



LITTLE COMPTON TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

● ● NEWSLETTER ● ●

PO Box 455, Adamsville, RI 02801

Email: Taxpayers@cox.net Web: www.LCTaxpayers.com

October 28, 2014

Vol. XV, No. 2

Officers

Chairman: Joseph Quinn
Vice Chair: Robert Hayden
Sec/Treas: Roger Lord

SPECIAL EDITION - ELECTIONS

This special newsletter focuses on the November 4th election, student population, and the town's pension fund.

ELECTION: On Tuesday, November 4, 2014, local, state, and congressional elections will be conducted. This is your chance to change the course of the town, Rhode Island, and Washington. 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 following SAMPLE ballot has our voting recommendations for trying to balance the budget and restore freedom.

Sample 2014 Ballot

STRAIGHT PARTY To Vote a "Straight Ticket" complete the arrow pointing to the Party of your choice		DEMOCRAT	SECRETARY OF STATE FOUR Year Term Vote for 1	Nellie M. GORBEA DEMOCRAT	TOWN COUNCIL TWO Year Term Vote for any 5	Cheryl A. COMLEY DEMOCRAT
		MODERATE		John M. CARLEVALE, SR. REPUBLICAN	Gary S. MATARONAS REPUBLICAN	
		REPUBLICAN		Write-in	Charles N. APPLETON, JR. REPUBLICAN	
SENATOR IN CONGRESS SIX Year Term Vote for 1			ATTORNEY GENERAL FOUR Year Term Vote for 1	Peter F. KILMARTIN DEMOCRAT		Robert L. MUSHEN REPUBLICAN
John F. REED DEMOCRAT			Dawson Tucker HODGSON REPUBLICAN	Write-in		Paul J. GOLEMESKE REPUBLICAN
Mark S. ZACCARIA REPUBLICAN			Write-in	Write-in		Fred M. BODINGTON, III REPUBLICAN
Write-in			GENERAL TREASURER FOUR Year Term Vote for 1	Seth MAGAZINER DEMOCRAT		Write-in
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 1 TWO Year Term Vote for 1				Ernest A. ALMONTE Independent		Write-in
David N. CICCILLINE DEMOCRAT				Write-in		Write-in
Cormick Brendan LYNCH REPUBLICAN			SENATOR IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 12 TWO Year Term Vote for 1	Louis P. DiPALMA DEMOCRAT	TOWN TREASURER AND COLLECTOR OF TAXES TWO Year Term Vote for 1	Mary-Jane M. HARRINGTON DEMOCRAT
Write-in				Write-in		Write-in
GOVERNOR FOUR Year Term Vote for 1			REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 71 TWO Year Term Vote for 1	Dennis M. CANARIO DEMOCRAT		SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOUR Year Term Vote for any 3
Gina M. RAIMONDO DEMOCRAT				Norbert J. RATTAY REPUBLICAN		Write-in
Robert J. HEALEY, JR. MODERATE				Write-in		Patrick McHUGH DEMOCRAT
Allan W. FUNG REPUBLICAN			LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR FOUR Year Term Vote for 1	Andrew W. MOORE DEMOCRAT		Joseph M. QUINN REPUBLICAN
Kate L. FLETCHER Independent				Scott A. MORRISON REPUBLICAN		Lori Ann CRAFTY REPUBLICAN
Leon M. KAYARIAN Independent				Write-in		Lynn A. BROUSSEAU LEBREUX REPUBLICAN
Write-in			TOWN MODERATOR TWO Year Term Vote for 1	Write-in		Polly Gracia ALLEN Independent
Daniel J. McKEE DEMOCRAT				Write-in		Write-in
William H. GILBERT MODERATE			TOWN CLERK TWO Year Term Vote for 1	Carol A. WORDELL REPUBLICAN		Write-in
Catherine Terry TAYLOR REPUBLICAN					STATE QUESTIONS ON BACK	
Tony JONES Libertarian					LOCAL QUESTIONS ON SEPARATE BALLOT	
Write-in						

School Committee: This year's school committee election requires special discussion and review. It is so critical, that we list the School Committee first in our Newsletter.

The LCTA endorses Joseph Quinn and Lynn Brousseau-LeBreux for the School Committee. We advise that you ONLY VOTE FOR THE TWO OF THEM.

