



Where do I vote?

Check the link below for voting locations.

<http://www.wheredoivotema.com>

All polling places are accessible. The Town of Brookline does not discriminate based on disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services or activities. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Town of Brookline are invited to make them known to The ADA Coordinator, Town of Brookline, 11 Pierce St., Brookline, MA 02445

Telephone: 617-730-2330; TDD 617-730-2327

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Precinct 1: BU-Wheelock College, 43 Hawes Street, Monmouth Street Entrance

Precinct 2: Ridley School Gymnasium, Stedman Street Entrance

Precinct 3: Morse Apartments, 90 Longwood Ave

Precinct 4: Brookline Town Hall, 333 Washington Street

Precinct 5 & 5A: (New) Lincoln School, 19 Kennard Rd

Precinct 6: BHS Schluntz Gymnasium, 115 Greenough Street

Precinct 7: O'Shea House, 61 Park Street

Precinct 8: Ridley School Gymnasium, Stedman Street Entrance

Precinct 9: Senior Center, 93 Winchester St

Precinct 10: Driscoll School, 725 Washington Street

Precinct 11: Driscoll School, 725 Washington Street

Precinct 12: Runkle School Gymnasium, 50 Druce Street (Front Entrance)

Precinct 13 & 13A: Runkle School Gymnasium, 50 Druce Street (Front entrance)

Precinct 14 & 14A: Hayes School Gymnasium, 100 Eliot Street

Precinct 15: Fire Station #6 (rear), 962 Hammond St

Precinct 16: Putterham Library, 959 West Roxbury Parkway

Precinct 17: Coolidge Corner Library, Community Room, 31 Pleasant St.

VOTERS GUIDE

BROOKLINE TOWN ELECTION 2026

A Publication of the Sara K. Wallace Fund for Voter Education of the League of Women Voters of Brookline

The Voters Guide is now online at VOTE411.org



The Sara K. Wallace Fund for Voter Education

The Sara K. Wallace Fund for Voter Education of the League of Women Voters Brookline was established in 1977 to promote informed and active participation of citizens in government.

The Sara K. Wallace Fund supports voter registration drives, candidate debates and forums, Candidates Night, and Afternoon, publishes the Voters Guide to Town Elections annually and the periodic publication of Brookline Close Up. These activities are made possible through tax-deductible contributions from Brookline residents and businesses.

Donate online:

<https://tinurl.com/2p8wv3sm>

Or mail your contributions to:

SKW Fund for Voter Education
League of Women Voters Brookline
PO Box 32
Brookline, MA 02446



The League would like to thank the Town Clerk's Office for its cooperation in providing information for the 2026 Voters Guide.

The League would also like to thank Ken Liss and the Brookline Historical Society for providing the historical information for this year's guide. <http://brooklinehistoricalsociety.org>

Publisher: Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, MA

Production Staff: Regina Folke, Ernie Frey, Diana McClure, Joel Shoner, Felina Silver

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this Voters Guide.

If Voters have questions, they are encouraged to contact their candidates.

The League policy is that we do not edit the responses from the candidates.

Incumbency denoted by * next to candidate's name.

LWV nonpartisan Policy

The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The League does take positions on issues after study and consideration but does so separately from voter service activities

Mail to:

LeagueofWomenVotersBrookline@gmail.com

Select Board

Which Offices are on May 5 Ballot?

Town-Wide Offices:

**Two Select Board Members
for Three Years**

**Four Trustees of the Public
Library for Three Years**

**Three Members of the School
Committee for Three Years**

**One Housing Committee
Member for Five Years**

One Constable for Three Years

Town Meeting Members:

**Five Members for Three Years:
In Precincts: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8,
9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17**

**One Member for Two Years:
In Precincts 9 and 13**

**One Member for One Year:
In Precincts 7, 9, 11, and 13**

**Two Members for One Year:
In Precinct 17**

Ballot Question:

Shall the Town of Brookline be allowed to assess an additional \$23,254,439 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the costs of Brookline Public Schools (\$17,944,439) and funding the costs of additional expenditures in municipal departments (\$5,310,000) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026?

SELECT BOARD

Description: The Select Board is composed of five members who are elected for three-year terms. As the Chief Elected and Executive Officers of the Town, the Select Board is vested with all the municipal authority not specifically retained by the Town's legislative body, the Town Meeting. The Select Board appoints a Town Administrator, responsible for the daily management of the Town. The Select Board issues the Warrants for Town Meetings and makes recommendations on the warrant articles; initiates legislative policy by inserting articles into Town Meeting Warrants and then implements the votes subsequently adopted. It adopts town administrative policies; reviews and sets fiscal guidelines for the annual operating budget and the six-year capital improvements program and makes recommendations to Town Meeting on the same. The Select Board appoints department heads and members of most official boards and commissions; holds public hearings on important town issues and periodic conferences with agencies under their jurisdiction and with community groups; represents the Town before the General Court and in all regional and metropolitan affairs; and enforces Town By-Laws and regulations. The Select Board also serves as the licensing board responsible for issuing and renewing over 600 licenses in more than 20 categories, including common victualler, food vendor, liquor, lodging house, open-air parking lot, inflammables, special events and entertainment. The Select Board meets every Tuesday, unless otherwise posted.

Question 1: Biographical Data.

Question 2: What are two of your main priorities and the budget constraints that affect them? Can the constraints be overcome, and how?

**Candidates For Three Year Term
Vote for Not More Than Two**

John R. VanScoyoc*

307 Reservoir Road

1. I am honored to have been elected to the Select Board in 2020 and 2023, when I received the most votes of a Select Board candidate in this century. (Look it up!) Barbara and I have been homeowners in Chestnut Hill since 1975, the year of our marriage. Our children, Ellen and Robert, benefitted greatly from their K-12 education in the Brookline Public Schools (Heath/Hayes and BHS). For reasons I can't fathom, both became lawyers (immigration and real estate).
2. 1. We should continue to step up our improvements to sidewalks, streets, bike lanes (1) where they can be separated from traffic without loss of parking, as well as (2) essential maintenance of our built infrastructure.

With the guidance of the Sustainability Director, we should maximize electrification of vehicles and heating systems, and add recharge stations and solar installations when justified by paybacks equivalent to costs. Potential budget-balancing measures: test the market value of minimally used Town real estate assets. Limit future overrides, if necessary, to essential capital improvements, while constraining operating expenses through Rate of Inflation-capped negotiated contracts.

Anthony J. Buono (new)

133 Park St., Unit 1102

1. My commitment to Brookline is rooted in years of active service. I have served as a Town Meeting Member, a member of the Advisory Committee, and as President of the Town Meeting Member Association. Through my work on the Capital and Administration & Finance subcommittees, I've gained a deep understanding of the fiscal challenges and opportunities facing our community. Professionally, I hold a Master's degree from Boston University in Mathematics and Statistics and work as a data management consultant for the financial sector. In both my career and my public service, I pride myself on bringing people together to solve complex, data-driven problems. Those who have worked with me know I am analytical, results-driven, and tirelessly hardworking.
2. My top priorities are improving our infrastructure for safe roadways and expanding senior care to tackle isolation and sidewalk trip hazards. The primary constraint is Brookline's structural deficit. Costs like healthcare recently spiked 12%, leaving us without the flexible funding needed to expand services and pay for major capital projects. We overcome this by focusing on two economic pillars. We must defend our AAA bond rating to keep our borrowing costs low by ensuring we have ample cash reserves. This directly allows us to afford the capital improvement plan that pays for leveling sidewalks and fixing streets. We also have to expand the tax base through strategic commercial and housing development. Growing the pie generates the recurring new revenue we need to fund expanded senior mental health services and

community outreach without overburdening current residents.

Amanda Zimmerman (new)

411 Washington St.

1. I have a PhD in bioengineering, postdoctoral training in neuroscience, and currently work in program management at a biotechnology company. This generally means I have experience managing multi-million-dollar budgets, digging into data to propose next steps and long-range plans, and otherwise getting teams to work together to hit critical milestones. I'm also a Town Meeting Member in P7, co-founder of the pro-housing group Brookline for Everyone, and I served on the Bicycle Advisory Committee and Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee. I have also filled a number of roles in service in the community, from coaching soccer and Lego robotics teams. You can find out more on my website www.amandaforbrookline.com.
2. I'm running on a 4-plank platform: expanding town revenue, homes we can afford for every stage of life, safer streets for all, and planning for a greener future. For safe public ways for pedestrians, cyclists, people in mobility scooters, and vehicles, we need infrastructure changes. The most cost-effective way to enact safety improvements is to do so during the course of needed maintenance. We need to take systemic action to decrease our carbon footprint and prepare for climate change. Some changes (like installing geothermal heating), are cost-positive in the long run, and are wise economic strategies in addition to good environmental policy. Overall, to maintain town services and our strong public schools — without overstretching the budgets of our homeowners and renters — we need to thoughtfully increase commercial and residential development to broaden the tax base.

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Description: Twelve are elected as Brookline Library Trustees to oversee services and programs provided at the three Brookline public libraries. Each year after the May election, the Trustees elect 4 officers from their membership: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The Trustees represent the interests of the Brookline electorate in matters concerning library policy; they oversee the hiring and function of the head librarian and investing and spending a specific

portion of the library's trust funds (gifts and bequests made to the library over the years either for specific purposes or to an "unrestricted" fund). Other activities include planning library events like Brookline Reads, authors' groups and lectures and exhibits; looking at long range planning for library services; having input on physical plant maintenance issues; reviewing and improving library policies; representing library patrons' interests to the Select Board, the Advisory Committee and Town Meeting as needed; and other activities that arise from patrons' input, trustees' concerns or staff concerns. Meetings of the whole Board of Trustees are held one evening a month in the Trustees Room of the Brookline Village Library. Subcommittee meetings are held as needed (these include committees on public relations, fiscal matters, library services, buildings, etc.). (No salary; no health insurance.)

Question 1: Biographical Data.

Question 2: How could the library director and the trustees influence the Town Administrator's perception and decision making about the library's rising budgetary needs?

