

Donald Bollin

To: Tiverton Citizens for Change.

Response to candidate questions from Donald Bollin

Have successfully owned and operated a small business in Tiverton for several years. I have also served on the Town Council for the past 13 years.

My goals and mission of my campaign would be to help guide the town through some tough financial times.

Question #1 This question is difficult to answer at this time because there are too many variables in the answer for example if the school committee can level fund school operations it would leave the Town Council in a much better position not to seek an override short of that the options have not yet been explored.

Question #2 No. There should be no shortfall in revenues if last year's budget was properly prepared. The effects of the economic downturn should be built into this budget if it is not then the proper way to offset any shortfall should be to cut spending.

Question #3 Not at this time. Bond indebtedness should only be incurred when it can be supported by additional revenues.

Question #4 This issue would require more study to see if it could be accomplished and maintain the level of public safety and protection for the residents of Tiverton.

Question #5 I support regionalization of town functions. First it must be established which services could be regionalized to accomplish savings and receive the support of the other communities.

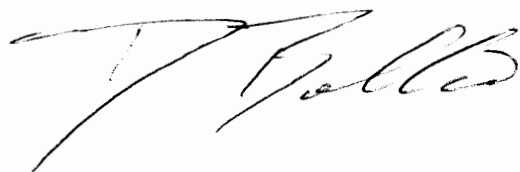
Question #6 I support the selling of the industrial park and the present Town Council has been actively involved in trying to make this happen.

Question #7 I have in the past supported the effort to get increased co-pays for health care cost and will continue to do so if re-elected.

Question #8 If the Town sewer system is to be expanded it should be done with grant monies or funded by the users of the system. The entire Town will never be serviced by sewers and it is unfair to burden taxpayers with a bill for services they will never have the ability to use.

Question #9 I do not support building of a new Library at this time. A new revenue source to support such construction would have to be identified before I could support such an endeavor.

Question #10 I believe the handling of the financial Town meeting could have been handled differently with an outcome that did not leave such a bad taste in the mouth of many. We need to learn from mistakes as to not repeat them in the future.



Answer to Questions for Town Council Candidates

1. *Qualifications for office:* As a partner (presently retired, and of counsel) in a major law firm for more than thirty years, I have successfully represented clients in complex litigation matters in federal and state courts, both at the trial and appellate level, particularly in areas of product and professional liability. Clients have included American and foreign manufacturers, such as auto, tire, drug, food processing equipment, and building materials companies; professionals, such as lawyers, physicians, architects, and engineers; hospitals and medical groups; educational institutions; insurers; and government entities. I have the ability to identify and analyze diverse issues with a common sense approach, and the time to devote to the responsibilities of a member of Town Council.

2. *Goals and mission of my campaign:* Please see attached.

3. *Would I vote to override the tax cap to pay for 2009/2010 school construction bonds?* No, since I do not believe that the issue is ever presented as stated. If a proposed budget does exceed the state-mandated tax rate, there is no reason to attribute the excess to any particular expenditure or revenue shortfall. The goal should be to keep the grand total within the tax caps. I would not consider an override unless every reasonable effort had been made to live within our means. If that requires some cuts, so be it! Yet, there is no responsible or legal way to avoid payment of these obligations, such as school bonds. We must be fiscally conservative but, also, realistic.

4. *Would I vote to override the tax cap to pay for a 2009/2010 revenue shortfall?* Please see the response to question #3. Any decision on an override must be in context of the total budget and circumstances at the time. Presently,
 - We are not in a position to predict what our expenditures and revenues will be a year from now, particularly in the current economy.
 - The specific cause of the shortfall, and the amount of budget excess would have to be considered. (For example, there is the difference between an 11% tax increase, and a 4.76% tax rate increase, although both may exceed the tax cap.)

Jay Lambert

5. *Would I support any new bond indebtedness?* No, not at this time, viewing the question as a general proposition, particularly considering the current state of the economy.

6. *Am I willing to reduce the size of Tiverton's town government?* If indicated, but at this point, I have no way of knowing, with reasonable certainty, whether any reduction would be appropriate, on the town-side.

7. *Would I support regionalization of town functions?* Yes, we should proceed on the assumption that all town services could be regionalized efficiently and with savings to the taxpayers, unless clearly shown to be otherwise. I would also support regionalization of our school system with, eventually, all funding by the State. Admittedly, for some of the "services" at issue, we would have to overcome tremendous political obstacles, parochial attitudes, and self-interest, and even state and constitutional issues (especially for the state funding of schools), but it is worth the effort. There is no equitable justification for the uneven and unequal services provided in different municipalities, and the differing tax burdens for the communities and taxpayers. And, we would certainly save money if we control the bureaucracy.

