

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

THE VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION



2010 SPRING VOTERS' GUIDE

TOWN ELECTION ON TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2010 POLLS OPEN 6:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) is cooperating with The Connection Newspapers to produce this Voters' Guide to assist citizens in the Town of Vienna in choosing a mayor and three candidates for election to the Town Council. Registered voters who live within the Town of Vienna are eligible to vote at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, S.E., Vienna. The polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The LWVFA sent a questionnaire to all candidates whose names were qualified to appear on the May 4, 2010 ballot. Biographies and responses to the questions appear as written by the candidates and are not edited except to comply with Voters' Guide style. The candidates' original responses are on file with the LWVFA. Candidates are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot.

The LWVFA is a nonpartisan political membership organization

whose purpose is to encourage informed and active participation of citizens in government, increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. The LWVFA does not support any political party or candidate.

For more information on the Spring 2010 Voters' Guide, or the LWVFA, please contact 703-658-9150 or visit www.lwv-fairfax.org.

For additional information on the May 4, 2010 election, including voter registration or eligibility, polling location, or absentee voting, contact the Fairfax County Office of Elections at 703-222-0776 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb or contact the Virginia State Board of Elections at 800-552-9745 or visit www.sbe.virginia.gov.

IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED TO VOTE

Election officers at all polling places are required to request

identification from each voter. **PLEASE BRING IDENTIFICATION WHEN YOU COME TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2010.**

Acceptable forms of identification can be any ONE of the following:

- Virginia Voter Information Card
- Valid United States passport
- Social Security card
- Valid Virginia driver's license, or special identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles
- Military identification
- Any Federal, state, or local government-issued identification card
- Employee-issued photo identification card

If you do not have an acceptable form of identification, you must complete, under oath, an Affirmation of Identity to cast your ballot.

THE TOWN OF VIENNA MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

THE OFFICES

TERMS: The Mayor serves a two-year term. There are six Town Council members; three are elected each year for two-year staggered terms. Town elections are nonpartisan and Council members are elected at-large.

SALARIES: Mayor, \$6,000 per year. Town Council members, \$5,000 per year.

DUTIES: The Mayor is the ranking elected official and ceremonial head of town government, presides at town meetings, has all rights and duties of other council members and has no veto power. The Town Council establishes town policies, passes resolutions and ordinances, approves the town budget, sets tax rates, approves land use plans, and makes appointments to Town Boards and Commissions.

BIOGRAPHY AND QUESTIONS

BIOGRAPHY: Background provided by each candidate.

THE QUESTIONS

Would you support moving the Town of Vienna May general **ELECTIONS** to the date of the November general election? Why or why not?

What proposals in the advertised Fairfax County Fiscal Year 2011 **BUDGET** do you believe could have the most negative consequences for the residents of the Town of Vienna? How would you resolve these as an elected leader in your jurisdiction?

What is an **ISSUE** that you believe is important to residents of the Town of Vienna, and how would you address it?

CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR, TOWN OF VIENNA – VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE (1)



M. Jane Seeman
Incumbent

BIOGRAPHY: Since moving to Vienna in 1968 I have been active in many local, regional and state organizations and activities. I was elected in Council in 1997 and Mayor in 2000. I was a preschool director for 20 years. I am a graduate from Fort Hays Kansas State College, BA in Business and Economics.

ELECTIONS: I do not support moving the Town elections to November. While we may get a larger voter turnout, the Town interests would be over shadowed by state and federal

issues. Campaigning would become more expensive in order to bring attention to Vienna candidates. The Town prides itself on maintaining a nonpartisan stance and a November election would jeopardize this status.

BUDGET: Town of Vienna residents are County residents and will feel the budget cuts in the schools, parks, recreational facilities, social services and libraries. The Town's budget will be much more impacted by the State's budget cuts. I have been in communication with our State Legislatures to let them know how the cuts will affect Vienna. We have just begun our budget process and will meet our citizens needs in the most efficient way.

ISSUE: Traffic is always an important issue particularly with

the proposed redevelopment of Tysons. I am working closely with the surrounding neighborhoods to lobby for adequate road systems and bus services as redevelopment occurs. Another more immediate concern is how the slower economy is affecting our local merchants and our citizens. In our upcoming budget work sessions, I will be looking at cost-cutting methods to meet the needs of residents without diminishing the expected services. I support building more sidewalks in order to bring people to our commercial core to visit businesses as well as promote a healthy lifestyle.