Candidates For Three Year Term Vote for Not More Than Four

Chris Chanyasulkit* / 16 Corey Road

1. I believe libraries are the heart of Brookline's community health. As a current Library Trustee and board member of United for Libraries (a division of the American Library Association), I see our libraries as essential infrastructure for public well-being, civic engagement, and equity. My professional life as a public health practitioner and Past President of the American Public Health Association centers on dismantling structural barriers to justice. My resilience and lived experiences fuels my advocacy: I lead with joy and evidence to ensure every neighbor has access to resources. I am a past Precinct 13 Town Meeting Member, a public school parent, and a fierce champion for making Brookline a welcoming place where everyone can thrive.
2. To shift perception's, the Director and Trustees must move beyond the "quiet haven" label and present the library as a high-ROI engine for community resilience. We must provide evidence-based data showing how library services reduce costs in other municipal areas by supporting digital literacy, workforce development, and public health. I have seen firsthand how low wages lead to turnover, which harms service and morale. We must be candid advocates for our staff, demonstrating that competitive pay is a prerequisite for a stable, healthy town. By fostering a transparent, collaborative

Select Board - Trustees Public Library

relationship with the Town Administrator and the Advisory Committee, we can show that funding the library is not just a line item, but rather that it is an investment in the social fabric and civic health of Brookline. Advocacy must be a joyful, everyday practice that proves the library is indispensable!

Marissa F. Vogt* / 12 Tabor Place

1. (she/her) I have lived in Brookline with my husband since 2014 and we have two kids at Pierce. Professionally, I am a researcher studying NASA mission data for the Planetary Science Institute. I have served in Town Meeting since 2020 & as a Library Trustee since 2023. Libraries are an invaluable part of our community that provide critical educational, cultural, & civic resources. I love visiting with my kids and seeing the diversity of our programs & materials. Trustees are responsible for setting policy, evaluating the Library Director, supporting our amazing staff, & advocating for robust funding. I'm running for re-election to continue that work of helping our libraries and staff serve our community & provide a welcoming place for all.
2. Our library, led by our fantastic new director, is about to embark on developing a new strategic plan that will set our goals for the next several years. Many of these goals will require increased financial resources, and unfortunately our library budget has failed to keep up with inflation. Our fraction of the town's operating budget has decreased by more 30% over the past decade (for more details look under "Advocacy" on my campaign website). Fortunately, our library receives broad community support: Brookline is the 18th largest municipality by population, but we have the 4th busiest library system in the state! As a Trustee I will continue to advocate for increased municipal funding for our library by working with our town leaders & my fellow Town Meeting Members, and I am looking forward to continuing the increased partnership with our Friends group and Brookline Library Foundation.

Petra G. Bignami (new) / 146 Tappan St.

1. Why I'm running: Libraries are essential equalizers for democratic society, giving every person—regardless of income, background, or status, free access to knowledge. They preserve our collective memory & protect intellectual freedom. A functioning democracy depends on informed citizens who can evaluate evidence, understand issues, and hold power accountable. It's up to our Trustees to ensure

**Trustees of Public Library
School Committee**

that the political pressures taxing library systems elsewhere in our country do not impact our libraries in Brookline.

Bio/Public Service:

20 yrs. Consulting: Governance, Strategic Planning, Spending

Brookline Community Foundation:
Investment Committee 14+ yrs
Town Meeting Member 5+yrs
Tufts Law & Diplomacy (MA)
MIT Sloan (MBA)
TMMA Treasurer

2. I believe effective advocacy requires a strategic, relationship-based approach and I plan to serve our libraries with this lens from day one. When the Town Administrator understands our value before budget discussions begin, requests appropriately present as investments rather than just expenses. I see town and library priorities as aligned. Economic development? Libraries can support small businesses and workforce development. Youth services? Libraries are a key partner in education. Our library system in Brookline is essential infrastructure, not a nice-to-have. Given my consulting background, I know data matters, but it's important to pair it with real community impact. Brookline's library system is recognized as the third busiest system in Massachusetts, serving ~42,000 registered borrowers with a total circulation of over 1,000,000 items. That's outstanding with a \$4.7m budget.

Amy Isikoff Newell (new) / 15 Alton Place

1. I've lived in Coolidge Corner since 1998, where my husband and I raised our 2 children, who went to Pierce and graduated BHS. I have served as a TMM for Precinct 7 since 2023. I have over 25 yrs experience as a software engineer and engineering leader and am eager to bring my unique experience in technology and leadership to the Library Board of Trustees.

I am passionate about libraries as critical democratic infrastructure. A good library system like Brookline's enables an informed democratic electorate by, among other things, nurturing local community, inclusively serving all patrons, and facilitating access to all kinds of information and ideas.

I am endorsed for Library Trustee by Progressive Brookline.

2. Our library is universally loved, and also exceptionally busy: we have the 4th largest circulation in MA & are the 18th largest municipality. But like libraries everywhere, it has been asked to do more and more with proportionally less each year. (Current

Library Trustee Marissa Vogt -- also a candidate this year -- has some great graphs on her website that show this.)

Studies show that a dollar poured into a library system brings a median 4 dollars of benefit to the community, so it's a highly efficient place to increase funding. Many of our patrons don't realize everything the library provides, or everything we might lose if current funding trends continue. I believe the best leverage the Trustees and our wonderful new director have is through outreach to the community along with the Foundation and the Friends, because ultimately what gets funded is what the community demands.

Shawn K O'Neal (new) / 22 High Street

1. I have lived in Brookline for 30+ years being handicap my mom couldn't let me go outside with other children hurting me so we moved to Brookline as a teen I worked on the season program through the program I was evil to see Brookline firsthand. Do the program I worked at a police station Town Hall municipal court. I also had the pleasure to work at the James J Lynch recreation center. I have also made mini recreation for the kids who lived here. I also was in charge of the homework rooms and years later I started the Brookline food co-op where I had 17 sites to look after we have various type of food and vegetables for everyone to have. Being in Brookline have offered me a first hand look at the the government.
2. The library needs to look at things that they've used in the past with fresh eyes and understand that our little town is growing very quickly especially when the patient are handicapped and elderly also. I need to talk with other libraries to see what can be done here and provide our children with a better understanding about what the library is used for this way I feel that we can enrich lives and we can make the library user-friendly again

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Description: Nine Brookline residents are elected to 3-year staggered terms with authority to select and to terminate the Superintendent; to review and approve budgets for public education; to seek funding to support its programs from available Town, state and federal sources; and to establish educational goals and policies for the public schools consistent with the requirements of law and state-wide goals and standards established by the State Board of Education. The School Committee generally meets on Thursdays twice a month from September through June at 7:00 p.m. in the James F. Walsh School

Committee Room, 5th Floor, Town Hall.
(No salary; no health insurance.)

Question 1: Biographical Data.

Question 2: What do you consider to be necessary investment and how would you balance it with the need for fiscal restraint?

**Candidates For Three Year Term
Vote for Not More Than Three**

Suzanne Federspiel* / 3 Greenough Circle

1. Elected to the School Committee in 2017 and have served as vice chair and chair. Educator for more than thirty years in Connecticut and Massachusetts. My positions have included special education teacher and team leader, literacy coach, early childhood coach, and fifteen years as an elementary school principal for the Boston Public Schools. Currently a volunteer tutor in Boston, and serve as a Special Education Surrogate Parent appointed by DESE.

Degrees in education from Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs, and Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst; MBA from Boston University. My husband and I have lived in Brookline since 1985. Our two children graduated from Pierce School and Brookline High School.

2. I continue to prioritize the development of the social-emotional, physical, and intellectual abilities of all our students. I am committed to low student-teacher ratios, teaching to the whole child, racial justice and equity, and excellent, sustainable facilities. The school budget must reflect these priorities which is why I support the upcoming operational override.

I support the Superintendent's budget which was developed with the School Committee along side the Expenditures and Revenues Study Committee, Advisory Committee, and Select Board. Our budget is limited to level services, which would mean no new programs. We have worked closely and publicly with all stakeholders including staff, families, and community to submit a fiscally responsible budget.

I ask for your vote so I can continue to work for our school system, and the top ratings that it has earned.

**Laura Baines-Walsh (new) /
59 Woodcliff Rd.**

1. I am an educator, parent, and Town Meeting Member with a PhD in American History from Boston College. Since 2013, I have taught World History, U.S. History, and

Government at the secondary level, helping students develop critical thinking, evaluate evidence, and engage thoughtfully in civic life. I bring a data-informed, collaborative approach grounded in listening, respect for different perspectives, and a commitment to strong public schools. My husband, Greg, a fellow educator, and I have two children who attend BPS, and I have served as an elected Town Meeting Member since 2019. I am running to ensure every student is challenged, supported, and known

2. Necessary investment means ensuring all students have access to consistent, high-quality academic instruction and meaningful enrichment opportunities. At the middle school level, this includes more consistent time on learning in core subjects, expanded extracurriculars, and equitable access to experiences such as theater, student publications, athletics, and STEM opportunities. Students across all eight middle schools should arrive at BHS with a shared baseline of skills and content. At the same time, we must balance these priorities with fiscal responsibility. That requires a careful review of the recommendations put forward by ERSC to identify both efficiencies and potential revenue. As a School Committee member, I would approach each decision with due diligence—prioritizing what is educationally sound, financially responsible, and aligned with our community’s values.

Faiza Khan (new) / 68 Windsor Road

1. Faiza Khan is a longtime Brookline resident and parent of four graduates of Brookline Public Schools. She is an experienced public-school educator and administrator with fifteen years of experience in curriculum design, evidence-based instructional implementation, and systems-level improvement. As Director of Mathematics for Medford Public Schools, she works closely with the superintendent, central-office leaders, educators, and families to develop coherent instructional pathways that support student learning, manages the departmental budget, and supports instructional improvement. She holds an Ed.D. in Leadership in Schooling, a Master's in Secondary Math Education, and an MBA, bringing both educational and financial expertise.
2. A necessary investment is high-quality teaching and learning—strong curriculum, skilled educators, and targeted support for all students, including those who need greater academic challenge. These are the core

drivers of success. We must also invest in the whole child through social-emotional supports and inclusive school environments where every student feels they belong. Fiscal restraint means being disciplined: using data to evaluate what’s working, prioritizing high-impact programs, and making thoughtful, data-informed choices. Fiscal restraint shall be coupled with transparency and clear communication with the community. Long term, fiscal responsibility depends on sustainable planning—aligning staffing, programming, and resources with enrollment, student needs, and outcomes. I will work to ensure every dollar advances equity, excellence, and long-term sustainability.

