

## United Derby Democrats Endorse Coppolo for Mayor



Democratic Mayoral Nominee Brian Coppolo speaks out about his vision for a better Derby.

Derby – An energized and united Democratic Party in Derby unanimously endorsed life long resident Brian Coppolo to be the next Mayor of Derby. A third generation son of Derby, Brian grew up with living examples of service to the community. His father Allen was Chief of the Derby Fire Department and his mother Sharon grew up working at her father's long time business, Raro's Automotive, in downtown Derby.

Democratic Town Chair Aniello Malerba III praised candidate Coppolo. "Brian represents a change from business as usual in Derby. He is committed to working hard for all Derby citizens to get the City out of the financial crisis by establishing an administration that practices transparency instead of empty promises."

Adam Pacheco, a downtown homeowner, summed up why Brian Coppolo is the change needed in Derby in his nominating speech. "Brian has the ability to challenge convention and see what we can be. He has a vision and an ability to think at a level that challenges all of us to be better." Alderwoman Barbara L. DeGennaro gave a strong statement in support of Brian Coppolo when she said, "I have a lot of confidence in you. You have to

work hard. We all have to work hard." Also, in attendance were former Mayors Anita Dugatto and Marc J. Garofalo who are supporting Brian Coppolo and the entire endorsed Democratic slate.

With a marked tone of unity the Derby Democrats unanimously endorsed an inclusive and diverse slate of both veterans and fresh faces that represent the entire City of Derby. Incumbent Aldermen/Alderwomen Barbara DeGennaro, Thomas Donofrio, Joseph DiMartino and Ronald Sill were unanimously endorsed along with newcomers Sarah Widomski, Camille Grande Kurtyka, Irma Coleman, Dan Blizman, and Samantha Burgan.

The Democrats nominated James Butler, Christopher Larocque, Carlo Malerba, Jr, Walt Mayhew, Bhamini Patel, and Rose Pertoso for the Board of Apportionment and Taxation along with Melissa Cannata, Jennifer Desroches, Dan Foley, Jr., George Kurtyka, Ken Marcucio, Sr., and Christine Robinson for the Board of Education.

The Derby Democrats also endorsed an experienced and active public servant, Walt Mayhew, to run for City Treasurer. Walt has served the City in various capacities over many years as a member

of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen, Board of Apportionment and Taxation, and Board of Education. He has an extensive career in financial technology, business, and education and will bring the needed competence, transparency and integrity to the financial operations of the City of Derby. The slate is rounded out with Aniello "Owney" Malerba, Jr. running for City Constable.

Democratic Party Chair Malerba summed it up when he said, "Derby is at a crossroad. We have a great opportunity by electing our competent slate led by Brian Coppolo who I know will be engaged every day in working hard to move our City past the current stagnation and fiscal crisis. There is a clear choice in this election. The Democratic/Coppolo slate represents the future brightness of our City."

The election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. Voting will take place at Irving School and Bradley School. Absentee Ballot applications can be obtained by calling or emailing the Town Clerk's Office at 203.736.1462, extension 2 or [townclerk@derbyct.gov](mailto:townclerk@derbyct.gov). Voter Registration information can be obtained from the Registrar of Voters office by calling 203.736.1454.

## Nominee for Mayor, Coppolo, has deep roots in Derby

Derby – The Democratic Party's nominee for Mayor, Brian Coppolo, has deep roots in Derby that go back generations. His great-grandfather started a small business in downtown Derby that is still in operation today, and his grandmother has taught countless children and adults to play the piano.

Brian Coppolo is the son of Allen and Sharon Raro Coppolo. He grew up in Derby surrounded by living examples of service to our City. Brian's father Allen was Chief of the Derby Fire Department after many years of service in a variety of leadership positions. Sharon Raro Coppolo, his mother, is a medical office executive. She grew up working in the family business, Raro's Automotive Center, on Third Street in Derby.

In the footsteps of his father, Brian is a long-time volunteer firefighter in the City of Derby. He is a proud graduate of Roger Williams University with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications. After several years in restaurant management, Brian pursued his passion and is a professional firefighter with the Bridgeport Fire Department. "As a lifetime firefighter, we are continually trained to make critical decisions

in difficult situations. This training and experience have prepared me to assemble a competent and aggressive team toward a better Derby," noted Coppolo who also studied journalism in Greece and Ireland.

