

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE FAIRFAX AREA



2011 SPRING VOTERS' GUIDE

TOWN OF VIENNA TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2011
POLLING PLACE OPEN 6:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) is producing this Voters' Guide to assist citizens in the Town of Vienna in choosing 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 3, 2011 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 additional information on the Spring 2011 Voters' Guide, or the LWVFA, contact 703-658-9150 or visit www.lwv-fairfax.org.

For additional information on the May 3, 2011 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 3, 2011.

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 TOWN COUNCIL

THE OFFICE

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.

SALARY: \$5,000 per year

DUTIES: 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 the Town of Vienna Mayor and all Town Council **ELECTIONS** being conducted in the same year, eliminating the current staggering of Town Council terms? Why or why not?

What proposals in the advertised Fairfax County Fiscal Year 2012 **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?

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

Hamid R. Barahmand
Challenger

Candidate did not respond.



Laurie A. DiRocco
Incumbent

BIOGRAPHY: I am completing my first term on the Vienna Town Council. I was the Chairperson for the Planning Commission and Vice-Chair for the Transportation Safety Commission. I have an MBA in Finance from George Washington University and was an adjunct professor of Finance at George Mason University.

ELECTIONS: How often to have elections, as well as the staggering of terms, was discussed recently at a Town Council work session and public hearing. A reason to maintain two year, staggered terms is to keep consistency and

knowledge in case a large number of incumbents lose reelection. The main reason to have all Council members run at the same time is to save money. There is a cost to running the election every year in May. I feel comfortable with the current staggered, two year terms, but if costs increase, I would consider having all Council members run at once.

BUDGET: I was the Town of Vienna representative on the Hunter Mill Citizen Budget Committee for fiscal year 2012. The Town of Vienna real estate property assessments are up for the 2012 fiscal year, therefore Town residents, on average, will pay more in County real estate tax at the current \$1.09 rate. This is important information to be aware of when the Town sets its tax rate. Additionally, I believe it is important to work with Fairfax County officials

and let them know our priorities and concerns.

ISSUE: I believe many residents want Vienna to maintain its community-oriented, small Town feel with a strong array of amenities, such as good restaurants with outdoor seating, parks where people can relax and children play, sidewalks that promote walking around Town, and safety in all of these activities. I have supported a number of initiatives to enhance this vision, visit www.lauriedirocco.org for more information.

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CANDIDATES FOR THE TOWN OF VIENNA TOWN COUNCIL - CONTINUED



Carey J. Sienicki *Challenger*

BIOGRAPHY: As a Registered Architect, with degrees from Georgia Tech and Temple University, Carey Sienicki serves the Town of Vienna as a Planning Commissioner and as the Chairperson of the Windover Heights Board of Review. She has resided, worked and volunteered in Vienna for ten years with her husband and children.

ELECTIONS: After observing the testing, certification and sealing of the polling equipment for the upcoming May 3rd election by the Fairfax County Office of Elections, I now recognize this effort is demanding and costly.

Knowing the necessity for official review by the Commonwealth of Virginia for this amendment to our Town Code, if change was recommended, I would support conducting elections in the same year to better serve its citizens by providing a lower cost to taxpayers and optimistically producing a higher voter turnout.

BUDGET: Due to these current times of financial uncertainty, continuing to maintain an outstanding reputation in fiscal responsibility will be of primary importance for both the Town of Vienna and Fairfax County in their upcoming 2012 budgets. A clear reflection of effective budgeting in both jurisdictions is the current bond rating of Aaa, the highest quality available, which historically is ensured by the ability to effectively work within the resources available. This excellent status should be preserved in

order to sustain the benefits for the future.

ISSUE: Encircled by rising developments in Merrifield, Tysons Corner and Metro West, the citizens of the Town of Vienna need to continue to foster their vibrant community spirit through their informational, financial, cultural and geographical connections. Constant cooperation of government, residents and businesses are the key to the future of Vienna. Tough choices will be required to maintain the delicate balance between preserving the small town community and fostering purposeful growth, so that the future needs of Vienna's citizens are met. Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/caresienicki/>

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Howard J. Springsteen *Incumbent*

BIOGRAPHY: Howard Springsteen is currently in his first term on the Town Council. Previously, he served for 9 years on the Vienna Transportation Safety Commission and has an extensive history of involvement in several Vienna community organizations. He holds a B.A. and M.P.A. and is a logistics manager in the public sector.

ELECTIONS: In May 2010, the Town Council held a public meeting to discuss changing the Vienna election season to November and also eliminating staggered council terms. There was scant public support for changing the election

season to November because of the concern of partisanship and need to address town-only issues. There was also very little support for eliminating the current staggering of Town Council terms. Given the number of issues currently in front of the Town Council, I am in favor of keeping staggered council terms because it provides a good balance of experience and continuity with the Mayor and Council for both the Town residents and staff.

BUDGET: Vienna residents are also residents of Fairfax County and pay the same County taxes. In the current advertised County 2012 budget, the only direct payment the County provides to the Town is \$32,000 to the Community Center to support teen programming and this is not being reduced. Reductions in the operating hours of the local Patrick Henry library has caused issues

with Town residents but these reductions apply to all libraries operating in the County.

ISSUE: Vienna's water rates are double compared to most of the residents in surrounding Fairfax County. The underground costs to maintain the aging water system are rapidly becoming prohibitive. There are two independent outside studies underway to see what is the value of the water system and what are the true long-term maintenance costs. Once these numbers are published, I would address the future of the town's water system.

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