

## Questions on Ballot Focus on Aid For Incinerator Debt, Horse Racing

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

In addition to deciding Congressional, county and municipal races this Election Day, New Jersey voters will also be asked to vote on three public questions involving amendments to the New Jersey Constitution and a public question regarding the expansion of previously approved bond issues.

The first public question has to do with the annual dedication of up to \$98 million of state sales and tax revenue to preserve open space, farmland and historic sites.

The state is asking voters to approve or disapprove \$98 million in each fiscal year for the next 10 years, beginning on August 1, 1999, of state revenue from the "Sales and Use Tax Act" to acquire and develop lands for recreational and conservation use.

Also, these moneys would be used to preserve farmland and for historic preservation. Voting "yes" to this question would enable the state, beginning from July 1, 2009, to allot for up to \$98 million per year to be used to service any debt acquired prior to June 30, for these preservation uses.

According to the League of Women Voters of New Jersey, the goal of this

project is to save one million acres of open space and farmland and to provide money for a matching funds program of preserving historic sites.

This amount is approximately twice the number of acres that were saved since the first Green Acres bond that was approved in 1961. Also, The New Jersey Historic Trust has used \$52 million in matching grants for historic preservation from 1987, 1992 and 1995 bonds.

The second on the ballot has to do with allowing the state legislature to authorize by law restrictions and control wagering on horse race betting. Presently, the New Jersey Constitution allows only what is described as "pari-mutuel" wagering on horse racing, either live or simulcast. Any change allowing other types of betting requires a constitutional amendment.

Thus, if passed by voters, the New Jersey State Legislature would be given the authority to introduce laws to regulate wagering on horse races. A report by the Race Industry Commission, which was charged with recommending ways to promote the racing industry, found that revenue from horse racing has declined in the state since 1982.

The commission has proposed that New Jersey implement off-track betting and account wagering to promote a competitive balance with other gaming in New Jersey and with racing in neighboring states.

The League points out that a "yes" vote would give the legislature authority to introduce laws to regulate this and all types of gambling at race tracks, similar to state controls over the New Jersey State Lottery and the Casino Control Commission. Approval of the question would put New Jersey on a level playing field with New York and Pennsylvania in that

the legislature could act quickly to help New Jersey stay competitive to this industry.

Also through a "yes" vote, the legislature would be able to "act more quickly to maintain edge to an industry that provides economic benefits to the state," according to the League.

The League states that a "no" vote on this question could lead to the legislature allowing new types of gambling on racing without seeking voter approval thus increasing the opportunities to gamble along with the accompanying "hidden costs" to the state due to increased court and correction costs as well as an increase in bankruptcies resulting from gambling.

The League also states that a "yes" vote on this question means that the legislature can act more quickly to maintain a competitive edge for an industry that provides economic benefits to the state.

The third public question this Tuesday asks if the public, through a "yes" vote, to allow the use of 1980 Natural Resources Bond Moneys and 1985 Resource Recovery and Solid Waste Facility Debt Recovery and Solid Waste Disposal Facility Bond money to help pay for solid waste facilities debts.

According to the explanation supplied by the League of Women's Voters, in 1970 the Solid Waste Management Act required counties to implement plans for a disposal of waste in geographical boundaries.

Because of this ruling, counties within the state were forced to come up with means to comply including the building of resources recovery facilities, incinerators, landfills and transfer stations.

In the meantime, the United States Supreme Court ruled that these re-

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## Republicans Seeking to Maintain 6-0 Majority on Mountainside Council

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Residents of Mountainside will have to choose between four different candidates on Tuesday, November 3, for two open seats on the Mountainside Borough Council. Terms on the governing body are three years each.

To date, Mountainside has never had a Democrat on the council. Running on the Democratic ticket this year are Steve Brociner and Michael Krasner. Republicans hold a 6-0 majority on the council, in addition to holding the Mayor's office.

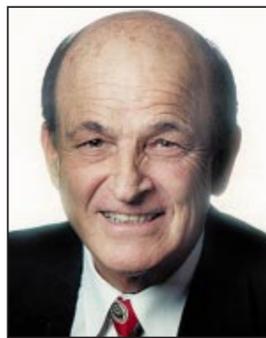
The one basic issue on their platform, according to Mr. Brociner, is to establish ward council systems in the borough similar to that of neighboring Westfield.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Brociner stated that a ward system would help council members focus on certain issues that are important to borough residents in that ward. He stated that this system would bring a clear channel of communication between residents and their council representatives.

When asked for his opinion concerning issues in the election, Mr. Krasner submitted a two-page letter concerning his views on the history of the current council representatives. In the letter, Mr. Krasner stated that he feels the current council members have failed to report meaningfully on their assigned areas of municipal responsibility.

For this reason, Mr. Krasner said he supports the idea of having council members represent individual wards. He did state, however, that he was happy that "the council now places its minutes of its sessions and public meetings in the Mountainside Library for public access."

Running on the Republican ticket are incumbent Councilman Werner C. Schon and his runningmate, Glenn Mortimer. In separate interviews, these candidates both expressed the importance of having the borough



Werner C. Schon\* (R)



Glenn Mortimer (R)



Michael Krasner (D)



Steve Brociner (D)

\*Incumbent

continue to maintain "the lowest effective taxes in Union County," while significantly expanding recreational activities.

As an almost life-long resident of Mountainside, Mr. Mortimer emphasized the importance of having recreational activities available for all borough residents. He remarked that he felt very positive about the new ice skating program in the winter, and the opening of the new community room in the very near future.

When asked why he wanted to run for a position on the council, Mr. Mortimer said he was inspired by the support shown him by many fellow residents following the death of his mother a few years ago. He revealed that he felt a strong commitment to the borough and wanted to give something back.

Mr. Mortimer added that he believes his financial expertise would be a benefit on the governing body. He also stated that, with the pending retirement of Councilman David M. Hart, he felt this was the time to run for the local governing body.

Mr. Mortimer explained that the municipal portion of the borough's tax bill has been significantly lower than surrounding towns in the county, and stated that he would strive to continue that.

Councilman Schon, who brings over 15 years of experience to the governing body, stated he felt that Mountainside was going through what he termed "a Renaissance in

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