Aylit Schultz (new) / 19 Harris Street

1. I'm an elected Town Meeting Member, former Pierce/BHS parent, and mother of 4 including children with special needs. I've led many non-profit efforts and am experienced building strategic plans to correct budget deficits. I'm also an Internist/Nephrologist currently practicing part-time at the Veterans Home in Chelsea and the VA Hospital. I've spent much of my career on the business side of healthcare using data to guide decisions and continuously improve outcomes. That’s the mindset I would bring to the School Committee: thoughtful, results-oriented, and fiscally responsible. I will ask tough questions, listen closely to our community, focus on academic excellence, and ensure every child is respected, included, supported, and challenged.
2. We must keep our limited dollars flowing into classrooms. There is no substitute for the human interaction between educators and learners. To help address achievement gaps, I would like high-dosage tutoring programs like Steps to Success and The Calculus Project expanded - reaching our youngest learners. At all levels, PSB must offer support to students who need it, and also access to challenge (honors, AP, etc.). PSB is experiencing structural challenges that undermine fiscal sustainability. The Superintendent’s proposed FY27 budget requires additional funds to be balanced. I am running for a three-year position, and I intend to advocate and work in that time for additional efficiencies (that don’t compromise educational programming), structural changes (per the E&RSC report), and revenue-generation. I have deep experience with complex systems and the skills needed to do this work.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Description: The Brookline Housing Authority owns and manages more than 1,500 units of affordable housing in the Town. The five-person Board of Commissioners is responsible for overseeing the agency in all regards, approving all contracts, and hiring the Executive Director. Four of the five board members are elected by the voters of Brookline. Of those four, one is always a tenant of the Brookline Housing Authority. The fifth member is appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. (No salary; no health insurance.)

Question 1: Biographical Data.

Question 2: As BHA Commissioner, how will you integrate the voices of BHA residents into your work? Be specific.

Candidate For Five Year Term Vote For Not More Than One

Jonathan Klein (new) / 150 Saint Paul Street

1. Before retiring at the beginning of 2020, I spent my entire legal career working in the field of affordable housing and community development. I primarily represented nonprofit, mission-driven organizations in Massachusetts and across the country that build, own, and operate affordable and mixed-income housing. I have also represented many tenant organizations and public housing authorities. I served as General Counsel and Senior VP at The Community Builders, Inc., one of the nation’s leading nonprofit affordable housing developers, and co-founded Klein Hornig LLP, a law firm devoted exclusively to affordable housing and community development. I hold both my bachelor’s degree and my law degree from the University of Michigan. The BHA is lucky to have two BHA residents among the five Commissioners, and I will look to them for guidance in representing the BHA's residents.
2. Throughout my career, I often represented tenant and resident organization in affordable housing developments, and look forward to meeting more residents of the BHA and working closely with them as a Commissioner.

Constable - TMM1

CONSTABLE

Description: Five registered voters are elected to serve as Town Constables. Constables are required pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Section 92 to be bonded in order to serve and execute the following documents in the Town: summons and complaints with damages not exceeding \$2,500; executions not exceeding \$2,500; real estate attachments not exceeding \$2,500; and writs and trustee process not exceeding \$2,500; civil and criminal arrest warrants; summary process summons and complaints and evictions under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 239; subpoenas and writs from District Courts, Superior Courts, the Supreme Judicial Court and Federal Courts; restraining orders; probate and family court process; criminal process; Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 209A restraining orders; small claims notices; and posting of Town meetings, warrants and other notices. Fees for services rendered by constables are established by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 262, Section 8. (No salary; no health insurance.)

Question 1: Biographical Data.

Question 2: What should a Brookline resident most understand about the duties of an elected constable and what are your qualifications?

**Candidate for Three-Year Term
Vote for Not More than One**

Joseph Figler* / 346 Newton St

1. Brookline resident since childhood; Second generation, graduate of Brookline Public Schools. BA from Clark University; MS in Finance from Brandeis University. Vice President with over 25 years of experience in the financial services industry. Youth lacrosse coach and active member of the community. Married with 4 children in the Brookline Public School system.
2. The most important responsibilities of a Constable are to serve legal documents accurately, professionally, and with respect for all parties involved. This includes maintaining confidentiality, ensuring proper documentation, and adhering to all legal requirements. I approach this role with professionalism and empathy, recognizing that many situations involve sensitive circumstances. I have served as a Brookline Constable since 2012 and previously served as a Constable in Somerville (appointed three times). I have successfully served over 4,500 notices in Brookline and over 9,300 notices throughout Eastern Massachusetts. My experience includes serving eviction notices, subpoenas, and other legal documents in a professional and respectful manner. I understand the importance of discretion, accuracy, and timeliness in this role.

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS

Salary: Unpaid.

Duties: As the legislative body of Town government, Town Meeting Members vote on budget and capital items and must consider and vote on any changes in Town Bylaws, including those pertaining to zoning and administrative structure and procedure.

Question 1: Biographical Data.

Question 2: Which of these issues is/are important to your constituents, and how would you address their concerns and provide feedback to them? (Subjects such as housing, ICE in Brookline, senior services, or something else.)

Precinct 1

**Candidates for Three-Year Term
Vote for Not More Than Five**

Sarah Ericsson* / 79 Carlton Street

Attendance: 19 of 21

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Amy R. Evenson* / 71 Carlton Street

Attendance: 21 of 21

1. I have lived in Brookline since 2011. I am a wife & mother of two children at the Lawrence School. I am also a transplant surgeon at BIDMC. I obtained my MD from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. I completed my general surgery training at BIDMC & then my transplant surgery fellowship at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. I earned my MPH at the Harvard Chan School of Public Health. I serve on multiple national committees related to surgical education.
2. Sustainably maintaining town services, including education & public safety, while looking to improve the town's tax base are key issues facing Brookline in the next few years. Increasing housing across all income levels while maintaining the charm that makes us all want to live here will require thoughtful consideration of multiple perspectives & coalition-building.

Carol B. Hillman* / 287 Kent Street

Attendance: 16 of 21

1. Brookline Resident since 2008; TMM for 13 years. Phi Beta Kappa honors graduate University of Wisconsin; MA Cornell University. Fulbright Scholar. Corporate communications executive at Fortune 500 corporations. Served on board of Planned Parenthood League of MA, chaired Eleanor

+Roosevelt Val-Kill Partnership. Worked to get government funds to restore Riverway Park and Carlton Street footbridge. Served on Hillary Clinton and Evelyn Murphy finance committees

2. Responsible housing development while preserving neighborhood character; school budget overruns leading to Prop. 2.5 tax increases. We need to listen to our constituents and not just follow our own political leanings.

Bettina Neufeind* / 20 Amory Street

Attendance: 18 of 21

1. A proud immigrant, I am a parent of 3 young adults who attended Lawrence and BHS, and several alternative schools. I founded the Lawrence Food Fest, a community building event around food literacy and sustainability. I served on the PSB Wellness Committee, leading the overhaul of the district's school wellness policy from 2012-2016 to prioritize nutrition, food literacy, and student mental health. I am in my 14th year serving Precinct 1 in Town Meeting. I have spent my working life as a human rights, government, and legal aid lawyer enforcing housing, disability & education rights. I actively support sustainability work, the fight to preserve our natural world, and accessible cycling, pedestrian, and public transit infrastructure.
2. I teach at the Youth Law and Policy Lab of Harvard Law School, where I founded and manage the Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative Helpline for families of MA youth and lead the Family Voice Project. I prioritize amplifying perspectives not yet in the mix, and on pushing our schools to do more introspective work on shifting the culture back to one hospitable to deep engagement with families and support for the full range of student needs. I support development of mixed use and mixed income housing, flexible zoning to allow for more density and aging in place in existing housing stock, and a push to increase our commercial tax base. I consider Brookline a sanctuary town and will fight to keep it that way.

Paul Warren / 71 Carlton Street

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. I have served our community in a range of roles, including the Select Board, Advisory Committee, Town Meeting, Audit Committee, Economic Development Advisory Board, and as Chair of the Block Grant Committee. These experiences have given me a deep understanding of how our Town operates and where we need to focus to ensure long-term fiscal stability and effective governance.

2. The issues I hear most from constituents are rising taxes, housing affordability, fiscal stability, and maintaining strong schools and core Town services. Residents want thoughtful, predictable planning, not reactive decisions. I support zoning reform and commercial development consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and infrastructure capacity. On fiscal issues, I believe in clear, honest communication about our structural deficit and the trade-offs we face. I value being accessible, listening early, and showing how community input shapes my decisions. Building trust requires not just hearing concerns, but closing the loop with action and accountability.

Precinct 2

Candidates for Three-Year Term Vote for Not More Than Five

Robert M. Miller* / 19 Copley St

Attendance: 21 of 21

1. I moved to Brookline in 1980 where my wife and I raised 2 children who went to Devotion (now Ridley) and Brookline High School. After a successful career in high tech as a product manager, I taught science in Brookline for 20 years. Now that I am retired, I spend most of my time volunteering for local organizations, doing some traveling and visiting my grandchildren in Natick.
2. I am concerned about the lack of revenue for the Town. I believe that overrides have been a necessary, but unfair method to raise critical revenue. As a retired educator, I have watched cuts for over 30 years that have been slowly affecting the ability of our talented educators to do their best. I know that this lack of revenue is not limited to the schools, but is felt by every department. Our talented staff is being forced to work with less money than they need to provide the level of service our residents expect. I believe that, now more than ever, we need more citizens of Brookline to be involved with local issues.

Colleen Newsome* / 185 Freeman Street

Attendance: 5 of 6

1. I am a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, a single disabled mother of four children, one of whom graduated BHS last year while the younger three are still

currently attending Brookline Public Schools. I have experience as an Operations Analyst, Insurance Agent, Medical Supply Account Specialist and Emergency Roadside Dispatcher. I believe my varied work and life experience gives me a voice and point of view that is not commonly among Town Meeting Members and I want to be able to proudly represent my demographic and Precinct.

2. The people within my precinct currently struggle the most with the cost of housing and the absolute lack of safe, clean, modern affordable housing. Our town is struggling with being capable of providing this and I want to work to ensure that access to proper affordable housing takes center stage so that we can grow appropriately to meet our budget needs as well as the needs of our people. I also believe we need to work to develop modern solutions to keep our shared spaces green, open and healthy for our citizens to enjoy.

Markus L. Penzel* / 182 Pleasant St

Attendance: 21 of 21

1. Born in New Hampshire but growing up in Texas, I came East for college and law school. After a judicial clerkship, I worked in South Texas as a legal aid lawyer, returning east in 1988. I spent the rest of my professional life (in both private and government practice) representing victims of discrimination in the workplace. My wife Cathy Corman and I have lived on Pleasant Street since 1998. We are parents of adult triplets who attended what is now the Ridley School. Retired since the summer of 2021, I was eager to serve the community my family and I have been so lucky to live in. I have been a TMM since 2022 and served on the Advisory Committee from 2022-2025. Endorsed by Brookline PAX and Brookline for Everyone.
2. I am running to stay engaged with, and help with, the political and economic development of the Town. The principal challenges facing the Town are on the revenue side (Prop 2 ½ and override issues), the spending side (e.g., health care costs rising much faster than the 2.5% cap) and the rising cost of housing. While on the Advisory Committee (Subcommittees included Public Safety, Human Services, and Land Use, Zoning, and Sustainability), I took leading roles in the passage of the expanded Tree Ordinance and geothermal energy for the new Pierce School. I will continue to focus my energy on voting pragmatically to further progressive ideas.