Reasoning: LCTA wanted to find out the position of each candidate running for School Committee. (Note: We did not interview candidate Quinn as he is an officer of LCTA. As such, he recused himself from participating. We are aware of Mr. Quinn's positions being on the School Committee).

We invited candidates Polly Allen, Lynn Brousseau-LeBreux, Lori Craffey, and Patrick McHugh to meet with our Directors and talk about their views on class size, teachers contracts, spending philosophy, Administration staffing and lastly, why Allen, Craffey, and McHugh appear to be running together as a combined Republican, Democrat, and Independent "TRIO". There appears to be an agenda at play.

Only Lynn Brousseau-LeBreux made herself available for an interview. Lori Craffey was available only by phone due to a family requirement to be at home. The Lynn Brousseau-LeBreux interview ran very long such that the LCTA was unable to call Craffey that night. Ultimately, LCTA ended up exchanging several emails with Craffey on questions directly posed to her.

Because of declining student enrollment (see related article on Page 3), Little Compton has the smallest class sizes in the state. Lori Craffey indicates that she favors the continuance of the small class sizes with fiscal responsibility. She also plans to investigate the feasibility of reducing the administrative staffing by combining the School Administration with other (not specified) school districts to save money.

(Continued on next page)

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.

Endorsements (continued from Page 1):

Ms. Craffey is satisfied with the amount of funding the school gets. She would not comment why she, Allen, and McHugh are running as a "TRIO".

When asked if the TRIO's position was to remove the present administration, she did not deny the thought, so the presumption is that she would and the TRIO would. We have concluded that the TRIO in all likelihood wants to take control of the School Committee majority with a nefarious objective of REPLACING THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION.

The LC school system's administration consists of a part time District Superintendent and a full time School Principal. It is LCTA's **strong belief** that both the Superintendent and Principal are performing their management duties very well.

Lynn Brousseau-LeBreux also believes that smaller class size is preferred although she remained open minded about combining classes where it makes sense to do so. She believes, as we do, that the Superintendent and Principal are doing a fantastic job of bringing things into the school that are exciting to both the students and teachers making Wilbur a positive experience. She supports pay for performance, but understands that cannot be done under the current climate.

Candidates Allen and McHugh were non-responsive and would not meet with LCTA.

Based upon the information furnished by the candidates, and after reviewing recent School Committee meeting videos where members of this TRIO showed their "stuff" by illustrating in a public venue just how hostile they were towards the current Administration and the School Committee, we feel they will harm the school and ruin its character if allowed to control the School Committee.

VOTE FOR JOE QUINN AND BROUSSEAU-LEBREUX ONLY. There's too much at stake to elect the TRIO.



We recommend voting as shown on the 1st page. It's in your best interest. *NOTE: We neither favor nor disfavor unopposed candidates.*

Congress: Mark Zaccaria for Senate and Cormick Lynch for House. Sen. Reed and Rep Cicilline have contributed significantly to your financial demise and your reduced standard of living. It can only get worse if we keep them.

Governor: Allan Fung is not part of the "Establishment" and has a good financial track record in Cranston. Ms. Raimondo has been endorsed by countless unions including SEIU. Why would they do that? She supports driver licenses for illegal aliens and opposes the Voter ID law currently in effect in Rhode Island.

Lt. Governor: Catherine Taylor seeks to lower property taxes, stop taxing Social Security, and lowering the cost of living. Dan McKee seems to want to "invest" in education which means spend more on teacher salaries. It is hard to find information on Gilber & Jones.

Representative: Dennis Canario and Norbert Rattay are both very good men, but we endorse Canario because of his experience and hard work for us such as helping to eliminate the Sakonnet River Bridge toll. Under new House leadership, his rising influence in the General Assembly will serve us well.

Sec State: Jim Carlevale has a platform that is in the state's best interest including keeping the voter ID law and a Constitutional Convention. Nellie Gorbea is against such measures. It's hard to understand why.

Attorney General: Dawson Hodgson offers a restoration of public trust as incumbent Kilmartin had a hand in the very costly 38 Studios debacle and wouldn't investigate it.

General Treasurer: Ernie Almonte has served RI responsibly for many years most recently as the state's Auditor General. He is also a CPA. With these skills, he is equipped to improve the state's economy. Seth Magaziner talks only of "investing" which is political code for more spending and higher taxes. Stay away from him.

Moderator: Scott Morrison has been a gift to the town in his role as Budget Committee head. Based on that, he would be a great moderator and deserves your vote.

