

ELECTION SPECIAL

Candidates for Carmel Town Board in the Republican Party Primary



Allison Winstanley

AGE: 47
FAMILY INFO: Single mother of 3, Amanda, Danny, and Kelly Wilson
PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican
EDUCATION: The College of Westchester (Computer Networking Specialist); Northern Westchester/Putnam BOCES (Real Estate Agent's License); The Berkeley School (Administrative Assistant Degree)
Attended: Westchester Community College and Cortland State College
CAREER: NYS Unified Court System, Technology Department, Sr. PC Analyst, provide technical support to 9th Judicial District employees; install & configure workstations and software applications; project manager of districts Voice Over IP Phone System; assist in purchasing equipment and budget.

must educate yourself on every project and make sure these developments go through the correct process and follow all guidelines set forth by our Town and DEP.

To what extent are you optimistic about the future of Carmel, and to what extent are you pessimistic? Describe each.

I am very optimistic regarding the Town of Carmel. I have lived here for 18 years and have seen a tremendous amount of improvement, especially in the last few years. With our tough economy we must pull together as a community and help our residents. We also have some things that need to be worked on; the community center, beautification projects, commercial development projects, just to name

a few. As to being pessimistic; our Town would move nowhere if we are pessimistic. You need to keep a positive attitude and working together with our residents we can accomplish many goals to make our Town an even better place to live.

KEY PRINCIPLES: Promoting smart, sensible clean development to bring tax revenue into our Town to help alleviate property taxes; To improve quality recreation for our seniors and children; To fight unfunded mandates and maximize state and federal grants; To mediate lawsuits before entering into costly litigation; Align our Town with County & School officials to help keep taxes down.

What is the most important issue facing Carmel and how will you address it?

Taxes & Development. The budget needs to be scrutinized and evaluated for areas to save money. We need good clean commercial development to bring revenue and jobs into our community. We need to work closely with the IDA and go out and solicit companies and promote our Town as the place to be.

How will you be a steward of the taxpayer dollar?

As a councilperson you must be a watchdog on wasteful spending. We need to mediate before we litigate, which costs this Town thousands of dollars.

How do you intend to balance the interests of open space advocates with the fundamental rights of individual property owners?

Property owners have the right to develop their property as long as it is by the letter of the law. As a councilperson you



Greg Ellner

AGE: 49
FAMILY INFO: Married, with a son
PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican
EDUCATION: Byram Hills, HS 1978 – University of CT Bachelor of Science – Business 1982
CAREER: Executive

pected by 2010, it appears that we will be exceeding plan. Too many homes cause tax increases. Proper non retail commercial development in existing commercial zones needs to take place as we are encouraging redevelopment and beautification of existing commercial buildings. We should follow our existing residential zone and shy away from hi density residential projects.

To what extent are you optimistic about the future of Carmel, and to what extent are you pessimistic? Describe each. Optimistic, some new leadership with vision who does not believe in status – quo tax and spend will allow us to reap benefits. I am slightly pessimistic that we will not enough new Council members

to implement the needed changes for improvement.

KEY PRINCIPLES:

Open Government, particularly regarding bids, awards, and meetings. Take a new approach at the budgeting process while shaping the current "corporate culture" to me more proactive and less wasteful. Impartiality, look at each and everything on a cost benefit basis. No development for the sake of development. We need good desirable development that is welcomed by all. To accomplish things we need to update the master plan, follow it and change the way day to day business is conducted. Just because we have always done it this way is no reason to continue doing it wrong.



Robert (Bobby) McGuigan, Jr.

AGE: 51
FAMILY INFO: Married to Barbara for 29 years. 4 children, Robert 3rd 28, Christina 22, Deborah 18, Legal Guardian Victor 14 years old
PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican
EDUCATION: Mahopac High School 1975; Certificate course – Architectural Drafting 1974 – 1976; Attended Mercy and Westchester Community College – Political Science
CAREER: Former Member & Chairman of the Putnam County Board of Legislators. Former NYC Housing Authority Contract Inspector. Worked in all aspects of construction. Worked with municipal budgets, bidding and government and private contracts. Presently self employed as a Master Carpenter.