Ariel Soiffer* / 221 Freeman St

Attendance: 19 of 21

1. We chose to make Brookline our home more than 20 years ago. We love the mix of a walkable part of town that is close the city, that has trees and natural beauty, that has some great stores and an environment, and where we have made some of our closest friends. My wife and I have raised our multiethnic, multicultural family in Brookline and now have two kids in college, one kid in middle school and our dog, Churro. I am a technology transactions lawyer and help clients come together to bring the future to the present by licensing, developing or commercializing technology. That naturally makes me future oriented and with a view toward economic concerns and tradeoffs. It also means I think through second order consequences and incentives.
2. Housing in Brookline is too expensive. However, too much housing in one area will overwhelm schools and other town services. As a result, we have to carefully plan to ensure that development is spread to not strain town services. We also need to keep up the quality of our schools, which are at risk of falling behind. Town meeting does not directly impact the quality of schools; I will back candidates for School Committee that want to push our children to do their best in school. Our roads and sidewalks have been neglected for far too long. This directly impacts our senior population that wants to enjoy this walkable town. It also impacts commuters in cars that can lose a tire and cyclists that can crash. I will support funding roads.

David Trevvett* / 177 Babcock St

Attendance: 21 of 21

1. Brookline resident since 2011. TMM in P2 since 2022. Chair, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, 2018-present. Ongoing advocate for pedestrian safety & walkable streets to Transportation Board, Select Board, Town Meeting, Advisory Committee. Steering Committee member, Brookline Community Aging Network since 2017. In 2021 completed work of Select Board's Pedestrian-Friendly Lighting Committee after chair passed away. Currently on Moderator's Exterior Lighting Committee. Endorsed by Brookline PAX, Brookline 4Everyone, Brookline Progressives. Primary professional: 1982-2010 managed central business information systems departments for University of Chicago. Good at listening, analyzing, translating between disparate groups, bringing people together.

TMM2-TMM3

Question 1: Biographical Data.

Question 2: Which of these issues is/are important to your constituents, and how would you address their concerns and provide feedback to them? (Subjects such as housing, ICE in Brookline, senior services, or something else.)

- High taxes, particularly hurting long-time residents. Increase Town revenue through new development, especially commercial. Accept reality: there's no place to build substantial commercial in Brookline without discomforting someone. Safety along our streets and sidewalks, whether seniors facing tripping hazards or parents whose kids face dangerous traffic between home and school. Challenge DPW to find better solutions for sidewalks heaved by tree roots, and keep on slowing traffic down for everyone's safety. Residents feeling left out of Town decision-making and services, from seniors feeling ignored to public housing residents seeing basic needs unaddressed. Expand Senior Center funding, push the State for better housing funding.

Megan Hinman (new) / 157 Babcock St.

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Precinct 3

**Candidates for Three-Year Term
Vote for Not More Than Five**

Murray Dewart* / 90 Toxteth Street

Attendance: 18 of 21

- I have been a town meeting member since 1987. I grew up in Brookline where my parents were active in civil rights. I taught in the schools for 31 years and raised my family here. I was on the art faculty of St. Anselm College and am the cofounder of Boston Sculptors Gallery, now celebrating its 33rd year. I organized with Rob Daves the purchase and placement of the MLK sculpture in town hall by Brookline's John Wilson.
- It has grown ever more costly to live here. We are adjacent to a thriving medical complex which draws people from around the world. For changes in housing a Comprehensive Plan is in the works and should be followed. Teardowns have impacted a variety of streets in a negative way. People want to live here and increasing the housing makes sense but only within the

constraints of the budget for town services. The presence of ICE in Brookline should be thwarted in whatever ways are possible. I am currently completing a two ton sculpture near Washington, DC that honors Bishop Mariann Budde who confronted the President. Cut into granite are her words: Welcome the stranger. Show compassion for those who fear for their lives.

Anne L. Turner* / 97 Toxteth Street

Attendance: 21 of 21

- 40-year resident of Precinct 3 as both an owner and a renter. Parent of two Lawrence and BHS alums. Current boards Brookline Food Pantry (and weekly volunteer), Water for S. Sudan, & Friends of Lawrence Park. Past boards Brookline Community Foundation, Lawrence School Extended Day, After the Prom Party, & School Council. Professional leadership roles in the corporate, nonprofit, and academic sectors. Driving demand for a public outdoor pool for Brookline. Work to avoid teardowns, create modestly-priced units to balance affordability with environmental sensitivities, allow 3rd unit in 2 family homes, and seek commercial development to ease tax burden.
- Housing affordability, high quality schools, green/open space, transportation, and our general quality of life are deeply intertwined. National and global issues add to local and state challenges. Prop 2 1/2 restricts planning and budgeting processes and makes overrides necessary. P3 is a special and highly sought-after corner of Brookline given our proximity to Coolidge Corner, the Village, Longwood Medical Area, and the T. Housing prices continue to climb, as do taxes, and affordability is elusive as beautiful homes are torn down and replaced by luxury units that maximize square footage, reduce green space, and destroy the neighborhood character. Strategic planning is required to increase density and make it possible to age in place.

Leigh Heyman / 74 Perry Street

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

- I had the privilege of being caucused in as a P3 Town Meeting Member this past fall and I am now running for a full 3-year term. I am excited for the opportunity to continue representing the interests of Precinct 3 residents and their wide range of perspectives. I have been a Brookline resident since 2017, a BPS parent since 2018, and a Brookline homeowner since 2022. I've spent most of my adult life working directly in Democratic politics and government. From 2011-2015, I worked in the Obama White House on technology policy issues. If elected I am eager to work as hard as I can to help solve the

Town's pressing financial, educational, and housing issues.

I am proud to be endorsed by Brookline for Everyone.

- Like most BPS parents I have become deeply frustrated by the budget issues eroding the quality of our schools. If elected, I would push for all means of funding the public schools, and ensuring they remain a national beacon of excellence. It is clear to me that Brookline needs more housing and commercial development. Our town is facing too many intractable financial, infrastructural, and educational problems that cannot be solved unless we find meaningful ways to increase our tax base, and commercial revenues. Finally, I believe safe and accessible means of transportation are inextricably linked with education and housing policy. I will work towards make our roads safer and more accessible for cars, cyclists, and pedestrians alike.

Sadaf K Kazmi / 252 Kent Street

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

- I grew up in Brookline and am a proud product of the public schools. I moved back in 2019 to raise my two daughters here. I am engaged in the community in many ways. I served as a member of the Expenditures & Revenues Study Committee, I'm a board member of the Brookline Parents Organization, and I serve on the Lawrence School Site Council. Professionally, I have been a technology and product management executive for 20+ years. I am running for Town Meeting in Precinct 3 because I love Brookline and plan to be here for many years to come. I am committed to ensuring that Brookline continues to thrive and is a great place to live for all its residents - whether you are a parent raising a family, a young professional, or a senior citizen.
- 1) Housing: We need more housing and more affordable housing, as well as different options for people in different phases of life. We should build more multi-family/mixed use housing near public transportation, do it thoughtfully, and limit tear-downs due to the environmental impact when possible.
2) Schools: Our schools are one of our most important town assets. Through my volunteer work I have advocated for financial sustainability, transparency, and academic excellence for all students in our schools.
3) Economic development: Economic development, and commercial development specifically, can help offset the tax burden for our residents as Brookline contends with a structural budget deficit and the constraints of Proposition 2 1/2.

Sean Leckey / 95 Longwood Ave

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Gregory Wheeler / 214 Kent Street

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. I first moved to Brookline in 2013 and my wife and I are now raising our two-year-old daughter on Kent Street. I'm a dedicated public servant who's used data to inform complex policy and operating decisions in Massachusetts for over a decade - currently at the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Health & Human Services and previously at the MBTA. I hold a Masters in Public Policy from Brandeis and am a Certified Public Accountant well-versed in budgets and financial management. There's nothing I enjoy more than exploring Brookline with my family on our cargo bikes; please say hi if you see us rolling by.

Endorsed by Brookline for Everyone
Brookline PAX, Progressive Brookline

2. 1) Safe Streets: Precinct 3 has five "high-injury" streets identified in the Town's Vision Zero Action Plan. I will support the Transportation Board and Town staff's efforts to make these roads safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.

2) Housing Affordability: Our current restrictive zoning practices often prevent denser, transit-oriented development that would support a wider range of price points and household types. I support upzoning to give our community the option to create denser, multi-unit housing. 3) School Sustainability: Persistent budget pressures threaten the quality of our schools. I will support initiatives that fully-fund our schools. I will provide transparent updates at WheelerForBrookline.com

Precinct 4

Candidates for Three-Year Term Vote for Not More Than Five

Elizabeth Childs* / 157 Walnut St

Attendance: 21 of 21

1. In Brookline for 36 years, I am a child, adolescent, adult psychiatrist, mother of two Brookline High graduates, one on US Coast Guard active duty, & wife of a retired Navy veteran. My education: B.A. Mount Holyoke College, M.D. University of Cincinnati, M.P.A. Harvard Kennedy School. Selected local and state government experience: Currently Norfolk County Advisory Board (Chair 2023-2025), Brookline's 9/11

Remembrance Committee, Brookline Police Behavioral Health Stakeholders Group; Formerly MA Mental Health Commissioner, MA Dept of Early Education and Care Board, MA Dept of Public Health Catastrophic Illness in Children's Relief Fund, High Street Hill Board, Brookline Committee on Police Reform, Brookline School Committee and Town Meeting.

2. We are first and foremost a community of neighbors. Neighborhood input should guide Town policies, budgets, and zoning regulations. Town government should be responsive to residents and businesses, fiscally sound and sustainable, transparent and accountable. All members of our community deserve to be safe, and I will put needs and concerns of all our neighbors first in my decisions at Town Meeting. Maintaining character and scale of family- and senior-friendly neighborhoods with the wish to make our community even more welcoming and keeping it affordable for new neighbors who bring diversity and fresh perspectives requires open, realistic conversations about trade-offs and impacts of financial and zoning changes. All voices must be heard.

Christopher Dempsey* / 257 Walnut Street

Attendance: 19 of 21

1. My wife, Anna, and I, are raising our daughter, a third-generation Brookline resident, on Walnut Street, a few blocks from where I grew up. I am a graduate of Pierce School, BHS, Pomona College, and Harvard Business School. I served as Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Gov. Deval Patrick. I now run Brookline-based urban planning firm Speck Dempsey. I previously served as Chair of the Brookline Transportation Board. Proud to be endorsed by Brookline PAX and Brookline for Everyone.