8. *Do I support selling the industrial park?* No, unless it can be sold for immediate commercial or industrial use, an unlikely prospect. We have to be in a position to offer a site for appropriate industrial development at some point in the future, although it may seem unrealistic at this time, given the town's anti-business reputation, high tax-rate, and the economy. We do not want to send out the message that we cannot compete with other communities for a broader tax base, and, that as a town, we have just given up the effort. The potential investor already gets this impression with a drive along Main Road with its boarded-up commercial properties, and, at last count, twenty-seven "For Sale" signs in the short distance from State Avenue to the Sakonnet River Bridge.

Jay Lambert

9. *Would I require town employees to contribute more to their health care costs?*

No as stated, and, also, no if meant to suggest an across-the-board increase for all employees and at identical percentage of the health costs. The bottom line for the town should be the total compensation for the employee's services. How much of the package goes to salary, health care, retirement benefits, and the like, should be left to negotiations for a fair and competitive package that reflects today's "real world".

10. *Would I support expansion of the sewer system?* Yes, eventually, but it

should be a very gradual expansion given the financial impact it will have on the residents in some areas of town, and the current economy. We need flexible implementation, and a variety of financing alternatives that will make the cost as bearable as possible for those least able to pay. Also, to the extent the town has any clearly identifiable tax benefit from the installation of the sewer lines (for example, an increased property assessment for taxes) those revenues should be ear-marked as the town's share of the costs. For residents using newer septic systems in rural areas of town, I doubt this will be an issue anytime soon.

11. *Would I support building a new library?* No, at this time, particularly

considering the current economy, although, I recognize the need for new library facilities. This is a project for which we should consider regionalization, consolidation of services, (perhaps with a community center, senior center, or even a school facility), and the most accessible central location. Funding could probably include an "impact fee". Why could not a library facility be tied to a major residential, even a commercial development? Regionalization might even consider a link to the Fall River system (which would be convenient for both North Tiverton and the north end of Stafford Road). We have to be more imaginative and pro-active with some of the town's issues. This might be a good starting point.

12. *Was the motion to override the budget at the reconvened Financial Town*

Meeting ethical? Yes, but not as stated. At the May 21, 2008 Financial Town Meeting the majority of taxpayers present rejected the motion to approve an excess levy of specific excess debt and an anticipated revenue shortage, but

Jay Lambert

never voted to reject any budget in excess of the state-mandated tax cap. We did, however, vote for a recess to allow the budget committee to prepare and present for consideration a budget that would reflect the rejection of any override of the tax cap. This is what the voters were promised and what they were entitled to at the reconvened meeting. The voters may have accepted or rejected the revamped budget, but in my view it was unethical not to submit such a budget as the first order of business on May 28, 2008.

Respectively submitted,



Jay J. Lambert

Cecil Leonard

Cecil E. Leonard
500 Puncatost Neck Road
Tiverton, RI 02878-4012

September 3, 2008

Mr. David Nelson
President, Tiverton Citizens for Change
Post Office Box 416
Tiverton, RI 02878

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Reference your letter date August 27, 2008 concerning my candidacy for the Tiverton Town Council.

Following are my responses to your organizations' questions:

Qualifications for Office.

Please see enclosed brief bio page.

What are the goals and mission of your campaign?

Mission as a council member:

Represent the best interest of all Tiverton residents in an honest and open manner.

Specific goals as a council member:

- Lead the council to focus on its duty to serve as the policy making body of the Town and develop and publish appropriate long range plans that will serve as a basis for sound financial operations of the municipal sector of the Town.
- Emphasize and support the role of the Town Administrator and Economic Development Commission in their work with the Rhode Island Development Corporation as well as the Newport Chamber of Commerce to attract appropriate businesses to locate in Tiverton to expand the Town tax base.
- Lead the council to work with other communities in Newport county, The League of Cities and Towns and the Tiverton representatives in the General Assembly to "regionalize" as many Town functions as practical and reduce the size of state government in order to make a larger portion of state level revenue available for municipal funding.

These efforts will be a major step toward bringing some stability to Town finances so that double-digit property tax increases will not be an annual event. It has taken the Town years to get into the current financial mess so I may be overly optimistic that things can be significantly improved in a single two-year term.

Cecil Leonard

Would you vote to override the tax cap to pay for the 2009/2010 construction bonds?

