

DEMOCRATIC
DISPATCH

OLD LYME
DEMOCRATS
SMALL TOWN  BRIGHT FUTURE

Special Midterm Election Edition!

October, 2026



**Every
Vote
Matters!**

Martha Marx

for **State Senate**

&

**Jane
Wisialowski**

for **State Representative**

What is on Row A of My Ballot for November 3, 2026?

Office	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Party →	Governor and Lieutenant Governor Vote for One	Representative in Congress Vote for One	State Senator Vote for One	State Representative Vote for One	Secretary of the State Vote for One	Treasurer Vote for One	Comptroller Vote for One	Attorney General Vote for One	Judge of Probate Vote for One
Democratic Party	☐ 1A Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz	☐ 2A Joe Courtney	☐ 3A Martha E. Marx	☐ 4A Jane Wisialowski	☐ 5A Stephanie Thomas	☐ 6A Erick Russell	☐ 7A Sean Scanlon	☐ 8A William Tong	☐ 9A Lauren M. McNamara

Old Lyme voters will exercise their right to vote for nine races on November 3rd. The following article focuses on the Democratic candidates for the State Senate in District 20 and State House seat in the 23rd District. For more information on the other seven races, the candidates with links to their websites are provided.

Governor and Lt. Governor:
Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz

Representative in Congress:
Joe Courtney

State Senator:
Martha Marx

State Representative:
Jane Wisialowski

Secretary of the State:
Stephanie Thomas

Treasurer:
Erick Russell

Comptroller:
Sean Scanlon

Attorney General:
William Tong

Judge of Probate:
Lauren M. McNamara.

MARTHA MARX

sat down with the Democratic Dispatch to share her views on tackling the issues facing Old Lyme.



Connecticut households pay some of the highest electricity and living costs in the country. What specific steps would you take to make it more affordable to live in Old Lyme, especially for seniors on fixed incomes and young families?

Old Lyme residents need real relief from rising electricity bills, property taxes, and housing costs. I will keep fighting to lower electric rates by breaking utility company monopolies and looking into more public options. I support expanding property tax relief for seniors, increasing tax exemptions on Social Security and pensions, and placing more of the education funding burden on the state to ease local taxpayers' bills. We also need to tackle housing costs by allowing more and working together to create diverse housing options that fit with Old Lyme, so young families can afford to move here and seniors can afford to stay. Continuing to expand affordable child care and universal pre-K will put money directly back into working families' pockets.

Many people who grew up here, or who work here as teachers, first responders and small business employees, can't afford to live in town. How would you expand housing options while protecting Old Lyme's character and natural resources?

Old Lyme should be a town where our children can afford to return, teachers and first responders can live in the community they serve, and seniors can downsize without leaving town. We can accomplish this without sacrificing the rural character, open space, and natural resources that make Old Lyme special. I support giving towns more flexibility to allow smaller homes, accessory dwelling units, duplexes, and other housing options that fit the character of existing neighborhoods. We should also revisit restrictive minimum lot sizes and encourage housing in areas with existing infrastructure, rather than pushing development into forests, farmland, and environmentally sensitive areas.

Lyme-Old Lyme Schools are one of the town's greatest strengths, but rising costs, especially for special education, put pressure on local taxpayers. How would you make sure our schools stay strong without shifting more of the burden onto property taxes?

Lyme-Old Lyme schools are among the best in the state, and we need to protect that excellence without asking local property taxpayers to shoulder an ever-growing burden. I support increasing the state's share of education funding, particularly for special education, where unpredictable and rapidly rising costs can overwhelm local budgets. We need to fully fund and strengthen the state's excess cost reimbursement program so

towns like Old Lyme aren't left covering extraordinary special education expenses on their own. I will also continue fighting for a fairer Education Cost Sharing formula that recognizes the real costs of educating students, even in smaller districts with high property values.

Old Lyme sits where the Connecticut River meets Long Island Sound, so flooding, storms and water quality are real local concerns. What would you do to protect our coastline, beaches and infrastructure, and how would you bring state and federal resources to town?

