

WILTON DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE
March 7, 2006 Meeting
APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Charlie Lewis, Scott Kimmich, Ted Hofstatter, David Borglum, Alice Ayers, John Gardiner, Fred Herot, Ernie Loser, Art Shulman, Richard Creeth, Sharon Grace, Jon Tan

GUESTS: Eric Fanwick, Kate Tepper, John Savarese, John Kalamarides, Mayor John DeStefano (D-New Haven, candidate for CT Governor Democratic nomination)

Absent and Excused: Ernie Ricco, Toni Lee, Brian Lilly, Hallie Wofsy, Lois Alcosser, Troy Ellen Dixon, Deborah McFadden, Margaret Reeves, Margaret Derose

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the last three Wilton DTC meetings (Dec 2005, Jan 2006, and Feb 2006) will be up for approval at the next meeting in April.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance in the Wilton DTC account is

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Dan Malloy, current Mayor of Stamford, is going to speak at the Wilton DTC April meeting (April 7, 2005).
2. The Jefferson Jackson Bailey Dinner is on Thursday, March 30th, beginning at 6pm for cocktails. Dinner is at 7pm. Venue is the Hartford Convention Center.
 - Barak Obama, Senator from Illinois is the keynote speaker
 - Tickets are \$175. For best seats, get your checks into Martha Aasen (Westport DTC Chairperson) now. Your checks will be your tickets. If we get enough people (we already have 2), we can have a Wilton attendees table.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

April 22nd is the date suggested for a fundraiser breakfast. We have not been able to line up a speaker.

OLD BUSINESS

On March 21, the Wilton Democratic Caucus will elect the Wilton Delegates to the conventions. Please sign up to be a delegate at one of the conventions to be held in May. Even non-Wilton DTC members are encouraged to sign up, but you must be a registered Democrat in Wilton. Please make sure that you attend the designated convention, if you sign up to attend.

Convention	Date	Location	No of Delegates Required	No of Volunteers	Positions Selected by Convention Delegates
State Convention	May 20	Hartford	8	10	Senate (Lieberman's seat), Governor, Lt. Gov., Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller and Treasurer. Also Democratic State Central representatives.
State Central Election	May 4	Westport?	8	10	2 representatives of the 26 th District to State Central. Martha Aasen and Mark Markus are seeking re-election.
Congressional Convention for the 4 th District	May 15	Fairfield County	8	8	4 th District Congressional representative (Diane Farrell)
State Senate Convention (26 th District)	May 22	TBD	8	3	125 th District State Senator Democratic challenger to Judith Freedman
State House Convention for the 143 rd District	May 23	Wilton or Norwalk	6	3	143 rd District State Representative (WHS or Middlebrook voting) Democratic challenger to Toni Boucher
State House Convention for the 125 th District	May 23	New Canaan	2	2	125 th District State Representative (Driscoll voting)
Judge of Probate Convention	May 8	Norwalk	8	3	Judge of Probate for Wilton/Norwalk

NEW BUSINESS

1. Caucus in May to endorse Peggy Reeves
2. Diane Farrell – shall we formally endorse her?
3. Letters & articles for the paper
4. Why we fight movie. We will look into renting this movie and showing it at Wilton Library.
5. The question was brought up whether the Wilton DTC should host a speaking event for Ned Lamont. There is no time in the regular sessions to host this. Scott and Kate Kimmich will gauge interest in having Ned Lamont speak and based on that, determine whether there will be a separate private event for Ned Lamont.

Chris Shays has just endorsed Joe Lieberman. There is a ground-swell against Joe Lieberman. More and more people suggest that Lieberman is a Democrat in name only.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mayor John DeStefano (D-New Haven), candidate for CT Governor Democratic nomination

The education statistics for New Haven are:

- 80% attend college
- Drop-out rate went from 40% to 17%

Mayor DeStefano is a voting member of the Board of Education. Education is a priority.

John has visited North Carolina and Georgia to obtain education and job growth insight.

John's 4 priorities for CT are:

1. Ensure job growth and wealth creation

CT's current job growth ranking is 50 out of our 50 states. There are currently no incentives for financial services, despite 20% of tax base revenue coming from financial services. John advocates growing financial services by offering incentives and education.

CT's rankings are number 1 in patent submissions and number 2 in advanced degrees. John advocates state surpluses to pay for Math and Science degrees.

John also advocates redefining the CT economic base, in order to grow jobs.

2. Improve transportation infrastructure

As jobs have clustered around transportation infrastructure, CT needs to boost investment in transportation infrastructure: roadways, bridges, railways and ports.

Jodi Rell's infrastructure plan earmarks \$1.3 billion in 10 years. This is inadequate infrastructure spending. John advocates increasing investment in order to increase jobs.

3. Increase investment in public schools and universities

Jobs and functions are currently being outsourced increasingly. CT needs to increase the intellectual capacity in order to compete with Pacific Rim countries.

The University of Connecticut operating budget has been so slashed that there is a built-in incentive to accept out-of-state students because these students pay more.

Southern CT State University in New Haven is the largest university in New Haven; however, its budget has been cut 40% in 7 years.

4. Increase competitive advantage of CT

CT's goal is not to be the lowest cost state, but to be the best CT can be, as a knowledge-based economy.

CT is one of the best places to live--the financial services industry (i.e. insurance and hedge funds) has increased tremendously as a result.

John advocates improved tax policy. Little towns do not receive adequate funding; as such these towns invest in commercial development and over-50 housing. These towns do not build starter homes. We will be faced with a new generation that will not be able to afford homes in our state.

This state was built on people that knew that when we work hard, we will get ahead. CT needs to get back to this. CT in the last 12 years, has eroded this hope.

Jodi Rell is beatable.

Democrats need money, organization and message, in order to win. John Rowland out-spent Bill Curry 3 to 1. Bill Curry raised \$1.7 million. To date, John DeStefano has raised around \$3 million.

Labor provides organization in CT. John DeStefano has been endorsed by 25 unions, including the Teamsters and the progressive SEIU 1199. Lt. Gov. Kevin Sullivan has endorsed John. John Larson (Democratic Congressman, CT 1st District) will endorse John DeStefano shortly.

John DeStefano's message is about reviving hope for CT.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm.