



WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WESTERLYARC.WEEBLY.COM](https://westerlyarc.weebly.com)

EMAIL: [WESTERLYARC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WESTERLYARC@GMAIL.COM)

## *WESTERLY ANTI-RACISM COALITION NEWSLETTER FOR 7.31.2022*

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### THIS SUNDAY'S PROTEST

Join us Sunday, July 31, from 11:00am-1:00pm on the Westerly Post Office steps as we continue our presence for a more just and sustainable world. As the election season begins in earnest, we welcome local candidates to join us at our Sunday gatherings to share their platforms. This week we are excited to introduce Victoria Gu, one of several Democratic candidates running for State Senate in District 38, which includes Westerly and parts of Charlestown and South Kingstown. Victoria will talk about growing up in South County, how she got involved in political campaigning, and what Asian-American representation means to the wider community. Victoria's parents, Kenneth Gu and Lisa Chen, will also join us to talk about their journey immigrating from China to America and settling in South County. Welcome Gu family!

As background, Victoria Gu is [one of four Asian-American candidates running for the RI state legislature](#). Whoever wins would be the first Asian-American to serve in the RI legislature. Find out more about Victoria at: [victoria4ri.com](http://victoria4ri.com); [Facebook.com/victoria4ri](https://www.facebook.com/victoria4ri)

### LOCAL ELECTIONS - YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please make sure you are registered to vote! If you can, volunteer your time or donate money to candidates who share your goals and values. Join the League of Women Voters of South County to get informed and take an active part in government. See <https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-south-county>. Democracy doesn't just happen: it is the direct result of citizen participation. Let your voice be heard, join us on the Westerly Post Office steps every Sunday, rain or shine, from 11:00am-1:00pm to get educational information on voting, candidates and answers to your voting questions.

We also encourage you to speak at one of our gatherings. The crowd is welcoming and we appreciate all our presenters. Read a poem, share a story, perform a dance or sing a song. The floor is yours!

### IT'S OFFICIAL: LESLIE DUNN AND KEVIN LOWTHER ARE CANDIDATES FOR LOCAL OFFICE

After officially declaring their candidacies, Westerly ARC's Leslie Dunn (D) and Kevin "Big Lux" Lowther (D) held a kickoff campaign gathering on Wednesday night at Paddy's Beach Club, Misquamicut. It was a beautiful night and with over 50 supporters present, Leslie and Kevin shared stories of their unique background and experiences; their push for meaningful improvements to our school and town government; their advocacy for

affordable housing and for thoughtful and progressive town planning. Leslie and Kevin are both graduates of Westerly High School and co-founders of the Westerly Anti-Racism Coalition. They have stood in solidarity with their community when students, librarians and teachers came under attack. They pushed for meaningful improvements to our town government so that it was more inclusive. They have demonstrated compassionate and committed leadership and a love for our community. Leslie is running for School Committee and Kevin is running for Town Council. The Westerly Democratic Committee endorses both candidates. Both bring a young, enthusiastic, diverse and compassionate voice, and commitment to our community. A special thank you to Paddy's for hosting this wonderful event.

If you want to be a part of their exciting and ground-breaking campaign, sign up for their mailing list and let them know how you can lend a hand.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJaSivd3gCyDI0TJEy2ijP0dltBICNeBJ4KYh8X7EFq1nBXg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJaSivd3gCyDI0TJEy2ijP0dltBICNeBJ4KYh8X7EFq1nBXg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

#### EDUCATE, EMBRACE AND EMPOWER - WE NEED YOUR HELP

We continue to monitor the Westerly Town Council and School Committee meetings. Please see the schedule below and if possible attend the meetings.

Monday, 1 Aug	Town Council Workshop, 5:30pm
Wednesday, 3 Aug	School Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm
Monday, 15 Aug	Town Council Workshop, 5:30pm
Wednesday, 17 Aug	School Committee Meeting, 5:00pm

School Committee meetings convene at 5:00, Town Council meetings at 5:30pm, and both meet in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Westerly Town Hall, 45 Broad Street. ARC is committed to attending these meetings regularly, and we need more volunteers to attend with us! Here is the link to meeting schedules and agendas: <https://clerkshq.com/westerly-ri>

#### SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

We encourage our readers and friends to share perspectives, opinions, questions, ideas, etc., with our ARC community. We will publish your letters in our newsletter. Email us at [westerlyarc@gmail.com](mailto:westerlyarc@gmail.com).

#### HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

ARC member Amanda Dunn continues to collect toiletries, personal care items, and non-perishable food to distribute to our community. Please bring your donations to Amanda at our Sunday rallies. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated.

ARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>PRESENTER</i>
July 31	Victoria Gu, Kenneth Gu and Lisa Chen, 11am, Westerly Post Office
August 1	Town Council Workshop, 5:30pm Westerly Town Hall
August 3	School Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm, Westerly Town Hall
August 7	Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance, Jonathan Daly-LaBelle and special guest RI State Representative David Morales, 11am, Westerly Post Office Steps

PEACE,

WESTERLY ARC