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State Senate
District **38**

October Newsletter: Important Research Before You Vote!

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

After a beautiful September, it's been fun knocking on doors this month and seeing everyone's Halloween decorations.

Now is the time where people are getting serious about voting and researching the candidates! There are so many candidates running for Town Council and School Committee, so you should stop by a meet-and-greet event to actually get to know them and why they are running (see below for Wed Oct 9th Meet and Greet).

My priorities (I work on a lot more things, but these have stood out based on conversations with voters):

- **Preserving public access to the shore** and adapting to climate change & **sea level rise** (we also have a near-term fix for the Charlestown Breachway; see below)
- Finding solutions to the rising cost of **housing and home insurance**. A number of people have told me that they don't think their adult sons/daughters can

return to live here as they start to raise a family. South County has always been a place where multiple generations of families are rooted in the community.

- Recruiting and retaining more **healthcare providers** in Rhode Island

Local Propositions: Vote on Charter Revisions

- Look for your voter guide in the mail! Both Charlestown and Westerly have charter revision questions on the ballot on Nov 5th. Preview your ballot questions online at vote.ri.gov

State Propositions:

- A broad coalition of civil rights advocates, reproductive rights advocates, and labor advocates urge voters to **reject Question 1** ([read more here](#))
 - Main reason to reject a new constitutional convention: The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that there can be no government limits on how much money corporations spend on referenda campaigns, including proposed constitutional amendments that come out of a convention. We now live in a world of unfettered special interest spending and out-of-state money that distorts campaigns.
 - What's the alternative? Constitutional changes on critical issues like separation of powers and voting rights may be done, and have been done in the past, by questions placed on the ballot by the General Assembly.
 - What's the cost? The bipartisan preparatory commission has estimated that the cost could be close to \$5 million taxpayer dollars.

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



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

Come To Our Meet and Greet!

Time/Date: Wed Oct 9th, 5:30-7:30pm at 149 S Woody Hill Rd, Westerly

You will meet: Town Councilor Mary Scialabba, Town Council Candidates Alex Healy and Michael Niemeyer, School Committee Candidates Angela Goethals and Tim Killiam, and others! Here is a [link to all the candidates](#).

RSVP's requested: You can RSVP by emailing victoria4ri@gmail.com filling out the form at victoria4ri.com/events. It would also be helpful if you can share on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3843279285942153/>

Postcards to Swing States

A lot of voters are excited/anxious about the national election, which is why we will have the option for you to pick up / write postcards at the meet-and-greet.

Put out a lawn sign: Our volunteers have been hard at work distributing lawn signs. Request yours at victoria4ri.com/lawn-sign

Endorsements: I'm honored to have the support of labor unions ranging from educators to healthcare workers, social workers and agricultural workers, etc. They fight tirelessly to help workers - middle class families - have family-sustaining jobs. I'm

also honored to have the support of District 38 residents - see the letters to the editor linked below:

https://www.thewesterlysun.com/opinion/letters/letter-gu-has-done-a-fantastic-job-and-should-be-reelected/article_c0876214-76d9-11ef-b314-1b10c7a4f04a.html

https://www.thewesterlysun.com/opinion/letters/letter-gu-will-protect-best-interests-of-westerly-residents/article_23431636-786b-11ef-8d58-0f56491388cd.html

https://www.thewesterlysun.com/opinion/letters/letter-gu-s-performance-demands-a-2nd-term/article_cfc20a16-7159-11ef-9889-5764bb36359e.html

https://www.thewesterlysun.com/opinion/letters/letter-make-an-informed-choice-vote-for-gu/article_f269f7c4-80f7-11ef-bfad-4fc5df04e7d2.html

https://www.thewesterlysun.com/opinion/letters/letter-gu-has-fought-tireless-for-shoreline-access/article_22c6a23c-84f4-11ef-bc1e-171bb695565f.html



Who Supports Victoria Gu for State Senate?

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Educators, healthcare professionals, firefighters,
social workers, municipal workers, bus drivers;
automobile, aerospace and agricultural workers, and
working families.

VICTORIA GU
For State Senate District 38



Important Dates for the General (Nov 5th)

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 RI 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

Past Meetings/Events



PACE Month

Thank you PACE Organization of Rhode Island (Westerly location) for inviting me to celebrate PACE month and to hear directly from seniors and healthcare providers about their concerns related to healthcare and aging in community!

Check out the Westerly Library's New Charging Station!

No library card is needed to come in and charge your mobile or tablet device. In the area and need to charge up: stop in and use the locker and sanitize your device at the same time.

Glad to make this happen with a legislative grant from my office to the Westerly Library & Wilcox Park! Should be a great resource for residents.



Charlestown Staff/Volunteer Appreciation Day

Charlestown Staff/Volunteer appreciation day in Ninigret Park. Lots of people volunteer their time to serve on commissions that help keep the salt ponds healthy (Salt Pond Management Commission) and advocate for issues that seniors are facing (Senior Citizens Commission) - thank you for all you do!



Governor McKee visited Fresh Harvest Kitchen

Fresh Harvest Kitchen received \$20k in 2023 from [the LASA program](#) (under RI DEM) that helps strengthen the local food system by connecting local farmers and fishers to local markets

Direct Support Professional Recognition Week

Great turnout for the Frank Olean Center's fundraiser at Grey Sail Brewing of Rhode Island! Sep 8th-14th was Direct Support Professional Recognition Week: Thank you to all the DSP's for your passion, and the work you do to support people with disabilities in our community!



Upcoming Events/Places I'll Be

- Wed Oct 9th 5:30-7:30pm at 149 S Woody Hill Rd, Westerly: Meet and Greet with myself and Westerly Town Council, School Committee candidates (RSVP: victoria4ri.com/events)
- Thur Oct 10th 6:30-8:30pm at Westerly Town Hall: League of Women Voters Forum: Westerly Town Council Candidates
- Sun Oct 13th 12-7pm in Downtown Westerly: Sunday Fundays
- Thur Oct 17th 5:30-8:30pm at Westerly Town Hall: League of Women Voters Forum: Senate District 38 and Westerly School Committee candidates
- Tues Oct 22nd 6-8pm at 5662 Post Rd, Charlestown: Town Hall on Charlestown Breachway Repairs (RSVP and ask questions: victoria4ri.com/town-hall)
- Wed Oct 30th: Visiting Charlestown Breachway with government officials

Programs You Can Apply For

Launching Soon: Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) program

Rhode Island is launching its first federal Home Energy Rebates program – one that will enable low- and middle-income households to save on energy-efficiency improvements (efficient appliances and electrical wiring upgrades).

Calculate how much your household would be eligible for, in rebates: <https://energy.ri.gov/energy-incentives/incentive-calculator>

How to Apply: The first program launch is for households with income up to 80% Area Median Income (AMI) - \$89,900 for family of 4 in Charlestown/South Kingstown or \$94,250 for family of 4 in Westerly. Contact [Tri-County CAP](#) 401-351-2750 to add your name to a list and be notified when the program becomes available