

# The West Windsor Faux Mentor

A Common Sense Alternative Newsletter for Today's Crazy Times—Serving West Windsor, New Jersey Since Late 2019

## ★ ★ ★ FALL 2019 ELECTION EDITION ★ ★ ★

### Seriously... You Might Want To Pay Attention For This One

Well, here we are, another odd-numbered, off-year election season, and not much interesting is on the ballot. *Or is there?*

This fall's local election, to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, will be a fork in the road for West Windsor: whether we go to a roster of nearly all-Republican elected officials, or retain the current party-balanced situation.

### "Non-partisan West Windsor"—But Is It Really?

Some officials and candidates in West Windsor regularly claim we are a "nonpartisan" community, and that major party affiliations play no part in making policy, or in officials' forming coalitions or voting blocs among themselves. This is a complete myth.

Unless you've been living like a groundhog in a hole in the ground for the past four years, you'll have seen that party identification, both locally and nationwide, is stronger than ever—among the candidates for office, and the voters who vote for them.

So whenever you hear, "But we are non-partisan here in West Windsor!" you can be sure it is coming from a Republican candidate or officeholder, with the perfectly understandable goal of distancing themselves from the Republican lunatic that currently occupies the White House—and who continues to enjoy the full and hearty support of his Republican party.

In fact, every single West Windsor officeholder and candidate this fall is registered with the Board of Elections as affiliated with one of the two major parties, and actively votes in their party's primaries. According to the Board, the Republicans are: Mayor

Marathe; Council Members Manzari and Geevers; and Council Candidates Mandel and Stevens. The Democrats are: Council Members Zhang, Hamilton and Miller; and Council Candidates Lin, Wang, and Gawas. They're noted below as (R) and (D) below, respectively.

The simple fact is that our Republican candidates and officeholders can and should be presumed to be among the 24% of West Windsor voters who, according to Board of Elections, pulled the lever for Donald Trump in November, 2016 and can be expected to do so *again* in November, 2020. A question for voters to ask themselves: what does this say about these candidates' fitness for holding office in our West Windsor?

### The Current Situation

Here's how our elected government stacks up now, since the 2018 election:

Mayor	Marathe (R)
Council	Manzari (R)
	Geevers (R)
	Hamilton (D)
	Zhang (D)
	Miller (D)

We have an overall 50/50 balance, with the Council tilted "slightly blue."

This lineup actually reflects a balance West Windsor has known for many, many years. It reflects the long-term selection of candidates from different ends of the political spectrum. *E.g.*, 2017 saw an all-Republican sweep by Marathe, Geevers and Manzari, while in 2018, the one open Council seat went to the Democrat, Zhang. The diversity of West Windsor's residents has, over time, appeared in the partisan mix of its elected officials.

Now let's look at how things pan out with the different slates up for election in 2019. There are essentially two scenarios.

### Option (1)



If West Windsor elects the slate of Lin, Miller & Wang, things will look similar to what they are today:

Mayor	Marathe (R)
Council	Manzari (R)
	Geevers (R)
	Lin (D)
	Miller (D)
	Wang (D)

The traditional diversity, with its checks and balances, is preserved.

### Option (2)



On the other hand, the Mandel, Gawas & Stevens slate will transform West Windsor's local government to nearly entirely Republican control.

Mayor	Marathe (R)
Council	Manzari (R)
	Geevers (R)
	Mandel (R)
	Stevens (R)
	Gawas (D)

In this scenario, the West Windsor local government becomes five-sixths Republican, for at least two years, maybe six depending on what happens in subsequent years. Not just slightly "tilted red," but completely, full-on Trump-nutter.

*You have been warned.*

# Q&A With Republican West Windsor Councilwoman, Virginia Manzari

From a recent 9/30/2019 WBCB radio interview. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/ManzariRadio> for the full interview.