Each budget line affects people in different ways.

How do you intend to balance the interests of open space advocates with the fundamental rights of individual property owners?

It's time to take the dust off the Town of Carmel Master Plan and access its intent. This live document was the work of real data, consultants, and residents from opposing positions. Thru countless public hearings and Town Board meetings, documents such as the master plan once completed become fixtures on the Towns website for reading purposes. Sadly, appointed board members and elected officials who take an oath to uphold the laws of the town allow their judgment to become clouded by political donations and patronage. Our Town has become the crossroads to the malls where both open space advocates and property rights has become losers while our neighboring town have become winners.

To what extent are you optimistic about the future of Carmel, and to what extent are you pessimistic? Describe each.

Being pessimistic is a thought process that should never cross the mind of an

elected official. A character trait of law-maker and budget officer is one who has the ability to look at issues and funding streams thru a glass that half full even when it's half empty. Upon taking office and pledging to uphold the laws of the town affords the once candidate to use the laws and resolutions in place to make everything right. I am well grounded and a realist to see that although times are difficult, thru proper decision making we will be a progressive Town.

KEY PRINCIPLES:

I am the only candidate pledging to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the town residents who has a proven record. I have never governed behind closed doors and stand firm in believing that resident comments can be compared to hiring free consultants. I'm a firm believer that by making the resident's part of the process, we will be tapping into a wealth of knowledge that has been overlooked. This campaign season has been riddled by Republican candidates seeking the independence voter and Candidates accepting campaign contributions and then returning it.

Candidates for Carmel Town Supervisor in the Independence Party Primary

Kenneth Schmitt, a Republican, and David Wilson, a Democrat, are competing in the Independence Party primary.



Kenneth Schmitt (Incumbent)

AGE: 51
FAMILY INFO: Married - Wife is Lynne. Three Children - Brett (26), Brad (23), Christopher (18)
PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican
EDUCATION: Mahopac High School, Class of 1976 and the NYPD Police Academy Class 1981
CAREER: Career Law Enforcement (Police Officer) NYPD 1981 - 1982. Town of Carmel Police Department 1982 - 2007. Retired May 2007, Rank Sergeant

What is the most important issue facing Carmel and how will you address it?

The most important issue facing the Town of Carmel is the severe economic crisis that has gripped the nation. Municipal government, its residents and business owners are all grappling with the extreme pitfalls associated with the current recession. The unparallel fiscal crisis has necessitated the triaging of all town-wide spending. Town spending must focus on essential needs only. As town supervisor, I am mindful and cognizant of the fact that our residents are struggling to pay their taxes, mortgage and other daily expenses. Town government must and will reduce our expenditures and look for innovative ways to save taxpayers money by cutting town spending. State grants have been applied for and thus far the town of Carmel has been notified that approximately \$500,000 has been approved and appropriated. Federal stimulus funding requests have been submitted for consideration.

How will you be a steward of the taxpayer dollar?

2009 represents a challenging year fiscally for the town of Carmel, as we made difficult financial decisions to deal with declining revenues and increases in mandated spending. Reductions of town-wide spending across all budget lines have taken place—only essential expenditures will be approved thus reducing our operating costs. Cost benefit analysis will be conducted and department managers are instructed to negotiate and carefully analyze all proposals and submitted bids for municipal projects and purchases. The town supervisor personally reviews all vouch-

ers, invoices and purchase orders prior to payment authorization.

How do you intend to balance the interests of the environmental trusts as they accumulate more and more land presumably to protect it for the future, while protecting the fundamental rights of individual property owners?

