



# NEWSLETTER

## SPECIAL EDITION 2023 Municipal Election

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### YOUR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR SALEM'S MUNICIPAL OFFICES



#### Sue Spang

**First Selectman  
Board of Education (6-year term)\***

Sue is a 36-year resident of Salem. She is the proud parent of two graduates of Salem School and East Lyme High School.

Sue served on the Recreation Commission for 16 years, 15 as Chairperson where she oversaw the installation of the Babe Ruth Baseball Field, Volunteer Park, the refurbishing of the Round Hill Road playscape and the creation of the tennis and basketball courts.

As Chairperson of the Multi-Purpose Path Committee, Sue personally wrote competitive grants and received over \$500,000 for construction of the path, including a community-built bridge.

Sue engaged in other volunteer activities include working on Emergency Management, the 2012 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). She served as Registrar of Voters, served on the Open Space Committee Member, and as Salem's Municipal Agent for the Elderly where she proactively sought out training by Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA) to conduct intake for heating assistance for our residents.

Sue currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Education (BOE).

As the BOE Personnel Committee Chairperson, the Committee successfully settled contracts that were under the state average.

Her interests include bee keeping, photography and quilting.

**"As First Selectman, I will continue to build on my 20+ years of experience of working together in cooperation, respect, and transparency. Uniting Salem for a Stronger Community."**

#### SUE PLEDGES TO:

- Open the Salem CT Government Charter for revisions,
- Settle the GLFD lawsuit,
- Establish a committee to evaluate the Emergency Services Study recommendations for implementation,
- Institute policies for Town Board and Commission appointments for vacancies,
- Institute a policy for the use of the Salem Benevolent Fund,
- Train/educate Town Board and Commission Chairpersons on their roles and responsibilities and town processes,
- Secure ongoing education on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requirements,
- Build better working relationships with all town volunteer groups,
- Foster more transparency, especially where town finances are concerned,
- Ensure respectful dialog at town meetings and public hearings,
- Endeavor to share services within Salem and with others towns,
- Review Town Ordinances and revise as necessary,
- Form a Cemetery Committee to restore and maintain Salem's cemeteries.

\* **If elected 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman only one office can be held.**

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**HOW DO I GET A COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER?**

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please send your request along with your e-mail address to: Gary Closius: [gclosius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gclosius@sbcglobal.net)

**SDTC CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**YOUR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR**

**SALEM'S MUNICIPAL OFFICES (continued from Page 1)**

**Leslie Helene Hotary**

**Selectman**



Leslie is a 17-year resident of Salem. She is a proud parent to a Salem School and ELHS graduate.

Leslie currently serves as the Secretary of the Salem Democratic Town Committee.

She Currently serves Salem as our representative to the Advisory Board of the Southeastern CT Water Authority.

Leslie holds a BS from SUNY at Stony Brook, and a MS from Purdue University. She is a Pfizer Retiree with more than 20 years line management experience.

Leslie is a former Visiting Instructor and Administrator at Purdue University.

Leslie's education, teaching experience, and her corporate work experience as a line manager at Pizer as well as her familiarity with the Salem Community will valuable to the Board of Selectman.

**"I am excited to bring educational, management, and business skills to the Salem BOS."**

**Kay D Zak**

**Selectman and**

**Board of Assessment and Appeals (full member to fill a vacancy, 4 yr. term)**



Kay is a 7-year resident of Salem.

She is currently serving Salem on Salem's Board of Assessment Appeals as well as Vice Chairperson for the SDTC.

Kay is the Salem Senior's Group Activity Director, as well as a member of the Salem Lion's Club, and Friends of the Salem Library. She is the Salem Cemetery Cleanup Organizer helping the Salem VFW and has served on the Salem Unsung Hero Committee since 2019.

Kay's past public service includes serving as Commack, NY PTA President for two schools, and PTA Council President (covering 8 schools) as well as Suffolk County PTA. She also served as a Scout Leader in both the Commack, NY Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops and was the Commack, NY Girl Scout Coordinator – (8 schools)

She worked for LMS Technical Services, Inc. for 23 years as the Office Manager. Kay also worked for Commack School District for 9 years.

