

DESMARAIS 2024 CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER

A word to the 32nd District community following the devastating events of August 18, 2024

Letters to the Editor

VOICES - TOWN TIMES

August 28, 2024

Thank You for Standing Together

To the Editor:

Last week's flood was devastating. It was a stark reminder of the power and essential nature of water. No infrastructure, modern or dated, was built to withstand what our communities endured on August 18th.

Water is both a force of destruction and a vital element of life providing the oxygen we breathe and the source we rely on to live.

While water can purify and renew, the natural cycles that maintain our water supply and ecosystem are increasingly under strain due to human activities. Protecting and preserving these resources and our environment is crucial for our future.

If we do not take care and take precautions, these so called thousand-year storms will become more frequent and intensify.

For now, I thank our emergency services for putting their own safety at risk to care for the residents of our communities, Public Works for being on the frontlines of cleanup and repair, the DOT for assessing needs and getting roads

reopened as quickly as possible, and our state and federal officials who will provide the funding to repair our homes and way of life.

I grieve for those who lost their houses, or livelihoods and the women who lost their lives in Oxford.

I thank the people who rose to meet their neighbor no matter what flag they fly or what sign appears on their lawns.

Through good times and bad, we cannot fall divided. We must stand together as the United States of America. It starts in our neighborhoods, and our towns where we form community despite our differences.

Thank you to the residents of the 32nd District and the great state of Connecticut for reaching out to one another to lend a helping hand, leading with respect, kindness, and humanity.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Desmarais
Watertown

“ —
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 —”

Jeff Desmarais
Watertown

As you might not be able to physically support flood victims at this time, please find ways in the most impacted towns to give needed goods or financial donations. Continue to support your neighbors however possible.

“BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD” - Ghandi

[VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

Join our team. Political volunteers can create a lasting impact, empowering communities to take charge of their future and foster lasting change. There is much you can do between now and November 5th. Here are some ways to get involved with my campaign.

- Participate in phone banking, and canvassing to reach out to potential voters.
- Engage on Social Media by sharing campaign content and engaging with posts to increase visibility.
- Organize or Attend Local Events. Host or attend house parties, town halls, and community events
- Participate in your local Democratic Party meetings and activities to mobilize support.
- Write Letters to the Editor on behalf of the campaign
- Register voters and ensure they know how and where to vote.
- Educate people about the importance of voting and the impact of their vote.
- Assist with absentee and early voting efforts to make voting accessible to all.



ENDORSEMENTS

CONGRESSMAN JIM HIMES

My thanks to Representative Jim Himes who serves as the U.S. representative for CT's 4th Congressional District, for his kind endorsement. Congressman Himes is deeply committed to defending our democracy and ensuring peaceful transitions of power for future generations. He was in the chamber of the House on January 6th, where he experienced firsthand the dangers of political extremism. As lead Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, he works with our intelligence agencies to combat malicious interference from both foreign and domestic actors. The Congressman represents the town of Oxford which falls within the 32nd Senate District. I greatly admire his commitment to the 4th District and his forthright convictions. I am honored to have his endorsement.



“
JEFF IS A SUCCESSFUL FINANCIAL ADVISOR. YOU KNOW HE IS GOING TO LOOK AFTER THE BUDGET AND MAKE SURE THAT BUDGET IS PRUDENT, ABOUT JOB CREATION, AND REALLY WATCHES OUR TAX DOLLARS. I'M PROUD TO ENDORSE HIM.
”
CONGRESSMAN JIM HIMES

ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM TONG

I am honored to have received the endorsement of Connecticut's Attorney General William Tong during his visit to Heritage Village, a senior community in Southbury. This endorsement means a great deal to me, as it underscores our shared commitment to addressing the issues that matter most to you.

Last February, Attorney General Tong, alongside State Comptroller Sean Scanlon, met with Villagers to discuss critical issues such as elder justice, protecting against scams, reducing prescription drug prices, and providing assistance with healthcare costs. These are issues I am deeply committed to tackling as your advocate. I understand that many retirees are considering leaving our beautiful state due to the high cost of living. But I believe we can and must give them a reason to stay. By implementing tax reductions based on means testing, we can help those who rely on Social Security, pensions, and annuities to continue living comfortably here in CT.

