



2010 VOTERS GUIDE

Chappaqua Central School District

Non-Partisan Election Information Prepared by the
League of Women Voters of New Castle

Come to Candidates' Night

Thursday
May 13, 2010
7:30 pm

Chappaqua Library
195 S. Greeley Ave, Chappaqua

May be rebroadcast on NCCTV,
Cablevision Channels 75 & 77
Verizon Channels 45 & 46

Vote on Election Day Tuesday

May 18, 2010
7:00 am to 9:00 pm

Horace Greeley
High School Gym
70 Roaring Brook Road,
Chappaqua

In this Election:

- Two seats on the Board of Education are up for vote; four candidates are running for these seats.
- One seat on the Library Board is up for vote; two candidates are running for this seat.
- Approval of the Library and School budgets will be on the ballot.

About the Board of Education:

The Board of Education for the Chappaqua Central School District consists of five members serving three-year terms. Terms are staggered so that the entire Board is never up for election at the same time. The legal qualifications for Board of Education members are that they: must be qualified electors of the school district, must be able to read and write, must be a resident of the district for one year prior to the election, and cannot be employed by the Board on which they serve.

About the Library Board:

The Chappaqua Library Board of Trustees meets once a month and is responsible for setting library policy and for the fiscal oversight of the library. The Board consists of five members serving five-year terms. Terms are staggered so that one Board member is up for election each year. Board members must be at least 18 years old and residents of the Chappaqua Central School District for at least one year. During a member's five-year term of service, the member serves successively in each of five positions, starting as Member-at-Large and moving on to Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and finally President.

Election Information Available Online at

www.smartvoter.org

Questions asked of each Board of Education candidate:

- (1) What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the Board of Education?
 (2) What do you consider the main issue(s) facing the Chappaqua Central School District and how would you address it (them)?

(All information was provided by the candidates. Biographical information was edited for the Voters Guide; responses to Questions 1 and 2 appear exactly as submitted by the candidates. Responses were limited to 100 words for Question 1, to 150 words for Question 2.)

Amy Ansehl

Occupation: Dir. of Public Health Practice; Executive Dir. of the Partnership for a Healthy Population and faculty member at New York Medical College.

Education: BA, psychology, Washington University in St. Louis (1978); and BSN and MSN, Columbia University(1996), FNP-C

Interests / Community Involvement: PTA & School Leadership: including: Dist. Chair for Health and Safety, a Member of the State mandated district level Health & Safety Committee; Co-Chair of the Special Education Committee; and Member of the Citizens' Bipartisan School Board Nominating Committee. Public Health/Community Leadership: including Am. Heart Ass'n Stroke Task force chair for West. County; Am. Lung Ass'n "Volunteer of the Year" award (2004), HIV Advisory Council Co-Chair for West. County; Chair of POW'R against Tobacco Coalition for West., Putnam, Orange and Rockland counties; Dir. of Community Outreach and Education for the Children's Environmental Health Center of the Hudson Valley.

Children in Chappaqua Schools or Date of Graduation:

6th grader at Robert E. Bell Middle School, 2004 and 2008 HGHS Graduates.

No. of Meetings Attended in Past 2 Years:

Board of Education: Approx. 8

School Budget: Approx. 5

(1) I have extensive education and management experience and have lived in Chappaqua for 11 years. I have hands-on experience in public school systems directing a health center and am program director and faculty at NYMC. I am a dedicated volunteer. Two of my children matriculated elementary - college, including one in graduate school and another now in Bell. Navigating children through adolescence, teachers, administration, kids' first jobs and more. Previously, I spent 11+ years as an executive in the private sector running a P&L. My experiences provide me "*perspective and vision*" to enthusiastically serve our community on the School Board.

