

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Hinckley, Hale File Registrations of Candidacies for Woodbury Board of Selectmen**

WOODBURY — Paul D. Hinckley and George W. Hale III have filed formal registrations of their candidacies in the November town elections for the Woodbury Board of Selectmen.

The two Democrats submitted their registrations of candidacy on March 6 to Town Clerk Rita Connelly. Hinckley, who has served as a member of the Board of Selectmen since January 2000, has filed to seek the office of first selectman in the Nov. 6 elections. Hale, currently an alternate member of the Woodbury Planning Commission, will be making his first run for the Board of Selectmen.

The Woodbury Democratic Town Committee unanimously endorsed Hinckley for first selectman and Hale for selectman at its monthly meeting on March 1. Woodbury Democrats will convene a caucus in July to ratify the party's official endorsements for selectmen and other town board and commission offices to be elected in November.

Hinckley has served on local government and school boards continuously for the past 20 years. He served for six years as a member of the Region 14 school board followed by a six-year stint on the Woodbury Board of Finance, including tenures on both boards as chairperson. He was first elected to the Board of Selectmen in 1999, and recently declared his intention to run for first selectmen after current First Selectman Richard Crane announced his decision not to seek a sixth term. He recently retired after a 42-year career with the Middlebury-based company Chemtura Corporation, previously Uniroyal Chemical Co., where he held the position of global marketing manager.

Hale has served for the past five years as an alternate member of the Planning Commission, and previously was a member of the Board of Assessment Appeals. He is a former vice chairperson of the Woodbury DTC and owner of Hale's Woodland Gardens, a Woodbury landscaping and garden business that has participated in many civic and municipal improvement projects including the Woodbury Shade Tree Program, the Flander's Nature Center Show House, the Middlebury Greenway and the Southbury Public Library.

Woodbury DTC chairperson Lesa Peters cited Hinckley's extensive experience in town and regional government and his professional management skills as strong qualifications to assume the post of first selectman. Peters noted that Hale provides extensive engagement in his professional work and town service in conservation and environmental issues, as well as community involvement in youth activities as the father of two children.

She said Hinckley's background of managerial responsibility and public service is well suited "to managing issues affecting all Woodbury residents, such as conserving our town's natural resources and controlling growth in our community.

"Paul Hinckley is a person who can be trusted," Peters said. "He not only understands town government, but he also has the vision, foresight and leadership skills that will be needed in meeting future opportunities and challenges."

Woodbury DTC Vice Chairperson Jane DeVries, who served with Hinckley on the Region 14 board, said he has demonstrated the capacity to address controversial issues in a fair and equitable manner.

"I am impressed with his ability to problem-solve, to reach consensus, and to create a climate of cooperation and collaboration," DeVries said. "Woodbury will be well-served to have him as our first selectman."

Town residents interested in learning more about the selectmen candidates and opportunities to participate in their campaign should call Woodbury DTC chairperson Lesa Peters at 263-4404 or Hinckley campaign manager Sharon Sherman at 266-9051.

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