

Subject: JoAnne Robertson - A Calm & Rational Voice

To The Editor,

I am writing to share with you some information about JoAnne Robertson who is running for town council. JoAnne has a BA in Communications and a diverse background in finance, healthcare, real estate and education. She was a small business owner in NYC. JoAnne is exquisitely qualified to hold a position in local government. I have known JoAnne for over a year.

I have been a member of the Somerset Hills community for almost 30 years. I have seen this town at its finest - and right now, I feel this town is hurting. There is a small but vocal group in our community that is taking up a lot of the public bandwidth. They can be very pushy, aggressive, insulting and belligerent. It is this behavior that should not be condoned, not the behavior of a candidate stating her election planks. JoAnne is exactly the kind of person who can help us heal this pain.

Our community is being torn apart, as is the country, by the 2020 election. Friends are afraid to have an opinion lest they offend someone. So far, NJ has been spared rioting, for which we are all very grateful, but we are still feeling the pain as a community. We all have it "pretty good" and no one wants to "upset the apple cart" by saying something that might be the trigger for some sort of larger civil unrest. I liken the times we are living in to living with an alcoholic. You put up with an increasing amount of behavior that you would not otherwise condone in order to try to "keep things normal" or "not make it worse". Then, one day, something happens, a trigger that indicates that you have hit bottom. Sadly, its not until we hit bottom that people often move, change or put an end to the behaviors that they have tolerated for too long.

I think that the name calling that is going on around JoAnne Robertson's campaign is a sign that we, as a community, are hitting bottom. If you are going to vote for someone, you should know where they stand on the issues. Too often, politicians want to be everything to everybody, so they won't tell you where they

stand. JoAnne is proud to say that she is fiscally conservative, she believes all lives matter, she stands behind the local police and she supports a high quality public school education. JoAnne is brave enough to put out to the campaign her positions on controversial topics because she want the voters to know how she would look at issues as they come up before the council. This traditionally accepted candidate positioning should not be grounds for name calling.

If we as a community are going to allow bullies and trouble makers to drown out our quieter, more conservative voices, we may end up in an even more uncomfortable place after the elections. JoAnne supports calm, thoughtful and peace keeping voices having rational conversations about the pro's and con's of a situation. JoAnne will listen to your concerns. JoAnne is the kind of person who would look at a topic from all angles and then thoughtfully vote on the outcome. She is exactly the kind of person you want and NEED to have in a locally held community leadership position.

Katherine Hermes