Moreover, I am dedicated to ensuring that more affordable housing is available. We must also review the high cost of assisted living and the quality of care provided by nursing homes to guarantee a dignified standard of living when the need arises. Seniors have spent a lifetime contributing to our communities, and it's my mission to ensure that their golden years are lived with the security, comfort, and respect they deserve.

“
JEFF IS SO DEDICATED AND I WANT THE PEOPLE OF THE 32ND DISTRICT TO KNOW THAT WE NEED SOMEBODY IN THE MAJORITY WHO CAN BRING RESOURCES HOME TO THE DISTRICT AND DELIVER. THAT'S NOT HAPPENING RIGHT NOW. THERE IS STATE INVESTMENTS, STATE BOND MONEY, MONEY FOR EDUCATION. BUT IT ONLY HAPPENS IF YOU HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE IN THE MAJORITY. JEFF'S GOING TO GET THAT.
”
ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM TONG



Jeff Desmarais is a former Republican, small business owner, and accomplished financial advisor who will always have our backs. He doesn't work for headlines, he works for you, and he'll keep fighting for lower taxes, lower electric bills, and a lower cost of living.

Early voting begins in Connecticut on October 21st through November 3rd. Election Day is Tuesday, November 5th.

ELECT JEFF DESMARAIS VOTE ROW A ALL THE WAY

“We are the heirs to the greatest democracy in the history of the world. And on behalf of our children and grandchildren, and all those who sacrificed so dearly for our freedom and liberty, we must be worthy of this moment. It is now our turn to do what generations before us have done. Guided by optimism and faith, to fight for this country we love. To fight for the ideals we cherish. And to uphold the awesome responsibility that comes with the greatest privilege on Earth. The privilege and pride of being an American. So, let's get out there and let's fight for it. Let's get out there and let's vote for it. And together, let us write the next great chapter in the most extraordinary story ever told.”

- Kamala Harris

NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

A General Election is where all eligible voters elect candidates to office. In Connecticut, there is a general election every year.

14 DAYS
EARLY VOTING
 OCTOBER 21 - 31
 NOVEMBER 1 - 3
 10 am – 6 pm
 8 am – 8 pm on October 29 and 31

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Friday, October 18, 2024

- Deadline for voter registration **by mail** to be post-marked
- Deadline for voter registration **at the DMV** by close of business
- Deadline for voter registration **online** by 11:59 pm
- Deadline for voter registration **in person** by 8:00 pm

Same Day Voter Registration

- If you are not registered, but want to vote during the Early Voting period, you may register in person every day of Early Voting at the Early Voting location
- If you are not registered, but want to vote on Election Day, you may register in person on Election Day at your Election Day Registration site

To receive important election updates text **VOTE** to **860.321.4221**

To find your Early Voting location, and for all you need to know about elections in Connecticut, visit MyVote.CT.gov or call **860-509-6200**

EARLY VOTING

YOUR SAY. YOUR DAY.

WHAT is Early Voting?

Early Voting allows you to vote in person safely and securely before Election Day.

WHICH ELECTION WILL BE THE FIRST to have Early Voting available?

Early Voting will begin with the Presidential Preference Primary. The Early Voting dates for this election have been modified to reflect the Good Friday holiday and Easter Sunday. Early Voting will be held Tuesday, March 26 through Thursday, March 28 and Saturday, March 30. Presidential Preference Primary Day is Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT at the Early Voting location?

When you arrive at the Early Voting location, you will check in and be verified as an eligible voter. You will then receive your ballot with an envelope. You will complete your ballot at a privacy booth and seal it in the approved envelope. Before you leave, place the sealed envelope in the secure receptacle as instructed by the election officials. Ballots will be secured unopened until Election Day.

WHEN will ballots be counted?

