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September Newsletter

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Summer has really flown by, and we've been having great conversations with voters while knocking on doors. Some of the common topics that come up include: shoreline access, the Charlestown Breachway and beach erosion from last winter's storms, affordable housing, and recruiting and retaining more healthcare providers in Rhode Island. These issues are all important to me, and I look forward to continuing this work if I am re-elected. But we still have more work to do before November!

How to Get Involved

Volunteer: The most effective way to reach people is door-knocking, and it's not as scary as it seems! Our volunteers go out in pairs and can have plenty of meaningful conversations about the top issues in our community. There are also phone banking opportunities and behind-the-scenes volunteer tasks. Sign up at: victoria4ri.com/volunteer

Donate: We are still fundraising so that we can run the most effective campaign possible! Campaign mail is expensive, of course. Donate at: victoria4ri.com/donate



Put out a lawn sign: Since I don't have a primary opponent, we will start distributing lawn signs from Sep 6th onward, in preparation for the Nov 5th General Election. Request one at victoria4ri.com/lawn-sign



Request your lawn sign today!

PRIMARY ELECTION

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024



Important Dates for the Primary (Sep 10th)

I don't have a primary opponent, but I encourage everyone to get out and vote. I will be greeting people at various polling locations on Sep 10th, so feel free to stop by and say hi!

You can start voting today! Up until September 9th, during regular business hours Monday-Friday, you can vote at your town hall. It's quick and there's usually no line.

Sep 10th: Vote at your polling location. Please note that polling locations for the primary may differ from the general election, because there are fewer polling places. Look up your polling place at vote.ri.gov

Important Dates for the General (Nov 5th)

October 6th: Deadline to register to vote. Register at vote.ri.gov

October 15th: Deadline to submit your mail ballot application to your local board of canvassers (inside your local town hall)

- Did you know you can now request a mail ballot online? You will need your driver's license number or State ID. Here is the link: <https://mailballot.sos.ri.gov/>

October 16th: Early voting starts at your town hall, during regular business hours Monday-Friday, up until Nov 4th

Nov 5th: Vote at your polling location. Look up your polling place at vote.ri.gov

Save the Date: Oct 9th Meet & Greet

Location: 149 South Woody Hill Road, Westerly

Time/Date: Oct 9th, 5:30-7:30pm

RSVP's requested so we can get a headcount! victoria4ri.com/events

For volunteers: we will also have postcards available at the event, so you can start writing to people that you know and asking them to vote



Meet **VICTORIA GU** & Democratic Town Council, School Committee candidates

Hosted by Ellen Madison

Oct 9, 2024 5:30-7:30pm

149 South Woody Hill Rd

Westerly, RI

RSVP: victoria4ri@gmail.com

or victoria4ri.com/events

RSVP Today

Past Meetings/Events



Sheldon Whitehouse visited the Westerly Education Center

Thank you Senator Sheldon Whitehouse for visiting the Westerly Education Center. The original vision was to have "a community college" in Westerly, and the Education Center trains people on the skills that directly translate to local job opportunities (welding, electrical, biomanufacturing). Glad to support these CTE programs both here and in our local high schools

Governor McKee signed my ADU bill into law

Last week Governor Dan McKee signed mine and Rep June Speakman's ADU bill (enabling in-law units) into law. Homeowners can be a part of the solution to the housing crisis by converting a garage, basement or shed into an ADU and offering it as a long-term rental. Then they have the benefit of receiving some additional income or housing a loved one, friend or onsite caregiver.

DEM regulations requiring nitrogen-reducing septic upgrades (a technology that reduces nitrogen output by 66% on average), remain in place in the Salt Pond Management Area (a large portion of land south of Route 1).



[Learn more about ADU's](#)



Passed two Tech & AI resolutions at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

Given my background in Computer Science and work experience in machine learning, I was appointed to the [NCSL Technology & Communications Committee](#) and named Vice-Chair.

This was my first year at NCSL, and I sponsored and passed two resolutions (see [this link](#) for full text of the resolutions)

1. Liability Insurance for Artificial Intelligence (AI) - recommends developing liability insurance that takes into account each advanced AI technology's risks and safety measures
2. The Internet and Electronic Commerce - updated the directive to include recommendations on youth privacy and youth mental health, and recommended that Congress take action on telemarketing and text scams

Why this matters? The resolutions that state legislators pass at this annual conference are listed under “Policies” (recommendations for federal policy) and they help direct NCSL’s lobbying efforts to Congress.



[Read Charlestown letter about the status of the Breachway](#)

Congressman Magaziner visited the Charlestown Breachway

Congressmen Seth Magaziner visited the Charlestown Breachway with myself, Tina Spears for State Representative, and town officials. It's not only commercial/recreational boaters who are having trouble navigating the channel; the ecosystem & aquaculture have changed as a result of the recent storm damage. While sandbags have been ruled out as a temporary fix, our Congress Members are working on an earmark to get ~\$5 million for the longer-term fix and we are working at the state level (DEM, Infrastructure Bank) to see what funding could be repurposed/loaned out, ahead of our next budget cycle.

Narragansett Tribe Pow-Wow

In mid-August, I visited the Narragansett Indian Tribe for their 349th annual pow-wow. I met a few tribal council members and Endawnis Spears (former Chariho school committee candidate), and lots of community members and kids joined in. Read more about the history

here: <https://narragansettindiannation.org/history/early/>





Learned from other states at the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators (NCEL)

One of my favorite panels at NCEL is about wetlands. Did you know on average, one acre of wetlands stores one MILLION gallons of water? Because of that, they help mitigate flooding during storms. They also play a major role in cleaning our water and sequestering carbon. We have coastal wetlands in southern RI, and in the panel we learned about funding sources to protect wetlands (as a form of hazard mitigation). Bonus: we got to go kayaking!



Upcoming Events/Places I'll Be

- Sun Sep 8th 5pm at Wuskenau Beach: ORCA Beach Cleanup
- Fri Sep 13th - Sun Sep 15th FallFest Misquamicut
- Sat Sep 14th 12-4pm at Ninigret Park: Charlestown Volunteers & Staff Appreciation
- Thur Sep 19th 10am Visiting PACE in Westerly to discuss long-term supportive care for seniors
- Thur Sep 19th 5:30-6:30pm at Hilltop Cafe (23 Canal St, Westerly): Westerly Democratic Candidates Meet & Greet

RI DEM Announcements

Take a Survey about Improving Outdoor Recreation

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) would like to know what you think about outdoor recreation programs and facilities. RIDEM is currently developing an update to the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) that will reflect the needs and priorities of communities across the state and establish a roadmap for implementation over the next five years. We look forward to your feedback and participation in this process.

If you would like to be entered into a drawing for a RI State Beach Pass for completing this survey, please see the last question and provide your email address

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024SCORPUpdate-GeneralPublicSurvey>

VICTORIA
GU

State Senate
— District 38 —

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