Town Council: This group of 5 councilors has done an excellent and responsible job over the years. Keep them on!

Tax Assessor: The position is open and there are no candidates on the ballot. The only way to "vote" for one is to write a person's name on the ballot. If no names are written, then the Town Council will appoint somebody.

State Ballot Questions: There are seven Ballot issues on the official Election Ballot for the State of Rhode Island. The unanimous position of the Board of Directors of the LCTA is that we do not support any of these Questions except #2 (local control of gambling location), and #3 (Constitutional Convention). The Questions run the gamut from Casino Gambling to Affordable Housing Grants and total \$218-million.

The State is broke and we are in the middle of the slowest recovery from the worst recession in modern history. We do not believe that it is either wise or prudent for the State to increase the burden on taxpayers by \$218-million dollars before interest. \$400-million with interest. Ballot question #1 seeks to expand gambling in Newport to include a state operated casino involving table games. This type of gambling attracts organized crime.

#1 - REJECT	#5 - REJECT
#2 - APPROVE	#6 - REJECT
#3 - APPROVE	#7 - REJECT
#4 - REJECT	

We feel that our members should take the time to review individual issues which may or may not impact their lives and make an appropriate decision.

Little Compton Ballot Questions: There are thirteen local Ballot issues on the official Election Ballot for Little Compton. They are all associated with changes to the Town Charter and are numbered #8 through #20. With the exception of #13 and #16, the proposed changes are technical in nature made to clear up ambiguities and clarify wording.

#13 is entitled "TOWN ADMINISTRATOR" which we do NOT support. The Town Council currently employs a "Business Manager" whose function is carrying out day-to-day business conducted by the Town. The Town of Tiverton has a Town Administrator who wields a tremendous amount of power... and the incumbent is NOT subject to the voters! We do not consider this to be a healthy situation for the townspeople as such a position can only be described as "unelected ruler."

#16 is entitled "TAX ASSESSORS" which we do NOT support. The proposed change removes the Tax Assessors from the election process and converts it to a single assessor appointed by the Town Council. We do not support this for one simple reason - we do not see what problem is being fixed! Furthermore, the change places too much power with the Town Council.

#8 - APPROVE	#13 - REJECT	#18 - APPROVE
#9 - APPROVE	#14 - APPROVE	#19 - APPROVE
#10 - APPROVE	#15 - APPROVE	#20 - APPROVE
#11 - APPROVE	#16 - REJECT	
#12 - APPROVE	#17 - APPROVE	

Student Population: It is time to take an honest look at what is happening to the student population in the Wilbur & McMahon School. It is falling off a cliff. The school administration projects a student count of **219** by the end of the current school year. In 2010, the New England School Development Council projected the number to be 287. This was part of a facilities needs study. In 2013, the RI Department of Education projected the number to be 260. Note: As of this writing, there are 248 students in the Wilbur and McMahon School and 123 in Portsmouth.

In looking at the graph to the right, there were once 500 students in the school **PRIOR TO** building the 1973 and 1990 additions!

We now have class sizes of 9 and 10 students at a cost approaching \$20,000 per student in a state where the average is \$12,000 per student. The teacher contract allows up to 25 students in grades 2-to-8; and, 24 students in grades K and 1.

