



Sound News

FROM THE OLD SAYBROOK DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

Volume 1: Issue # 1
June 2018

A Note from our Chairwoman, Janis Esty



Welcome to the first edition of **Sound News, from the Old Saybrook Democratic Town Committee.** The Newsletter, published quarterly, will be made available to all Democrats by email and at special times by mail. This is an exciting new way for us to communicate with you.

There will be news on what we have been doing, what we will be doing including political news, opinions and much more for Old Saybrook Democrats. Your party is looking to the future and will be participating in upcoming community and political events. We look forward to seeing you, listening to you; and we welcome you to join us. Times are changing and we, as Democrats, need to become a part of that change. I am extending an invitation to all Old Saybrook Demo-

crats to come to a Democratic Town Committee Meeting, volunteer at our political and community events, and check out our Town Boards and Commissions to determine if one is right for you. There is no better time than now.

Janis L Esty, Chairwoman
Old Saybrook Democratic Town Committee

Special points of interest:

- **BLUE WAVE FEST**
- **MEET OUR CANDIDATES**
- **NET NEUTRALITY**
- **INDIVISIBLE**
- **NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE**
- **FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS**
- **GOTV!**

Upcoming Events in Our Area : Blue Wave Fest

June 24, 2018 from 3-6PM. - Blue Wave Fest located at the Chester Fair Grounds

Sponsored by the Democratic Town Committees of the Lower Connecticut Valley, including Old Saybrook. This is a family fun event to build voter support, enthusiasm, and a large volunteer network for the 2018 mid-term

elections. We want to ensure that the Democrats of the CT River Valley do their part to keep Connecticut BLUE. There will be music, food, wine tasting, Voter Registration, Area Democratic Town Committees tables, Indivisible tables, election information, kids activities, conservation groups and of course our U.S. Senators, Congressmen,

local and state candidates for office and more....!

Please visit the OSTDC table under the big tent. Bring friends and family!

See www.bluewavefest.com for details.



Celebrate the **Rising Tide** of Democracy

Meet Our Candidates!

Sound News

Matthew Pugliese, 23rd General Assembly district



"I believe we need to invest in our higher education system. We want to have a vibrant university system to educate our young people, ensure their access to education, and keep them here as part of our workforce in Connecticut"

Sources:
www.mattpugliese.com
and
www.facebook.com/mattpugliese/
Please visit.

Matt has been endorsed by Run for Something, a national organization that recruits the next generation of progressive leadership, and received the Moms Demand Action Gun Sense Candidate Distinction.

Matt Pugliese, is a Democrat running for the 23rd General Assembly district, which includes Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and a portion of Westbrook.

Matt has spent his career working as an executive in the non-profit theatre industry. He served as the Executive Director at Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theatre in Middletown, CT and now is the Executive Producer at Connecticut Repertory Theatre, based on UConn's Storrs campus.

Matthew is a leader and a listener who believes in building consensus, finding compromise and getting things done. His experiences in the non-profit sector in Middlesex County has made him aware of the incredible need we have in our community. "We have young people and families facing the most extreme and basic risks. But we also have incredible resources in our community to draw upon. That is what makes our district a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family." In this position, Matt had to balance increasing need against decreasing revenue: "we knew we couldn't survive as an organization if we just continued to cut - because we would be impacting our ability to achieve our ser-

vice mission to the community. We needed to balance cuts with growth. We had to let people go and make tough decisions over those years to change programs - to change history and habit. "

Pugliese's community involvement includes Old Saybrook's Economic Development Commission since 2015, of which he was recently elected Chairperson. He served on the Board of Directors for the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce for two years. He served as the co-chair of the Community Foundation of Middlesex County Live Local Give Local 365 initiative when it was launched in 2011. In 2012, Pugliese was named to the Hartford Business Journal's "40 Under 40" for his professional work and civic involvement.

Pugliese earned a BA in Theatre ('04) and a Masters in Public Administration ('17) from UCONN.

Pugliese said, "My work in the arts has been about activism. It is about bringing together diverse audiences and creating opportunities for dialogue. That is how we solve problems. Every day running a theatre is about creative, problem solving and strategic thinking. The intersection of the arts and government -

that is community. That has been my professional career for 15 years."

Public education is a key issue for Pugliese. "When I think of our communities, I think of our strong public education systems. I will fight for the funding we deserve from Hartford necessary to support our schools. I believe we need to invest in our higher education system. We want to have a vibrant university system to educate our young people, ensure their access to this education, and keep them here as part of our workforce in Connecticut," said Pugliese.

Pugliese is also an advocate for paid family leave, ensuring rights for women and minorities, and championing arts, culture and tourism.

Pugliese added, "Part of the identity of our community is the incredible cultural resources we have in the 23rd district. These resources drive tourism, which is critical to the economy of the towns in our region. We need to ensure the viability of our cultural assets, and the public infrastructure needed to support tourism."

Pugliese lives in Old Saybrook with his wife, Kristen, and their two daughters.

Martha Marx, CT State Senate District 20

Martha Marx is a Democrat running for CT State Senate District 20, which includes Old Saybrook, Old Lyme, East Lyme, Waterford, New London, Salem, Bozrah and Montville.

Martha has dedicated her professional life to the care of residents of Southeast Connecticut. Martha has worked 30 years as a registered nurse and she sees firsthand the life challenges of our residents. As a city councilor, Martha developed relationships with local leaders, businesses, and constituents, which allowed her to make informed decisions on the council.

Martha has served as Co-chair of the District 3 Democratic Town Committee; New London City Councilor (1 term) as Chair of Public Works Committee, Chair of Finance Committee, and Co-chair of the School Building and Maintenance Committee. She is the President and Vice President of AFT Local 5119 and was District 3 Campaign Manager for Joe de la Cruz' successful 2016 State Representative campaign. Martha is the current Chair of the New London Town Democratic Committee.

Martha is an advocate for education, LGBTQBT rights, healthcare, and women's rights, arts and tourism. She will work on passing a budget that isn't on the backs of others.

Martha has the experience, energy, and dedication to be an effective leader and representative for our communities, and will be a strong voice for us in Hartford.

Source:
www.marthamarx.com
Please visit and support her campaign.



Norm Needleman, State Senate 33rd District

Norm Needleman is the Democratic candidate for the State Senate in the 33rd District, which includes Clinton, Westbrook, Old Saybrook, Deep River, Essex, Lyme, Chester, Haddam, East Haddam, East Hampton, Colchester, and Portland.

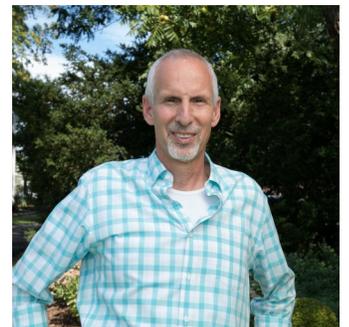
Norm is currently serving his fourth term as Essex First Selectman. He has over 20

years as a leading advocate for small towns, with experience as a Selectman in Essex, a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Essex Economic Development Commission, and the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments.

Norm founded Tower Laboratories, a manufac-

turing company, 38 years ago. He and his two sons have built the company to become a leader in its field, now employing over 250 people. As a leading CEO in the region, he serves as a board member of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce.

Please visit
www.NormForSenate.com



Come meet the candidates!

Opinion:

Net Neutrality - Frederick McNulty

EVERY MOMENT IS AN ORGANIZING OPPORTUNITY, EVERY PERSON A POTENTIAL ACTIVIST, EVERY MINUTE A CHANCE TO CHANGE THE WORLD. — DOLORES HUERTA

Republicans are seeking to abolish “net neutrality,” hoping voters buy into their perennial attempts to deregulate powerful corporations. Democrats should be wary of these absurd claims: net neutrality saves consumers money, supports small businesses, and keeps the internet free.

