



A Newsletter from the Stonington RTC



Stonington Points



Town Elections Special Edition | September 2023



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SRTC Meetings

Third Thursday of Every Month
7PM Start
Stonington Police Station

Please join us
for the remaining 2023 Meetings:

- Oct 19
- Nov 16
- Dec 21

Join Us This Campaign Season 2023

We hope you had a healthy and relaxing summer with friends and family. The SRTC is energized and ready to launch into the next couple of months that will be packed with crucial campaign initiatives for the election of Stonington town officials. We hope you will join us in keeping Stonington a wonderful place to live and raise a family. Please read further to learn more about our Republican candidates for First Selectman, Selectman, Board of Finance, and Board of Education. We are excited to present a slate of highly qualified and committed candidates all of whom live in and love this town. Together, they will strive to keep taxes low, ensure safe streets, foster open lines of communication, and maintain critical infrastructures and quality education without overburdening taxpayers. With your vote, they will work to achieve each and every one of these objectives to preserve our quality of life. You can bet on it!

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

VOTE THE ENTIRE

Stonington Republican Team

Support the Police and Public Safety

Partner with Parents in Education

Provide Quality Services
at Affordable Cost





Vote the Republican Team

John Prue *Board of Finance*



 [@johnprueforboardoffinance](https://www.facebook.com/johnprueforboardoffinance)



John Prue has lived in Stonington with his wife, Teresa Giordano, for 28 years. They have two grown children, who are Stonington High School and UCONN graduates. John is currently a Project Manager for Waterford Hotel Group and has been the owner of a small woodworking and display business for the last 27 years. He has held leadership positions on vital Stonington boards and commissions. His experience as a public servant and as a private sector businessperson, especially one attuned to the needs of small businesses, makes him uniquely qualified to serve on the BOF. “I am committed to making well-measured decisions to enable the town to continue its growth, while resisting pressures for unnecessary and costly expenditures,” John says. “I have made myself available and listened to everyone’s concerns in this community, without exception, for the good of Stonington.”

From 2007-2010, John served on the Zoning Board of Appeals. In 2010, he became a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) and remained on the P&Z until 2016, serving as Vice Chair and Chair during his tenure. John also took an active role on the Plan of Conservation and Development from 2012-2015. More recently, he was a Selectman for the Town of Stonington from 2017-2019. While serving on these bodies, John was faced with the questions and challenges that accompany growth and changing economic circumstances. He effectively assessed the town’s resources and needs to achieve the most beneficial solutions for the community. “My background and experiences provide a balanced perspective on all the issues confronting the town,” he explains. “My skill set complements the existing Board of Finance. I have built relationships with all areas of the town government and am able to work cooperatively with individuals with diverse opinions.”

John’s priorities as a prospective member of the BOF include “prudently managing the town’s needs without breaking the backs of taxpayers.” He adds that “items such as roads, bridges, and sewer plants will need planning and financial commitments from the town. These are public health and safety issues that must be addressed, but at the same time, they will allow grand list growth to keep taxes down.” He emphasizes it is incumbent on the town to retain its AAA bond rating, attained while he was Selectman. John promises to bring the experience and knowledge necessary to help the BOF fulfill its responsibility of setting sound fiscal policies and securing Stonington’s financial stability.

Katie Gauthier *Board of Education*



 [@katiegauthierforstoningtonboardofeducation](https://www.facebook.com/katiegauthierforstoningtonboardofeducation)



Katie was raised in Mystic and attended Stonington Public Schools from kindergarten through 12th grade, graduating from SHS in 2000. She and her husband settled in Stonington with their son, citing the school system as a major factor in settling here. Having spent nearly 10 years as a first and third grade teacher in an elementary school, Katie is well-versed in curriculum, instruction, and assessment and appreciates the challenges teachers face. She believes that knowledge paired with being a mom of a student in Stonington schools is essential to service on the Board of Education (BOE). “I can be an advocate for parents and teachers. I understand both roles and how critical the teacher-parent partnership is,” she explains. “I cannot stress how important it is to have at least one BOE member that has a child currently enrolled in the district. Being this person puts me on the same playing field as all parents, so they are more likely to speak freely, and I am more likely to understand their concerns.”

After obtaining a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration at Northeastern University and working for a higher education internet company in Boston, Katie returned to the area to pursue a master’s degree in Education. Upon receiving her master’s, she became an elementary level teacher in Groton. She currently works alongside her husband and together, they operate a busy flight school and air charter operation at the Groton/New London Airport. In this role, Katie listens to the diverse needs of customers and employees, much like she listened to the different needs of her students in the classroom when tailoring her instruction so they could succeed. She will bring to the Board of Education that same genuine interest in addressing the concerns of residents, staff, and families and will remain “open-minded, seek to see situations from multiple perspectives, and will provide honest, yet compassionate responses.”

Katie maintains an active presence on the Stonington RTC, serving on the fundraising committee. Additionally, she frequently volunteers at Deans Mill and assists with school events. Being a parent volunteer has sparked her interest in serving a greater role in our community, prompting her decision to run for the Board of Education. As Katie explains, “I want to be involved so that students of this community take away similar characteristics - so that they, too, want to give back in the same way I seek to do so today.”

As a former teacher, Katie has identified sound goals for the BOE. She understands the relationship between the community and the classroom should be a collaborative partnership for the betterment





Vote the Republican Team

Katie Gauthier (Cont'd)


of our children. Katie will engage with the community to hear and respond to concerns and will ensure Stonington school staff have the support they need. Recognizing that investment in the highest quality education for our children and their future is one of the most critical that our community can make, she will commit to developing responsible school budgets. Katie assures, "I will be sure that any budget put forth by the BOE will be an ideal balance of keeping costs as low as possible without forsaking the quality of education that our next generation deserves." Additionally, she will promote a positive school environment, which leads to better outcomes. "Companies that value their employees find the most success. The same should be true in our schools," she says. "We must be dedicated to creating the best school climate where students and teachers thrive. This includes practices set by the BOE to ensure teachers look forward to work and feel valued. When that happens, students are equally as happy to attend school."

