

**VOTE FOR WHAT
YOU BELIEVE IN**

Green Party of Waterford, CT

**Platform
Adopted August 26, 2017**





**GROWING WATERFORD'S
LOCAL ECONOMY**

#STRONGECONOMY

Waterford has always been a center for commerce, and many residents have managed to prosper in their time living in our community.

But many residents continue to face financial hardships, and the possibility of Millstone closing in the near future may result in higher property taxes that could worsen such issues.

Our town can adopt policies to mitigate damage to our economy caused by the closing of Millstone, ease financial burdens, feed those who are in need, promote locally-owned business, and promote economic sustainability.

BAD NEWS

Millstone will close its reactors within the next fifteen years, and it will likely happen much sooner. To compensate for our budgetary loss, property taxes would have to be more than doubled within five years of it closing.

Sources: The Day, 2017

GOOD NEWS

Our town has time and the ability to expand its tax base, grow local business, and strengthen our local economy to mitigate such a crisis before it even occurs.

WE WILL:

- ✓ Ensure that the town budget remains balanced and that the government does not spend outside its means.

WE WILL:

- ✓ Support policies that will benefit small, locally-owned businesses over large, corporate chains.

WE WILL:

- ✓ Plan and create a welcoming downtown commercial center in Waterford.





**CONSERVATION
& SUSTAINABILITY**

#GREENWATERFORD

In the last thirty years there has been an explosion in public environmental awareness and activism, with little action from any level of government.

Governments, including Waterford's, must prioritize action on climate change to avoid devastating harm to our economy, society and environment.

We can take action by investing in eco-friendly materials when conducting repairs and starting projects, supporting local conservation, and promoting sustainable initiatives.

BAD NEWS

Climate change resulting in a warming of 3° Celsius is projected to cost the United States as a whole \$150 Billion per year, and a warming of 4° Celsius is projected to cost the United States over \$300 billion.

Source: Office of the President of the United States

GOOD NEWS

As of 2015, wind and solar energy account for over 10% of the energy produced in the United States, and this number can rise dramatically with our help.

Source: US Energy Information Administration

WE WILL:

- ✓ Disincentivize individuals and businesses from using unnecessary fertilizers and pesticides near major waterways.

WE WILL:

- ✓ Encourage all residents and local businesses to take part in micro-generation through solar panel installation.

WE WILL:

- ✓ Encourage the town to set aside more undeveloped lands to preserve for posterity.





**PREPARING FOR LIFE,
NOT A TEST**

#LIFELONG LEARNING

Over the past several years, Waterford has taken many beneficial steps towards improving the quality of education that is provided to our children.

Our Board of Education, however, often fails to prioritize student needs in their decision-making processes.

We believe that Waterford can improve education more cost-effectively than it has in the past, and ensure that students are preparing for more than a test.

BAD NEWS

Since 2015, Waterford schools have lost over \$1 million in state funding. The state is expecting the town to continue to take on greater fiscal responsibility for their school systems as the state's budget issues persist.

Source: WTNH Connecticut News

GOOD NEWS

Connecticut as a whole is ranked in the top 5 states in the nation for education, and Waterford itself was ranked 55th in the State of Connecticut for education in 2015.

Source: US News and World Report, 2015

WE WILL:

- ✓ Promote any policy that will help Waterford schools move away from the practice of standardized testing and teaching to the test.

WE WILL:

- ✓ Encourage the expansion of our schools' vocational programs as a pathway for students interested in pursuing trades and technical careers.

WE WILL:

- ✓ Support the movement toward student-centered, personalized learning in our schools.





**EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY**

#BETTERINFRASTRUCTURE

Waterford's infrastructure has taken hit after hit over the years due to increasingly damaging storms and a changing climate.

The people of Waterford require and deserve well-maintained infrastructure in their daily life, from the roadways leading to each home to the aging firehouses that keep those homes safe.

Elected Greens will advocate for safety, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness when working to expand our infrastructure.

BAD NEWS

The consulting firm VHB estimates that it would cost roughly \$13.8 million to revitalize our town's transportation system, and we would have to increase investment in road maintenance from \$500,000/yr to \$1.16 million/yr through 2025 to maintain current road quality.

Source: The Day, May 2015

GOOD NEWS

Decreasing wear-and-tear on our roads by increasing our ability to use non-motorized transportation around town and taking proactive steps to protect our infrastructure against the elements before another hurricane arrives will help taxpayers save money.

Source: Al Jazeera America, July 2014

WE WILL:

- ✓ Request the creation of more bike lanes and sidewalks around town, as a means of promoting health, safety, & eco-friendly transportation.

WE WILL:

- ✓ Promote greater physical accessibility to all town properties to accommodate for less mobile citizens.

WE WILL:

- ✓ Utilize eco-friendly, durable materials for all new infrastructure projects, including permeable pavement.