The internet is an incredibly vital part of public life and the modern economy. Access to the internet comes from internet service providers (ISP), to which users pay regular fees. ISPs are required to provide the same price regardless of what people use the internet for. They must charge in a neutral manner.

The Trump administration wants to deregulate ISPs, allowing them to charge users depending on what content they use. Creating a tier-based scheme of internet pricing not only will be more costly and complex, but will also put small businesses unable to cut

expensive deals with large ISPs at a disadvantage.

Policies at the local level can also be effective. The California state senate recently approved a net neutrality bill that prohibits many of the unfair practices the current FCC seeks to allow. If the Trump administration fails to protect a free and open internet, state leadership in Connecticut should intervene.

I urge everyone to support net neutrality.

Town News:

Republican Town Committee Change

Changes have come to the Republican Town Committee: an old Republican favorite retired and a new Chairman has been installed. As Democrats it is a little unusual to thank a retiring Republican Town Committee Chairman but John Torrenti, Jr. is a lifelong resident of Old Saybrook. Mr. Torrenti

taught music at Old Saybrook High School for many years as Conductor and Instructor, always the exacting task master. We may disagree on political philosophy but there is more to life than politics. From one lifelong resident to another have fun in your second retirement, your Democratic adversaries will

miss you.

On behalf of the Democratic Town Committee, congratulations is extended to Mark Caldarella, the new Republican Town Committee Chairman.

Janis L Esty
Chairwoman OSDTC

National Movement:

Indivisible

Indivisible started with a Guide written in December 2016 by Leah Greenberg and Ezra Levin, former congressional staffers who know how to make Congress listen.

Indivisible immediately grew into a movement, with 1000's of groups across the country. There are local groups in Guilford, Middletown, New London, and New Haven. Indivisible recommends two key strategic components:

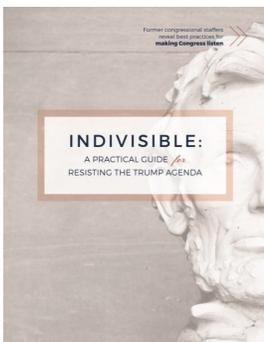
1. A local strategy targeting individual Members of Congress. 2. A defensive approach purely focused on stopping Trump from implementing an agenda built on racism, authoritarianism, and corruption.

The members of Indivisible share the same values for our nation and communities based on inclusion, tolerance and fairness. Their mission is: “To resist Trump’s

agenda by empowering grassroots activists to weaken congressional Republican resolve and embolden Democratic opposition through informed local action.”

“We believe that the next four years depend on Americans across the country standing indivisible against the Trump agenda.”

Source:
www.indivisible.org/guide/



State News - Connecticut Joins the National Vote Compact

By Laura Gray, member OSTDC

On May 5th, the Connecticut Senate passed a House Bill 5421, An Act Adopting the Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote. The bill passed the senate with a strong 21-14 vote. It previously passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 77 to 73. Governor Daniel Malloy is expected to sign the bill into Law.

“With the exception of the presidency, every elected office in the country, from city council, to United States senator, to governor, is awarded the candidate who receives the most votes,” Governor Malloy said. “The vote of every American citizen should count equally, yet under the current system, voters from sparsely populated states are awarded significantly more power than those from states like Connecticut. This is fundamentally unfair. The National Popular Vote compact will ensure an equal vote for every American citizen, regardless of which state they happen to live in. I applaud the General Assembly for passing this commonsense legislation.” <http://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/Press-Room/Press-Releases/2018/05-2018/Gov-Malloy-and-Lt-Gov-Wyman-Statements-on-Final-Passage-of-National-Popular-Vote-Bill>

The NPV Interstate Compact is an agreement between the states in the compact that they will commit all of their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who wins the popular vote in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The National Popular Vote preserves the Electoral College and state control of our elections, while it ensures that every vote in every state matters in every presidential election. By joining the Compact, Connecticut will commit our 7 electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote, regardless of

which candidate wins in CT.