Old Lyme's coastline, beaches, wetlands, and Connecticut River estuary are among our greatest assets, but increasingly severe storms, flooding, and rising sea levels threaten our homes, roads, and infrastructure. I support investing in coastal resilience projects that protect vulnerable roads, bridges, and drainage systems while preserving the marshes and wetlands that naturally absorb floodwaters. We also need stronger protections for water quality in Long Island Sound and the Connecticut River, including investments in stormwater management and septic system improvements. As State Senator, I will continue to work directly with town officials, DEEP, and our federal delegation to secure state bonding and federal funding through FEMA, NOAA, and other programs so these critical projects don't fall entirely on local taxpayers. Protecting Old Lyme's shoreline isn't just an environmental priority—it's about protecting our homes, our economy, and the character of our community for future generations.

What's one thing you'd want voters to know about you that isn't on your campaign literature?

What I hope people know about me is that I don't forget who I work for. Before I was a State Senator, I was a nurse, and that experience shaped how I approach everything I do. I've spent my life listening to people, solving problems, and advocating for those who need someone in their corner. I bring that same approach to Hartford, and I'm not afraid to challenge leadership or my own party when I think they're getting it wrong. I don't care who gets the credit for solving a problem; I care that it gets solved. Public service isn't about titles or political victories—it's about having the courage to stand up for people, the determination to fight for what they deserve, and the willingness to do the hard work to deliver results and always keep listening. 🇺🇸



District 23 Democratic State Representative Candidate

JANE WISIALOWSKI

also sat down with the Democratic Dispatch to share her views on tackling the issues facing Old Lyme.

Connecticut households pay some of the highest electricity and living costs in the country. What specific steps would you take to make it more affordable to live in Old Lyme, especially for seniors on fixed incomes and young families?

It starts with holding the utility companies accountable. They need to be much more transparent about the costs they present to the regulators who set our rates. Over the long term, we must keep investing in every source of energy, particularly wind and solar, and that means pushing back on the federal government's attempts to shut down projects like Revolution Wind. We also need to strengthen our consumer protection laws and our oversight.

Many people who grew up here, or who work here as teachers, first responders and small business employees, can't afford to live in town. How would you expand housing options while protecting Old Lyme's character and natural resources?

I think we need to add density in the places where density works. In our business districts, for example, we should consider second-story apartments above the stores. I'd also consider relaxing the restrictions on accessory dwelling units, provided the water and septic systems in those areas can support them.

Lyme-Old Lyme Schools are one of the town's greatest strengths, but rising costs, especially for special education, put pressure on local taxpayers. How would you make sure our schools stay strong without shifting more of the burden onto property taxes?

I fully support the Governor's intention to have the state pay a greater share of the costs associated with increasing special education needs. I've also said for a long time that the Education Cost Sharing formula needs to be revisited so that shoreline towns like ours get their fair share. And I think smaller towns across Connecticut should consider regionalizing most of their administrative costs, the way Old Lyme and Lyme have already done.

Old Lyme sits where the Connecticut River meets Long Island Sound, so flooding, storms and water quality are real local concerns. What would you do to protect our coastline, beaches and infrastructure, and how would you bring state and federal resources to town?

As a nation, we need to move away from burning fossil fuels. They've caused significant global warming, and that's behind the stronger and more frequent storms we're seeing. Here at home, as

Old Lyme's state rep, I'd work with local officials and community members to find a solution to the septic problems facing the community, and to find the funding to help people make that transition.

What's one thing you'd want voters to know about you that isn't on your campaign literature?