**I
Voted**

**ACCURATE REPRESENTATION
FOR WATERFORD**

#TRUEDEMOCRACY

Our nation was founded on the principles of liberty, justice, and the idea that all people should have a voice in their government.

But the current town government has become stagnant, with a handful of individuals serving on multiple boards and commissions and little interest being expressed in the government's daily activities from the public.

Electing Greens will allow new and different perspectives to be shared, and we will work diligently to involve as many members of our community in decision-making processes as possible.

BAD NEWS

Approximately 57% of adults in the United States believe that a third political party is needed “because the Republican and Democratic parties do such a poor job”.

Source: Gallup, Sept. 2016

GOOD NEWS

The Green Party stands ready to serve as an independent political movement, and we will work to ensure that all of our citizens have the opportunity to get involved in our local government and be heard by elected officials.

Source: Green Party of the United States Platform, 2016

WE WILL:

- ✓ Provide citizens with the opportunity to meet elected representatives and have their voices heard.

WE WILL:

- ✓ Prioritize transparency above all else to guarantee that citizens are able to stay informed about how their tax dollars are being put to use.

WE WILL:

- ✓ Promote town meetings and vacancies on boards and commissions more publicly.



Other Policies

Economy

- ✓ Incentivize the creation of new small businesses as a means of creating a wider, more sustainable tax base in the town.
- ✓ Work with the town's water supplier to better remove carcinogenic materials from the source.
- ✓ Reaffirm their commitment to supporting unions and the process of collective bargaining with every vote cast on a town board or commission.

Environment

- ✓ Increase littering fines within the town limits to discourage pollution.
- ✓ Promote a small \$.05 charge on all plastic bags distributed by a business in the state of Connecticut, as a means of avoiding plastic litter from entering our ecosystems.
- ✓ Launch a program to curb tick populations with the help of natural, indigenous predators, as a means of slowing the spread of Lyme disease.
- ✓ Ban waste from hydraulic fracturing waste from being carried through, deposited, or stored within the town's limits.
- ✓ Recommend policies to help slow the rate of coastal erosion in town.

Other Policies

Education

- ✓ Reaffirm their support for public education with every vote cast on a town board or commission.
- ✓ Support increased access to and instructional use of technology for all students and educators.
- ✓ Work collaboratively with schools in our region to offer more opportunities to students while sharing resources.
- ✓ Request that one or two current students in the Waterford Public Schools system be elected to represent student interests at each Board of Education meeting in a non-voting capacity.
- ✓ Continue to work towards building a monetarily sustainable, low-cost option for Pre-K education in Waterford, given the town's recent decision to withdraw from the Friendship School agreement.
- ✓ Emphasize the need for greater discussion regarding social and emotional health and wellness in our school systems.
- ✓ Foster greater cooperation between the town government and Waterford High School so as to encourage more students to complete their Learning Through Service (LTS) hours through volunteerism for the town.

Other Policies

Infrastructure

- ✓ Invest in redesigning and repaving roads that are currently dangerous due to their condition.
- ✓ Prioritize repairing the Oswegatchie Firehouse, which currently poses a safety hazard due to the whole second floor only being reinforced with two-by-four boards.
- ✓ Consider moving power lines underground as the investment becomes cost-effective, so as to avoid massive power outages during hurricanes and snowstorms that can prove to be dangerous for less mobile and older citizens.

Government

- ✓ Support the institution of rank choice voting for the position of First Selectman, so as to ensure that the candidate with the most widespread support will win out in a fair and just election process.
- ✓ Encourage the town to televise or otherwise livestream, to the best of their ability under the law, all meetings of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and Board of Education to further promote transparency and public participation in town affairs.

About the Waterford Greens

The Waterford, CT Green Party was founded in 2013 by Joshua Steele Kelly and Baird Welch-Collins. The two founded the party to protest the failings and general operations of the two major parties, and the WGP has grown to new heights with each passing year. The WGP ran its first candidate in the 2014 elections, and won its first election in the 2015 municipal elections. As of August 1, 2017, Waterford Greens hold five elected and appointed seats: Joshua Steele Kelly as a Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate and Conservation Commission Alternate, Baird Welch-Collins as a Flood and Erosion Control Board member, and the two serve as Justices of the Peace.

The WGP strives to uphold their
Ten Key Values:

1. Grassroots Democracy
2. Social Justice
3. Ecological Wisdom
4. Non-Violence
5. Decentralization
6. Community-Based Economics
7. Feminism & Gender Equity
8. Respect for Diversity
9. Personal & Global Responsibility
10. Future Focus & Sustainability

More information can be found regarding our meetings, activities, campaigns, and candidates at our website:

waterfordgreenparty.org





GET INVOLVED

Website: www.waterfordgreenparty.org

Facebook: [Facebook.com/WaterfordGreenParty](https://www.facebook.com/WaterfordGreenParty)

Twitter: @WTFDGreenParty

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication was created by the Platform Committee within the Waterford Green Party, and is based on the mini-platform of the UK Green Party.

2017 Town Platform