

Waterford, CT Green Party Platform
2015 Municipal Elections
Adopted 8/3/2015



Government and Services

We, first and foremost, believe that democracy is always strengthened when more ideas and candidates are part of an election, and we aim, as a party, to bring about further dialogue about the issues that Waterford residents face today. We also believe that decision-making processes and the commission appointment process must be more public and transparent so that people have an increased opportunity to influence and serve their community in a meaningful way. Therefore, Green Party candidates in Waterford shall aim to:

- Increase transparency in town decision-making processes.
- Encourage equal opportunity for involvement in town government.
- Make appointment process to commissions more available, representative, and transparent.
- Adopt Instant Runoff Voting for the election of First Selectman.
- Support the establishment of a regional animal control facility, but believe that such a facility should not be paid for with local taxpayer dollars if constructed on State property.

Education

The Town of Waterford continues to make strides to improve the effectiveness of our school system, but there is always much more that can be done, and many policies and practices that should be reevaluated in order to create an efficient education system. We, as a party, believe that emphasis must be placed on the fact that students learn and express themselves differently. We will strive to create an environment where all are safe, respected, and actively engaged, so that we may maximize our children's ability to learn within the Waterford Public School system. Therefore, Green Party candidates in Waterford shall aim to:

- Oppose over-emphasis on standardized testing and encourage adaptive learning and differentiated instruction.
- Promote paperless environments to streamline accessibility and increase eco-friendliness.
- Conduct a budget-cost comparison between local school systems and Waterford.

-Work to ensure that schools are accessible and safe environments for all students including LBGTQ+ and gender-nonconforming youth.

-Support the creation of non-voting student liaison positions on the Board, so that the subjects of the Board's efforts can reflect on decisions and share insight regarding student wants and needs.

Infrastructure

While a recent study conducted by VHB, a private assessment company, showed that it would cost over \$13 million to improve our town's roads and general infrastructure and an increase of over \$600,000 per year to maintain road quality as it stands, we believe that it is vitally important that Waterford find a way to maintain its infrastructure. Safe roads and public transportation are essential components of a thriving community. Additionally, ensuring reliable, safe utilities is imperative to the health and welfare of our citizens. Therefore, Green Party candidates in Waterford shall aim to:

-Support creating more sidewalks and bike lanes for safe, non-motorized access to the town.

-Support conducting much-needed maintenance in high-traffic areas and the redesign of unsafe roads.

-Support investigating means to strengthen and protect our electric infrastructure against increasingly powerful storms.

-Support taking steps to prevent combined sewage overflow.

-Support installing eco-friendly, permeable pavement.

Environment

The health and well-being of both local and global ecosystems is vitally important to the continued survival and success of people around the world. While many actions have been taken to curb environmental destruction at various levels of government, we believe that the Town of Waterford can do more to protect local wildlife and preserve natural land, so that we may thrive for generations to come. Therefore, Green Party candidates in Waterford shall aim to:

-Support a plastic bag ordinance banning the distribution of non-biodegradable plastic carryout bags, and encouraging stores to provide their customers with either biodegradable carryout bags or reusable bags made from cloth or from durable plastic.

- Support preserving as much natural land as possible, while supporting plans for environmentally responsible, pertinent developments.
- Support both businesses and individuals as they seek to utilize renewable energy sources and sustainable practices.
- Install refill stations for reusable water bottles and convert electrical switches to sensor-switches in town-owned buildings.
- Promote the conservation of wetlands and coastal zones to protect against sea level rise.

Poverty and Fair Economics:

The financial well-being of the people of Waterford is of utmost importance, and we believe that there are many actions that can be taken by our local government to help increase the ability of residents of Waterford to support themselves and their families. Therefore, Green Party candidates in Waterford shall aim to:

- Support a regional push towards a living wage.
- Support policies and practices that favor local businesses and good employers over low-wage, corporate chains.
- Support tax and zoning policies that spur the creation of high-wage, environmentally responsible jobs.
- Support property tax cuts for those who adopt sustainable improvements to their property such as solar panels, garden space, and water-conserving landscaping.
- Support the right of workers to collectively bargain and be a part of decision-making processes that greatly affect their employment.
- Keep a balanced town budget and maintain responsible town management while maintaining an open relationship with the community on economic issues.