The Compact will not take effect until enough states join, and they collectively reach the 270 electoral votes required to elect a US President (a majority of the 538 electoral votes). The addition of Connecticut’s 7 electoral votes will bring the number of electoral votes in the Compact to 172. The other states that have joined the Compact are: RI, MA, VT, NJ, NY, DC, MD, IL, WA, HI, and CA.

The National Popular Vote Compact would replace our current “winner-take-all” system in CT which awards all of our electoral votes to the candidate receiving the majority of votes from CT voters. In 2016 President Trump won 41% of the vote in CT, but Hillary Clinton was awarded all 7 Electoral Votes. The existing system made the individual vote for Trump irrelevant.

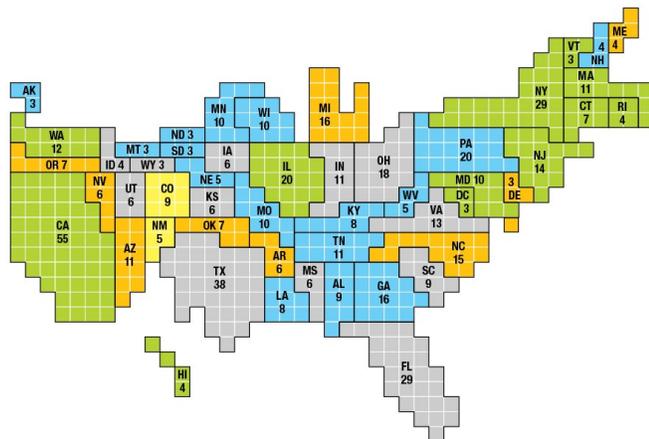
The other downside to the ‘winner-take-all’ statute is that CT and other states where the voter outcome is

highly predictable, are ignored by presidential candidates. As a result the “battleground” states (OH, CO, IA, MI, MN, NH, FL, NV, NC, PA, WI) receive the most attention before, during and after the election.

“On this particular issue, it doesn’t matter if you are a Democrat, a Republican or a Libertarian: It’s about making your state relevant in the presidential election,” said Barry Fadem, the president of National Popular Vote. “If you’re not a battleground state, you’re irrelevant.”

“The winner of the national popular vote should win the presidency,” said Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff (D-Norwalk). “By joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, we can move our nation one step closer to truly honoring the will of the voters.”

You can read more about the Compact at www.nationalpopularvote.com



Green indicates that the National Popular Vote bill has been enacted into law
Orange indicates passage by one legislative chamber
Yellow indicates passage by both legislative chambers (but in different years, and hence not enacted)
Blue indicates a hearing by at least one legislative committee

Know Your Rights: First Amendment Rights in Old Saybrook

by J. Colin Heffernan J.D, Heffernan Legal Group

Across the nation, and right here in Old Saybrook, people are on the march. Rallies and protests regarding Women's Rights, Gun Control, Climate Change and Immigration have fired up voters in a way we haven't seen for decades. With all this energy in the air, many of us are wondering what we can do and what are the rules on organizing a march or an event near me?

Thankfully, the First Amendment is alive and well and organizing a march or rally is nowhere near as difficult or legally dangerous as one might believe. Here are some important things to know if you're interested in taking to the streets and getting involved!

- No one can regulate the content of your speech. No matter what your position, the constitution prohibits restrictions on speech based on viewpoint. If someone says you can't rally because the issue is "too controversial" you can confidently tell them you are acting well within your First Amendment rights. Indeed, the First Amendment exists specifically so we all can be heard on the most controversial issues.
- All types of expression are protected in "public forums" such as parks, sidewalks, and in front of government building. If someone tells you that you can only rally in one space, push back hard and insist on your right to use the public forum of your choosing to exercise your First Amendment

Rights.

