

Q&A with Marianne Williamson

Ms. Williamson will take questions from the audience after her presentation on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at the Sondheim Center.



FWR: What inspired you to visit Fairfield in particular in support of Bernie Sanders?

MW: Several of my friends in Fairfield are Transcendental Meditators. I have strong feelings about how people involved in higher consciousness issues should be the most serious grown-ups in society, not the most infantilized; the most involved, not the most disconnected. The people I know in Fairfield personify the social maturity that accompanies deep spiritual understanding.

FWR: Bernie Sanders has been in politics for a long time. Why do you think he's choosing to run for President now?

MW: I can't answer for the Senator. But I take him at his word when he said he felt someone needed to stand up for the issues he cares about and if he didn't see anyone else doing it, then he would do it himself.

FWR: In your work in raising consciousness over the years, what trends have you noticed/witnessed?

MW: What used to be considered a fringe movement is now a mainstream impulse in our society. Now you're considered fringe if you don't know what we're talking about!

FWR: You're a big believer in miracles. What miracle does the world need most or what miracle would you most want to manifest?

MW: A fundamental change of heart. A turning away from economics as the organizing principle for our civilization, and an embrace of humanitarian issues as our organizing principle instead.

FWR: How closely do you align with Bernie Sanders' stand on major political issues.

MW: I don't think we should expect any political candidate to necessarily mirror 100 per cent of our opinions. But I agree with the vast majority of Senator Sanders' positions, and more than anything else I trust his fundamental commitment to social justice and to democracy. There's a Republican candidate we all know of who says he wants to make America great again. I want to see America function like a real democracy again; I want to see our criminal justice system truly aim for fairness again; I want our economy to be just again; I want America to be responsible with our power again; I want the Democratic Party to become courageous again; and I want to see the Democrats win in 2016. To me, those are things that would help make America great. And they're why I'm on the road for Bernie Sanders.

FWR: Bernie Sanders introduced the Democracy Is for People constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision. Can you comment on dirty money in politics?

MW: The undue influence of money on our politics is the cancer underlying all the other cancers. Dealing with it, in my opinion, is the greatest moral challenge of our generation. We obviously aren't "a government of the people, by the people, and for the people" anymore. We're "a government of a few of the people, by a few of the people, and for a few of the people" – namely, the very richest among us. We've become a legalized system of bribery and corruption. The fact that Senator Sanders is so clear and passionate about that is why he has my vote, has earned my respect, and inspires me to do whatever I can as a citizen to support his candidacy.