

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CANDIDATES GUIDE

2008

Robert M. McCusker – Board of Selectmen

Background and qualifications:

Growth Management Bylaw (Co-Author) Restricting building to 30 permits per year for new dwellings
Selectman 2000-2003

Finance Committee

Fire Substation Building Committee-Roger's Fire Station

Military Service: U.S. Army

Foreign Service: South Africa, Belize, Near East Asia
Section-Washington, D.C.

Education: B.S. Civil Engineering

Professional: Construction Project Manager, Licensed Professional Engineer



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

The Board of Selectmen is the policy board of our community; it allows me to bring new ideas and concept that will help shape the future of our community. My experience and knowledge of Municipal, State, and Federal Government will be an asset to the residents of Westford, with experience to bring opposing views to support a common goal.

As before I am a candidate that keeps my commitment to the voters, in the 2000 election I ran with a commitment to growth control in Westford, even with resistance from some members on the board of selectmen. I lead a coalition to limit the number of new dwelling building permits to (30) thirty per year. This key bylaw help prevent the town's budget from escalating out of control due to uncontrolled growth.

I am committed to new initiatives, more efficient and cost effective town government, keeping our taxes from escalating out of control, tax relief for our senior residents, as well as promoting ideas to reduce Westford's carbon footprint and encouraging green polices.

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?

Any disastrous fire or accident is a tragedy. Whenever we have the opportunities as a community to reduce or eliminate any risk of tragedy, whether it is improved access to water via fire hydrants for fighting fires, improved intersections to reduce accidents and response time, become more vigilant in the inspection of older high risk building and educating the public on the risks of fires. It is opportunities like these that we should always pursue and make a priority within our town budget.

The Board of Selectmen is our community leaders as such should set the annual policy message of priorities for our community, making public safety a priority. Our town budget has fiscal limits; therefore all priorities must work within this constraint. As technology increases efficiencies, then cost savings become available for new priorities such as staffing the Roger's Fire Station. In addition I would have the Town Manager review the town budget to look for efficiencies and duplication of responsibilities to reallocate resources to public safety thus allowing the resources to staff the Roger's Fire Station.