- Private property is different; individual property owners get to decide what speech occurs on their property and if you don't follow the owner's rules, you may be arrested for trespassing.
- ◆ Be wary of anyone who says you need a permit. You do not need a permit to exercise your First Amendment right to protest. Some cities have ordinances requiring permits for certain large protests that will block traffic or require street closure or to use specific parks or plazas or use significant sound amplification. However, in these cases the permitting process must not give too much discretion to the permitting authority regarding protest conditions. Any permitting requirements that aren't necessary for traffic control or public safety may violate the First Amendment and should be challenged.
- Old Saybrook does not appear to require a permit. The Town Charter and The Town Ordinances do not mention any sort of "Protest Permits", nor is there a permit application anywhere on the town website and Chief Spera did not reply to an email inquiring about the permit process and asking for an application to hold a protest.
- If your town does require a permit, and you don't have one, that doesn't mean you cannot march.

If you stay on the sidewalk, leave room for people to pass, and follow pedestrian and traffic signals, your speech is protected with or without a permit. You may also picket and distribute written materials on public sidewalks as long as you don't block store entrances and allow people to pass.

- If you are you are stopped by the police, be polite, don't run, and don't argue or resist. Keep your hands where the officer can see them and explain, calmly, that you are not disrupting anyone else's activity and that your protest is protected by the First Amendment. Ask if you are free to leave. If the answer is "yes", walk away from the officer. If the officer says "no" then you are under arrest and your right to remain silent applies and you should state that you wish to remain silent and that you want a lawyer. Don't sign anything or offer any explanation or excuse. Wait for your lawyer.

Protests, marches, and demonstrations do not need to be negotiated with public officials. They are constitutionally protected activities that are vital to our democracy. You don't have to ask for free speech, it's your right and if anyone tries to take it from you contact the ACLU at 860-523-9146 or info@acluct.org immediately.

Chairwoman's Editorial: The Republicans Want to Destroy the EPA

H.R. Bill 861 was introduced to the floor of the House of Representatives on 2/4/2017 . This bill was introduced by Matt Gaetz, Republican from Florida and co-sponsored by seven other Republicans. This bill is essentially one sentence :**"to terminate the Environmental Protection Agency by 12/31/2018"** *

For those not acquainted with the EPA, here is a list of some of the agencies accomplishments:

1. Clean Air Act
2. Small Business Liability Relief and Brownsfield Revitalization Act
Saybrook has used this act to obtain grants to help areas of our town contaminated by businesses that no longer exist, one area is the new Mariner's Way project.
3. Water Quality and Safe Drinking Act
4. Clean Water Restoration Act
5. Endangered Species Act
6. Marine Mammal Protection Act
7. Toxic Substances Control Act

The EPA has forced industry to stop polluting, giving us clean water to drink, air to breath and protects the most vulnerable of our native species. **I believe the right to clean air and water are** human rights without which we cannot exist. Business is interested in profit margins only, if the EPA is terminated on 12/31/2018 it will be "we the people" cleaning up the pollution not industry.

The Republicans are intent on destroying the EPA if this bill does not pass they have several more in the pipeline that will eviscerate the EPA making it totally useless.

H.R. 637

Introduced by Republican Gary Palmer from Alabama:

This bill "amends the Clean Air Act to exclude carbon dioxide, water vapor, methane, nitrous oxide, hydro fluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride pollution from the scope of the act." *

Scientists have labeled the above compounds as "powerful green house gases" contributing to global warming. A greenhouse gas is one which traps infrared radiation within the atmosphere not allowing the heat to escape. This is empirical science not alternative science.

H.R. Bill 1179

This bill was presented by Tom Rice, Republican from South Carolina.

The bill reads:

"The bill repeals the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to deny or restrict the use of any area as a disposal site for dredged or fill material when the discharge of those materials would have an unacceptable adverse effect on municipal water supplies, shellfish beds and fishery areas, wildlife, or recreational areas."

