Voters liked what they had and re-elected selectmen

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Editor of The Register Citizen:

The citizens of Winchester re-elected the Board of Selectmen this year. This is an anomaly in a time of nationwide citizen frustration with incumbent politicians. An analysis of the possible reasons is in order.

A sweeping victory, like that of the incumbent Board of Selectmen, signals the intent of the citizenry: they liked what they got and want more. The Board of Selectmen accomplished very important objectives for the town in terms of holding the line on spending and taxes. In the environmental arena, the Board of Selectmen again took the lead on such issues as source reduction of polystyrene foam and prohibition of radioactive waste.

The overwhelming support for the actions of the Board of Selectmen that the 'incumbents' victory demonstrates undoubtedly signals support for the performance of the present Town Manager. The effectiveness of the Board of Selectmen in implementing their policies depends on the responsible performance of the Town Manager.

When the Board of Selectmen developed a "zero increase in the mill rate" policy, it was the Town Manager who set to the difficult task of compiling a workable budget designed to meet the objectives of the board. This budget led to increased accountability to the taxpayers in all departments, including education.

The Town Manager's record speaks for itself: increased grant money, stable mill rate, streamlined and updated operations, morale building, innovative problem solving. In general, this Town Manager responds and, when required, acts on the tough and often deserved criticism from citizens, including criticism from this office. This demonstrates an ability to learn and grow in the job.

This team appears to work. The citizens acknowledged this performance with their vote. It is important to focus on the performance of our public officials as the citizens assess the present situation.

Charlene LaVoie
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