

## **BIOGRAPHY OF FIRST SELECTMAN TIMOTHY M. HERBST**

On November 3, 2009, at the age of 29 Timothy M. Herbst was elected First Selectman of the Town of Trumbull. Mr. Herbst became the youngest elected First Selectman in the history of Trumbull's government.

First Selectman Herbst believes the strength of a community rests upon three pillars - - strong finances, strong schools and a strong quality of life. Since taking office in 2009, First Selectman Herbst has made strengthening these three pillars his highest priority. When First Selectman Herbst took office, Trumbull was facing a large budget deficit. During his first 100 days in office, Herbst followed through on his pledge to identify \$1 million dollars of operational savings. Through sound financial planning and management, the Herbst administration turned a budget deficit into a surplus, while stabilizing property taxes. The average tax rate over the last six years represents the lowest increases in all of Fairfield County. The Norwich Bulletin wrote, "Herbst, three-term first selectman of Trumbull, has practical hands-on experience as a municipal leader, including a clear understanding of the financial management of taxpayers' money, and as such, presents . . . a viable alternative to the status quo." First Selectman Herbst promised to address the Town's beleaguered pension fund and has delivered on his pledge.

For the first time in a generation, the Town has reached the adequate levels of proper annual pension funding. Under Herbst's leadership, the Town of Trumbull has negotiated multiple employee labor agreements that have reduced the number of Town employees that are pension eligible. In 2014, the Hartford Courant wrote, "Timothy Herbst, 34, has done a laudable job strengthening Trumbull's finances as a popular first selectman in a small town with more Democrats than Republicans." As a result of this strong financial management, Fitch, Moody's and S&P have lauded the Town's financial position in 2014 the Town's credit rating was upgraded to AA+, one step away from the coveted Triple AAA.

The son of two teachers and a product of the Trumbull Public Schools, Trumbull's education system have thrived under the leadership of First Selectman Herbst. In 2011, Trumbull was ranked as the 7th best Town in the nation to raise a family by *Family Circle Magazine*, with the Trumbull Public School System earning a 9 out of 10 for educational excellence. In 2013, Trumbull was ranked the Number 1 booming community in Connecticut by *Coldwell Banker*. First Selectman Herbst has been a consistent champion of comprehensive early childhood intervention. As promised in 2009, full day kindergarten has been added to the Trumbull Public

Schools curriculum. With the addition of this important early childhood initiative, Trumbull has one of the strongest early childhood education models in the State of Connecticut. Trumbull students are consistently outperforming students in other Fairfield County communities that are spending more per pupil. Despite tough economic times, the Town of Trumbull has avoided teacher layoffs, maintained low class size, improved classroom technology and made necessary capital improvements to school facilities.

In maintaining a strong quality of life for all Trumbull residents, First Selectman Herbst believes a sound public safety strategy and robust economic development policy are the keys to success. In the wake of unparalleled weather related emergencies, Herbst has placed a core emphasis on reorganizing the Town's emergency management systems to improve efficiency and better protect the residents of Trumbull. The Herbst administration has consistently increased funding to the Trumbull Police Department and enacted reforms to our Emergency Medical Service to better protect the people of Trumbull. First Selectman Herbst also understands that a strong community recognizes its most cherished segment of the population. Three years ago, the Town Council adopted the plan submitted by the Herbst administration to double senior citizen tax relief. First Selectman Herbst has proposed a senior volunteer tax credit program that is currently before the Trumbull Town Council.

In the area of economic development, despite a bad economy, Trumbull continues to see positive growth in its Grand List. In 2014, Trumbull saw 68 development projects underway with the commercial Grand List growing from 14% in 2009 to 21% today. In 2015, the Town of Trumbull will see the completion of a new medical development facility that will serve as a first of its kind, state of the art cancer treatment center in Connecticut. Trumbull will also welcome 3 new commercial centers with two restaurants. A strong infrastructure must support a robust economic development policy. Under the Herbst administration, the Town of Trumbull has seen the most expansive road repaving program in the last fifty years.

As a lifelong Trumbull resident, First Selectman Herbst graduated from Trumbull High School in 1998, where he played football and served as Class President. Thereafter, he graduated with honors from Trinity College in 2002, earning a B.A. in political science. While in college, First Selectman Herbst interned for House Minority Leader Themis Klarides and was also elected president of the student body. At 19, Mr. Herbst was elected to the Planning and Zoning Commission,

where he served for 11 years, including four years as Chairman. His election to public office at the age of 19 was featured in the New York Times in July of 2001.

A 2007 graduate of Pace University School of Law, where he was a member of the Pace Environmental Law Review, Mr. Herbst previously practiced law with the Trumbull law firm of Owens, Schine and Nicola before his election as First Selectman.

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