2. Precinct 4 is a great place to live no matter what decade of live you are in. Town Meeting must support policies that continue the high quality of our public schools, support great parks and recreational facilities, care for our senior neighbors, and improve street safety, especially for pedestrians and cyclists. I am proud to support investments in the BHA's Walnut Street /High Street buildings that will improve conditions for current residents and welcome new ones.

Matthew Hyatt* / 87 Walnut St

Attendance: 21 of 21

1. I've lived on Walnut Street in Brookline for nearly 30 years, and my two sons graduated from the Brookline Public Schools. I'm a LEED-accredited commercial architect and

Principal at a Boston-based B Corp design firm, leading collaborative, stakeholder-focused teams. I've served in Town Meeting since 2021, am Treasurer of the High Street Hill Neighborhood Association, and Chair of the Planning Board. I focus on sustainable design, adaptive reuse, and vibrant public spaces, and in public service, I guide zoning and development thoughtfully, balancing housing, taxes, and neighborhood character. I approach decisions as a pragmatic optimist, listening, building consensus, and helping Brookline grow inclusively and sustainably.

2. I believe my constituents care about thoughtful housing growth, preserving neighborhood character, and keeping town services and schools strong. I work to balance new housing, desperately needed commercial tax revenue, and historic preservation by listening to diverse perspectives and building consensus. I connect with many neighbors during my 3x/day dog walks, on my daily commute on the T, and doing errands around the Village. As a TMM, my goal continues to be to guide Brookline's growth in a sustainable, inclusive, and vibrant way, ensuring decisions reflect the community's shared values while meeting the needs of all residents.

Liz Linder* / 182 Pleasant St

Attendance: 20 of 21

1. As photographer & small business owner, it's my job to communicate, from important details to the big picture. For decades, I've worked on impacting our local environment and had the privilege of participating in committees and boards around development, transportation, and the arts. I've experienced firsthand how community engagement can shape development for the better, how to consider and mitigate unintended consequences, and how to find balance while working towards common goals. We have a lot to consider as a community, and my approach is to listen, collaborate, and advocate.

2. I live and work on Station Street. As such, I have a unique perspective on the ecosystem of our independent businesses and mixed-use buildings in our commercial districts. What I understand from talking with community members is that we need to balance diverse needs in a dense residential/commercial environment with growing budget constraints. I am responsive to texts and emails and am typically available to talk or meet to make introductions, address concerns, or pass along to other Brookline officials.

TMM4-TMM5

Question 1: Biographical Data.

Question 2: Which of these issues is/are important to your constituents, and how would you address their concerns and provide feedback to them? (Subjects such as housing, ICE in Brookline, senior services, or something else.)

Awet Teame* / 263 Walnut St

Attendance: 16 of 21

1. I'm Awet Teame, born in Eritrea and raised in Boston from age five. I produce Funny Hermits (podcast/comedy showcase) and create paid TikTok content, building entrepreneurial media ventures. I'm a television actress on Showtime and TV One, as well as in short films, and a voice and on-screen performer in a recent Lyft ad. Recognized by the City of Boston and Mayor Wu with an Artist Certification and Grant, I'm also a certified life coach, teaching actors' mindset work. As a Brookline Town Meeting Member, I focus on innovative housing—including tiny and modular homes (container and capsule)—education, and zoning, combining creativity with civic leadership.
2. As a Town Meeting Member, I carefully consider issues important to Brookline residents, including housing, immigrant rights, and senior services. I recently shared input with the Select Board on innovative tiny home concepts that would be modern, attractive, environmentally conscious, and well-integrated with Brookline's character. These homes could provide affordable options, support community diversity, and serve as an additional housing choice rather than replacing existing homes.

Zaria Karakashian-Jones / 22 High Street

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. Zahriyannah Karakashian-Jones is a Brookline resident, community organizer, and nonprofit professional committed to equity, civic engagement, and public service. She has worked in philanthropy and community grantmaking and is deeply involved in local organizing and advocacy. Zahriyannah is the founder of Brookline For the Culture, where she has helped lead community centered programming and cultural events. Her candidacy for Town Meeting is rooted in a commitment to affordability, transparency, and making local government more responsive to the needs of all residents.
2. The issues I hear about most are housing affordability, immigrant safety, and support for seniors. I would address them by supporting more affordable housing,

protecting vulnerable residents, and defending strong town services. I also believe communication matters, so I would stay in sure they know how I am voting and why. Just as importantly, I want residents to feel that Town Meeting is accessible and responsive to them. Too often, local government feels distant or shaped by the people with the most time and privilege. I believe elected officials should listen closely, be transparent, and make decisions based on what helps the broader community thrive.

Shawn K O'Neal / 22 High Street

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. I have lived in Brookline for 30+ years being handicap my mom couldn't let me go outside with other children hurting me so we moved to Brookline as a teen I worked on the season program through the program I was evil to see Brookline firsthand. Do the program I worked at a police station Town Hall municipal court. I also had the pleasure to work at the James J Lynch recreation center. I have also made mini recreation for the kids who lived here. I also was in charge of the homework rooms and years later I started the Brookline food co-op where I had 17 sites to look after we have various type of food and vegetables for everyone to have. Being in Brookline have offered me a first hand look at the the government.
2. I would look for information regarding their preferences. With my experience on the advisory board we discuss individual concerns. Informing the public about housing rules, regulations and resources.

Precinct 5

Candidates for Three-Year Term Vote for Not More Than Five

Anthony Evans Flint* / 254 Walnut Street

Attendance: 20 of 21

1. I'm a resident in an 1890 townhouse in Pill Hill with two boys who went through BPS. Day job Lincoln Institute of Land Policy; podcast host (Land Matters), contributing editor (Land Lines magazine) correspondent for BloombergCityLab & The Boston Globe. Books: Mayor's Desk: 20 Conversations with Local Leaders Solving Global Problems; Modern Man: The Life of Le Corbusier, Architect of Tomorrow; Wrestling with Moses: How Jane Jacobs Took on New York's Master Builder and Transformed the

American City; This Land: The Battle over Sprawl and the Future of America. I was a policy advisor on smart growth for Massachusetts state government, a Loeb Fellow at Harvard, graduate of Middlebury College & Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism

2. I'd like to find ways to have more affordable housing in Brookline, through sensible zoning adjustments to allow multifamily density especially near transit -- to expand the options beyond the single-family home. I also pay attention to the things we can do at the local level for climate action and resilience-building, and the sensible expansion of pedestrian and bike infrastructure & bus lanes.

Wendy Friedman* / 87 Walnut St

Attendance: 18 of 21

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Wendy Stahl* / 25 Edgehill Rd

Attendance: 21 of 21

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Benjamin Day (new) / 17 Roberts Street #2

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. I've lived in Brookline for over 25 years. I'm a software consultant, conference speaker, and author. My daughter is in 2nd grade in the Brookline public schools, and the quality of those schools is a big part of why my family is here. This is my first run for public office. I'm running because I want to serve my community and help make sure Brookline's schools remain excellent.
2. Education and school funding are my top priorities. Brookline's schools are what draw families here and what keep them here, and I want to make sure they're fully funded without constantly relying on property tax overrides. That means supporting smart housing and commercial development that widens our tax base. I'm also a first-time candidate running because I want to serve — I'm not coming in with a single-issue agenda beyond making sure Brookline remains a great place to raise a family. I'm easy to find and always happy to talk.

Ian Huntington / 381 Pond Ave

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Precinct 6**Candidates for Three-Year Term
Vote for Not More Than Five****Catherine C. Anderson*** / 106 Davis Ave**Attendance: 21 of 21**

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Patricia Ann Correa* / 32 Davis Ave**Attendance: 20 of 21**

1. Patricia (Patty) Correa retired in 2022 as a Town lawyer. Patty was also a Civil Rights Division Assistant Attorney General with the MA Attorney General's Office, a litigation associate with a large global law firm and a litigation boutique, and a law clerk for a federal judge. She is a former Pierce and BHS parent, a 30-plus-year resident of Precinct 6, a P6 Town Meeting member, a member of the Town's Zero Emissions Advisory Board (ZEAB), a board member and officer for Brookline Interactive Group (BIG), a board member for Climate Action Brookline, a leadership team member with Mothers Out Front Brookline, and a member of the Brookline.News Advisory Council and Brookline Community Foundation Professional Advisors Committee.
2. Helping the community meet 2050 State and local climate goals. Finding opportunities to permit more housing where appropriate to do so (particularly mid- and low-income housing). Supporting local media and news and government transparency. Supporting public education.

Bitsy Perlman* / 40 White Pl**Attendance: 21 of 21**

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Clinton Q. Richmond* / 3 Greenough Circle**Attendance: 19 of 21**

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Marissa F. Vogt* / 12 Tabor Place**Attendance: 21 of 21**

1. (she/her) I have lived in Brookline with my husband since 2014 and we have two kids at Pierce. Professionally, I am a researcher studying NASA mission data for the Planetary Science Institute. I have served in Town Meeting since 2020 and as a Library Trustee since 2023. I am a member of the Safe Routes to School Taskforce and the Yes for Brookline campaign team supporting the override.
As a Town Meeting Member I have led past efforts to increase transparency, introduce financial ethics requirements for TMMs, and

improve sidewalk accessibility. This year I am a sponsor of some good governance articles and a bylaw restricting use of Town facilities for civil immigration enforcement (ICE).

Find me on

Bluesky: @vogt4brookline.bsky.social

2. ****Housing:** we have an affordability crisis. We need to build housing for all income levels, including the "missing middle", & support new growth to broaden our tax base.
- **Education:** I have consistently advocated for robust school funding & worked to save K-5 World Language in 2024. We should provide free, universal Pre-K.
- **Transportation:** residents are concerned about pedestrian and bicycle safety & accessibility. I have strongly advocated for better policies & more funding.
- **Climate:** I will continue to support efforts to reduce our fossil fuel dependence.
- **Civil rights:** We need to protect our immigrant & LGBTQ+ neighbors from the current federal administration. All of our work should center on helping those who are most vulnerable.

Precinct 7**Candidates for Three-Year Term
Vote for Not More Than Five****John P. Hebert*** / 21 Auburn St**Attendance: 21 of 21**

1. Precinct 7 TMM since 2022; homeowner since 1976. With wife Barbara, raised two sons who prospered at Pierce and BHS 1985-2000; one is a Brookline resident with three young children. Founded in 1992 and managed Brookline-based Hebert Communications for more than 20 years. PR Society of America member (1985-2016), Boston Chapter officer (2010-2016) and treasurer (2010-2013). Treasurer of Brookline-based non-profit Dorer Community Service Foundation (2022-present). B.A. Boston University. I began my 45-year communications career as a journalist, and strive to know the facts and to consider both sides of an issue. With your vote, I will continue my dedication to representing Precinct 7 constituents in the many issues that matter to us all.
2. Comments from P7 neighbors revolve around disruption from development; concerns about traffic, 2-cycle scooters, parking, and excessive litter; and gratitude that I and others are involved in Town government -- because they have the interest, but not the time. I see

my role as a good listener and questioner; an advocate for smart, informed decision-making; and an important information channel within and between P7 and Town government. Being a TMM is demanding. Doing the job well requires an extraordinary investment to understand the many issues and to assess their impact on P7, the Coolidge Corner area and the rest of our Town. I am committed to investing the time and effort required to achieve results that are fair, just and sustainable.