(2) The promotion and achievement of an excellent educational system for children in difficult economic times and with huge budget/contractual obligations is our highest priority. I will address them by working proactively and respectfully with the many stakeholders:

- Set the right priorities and help make hard decisions
- Listen and respond to our Chappaqua community's needs and its budget constraints
- Make certain that we maximize State entitled and grant funding
- Retain quality teachers and administrators and ensure they are compensated fairly
- Operate intelligently, efficiently and maximize our current resources to optimize educational excellence for all children!

Randall J. Katchis

Occupation: Partner at SKL Partners LLC

Education: BA in Chemistry and Biology, Boston University

Interests / Community Involvement: Board member of Chappaqua Schools Foundation 2003-2007 and recipient of the 2007 Special Leadership Award, present member of the CCSD Athletic Advisory Committee, past board member Horace Greeley Lacrosse Board, Member of the Chappaqua Community Field Committee, past board member of the Bedford Katonah Hockey Assoc. Continue to coach various teams over the years.

Children in Chappaqua Schools or Date of Graduation:

4th grader at Westorchar, 6th grader at Seven Bridges, 2007 and 2009 HGHS graduates.

Lived in District: 16 years

No. of Meetings Attended in Past 2 Years:

Board of Education: 11

School Budget: 6

(1) My varied career has afforded me the opportunity to develop many skills that are directly applicable to being an effective and successful board member. As a director of leukemia research for the US Navy I honed my analytical skills that were initially developed as a scientist in college. Nearly 30 years as an entrepreneur in the fields of technology, hospitality, real estate and pharmaceuticals has allowed me to develop expertise in leadership, communication, strategic planning and financial management. These skills and the ability to think creatively (out of the box) are essential to tackle the challenges that lie before us.

(2) I would group the challenges into three categories; First, the selection and successful implantation of new leadership. Secondly, sustainability both financial and programmatic. Finally, the need to change the way the district communicates and engages with the taxpayers. To be successful I believe the board must first communicate in new and effective ways as to where we are today, the pressures we face and their vision to move forward. Secondly, we need to listen carefully to ensure we are representing the majority of taxpayers and not just the vocal minority. Finally, we must find a way to ignite and inspire every member of our community to get involved. I firmly believe that the members of this community have a great deal to offer and are the solution to solving many of those problems that are out of the hands of the school board and controlled by our representatives in Albany.

Jeffrey Mester

Occupation: Self-employed equity and equity derivatives trader. Previously, Senior Vice President, MF Global, Inc., COO Refco Securities, Inc, CEO of ETG, LLC and Market Maker on CBOE.

Education: The University of Virginia, B.A. Major: Economics, Minor: History.

The Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, MBA -- Finance and Real Estate

Interests / Community Involvement: President, CCSD Board of Education. School Board Rep. to Horace Greeley Scholarship Fund. Coached over 20 youth baseball, basketball, soccer and softball teams. Play in Chappaqua men's softball league. One half of Mester chauffeur service and Assistant Mester kids' scheduling coordinator.

Children in Chappaqua Schools or Date of Graduation:

7th grader and 8th grader at Seven Bridges, 10th grader at Horace Greeley High School.

Lived in District: 11 years

No. of Meetings Attended in Past 2 Years:

Board of Education: All

School Budget: All

(1) For three years, I have worked tirelessly on behalf of the members of this community to be an effective member of the school board. It requires a person with an extensive and detailed knowledge of the district, a complete understanding of the budget and the structural budget issues the district faces, a person who can make practical and reasoned decisions, a person who is flexible and can build consensus, a person who can balance competing community interests, and a person with vision and conviction. There is no experience like direct experience and a proven track record. I stand on mine.

(2) The major issues facing the district are ensuring the quality of the education remains at a superior level while maintaining fiscal discipline and responsibility, the selection of the next district Superintendent, and continuing to broaden lines of communication with the community. Last year, the Board developed a zero budget increase. This year, we propose a 1.9% increase. This two year total, while avoiding any significant changes to the academic program, is unparalleled in Westchester. We must continue this trend of fiscal responsibility by working in partnership with district stakeholders including community members with and without children in the district as well as our bargaining units. We must establish revenue sources other than taxes by expanding current public-private partnerships and establishing new ones. The Board's search for the next Superintendent must be a comprehensive and balanced process that includes community input. The Board must continue to be dynamic, approachable and accessible.

