



LYME MATTERS

The Official Newsletter of the Lyme Democratic Town Committee



Hillary Clinton for President

During her decades of public service, Hillary Clinton has served as the U.S.

Secretary of State, a U.S. senator from New York, the first lady of the United States, the first lady of Arkansas, a practicing lawyer and law professor, an activist and a volunteer.

The Lyme Democratic Town Committee has unanimously endorsed her for president of the United States. Here, in her own words, are summaries of her positions on several important issues. (For complete descriptions of her stance on all issues, go to www.hillaryclinton.com/issues.)

On Jobs & Wages: “The measure of our success will be how much incomes rise for hardworking families. How many children are lifted out of poverty. How many Americans can find good jobs that support a middle-class life—and not only that, jobs that provide a sense of dignity and pride. That’s what it means to have an economy that works for everyone, not just those at the top.”

On Social Security: “I won’t cut Social Security I’ll defend it and I’ll expand it.”

On Guns: “I believe weapons of war have no place on our streets. We may have our disagreements on gun safety regulations, but we should all be able to agree on a few things. If the FBI is watching you for suspected terrorist links, you shouldn’t be able to just go buy a gun with no questions asked. You shouldn’t be able to exploit loopholes and evade criminal background checks by buying online or at a gun show. And yes, if you’re too dangerous to get on a plane, you are too dangerous to buy a gun in America.”

On Terrorism: “Radical jihadists, like so many adversaries in our history, underestimate the strength of our national character. Americans will not cower or cave. And

we will not turn on each other or turn on our principles. We will defeat those who threaten us. We will keep our country safe and strong, free and tolerant. And we will always defend our friends and allies.”

On Immigration Reform: “If we claim we are for family, then we have to pull together and resolve the outstanding issues around our broken immigration system. The American people support comprehensive immigration reform not just because it’s the right thing to do—and it is—but because they know it strengthens families, strengthens our economy, and strengthens our country We can’t wait any longer for a path to full and equal citizenship.”

On LGBT Rights: “There are still too many places where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans are targeted for harassment and violence. There are still too many young people out there feeling hopeless and alone.”

Where & When To Vote on November 8

- Remember to vote at the Lyme Town Hall— not at the Lyme Fire Station. The polls will be open from 6 am to 8 pm.
- When you check-in, you will need to present one of the following forms of ID: a current, valid Connecticut driver’s license, learner’s permit or non-driver photo ID card; a credit card with your name and signature; an ID with your name and photograph; or any document with your name and address, such as a checkbook or a utility bill.
- If you’re a first-time voter who registered by mail and didn’t provide ID when you registered, you must present one of the following forms of ID: a current photo ID that shows your name and address; or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows your name and address.

Re-Elect US Senator Richard Blumenthal



Richard Blumenthal has served as a U.S. senator for the state of Connecticut for the past five years and, prior to that, as our state’s attorney general for 20 years.

During his reelection campaign, Blumenthal said, “I have never walked away from a fight or failed to put Connecticut citizens first. No matter how big or powerful the special interest or lawbreaker, protecting Connecticut and its citizens remains my top priority and purpose.”

The Lyme Democratic Town Committee has unanimously endorsed him for senator. Below are summaries of his positions on four important issues. (For complete descriptions of his stance on all issues, go to www.richardblumenthal.com.)

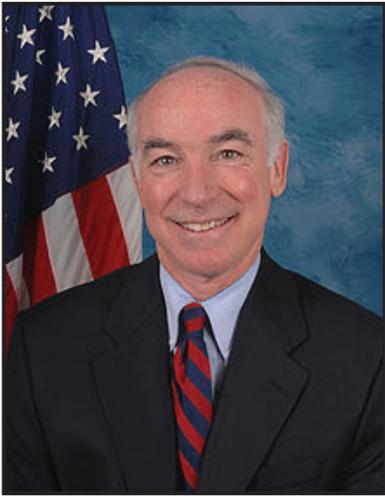
On Proposed Rail Bypass through Old Lyme: “The [Federal Railroad Association’s] half-baked, harebrained proposals to reroute Amtrak through Old Lyme fail to reflect the priorities and needs of Old Lyme residents.”