Amy Isikoff Newell* / 15 Alton Pl**Attendance: 19 of 21**

1. I've lived in Coolidge Corner since 1998, where my husband and I raised our 2 children, who went to Pierce and graduated BHS. I have over 25 yrs experience as a software engineer and engineering leader. I am also an avid backpacker.
I am passionate about the transformational power of local community. I volunteer at the Brookline Food Pantry, and am a member of Brookline For Everyone, Brookline for Racial Justice and Equity, and Progressive Brookline. I have been a TMM since 2023 and have cosponsored legislation supporting our LGBTQ+ and immigrant communities. I started the Alton Neighbors chat group and recently made a zine to encourage voter turnout in local elections.
I am endorsed by Progressive Brookline and Brookline for Everyone.
2. 1. The high cost of housing and the need to build more of it in order to slow cost increases and help our many renters and elderly stay in town.
2. Maintaining the quality of our schools to ensure an amazing education for all our students whatever their background, abilities or needs, and that they protect all our students' civil rights.
3. Supporting our entire community in a time of ongoing attacks and defunding of federal programs that have left our immigrant, low-income, elderly, LGBTQ+, and residents of color more vulnerable than ever.
4. Quality of Life issues: rats, sidewalks, etc. It's important to me not only to listen to & share what I know with my constituents, but also help them directly participate in solving these issues.

Jessica W. Stokes* / 9 Auburn Pl**Attendance: 16 of 21**

A life-long Brookline resident, I am a graduate of the Lincoln School, Brookline High, and Harvard, plus a proud parent to two Pierce School and BHS students. I spend my days working as a corporate strategist for Ernst & Young, and I spend my nights and weekends volunteering for a number of

TMM7-TMM8

Question 1: Biographical Data.

Question 2: Which of these issues is/are important to your constituents, and how would you address their concerns and provide feedback to them? (Subjects such as housing, ICE in Brookline, senior services, or something else.)

civic causes: mentoring first-gen college students, supporting immigrants, fundraising and promoting various Democrats running for office, and serving on the Vestry (Leadership Committee) for All Saints Parish Brookline. With any (illusory) time left over, you are likely to find me running around the Brookline Reservoir or tending to my garden.

- Given its location in between Coolidge Corner and Brookline Village, Pct 7 is highly desirable for development, and properties in our neighborhood are often a subject of the Historical Preservation Board, the Planning Board or the Zoning Board. I frequently participate in these meetings, trying to maintain a balanced view between the rights of the property owners, the Zoning laws, the need for more housing, the need for more commercial tax revenues, and environmental sustainability concerns (tree preservation, challenging the need for multi-car parking spots, etc.).
On any matters, I research my positions, respond to emails from constituents, and am always happy to meet or speak in person on any issues important to those I represent.

Samantha F. Rothberg (new) /

49 Harvard Avenue, Unit 1

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

- As a renter and a working parent of two young children, the oldest of whom is a kindergartener at Pierce, I hope to bring a valuable and underrepresented perspective to Town Meeting. I'm a mission-driven business lawyer attorney focused on supporting for-profit and non-profit ventures with a positive social or environmental impact. Brookline is a special place, and I consider myself lucky to be raising my children here. As a first-time candidate, I am excited to have the opportunity to participate in town governance and make sure my neighbors have a voice. I'm proud to be endorsed by Brookline for Everyone, Progressive Brookline and Brookline PAX.
- Budget: Brookline faces painful budget decisions as costs outpace revenues under the limits of Prop 2 ½. Without an override (which I support), our schools and public services face devastating cuts. We need a state-level solution, but unless that happens, Town Meeting will need to make tough

choices. I would vote to make sure budget cuts are undertaken with care in line with core values. We must also increase revenue and expand our commercial tax base to shift the burden off of residential taxpayers, so I support rezoning the Chestnut Hill Commercial Area.

Housing: The Town and state are gripped by a severe housing shortage. I support strong measures to increase the housing supply, including zoning changes that remove barriers to housing.

Matthew D. Zalesak (new) / 37 Auburn St.

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

- I've lived in Brookline as a renter for four years. I have a PhD in Operations Research (Cornell) and currently work as an applied scientist managing supply chain. I have been living without a car for about a decade and a half and I chose to move to Coolidge Corner because of the great walkable neighborhoods and access to public transit. I am running because I want Town Meeting to support more housing development, push to make streets safe for all modes of transportation, and support commercial development that will increase our tax base to relieve some of the tax pressure that falls on residents. I am endorsed by Brookline for Everyone and Progressive Brookline.
- Housing supply and affordability are some of the biggest issues facing Brookline. Anyone should be able to rent or buy a house here. And no one should have to leave due to financial reasons. Town Meeting needs to address this by enacting plans to allow for more housing construction. In particular, we must think of ways to build denser housing that takes advantage of our town's strengths, such as by locating it near our valuable transit stations. In addition to helping affordability, this will help us promote climate-friendly housing, reduce our infrastructure costs, and support our iconic local business districts.

Precinct 7

Candidate for One-Year Term Vote for Not More Than One

Rani D. Balakrishna (new) / 12 Vernon St.

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

- My name is Rani Balakrishna, and I was born and raised in Brookline. I went to Pierce school until 5th grade, and then I

went to the Winsor School. I graduated from Brandeis University in May 2025, where I served as President of the Student Union. I was also on the varsity softball team, and I was very active on campus. I am currently a Field Organizer for Seth Moulton's Campaign for Senate. I worked at Abundant Housing Massachusetts, and I am a member of the Brookline Interactive Group (BIG)'s Board of Directors. I firmly believe that the experiences I listed would help me to bring a fresh perspective to Town Meeting. As a granddaughter of immigrants and a queer woman of color, I would be able to support diverse voices at Town Meeting.

- Combating any unlawful, extrajudicial activity of ICE in Brookline, housing, connecting teens and seniors, and connecting more renters to the Brookline government are high priorities of mine. From my work at Abundant Housing Massachusetts, a pro-housing advocacy nonprofit, I have become passionate about housing policy and I believe that we should try to encourage many different types of housing in Brookline. Infrastructure, long term planning, transportation, and climate resilience are also top priorities of mine, and I hope to be available to everyone in Precinct 7 and throughout all of Brookline. I look forward to hearing any and all feedback via email or phone.

Precinct 8

Candidate for Three-Year Term Vote for Not More Than Five

John Harris* / 41 Osborne Road

Attendance: 21 of 21

- Proud 35-year resident of Precinct 8! Town Meeting Member since 2012. Co-Chair Climate Action Brookline. Board Member Biking Brookline, PAX & Friends of Hall's Pond. Livable Community Advocacy Comm @ Brookline Senior Ctr advocate for seniors, esp frail seniors. Career: human service & outdoor retail management. I've successfully led initiatives inc Brookline creating a Sustainability Division & updating our Climate Action Plan, Brookline signing the Paris Climate Agreement, securing Town purchase of Newbury College campus & stronger Tree Protections. I was Pct 8 liaison for the MBTA Communities Act. I believe in community engagement & consensus building. Town Meeting Members are elected

by precinct. As your TMM my duty is to represent YOU!

- Expand affordable transit-oriented housing to retain our unique blend of historic homes & well-designed complexes.

Expand our commercial tax base to lessen dependence on future overrides.

Lead in our response to the climate crisis.

Encourage residents to electrify their homes.

Expand our tree cover to purify the air & abate noise & the urban heat effect.

Enable our seniors, esp those on fixed incomes, to age in place. Support high quality schools.

Improve road safety for all, esp the most vulnerable: frail seniors, kids, pedestrians & cyclists.

I've found convening issue-specific groups of concerned constituents, as I've done re the MBTA Communities Act, rat control, renovation projects & other issues, works best to unearth solutions.

Nancy Heller* / 40 Abbottsford Rd

Attendance: 20 of 21

- Chair Community Preservation Act Committee funding affordable housing, open space/recreation, historic preservation, 2022-present; Select Board 6 yrs; Town Meeting 37 yrs; Advisory Committee 8 yrs; Co-Chair BHS Expansion Advisory Committee 2016-2023, Liaison Council on Aging, Chair Tree Protection Study Committee, Petitioner 2012 bylaw banning polystyrene; Co-Petitioner 2010 bylaw on noise/nuisance, School Committee 12 yrs; Many leadership roles: Environmental Activist, PTO, Extended Day, Day Care, Understanding Disabilities, tree protection efforts, traffic, BHS China Exchange, Friends of METCO; Widow of Dr. Daniel Heller, 3 children grads of Brookline Schools, 3 grandchildren attending/grads of Brookline Schools; Retired Attorney.
- P 8 residents care:
 - Improvements: I am pleased to be Chair of Community Preservation Act Committee which uses its funds to create, preserve, and support affordable housing, much of it in North Brookline. CPAC also focuses on open space/recreation, e.g. restoring the Ridley tennis courts.
 - Raise our voices: led by Speak Out Seniors and PAX, on weekends in Coolidge Corner we protest the presence of ICE and other undemocratic actions of the president.
 - We focus on climate concerns and work against the loss of our tree canopy/open space.
 - We support safety/traffic improvements that benefit all users. I believe the most satisfactory communication is by talking with people; I

welcome emails. Please contact me about concerns.

Alexander Lebovitz* / 3 Bradford Terrace

Attendance: 21 of 21

- I am running for a third term representing Precinct 8 in Town Meeting. I also serve on the Town's Fiscal Advisory Committee where I have advocated for excellent municipal services, transparency, and fiscal responsibility. Professionally, I am a senior analyst who oversees budget development and management for the Commonwealth, including oversight of over \$6 billion in public budgets. In my first two-terms, I have led the passage of eighteen warrant articles, with highlights including strengthening rodent control enforcement, protecting local access to reproductive healthcare, and creating the Brookline Youth Council. I am proud that my candidacy has earned the endorsements of Progressive Brookline, Brookline for Everyone, and Brookline PAX.
- As a Town Meeting Member, there are several key issues I am focused on. ICE is a rogue agency conducting a campaign of terror against our nation. I am currently a lead sponsor of two warrant articles that will strengthen local protections to keep Brookline residents safe from ICE's abuses by banning ICE enforcement activities on Town property and directing the Town to suspend information sharing with DHS. I have also been a leading advocate for expanding housing affordability throughout Brookline, and I am sponsoring an article to strengthen the revenue streams flowing into the Town's Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Affordability is also a priority, and I will work to expand local tax relief for seniors and low-income residents.