Given the size of the increased debt service resulting from the second issue of bonds, even factoring in the state "refund" from the first issue of bonds, Yes I would have to vote for a cap override to avoid excessive cuts in other municipal services.

Would you vote to override the tax cap to pay for the 2009/2010 revenue shortfall?

In the abstract my answer is no; however, actual circumstances-such as the unexpected need to replace some portion of the Town infrastructure or having to react to a lawsuit against the Town-might require some degree of override.

Would you support any new bond indebtedness?

I would not like to vote for any additional bond issues in my two-year term on the council. In fact this is another "it depends" question. For example if the RI Department of Environmental Management suddenly declares the Tiverton land fill a public health hazard and orders its closure additional bonds will have to be issued to raise the needed funds. A public health hazard could not be ignored.

Are you willing to reduce the size of Tiverton's town government?

Yes, Town Hall clerical staff under the control of the council and the Department of Public works.

Would you support regionalization of town functions?

Yes. The School Department, The Department of Public Works, the Police Department and the Fire Department would all be candidates for some level of regionalization. Any efforts to do this will require action by the state General Assembly and cooperation with other area Towns. My starting point would be to work with our state representatives and other regional town councils.

Do you support selling the industrial park?

Yes.

Would you require town employees to contribute more to their health care costs?

Yes, this would be a part of any future Town collective bargaining proposals.

Cecil Leonard

Do you support expansion of the sewer system?

Only to correct specific public health problems or support appropriate economic development. For specific public health problems the Community Block Development Grants should be used. Economic development related expansion should be funded by developers or, in some limited cases, by the R.I. Economic Development Corporation.

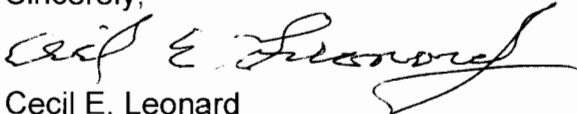
Would you support building a new library?

Yes. A new library should be funded by public donations, grants from non-governmental organizations and state funding.

Was the motion to override the budget at the reconvened Financial Town Meeting ethical?

No!. At the end of the May 21 meeting we were told by the budget committee chairman that the budget would have to be revised; which would take more than a week. I, like many people, went to the May 28 meeting expecting it to be continued. The very questionable motion to reconsider the vote of the May 21 meeting was not appropriate and proved the budget committee chairman to be untrustworthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cecil E. Leonard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Cecil E. Leonard

Ed Roderick

To: Tiverton Citizens for Change

From: Ed Roderick

My qualifications for Tiverton Town Council are:

1. A true concern for the fiscal well-being of the Town
2. A degree in Business Administration from Johnson & Wales University
3. 10 plus years as member of the City of Pawtucket Personnel Board, 6 as Chair.
4. 25 years in affordable and public housing.
5. An independent voice for all the citizens of Tiverton.

My goals are to work with the Town Council, School Committee and Budget Committee to come up with an effective budget for the Town of Tiverton that does not place the full burden on homeowners.

Work to make Tiverton a desirable location for business in designated areas to alleviate some of the tax burden on homeowners.

Work to keep taxes below the cap.

Questions:

1. My goal is not to exceed the tax cap, however taxes are not just for the school construction bonds. The Council, budget Committee and the School Committee must work together to come up with a budget that works within the framework of the revenues that are planned.
2. Until as a member of the Council, I know what if any shortfall will take place and what areas of the budget can be impacted, it is a difficult question to answer. I still am a strong believer in fiscal responsibility and would fight not to exceed the tax cap.
3. Based on my present understanding of the Town's financial situation, I could not support any future indebtedness. Future bonds will only continue the present problems. Once a true budget that works within revenues, then and only then should future bonds be considered.
4. As a candidate I do not have all the information regarding each department on the municipal side. Any decisions to reduce town government must be studied to see what impact it will have not only on the Town's ability to govern, but what impact it will have on services for the residents of Tiverton.
5. Again more information and study would be needed to make a competent decision.

Ed Roderick

6. In regards to selling the Industrial Park, first a concerted effort should be made to seek business, IE: office buildings, shops, restaurants that are in keeping with Tiverton's community plan and that enhance the town. Selling the Industrial Park would be an option, but only if it is fiscally better for the Town in the long run. It can be a quick infusion of cash versus long term tax revenues from multiple businesses. It needs to be seen what the fiscal advantages are to each scenario.

7. In this day of high health cost, I believe that some of the burden must be shifted to the employee. Taxpayers can not continue to subsidize health care at high rates to the town. All collective bargaining contracts need to be scrutinized to obtain the best possible deal for the Town.