On Medicare: It’s time to stop the attacks on Medicare and start working together to ensure seniors can continue to rely on Medicare for affordable health care.

On Gun Violence: We have to stop the senseless tragedies claiming the lives of our friends and neighbors. [We need to] pass gun safety laws now.

On Student Loans: National student loan debt totals greater than \$1 trillion. Our country’s students should graduate with big dreams, not buried under a mountain of debt.

Re-Elect US Congressman Joe Courtney



Joe Courtney was elected in 2006 to represent the Second Congressional District of Connecticut in the U.S. House of Representatives. During his 10-year tenure in Congress, Courtney has served as a tireless advocate for Eastern Connecticut.

The Lyme Democratic Town Committee has unanimously endorsed his reelection. Here are just a few of the reasons why:

- Courtney has fought to protect jobs in the region and expand opportunities for Connecticut businesses.
- He has voiced his strong opposition to the proposed rail bypass through Old Lyme and said Amtrak is better off repairing the current infrastructure.
- As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, he fought to protect Eastern Connecticut's status as the "Submarine Capital of the World" – helping secure more than \$80 million for SUBASE New London.
- For his work on behalf of veterans, Courtney was awarded the Connecticut National Guard's highest honor, the Meritorious Service Award.
- He was named the "Legislator of the Year" by the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers.
- He was honored as the "Democrat Most Admired by Republicans" while a member of the Connecticut General Assembly.

For more information on his accomplishments as our congressman, go to www.joecourtney.com.

Norman Needleman for State Senate in the 33rd District

by Phyllis Ross

As state senator for the 33rd District, Norm Needleman would devote his talents, experience and leadership skills - along with his abundant enthusiasm - to serving his constituents. Adept at business, he founded Tower Laboratories, a manufacturing company, 37 years ago. As CEO, he built his business into a leader in its field and now employs 150 people in facilities in Essex and Clinton.

Norm has more than 20 years of active service in municipal government in Essex, as both a volunteer and as an elected official. He was a cofounder of the Municipal Economic Development Commission, served as a Selectman and is currently in his third term as First Selectman. Under Norm's leadership, Essex has delivered effective and efficient town services while maintaining balanced budgets and keeping tax rates among the lowest in the state. He has also played a significant role in local and regional nonprofit organizations.

"Experienced leadership is what we need now," Norm says. By "experienced," he doesn't mean someone who holds a title and occupies a seat without meeting the needs of his constituents. Experienced leadership comes from someone with a proven record of accomplishment and the ability to motivate others.

Norm's approach to government is not limited by narrowly focused political ideology. He is adept at achieving his goals by allying himself with others who have the same interests, regardless of their political party. This nonpartisan attitude is one of the reasons he has been so successful in government.

The Lyme Democratic Town Committee has unanimously endorsed him for state senator. His real-world economic perspective, management skills and proven leadership ability will make him a highly effective leader.

Ralph Eno, the First Selectman of Lyme and a highly respected local Republican, has also endorsed Norm, calling him "far and away the most qualified candidate for State Senate." Eno said Norm has the ex-



perience that is "crucial to being an effective representative" and "has my unequivocal support."

Note: The 33rd Connecticut State Senate District includes Chester, Clinton, Colchester, Deep River, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland and Westbrook.

Voter Registration

There's still time to register to vote in the November 8 General Election:

- You can register in person any weekday during normal business hours (9 am to 4 pm) between now and noon on Monday, November 7, at the Lyme Town Hall at 480 Hamburg Road.
- You can register online at <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do> - but must be sure to do so no later than November 1 (seven days before the election). To register online, you must have a current, valid driver's license, learner's permit or non-driver photo ID card issued by the state's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and a signature on file with DMV.
- You can register in person on the day of the election itself. Same-day voter registration will be available on Election Day at Town Hall from 6 am to 8 pm.
- You can check your current voting status by going to www.dir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx and entering your name, town of residence and date of birth.

Report on Our Annual Picnic



On Saturday, August 4, Mary Ellen and Sal Caruso hosted the Annual Lyme Democratic Town Committee Picnic at the beautiful Sunset Hill Vineyard just off Route 156.

The elected officials in attendance included US Senator Richard Blumenthal, US Congressman Joe Courtney, Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman and Essex First Selectman Norm Needleman.

Nearly 60 area residents enjoyed food and refreshments, music from a jazz trio, and the opportunity to talk with the officials. If you would like to attend next year's picnic or our upcoming holiday party in December, please contact us at LymeCTDems@gmail.com.

Comparing Party Platforms

At their conventions this past summer, the Democratic and Republican Parties established their official platforms for the November elections. While the platforms are not binding on party candidates, they offer important insights into where each party stands on issues of concern to voters. In the chart to the right are brief excerpts from both parties' platforms on a handful of issues. You can read the complete, unabridged platforms for both parties online at <http://www.demconvention.com/platform> (Dem.) and <http://www.gop.com> and <http://www.gop.com/platform> (Rep.).

Absentee Ballots

If you will not be here on Election Day, consider voting by Absentee Ballot.

- You can pick up an application for an Absentee Ballot in person during regular business hours (9 am to 4 pm weekdays) at Town Hall or download an application online from www.sots.ct.gov/sots/lib/sots/electionservices/electforms/electforms/aabeng.pdf.
- You must return your completed application for processing to the Registrar of Voters at Town Hall by mail or in person.
- If your application is approved, your Absentee Ballot will be mailed to you. For this election, Absentee Ballots became available on October 7. If you submitted your application before that date, the ballot will be mailed to you on October 7. If you submitted your application on October 7 or later, your ballot will be mailed as soon as your application is approved.
- Once you receive the Absentee Ballot, you must carefully follow the instructions that come with it and return it either by mail to the Town Clerk, no later than 8 pm on Election Day; or in person to the Town Clerk, no later than 4 pm on November 7.
- Connecticut has strict laws regarding who can vote using an Absentee Ballot. To be eligible, you must have a physical disability, illness or religious beliefs that prevent you from voting in person; be an active member of the U.S. armed forces; be out of town during all hours the polls are open on Election Day; or be performing duties as an election official at a polling place other than your own during all hours the polls are open.

DEMOCRATS	REPUBLICANS
IMMIGRATION	
“(W)e need to...fix our broken immigration system... and create a path to citizenship for law-abiding families who are here, making a better life for their families and contributing to their communities and our country.”	“We oppose any form of amnesty for those who, by breaking the law, have disadvantaged those who have obeyed it...[W]e support building a wall along our southern border...sufficient to stop both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.”
GUNS	
“[W]e will expand and strengthen background checks... close dangerous loopholes in our current laws...revoke the...protections gun makers and sellers now enjoy; and keep...assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines...off our streets.”	“We support constitutional carry statutes and salute the states that have passed them. We oppose ill-conceived laws that would restrict magazine capacity or ban the sale of the most popular and common modern rifle.”
ABORTION	
“We believe unequivocally, like the majority of Americans, that every woman should have access to quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortion....We believe that reproductive health is core to women’s, men’s, and young people’s health and wellbeing.”	“[W]e assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment’s protections apply to children before birth.”
LGBT RIGHTS	
“Democrats applaud last year’s decision by the Supreme Court that recognized that LGBT people - like other Americans - have the right to marry the person they love. But there is still much work to be done....Democrats will fight for the continued development of sex discrimination law to cover LGBT people.”	“[M]arriage between one man and one woman is the foundation for a free society...We condemn the Supreme Court’s ruling in <i>United States v. Windsor</i> , which wrongly removed the ability of Congress to define marriage policy in federal law. We also condemn the Supreme Court’s lawless ruling in <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i> ...”