Ballots cast during Early Voting will be sealed and stored securely in each town. They will be opened and counted on Election Day.

HOW DOES EARLY VOTING DIFFER from voting by absentee ballot?

Absentee Ballot voting requires a reason (from a list of six, found at MyVote.CT.gov). Early Voting is available to every eligible voter without a specific reason. Early Voting may be done only in-person, not via mail or drop box.

HOW MANY EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS will be in each city or town?

Each town or city will have at least one Early Voting location. If the population is 20,000 or more, the local legislative body will decide whether to have additional locations. Check your municipality's website in March for its Early Voting location or visit MyVote.CT.gov.

CAN I VOTE on weekends?

Yes. Early Voting includes Saturdays and Sundays for most elections (see calendar for specific dates).

HOW IS IT ENSURED people do not vote twice?

The election official at your Early Voting location will record that you have cast your ballot, preventing you from voting early at any other location, submitting an absentee ballot, or voting on Election Day.

MAY I REGISTER TO VOTE during the Early Voting period?

You may register and vote on the same day during the Early Voting period before regular general elections. For Primary Election details, see detailed instructions on MyVote.CT.gov.

DOES EARLY VOTING EXIST in other states?

Although new to Connecticut this year, 46 other states already offer some form of Early Voting.

WHAT hasn't changed?

You can still vote via Absentee Ballot or on Election Day as usual. Elections in Connecticut are still safe and secure.



VIEW YOUR SAMPLE BALLOT
WHEN IT IS AVAILABLE
MyVote.CT.gov/sampleballots



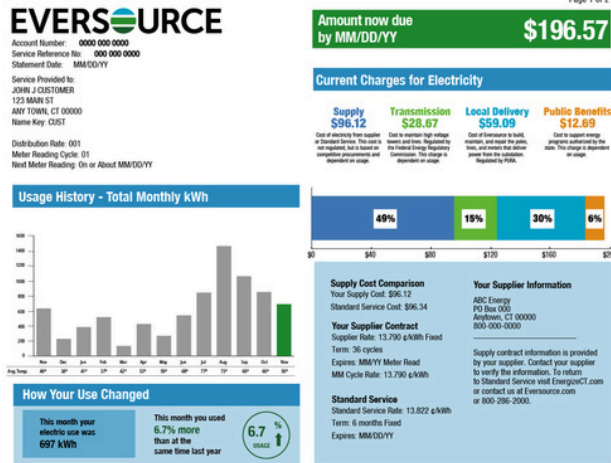
REGISTER TO VOTE OR
UPDATE YOUR REGISTRATION
MyVote.CT.gov/register



Stephanie Thomas, Connecticut Secretary of the State

Follow us @CTSOTS:





Combating the Rising Rates of Electricity

Like so many of you, I've had it. The PURA rate increases are unconscionable. Our families and small businesses are already hurting, and Hartford politicians like my opponent, Eric Berthel, are intent on doing nothing about it.

Berthel had years to deliver relief and failed, even as he attempts to mislead over his support for the disastrous Millstone-Eversource-Dominion deal that resulted in a handout to big energy at huge cost to ratepayers.

The Millstone piece dates back to a 2017 deal led by Republicans in the House and Senate to preserve the nuclear power plant. A win for big business at the expense of consumers.

I, for one, refuse to be distracted by partisan hackery, and I don't think voters will be, either. I'll end the senseless bickering and get to work on day one to lower electric bills for our community. Some important resource links below.

<https://www.utilitydive.com/.../connecticut.../508280/>

<https://www.ctinsider.com/.../ct-energy-bills-politics>

Service to Country and Community

My dad Larry Desmarais, joined the Army at age 17 in 1964 and served both active duty and then in the Reserves until 1994. He was primarily a Drill Sergeant retiring as an E8, First Sergeant. He inspired me to join the National Guard.

I served in the Guard from 1997 to 2003 and was named my battalion's Soldier of the Year in 2000. The National Guard has a unique dual mission, serving both state and federal governments. The ability to seamlessly switch between state and federal responsibilities showcases versatility and commitment. This is the type of preparedness I will bring to my role as your 32nd District State Senator making decisions on the local level that ultimately impacts our state and nation.

