

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CANDIDATES GUIDE

2008

## Kelly Ross – Board Of Selectmen

### Background and qualifications:

My name is Kelly Ross. My wife Cindy and I moved to Westford in 1999. I graduated from Union College with a B.S. in Mathematics. For the past 25 years, I have worked for BMC Software as a software engineer. I am an Eagle Scout, and I umpired high school and youth league baseball for 10 years.



I am serving my sixth year on Westford's Finance Committee, and I was chairman for three years. I have consistently advocated for responsible budgets, and I am committed to ensuring that our tax dollars are spent wisely.

I was elected chairman of the Long Range Fiscal Policy Committee, which was formed in 2007 to address the town's long-term fiscal challenges. Under my leadership, the committee produced a financial roadmap to guide Westford through the difficult years ahead.

I am an independent and analytical thinker who looks for creative solutions to problems. I believe in hearing all sides of an issue and factoring in all relevant data before making a decision. I work hard to earn people's trust, and it is important to me to always be fair and impartial.

To learn more or contact me, please visit [www.ross2008.com](http://www.ross2008.com).

### 1. Why did you choose to run for Board of Selectmen?

This is a critical time for Westford. In an environment of economic slowdown and escalating costs, the fiscal challenge of maintaining our public schools, town services, and town infrastructure is enormous. I am a proven leader with the experience and the judgment to navigate Westford through these rough waters.

My years on the Finance Committee have given me a thorough understanding of the town's finances, and I know the importance of spending your tax dollars wisely. As a Selectman, I will work to ensure that our budget matches our priorities and that we spend within our means.

I will work to maintain our excellent schools and town services, and to protect our investment in our buildings and our capital assets.

I will bring a spirit of cooperation to the Board of Selectmen, and I will foster collaboration among town boards, town employees, and citizens.

I am committed to representing the interests of all members of the Westford community - families, single people, seniors, business owners, and town employees. We need to work together for the benefit of our entire community.

**2. In light of the recent disastrous house fires, given the geographical size of Westford, and knowing insurance rates are affected by response times, how would you propose funding staffing for the Roger's fire station?**

I support staffing the Rogers fire station. Both Chief Rochon and an independent study have concluded that opening the Rogers fire station is critical for public safety. I will work to fund it responsibly.

As of this writing, Westford is awaiting final approval for an \$840,000 federal grant to staff the Rogers fire station, contingent on a five-year commitment by the town. The grant will be distributed to Westford in declining installments over four years. Westford's share of the cost over the five-year period is about \$2.4 million.

Westford's share for the first year, about \$250,000, can be paid from reserves, which are projected to be \$5.3 million at the start of fiscal year 2009.

For subsequent years, staffing the Rogers fire station is just one part of a larger fiscal challenge. We cannot look at staffing the Rogers fire station in isolation, but rather we must look at our entire budget as a whole. To reduce costs, we must vigorously pursue operating efficiencies, consolidation, and regionalization. If we work together to get the most out of our tax dollars, we can fund our high-priority items, including staffing the Rogers fire station, in the years ahead.