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CANDIDATES FOR TOWN OF VIENNA TOWN COUNCIL – VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN THREE (3)



Laurie Genevro Cole
Incumbent

BIOGRAPHY: Laurie Genevro Cole is running for a fifth term on Vienna Town Council. Before being elected to Council, she served on Vienna's Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. Laurie is active in local civic organizations. She is married and has two college-age sons.

ELECTIONS: I support holding Town elections in May. The Town votes as a whole at the Community Center for Town elections, while November general elections are held at precincts which cross Town lines. Having Town citizens vote at

a single location in the heart of the community is important. I'm also concerned that sharing the November election date would promote partisanship in Town elections, something I strongly oppose. I support public input on whether Town elections should be every other year, instead of yearly.

BUDGET: Vienna residents, as County taxpayers, will be particularly hurt by the County's cutbacks in library and parks funding. The County's reinstatement of the vehicle registration fee compels the Town government to reinstate the Town fee, so that the funds stay in Vienna. And, in setting Town real estate tax rates, we must be aware of the overall tax burden on residents resulting from a County real estate tax increase.

ISSUE: Protecting Vienna from over-development at Tysons Corner is critical and citizens must get involved. While growth at Tysons will happen over the long-term, now is the time to influence the plan for that growth. Citizens need to know that one proposal suggests taking property from Vienna landowners to accommodate increased (Tysons-generated) traffic on Maple Avenue. This is not acceptable. Developers propose that Tysons residents should use Vienna's recreation fields, instead of providing fields in Tysons. Again, this is not acceptable. Through community alliances and at County hearings, I have been working hard for Vienna on this issue.

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CANDIDATES FOR TOWN OF VIENNA TOWN COUNCIL (CONTINUED)



Edythe Frankel Kelleher

Incumbent

BIOGRAPHY: Four-term Councilwoman (since 2002). Previously county Supervisor staff, property manager, defense contractor administrator, Labor Department economist. Friends of Vienna Town Green, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Capital Campaign, Halloween Parade. American Legion Auxiliary, Lions Club, PTA/PTSAs. Civic association president, Vienna Beautification Commission. MBA, George Washington University. BA, Johns Hopkins. Married, three children.

ELECTIONS: The public must provide input, but my inclination is to keep the May election. In November, the local

election would be overshadowed, candidates would spend more to get attention, and pressure for partisanship would increase. To reduce costs, the odd year election could be eliminated. Then the question becomes whether to put the entire Council up for election at once, or to create staggered four-year terms.

BUDGET: Like other county residents, Vienna citizens will be affected by Fairfax County's budget. The Town cannot compensate for reduced library hours, increased class size, and closed restrooms in county parks, nor can it prevent former Reston bus riders from driving through and parking at Metro. Vienna residents need to provide input directly to the Board of Supervisors on these issues.

Virginia's budget has more impact on the Town government. By cutting funding for public safety and road maintenance,

and by pocketing previously local revenues, the state forces localities like Vienna to choose between raising real estate taxes and cutting services.

ISSUE: Two issues stand out. Maple Avenue redevelopment: With major changes at Tysons and Merrifield, Vienna may struggle to retain its small-town identity. The Council will hold dedicated work sessions and public hearings this year.

Water and sewer service: Vienna's high water rates illustrate the difficulties of operating a small system, so should another entity (such as Fairfax Water or the City of Falls Church) take over these services? The Town will soon hire a consultant to examine the issues involved.

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Michael J. Polychrones

Incumbent

BIOGRAPHY: Lifelong Vienna resident, graduated Oakton High School 1978 and graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University 1987. Current occupation, Manager with the American Bankers Insurance Association. Member of Town Council from 1996 – 2003 and 2004 – present. Town Planning Commission 1994-1996 and Town Transportation and Safety Committee 1991-1994. Immediate Past President of Virginia Municipal League.

ELECTIONS: I would not support moving the May Town of Vienna election to November. Elected Town offices are non partisan and moving to November would negatively politicize the Town's election.

BUDGET: The real question is the effect of unfunded Federal and State mandates on all Virginia localities budgets at a time of economic difficulty and the drastic cuts in federal and state reimbursements to localities. All levels of government have to make difficult decisions with regard to the services provided to the citizens and I will bring my council and professional experience to the table in making those important decisions on the Town budget.

ISSUE: I believe that the most important issue to the Town of Vienna is the expansion and redevelopment of Tysons and the proposed Metro Rail expansion. The increased density that will occur will have disastrous effect on Vienna. Vienna will stay engaged in the ongoing discussions and planning of Tysons by Fairfax and join other groups to work for a better final outcome for our residents.

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