Our environment is and always will be a priority of my administration. My goal is to maintain and preserve the beauty of the Town of Carmel now and for future generations. I carefully monitor and observe all projects that are in progress and those in the planning stages. I have monthly discussions with the town engineer, planner and engineering consultants to be kept informed and updated as to the status of projects going thru the environmental review phase and site plan submission as part of quality control measures. All projects submitted to the town planning boards are encouraged to be smart, sensible and to utilize green technology whenever possible in a further effort to preserve and protect the environment.

To what extent are you optimistic about the future of Carmel, and to what extent are you pessimistic? Describe each.

As Supervisor, I am totally optimistic about the future of the Town of Carmel. The Town of Carmel is a progressive town moving in the right direction. Many positive accomplishments have taken place since I took office in January, 2008, and we continue to grow and move forward—expanding recreation activities for our

youngsters and senior citizens while taking steps to beautify and enhance our overall appearance both in the Hamlet of Carmel and Village of Mahopac and Mahopac Falls. The Town of Carmel has a rich history of many groups, organizations and volunteers that are the backbone of this community. These individuals are what defines this community and represents what makes this such a great town to life in, work and raise a family.

How have you served Carmel in the past?

- Born and raised in Mahopac, lifelong resident,
- 35 year active member of the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department,
- 3 term 9 year trustee of the Mahopac Board of Education (1996-2005)
- 26 year retired sergeant Town of Carmel Police Department,
- Mahopac Sports Association coach,
- Volunteered for many community groups and organizations,
- Current elected Town Supervisor, Town of Carmel, First term of 2 years; elected 2007 took office January 1, 2008.

KEY PRINCIPLES:

My key principles are commitment, dedication, trust, and unwavering desire to work extremely hard everyday and never forget those who supported me and put their trust in me to do the right thing for the benefit of the residents and taxpayers that I serve.



David Wilson

AGE: 56
FAMILY INFO: Two children, Luke, 13, and Tom, 11, who both attend Mahopac Middle School.
PARTY AFFILIATION: I'm a Democrat. Also running on Working Families and Independence Party lines.
EDUCATION: BS, Northeastern University, 1978
 Sharfman Fellow in Economics, 1981, Brandeis University
CAREER: Journalist for newspapers and magazines since 1977, appearing in national newspapers and *The Journal News*, from 1986-2007, covering city government in White Plains and Yonkers, county government in Putnam and Westchester, the State House, and education. Currently write for major university publications. Regular contributor to the *Harvard Education Letter* at Harvard's Graduate School of Education and wrote the script for an eight-part DVD series on financial literacy for low-income citizens.

What is the most important issue facing Carmel and how will you address it?

The burden of taxation is hurting the residents of Putnam County, and I'll do my best to control town spending and maximize state and federal aid to the town. I'll end the sweetheart deals at Town Hall that have cost taxpayers. I'll make sure we don't hand out cell phone to town board members and allow them to make personal and business calls on the public dime. And I'll work with officials in other governments, such as the county and school district, to find ways to share services and make for a more efficient delivery of public services.

How will you be a steward of the taxpayer dollar?

I'll make sure we don't waste public funds by supporting public works projects, like the proposed mass transit project in Mahopac, and then turn around and support the abandonment of the project, which could cost Putnam taxpayers up to \$1 million. I'll fight for every dime of state and federal aid we can get to ease the tax burden here. I'll also take a very hard look at town spending and look for ways to save. I'll also be looking at ways to expand our tax base and bring businesses here to help with the tax bill.

How do you intend to balance the interests of the environmental trusts as they accumulate more and more land presumably to protect it for the future, while protecting the fundamental rights of individual property owners?

Most of the protected land in Carmel is owned by New York City, to protect the reservoirs that serve our neighbors 40

miles south. They have bought up huge swaths of land here to keep pristine the waters. The most recent purchases have not impeded on the rights of individual property owners. I believe New

York City's land purchase program in Carmel has had a positive impact on our town, with thousands of acres surrounding the reservoirs protected from development while the city pays property taxes on the land.

