit. La Croix, on the other hand, vows to fight big government, lower taxes, decrease excess regulation, corruption, tolls, and more. Although Canario has done some good things for his district, we recommend Justin La Croix for this office.

Moderator: Scott Morrison has done an excellent job in his role as Town Moderator. Based on that, we fully recommend keeping him in that office.

Town Clerk: Carol Wordell is the gold standard of town clerks. She has been indispensable in the smooth running of Little Compton. She has our recommendation for the office.

Town Council: The group of five incumbent councilors has done an excellent and responsible job over the years. They have tackled some very difficult problems and have shown themselves to be highly responsive to public input when working issues. They have kept our taxes down ringing in a number of years of zero increases to the envy of many surrounding towns. They have achieved an AAA bond rating through astute and careful financial management - the only town in the state to do that. They also have put together a Pension Committee that has brought us one of the best run pension programs in the state... fully funded. They took the lead in numerous capital improvement projects including the fully renovated school, the recreational fields, basketball courts,

walking path, a senior citizen bus, etc. Of particular importance is their effort to protect the town from attempted State encroachments on our sovereignty as a town. They work well as a team with over 70 years of combined experience and should all remain in office.

Treasurer: Mary Jane Harrington has been the Town Treasurer for a number of years and given that she is running unopposed, we recommend her for your vote. However, there has been discussion about changing the position from "elected" to "appointed" in order to increase the responsiveness of the Treasurer to the Town Council. The annual auditor's report has repeatedly flagged certain problems in the Treasurer's office with no apparent end in sight. This includes a separation of people who collect money and those who write the checks and bank balances not being equal to the Town's checkbook. We support the concept of making the position an appointed one, but that has not yet happened. Consequently, we recommend staying the course until such time as it does happen.

Tax Assessor: One of the ballot questions in this year's general election concerns the Tax Assessor's office (see below). If approved (which we recommend) and put in place, the elective office will dissolve and the replacement will be a "Tax Assessment Board of Review" with a single tax assessor appointed by the Town Council. Consequently, we cannot recommend voting for a candidate (Robert Goff) in a position that more than likely will be eliminated soon after the election. In our newsletter of October 28, 2014, we did not support this same proposal. But there have been numerous problems in the office after the unexpected passing of two highly experienced assessors. The change in structure is needed.

School Committee: The School budget is approximately 60% of the entire Town budget and is generated by the School Committee. Because of the size of the school budget, it is very important that the voters pick responsible and, where possible, experienced members to serve on the Committee. In this election there are two of the five seats being competed for. Here is the breakout in the order they appear on the ballot:

- Joseph Quinn - Republican
- Peg Bugara - Republican (Incumbent)
- Edward Bowen III - Independent
- Jana Porter - Independent

Both Quinn and Bugara are experienced educators and have significant experience in serving on the School Committee. Quinn was once the Chair of the Committee. Neither Bowen nor Porter has any known experience sitting on a school committee for a school such as Wilbur & McMahon School.

Because of the nature of the business of running a school including the education program, staffing, labor contracts, infrastructure, budgets, etc., experience becomes a very significant factor. In this election, there are two experienced candidates (Bugara & Quinn) and two inexperienced candidates (Bowen & Porter) where being on a school committee is concerned. The problem is that the other members of the School Committee (Allen, Craffey, and McHugh) who are not up for reelection this year only have two years of experience each for a total of 6 years of combined experience. Bugara & Quinn have 13 years of combined experience. If Bugara & Quinn are elected, that would give the School Committee 19 years of combined experience. If Bowen & Porter are elected, the 5-member School Committee would only have 6 years of combined experience. We consider this a significant distinction and, consequently, recommend the election of Bugara & Quinn. There's too much at stake to do otherwise.

We were unable to meet with Jana Porter to discuss her candidacy, but we were able to talk with Ed Bowen. Porter has teacher experience Mr. Bowen has some very good ideas and expressed himself in a very professional manner. If he does

not get elected this year, we sincerely hope that he will run for School Committee in the 2018 election just two years away.

State Ballot Questions: There are 9 Ballot issues on the official Election Ballot for the State of Rhode Island. 7 of them are at the State level, and 2 are at the Local level (i.e., Little Compton). The following chart shows our recommendations.

#1 - REJECT	#6 - REJECT
#2 - APPROVE	#7 - REJECT
#3 - REJECT	#8 - APPROVE *
#4 - REJECT	#9 - APPROVE *
#5 - REJECT	

* Little Compton ballot questions

State Level Questions: Questions 1 through 7 are State ballot questions.

