



Sept 16, 2013

## **2013 Somerville Labor Coalition Political Endorsements**

As the current climate of attacks on labor becomes more and more prevalent, it is even more important for organized labor to support political candidates who value principles of good government and the role of union workers in such a government. To that end, the Somerville Labor Coalition, a coalition of City of Somerville public employee unions, announces its political endorsements after a thoughtful and fair process of vetting candidates. First, we sent a questionnaire to all candidates for local offices and carefully evaluated the replies from the many candidates who replied. All candidates who responded to our questionnaire were then invited to a question and answer forum titled "Candidate's Night". Many of our attending members filled out grading scorecards analyzing the opening statements and answers to questions posed to them by moderator and Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts President, Eddie Kelly.

A formal meeting of the SLC Executive Board then convened to cast a vote on each candidate with a 2/3rds majority required for a candidate to be endorsed. The following candidates most closely reflect the philosophy and values-of our members if the Somerville Labor Organization, and therefore received the endorsement of the Somerville Labor Coalition.

We proudly endorse the following candidates

**For Alderman at Large**

**John Connolly**

**Dennis Sullivan**

**William White**

**William Medeiros**

**Ward One Alderman – Matthew McLaughlin**

**Ward Two Alderman – Maryann Heuston**

**Ward Three Alderman- Robert McWatters**

**Ward Five Alderman- Courtney O’Keefe**

**Ward Six Alderman- Rebekah Gewirtz**

**Ward Seven Alderman- Joseph Capuano**

**School Committee Ward Two- Michael Nionakis**

**School Committee Ward Five- Ross Richmond**

**School Committee Ward Seven- Caroline Lynch Normand**

The Somerville Labor Coalition wishes our endorsed candidates the very best of luck. Thank you to all who attended our recent Candidate’s night at the Somerville City Club. We would also like to thank the candidates who did not get the endorsement. You were able to get your message to our members as well those watching on SCATV.

We look forward to a future, where all elected officials value the importance of union workers and treat all workers with the respect and dignity they deserve.

*Sincerely, the Somerville Labor Coalition Political Endorsement Committee*

*Working Together to Provide Fair Labor for All*