## On The #MeToo movement

**HOST:** I'm gonna throw a curve ball at you.

**MANZARI:** OK.

**HOST:** You're a Republican.

**MANZARI:** Yep.

**HOST:** And, I'd just like to get your opinion on the #MeToo movement.

**MANZARI:** Oh gosh. OK. Um, so, you know, in my experience, I've — I've not had any experiences where, um, you know, anybody has done anything illegal with me. Now, has anybody ever said anything off-color, or made a dirty joke, or whatever? Of course. Who hasn't had that experience? I think that this movement has gone so far that, you know, people just — you can't be offended by everything. You know? I'm probably gonna upset some people by this, but you can't be offended by everything. What — what next? It's like, words offend people. Well, you can't call somebody, you can't use this phrase to describe somebody, So we have to change it to this other phrase. And then a year later, that phrase offends somebody, and you got to change it to something else. And a year later it's something different. When does it end? You know, we're supposed to be this country where people have the right to free speech, and you can talk about ...

**HOST:** Open society.

**MANZARI:** ... all kinds of things without, you know, being shamed. I mean, that's what I see a lot now, is that if you don't agree with the particular group of people, they're going to shame you, and shut you up. ... I see articles about it happening in schools. I ... hear stories about it where kids are afraid to give their opinions.

**HOST:** Even on college campuses when speakers are told — or not invited.

**MANZARI:** and don't glom on to — of course. Oh yeah. Or there are riots when somebody comes to speak that they don't agree with. Good Lord. I mean, that's anti-American. I'm sorry. But people should be able to come somewhere, and speak, and give their opinion, and you don't agree with them, fine, you can debate it. But let's not get

violent and let's not shame them into being quiet. And, look, don't get me wrong. It's absolutely wrong for, for, for people to be abused or, um, uh, you know, um, for people to use their power or position, you know, for nefarious reasons. Of course. I mean, who would say otherwise?

**HOST:** Right.

**MANZARI:** You know? But, but it's this whole, ... politicization ... of these issues that's wrong. And it takes it to a different level.

**HOST:** Yep. Well —

**MANZARI:** And I also, I just want to say one more thing. I fear for the boys. Like, I fear for, you know, my husband, my son, my, you know, my brothers. If you were just accused of something, and all of a sudden everybody says, "Well, if you're accused of it, it must be true." What happened to due process? What happened to facts?

**HOST:** You're right.

**MANZARI:** So I have a big issue with that.

## On Immigration

**HOST:** Something else: your thoughts about Governor Murphy's directive regarding New Jersey becoming a sanctuary for illegals?

**MANZARI:** OK. So, first of all, whenever you're talking about illegals, that pretty much does it in the name there: they're already breaking the law. So, I don't know why we are proposing sanctuary for people who are breaking the law. Are you — is the next thing gonna be, well, rapists are going to, you know, have a free and easy pass? They — they're breaking the law. What about gang members? Or, you know, people who rob banks? I mean, you're breaking the law. Yes, there's a — what about drunk driving? I mean, if you're breaking the law, you shouldn't be given special passes. You shouldn't be given a driver's license — you're not a citizen. You shouldn't be allowed the right to vote — you're not a citizen. You shouldn't be protected from, you know, from the police — you're not a citizen, and you're breaking the law. And, you

know, I, we last year there was a resolution that was circulated around. It did — nothing ever came of it. But it was basically to make West Windsor a sanctuary city. And all — the entire wording of it was basically undercutting the police.

**HOST:** Yeah.

**MANZARI:** The police have to be able to do their jobs. I mean, when you look around, and you see what happened in Texas just recently, with that guy being shot in the back of the head. I mean, people aren't respecting the police anymore. They're not respecting the rule of law anymore. We have to protect these guys and have their backs, because that's who has our back. I mean, what do you do when you have a problem? You call 911. That's who's coming to help you, is the police. So, shouldn't you be on their side? I mean, West Windsor has amazing police officers. They have been doing community policing for years. They are major members of the community, and we now support those guys.

## On Our Schools

**MANZARI:** ... I think that education has taken a turn for the worst in this country, and they're not teaching a lot of the things that they taught, even when I was a kid, ... kids today are sort of getting whitewashed history. They're not getting civics classes. They're really not taught about government. You see these videos where people go out and they ask college students or people on the street to answer simple questions about the Constitution, or about our form of government, and they can't answer the question. And it's really sad, and it's scary, and in my opinion it's a little bit pathetic. And, really, I think what they're exposed to today in this whole age of social media is they just get sound bites from politicians. They're not really hearing about what the real issues are. They don't know what the process is, of running a government and representing residents and citizens, and all they get are really divisive sound bites. ...