

Concerned Windsor Citizens Advises Review of Candidates and Party Performance

Concerned Windsor Citizens, a group of Windsor citizens which includes Democrats, Republicans, Independent and unaffiliated voters is focused on fiscal responsibility and increasing the number of citizens seeking transparency on how taxpayer dollars are being spent. Earlier this year CWC closely followed the Budget Referendum that took place in June 2017. On Tuesday June 6, there were more voters, that believed that voting No to spending increases in the context of a likely reduction in state aid of unknown magnitude was the wisest decision. For the majority who voted No, the reasons included: The unknown impact of the reduction in state aid coupled with the strong reluctance of the council to cut spending and the unwillingness of voters to be locked into a spending plan and budget in which the final tax burden was unknown.

The day after the referendum the town council met to set the mil rate. The Republican Councilors led by Minority leader, Don Jepsen, argued strongly against raising taxes more than necessary to cover the decrease in the grand list. His argument was countered by the Majority Party who said a higher tax increase was needed to “balance” the budget. The Republicans argued that there was in fact no budget, just a plan to increase spending that the voters had rejected. The No Vote dictated a return to last year’s spending plan. An additional \$ 1 million cushion had been entered into the proposed budget and the Republicans noted that because the budget proposal had been rejected that amount should be removed from the amount required to calculate the mil rate which is the determinant of the amount of taxes billed.

The Democrats uniformly refused to remove the \$ 1 million from the calculation, despite repeated objections from the Republicans and the tax increase and mil rate was approved along party lines. Now it is almost November and the amount of state aid is still questionable and many people are still concerned about the future of the state and town finances, advising caution on any spending increases.

Concerned Windsor Citizens notes that the Democratic Majority ignored the voters by disregarding the fact that they had rejected the proposed budget. **Please consider these facts when voting.**

Coralee A. Jones

1171 Matianuck Avenue

Windsor CT

860-688-8300