168 Boston Hill Road

Andover, CT 06232

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Editor

Rivereast News Bulletin

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To The Editor:

At the Andover Charter hearing, First Selectman Jeff Maguire said, "I actually take the fact that Don Denley, a far right Republican, and Scott Sauyet, a far left Democrat [...] believe that these issues are inaccurate... I feel that that is a win because that means that we're driving the bus right down the middle of the field."

Ignoring his odd desire to drive a bus through a field, that sounds sensible, right? Although a little cowardly, there's often a desire to find middle-ground between two extremes. What's wrong with that?

It's simple: there is no middle ground. Don and I are saying the *exact same thing*!

While we forcefully disagree on many issues, we completely agree that questions 6 – 11 substantially rearrange Andover's power structures, taking authority away from you and me and handing it to the BOS and Town Administrator. With all due respect to the revision commission's hard work, the process was too rushed and the results show it.

Several misleading ballot questions *sound* reasonable but misrepresent the associated text changes. It makes sense to move seven days, aligning the town budget vote with the RHAM one; why does this mean other processes move *thirty* days? Why does it mean the Town Administrator gets first crack at all budgets, including AES? Why does it mean the Board of Finance's authority gets watered down, adding the BOS to their hearing? What language would the charter include if Question 10 passes but 7 and 8 do not? Why would we want to strip voters' right to choose a Town Clerk and decide on proposed ordinances?

When we're told this is for "efficiency", just remember that the most efficient government is a dictatorship.

There is no middle ground. Please vote no on Questions 6 – 11. (More info: <http://charter.andoverct.info/2024>.)

Sincerely,

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