8. The expansion of the sewer system is a difficult proposal. First of all the taxpayers who are connected to the sewer system will have to pay for the connection as most cities already do. Sewers will bring building into areas that presently could not be built on because of the inability to put in septic systems. This could mean more private homes, more impact on the school system, and town services, but also an increase in tax revenues.

Environmentally sewers are better than septic systems but the total cost in expanding the sewers system will be determined by how many will be connected and what if any grants could be obtained. Unfortunately there is no inexpensive way to expand the sewers and presently new bonds would only increase the potential of taxes going even higher.

9. At present I could not support building a new Library if bonds are required to get it built. Maybe an alternative plan such as rehabilitating one of the schools that have been replaced into a Library.

10. I firmly believe that the motion to override the budget at the reconvened Financial Town Meeting was highly unethical. First of all a new budget could only be placed before the voters if it significantly changed from the previous budget, \$250,000 on \$41 million was NOT a significant change. Also I believe that the motion was out of order as only someone from the prevailing side, not the chair of the budget committee could have made that motion. And finally "rallying" the troops as was said was done to insure that the council receive the results they wanted. I firmly believe that the council would have held meeting after meeting until they got what they wanted. The second FTM was the main reason that I got involved in this council race. I believe that the citizens of Tiverton deserve an independent voice to bring their concerns to the forefront. That is what a member of the Town Council should be doing and not ignoring the voice of the people.

Questions for Town Council Candidates

Please state your qualifications for this office.

What are the goals and mission of your campaign?

1. YES NO Would you vote to override the tax cap to pay for 2009 / 2010 school construction bonds?
If yes, why?
If no, how will these bonds be paid?
2. YES NO Would you vote to override the tax cap to pay for a 2009/2010 revenue shortfall?
If yes, why?
If no, how will you deal with a revenue shortfall?
3. YES NO Would you support any new bond indebtedness?
4. YES NO Are you willing to reduce the size of Tiverton's town government?
If yes, identify reductions.
5. YES NO Would you support regionalization of town functions?
If yes, what services would you regionalize and what actions will you take?
If no, why?
6. YES NO Do you support selling the industrial park?
7. YES NO Would you require town employees to contribute more to their health care costs?
8. YES NO Do you support expansion of the sewer system?
If yes, how would this be funded and paid?
If no, why?
9. YES NO Would you support building a new Library?
If yes, how will this be funded and paid?
If no, why?
10. YES NO Was the motion to override the budget at the reconvened Financial Town Meeting ethical?
State the reason(s) for your position.

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DeEtta Moran, Treasurer

Roger Winiarski

Qualifications:

I have been a Tiverton Resident since 1955. I am a graduate of the Tiverton School System, De LaSalle Academy in Newport and Roger Williams College. I recently retired from the U.S. Military after forty-three years of service. I served as an Independent Duty Hospital Corpsman and as Safety Officer for a Navy ship repair facility.

In Tiverton I have served as Assistant Harbormaster and Mooring Master. I have also served as Transportation Officer for Tiverton Civil Defense. I am a certified first aid instructor and CPR Instructor. I am a graduate of both the basic and advanced Harbormaster Training Course and the Rhode Island Reserve Officer Police Training Academy. I have founded and run my own business in Tiverton.

Goals and Mission:

I want to bring back to the control of the average citizen. I do not like union backed special interest groups that think that the average tax payer has an unlimited source of money that can be used to fun special projects.

Questions:

1. I would not vote to override the tax cap unless and until all other sources of revenue had been explored. I feel that the School Committee and the school administration should be tasked with exploring and developing other additional sources of revenue instead of dumping everything on the tax payers.
2. There should not be a revenue shortfall next year. We still have time to look for alternate sources of funding as well as cut expenses.
3. A plain and simple NO.
4. Tiverton Government has room for reduction in size. I would want to cross train workers so that they could be moved to different tasks and needs demanded. I would also want to utilize part time workers instead of full time workers at peak periods.

Roger Winiarski

5. The Tiverton School Department and the Tiverton Fire Department could be regionalized. More use should be made of volunteer personnel in the Fire Department.
6. A volunteer Sales and Marketing Committed should be formed to promote and sell all appropriate town owned land so that it could be put back on the tax roles.
7. Town workers should be required to pay the same cost shares as workers in private industry.
8. I would support the expansion of the sewer system but only after all sources of funding such as State and Federal funding and environmental grants have been researched and applied for.
9. There is a perfectly good Town owned building that is soon to be vacant that will serve very well as a library. The present library could be moved there while we explore the possibility of an addition to the west side of the present library.
10. The override motion was an unethical underhanded move by special interests to fund their pet projects.

