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News for Darien

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Among GOP Candidates Up For Endorsement at 6 PM Monday Caucus, New Registrar of Voters

Author : David Gurliacci

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The Darien Republican Town Committee has rejected promoting a veteran official in the town Registrar's Office to take over after John Visi retires on May 31 as GOP registrar of voters.

Angie DiMeglio, a 16-year veteran of the office who didn't get the Town Committee's nod, is quitting as of Thursday. The RTC has chosen someone who is said to have no experience in the job with less than three months to go before a primary election.

A caucus for all registered Darien Republicans is scheduled for 6 p.m., Monday, May 22, in Town Hall to vote on the Town Committee's endorsements for the registrar's position and a small number of other elective town offices.

After interviewing candidates for the elective office, a Republican Town Committee panel has recommended Cara Gately to replace Visi. Gately, a corporate lawyer who works at Nedder and Associates in Darien, is expected to resign her seat on the Darien Planning & Zoning Commission to take the job.

The GOP caucus is scheduled for 6 p.m., this Monday, May 22, and is open to all Republican voters in town. Voters won't need to stay for the full meeting; they can leave once they've voted. Candidates can petition for a primary, but DiMeglio said she won't.

The Registrars Office, which runs elections in town, trains volunteers and maintains the roll of registered voters in town, has four employees — two Republicans and two Democrats.

In three months, on Aug. 9, the office will be in charge of running the primary election in Darien for whatever state or town candidates enter it.

"She's had no experience, so it's going to be difficult for her" to run the primary election, Visi said of Gately. Learning the state's election regulations "just takes time," he said. "I'm here to assist her in any way, but she's brand new to it."

With DiMeglio's resignation from the job, a new Republican assistant registrar will have to be hired, Visi said. DiMeglio's resignation "is a huge loss, because she had 16 years at Town Hall's Register's office."

DiMeglio said she decided to leave the office because "I felt that it would be too hard for me to stay, having a new boss taking John Visi's job."

With 16 years of experience in the Registrar's Office, DiMeglio said, she had expected to get the job, and assistant registrars typically replace registrars when registrars retire.

She said that the Town Committee member who told her she didn't get the endorsement didn't say why. The person "just said that they went with another candidate."

DiMeglio said she hopes another job in town government opens up. "I hope to be moving on to another department, in time, but I may not get another position, so I may just be home, not doing anything."

Reached by phone late Friday afternoon, Gately said only that she is the town-committee endorsed candidate and that the announcement for the caucus had been made in the Stamford Advocate at some point (Darienite.com could not find the notice in the Advocate, either in print or online, or on the town party's website or its social media accounts.) Gately refused to answer any other questions.

Rachel Taylor, chair of the Republican Town Committee, could not be reached for comment late Friday afternoon or early Sunday evening. Voice messages from Darienite.com were left on her phone.

Trump supporters in the Republican Party have been actively questioning and criticizing the handling of elections in various states. In Darien, the two Republicans who, with Democrats, handled town elections won't be in office when the next election is scheduled to take place in mid-August, three months away.

Taylor and her husband, Chris (a previous GOP Town Committee chair), wrote a joint letter to the editor, published Jan. 12, 2021, about the Jan. 6 riot at Capitol Hill in which they condemned the rioters and those who encouraged them, including Donald Trump:

"The heinous actions of these lawless marauders on January 6th were reprehensible and unforgivable. As lifelong Republicans, we condemn the attacks of these far-right extremists whose ideals were fanned by false hopes from reckless pundits and many levels of the party — including President Trump."

Their letter went on to state:

"In Darien, we are fortunate to have local leaders and town volunteers who operate effectively with a clear and cooperative vision, honesty and mutual respect — even when we may happen to disagree. We are lucky to have such civil, responsive and capable governance in our small town. At the end of the day, we are all neighbors within this small community and thankfully we doubt we could find one member who would condone the attack that occurred on Wednesday of last week."

About Gately

According to [a Web page](#) on the Nedder & Associates website, Gately has been an associate attorney at the firm since 2020 after having been a senior counsel at Royal Bank of Scotland and RBS Global Bank.

"Mrs. Gately was drawn to Nedder & Associates because she, too, is a resident of Darien and loves helping families and businesses in her local community," according to the brief biographical statement.

The focus of her legal work before coming to Nedder is described as "equities, operational risk, trading, structured finance, derivatives, corporate governance, risk management, internal investigations and anti-money laundering."

She graduated from Providence College and received her law degree from St. John's University School of Law.