Current law requires compensatory mitigation to replace the loss of aquatic resource functions in a watershed when a permit to discharge dredged or fill materials into navigable waters has unavoidable impacts on aquatic resources. This bill prohibits government entities from carrying out compensatory mitigation in excess of existing regulatory requirements. " *

It is clear Republicans are bent on destroying any and all protections allowing industry carte blanche. Industry does not even have to pay for the cleanup, that responsibility falls on us. One has to ask why Republican elected officials are doing everything possible to destroy the regulations that protect our environment. The answer may be in their tax returns and the contributors to their campaigns. We as individuals, need to pay attention to the Republican pattern of legislation. We need to educate ourselves **and we need to act. This is all about greed, how much can Republicans and their friends make before the collapse. We all know who is going to have to pay - we will pay and our children and possibly their children- not industry. The world is moving towards green energy not oil, gas or coal and the Republicans are dragging us backwards.**

Janis L Esty, Chairwoman OSDTC

* **From the Library of Congress official website's listings of these bills**

Motivation: **Get Out the Vote ! GOTV—from Chris Murphy’s Fight Back CT**

Connecticut is considered to be a ‘purple state’ in 2018. We are one of 6 toss-up 2018 gubernatorial races, and one of only 5 states that are battlegrounds for both state legislature chambers.

In order to win in 2018, we need to execute the largest Get Out the Vote (GOTV) operation in Connecticut’s history this November.

Talking to voters is the best way to keep Connecticut blue. Knocking on doors, making phone calls and hosting house parties are the most efficient way to get people to vote. Now is the time to organize and plan !

As we canvass in our community, we should promote the Democratic ticket as a whole.

When you knock on a door or make a phone call, you represent the campaign to

that voter. Sometimes the only real person a voter will hear from is you. You could be the reason someone decides to go to the polls and supports our party in the fall!

Fight Back CT recommends that you use your own “personal story” to share your reasons for supporting our candidates. Use the prompts to create a personal story:

1. Start with an example: “I have a pre-existing condition, so protecting the Affordable Care Act is important to me and my family.”
2. State the larger message: “If the ACA is repealed, millions of people like me could lose access to health care.”
3. Connect to the Campaign: “It’s so important for people like

me that we elect Democrats this year to increase access to affordable healthcare.”

4. Make an Ask: Can I count on you to vote for Democrats this year?

Other GOTV goals :

- Use our voter database, VAN, Voter Action Network, to identify supporters across the state
- Reach unaffiliated voters and the 18-25 year olds.
- Coordinate with Invisi-ble Groups, school/college groups, and our candidates.
- Encourage Democrats to host house parties from June through September
- Write letters to local newspaper editors
- GOTV !!!

Matt Pugliese’s 23rd General Assembly Convention





Sound News

FROM THE OLD SAYBROOK DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

Chairwoman:
Janis Esty

Vice Chairwoman :
Wendy Gesick

Secretary:
Nancy Walsh

Assistant Secretary:
MaryAnn E. Iadarola

Treasurer:
Donald S. Brodeur

Assistant Treasurer:
C. Marston Ladd

Sound News Editors
Laura Gray
Bill Webb

Mission Statement: the Old Saybrook Democratic Town Committee fosters a town government in which the members of our community can actively participate and be represented. We promote transparency, accountability, and economy in our town government. We support the mission of our schools, the preservation of our natural environment, and sustainable economic growth. We value diversity of thought and seek to increase Democratic representation on our town's boards and commissions as well as support Democratic candidates for statewide and national office.

Please visit the OSTDC websites:

www.oldsaybrookdemocrats.com

www.facebook.com/groups/164430080288322/

Please send an email with Newsletter as the subject to oldsaybrookDTC@gmail.com if you want to receive electronic versions of these newsletters.

Paid For by the Old Saybrook Democratic Town
Committee, Don Brodeur Treasurer

**Cooperation is better
than conflict, unity is
better than division,
empowerment is better
than resentment, and
bridges are better than
walls.**