Danielle Coulter

Danielle R. Coulter
34 Lawton Avenue
Tiverton, RI
401-339-3494

Questions for School Committee Candidates

Please state your qualifications for this office.

Danielle Coulter is a candidate for the Tiverton School Committee. She holds Bachelor of Science (human biology) and Doctor of Chiropractic degrees from the National University of Health Sciences in Chicago. Raised in the Midwest and taught in quality public schools, Danielle has since lived in Illinois, South Carolina, and New York and has now settled in Rhode Island. She is the owner of a Newport Chiropractic Center and its affiliated wellness center.

As a small business owner and property owner in two Rhode Island towns, Danielle is keenly aware of the tax burdens that face our residents and businesses. Her professional experience includes exposure to virtually all aspects of organizational leadership and management which would be directly relevant to the proper oversight role of a school committee. Most importantly, she seeks to raise the level of accountability in the school system to match or exceed the level that taxpayers in the private sector have no choice but to adhere to every day.

Danielle understands that simply increasing school expenditures does not necessarily translate into a responsible return on investment of taxpayer money. She is also concerned that the average Tiverton taxpayer's ability to afford living here has simply been disregarded. Moreover, Danielle is concerned that the town has "given away the store" on compensation and benefits at the expense of quality value-added student programming and responsible long-term capital budgeting. Under no circumstances would Danielle ever consider the irresponsible and unseemly prospect of the School Committee suing the town. Danielle believes that town officials and employees are public servants that should play fair and treat the public with respect and honesty.

What are the goals and mission of your campaign?

Danielle Coulter

Inform voters as to the full cost of educating their children and their neighbors' children. For example, if you were to add in the bond debt (which is listed in the budget on the municipal side) and the regular operating budget the total school expenditure is disproportionate to the other services offered by the town. If we were first in the state in the rankings we would still need to question the amount needed to educate each child and try to give the townspeople a return on the investment made in their children.

1) ***YES / NO Will you negotiate the teacher contract as the current School Committee has done; that is, offer a total amount for salary and benefits that the Committee thinks the Taxpayers can afford?
Please explain.***

Having a contract is a courtesy that mandates certain benefits to both the teachers and the town. The contract will need to be fair to both of the sides. A general concern that I have had is that the benefits, pay packages and general budget need to be sustainable for the long run of the town. I do not want to see the town in receivership as the after- shock would be detrimental and long lasting. This approach overall is workable because it allows the teachers to participate constructively, this idea is to have an overall amount and to let the teachers decide how to allocate between salary and benefits.

2) ***YES/NO Is teacher employment "at will" a realistic long term option?
Please explain.***

Is it Ideal No, BUT, if there is no other way to keep the general budget from exceeding the state cap, the "at will" arrangement will have to remain status quo. Most workers in this country are "at will" and I do not feel that to be otherwise with a contract is a right. Please keep in mind, that this arrangement is a different scenario from the work-to-rule scenario which has been currently in place in the schools. This work-to-rule action is unprofessional and not a realistic long term option. Work-to-rule is an industrial action in which employees do no more than the minimum required by the rules of a workplace, and follow safety or other regulations to the letter in order to cause a slowdown. This is considered less disruptive than a strike or lockout; and just obeying the rules is less susceptible to disciplinary action. Teachers may refuse extra duties such as writing recommendation letters for their students' college applications or being a coach/leader for various after school sports or groups. While I feel that this is disruptive to the school system, this is also an opportunity for the school board and parents to come together to think outside of the box. For example, when the teachers threatened that there would be no more debate team, Roger

Danielle Coulter

Williams Law School debate students have taken over as mentors/coaches for the team. The community in general would be greatly served by being more involved with these youth.

3) **YES / NO** Would you support regionalization of school functions?

Given our bond issue, it is too late for the merging of buildings and therefore many other administrative duties will continue to be separate. But, I would be in support of a collaborative purchasing center to cut costs on supplies or possibly to negotiate health care contracts, so long as further layers of bureaucracy are not the end result.

4) **YES / NO** Would you require school employees to contribute more to their health care costs?

By all means, it is completely inappropriate for public servants to enjoy benefits greater than those of the private sector taxpayers who support them.

5) **YES / NO** Would your role on the school committee include working to reform state and federal regulations?

