

VoteWestport Press Release

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September 15, 2021

Our campaign would like to provide the town residents with updates from our office to address the topics of:

- K-6 voluntary Covid-19 student testing
- Candidate forums
- \$8.4 million allocated to Westport under American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

K-6 voluntary COVID-19 student testing

On the morning of September 15, 2021 the Westport Public School Supervisor of Health Services, Suzanne Levasseur, emailed all parents asking them to volunteer their children into “pooled” COVID-19 testing. If one of the pooled students is positive, the entire pooled sample stays out of school. Mr. Elgin claims “this is a slippery slope. Once they start this testing, they will force asymptomatic children, some with and some without COVID-19, to miss school. Once the school is allowed to introduce this, it is only a matter of time before testing becomes mandated.” Mr. Elgin also states, “We need to

follow science and not politics.” Per the CDC, “multiple studies have shown that transmission within school settings is typically lower than – or at least similar to – levels of community transmission, when prevention strategies are in place in schools” Moreover, “Detection of cases in schools does not necessarily mean that transmission occurred in schools. The majority of cases that are acquired in the community and are brought into a school setting result in limited spread inside schools when multiple layered prevention strategies are in place.”

[Science Brief: Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs - Updated | CDC](#)

We need to stop trying to recklessly spend taxpayer money and focus on providing appropriate education to students.”

Candidate Forums:

Our campaign will be hosting our meet-and-greet candidate forum on Monday, September 20th at 7pm at our headquarters, located at 370 Post Rd W. We will be answering questions, discussing resident concerns, and discussing our platform. We take offense to the abuse of power shown with the lifting of the beach parking emblem/pass requirement for the other selectman candidate’s forum. Mr. Elgin states “I would never abuse power. I think a selectman is a servant to the people, not a king. We need to hold these career politicians accountable.”

\$8.4 million allocated to Westport under American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

The town of Westport has been granted \$8.4 million dollars under the American Rescue Plan of 2021. When Dr. D'Onofrio was working at the Westport Weston Health District, soon to be named Aspetuck Health District, he was told by the current health director Mark Cooper that he was excited to be granted several million dollars for the health department. Dr. D'Onofrio has been very vocal about his concerns with the town granting funding to the health district as D'Onofrio states, "Mark Cooper has been inappropriately misplacing money for years with no real investigation or consequences filed by the town. To give this man free reign of millions of dollars is just egregious. Where are the checks and balances?" Selectman candidate Elgin states "If we do not need the money in our town it should be returned or granted to a town with greater need. We should never wastefully spend in fear it will be returned, as this is why our national deficit is so high."