As I travel around the district, I love meeting and learning about others who have served their country and who currently serve their communities. Christopher Grillo was recently sworn into office as the very first Chief of Police to Southbury's newly formed independent police force. A police chief who emphasizes integrity can profoundly influence the entire department. Leading by example, they promote ethical behavior, accountability, and transparency, building public trust and ensuring the community is served with fairness and respect.



I recently had a delightful chat with Heritage Village resident Herb Garber who served his country in World War II. We owe a debt of gratitude to all those who have fought to defend our freedoms.

Although we are in peacetime, there is a war afoot and our freedoms are under attack. I, and the other Democratic candidates on the General Election ballot, promise to defend the freedoms that men like my dad and Herb fought for and men like Chris swear to uphold.



TRAVELLING AROUND THE 32ND...



BROOKFIELD

The First Annual Blue Brookfield BBQ, where families were invited to enjoy the amenities at the Town Hall Bandstand. Among the hot dogs, burgers, raffles, games, and music, candidates engaged in informal conversation with Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Justin Potter for State Senate, Treasurer Erick Russell, Aaron Zimmer for State Representative, Brookfield First Selectman Stephen Dunn, and Senator Richard Blumenthal. It was an inspiring and informative day. It also turned out to be historic, as President Biden made his announcement to leave the race. A moment we will never forget



WATERTOWN

Watertown Recreation, held another great Night Out on Main Street which supports the community by highlighting the importance of buying local. I had so many good conversations with residents from all political parties to discuss their every day needs and frustrations. I will always take the time to listen to others with differing beliefs and viewpoints to build solutions to the challenges we face.



HAYES WATERBURY HEADQUARTERS

Supporting 5th District Representative Jahana Hayes at the Grand Opening of her Headquarters in Watertown.



TRAVELLING AROUND THE 32ND...



An energized day of canvassing along with Bethel DTC members, friends, and fellow candidates Aaron Zimmer for State Representative, Raghib for State Representative, Rob for CT. Democracy in action!



BETHEL

The Bethel Annual Summer Shop and Stroll sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Bethel is the birthplace of P.T. Barnum who was an American showman, entrepreneur, small business owner, and politician. This event is a nice opportunity to showcase a variety of unique stores in Bethel, and a great economic stimulant for the town. I will sponsor legislation that promotes the kind of entrepreneurship that has defined the ingenuity of the people of Connecticut.



The Bethel DTC members are active and energized civic leaders. The decisions made in our town councils and school boards ripple outward, shaping the fabric of our nation. Local politics is national politics. By staying engaged and active in our communities, we uphold the values that define our democracy. Together, we can ensure that our voices are heard and that our actions make a difference.



SEYMOUR



A Sunday afternoon at the Seymour Democratic Town Committee's Summer Fundraising Event with guest speakers Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Senator Richard Blumenthal, and our Attorney General William Tong. We were treated to tasty pizza from the family at Red Diamond Pizza Truck.

TRAVELLING AROUND THE 32ND...



MIDDLEBURY

Canvassing in Middlebury. Thanks for taking the time to talk to me and share thoughts Middlebury neighbors.



BRIDGEWATER

July 18th, what turned into a perilous day in CT, was the also the final day of the weekend long, 71st Annual Bridgewater Country Fair. Boots are always advisable but on this soggy day, they were a must. Admission was free due to the rain. Little did know in the morning just how bad the rain would be.



SOUTHBURY

Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz joined us at the Southbury DTC Annual Picnic to support myself, Ellen Fox for the 131st and Ed Edelson for the 69th. Members of the SDTC can always be counted on to bring fun and energy to a campaign.



HERITAGE VILLAGE - SOUTHBURY

Members of the Heritage Village Democratic club are battle tested warriors and great patriots. They stand up for democracy and show up when called upon. The picnic was filled with the camaraderie and community spirit that makes this 55+ adult community in Southbury so special.