***"Managing time effectively, prioritize tasks, setting goals, and developing systems for achieving those goals, as well as juggling multiple responsibilities simultaneously, staying focused on deadlines and handling complex projects efficiently are among my strengths. I am proud to bring my organizational skills to Salem. I will work tirelessly with everyone to make Salem better."***

**Matt Rucci**

**Board of Finance (full member, 6 yr. term)**



Matt is an 11-year resident of Salem. He is a proud parent to two Salem School students. Matt currently serves Salem a member of Salem's Board of Finance (BOF).

He holds a BS in Business Management from Providence College and an MBA with a concentration in Finance from University of Hartford.

Matt is an Information Technology (IT) professional with multi-sector experience.

***"I am excited to continue to work to guide Salem's finances."***

**YOUR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR SALEM'S MUNICIPAL OFFICES** (continued from Page 2)**Katherine (Kate) Card Belleville*****Board of Finance (full member, 6 yr. term)***

Kate is a 25-year resident of Salem. She is the proud parent to 3 Salem School and ELHS graduates.

Kate holds a BS in Physical Therapy UCONN and a MS in Allied Health with focus in Administration UCONN.

She has served Salem as Alternate on BOF for past 2 budget cycles and is interested and motivated to continue as a BOF member and collaborate with other members, other town Boards, and citizens to provide a responsible budget that will best serve all Salem residents.

***"I'm excited to continue to work to guide Salem's finances."***

**Kelly A. Francis*****Board of Education  
(full member to fill a vacancy, 4 yr. term)***

Kelly has been a 7-year resident Salem.

She is the proud parent to two daughters attending the Salem School (8th grade and Kindergarten) and a daughter attending ELHS (sophomore).

Kelly and her family chose to move to Salem because of the welcoming community and strong school system.

She is currently serving Salem on the Salem Board of Education (BOE) November 2022.

Kate holds a BS in Elementary Education from the University of New Orleans, and a MA in Science and Math Education from Walden University. She is currently pursuing an Educational Administration certification from Liberty University.

She was an educator for 17 years.

***"I pledge to continually keep our students' best interest at the forefront of my work."***

**Gary J. Closius*****Planning and Zoning Commission (full member, 6 yr. term)***

Gary is a 25-year resident of Salem and a 49-year resident of CT. He is a proud parent to two Salem School and ELHS graduates.

Gary moved to Salem for its excellent school system and rural small-town environment.

Gary currently serves Salem as an Alternate Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission as well as an active volunteer for Care and Share of East Lyme and Salem, President of the Salem Senior Citizens Group, a Lions Club member, and a member of the Friends of the Salem Library. He also served Salem's Cub Scout/Boy Scouting community for more than 20 years.

Gary holds a BS in Nuclear Science from SUNY Maritime College. He held a U.S. Coast Guard 3<sup>rd</sup> Assistant Engineer License, and a Commission in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

Gary is a retiree from Millstone Nuclear Power Station after 43 years of service with more than 20 years managing department personnel and a multi-million-dollar budget and more than 20 years advising executive and line management on the interpretation of, and compliance with, NRC, other federal, state, and regional agencies' regulations.

***"I am excited to continue to work for Salem residents to ensure the Planning and Zoning Commission provides clear regulations and consistent interpretation of those regulations to effectively manage Salem's growth consistent with Salem residents' wants and needs."***

**YOUR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR SALEM'S MUNICIPAL OFFICES** (continued from Page 3)**Jennifer Lindo*****Planning and Zoning Commission (full member, 6 yr. term)***

Jennifer is a 50 Year Salem Resident.

She is a Salem School and East Lyme High School Graduate and a proud parent to a Salem School and ELHS Graduate.

Jennifer currently serves Salem as a full member of the Planning and Zoning Commission. She is currently employed as a Zoning Enforcement Official for multiple towns, and previously employed for 16 years for the Town of East Lyme Land Use offices working directly with officials, applicants and commissions.

Jennifer currently holds multiple certifications including Aquifer Protection, Inland Wetland Agent and Administrative Zoning Technician (AZT). She holds an AS in Business from Post University.

***"My personal interest in Salem and professional education and career uniquely prepared me for this role."***

**Kimberly Bradley*****Planning and Zoning Commission (alternate member, 6yr. term)***

Kim is an 8-year resident of Salem. She is the proud parent to two Salem School Students.

