

Election of Trustees

First Term Nominees



Dr. Angela Chapman has over 20 years of experience in Administrative Management, with 12 years in public higher education. As Associate Dean of Development at Connecticut State Community College Naugatuck Valley, she leads the Institutional Advancement office. She also teaches Nonprofit Management and Grant Writing as an Adjunct Professor at Charter Oak State College. Dr. Chapman holds degrees from Albertus Magnus College, the University of New Haven (MBA), and the University of Hartford (EdD). She serves as Vice Chair of the Board at A&S Addiction Services, is a Board member for the Waterbury Chamber of Commerce, a Corporator for Thomaston Savings Bank, and an active United Way of Greater Waterbury member. Additionally, she has led youth programs at Mount Olive Church of God in Christ for over a decade.



Baba Frew taught Spanish and Human Geography at The Taft School for more than 30 years after earning both her BA and MA from Middlebury College. At Taft, she served as the chair of the Modern Languages Department and held the Edwin C. Douglas Chair, in recognition of her dedication to Taft's students. Outside the classroom, she was the Director of Community Service, overseeing numerous service-related activities and organizations, and Director of The Global Leadership Institute, a rigorous co-curricular program that brings together students from Taft and Waterbury public schools for shared learning and leadership experiences. She also contributed to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Planning Committee, helping to shape Taft's community priorities. After retiring from Taft in June, Baba moved to Woodbury, where she lives with her husband, Peter.

First Term Nominees

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JoAnn Reynolds-Balanda retired after a 20-year career with the United Way of Greater Waterbury, where she served as Vice President of Community Impact. She implemented a nationally recognized outcomes measurement evaluation for funded programs and led initiatives addressing homelessness and food insecurity. During COVID, she collaborated with Waterbury leaders to ensure essential services for those quarantined. JoAnn is passionate about early literacy and was recognized for promoting the Sparkler app in Waterbury, which supports child development. Her career also includes roles in Maternal Child Health Coordination, 211 casework, truancy program direction, and as Executive Director of Waterbury Youth Services. A Waterbury native, JoAnn lives in Watertown with her husband, a retired teacher, and has two adult children, both teachers.

Second Term Nominees



Avery Gaddis serves at the Senate Republican Office's Community Development and Public Affairs division. He has been advising and assisting the small business community for more than 20 years, specializing in entrepreneurship, business growth and development and strategic planning. Avery has a degree in Political Science from Central Connecticut State University and an MBA from the University of New Haven. His professional experience includes finance, commercial lending, asset management, internal auditing, regulatory compliance and corporate governance. Avery is a former member of the Connecticut Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission of Civil Rights, current member of Connecticut's Minority Business Initiative Advisory Board and serves on the Commission on Racial Ethnic Disparity in the criminal justice system. Avery currently serves on Connecticut Community Foundation's Executive, Investment, and Governance committees.

Second Term Nominees

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Tomas Olivo is the initiative director for the Working Cities Challenge at the RIBA Aspira Career Academy in Waterbury's South End. Tomas graduated from UCONN Waterbury, where he earned a BA, with a double major in Urban and Community Studies and Human Development and Families Studies and a minor in Psychology. Over a span of eight years, Tomas held several roles at Catholic Charities in Waterbury, serving the community through programs including Fatherhood Services, Child Removal Preventive Services, Family Education, Eviction Prevention, and a Basic Needs Program. Currently, Tomas' work with RIBA Aspira is targeted at reducing the disproportionately high unemployment rate of the South End/River Baldwin (RIBA) by increasing the number of residents earning a livable wage. Tomas currently serves on Connecticut Community Foundation's Executive, Governance, Building Equitable Opportunity, and Health and Environmental Justice committees, and also chairs the Grassroots Grants committee.



Jean Solomon has over 35 years of experience as a Senior Real Estate executive in large-scale property developments, recognized for her expertise in project management, finance, and relationship building. She is currently Trustee and Treasurer of Connecticut Community Foundation, where she leads the Investment Committee and serves on the Executive and Audit Committees. Jean has also contributed to the Foundation's committees focused on equitable opportunities and Pathways for Older Adults. Previously, she served on the Board of the Gunn Memorial Library & Museum in Washington, organizing 25 historical lectures. In New Milford, she advised the Revitalization of the Housatonic Riverfront. Jean also served on the board of Brass City Harvest in Waterbury. She holds a BArch from Cornell University and a MA in Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University.

Second Term Nominees

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Saran White is a mission-driven strategist with over 20 years of experience enhancing equity, access, and justice in under-resourced communities. With a background in philanthropy, K-12 education, civic engagement, and organizational effectiveness, she has collaborated with leading nonprofits, foundations, and thought leaders on innovative strategies and grantmaking.

As the first chief executive of The Leever Foundation in Waterbury, Saran has led efforts to design and implement an equity-driven, community-informed agenda that aligns with Leever's vision. Her expertise in change management has strengthened its impact and intentionality. Saran holds a BA from Wesleyan University and a MPA degree from CUNY Baruch School of Public and International Affairs. She currently serves on Connecticut Community Foundation's Investment and Strengthening Nonprofits committees.