Albert Einstein once said, "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them." Though, I am in full support of general standards being set for the school to achieve, the powers that be need to be made aware that the school board, townspeople, and parents are not happy with being told how to spend their tax dollars on the school. I would be very willing to speak to the State when these mandates are being decided.

6) **YES / NO** Would you vote for and/or support a Caruolo Act law suit against the town?

State the reason(s) for your position.

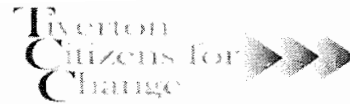
It's wrong. Anyone who has been a business owner knows that there are times of prosperity and times of lean business and if I were to know that I for example need a new roof in 5 years I will budget for this future occurrence. I cannot wait until the loan (bond) is due and then go ask the tooth fairy for more money. There is only so much money in the town to go around and we have to work with the town to come to an agreement of how the pie gets divided.

7) **YES / NO** Would you allow use of the automated phone system and/or the sending of letters home with the children to "get out the vote" for an FTM?

Danielle Coulter

If yes, why?

- 8) ***YES/NO*** *Would you support starting a charter school in Tiverton?*
Wholeheartedly!



Questions for Budget Committee Candidates

Please state your qualifications for this office.

Rob Coulter, is a candidate for the Tiverton Budget Committee. Taught in public schools, his post-secondary education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in ocean engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy (with distinction), a Master of Business Administration degree (with honors and concentrations in finance and economics) from the University of Chicago, a Master of Public Policy from the University of Chicago, and a Juris Doctorate from Roger Williams University School of Law (summa cum laude / valedictorian honors). Rob has extensive leadership and management experience in most functional areas of organizations. Most recently, he left his position as the director of finance and administration at Brown University Graduate School to pursue a career in law.

Rob has significant experience in understanding complex organizations including their associated budgeting and financial operations. His primary concern is to help the Budget Committee present the town with budget transparency and to better budget for long-term needs, so as not to spend all of the money today and then come back and demand yet more and more from the taxpayers tomorrow. He would also like to see the actual expenditure of taxpayer's hard-earned money done with responsible oversight and improved efficiency. Perhaps most of all, Rob wants to do all he can to ensure that town officials play fair and engage in civic discourse with respect and honesty.

What are the goals and mission of your campaign?

Guiding Principle #1 – Fair Play in Government

Above all else, public officials and employees are public servants and must conduct themselves with honesty and respect, allowing for an open and fair government.

- As public servants, public officials and employees should not use tricks of procedure and the special knowledge gained by virtue of their positions to influence a process or to thwart the expressed will of the voters.
- Public servants will respect and endorse the outcome of other official processes.
- Public servants should not use scare tactics when advancing their position.
- Public servants should direct their comments toward others in a respectful manner.
- Public servants must be intellectually honest and not otherwise misrepresent or slant facts in civic discourse.

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- Public servants cannot abuse taxpayer resources or color of authority to advance partisan positions.

Guiding Principle #2 – Responsible Levy and Investment of Taxpayer Money

Public servants must recognize that they owe the highest duty to taxpayers to tax no more than necessary and then to expend those taxes with the highest degree of care.

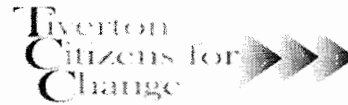
- The town must recognize that it a sacred responsibility to tax absolutely no more than necessary, as the government enjoys the unique power to literally deprive someone of their home with force of arms in order to transfer money to public servants.
- The ability of the taxpayer to afford living in Tiverton must be the primary consideration when setting tax levies.
- It is not the appropriate role of public servants to secure as much tax money as possible to fund government, no matter how laudable the goal may be.
- Budgets must include long-term needs so that major projects are anticipated without the need to demand exceptional tax levies. With appropriate budgeting, budgets should never exceed the rate of general inflation.
- Public servants should not be compensated any higher than their private sector counterparts.
- All tax monies, regardless of level, must be spent in a way to seek the highest return on investment.

*YES / NO Would you vote to override the tax cap to pay for 2009 / 2010 school construction bonds?
If yes, why?
If no, how will these bonds be paid?*

No. Nobody is suggesting that the town should default on its bond obligations. However, bonds are not a blank check for increased spending above what the town can afford. Bond obligations must be paid by allocating revenues from current sources (i.e the current budget growing no higher than general inflation).