Kim previously served Salem as the chairperson of the Inland Wetland and Conservation Commission.

She holds a Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science in Environmental Sciences from the University of Connecticut. Kim currently holds multiple certifications including Inland Wetland, Wetland Delineation, Youth Coaching certifications.

She is currently employed as for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Division of State Parks and Public Outreach.

Kim is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee. She volunteers and has served in leaderships roles for regional Land Trusts, Educational Programs and Cycling organizations.

***"I am a dedicated Salem resident willing to bring my professional knowledge and experience, particularly working on complex issues with diverse partners, to the Commission."***

**Dennis Girard*****Board of Assessment Appeals (full member to fill a vacancy, 2 yr. term)***

Dennis is a 36-year resident of Salem and proud parent of two Salem School and ELHS graduates.

Dennis holds a BA degree in Biology (Microbiology) from UCONN and an MS degree in Immunology from the University of Hartford.

Prior to retirement, he was a Senior Principal Research Scientist at Pfizer Global Research and Development in Groton where he headed a Preclinical Infectious Diseases lab researching the PK/PD properties of newly discovered antimicrobial agents for 35 years.

Dennis was involved with Boy Scouts and Little League baseball for many years. He is a 4<sup>th</sup> degree member of the Knights of Columbus in Colchester serving as the Advocate Officer, this council is involved with many charitable activities serving the public as well as Guardian Angels parish throughout the year and have served at the Covenant Soup Kitchen. He also serves as Lector and Eucharistic Minister for St Andrew Church.

Dennis enjoys hiking, biking, long distance canoe racing and reading in his spare time.

***"I look forward to serving the Town of Salem and learning about the assessment appeals process."***

**YOUR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR SALEM’S MUNICIPAL OFFICES** *(continued from Page 4)*



**David Brewster Bingham, MD**

***Zoning Board of Appeals (full member)***

David has roots in Salem since Colonial days. He attended Salem School (as did 3 children and a grandson).

He served Salem as an elected member of the Salem Planning and Zoning Commission for over 35 years.

David is a volunteer with the nonprofit Salem Land Trust, which maintains miles of public trails, negotiating land acquisitions and fundraising efforts for local land protection and stewardship.

David worked tirelessly for federal designation while serving on the local Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee.

***“The Zoning Board of Appeals assures the fair and legal application of zoning regulations needed to preserve Salem’s future – its rural character, economy, remarkable natural beauty, and wildlife - in the face of the growing impacts of climate change.”***



**Kevin Milligan Jr.**

***Zoning Board of Appeals (alternate member, 6 yr. term)***

Kevin is a 6-year resident of Salem.

He has 15-years’ experience as a Firefighter / EMT.

Kevin is currently working locally at a Nuclear Facility.

***“I am Looking forward to learning more about the inner workings of the Town of Salem.”***



**Anthony J. Griggs**

***Zoning Board of Appeals***

Tony is a 45-year resident of Salem. He is a proud parent of two successful graduates of Salem School.

Tony served Salem by providing technical support for the Virtual Town Meeting (VTM), running the VTM system for several town meetings, and maintaining and upgrading the Town Office VTM system.

He holds a BS in Electrical Engineering and MS in Electrical Engineering degree and has over 40 years experience in electronic design, embedded systems and software.

Tony is an active volunteer as a Steward for Salem Land Trust (SLT). He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee (ERWSCC).

Tony is a licensed radio amateur (AA1JN) supporting public functions.

***“I believe that my time as a Salem resident and my exposure to land use issues from SLT and ERWSCC provides a useful background to resolve zoning issues.”***



**Flora Drapeau**

***Library Board of Directors (full member, 6 yr. term)***

Flora is a 42-year resident of Salem. She is a proud parent to Salem School and ELHS graduates.

Flora holds a BS from Southern Connecticut State University, and MS from Loyola, and a MS from Western Connecticut State University.

She was a Special Education Teacher, Daycare Provider, Nurse Practitioner.

Flora is an active volunteer for Care and Share of East Lyme and Salem, and Mitchell Farm Equine Retirement. She is a Salem Land Trust Member and Steward for Salem Land Trust (SLT) and a 15-year member of the Friends of Salem Library.

