

# VOTE EARLY AND OFTEN OUR ELECTION PREVIEW

This November, four of the seven spots on the Rye city council are up for grabs, including the race for mayor. Our city faces lots of challenges—a host of flood mitigation projects that need funding and completion, keeping the city fiscally sound by keeping budgets and taxes in check, defending the city from various law suits, maintaining the high quality of public services we have all come to expect, keeping Rye safe with pedestrian improvements and police and fire services, and maintaining our superior recreational opportunities.

In cooperation with MyRye.com, Rye Magazine has prepared a look at early polling numbers and assembled a candidate “hot sheet.” Rye voters can use the “hot sheet” to gain some insight into each of the eight candidates that want to serve over the next four years.

Now let’s introduce you to those who want to serve.

## TEAM FRENCH

MAYORAL CHALLENGER DOUG FRENCH IS RUNNING ON A THEME OF CHANGE. THE FRENCH TICKET—THE REPUBLICAN AND INDEPENDENCE LINES—INCLUDES NEWCOMERS RICHARD FILIPPI, PETER JOVANOVICH AND SUZANNA KEITH



TEAM FRENCH (LEFT TO RIGHT): DOUG FRENCH, RICHARD FILIPPI, SUZANNA KEITH AND PETER JOVANOVICH.

## TEAM OTIS

INCUMBENT MAYOR STEVE OTIS HAS SERVED TWELVE YEARS AS MAYOR AND WANTS TO MAKE IT SIXTEEN. ON THE OTIS TICKET—THE DEMOCRATIC, WORKING FAMILIES AND RYE BIPARTISAN TEAM LINES—IS A FUSION TICKET OF INCUMBENT COUNCILMAN ANDY BALL AND COUNCIL NEWCOMERS MYLES LAVELLE AND JOE MURPHY.



TEAM OTIS (LEFT TO RIGHT): MYLES LAVELLE, ANDY BALL, STEVE OTIS AND JOE MURPHY.

## MAYORAL CANDIDATES

### Doug French

Describe Yourself in One Word “Big Picture”  
 Where do you live in Rye? 46 Meadow Place  
 #1 Reason to Live in Rye “The community”  
 Quote “I am still baffled as to why there is not yet a stop sign at Midland Avenue.”  
 Random Fact As chair of the rec committee, shepherded plans for the new Thruway Field  
 MyRye.com Polling Number\*\* 37%

### Steve Otis

Describe Yourself in One Word “Hardworking”  
 Where do you live in Rye? Lynden Street  
 #1 Reason to Live in Rye “Rye benefits from a strong sense of community.”  
 Quote “Our current council stresses nonpartisan merit-based decision-making and public participation”  
 Random Fact His father served eight years on Rye city council. The Ball family has been in Rye since 1851.  
 MyRye.com Polling Number\*\* 53.6%

## COUNCIL CANDIDATES

### Andy Ball

Describe Yourself in One Word “Original”  
 Where do you live in Rye? Central Avenue  
 #1 Reason to Live in Rye “To raise your children here.”  
 Quote This election “there will likely be a lot of sniping from a tiny minority of people (you could fit them all in a van)”  
 Random Fact His father served eight years on Rye city council. The Ball family has been in Rye since 1851.  
 MyRye.com Polling Number\*\* 71.9%

### Rich Filippi

Describe Yourself in One Word n/a  
 Where do you live in Rye? Lowen Court  
 #1 Reason to Live in Rye n/a  
 Quote n/a  
 Random Fact Living within walking distance of

Central Avenue Bridge and Rye Nature Center, Filippi serves on the Water Runoff Committee and is active with the Rye Nature Center.  
MyRye.com Polling Number\*\* 18.8%

#### Peter Jovanovich

Describe Yourself in One Word "Decisive"  
Where do you live in Rye? 647 Milton Road  
#1 Reason to Live in Rye "The schools."  
Quote "Rye's city government is mired in small controversies while major issues—taxes, spending, road repair—remain unaddressed."  
Random Fact Former chairman of Pearson Education, world's largest educational publisher. Wife Robin is the publisher of The Rye Record  
MyRye.com Polling Number\*\* 23.8%

#### Suzanna Keith

Describe Yourself in One Word "Visionary"  
Where do you live in Rye? 4 Cope Circle  
#1 Reason to Live in Rye "The quality of life."  
Quote "Many of our neighbors currently struggle to afford to live in Rye."  
Random Fact Founding member of the Environmental Advocacy Group of Rye (EAGR) and led the Twig organization out of bankruptcy.  
MyRye.com Polling Number\*\* 28.1%

#### Myles Lavelle

Describe Yourself in One Word "Motivated"  
Where do you live in Rye? 46 Gramercy Avenue  
#1 Reason to Live in Rye "Great place to raise a family."  
Quote "I believe in open government that values public participation."  
Random Fact If you don't know Myles you probably know one of his five brothers and sisters. The family grew up in Rye on Henry Street.  
MyRye.com Polling Number\*\* 67.5%

#### Joe Murphy

Describe Yourself in One Word "Competent"  
Where do you live in Rye? 57 Franklin Avenue  
#1 Reason to Live in Rye "Wonderful, safe community to raise children and eventually retire comfortably."  
Quote "I served on the school board, recommending programs that enabled students to earn scholarships that exceeded \$2.5 million."  
Random Fact A licensed clinical social worker/geriatric care manager, Murphy served 26

years in the Marine Corps and Navy. From 1999 to 2001, he served as Commander of American Legion Post 128.  
MyRye.com Polling Number\*\* 53.1%

\*\* as of August 2009

Remember that none of these positions are paid—not city council and not mayor. The spots require lots of time—evenings, often well past 10 or 11pm, and lots of prep work and interaction with city staff and committees. As such, one thing runs through all these candidates. You can like or dislike their views or positions, but one cannot question their dedication and enthusiasm for our Rye community. ❁

## BURNING ISSUES: RYE VOTERS SPEAK

What are the issues you care about? As part of a series of polls running on MyRye.com all fall until the election, Rye voters were asked which three of the following issues are the most important facing Rye during the fall 2009 election season. Here is what voters said:

78.6%	Fiscal responsibility including taxes, budgeting and labor relations (Overall budget, taxes, legal).
50.0%	Flooding and flood mitigation (Bowman Avenue dam, Elm Place Wall, Central Avenue Bridge).
38.8%	Public works, including condition of sidewalks and roads and snow, leaf, garbage and recycling removal.
37.8%	Schools, including quality and labor relations*.
34.7%	Safety, including policing, fire and traffic.
18.4%	Public recreation, including parks and recreational programs.
4.1%	Other.

\*The board of education and not Rye city council is responsible for Rye schools.

Jay Sears is the publisher of MyRye.com, a web site with observations about all things Rye—community, events, government, history, schools, outdoors, people, real estate, restaurants and more. Jay, his wife Lauren Rosen and their three boys live in the Bradford Park section of Rye.