*YES / NO Would you vote to override the tax cap to pay for a 2009/2010 revenue shortfall?
If yes, why?
If no, how will you deal with a revenue shortfall?*

No. As with bond financing, a "revenue shortfall" cannot be just another excuse to extract more and more money from the taxpayers. Private sector organizations, and real-world families, do not have the luxury of simply forcing their neighbors to give them more money whenever their debts



go up or their income goes down, unexpectedly or not. By the way, it is less than clear what "revenue shortfall" actually means. In any event, whether it is actually receiving less dollars from aid sources or the taxpayer base, or it means that there is less money in reserves to draw down from, it is not an appropriate justification to backdoor more tax burden on the citizens.

YES / NO Would you support any new bond indebtedness?

No. All spending just be appropriate budgeted so that obligations are met from current budgets. Like all debt, bonds irresponsibly push off obligations into the future. The current school bond nightmare is illustrative. With proper budgeting, we could have had new schools without such dire financial consequences and without the need to abuse the process to get there.

*YES / NO Are you willing to reduce the size of Tiverton's town government?
If yes, identify reductions.*

Yes. The size of the government, as with any organization, should be based on considerations of efficiency and affordability. Whether town government should ideally grow or shrink depends on the value added by each operation, position, etc. but in no event can affordability be left out of the equation. I would turn to the town administrative managers for advice on what functional areas should shrink or grow. If consensus cannot be met or if not otherwise apparent, than across-the-board, proportional cuts would be the appropriate way to direct reductions.

YES / NO Do you support selling the industrial park?

Yes. I do not believe it is the appropriate role of government to be a property owner or manager for any reason other than to support core government functions.

*YES / NO Do you support expansion of the sewer system?
If yes, how would this be funded and paid?*

Yes. Sewer system expansion should be mostly funded special assessments against the properties being serviced by the sewers. Given the environmental and other external benefits to the town as a whole, it would not be inappropriate for the town to partially subsidize the project (perhaps 10-15% of the costs).

If no, why?

*YES / NO Would you support building a new Library?
If yes, how will this be funded and paid?*

Yes. As with any capital project, if a new library is determined to be a town priority, then it should be budgeted for starting now and funds set aside each year until the project is fully funded. This is a more responsible and transparent method of allocating scarce resources across competing priorities than a mad rush to finance with bonds and then scramble to find the money afterward.

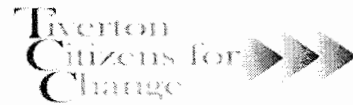
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DeEtta Moran, Treasurer*

Rob Coulter



If no, why?

YES / NO *Was the motion to override the budget at the reconvened Financial Town Meeting ethical?*
State the reason(s) for your position.

No. The issue is not what the appropriate level of funding is for the town or the schools. The issue is the operation of honest and transparent government, and respect for democracy in a free country during wartime. The process of overriding the result of the first FTM was unethical and illegal in numerous ways, not to mention thoroughly disrespectful to our citizens and a total affront to our armed forces that are overseas fighting for freedom as we speak. For example: misrepresenting the role of the reconvened FTM, abusing town resources and using students as communications carriers to overturn a vote, and the tricks of procedure and abuses of authority used at the meeting. It's not about how many tax dollars should be raised or where the dollars should be spent. Rather, the absolutely most important issue in government is that it be run with honesty and transparency.

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Sanford Mantell

WRITE IN CANDIDATE



Sanford Mantell

Questions for Budget Committee Candidates

Please state your qualifications for this office.

I currently work in Accounting for a manufacturer. Some of my responsibilities include reviewing budgets and assisting dept mgrs in preparing meaningful budgets.

What are the goals and mission of your campaign?

My goal as a Tiverton resident is to raise questions concerning budget requests and ask questions that will spur the budget requestor to do a bit more due diligence regarding their budget request.

YES / NO Would you vote to override the tax cap to pay for 2009 / 2010 school construction bonds?

If no, how will these bonds be paid?

No. I believe level funding the school budget and limiting town Budget requests will eliminate the need to override.

YES / NO Would you vote to override the tax cap to pay for a 2009 / 2010 revenue shortfall?

No. At the 2006 TFM, revenues raised from property taxes increased 11%. I'm not sure of 2007 and this year we had the tax cap override. There has to be enough of a revenue stream to stay within the cap.

YES / NO Would you support any new bond indebtedness?

No. I did not support the school bond debt.

YES / NO Are you willing to reduce the size of Tiverton's town government? If yes, identify reductions?

Yes. Convert a portion of the workload of the fire department to a volunteer force.

YES / NO Do you support selling the industrial park?

Yes!

I know this has been tried in the past without success.

YES / NO Do you support expansion of the sewer system?

I don't know enough about the plans.

