



Community Conversation

January 31, 2018

Does Your Vote Count?

An Examination of the Issues

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter"

This evening's Community Conversation is generously supported by the Norma and Natale Sestero Fund administered by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

The Norma and Natale Sestero Fund was created through the estate of Natale and Norma Sestero, longtime residents of Glastonbury, with the goal to benefit the people and institutions of the town. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for the 29-town Greater Hartford region and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for area residents.

Presented in partnership with

League of Women Voters of Glastonbury

The Glastonbury Human Relations Commission

Generously Supported By

The Town of Glastonbury

Empower Financial Advisory

www.glastonburymlkci.org

Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, that was formed in 2001. Since then, the GMLKCI has sponsored up to three Community Conversations per year. GMLKCI works to increase Glastonbury residents' knowledge and understanding of the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King and to provide leadership and active engagement to build an inclusive community.

A goal of GMLKCI is to bring people together to discuss social justice issues which are as important to us today both as individuals and as members of our community as they were to Dr. King. As Dr. King noted, **"...whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly..."** and **"...the quality of a community is determined by how members of the community relate to one another."**

The goal of this Community Conversation is to inform and inspire Glastonbury residents to become actively involved in social justice issues by discussing in an open and congenial manner issues which may divide us or bind us together as individuals, families and a community.

All of the social justice issues discussed during this evenings Community Conversation are addressed in light of Dr. King's principles:

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter"

[**www.glastonburymlkci.org**](http://www.glastonburymlkci.org)

Program

Reception - Meet the Panelists

Welcome - Darwin Kovacs

Summer Nexus - Rebecca Olshan

Introduction to the Program - Dean Alfred Carter

Panelist Presentations

Secretary of State Denise Merrill

Jonathan Perloe

Luther Weeks

Professor Paul Herrnson

Max Feldman

Conversation—Questions and Answers

Closing Remarks by Dean Alfred Carter

Thank you—Darwin Kovacs

Please visit the advocacy tables—the work these organizations do is important to our communities.

**Please complete and return
the program evaluation feedback form.
Your opinions are important to our
programming and fundraising efforts.**

Secretary of State Denise Merrill

Denise W. Merrill is serving her second term as Connecticut's 73rd Secretary of the State. As Connecticut's chief elections official and business registrar, Merrill has focused on modernizing Connecticut's elections, business services and improving access to public records. Since taking office, she has supported and expanded democratic participation, ensuring that every citizen's rights and privileges are protected and that every vote is counted accurately. Secretary Merrill has worked to expand voter participation through Election Day and online voter registration. She has also improved Connecticut's democratic accountability and integrity with a series of rapid response processes to Election Day problems. Prior to her election as Secretary of the State, Denise Merrill served as State Representative from the 54th General Assembly District for 17 years, representing the towns of Mansfield and Chaplin. First elected to the General Assembly in 1994, Merrill rose to the rank of House Majority Leader from 2009-2011. Secretary Merrill is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and is licensed to practice law in the state of California.

Jonathan Perloe

Jonathan Perloe has more than thirty years of experience in business focused on communication planning, marketing strategy and loyalty management. He holds a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Amherst College. He is currently the Director of Programs and Communications for CT Against Gun Violence and is here this evening as a spokesperson for National Popular Vote CT, a grassroots movement advocating for adoption of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact by the Connecticut General Assembly. The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is a simple solution to elect the President according to the will of the majority of the voters in the country.

Luther Weeks

Luther Weeks is a computer scientist and grassroots activist in election integrity and civil rights, citizen-lobbying the Connecticut Legislature and the U.S. Congress. Mr. Weeks' efforts in Connecticut contributed to the passage of the paper record law in 2005 and the selection of optical-scan over DRE (touch screen) voting equipment in 2006. Since 2007, he has organized citizens to observe and independently report on Connecticut's post-election audits, showing that they continue to be insufficient, unreliable, and ineffective. He is Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Election Audit and CTVotersCount. Spanning thirty-five years, Mr. Weeks led the initial implementations of database, personal computer, and artificial intelligence technologies for a major Connecticut insurance company, where he also led the evaluation and acquisition of commercial software. For nine years, he was a field engineer and product manager for two data communications software start-ups. He received a B.S. in Mathematics from Clarkson University, a M.S. in Computer Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and is a Master Fellow of the Life (insurance) Management Institute.