***“It would be a privilege to serve the Salem community and to ensure the library continues to grow and flourish.”***

**MEET YOUR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES** *(continued from page 5)***Becky Nortz*****Library Board of Directors (full member, 6 yr. term)***

Becky is a 37-year Salem resident and a 45-year CT resident. She is a proud parent of two Salem School and ELHS graduates.

Becky was a Salem Girl Scout Troop Leader for 17 years with two troops for four of those years. One of her troops produced the first 3 Girl Scout Gold Award recipients from a Salem troop.

Becky has served Salem on the Zoning Board of Appeals since the early 1990s including several years serving as chair, and is currently an alternate member.

She holds a BS from St. Lawrence University.

She has recently retired from a career in pharmaceutical research and regulatory affairs.

Becky's interests include training and certifying her pet dogs as Pet Therapy dogs and volunteering with local organizations to provide comfort visitations, working in a 4-family vegetable garden, and adding native flowers to her gardens.

***"The library serves everyone in the community and it would be an honor and a privilege to assist the library in continuing to thrive."***

**Jeanette Girard*****Library Board of Directors (full member to fill a vacancy, 2 yr. term)***

Jeanette is a 36-year resident of Salem and proud parent to two Salem School and ELHS graduates.

She is the Salem Seniors Group Secretary since 2019.

Jeanette Holds a BA degree in biological sciences from UCONN and a MS from Eastern Connecticut State University.

She was a middle school science teacher in Colchester for 28 years and a mentor teacher for many years as part of the state of CT BEST Program.

Throughout her adult life, Jeanette has volunteered in many ways including Girl Scouts and preparing meals for a soup kitchen. In retirement, she spends her time serving in various roles at her church, reading, biking and canoeing.

***"I believe my volunteer and educational experiences will be helpful in working together with the library board members to expand and support the array of outstanding services and programs offered at Salem Free Public Library."***

**Letter Published in The Day October 27, 2023**

MENU ☰

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**The Day****Uniting Salem for a stronger community**

October 27, 2023 7:45 am • Last updated October 27, 2023 7:45 am

As Americans, we have come to understand that the United States of America is the greatest nation in the history of the world. Currently, however, divisive politics and extremism are threatening it and democracy itself. Our problems will only be solved by working together, town by town. Here in Salem, the slogan of the Democratic slate of candidates, headlined by First Selectman candidate Sue Spang, includes Democrats, unaffiliated and Republicans. Our candidates were chosen for their desire to work for Salem, not for a party, and for their willingness to find, common-sense solutions that work toward the center and away from the extremes. Getting involved, listening to every voice, and opening up the government for each and every citizen will lead to better decision making. It begins here, in rural, tiny Salem, working together, as family, friends and neighbors. My fellow Salem residents, vote the top line on Nov. 7. Vote for the Democratic slate, unite our community.

Thomas Butcher

Salem

**November 7th Municipal Election SAMPLE BALLOT**

State of Connecticut  
Official Ballot

Salem, Connecticut	Municipal Election	November 7, 2023	District 1
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**SAMPLE BALLOT**

**TURN BALLOT OVER AND VOTE BOTH SIDES**

**Be sure to read instructions to vote.**

OFFICE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
PARTY	First Selectman Vote for One	Selectmen Vote for Up to Two		Town Clerk Vote for One	Town Treasurer Vote for One	Tax Collector Vote for One	Board of Finance Full Term Vote for Up to Two		Board of Finance Alternate Full Term Vote for One	Board of Finance Alternate To Fill Vacancy for Four Years Vote for One	Board of Education Full Term Vote for Up to Two		Board of Education To Fill Vacancy for Four Years Vote for One	Board of Education To Fill Vacancy for Two Years Vote for Up to Two	
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A Sue Spang	2A Kay Zak	3A Leslie Hotary	4A	5A Pam Henry	6A Vivian Waters	7A Kate Belleville	8A Matt Rucci	9A	10A	11A Sue Spang	12A	13A Kelly Francis	14A	15A
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B Ed Chmielewski	2B Kevin Lyden	3B Ron LaBonte	4B Julie Stoken	5B Pam Henry	6B Vivian Waters	7B John Bernier	8B	9B Jim Moran	10B	11B Ryan Little	12B Keri Weaver-Ramsey	13B	14B Sean Reith	15B Erik Trotter
WRITE-IN VOTES	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C	13C	14C	15C

