

WILTON DTC MEETING
April 5, 2005
APPROVED MINUTES

Attendees: David Borglum, Scott Kimmich, Fred Herot, Charlie Lewis, Peggy Reeves, Richard Creeth, Ted Hoffstatter, Troy Ellen Dixon, Ernie Ricco, Deb McFadden, Sharon Grace, Jon Tan

Guests: Julie Weisberg (Wilton Bulletin), Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Susan Bysiewicz (CT Secretary of State), David Killian

The meeting is called to order at 7:38pm.

GUEST SPEAKER: Susan Bysiewicz, CT Secretary of State, Candidate for CT Governor 2006

Susan Bysiewicz is running for CT Governor in 2006. Her priorities are the following:

1. Restore integrity and public trust

Susan Bysiewicz has submitted legislation to ban no bid state contracts at or above \$500,000. Susan supports other actions that will uphold ethics in government—she supports new legislation that disallows convicted government officials from drawing state pensions.

2. Re-establish fiscal responsibility

Susan has, in her role as CT Secretary of State, returned \$3.6m allocated to her office, to assist with budget deficit reduction. Additionally, she has directed \$80 million to the state's general fund over the past 4 years from fees collected by her office.

Susan supports a declining state budget. Her own state budget has declined every year for the past 6 years.

3. Create jobs

Susan supports small businesses, as a fuel for economic growth. The office of the Secretary of State has registered over 200,000 companies per year, as it has streamlined the registration process. Her office has also provided technical assistance to small and minority-owned businesses.

She is against the current failed economic development focused on the largest corporations. In 1993, when Susan was elected as a State Representative, 1 in 20 corporations were contributing taxes to CT. Today, it is 1 in 50. 3 companies in 2004 did not pay any taxes: Pitney Bowes, General Dynamics and SBC.

She supports stem cell research in order to both spur job creation and cure diseases like Parkinson's Disease. If CT does not invest in research, we may lose our researchers in universities like Yale and Wesleyan.

4. Support public schools

Susan supports an overhaul of the ECS formula so that state funding increases town education budgets and special education budgets. She also supports a fair taxation increase--a 1% increase in taxes for people making over \$1 million per year in order to make up the current \$1.3 billion state deficit.

She also supports early childhood education or universal pre-school education. Studies have shown that this saves the state on juvenile detention costs. The state currently spends \$40k per year on every inmate (\$1 billion per year or 10% of the current state budget is spent on incarceration).

5. Rationalize healthcare

Susan wants to bring down the cost of health insurance. In CT, 10% of people under 65 do not have health insurance. CT can model its healthcare after Maine or Tennessee, where the populace chooses healthcare providers. Furthermore, in CT, the husky program has been decreased by former Governor Rowland and current Governor Rell.

6. Invest in infrastructure

CT has ignored this for too long. Susan wants to invest in highways and deepwater ports in New Haven and Bridgeport.

Susan Bysiewicz is a strong candidate for CT Governor and she can win. She has run successfully in state wide elections for Secretary of State 3 times. In 1998, she won in a tough primary—a primary where no one thought she could win.

Susan Bysiewicz began her public service to CT in 1992 when she was elected to the state legislature representing the 100th Assembly District. After serving three terms, in 1998 voters elected her to her first statewide office, as CT's 72nd Secretary of State. She continues to serve in that capacity after the most recent reelection in 2002.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2005 MINUTES

The March 1, 2005 minutes are approved. There were 11 votes of approval and 1 abstention. The abstention comes from Troy Ellen Dixon, who was not present at the March 1, 2005 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance in the Wilton DTC account is \$862. There is a deposit of \$300 for Trackside and a booking fee of \$100 that must be made for the May 14 Breakfast fundraiser.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Platform Committee

Ernie Ricco, Chair of the Platform Committee, reports on the results of the platform hearings. The main tenets of the new platform are:

- Democrats want to show leadership and be pro-active
- Democrats are starting with a blank sheet of paper in order to produce new ideas

The platform addresses a pro-active stance in 3 areas:

- Promoting Fiscal Management
- Alleviating Traffic
- Increasing Citizenry Participation
- Instilling the Peace
- Enacting Board Member Term Limits
- Encourage Economic Diversity

The platform requires a charter revision for purposes of fiscal management. The Democratic platform calls for setting up a Commission to explore hiring professionals to run the town (instead of an elected First Selectman). Furthermore, the platform calls for exploring additional revenue sources and re-examining the current tax structure. Additionally, the platform calls for a new comprehensive Town Plan, that will replace the 5-year capital plan.