For fun, I love playing pickleball, doing puzzles, and paddle boarding along our beautiful marshes. 🐎

**VOTE
Like Our
DEMOCRACY
DEPENDS ON
YOU!**

**Early Voting is held in the Meeting Hall of
the Old Lyme Memorial Town Hall
52 Lyme Street, Old Lyme**

*Remaining days and hours for early voting for
the November 3, 2026 election are:*

OCTOBER 25, 26, 28, 30, 31:	10am-6pm
OCTOBER 27 & 29:	8am - 8pm
NOVEMBER 1st:	10am-6pm

November 3rd

**LYME-OLD LYME MIDDLE SCHOOL
6:00am - 8:00pm**



Navigating the Ballot



If you sometimes find the ballots a bit confusing you are not alone! All of the election information you need can be found [here](#) or by going to the town website and looking under the “News & Announcements” section. Included among the resources on the election information page is a link to a sample ballot for this election. The Democratic Dispatch aims to share information that will help to make your voting experience as smooth as possible, so we have included a few examples and some easy to follow instructions. We hope you find it useful!

It is only necessary to make one (1) selection for each of the nine (9) offices. Even though some candidates appear in multiple rows, you only need to fill in the oval for the intended candidate once in each column.

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

Old Lyme, Connecticut

State Election

November 3, 2026

Congressional District 2
Senatorial District 20
Assembly District 23
Voting District 1

Office	1 Governor and Lieutenant Governor Vote for One	2 Representative in Congress Vote for One	3 State Senator Vote for One	4 State Representative Vote for One	5 Secretary of the State Vote for One	6 Treasurer Vote for One	7 Comptroller Vote for One	8 Attorney General Vote for One	9 Judge of Probate Vote for One
Party → ↓									
Democratic Party	☐ 1A Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz	☐ 2A Joe Courtney	☐ 3A Martha E. Marx	☐ 4A Jane Wisniewski	☐ 5A Stephanie Thomas	☐ 6A Erick Russell	☐ 7A Sean Scanlon	☐ 8A William Tong	☐ 9A Lauren M. McNamara
Republican Party	☐ 1B Ryan Fazio and Matt Corey	☐ 2B George Patrick Austin	☐ 3B Lee Elci	☐ 4B Barbara Labriola	☐ 5B Peter Lumaj	☐ 6B Fred Wilms	☐ 7B Jennifer S. Tooker	☐ 8B John Bolton	☐ 9B Lauren M. McNamara
Working Families Party	☐ 1C Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz		☐ 3C Martha E. Marx	☐ 4C Jane Wisniewski	☐ 5C Stephanie Thomas	☐ 6C Erick Russell	☐ 7C Sean Scanlon	☐ 8C William Tong	
Independent Party	☐ 1D Ryan Fazio and Matt Corey	☐ 2D George Patrick Austin	☐ 3D Lee Elci	☐ 4D Barbara Labriola	☐ 5D Stephanie Thomas	☐ 6D Fred Wilms	☐ 7D Sean Scanlon		
Write-in Votes	☐ 1E	☐ 2E	☐ 3E	☐ 4E	☐ 5E	☐ 6E	☐ 7E	☐ 8E	☐ 9E

Be sure to read the instructions on the reverse side of this ballot.

Sheet 1 of 1



PLEASE JOIN US

This Tuesday!

Trivia Night

at The Hideaway

19 Halls Road, Old Lyme, CT, 06371

Join the Old Lyme Democrats for a fun-filled night of trivia on October 27, 2026;

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.
Game runs 7:30 until 9:30 p.m.

Suggested donation:
\$25 per player

Pre-registration encouraged
at: [Register here](#) or use the
QR Code



Or pay at the door!

**OLD LYME
DEMOCRATS**
SMALL TOWN  BRIGHT FUTURE

Top 3 teams win prizes

Cash bar and snacks



Form a team (up to six) to show off your trivia knowledge and meet local Democrats

Need teammates? No worries – just show up and we'll find you a welcoming team

Trick or Treat on Lyme Street

"Knock, knock!"

"Who's there?"

"BOO!"

"BOO
WHO?"

QUIT
CRYING,
AND GO
VOTE!

PLEASE STOP BY THE OLD LYME
DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE
HEADQUARTERS AT 10 LYME STREET ON
SATURDAY, OCT. 31ST FOR TREATS,
MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT, AND A
FRIGHTENINGLY FRIENDLY
COMMUNITY!