State of Connecticut  
Official Ballot

Salem, Connecticut	Municipal Election	November 7, 2023	
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**SAMPLE BALLOT**

**TURN BALLOT OVER AND VOTE BOTH SIDES**

**Be sure to read instructions to vote.**

OFFICE	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
PARTY	Board of Assessment Appeals Vote for One	Board of Assessment Appeals To Fill Vacancy for Two Years Vote for One	Planning and Zoning Commission Full Term Vote for Up to Two		Planning & Zoning Commission To Fill Vacancy for Two Years Vote for One	Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate Full Term Vote for One	Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate To Fill Vacancy for Two Years Vote for One	Zoning Board of Appeals Vote for Up to Two		Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Vote for One	Library Trustees Vote for Up to Two		Library Trustees To Fill Vacancy for Two Years Vote for One
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	16A Kay Zak	17A Dennis Girard	18A Jen Lindo	19A Gary Closius	20A	21A Kimberly Bradley	22A	23A David Bingham	24A Tony Griggs	25A Kevin Milligan	26A Becky Nortz	27A Flora Drapeau	28A Jeanette Girard
REPUBLICAN PARTY	16B Dianne Woronik	17B	18B Marty Stoken	19B	20B James Jorgensen	21B Pat Donovan II	22B Mark Medrzychowski	23B Elbert Burr	24B Denise Orsini	25B Larry Benedict	26B Heather Wilkey	27B Kristin Kiczuk	28B Teresa Jorgensen
WRITE-IN VOTES	16C	17C	18C	19C	20C	21C	22C	23C	24C	25C	26C	27C	28C

**NOTES:**

1. The ballot shown is above is for Salem's Voting District 1. The Ballot for Salem's Voting District 2 is identical.
  2. **YELLOW HIGHLIGHTS** are added for explanation purposes.
  3. Be sure to turn over the ballot and vote **BOTH** sides.
- Be sure to read **instructions to vote**, for example for the Board of Education Full Term race the instruction say "vote for up to two". You can choose any two, they do not need to be from the same party.

**OPINION:****YOUR VOTE COUNTS SO GET OUT AND VOTE, by G. Closius, September 15, 2023**

The following table shows the voter turnout in Salem for the elections from 2016 through 2022.<sup>1</sup>

Year	Jurisdiction	Turnout	Voting Eligible Population (VEP)	Turnout as % VEP	Average Voter Turnout
2017	Salem	1,170	2,641	44.3%	45.0%
2019	Salem	1,209	2,798	43.2%	
2021	Salem	1,416	3,000	47.2%	
2018	Salem	2,078	2,777	74.8%	71.2%
2022	Salem	2,200	3,231	68.1%	
2016	CT	1,675,934	2,187,349	76.6%	70.3%
2018	CT	1,422,836	2,165,228	65.7%	
2020	CT	1,861,086	2,309,576	80.6%	
2022	CT	1,297,811	2,237,016	58.0%	
2016	US	136,787,187	230,931,921	59.2%	63.0%
2020	US	154,628,000	231,593,000	66.8%	
2016	Salem	2,384	2,724	87.5%	88.1%
2020	Salem	2,639	2,977	88.6%	
	<b>Presidential Election</b>	<b>State Election</b>	<b>Municipal Election</b>		

The average Salem voter turnout for the national elections (2016 and 2020) was 88.1% compared to the national average of 68%. The average Salem voter turnout for the State of Connecticut elections (2018 and 2022) was 71.2% compared to the State average of 70.3%. The average Salem voter turnout for the municipal elections (2017, 2019, and 2021) was 45%. **More than half of the registered Salem voters did not vote. In the 2021 municipal election a little less than half (approximately 49%) of the registered Democratic voters did not vote.** (approximately 420 did not vote out of the total of the approximately 850 registered Democratic voters).

**Your vote counts especially in the municipal elections. The candidates you vote for at the municipal level make decisions that directly affect you and your family. Remember Democrats that don't vote elect Republicans.**

<sup>1</sup> Data excerpted from the CT Secretary of the State webpage: [ctempublic.pctcg.net/#/voterTurnout](https://ctempublic.pctcg.net/#/voterTurnout).

# GET OUT & VOTE NOV. 7<sup>th</sup>