Register To Vote and Vote Democratic

by Steven Mattson

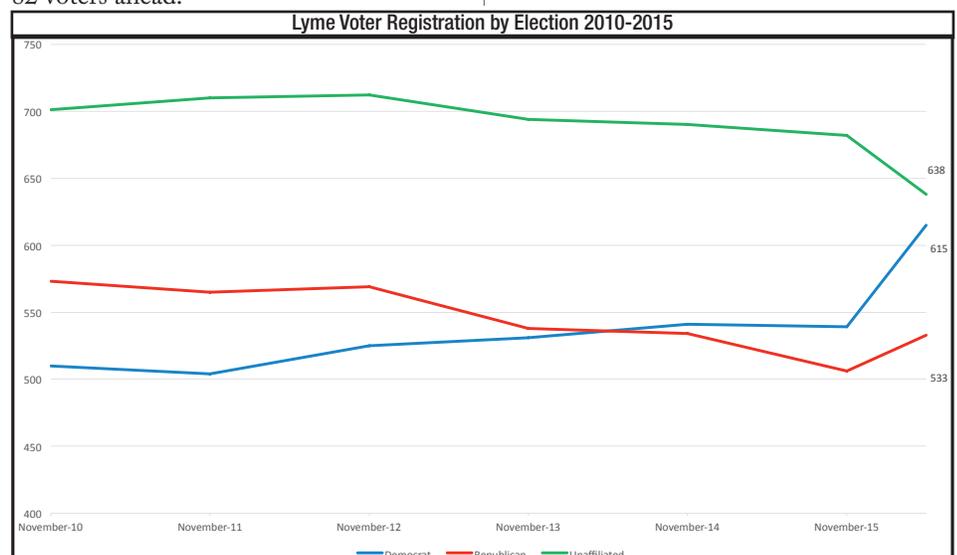
When I moved to Lyme in the early 90s, I was told the town was known for the prevalence of the “Three Rs” – rocks, reptiles and Republicans. A lot has changed in 25 years. While we still have lots of rocks and reptiles, the Democratic Party has now become the dominant party affiliation among local voters; and seems poised to surpass unaffiliated voters (still the largest voter group).

The chart below shows that, while total voter registrations have remained fairly constant from 2010 to 2015, the Democratic party has moved from being 63 registered voters behind the Republicans, to 82 voters ahead.

If you haven’t registered to vote yet, there’s still time to do so before the November election. You can register weekdays at the Lyme Town Hall at 480 Hamberg Road, between 9 am and 4 pm.

Our committee encourages you not only to register, but to register with the Democratic party. We would value your support and welcome your involvement. We want to see more local Democrats getting involved in their party and the running of our town.

Lyme has many boards and commissions that continually look for new members. Some of these are elected positions, but the majority are appointed. If you are interested or have an expertise you are willing to share with your town, please contact us at LymeCTDems@gmail.com to learn more.





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*Published by the Lyme
Democratic Town
Committee*

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Connect with Us Online

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep abreast of the latest news and information from the Lyme Democratic Town Committee.

(www.facebook.com/LymeCtDems)



(www.twitter.com/LymeCtDems)



The Lyme Democratic Town Committee:

Steven Mattson, *Chair*
Sue Hessel, *Vice Chair*
Jarrod Leonardo, *Treasurer*
Mary Ann Kistner, *Secretary*
Dianne Ahlberg
Carolyn Bacdayan
Emily Gerber Bjornberg
Mary Ellen Caruso
Susan Budlong Cole
John Kiker
Maddy Mattson
Leray McFarland
Toni Phillips
Ann Rich
Phyllis Ross
Claire Sauer
Judy Ulrich

Campaign Yard Signs

If you would like "Clinton/Kaine" campaign signs for your yard, please contact John Kiker at johnkiker@gmail.com.

Important Reminder on Where To Vote on November 8

For this election, voting will take place at the Lyme Town Hall—not at the Lyme Fire Station. The town hall is located at 480 Hamburg Road. The polls will be open from 6 am to 8 pm.

Election Day Voter Registration

You can register to vote on the day of the election. Same-day voter registration will be available November 8 at the Lyme Town Hall from 6 am to 8 pm.

- To be eligible for same-day voter registration, you must meet the general eligibility requirements for voting in Connecticut and not be a registered voter already; or be already registered to vote in another Connecticut town, but have since registering moved to Lyme.
- By law, a person is eligible to register and vote if he or she is a US citizen, age 18 or older, a bona fide resident of the town in which he or she applies for admission, and has completed confinement and parole (if previously convicted of a disfranchising felony).

Artwork of the Hamburg Bridge (above) supplied by local artist Angie Falstrom.
Her original works can be viewed at the Lyme Art Association, by arrangement at her studio in Lyme
and online at www.perennialdesigns.net.