

As you can imagine, I'm not taking anything for granted with my candidacy for Commissioner and tonight's all-important nomination vote. It has been an honor to serve the people of the First Taxing District since 2014, and I am even more deeply honored now to have the support of my fellow incumbent First District board members as well as District A members who recognize what I have to offer.

Actions I have taken, in concert with my fellow Democratic board members, for First District to better serve the community include:

- Increasing public input regarding use of First District parks, including yesterday's Zoom tour of our parks
- Seeking common ground regarding the Belden Avenue library expansion plans
- Website and social media improvements, where I support sending out an RFP to hire a new consultant

I am not one to stir up emotions with half-truths or insinuations that are easily disproven with a little research such as reading the minutes of a board, or attending a few meetings to listen to what an organization is doing.

The message I am prepared to share with the district's voters is centered on four "C"s:

Commitment: I show up and do the tasks I've agreed to do. You've seen me taking an active role in Democratic Party campaigns and events year after year, as well as related organizations like Democracy for America and the League of Women Voters that stand up for (small "d") democratic values and the rights of all people. When something needs to be done, I take action and people know they can depend on me to follow through.

Courage: I stand up for what I believe is right, even if it's not always the most popular view. I also vigorously defend the rights of others to express their opinions, even if I disagree, and I convey those opinions to decision makers, even if I get harsh pushback for doing so. I make every effort to get the facts so that my opinions are based on solid information.

Compassion: I recognize that some Americans are more privileged than others, and that equity calls for boosting and accommodating those less privileged. Specifically, I have been instrumental in starting and continuing the LWV Norwalk scholarship program, which helps first-generation college students; and in First Taxing District I suggested adjusting pay raises to give a better advantage to the lowest-paid workers – I was pleased to see this idea implemented in our latest budget.

Collaboration: I strive to recognize the strengths of those I work with, learn from them when their expertise exceeds mine, and promote a mutually respectful atmosphere where we all support each other.

If you have any questions or concerns you'd like to discuss before tonight's vote – or at any time! – don't hesitate to call or write. I'd be delighted to meet you to have a face-to-face conversation if you'd like.

I believe that my reputation in the community, my message, and my energetic door knocking to talk to voters will ensure a win so that the First Taxing District board will retain its Democratic majority in November.

Sincerely,
Elsa Peterson Obuchowski