Francine B. Perler* / 74A Fuller St

Attendance: 21 of 21

- A former scientist with a problem solving mindset and commitment to thoughtful, balanced decision making. I ran in 2023 to improve town services and stand up for our neighborhood. I delivered by helping over 75 residents resolve issues ranging from rodent control and tree protection to crosswalk safety, responsible development, and cutting red tape. I co-sponsored 3 successful warrant articles to protect trees, curb harmful rodenticides, and ensure seniors are considered in every decision. Service: Advisory Committee, Council on Aging, Friends of Hall's Pond Board, Brookline Neighborhood Alliance 2024 Leadership Award. I'm a longtime resident of JFK Crossing running to keep delivering practical

results and strong advocacy for our community.

- Brookline's most pressing issue is affordability, because it affects everything. Rising housing costs are reducing diversity by driving out families, workers, and those on limited income. We must maintain quality education and quality services while easing the burden on residents by expanding revenue through commercial and housing development that will provide a net revenue benefit. As a senior advocate, I work to increase support for seniors who are over 20% of our population. I support local businesses; sustainability and protecting our environment; safer streets and sidewalks for all - cyclists, drivers and pedestrians. We need an outside audit to identify ways of reducing operating expenses without targeting basic or beloved services.

Eric C. Stone* / 60 Beals St

Attendance: 21 of 21

- I'm a dad of two Florida Ruffin Ridley kids, husband, statistician, Boston-area startup co-founder, and an incumbent Town Meeting member for Precinct 8. I bring a data-driven, facts-based approach to policy, a consistent pro-housing, pro-schools, pro-environment voting record, and I show up to do the work. I serve as Deputy Chair of the Shared Mobility Advisory Committee (SMAC) and the Bridle Path Design Review Committee, and am working with this year's pro-override Yes for Brookline campaign. Come see us on Beals St this halloween!
- Housing, schools, and fiscal stability are inseparable in Brookline. I support mixed use development in Coolidge Corner and our commercial zones, and will vote yes on both the Chestnut Hill and 26 Pleasant St projects this May because we must build more buildings to increase Town revenues. We need to pass the 2026 override to prevent catastrophic cuts to our schools and services. On SMAC, I supported Bluebikes expansion and improved T accessibility. I personally support more traffic calming, bicycle infrastructure, senior friendly sidewalks, and an outdoor community pool. I have voted for resolutions opposing federal overreach and will support prohibiting local ICE cooperation. I show up, do the homework, and am accountable to P8 voters.

Kailey Bennett (new) / 136 Babcock Street

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

'Siyo! (Hello!) My name is Kailey Bennett, and I am the Chair of Brookline's Indigenous Peoples Celebration Committee. I am a Cherokee Nation Citizen / ᏄᏍᏏ ᏄᏅᏏ and have lived in Brookline

TMM8-TMM9

Question 1: Biographical Data.

Question 2: Which of these issues is/are important to your constituents, and how would you address their concerns and provide feedback to them? (Subjects such as housing, ICE in Brookline, senior services, or something else.)

for over 11 years. I have a master's degree in History, and work as a large scale event/powwow planner, and theatre stage & production manager. I am a fierce advocate for the performing arts, including musical theatre, opera, and ballet. As a person with epilepsy, I help dispel stereotypes about the disease and advocate for improved accessibility initiatives. When I am not in rehearsals, I paint in my Brookline art studio, bike around the Charles River, spend time with my deafblind cat, Hedwig, and run marathons around the world.

- I believe strongly in safety and infrastructure improvements for pedestrians and bikes. Sidewalks should be improved for general accessibility and safety for Brookline seniors. Brookline needs more affordable housing, including along public transit routes. Housing costs should not be a barrier to live in Brookline and attend Brookline public schools. Expanding commercial real estate is critical to increase tax revenue to support schools, police, and fire. These initiatives cannot happen without community voter engagement. The Cherokee idea 'Gadugi' means 'working together to support our community' and is my foundation for problem solving. With Gadugi, building bridges breaks down barriers to find solutions and support our neighbors.

Catherine Michaels (new) / 3 Bradford Terr
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate
 The candidate did not respond for print version.

Precinct 9

**Candidates for Three-Year Term
 Vote for Not More Than Five**

Lee L. Biernbaum* / 7 Verndale Street
Attendance: 21 of 21

- I moved to Brookline following grad school & made it my home. I've both rented & owned apartments. Now I live car-free in a walkup that cannot legally be built in Brookline anymore.
 I am a parent of two children at the Ridley School & am a long-time election worker. My professional life focuses on transportation policy, in both the public &

private sectors. My policy interests are the overlap of transportation, land use, & social justice.

I am a cofounder & former Board Member of Brookline for Everyone.

Brookline is an amazing place to live, but that does not allow us to rest on our laurels. We have hard work to do to maintain what is great about Brookline & to ensure it can be amazing for everyone.

Endorsed by: B4E

- Our largest issue remains our housing crisis. It poisons all other local policy, including our budget, where a lack of development is a driver of our current problem. We need more housing & it must be easier to build: subsidized, workforce, family, & market-rate.

Less immediate, but more existential is our climate. We must redouble our efforts, including land use & public transit as key pillars, and contribute to the Commonwealth's 2050 goals.

Finally, while the petition to consider City status failed, we remain vulnerable to weaknesses in our current structure. We cannot remain reliant on an unrepresentative caste of volunteers, dictated by who can engage in hundreds of hours of unpaid work and Town Meeting procedures need a revamp.

Marion Freedman-Gurspan* /
 11 Wellman St

Attendance: 21 of 21

- I have been a resident of Brookline for 38 years, and my daughter is a graduate of its public schools. As a retired social worker with a background in mental health policy and planning, parental involvement, and interdepartmental collaboration, I continue to be engaged in advocacy related to human services at the national, state and local level. My focus is on the disadvantaged, primarily on those facing physical or mental health challenges, immigrants and refugees, those with limited incomes and those who are LGBTQI.
- The issues above are all important to my constituents, plus schools, taxes, and the dearth of parking. I was the representative for Seniors on the Affordable Housing Overlay District Study Subcommittee, and Centre St Lots Study Committee and ensured that the parking needs of the mobility limited and visitors were considered. In my minority report on the Lots Study I questioned the use of public lots for market rate housing or commercial-rate parking, and the siting of the garage. I intend to stay involved in development issues.

I provide feedback to constituents by responding to email. I report back to the Council on Aging about meetings related to housing and parking development. I spoke at 100 Centre St on key precinct issues.

Martin R. Rosenthal* / 62 Columbia Street

Attendance: 21 of 21

- TMI: KI/'Devo','60, BHS'64; Harv '68; Stanf Law(& Poli.Sci MA); Dad [SaraAnn, 'Devo','11, BHS'15]. Litigation (criminal/bar-discipline), public defender'73-90; Managing Atty CJI Harv-Law-Sch '90-92; Chair MA Citizens Agnst DeathPenalty'94-02; MA Sentenc'g Comm'n '14-18; ACLU Bd '85-99; AWARDS: MBA '22 Access to Justice,ProBono, CPCS '09 & BBA '00 =Thurgood MarshallS; Selectmn '85-88; Tmm9 '79-now (100% attendance); CTOS'89-'22; Advisory'83-5; Co-chair,BrooklinePax.org; Police/Community Relatns Rpt '87; Police Reform Comm'ee '19-21; WA's: immigrant sanctuary '85,'06,'17; Bylaws: Diversity Comm'n '13,'22; Police Commiss'rs; sidewalk-snow; restaurant bathrooms; campaign-signs; 2-hr parking; Transport'n Bd. reform; BrookOnline emls; etc-etc
- ELSE: you miss May 5's BIGGIE, 1 more crucial OVERRIDE. USA's taxes travesties since Reagan's 'Starve the Beast' (eg MA's Prop 2½ & flat Y-tax) make cities/towns rely on regressive property taxes. I/Pax've pushed (smart) Development, Tax reform, Pols like Bernie & EWarren. But our well-run govnt (AAA bond rating) & community NEED Yes for Brookline! WORD LIMIT tough. I/Pax've PUSHED: 2. HOUSING,esp'y affordability/diverse, another chronic US, esp'y Brookline migraine! 3. ICE/Brookline: Luckily only once (yet!) Since Mnpls' RGood/APretti murders I've worked on S-Bd's 2/10/26 Proclamation & TMTg WA's 17/25, all good but weak. 4-7: Improve our excellent Police; Reducing '16-'22 incivility; Protect our neighborhoods; Sat.'s No Kings rallies

Judith A. Vanderkay* / 16 Columbia Street

Attendance: 19 of 21

- Brookline resident since 1983; sent two sons through (then) Devotion and BHS. Library Trustee and former Friends president. A practical progressive, active in community efforts to keep developers accountable and our community equitable. B.A., Smith College; M.A. in English, University of Wisconsin, MBA, Simmons College (as it was). Served as Executive Director for several technology

trade associations; currently work as communications consultant to same.

2. School quality is highly important, and I support the override to keep the schools excellent. However, there are concerns about a top-heavy administration, and I would press the School Committee to ensure that emphasis is on teaching staff. My constituents also worry about our escalating real estate taxes, and I would work to keep our budgets reasonable -- education palaces do not necessarily mean quality education. My neighbors are concerned about the inroads of developers in our community, and I would continue to hold their feet to the fire to be responsive to our needs.

**Ben Chostner (new) / 33 Verndale Street
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate**

1. I moved to Brookline for everything that makes our Town among the best places to raise a family: our parks, schools, safety, walkability, and diversity. I have two children in our public schools, and my youngest will graduate from Brookline High in 2040, which makes me motivated to keep our Town thriving until then and beyond. I have degrees from the University of Illinois and Harvard Business School, and have worked as a business strategy consultant, robotics startup employee, director in a large public company, and now as an independent advisor. In each of these experiences I have seen the transformative power of broad constituent input, detailed analysis, and simple storytelling to drive change. This is what I hope to bring to Brookline.
2. Many neighbors I've spoken with, both new and long-time residents, share a concern that Brookline will soon be in decline. We worry that the things we love - our parks, schools, safety, walkability, and diversity - are at risk because we lack a plan to pay for them sustainably. Tragically some of my neighbors are considering moving away as a result. For me our long-term fiscal sustainability is the most important issue. If elected I will focus on 3 activities: supporting the findings of the recent E&RSC study, finding ways to expand our property tax base through renovation and development, especially of commercial properties, and examining our town bylaws to streamline their implementation without compromising their results.