Brian's great-grandfather, Arthur Raro, opened a gas station in 1930 in downtown Derby. The company moved to its current location in the 1960's after redevelopment forced the change. Raro's has been at its current location on Third Street where they have served countless generations of Derby car owners with class and dignity. Grandfather William Raro, Sr. and grandmother Frances Raro continued the family business. They passed it to Brian's uncle, William Raro, Jr. Brian stated: "Coming from a family-owned business has taught us all the value of customer service by being attentive to the needs of our friends, neighbors, and customers. We are forever grateful for the lessons taught to us by these hard-working people I am proud to call my family."

Service to the City of Derby goes far back in Brian's family. James McMahon, his great-grandfather, was a Supernumerary Police Officer in the City

of Derby during the years after World War II.

Mr. McMahon's daughter, Joan McMahon Coppolo, Brian's grandmother, is a brilliant pianist. She was Choir Director at St. Mary Church and organist at the First Congregational Church for nearly fifty years. She operates the Edgewood School of Music and has taught hundreds to play the piano over her long career. She was married to Ernest "Ernie" Coppolo who passed away many years ago. "My 'Nan' has always been there for me in my life. She has been critical to so many organizations for whom she played and entertained. She is exceptionally talented and is an inspiration to all of us who know and love her," reflected Brian.

Allen Coppolo and Sharon Raro met while Allen was working at Raro's Automotive Center, and the rest is history. They are the proud parents of Brian and his brother Daniel who is an information technology professional working in Brooklyn, NY. Brian has deep roots in Derby with a long family history of service to our community. Brian Coppolo stands on firm ground, with solid values, to lead our city to a more prosperous future.



Former Derby Fire Chief Allen Coppolo with his son, Derby Democratic Mayoral Nominee Brian Coppolo.





**Brian Coppolo**  
*Mayor*

Brian was raised in Derby with deep family roots in the community. His maternal grandfather, Art Raro, owned and operated Raro’s Garage in downtown Derby for decades. His father Allen is a past Fire Chief in Derby and served more than 40 years in the fire service.

Brian attended St. Mary St. Michael School in Derby. He holds a BA in Communications from Roger Williams University. Before following his calling for public service by becoming a career firefighter in Bridgeport, he led teams managing restaurants and working in marketing and advertising.

Brian is committed to eliminating the financial mismanagement that has occurred in our city resulting in a devastating tax increase and bringing our city to the brink of bankruptcy. Through his leadership and commitment to community conversation he will work to develop a comprehensive approach to economic development, provide tax relief for senior citizens living on fixed incomes, improve the quality of education provided to Derby’s children in order to see home values rise, increase the desire for families to move into our city, and to make Derby the vibrant community it once was and can be again.



**Walt Mayhew**  
*Treasurer*

Walt is a longtime Derby resident, who over the past five decades has served Derby as a member of the Board of Aldermen, Tax Board, and Board of Education.

He began his corporate career as a financial software developer before moving into management and then becoming an IT consultant. He has managed multi-million dollar contracts and budgets, founded his own

computer company and oversaw the operation of a local non-profit corporation serving as its President of the Board of Directors for 18 years.

He holds an A.S. in Computer Science, a B.S. in Business Administration and an M.Div. in Theology.

Walt is running for Treasurer because of the gross financial mismanagement that has occurred resulting in a 2.5 mil increase costing taxpayers hundreds of dollars annually.

He wants to, once again, put his financial, business and government experience to work for the residents of Derby to prevent such mismanagement from ever happening again.



**“Owney”  
Malerba, Jr**  
*Constable*

Born and raised in Derby, Owney has been a life long resident of the city.

A retired soda beverage industry worker, he currently resides on Park Ave with his wife of over 40 years and former Board of Education member Judy Piscioneri Malerba.

A father of 2, Owney served as a former baseball coach for D.H.S. and as a member of the St. Mary’s Knights of Columbus.

# Board of Aldermen / Alderwomen



**Sarah Widomski**  
*Alderwoman  
1st Ward*

Sarah is the Quality Assurance Officer at York Analytical Laboratories in Stratford, CT, with nearly two decades of experience in the environmental science field.