To maintain long term success in education, Katie recognizes the town has challenges to address. The teacher shortage is a nationwide issue, and Stonington is no exception to that problem. She will investigate how the district retains its current teachers and staff and policies for promoting from within. While she understands fewer and fewer are pursuing education degrees, "Stonington still should be a top contender for the smartest and brightest entering the workforce," Katie stresses. "I think we can come up with strategies to attract and entice new staff to work within our incredible community."



David Lee *Board of Education*



 [@davidleeforstoningtonboardofeducation](https://www.facebook.com/davidleeforstoningtonboardofeducation)



David has called Stonington home with his wife, Rhandi, for over 36 years. His parents fostered a strong tradition of volunteerism and civic duty, and he has carried on their legacy through his service on many community organizations. David currently seeks to give back to his hometown by serving on the Board of Education (BOE) to ensure that "all students reach their full potential." He says, "We owe it to our students to offer them the education they need to prepare and succeed in whatever life-path they choose."

The Stonington school system was one reason David and Rhandi chose to raise their family here. They are fortunate to have two children who attended Stonington schools from kindergarten all the

way through high school graduation and who pursued further education at competitive programs. David credits their success to the educational foundation they received at Stonington schools. Both children were actively involved on athletic teams and various extracurricular activities, making David keenly aware of how important these activities are to opening doors at the college level and beyond. "I want the next generations to have access to the same opportunities for success. When our students prosper, so does our community," he said.

David has been an exemplary contributing member of our community. He served six years as a member of the Board of Deacons at Mystic Congregational Church, leading the Spiritual Life Committee. He volunteered at Pawcatuck Little League, assisting in grounds and field maintenance. In addition, David took classes required to become YMCA-certified and USA Swimming-certified as a Swim Official, a post he held for a combined 10 years. After a day of competition at one of his children's Stonington Crew events, he stepped in to offer help. For the next seven years, he was the assistant boatwright, helping the coach in shell repair, equipment refurbishment, and readying the shells for competition at regattas. He now volunteers on the Board of Directors for Stonington Community Rowing, which is engaged with the Town of Stonington, in creating a community rowing facility and public park at the planned Mystic Boathouse Park.

David began his career at United Builder's Supply in Westerly, RI and Niantic, CT, where he was an Inside Sales Representative and was later promoted to Assistant General Manager. He finished his career at Niantic Lumber, now part of the Ring's End Lumber family of stores, where he was Sales Manager, Product Consultant, and Estimator until he retired in December of 2020. He was responsible for staff training and development, workforce scheduling, trade show planning and implementation, and customer relations. He showed an astute eye for planning for the future and the ability to act quickly in response to new challenges. David worked to develop consensus among different and, sometimes, competing interests. His main goal was to make sure that his clients received the best product for the money they could spend. This objective is what you can expect David to bring to the BOE if elected. "I will work together with the BOE members to find a way to provide the best possible education our community can offer, for both the students and the taxpayer," he states.

David has outlined key goals as a BOE candidate. He will strive to provide clear communication from the BOE to parents and the community without the use of "education speak" to enhance transparency. David will prioritize looking at measures to "attract and retain teachers and paraprofessionals given today's staffing shortages." Hearing the concerns of parents, whom David recognizes as partners in their child's education, he will work on "accountability for improving student's state test scores." Moreover, David will uphold and support what he sees as the "four cornerstones of a school system: children, parents, teachers, and taxpayers."





Upcoming Events

Join us!

THE STONINGTON REPUBLICAN
TOWN COMMITTEE

BOOTS, BARRELS, & BBQ

Meet the 2023 Candidates!

Tuesday, October 3, 2023
6:00 pm

Saltwater Farm Vineyard
Stonington, CT

\$50 per person



Event of the Season!

Featuring The Sons of Liberty Band

BBQ Dinner, Live Band, & Amazing Basket Raffle

Pre-payment Preferred
SCAN CODE



Questions?
Carole Nossek: cjnossek210@aol.com
Carolyn Ferrara: ceferrara@comcast.net





Town Meetings

YOU'RE INVITED. LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD.

Remaining 2023 Regular Meetings of the Town of Stonington Boards

Stonington Board of Selectmen

2nd & 4th Wednesday of Every Month
Stonington Police Station Community Rm
5:30 PM

- Wed, Sep 27, 2023
- Wed, Oct 11, 2023
- Wed, Oct 25, 2023
- Wed, Nov 8, 2023
- Wed, Nov 22, 2023
- Wed, Dec 13, 2023
- Wed, Dec 27, 2023

Stonington Board of Education

Bd of Education District Office
40 Field St., Pawcatuck
6:30 PM

- Thu, Oct 12, 2023
- Thu, Nov 16, 2023
- Thu, Dec 14, 2023

Stonington Board of Finance

1st Wednesday of Every Month
Stonington Police Station Community Rm
7:15 PM

- Wed, Oct 4, 2023
- Wed, Nov 1, 2023
- Wed, Dec 6, 2023



We want to hear from you!

For inquiries and/or to subscribe to our newsletter, please email info@stoningtongop.org

Please also visit our website, www.stoningtongop.org or our Facebook [@StoningtonRTC](https://www.facebook.com/StoningtonRTC).

Paid for by the Stonington Republican Town Committee. Approved by the above listed candidates.