To what extent are you optimistic about the future of Carmel, and to what extent are you pessimistic? Describe each.

I'm mostly optimistic about the future of Carmel. We live in a town that's home to thousands of kind, generous people who volunteer their time, have the courage to start up new businesses, and raise their families here. We have good schools, safe neighborhoods, and a spectacular countryside. What concerns me is that the town is run by politicians in that small inner circle, all from one party, who don't like to engage the community and provide ways for citizen involvement. We need to open up that inner circle to allow more diverse points of view. Then our town could really reach its true potential.

How have you served Carmel in the past?

For three years, I served on the site-based team at Fulmar Road Elementary School, working with teachers and parents on key education issues. I'm a volunteer referee with Mahopac Sports Association soccer. I'm the co-founder of the Westchester Putnam Bike Walk Alliance, which advocates for cyclists and pedestrians here. I'm president of the Westchester Cycle Club, which runs an annual event in Mahopac and draws cyclists to the town.

KEY PRINCIPLES:

I believe in open government, and as supervisor, will be accessible and provide involved leadership. I want a transparent, open government that invites citizens to participate. We need a balanced approach to development, that balances the need to expand the tax base with the town infrastructure's ability to handle traffic. I want to work with other towns and school districts to share services and make a more efficient government. I want to expand the offerings of the town Rec Dept to offer more programs for middle-school and teens, with DJs at Sycamore Park on Fridays for middle-schoolers and Saturday night for teens.



Frank D. Lombardi

AGE: 38
FAMILY INFO: Married to Debbie, 3 children--Anthony 11, Frankie 8, and Alexa 7
PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican
EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Fordham University 1992--B.A. Political Science/Public Admin. ;St. John's University School of Law, J.D. 1995
CAREER DESCRIPTION: Private Practice Attorney

What is the most important issue facing Carmel and how will you address it?

Several important issues facing the taxpayers of Carmel. First is the need to keep taxes low, including school taxes, so residents can continue to live and support their families into the future. Need increase the tax base with smart commercial de-

velopment that preserve the beauty and environment of the Town. Many indicate that they would love to spend their tax dollars here in this town: An increase in sales tax revenues would decrease property taxes and prevent the need for further town and school tax increases. We also need to do a better job in providing recreation for our senior citizens and teens.

How will you be a steward of the taxpayer dollar?

I have indicated that I would like to see each town department cut non-personnel expenses by 3% this year. If our families are suffering a decrease in income due to the poor national economy, then government should decrease its spending and still provide the needed services to our taxpayers. The first month in office, I

would mandate each department to review their budget with the Town Board, line by line, to see what expenses can be cut. There may be a need to consolidate some agencies and use technology better in providing town services.

How do you intend to balance the interests of open space advocates with the fundamental rights of individual property owners?

Many people, including my family, moved to our town for the green grass, parks and trees. Many young families and seniors enjoy our great parks and open space. There needs to be a balance with the test of what is in the best interest of the town, and its future development, and the taxpayers as a whole, in making any determination of

what private citizens can do with private property.

To what extent are you optimistic about the future of Carmel, and to what extent are you pessimistic?

I truly believe that the best of Carmel is yet to come. Under the leadership of Supervisor Schmitt, our Town has become more progressive and more responsive to the needs of its residents. Our biggest burden is the national economy. I believe that I have the experience and education and the relationship with the Supervisor to help him move Carmel forward for the residents of the Town of Carmel.

KEY PRINCIPLES:

Government needs to be responsive and responsible to the taxpayers that they serve.

We need to create an environment of economic stability in our town so that our children will be able to raise their families in our Town. I have been dedicated to our Town in the various organizations that I have been and continue to be involved in. I will be a pro-active and energetic advocate for all the residents of the Town of Carmel and I will have an open ear to all opinions. Taxpayers expect elected officials to act responsibly with tax dollars and they will have no stronger advocate for fiscal responsibility than myself.