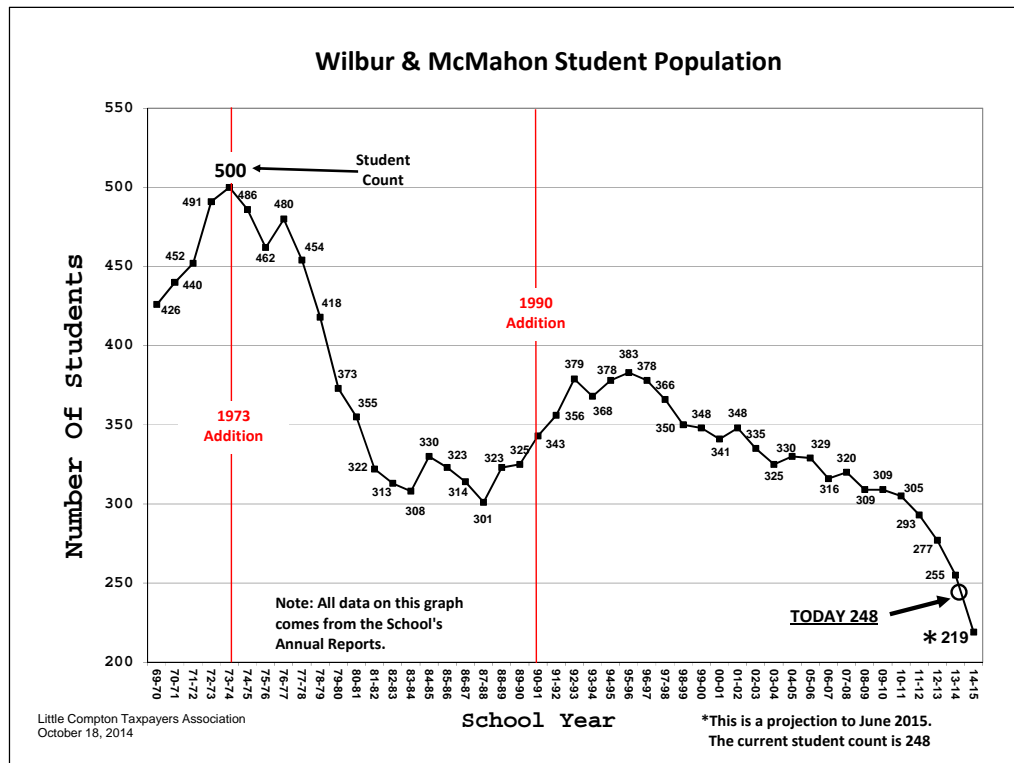
The problem is obvious: **There are too many teachers for too few students!**

Going into this school year the School Committee did cut 1½ teacher positions of which one was a retirement. There is going to have to be a more aggressive approach to this on the part of the School Committee. There is always a reluctance to eliminate teacher positions, but having a school that just underwent a \$14-million renovation for 219 students (projected) brings into question the viability of maintaining a very expensive school when there are significantly less expensive alternatives.

Pension Fund: There are currently 33 retired workers actively collecting a pension from the Town. The group consists of 9 Police, 6 Fire, 13 School (non-teachers), 5 Town. Note: teacher pensions are under a state program to which the Town provides a share of the funding. The teachers contribute 9% of their salaries for their pension.

The latest actuarial assessment (June 2013) indicates that the total extended liability for the pension fund is \$9,800,400. At that time, the amount of money that the Town had in its pension fund was \$8,104,080 which rendered the pension fund to be 83% funded. This translates to a 17% "unfunded liability". This is a very good number as compared to other towns and cities in Rhode Island where unfunded liabilities approach 50%.

The extended liability has been increasing over the last few years. IT is expected that it will be approximately \$10,500,000 when the Town gets its next actuarial report in November. The current value of the assets in the pension fund is \$8,975,223. That results in a funded liability of approximately 86% or 14% unfunded. This is an excellent position to be in.



Constitutional Convention: Rhode Island seems to come up dead last or almost dead last in so many areas, it's no laughing matter. Young people are moving out of the state, businesses stay away from the state, social spending is out of control, and the state government is considered one of the most corrupt in the nation. The Speaker of the House is the most powerful position in Rhode Island. What kind of message do we get when the former Speaker, Gordon Fox, gets investigated by the feds for reasons still unknown by the public and is forced to resign his position under a cloud of scandal?

Think about this: almost every problem in society that you can think of, short of natural disasters, has a politician's fingerprints on it! The Rhode Island taxpayers were never asked to agree to the scandalous "38 Studios" deal, but nevertheless, they are being FORCED (not asked) to pay for it all thanks to our politicians. Worse yet, the politicians have done nothing in the way of legislation to prevent a recurrence of similar situations in the future.

Potential improvements include: A line-item-veto for the Governor, term limits, a stronger and more powerful Ethics Commission, the prevention of another 38 Studios debacle, and more.

Being last at so many things needs to be corrected. A Constitutional Convention conducted with no General Assembly politicians (that's the rule) could offer relief from the mess the state is in and get things working the way they ought to.

You are urged to vote "APPROVE" on ballot question #3, the Constitutional Convention.

👉 **BE SURE TO VOTE** 👈
NOVEMBER 4, 2014
SCHOOL GYM

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**** TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ****

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

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(For couples, please provide both first names)

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EMAIL _____

Local Home Address →

Check if year-round address

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____

Second Home Address →

From _____ To _____ (Month/Day)

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____

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

Mail this form and your contribution to:

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PO Box 455
Adamsville, RI 02801