I would have to see what the cost of laying in pipes and also what the cost of connecting would be. My suspicion is that the cost of connecting would be prohibitive for many homeowners.

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Sanford Mantell
WRITE IN CANDIDATE



YES / NO *Would you support building a new Library?*
No. An alternative might be to use an existing building and retrofit

YES / NO *Was the motion to override the budget at the reconvened Financial Town Meeting ethical?*

State the reason(s) for your position.

No!

Just from a layman's viewpoint, what went on was not equitable.

Deeming it unethical would not be stretch.

Also, despite protests from several people familiar with Robert's Rules of Order, it seems the meeting(s) were not conducted ethically.

I am still having trouble understanding how the rejection of The debt cap override at the first meeting was rendered null and void by the continued meeting the following week.

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Cynthia Nebergall

WRITE IN CANDIDATE



29 September 2008

Questions for Budget Committee Candidates

Please state your qualifications for this office.

What are the goals and mission of your campaign?

*YES / NO Would you vote to override the tax cap to pay for 2009 / 2010 school construction bonds?
If yes, why?
If no, how will these bonds be paid?*

Answer: No. The bond debt must be paid. Next year's debt cost is projected to account for about a 3% increase in the tax levy. Therefore, all other municipal and school expenditures must be constrained in order to avoid exceeding the cap.

*YES / NO Would you vote to override the tax cap to pay for a 2009 / 2010 revenue shortfall?
If yes, why?
If no, how will you deal with a revenue shortfall?*

Answer: No. I think a "revenue shortfall" to the Town is analogous to a family which suffers a decrease of income. A family with less income reduces its expenditures accordingly and the Town should do the same.

YES / NO Would you support any new bond indebtedness?

Answer: No.

*YES / NO Are you willing to reduce the size of Tiverton's town government?
If yes, identify reductions?*

Answer: Yes. Helping find ways to do more with less is the goal.

YES / NO Do you support selling the industrial park?

Answer: Yes.

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Cynthia Nebergall

WRITE IN CANDIDATE



29 September 2008

YES / NO

Do you support expansion of the sewer system?

If yes, how would this be funded and paid?

If no, why?

Answer: No, except where necessary for public health in the developed northern part of the Town.

YES / NO

Would you support building a new Library?

If yes, how will this be funded and paid?

If no, why?

Answer: Yes, depending upon the cost and if the cost can be paid without incurring any debt. And I would not want to see the Essex Library building closed.

YES / NO

Was the motion to override the budget at the reconvened Financial Town Meeting ethical?

State the reason(s) for your position.

Answer: No. I stated my position as best I could at the microphone on 28 May.

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Questions for Budget Committee Candidates

Please state your qualifications for this office.

What are the goals and mission of your campaign?

YES / **NO** *Would you vote to override the tax cap to pay for 2009 / 2010 school construction bonds?*
If yes, why?
*If no, how will these bonds be paid? – **With 47% tax increases over past few years, the Town should cut expenses.***

YES / **NO** *Would you vote to override the tax cap to pay for a 2009 / 2010 revenue shortfall?*
If yes, why?
If no, how will you deal with a revenue shortfall? -see above.

YES / **NO** *Would you support any new bond indebtedness? -**NO! We need to discuss a new library but we should begin setting aside funds NOW, not take on new debt in the form of bonds.***

YES / NO *Are you willing to reduce the size of Tiverton's town government?*
*If yes, identify reductions? - **I don't have enough information at present and hope to gain more insights after election, when I will know more about the town budget.***

YES / **NO** *Do you support selling the industrial park? – **Let's develop the IP as a means of bringing new biz/tax revenues to the Town. If selling the IP would result in more TAX money, we should look into it.***

YES / NO *Do you support expansion of the sewer system?*
If yes, how would this be funded and paid?
If no, why?
I don't know enough about the issue to comment at this juncture. I fully support delaying compliance with the State of RI mandated septic system upgrades until a final decision is made on the status of the sewer system at the north end of town.

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YES / NO *Would you support building a new Library?
If yes, how will this be funded and paid?
If no, why?*

A new library may be a good idea, but it needs to be studied. Especially during this very difficult time of economic uncertainty, we should build only if we can do so w/o new bond indebtedness for the reeling taxpayers of Tiverton.

YES / **NO** *Was the motion to override the budget at the reconvened Financial Town Meeting ethical?
State the reason(s) for your position.*

The second vote was illegal, and from what I can determine, even that vote was stolen. The contemptuous manner in which the Town Council treated the voters was probably illegal, and in my opinion, certainly immoral and unethical.