(1) Casino in Tiverton: This question is intended to change the State Constitution to allow casino gambling at "Twin River - Tiverton". We recommend voting against this request as we see an array of problems that come with the casino. This includes crime, significant traffic snarls, an increase in bankruptcies, foreclosures, declining property values, family problems, and more. **VOTE REJECT!**

(2) Ethics Commission: This question seeks to restore the Rhode Island Ethics Commission jurisdiction over the General Assembly. Little needs to be said about this as commons sense and good judgment should be your guide. The Rhode Island General Assembly is notorious for engaging in less than honorable activities on the part of individuals as well as the body politic. They need watching! **VOTE APPROVE!**

(3) Veterans Home Bonds: This is a spending issue in a State that is deeply in debt. The State got itself into this debt through Bond Issues. This \$27-Million question only makes things worse. **VOTE REJECT!**

(4) University of Rhode Island Construction: This is yet another spending question for the URI College of Engineering coming on the heels of a \$125-Million bond for the URI College of Engineering that was voted for just two years ago in the 2014 election. \$45.5-Million. More debt. **VOTE REJECT!**

(5) Port Infrastructure: This question seeks \$70-Million for improvements to the ports at Davisville, Quonset, and Providence. Why should the State pay for this? If the numerous businesses at these places want these improvements so much, perhaps they should pay for them. **VOTE REJECT!**

(6) Green Economy: This is a \$35-Million question for various environmental related projects. A lot of it involves land acquisition and grants. We do not need this. **VOTE REJECT!**

(7) Housing Opportunity: This is a \$50-Million question aimed at affordable housing which adds more control that the State exercises over local communities. Not only is this expensive, but it should be viewed with suspicion given the leftward march of the General Assembly. **VOTE REJECT!**

Note: These State bond questions add up to \$228-Million. Do we want to add another quarter billion dollars to the debt? We have to stop doing this.

Little Compton Questions: There are two local Ballot issues on the official Election Ballot for Little Compton. They are both associated with changes to the Town Charter and are numbered #8 and #9.

(8) Tax Assessors: This question seeks to reorganize the Tax Assessors office in four major ways: (a) Reduce the staffing to a single tax assessor; (b) Change the name of the office to "Tax Assessment Board of Review"; (c) Change the office from elected to appointed by the Town Council; and (d) Bring

stability to the office in order to solve a variety of reported problems. At the October 20, 2016 Town Council meeting, it was stated that the current tax assessment staff agrees with this change. **VOTE APPROVE!**

(9) Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Committee: This is a routine administrative change to the Charter to reflect the fact that this committee no longer exists. **VOTE APPROVE!**

Experience Matters: It has been said that some members of the Town Council and School Committee should be defeated in this election because "they've been there a long time." There is a basic flaw in that argument because longevity equates to experience. It begs the question: Would you prefer a new brain surgeon who just graduated from college over an experienced surgeon who has been at it for a long time and who has learned extensively the various nuances of the trade. It is no different with other operations such as running a town or a school. Experience matters and should be taken into account when you vote on November 8th.

Announcements: • LCTA Newsletters are expensive. Publication costs have significantly risen over the past several years. A generous contribution to offset the printing and mailing would be greatly appreciated.

• The LCTA needs your support as a member. The last decade has seen very stable budgets and very low taxes. Little Comptons sovereignty has been assaulted on more than one occasion by the RI General Assembly. Both the Town Council and School Committee have done a good job of holding this at bay. It's because we've had good, conservative people in the majorities of those organizations. This could all change with the wrong people elected to office. Please consider joining us.



• We send out e-Newsletters at critical times (it's faster), plus we update our Web site often during active times in town (www.LCTaxpayers.com). To get the e-Newsletters, from our website, click on the icon (shown here) at the top and add your E-mail address, so you can get our e-Newsletters. We never give it to anyone. See you Tuesday, November 8th.

Need a Ride to the gym? For some of you, it may be difficult to get to the Financial Town Meeting due to lack of transportation. But it is very important for you to attend to protect your financial interests. All you have to do is make a reservation with Stay at Home to get picked up and returned. To make a reservation, call Margaret Tirpaek at 401-835-2454. Check out their website as it offers quite a bit: www.stayathomeinlittlecompton.org



**BE SURE TO VOTE
NOVEMBER 8, 2016
SCHOOL GYM**

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* * TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER * *

LITTLE COMPTON TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM (Vol. XVII, No. 2)

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CITY/TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____

SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION:	\$15 (Single)	\$25 (Family)	\$_____ (Other)
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