Nona Ullman

Occupation: Educational and Government Management Consultant, President, Improve, LLC

Education: Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, MBA; Cornell University, Bachelor of Science, Industrial and Labor Relations

Interests / Community Involvement: Grafflin School Planning Committee, Chappaqua School District PTA Legislative Chair, Grafflin Elementary PTA Environmental Co-Chair, Girl Scout Troop Leader, After-School Enrichment Teacher, general Grafflin volunteer (greenhouse, library, backpack, field trips, etc.) and grant writer for a Roaring Brook Elementary School anti-bullying Chappaqua School Foundation grant. Interests: Family, friends, reading, triathlons, tennis, yoga.

Children in Chappaqua Schools or Date of Graduation: 3 in the District.

Lived in District: 5 years

No. of Meetings Attended in Past 2 Years:

Board of Education: 8

School Budget: 4

(1) I believe my professional background of 20 years in education and business as a management consultant will provide a critical context for serving Chappaqua. Most recently I worked with Greenwich Public Schools, the New York State Retirement System, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in the areas of strategic planning, financial analysis, information technology project management, organizational design and grant writing. Prior to starting my own Chappaqua-based education consulting company in 2005, I led KPMG Consulting/BearingPoint's National K-12 practice as a Managing Director, working with over 50 clients in 16 states on multiple projects.

(2) I believe the main issues include strategically, responsibly, and in our collective interests addressing the following: 1. Hiring and working with a new superintendent; 2. Negotiating the union contract when it expires; and 3. Continuing to maintain educational excellence while showing fiscal restraint in this economic downturn.

I also pledge to pursue the following goals for each educational level to support the Chappaqua School District's strategic question and mission statement:

Elementary schools: 1. Update the report cards to better reflect our children's skills; and 2. Provide a more individualized focus.

Middle schools: 1. Provide more self-directed learning opportunities to better engage students; and 2. Provide more opportunities to create a sense of community belonging.

Horace Greeley High School: 1. Provide students with more experiential project-based learning, such as internships, senior projects, and presentation opportunities; and 2. Create an open dialog between teachers, students and parents on course quality.

Candidates For Library Board

Vote for 1

Term: 5 Years

Questions asked of each Library Board candidate:

(1) What experiences and skills do you have that will enable you to be an effective member of the Library Board?

(2) What do you consider the main issue(s) facing the Chappaqua Library and how would you address it (them)?

(All information was provided by the candidates. Biographical information was edited for the Voters Guide; responses to Questions 1 and 2 appear exactly as submitted by the candidates. Responses were limited to 100 words for Question 1, to 150 words for Question 2.)

Eleanor Friedman

Occupation: Currently caring full time for my three young children.

Education: B.A. Art History, English; M.S.I.S. Library and Information Services

Interests / Community Involvement: Member of Friends of the Chappaqua Library, Chappaqua Garden Club, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Co-chair of Fundraising Committee at Chappaqua Friends Nursery School; Library Book Sale and FCC Barn Sale volunteer. In my spare time I enjoy reading, gardening, visiting The Cloisters, and spending time with my family.

Lived in Chappaqua: 2 years

How often do you use the library? I visit the Library one to two times per week and use the web site daily.

No. of Library Board Meetings Attended in Past 2 Years: 1

(1) My extensive library background includes Head Librarian at The Field School in Washington, D.C. where I was responsible for creating and implementing the library budget, Reference Librarian and Coordinator of Interlibrary Loan and Reserve Services at Vassar College, and Librarian and Special Programs Coordinator at Howland Public Library. As a young mother and new member of the community I will bring a fresh perspective to the Library Board with my unique library experience, dynamic energy to work with other Board members, patrons, and staff of the Library, and commitment to give back to children, families, and greater New Castle community.