The platform calls for setting up an intra-town commission to explore traffic alleviation especially on Route 7; increasing citizenry participation through increasing the number of public hearings and increasing the number of town gatherings/meetings. A suggestion is to hold a once a month face-to-face meeting with citizens or once a month brown-bag lunches. In order to instill the peace, the platform calls for increasing the number of police officers and increasing the number of youth officers to 2 (from the current sole youth officer). Finally, in order to encourage economic diversity, the platform calls for increasing affordable housing through setting up a Housing Commission that will allow teachers, police officers and other municipal workers tax breaks on property taxes.

2. By-Laws Committee

There is one more change suggested to the By-Laws: the DTC, rather than the Caucus, will elect delegates to Conventions.

The By-Laws Committee will make final changes and submit one more draft. There will be a vote in May to finalize the By-Laws and the new By-Laws will be posted on the Wilton DTC website by July.

3. Finance Committee

The Breakfast Fundraiser will be moved to Saturday, May 14, 2005 from 9:30 to 11:30 am at Trackside. The Wilton DTC will invite Richard Blumenthal to speak on issues close to everyone, such as the CT suit against No Child Left Behind. An alternate speaker will be Nancy DiNardo, the new CT State Democratic Chair.

Expenses for the Breakfast Fundraiser, to be named Food for Thought, will come in at about \$1,000. This was previously approved. As such, there is no need for a new vote.

The target number of attendees is 100. Each DTC member will endeavor to sell 10 tickets in the next 2 weeks. The Wilton DTC will invite attendees from the Volunteer Party in February and will also invite newly registered Democrats.

On June 4, the Wilton DTC will have a brown-bag breakfast with Mayor DeStefano (New Haven) and Mayor Malloy (Stamford), 2 candidates for CT Governor in 2006. There will be a nominal charge of \$5 to \$10 per person. Site will be Ambler Farm or Cider Mill Cafeteria. The format of the discussion is still to be determined. A moderator in Bill Collins, former Norwalk mayor, or Andy Mays, current Board of Finance member, can be arranged.

4. Nominating Committee

The Wilton DTC believes in giving everyone a fair playing ground. Doug Walker will be interviewed for the Water Commission spot. Richard Creeth and Lois Ayers will re-interview for the Board of Selectmen positions.

There is an opening on the Nominating Committee, since Toni Lee has taken on the position of Nominating Chair. Ernie Ricco is nominated to this open position on the Nominating Committee. Ernie Ricco is unanimously approved.

5. Campaign Committee

George Jepsen, the former CT State Democratic Chair and former candidate for CT Lt Governor, has just formed an Exploratory Committee for running for CT Attorney General. If anyone is interested in volunteering for George Jepsen, please let Wilton DTC Chair Sharon Grace know.

6. Membership Committee

The Wilton DTC is looking for a Membership Chair. If anyone is interested, please let Wilton DTC Chair Sharon Grace know.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Jefferson Jackson Bailey (JJB) Dinner, April 18, 2005 6:00pm, Aquaturf, Southington, CT – Tickets are still available for the dinner. The Guest Speaker will be Senator John Edwards, former candidate for Vice President. Tickets are \$175 each. Sharon Grace, Ted Hofstatter and Jon Tan are car pooling. If anyone wants to go or wants to join the car pool, please let Wilton DTC Chair Sharon Grace know.
2. There is campaign training in June, sponsored by the Democratic State Committee. If anyone is interested, please let Sharon Grace know.

3. There is a Town Chair Meeting on April 30 from 9am to 4:30pm at Snow School, 299 Wadsworth St, Middletown, CT. Everyone is invited. Sharon Grace is going. Please let Sharon Grace know if anyone is interested in car pooling.
4. Sharon Grace attended a Joe Lieberman discussion at a Diner. There were a few disgruntled 4th Congressional District Town Chairs in attendance. Joe Lieberman admits the war vote may give him trouble but if everyone considers his overall record, especially in the areas of women's rights and the environment, they will find his stances desirable.

The Wilton DTC is considering inviting Joe Lieberman to speak at a local diner (e.g. Orem's Diner) on a weekday.

The Fairfield University professor challenging Joe Lieberman for the Democratic nomination for Senator will be coming to speak to the Wilton DTC.

5. The 3rd Hearing on Ambler Farm will be held on Monday night at 7:30 pm. Marilyn Gould asks that everyone oppose the vocal Ambler Farm neighbors that want to block all night-time activities.

NEW BUSINESS

There is a unanimous vote to move the Caucus to July 25, 2005. The Caucus will be held to approve:

- Wilton DTC town slate for the 2005 elections
- By-Laws
- Platform

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38pm.