Sarah has volunteered with John H. Collins Post #24 American Legion, Troop 3 and St. Michael Church. She is also a Justice of the Peace.



**Tom Donofrio**  
*Alderman  
1st Ward*

Tom is a lifelong resident of Derby.

He has coached in the D.H.S. football and baseball programs.

Tom is a member of the Adriatic Marchegian (AM Club) and the Paugassett Hook & Ladder Company.

He has been employed as an officer for the Derby Police Department since 1987 and served as an Alderman since 2015.



**Joe DiMartino**  
*Alderman  
2nd Ward*

Joe has been on the Board of Aldermen for eight years serving on the Community Relations and Blight sub-committees.

He has been the head Softball Coach at D. H.S. for 29 years and coached softball and basketball for Derby’s Youth Programs.

Joe is a graduate of Derby High. He has worked for the Derby Public Works for the past 31 years.



**Irma Coleman**  
*Alderwoman  
3rd Ward*

Irma taught bilingual education at Welch Annex School for 18 years and then worked at Columbus School in New Haven as the Vice Principal.

She has a B.A. in Early Childhood Education from Goddard College and a Masters degree from S.C.S.U. She earned her professional certificate in Administration from S.H.U.



**Samantha Burgan**  
*Alderwoman  
3rd Ward*

Samantha is a UCONN grad, lived in Derby for more than a decade and has been employed by a Westport non-profit corporation for more than a decade.

She is a member of FEMA’s Community Emergency Response Team and also a volunteer at Westport Country Playhouse and New Reach.



**Barbara L. DeGennaro**  
*Alderwoman  
1st Ward*

Barbara was elected as a 1st Ward Alderwoman in 2009. She was Derby’s first and only female Fire Commissioner.

She is a former coach for the D.H.S. Derbyettes and girls basketball.

Barbara is an attorney, incorporator at the LNV Boys and Girls Club and Griffin Hospital.



**Camille Grande Kurtyka**  
*Alderwoman  
2nd Ward*

Camille is a graduate of Derby High School, St. Vincent’s Hospital School of Nursing and Madison University. She has an MS Degree in Health Care Administration.

She is employed by Infinity Home Care Services as a Quality Improvement Coordinator and is a member of the Naugatuck Valley Health District Board Of Directors.



**Ron Sill**  
*Alderman  
2nd Ward*

Ron is a volunteer fireman, and past Captain, with the Paugassett Hook and Ladder Company.

He has served on the Board of Education, Planning & Zoning and is a 2nd Ward Alderman. He is a member of the A.M. Club, C.W.V. and the Elks Club.

Ron retired from Lifetouch Studios of Derby after 34 years where he was a Production Manager.



**Dan Blizman**  
*Alderman  
3rd Ward*

Dan attended Platt Technical Regional Vocational High School in Milford where he won a state and national HVAC skills championship.

Dan has been active in 4H and served as a long-time volunteer for the Durham Fair, serving as the Superintendent of Equipment. He owns and operates Blizzard Mechanical L.L.C. in Derby.

**Election Day**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019**

**Polls open from**  
**6 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

**Voting at Irving School**  
**and Bradley School**



# Board of Education



**Melissa Cannata**  
*Board of Education*

served on the Valley United Way Youth Leadership Committee.

Melissa is a graduate of Emmett O'Brien RVTS with an Associate of Applied Science Degree from Briarwood College.  
She is employed as a Certified Pharmacy Technician at Shop Rite.  
Melissa received the Ted DeLauro Memorial Scholarship Award and



**George Kurtyka**  
*Board of Education*

George is a retired Derby police detective and has been a member of the Board of Education since 2009.  
He is the past president of the Valley Regional Lodge #151, Sons and Daughters of Italy; member of the Adriatic Marchegian Club, Derby Elks Lodge #571 and the Hotchkiss Hose Company #1.



**Kenneth Marcucio, Sr.**  
*Board of Education*

as a coach and Athletic Director, before retiring.

Ken is serving his 6th term on the Board of Education.  
He is a member of the St. Mary's Mens Club, March of Dimes Committee, Elk's Club, A.M. Club, and President of the Derby Little League for 45 years.  
Ken taught for 36 years at Derby High School where he also served



**Daniel Foley, Jr**  
*Board of Education*

Library Board of Directors.