(2) The main issue over the next five years is the continued prioritization and achievement of Long Range Plans for the Chappaqua Library keeping in mind current economic challenges. The Library needs a larger Children's Room with ample facilities to read, play, and attend programs; increased Teen space for adolescents and teens to comfortably socialize while using Teen Librarian services, materials, and programming; more dedicated work space for tutors and scholars; and the addition of an inviting coffee bar and comfortable lounge areas. My budgeting and fundraising experience will help guide the formation and direction of a Chappaqua Library Foundation that will enable the Library to achieve Long Range Plans for the community. As a member of the Library Board I will be dedicated to achieving these goals while ensuring the integrity of the Library's mission and commitment to increased presence in the community through diverse and compelling programs and services.

Caren Raylesberg

Occupation: Attorney (not practicing), Housewife/ Mother since 1986.

Education: B.A., Skidmore College, J.D., Brooklyn Law School

Interests / Community Involvement: Past Officer (Recording Secretary) of Board of Trustees of Temple Beth-El in Chappaqua. Current member of Temple Beth-El. Past member of the Library Board Nominating Committee. Member Friends of the Library. Attend Library events/programs. Recently attended the 50+ WEBS class. Extensive PTA involvement over a continuous period of 17 years, during which time my children attended Chappaqua schools, beginning for both of them in Kindergarten. Attend Continuing Education programs in the Chappaqua School District. Interests include walking on the Greeley track almost daily, swimming, cooking, reading, learning Bridge.

Lived in Chappaqua: 25 years

How often do you use the library? 3-4 times per week

(1) I have highly developed organizational skills, honed by my legal training and work experience, as well as by being an active member of the Chappaqua community since 1985. I have personal experience of managing a big construction project and am able to budget and be fiscally responsible. This translates into my ability to make decisions regarding the library facilities and expenditures in a mature fiduciary capacity. I am trained to identify and focus on issues and work with others to come to successful resolutions. My love for the library gives me a passion to ensure its relevance in today's world.

(2) Space and how to allocate it. Revamping the Children's Room so as to make it more open, inviting and vibrant. This may mean reconfiguring the current footprint and perhaps taking over some available courtyard space and enclosing it. Additional parking. There are not enough spaces for patrons. Two options to consider might be coordinating library program start and stop times to achieve better flow in the lot, as well as working with the town to "find" underutilized or hidden space during certain hours of the day. Staying current with latest advances in technology to deliver dependable wireless connection and expand online access to information databases of interest to patrons of all ages. Keeping up with successful Teen and Pre-Teen programming by seeking their input. Cost/benefit analysis of each item would be required. Starting a foundation and having a major fundraising event each year would help to provide funds.



League of Women Voters of New Castle
 P.O. Box 364
 Chappaqua NY 10514

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www.lwvnewcastle.org
 lwv.newcastle@gmail.com

**Election Information
 Inside:
 Chappaqua Central
 School District**

**VOTE – May 18, 2010
 Horace Greeley High
 School Gym, Chappaqua
 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.**



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Chappaqua Central School District

Your Support Is Vital!

This non-partisan election information is prepared by the LWV of New Castle. It is produced as a public service with volunteer labor and funds. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to help pay for a service we hope you find useful.

Send contributions to:

**LWVNC Citizen Education Fund
 P.O. Box 364
 Chappaqua, NY 10514**

Candidates' Night
Thursday, May 13, 2010
7:30 pm
Chappaqua Library
195 S. Greeley Avenue, Chappaqua

Come hear the candidates and ask your questions! Questions for the candidates may also be e-mailed no later than May 12th to Lwv.newcastle@gmail.com. Candidates' Night may be rebroadcast on Cablevision Chan. 75 & 77 and Verizon Chan. 45 & 46. For schedule information, go to www.ncctv.org.