

**For Release on April 26th, 2025**

## **West Windsor Forward Announces 2025 Candidate Forum**

West Windsor, NJ – [April 26th, 2025] – West Windsor Forward, a group of dedicated West Windsor residents committed to uplifting and informing our community, is pleased to announce that it will be holding a **non-partisan** candidate forum for the 2025 West Windsor Township elections for Mayor and Council. West Windsor Forward is led by long-time West Windsor residents and students at the Lawrenceville School; Parth Gupta and Darshan Chidambaram. This forum marks the return of a vital voter tool, as the Township has not held a Mayoral forum since 2013 and has lacked Council forums since 2015. West Windsor Forward is committed to not only reinstating this tradition, but also enhancing it with experienced panelists, an in-person audience, and live-streaming for expanded access.

### **General Information:**

#### **What is a Candidate Forum?**

Candidate forums are public events where people running for office share their views, answer questions, and explain what they would do if elected. These forums are **similar to debates**, but they are usually more structured, civil, and focused on informing voters rather than challenging opponents. Forums allow voters to hear from multiple candidates in one place and learn where they stand on important issues.

#### **Positions:**

The forum will feature candidates for the following positions:

- Mayor of West Windsor Township
  - This position is currently held by Hemant Marathe.
- 2 seats on West Windsor Township Council
  - The seats up for election are currently held by Martin Whitfield, and Linda Geevers.

A separate forum will be held for the Board of Education if three or more candidates declare candidacy for the two seats up for election in 2025.

**Date and Location:**

**Kelsey Theatre @MCCC - Thursday Evening, September 25th, 2025**

Thanks to the efforts of the League of Women Voters of the Greater Princeton Area, particularly Ms. Deborah Macmillan and Ms. Rita Caldwell, and the generosity of Mercer County Community College, [the Kelsey Theatre](#) will serve as our forum venue. This spacious and modern facility is centrally located. The forum is anticipated to run from approximately 7:00 PM to 9:15 PM. However, the precise schedule will be determined by the number of candidates who participate.

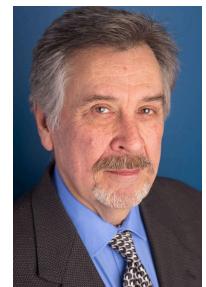
**Panelists:**

West Windsor Forward and the residents they represent are privileged to have three distinguished and impartial panelists from diverse backgrounds to moderate the forum:

**Micah Rasmussen** - Micah Rasmussen is the director of the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics at Rider University. He has worked in the New Jersey General Assembly and managed several political campaigns. After completing his undergraduate studies at Rider under his mentor David Rebovich, the namesake of the institute he now leads, Rasmussen earned his Master of Arts in Political Science from the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. Rasmussen is a panelist for the state's biggest political debates-- twice so far this year in the race to elect New Jersey's next governor, and in the only debate last year between now Senator Andy Kim and First Lady Tammy Murphy. He is regularly included on New Jersey's political power and higher education influencer lists. One called him "the go-to guy for the media to comment on what's happening in New Jersey politics-- and what it means".



**David Matthau** - David Matthau is a WHYY New Jersey reporter covering the Statehouse and general assignments in the Garden State. Prior to joining WHYY, David was lead investigative reporter for NJ 101.5 News, winning multiple Associated Press and Society of Professional Journalists awards, the National Association of Broadcasters Service to Community Award, and contributed to the National Edward R. Murrow Best Newscast award. David is a graduate of the University of Southern California.



**Rhea Biswas** - Rhea Biswas is a West Windsor high school student passionate about politics and social justice, with hopes of pursuing a career in law. She regularly competes in debate competitions and Model Congress conferences, as well as writes for her school newspaper and a local newspaper, The West Windsor Voice. She is committed to transparent debate and honest discussion in order to better advocate for meaningful change in her community.





## Format:

The forum will consist of the following parts:

- **Part 1:** Equal time Q&A sessions for Mayoral and Council candidates, respectively, with questions from the panelists.
- **Part 2:** Town-hall style Q&A for Mayoral and Council candidates, respectively, with questions from the audience and community members.
- **Part 3:** Informal meet-and-greet session between candidates and voters.

To ensure fairness and impartiality, the forum will be moderated, all candidates will be given an equal opportunity to speak, and personal attacks will not be permitted. The revamped forum includes questions from panelists, live-streaming the event for greater accessibility, and fostering an interactive town-hall style Q&A session.

## The Role of West Windsor Forward:

West Windsor Forward is a group of West Windsor citizens dedicated to enhancing our community. We are committed to fostering civic engagement, promoting informed dialogue, and working to improve the quality of life for all West Windsor residents.

## The Role of the League of Women Voters of the Greater Princeton Area:

The [League of Women Voters of the Greater Princeton Area](#) is providing support and guidance to ensure the forum is fair, impartial, and informative. The League has a long history of organizing successful candidate forums, including in West Windsor, and is a trusted resource for voters.

## Future Events:

Stay tuned for more information about future events from West Windsor Forward! We are committed to providing ongoing opportunities for civic engagement and community improvement.

**Media Invitation:** Local news media have been invited to cover and promote this important event. West Windsor Plainsboro News and the West Windsor Voice have confirmed that they will cover this event.

**Contact:** For more information about the 2025 West Windsor Candidate Forum, please email us at [contact@westwindsorforward.org](mailto:contact@westwindsorforward.org).



## Information for Residents and Attendees:

West Windsor residents, this is your opportunity to become an informed and empowered voter! Attending the 2025 Candidate Forum is crucial for every resident who cares about the future of our Township. Here's why you should attend:

- **Hear Directly from the Candidates:** Go beyond campaign signs and brochures. This forum provides a unique opportunity to listen to Mayoral and Council candidates discuss their platforms, policies, and vision for West Windsor in their own words. Our distinguished panelists will ask candidates the tough questions on the issues that matter most to our community.
- **Get Answers to Your Questions:** As a member of the audience, you'll have the chance to submit your questions to the candidates during the town hall-style Q&A session. This is your chance to address the issues that matter most to you and your family.
- **Engage with the Community:** Connect with your fellow residents and participate in a vital civic event. The forum fosters a shared understanding of our local challenges and opportunities.
- **One-on-One Discussions:** Following the forum, there will be an informal meet-and-greet session, allowing you to speak directly with the candidates and have more personal conversations.
- **Interact with Community Groups:** Local organizations will be invited to provide information and resources on various community initiatives.

To allow broad participation, a ticketing system might be implemented. Should this be the case, free tickets are anticipated to be available online starting in September 2025.

The event will also be live-streamed on YouTube for those unable to attend in person.

## Information for Candidates:

An open invitation will be extended to all declared candidates for Mayor, Council, and Board of Education in West Windsor Township. As of April 20th 2025, no candidates have publicly announced their candidacy. West Windsor Forward will contact candidates individually as they formally announce. West Windsor Forward will contact declared BoE candidates to schedule a forum if three or more candidates have declared their campaigns. Candidates may also contact us to demonstrate their interest to participate. Participation in the forum will allow you to:

- **Present Your Vision:** Communicate your platform, policy proposals, and vision for the future of West Windsor directly to a large and engaged audience of residents.



- **Engage with Voters:** Connect with the community, answer their questions, and address their concerns in a public and accessible setting.
- **Participate in a Fair and Impartial Dialogue:** The forum will be moderated to ensure that all candidates have an equal opportunity to present their views and engage in a respectful debate.
- **Reach a Broad Audience:** In addition to the in-person audience, the forum will be live-streamed on YouTube, expanding your reach to residents who may not be able to attend in person.

### **Information for Volunteers:**

Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact West Windsor Forward at [contact@westwindsorforward.org](mailto:contact@westwindsorforward.org). Full volunteer sign-ups will be announced in the coming months, but volunteer roles will likely include:

- Set-up
- Timekeeping
- Ticket verification/attendee greeting
- Camera operation
- Live stream operation