Professor Paul Herrnson

Paul S. Herrnson is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Connecticut. Professor Herrnson's main interests are political parties and elections; money and politics; and voting technology and election administration. He has published several books, including ***"Congressional Elections", "Voting Technology: The Not-So-Simple Act of Casting a Ballot", "The Financiers of Congressional Elections", and "Interest Groups Unleashed"***. His articles have appeared in the American Journal of Political Science, Election Law Journal, Electoral Studies, Journal of Politics, and Legislative Studies Quarterly. He teaches courses on campaigns, elections and other aspects of U.S. politics and has served as President of the Southern Political Science Association, Chair of the Political Organizations and Parties section of the American Political Science Association, and as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow. Professor Herrnson has advised the U.S. Congress, the Connecticut

General Assembly, the Maryland General Assembly, the Federal Election Commission, and other government agencies and nongovernmental organizations on matters pertaining to campaign finance, election administration, and political reform. He earned his PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his BA at Binghamton University.

Max Feldman

Max Feldman serves as Counsel in the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice, where he focuses on voting rights and elections. The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law is a nonpartisan law and policy institute that seeks to improve our systems of democracy and justice and works to hold our political institutions and laws accountable to the twin American ideals of democracy and equal justice for all. Prior to joining the Brennan Center, Mr. Feldman was a litigation associate in private practice where he focused on complex commercial litigation, and he represented clients in a variety of industries in both state and federal court. Mr. Feldman also maintained a pro bono practice focused on immigration issues. Mr. Feldman received his J.D. magna cum laude from New York University School of Law, where he was elected to the Order of the Coif and served as an articles editor of the N.Y.U. Law Review. He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard College.

Alfred Carter

Alfred L. Carter, the retired Dean of Students at Manchester Community College, is an accomplished career educator, sociologist and humanist who has extensive experience and has been active in the field of higher education for approximately forty years and has provided training in the areas of diversity, team building, stress management, leadership, communications, conflict management, mentoring / advising, managing change, and teaching effectiveness. Dean Carter was a founding partner in Rodgers and Carter Educational Consulting. Since retiring, he has continued participating in higher education, serving as Special Assistant to the Dean of Students at Capital Community College, training and speaking as well as continuing to mentor students and professionals who seek support and encouragement.

Appreciation

Thank you for attending today's program. Your presence encourages the work we do as members of the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative to make Glastonbury a more inclusive place to live and visit.

This project was accomplished by a handful of committed community members but the work does not end tonight. We must each play our part.

While all of our programs are free, we are dependent on you for financial support. The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is a 501(c)(3) corporation and all donations are tax deductible. Please consider supporting our efforts with a financial contribution.

Town of Glastonbury Human Relations Commission is available to assist any resident who, because of race, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or intellectual, mental or physical disability, has been discriminated against in a manner prohibited by the laws of the State of Connecticut or the Town of Glastonbury. For additional information visit the Town's website or contact the Commission through the Human Resources Department, (860) 652-7501.

The **League of Women Voters**, of which the Glastonbury League is a local chapter, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit volunteer grassroots organization of women and men. The League's mission is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of all citizens in their government. The League also works to influence public policy, after study and member agreement, on key community issues at all governmental levels.

***The Glastonbury MLK Community
Initiative would like to thank our
Sponsors, who make this work possible***



**Glastonbury Rotary Club
Congregational Church in South Glastonbury
First Church of Christ Scientist
St. Dunstan Church
Elder Law Center of Connecticut
Margaret Wilcox
GMLKCI Members and Friends**

www.glastonburymlkci.org,

Leslie at 202-538-1161 or Darwin at 860-633-4983