



This Week's Focus:

BOARD OF FINANCE CANDIDATES

The BOF's primary responsibility is to protect the financial well-being of the Town, and it has done a great deal to improve the town's financial integrity by imposing discipline and transparency in the management of our capital spending and our long-term liabilities. The BOF has not imposed the same discipline on the town's spending and taxes in the understandable belief that the Board of Selectman and the Representative Town Meeting (i.e., the town's Executive and Legislative branches) should decide what services the town should provide. Also, because its authority is limited to changing specific line items in the budget, it has no way of knowing how any changes it makes would be implemented, and what their ultimate effects would be. Thus, on the critical issue of what services the town wants and can afford, the BOF has generally deferred to the BOS and the RTM. The BOF also has no role in the negotiation or approval of any Town or School labor contracts.

The Board of Finance consists of nine members who are elected to six-year terms (three members are elected every two years). Under the Town Charter, no more than six of the nine members can be registered with the same political party. Still serving their unexpired terms are four Republicans and two Democrats. This means that at least one of the two Republican candidates and at least one of the two Democratic candidates will be elected to fill one of the three open seats. Also, John Mitola (D) is running unopposed this year to complete the remaining two years of a term to which he was appointed due to a prior resignation.

You can vote for two candidates...the top three will be elected:

James Brown (R)

Kevin Hoffkins (D)

Kevin Lennon (D)

James Walsh (R)

(Incumbents are *italicized*)

To help voters gain insight into what the BOF candidates think, Fairfield Taxpayer has asked each of them to answer the following simple but important questions:

- 1** What is your assessment of the Town's financial well-being and how do you think it could be improved?
- 2** What is your assessment of the the BOF's performance and how do you think it could be improved?
- 3** If elected (or reelected), what will be your top three priorities and why?

By going to FairfieldTaxpayer.com and clicking on "2015 Election" you can:

- o Find out what each of the candidates thinks.
- o Review "bio's" and photos of all candidates.
- o Send candidates your comments or questions with simple "1-click" links.
- o Find out where you should vote after the recent redistricting.

PLEASE NOTE THAT MOST VOTING DISTRICT NUMBERS HAVE CHANGED AND MANY VOTERS WILL HAVE NEW VOTING PLACES.

To help inform all voters, please encourage candidates who have not yet responded to our questions to please do so!

Fairfield Taxpayer, founded in 2012, is a non-partisan organization dedicated to preserving Fairfield as a desirable and affordable community for all its residents. More than 4,500 of Fairfield's 37,000 registered voters are now on our e-mail list and almost 1,400 people connect with us through our Facebook page. These neighbors represent a diverse cross section of ages, occupations, incomes, districts, and political affiliations.

www.FairfieldTaxpayer.com

MOST OF US DON'T CARE? In 2009 and 2013, less than 30% of Fairfield's voters turned out for our municipal elections, even though the people elected will have a MAJOR IMPACT on our quality of life, our schools, our taxes and our property values. If you don't vote, who do you suppose will come out and elect our leaders?

PLEASE VOTE ON ELECTION DAY, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD.