

WHY WE ARE RUNNING FOR THE BOARD OF FINANCE

By Karen Lemire and Robert Marconi



KAREN LEMIRE

With so much of the news media focused on next year's Presidential election, it's easy to forget that we have a town election just around the corner. On November 8, 2011, Brookfield voters will have the opportunity to elect leaders who will help chart a future course on numerous issues of local concern. In the minds of most, those issues relate to quality of life, not just taxes alone. Residents share concerns about whether our community is safe, that our kids are well educated, whether we can drive down our streets without hitting untold numbers of potholes, or, when it snows, whether we can navigate our streets at all.



ROBERT MARCONI

Very often, when we do think of local elections, we think of the top of the ticket, and the posts of First Selectman and Selectman. Brookfield, however, isn't governed by one or two people, but by numerous boards and commissions. While it is the Board of Selectmen who propose a budget, it is the Board of Finance that will present a final budget to the people of Brookfield for their vote. No town service can be provided if the Board of Finance doesn't approve the expenditure.

As candidates for the Board of Finance, the two of us offer different and complementary backgrounds. Karen offers a solid business background and experience with our schools. She is an 18 year veteran of Cisco Systems, where she currently serves as the Director of Strategy and Planning for the company's financial sector business. Karen has served as PTO President for both Huckleberry Hill Elementary School and Whisconier Middle School. Robert offers a solid background in Federal, State and local government, serving as an officer in the U.S. Air Force's Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) for 28 years (4 on full-time active duty and 24 part-time in U.S. Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard status), retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He's also served as a civilian lawyer for U.S. Government agencies, currently serving (as he has for almost 20 years) as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Connecticut. He has also served locally as a member of the Brookfield Police Commission. Both of us have children who are attending or have attended Brookfield Public Schools. Lastly, each of us has lived in Brookfield for over two decades.

We are proud to run on a ticket headed up by First Selectman (former Republican Selectman), Bill Davidson, and Selectman Howard Lasser. Working with Bill and Howard, our goal will be to bring thoughtful, common-sense ideas to the Board of Finance, seeking always to do what's best for all of Brookfield. Our pledge is to put politics aside and focus on the Community.

Many running for office talk of fighting for the taxpayers, as if the only relationship between a citizen and the town is a one-way relationship of the citizen paying taxes. The taxes we pay pave our roads, provide good schools and provide for police and fire protection that keeps our community safe. Brookfield has one of the lowest tax rates in the state and the lowest in our immediate area. We will make sure we continue to get value for our tax dollars.

Running on the Democratic ticket, we are proud to be part of the Davidson/Lasser team, and we are ready to work with Republicans and unaffiliated voters because, in the end, it's not about party, it's about community. Our community. Our Brookfield.

THE TEAM THAT WORKS FOR BROOKFIELD

www.brookfielddemocrats.org

Paid for by the Democratic Town Committee. Approved by Karen Lemire and Robert Marconi.