Dan is a lifelong resident of Derby and retired teacher from Bradley School.  
He has Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education as well as a 6th year in Administration from S.C.S.U. and has served on the B.O.E. since 2014.  
Dan is also a member of the Derby Public



**Christine Robinson**  
*Board of Education*

Christine is married to James Robinson from Derby. They have three grown children, all graduates of Derby High School, and five grandchildren.  
Christine was the long-time Office Manager for Dr. Nelson Chao in Shelton before retiring. She has previously served on the Board of Education for nearly 20 years.



**Jennifer Desroches**  
*Board of Education*

Church, Elderly Commission and Inland Wetlands Agency.

Jennifer is a long time Derby resident and a self-employed software consultant for Club Systems.  
She served as Assistant to the Mayor and was instrumental in the purchase and installation of the city's new computer system.  
Jennifer is an active member of St. Mary's

# Tax Board



**James Butler**  
*Tax Board*

been active with the Derby Fire Dept. for 53 years. He has served on the Tax Board for 10 years.

Jim is retired from the Seymour School System.  
He holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Quinnipiac, a Masters in Education and 6th year in Administration from S.C.S.U.  
He worked as a Derby Supernumerary Police Officer for 42 years and



**Walt Mayhew**  
*Tax Board*

He and his wife Linda (Theriault) have 5 grown children and 5 grandchildren.

Walt is a longtime Derby resident, who has volunteered extensively in the community and previously served three terms on the Tax Board.  
Walt holds an A.S. in Computer Science, a B.S. in Business Administration and an M.Div. in Theology.



**Bhamini Patel**  
*Tax Board*

years. She and her husband Samir have two daughters.

Bhamini has lived in Derby for nearly two decades.  
She holds a B.S. in Public Health from SCSU and MBA in Marketing from University of Phoenix.  
Bhamini has held several leadership positions for Verizon where she has worked for 18



**Christopher Larocque**  
*Tax Board*

Chris is active in local, state, and national organizations designed to encourage young people to become more civically engaged.

Christopher is a life-long resident of the Valley. He graduated from Seymour High before graduating from UCONN with a degree in Political Science.  
He currently manages non-foods departments for the Stop and Shop in Seymour.



**Rose Pertoso**  
*Tax Board*

Rose is a longtime resident of Derby.  
She is retired from Bayer Pharmaceuticals.  
She has served as a member of the Water Pollution Control Authority and has been a member of the Tax Board since 2015.

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**860-515-8258**

**Committed to financial responsibility, accountability and integrity.**

**Vote Democratic**  
**Tuesday - Nov. 5th**



# Coppolo Plans A Fresh Fiscal Start for Derby Taxpayers

DERBY – Speaking to a large group of supporters, Democratic mayoral candidate Brian Coppolo promised a new fresh approach to moving Derby forward to handle fiscal problems created by the current administration.

Coppolo stated: “The current approach is clearly not working and it’s time for a change. We need to clean house in the finance department in Derby. Hard working Derby taxpayers are being crushed by inaccurate budgets, last minute tax bill surprises and lax oversight of our finances. I will bring change to City Hall.”

- Create and manage a competent, professional staff to get Derby’s finances back on track
- Stabilize taxes and create long term economic growth
- Develop formal job descriptions with necessary qualifications for finance department
- Work with state and regional transportation to increase rail service on Waterbury line to make Derby more attractive and accessible
- Work with new or growing businesses and the state in finding grant money, tax breaks, etc.
- More aggressive pursuit of shared services
- Achieve economies of scale by reducing the number of redundant services in adjacent towns
- Work with regional developers, regional bodies, and state legislators to create partnerships to achieve mutual goals on developing the entire region



Brian’s mom Sharon Raro Coppolo with her “favorite” sons Brian and Dan.



Derby Democratic Mayoral nominee Brian Coppolo with his brother Daniel Coppolo, celebrating Brian’s graduation from the Fire Academy.



Brian’s grandmother Joan McMahon Coppolo taught hundreds of Valley children and adults to play the piano at her beloved Edgewood School of Music. She was the Director of Music at St. Mary Church and at the First Congregational Church in Derby.