**Carey Goldberg (new) / 24 Williams Street
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate**

1. Longtime journalist including Boston bureau chief of NYTimes and Bloomberg; health/science reporter at WBUR and Boston Globe. Brookline resident for 21 years, parent

of public school alums. Co-founder of Learning First Brookline, board member of Calculus Project, co-author of seminal book on generative AI in medicine.

2. I would listen extensively to concerns and keep constituents up to date on town issues using skills from my journalism career. Important to them: A safe, welcoming community. Our excellent schools. (I support the override and more work toward a sustainable budget.) Robust discussion about what sorts of development are needed, based on the town's upcoming Comprehensive Plan, with an eye to greater diversity and affordability while preserving greenspace. Protection for pedestrians and bikers (but I am not anti-car; many people need cars, and our much-appreciated local businesses need parking spaces). Robust senior services and age-in-place aid. Yes, minimizing town cooperation with ICE and especially, helping immigrants.

**Jess Levasseur (new) / 164 Coolige Street
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate**

1. Jess Levasseur has been a Brookline resident for nearly 11 years, first as a renter, and now as a homeowner in a multifamily house. Like many others, she and her family chose Brookline for its walkability, schools, and community. Jess is a teacher and parent to three children who are current and former PSB students. She has 2 children currently at FRR and 1 who graduated from BHS in May, 2025. She is a middle school French teacher, previously in the Public Schools of Brookline from the Fall of 2015 until the spring of 2021, and now in Newton. Her experience as both a teacher and parent in PSB makes her a good advocate for the education Brookline students need and deserve. Jess is endorsed by both B4E and Progressive Brookline.
2. In addition to her experience with schools and education, Jess will advocate for policies to create more affordable homes in addition to commercial development, particularly near transit and mobility hubs, in order to increase Brookline's tax base, while also relieving the tax burden for our residents. She currently supports the proposed Chestnut Hill development project. She is supportive of working to continue to improve accessibility for all residents while also moving Brookline towards its Climate Goals for 2040 by prioritizing environmental sustainability in town and green space preservation. Jess is also supportive of local policies that protect the rights of our immigration communities and ensure their safety.

Aron Unger / 177 Winchester Street

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. I was born and raised in Brookline, growing up on Columbia St and going to FRR and Maimonides. BS in Public Health from UMass Amherst, MS in Information Science from NCCU. Member of the board of trustees at Congregation Kehillath Israel, head coach of Maimonides baseball team. Currently work for a community solar and storage developer as a senior analyst. I love Brookline and want to ensure that we continue to thrive. We need to hit our climate goals, ensure continued excellence in our schools, and offer high-quality town services all without breaking the bank.
2. Based on my conversations, precinct 9 voters care about schools, safety, and development issues (among many other issues of course!). On schools, we need to fund the override to avoid a crisis, while creating sustainable revenue streams going forward to avoid a repeat. Safety means effective law enforcement as well as road safety for all users. On development, all areas of Brookline need to do their fair share. If precinct 9 continues to do more than other parts of town, our property taxes should be lower to reflect that we are contributing more to town revenues. I plan on continuing the conversations long past Election Day, whether online, in person, or while walking our dog through the neighborhood.

Kevin Walton / 106 Thorndike St.

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. I'm a father of two at FRR. My wife and I chose Brookline for its strong schools and vibrant community, and we're deeply invested in its future. I graduated from Boston College and Duke Law, and today lead a biotech company where I focus on strategy, operations, and financial discipline. My work is grounded in data-driven decision-making and bringing different perspectives together to reach thoughtful, practical outcomes. I will bring that same approach to Town Meeting, making well-informed, balanced decisions focused on what's best for Brookline. I'm running to help ensure Brookline remains a place where everyone can thrive, with strong schools, a growing and inclusive community, and responsible financial stewardship.
2. The issues I hear most often are school funding, housing, affordability, and the strength of our local economy. Residents want strong schools without constant financial strain, and smart housing growth that supports our community. I support long-term, sustainable school funding, thoughtful

TMM9-TMM10

Question 1: Biographical Data.

Question 2: Which of these issues is/are important to your constituents, and how would you address their concerns and provide feedback to them? (Subjects such as housing, ICE in Brookline, senior services, or something else.)

housing near transit and commercial areas, and strengthening our commercial base to grow revenue and reduce pressure on residents. Just as important is how we engage: I will be accessible, listen actively, and communicate clearly through regular updates and conversations, ensuring constituents understand decisions and have a voice in shaping them.

Precinct 9

**Candidate for Two-Year Term
Vote for Not More Than One**

**Emily Jaffe (new) / 45 Kenwood Street
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate**

1. Emily has been a resident of Brookline for eight years. She is an attorney and stay-at-home parent to a first grader at the Florida Ruffin Ridley School, bringing professional expertise and personal commitment to her community involvement. Emily serves as co-chair of the Brookline Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC), where she advocated for students and families and works to strengthen support systems within the public schools. She is deeply committed to equity, inclusion, and fostering a safe and welcoming community for all of Brookline's residents
2. I believe that constituents in Precinct 9 value respectful civil discourse along with thoughtful, transparent decision-making grounded in reliable data and sound public policy. Maintaining strong schools and essential town services is also a top priority. As a TMM, I would work to foster constructive dialogue, listen carefully to differing perspectives, and support decisions that are evidenced-based and focused on sustaining high-quality services while encouraging responsible economic growth and development for the Brookline community.

Precinct 9

**Candidate for One-Year Term
Vote for Not More Than One**

**Katherine Wilkins (new) / 370 Harvard Street
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate**

1. Ten-year Brookline resident – BHS METCO graduate 1973
Master's Degree in Regional Planning
Local & State Advocacy: Since 2023, I have met with statelegislators to secure funding for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP).
National Representation: In April 2025, I represented 2Life Communities in Washington, D.C., lobbying our senators for federal housing legislation.
Leadership: I currently serve on the board of Metro West Collaborative Development (MWCD), a non-profit dedicated to creating affordable homes for families and seniors.
2. I advocate for affordable housing. I am a staunch supporter of the MBTA Communities Act (MBTA-CA) and have spent years advocating for senior and family housing.
As a Brookline resident of ten years and a professional regional planner, I am dedicated to ensuring our town remains a vibrant, walkable, and inclusive community.
It is my belief that any indication or visual activity of ICE in Brookline, should be immediately reported to the Brookline Police Department.

Precinct 10

**Candidates for Three-Year Term
Vote for Not More Than Five**

Suzette Abbott* / 63 Winthrop Road

Attendance: 20 of 21

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Kimberly Elizabeth Loscalzo* /

1601 Beacon Street

Attendance: 21 of 21

1. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to represent Precinct 10. I have been a Brookline resident since 2007 and Town Meeting Member since 2020. My husband and I are parents to two Driscoll students and I have been the Driscoll PTO co-chair for the past 5 years. I also work for PSB in the BEEP program.
The reason I first ran for town meeting was to expand my involvement in keeping our schools strong. We need ensure we have fully funded public schools that protect

educational quality for every student. I'm a strong advocate for a budget that support teachers, staff, and the essential programs that help students thrive. It's equally important that we maintain our school facilities so they remain safe, modern, and conducive to learning.

2. My constituents most often reach out to me about addressing the affordable housing crisis. We need thoughtful solutions and better zoning laws that aim to create communities where people of all backgrounds can live, work, and thrive
Climate and sustainability is the other issue I hear most about. We will continue working on investing in better public transit, redesigning our streets so biking and walking are safe options, expanding green infrastructure wherever possible and working to protect our green canopy
I will try to evaluate and implement each of these priorities with a strong equity lens. That means intentionally addressing the racial and economic disparities that have long shaped access, opportunity, and outcomes in our community

Ariel C. Maddocks* / 64 Griggs Road

Attendance: 19 of 21

1. I have called Brookline home for 17 years and served as a Town Meeting Member since 2018. I am committed to walkable neighborhoods, strong public schools, libraries, parks, public transit, and a community that cares for people of all ages. I will vote to advance racial and economic justice, expand affordable housing, address the climate crisis, improve street safety for pedestrians and cyclists, and strengthen services for older adults. I defend the rights of LGBTQ+ residents and access to comprehensive healthcare. I carefully evaluate warrant articles and support solutions that move our town forward. Parent of two Brookline Public School students, former Pierce Extended Day Board President, come say hi, I love getting to know my neighbors.
2. Housing affordability, strong public schools, immigrant protections, climate action, transportation options, and services for older adults: I support warrant articles that expand affordable and public housing, protect tenants, and deepen a diverse community. I am a strong YES on the override for excellent schools and town services, and support policies limiting ICE activity in Town facilities so residents can access services without fear. Climate action connects many issues: investing in sustainability, safe cycling infrastructure, walkability, and public

transit reduces emissions while improving public health/safety. I commit to learning the details and impacts of warrant articles and bringing the values I share with neighbors into action.

**Jessica M. Lang (new) / 67 Griggs Road
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate**

1. I've lived in Brookline since 2014, and value the walkable neighborhoods, public transportation, diverse culture, and public schools. I'm co-chair of the Griggs Park Neighborhood Association, and served as a Town Meeting Member in 2024-5. Housing availability and affordability is my top concern, but I'm also passionate about schools, small businesses, green spaces, bike lanes, and the arts. I'm a mom/stepmom to 6 young adults, the youngest still a BHS student. I'm a public health researcher by training, now working as a health policy consultant. For fun, I sing with Rock Voices Brookline, and with neighborhood band AntiqueRoadShow. I hope to return to serving the town thoughtfully as a P10 TMM.
2. Housing and budget/revenue are critical concerns of Town Meeting. We need more housing, at all price levels, to support a thriving community where people can live, work, study, and feel welcome and invested in their neighborhoods. As a TMM in 2024-5, I voted for measures encouraging the creation of more ADUs, as owner-occupied rentals are a great way of increasing housing stock, and meeting the needs of families over time. We also need - thoughtfully planned with community input - some larger developments including commercial space and multifamily buildings, which would help increase town revenue, and address budget shortfalls. To improve fiscal planning and stability, I support modernization of Prop 2 1/2.

**Robert T. Rogers (new) / 1443 Beacon Street
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate**

1. I'm 40-years-old, a professional artist, and resident of Brookline, MA, in Precinct 10 near Coolidge Corner. I earned an MA in Advertising and a BA in American Studies from The University of Texas at Austin and certificates in Studio Arts from MassArt and graduate Visual Arts from Harvard Extension School. I'm completing the Religions of the World graduate certificate at Harvard Extension School. My community service includes the MLK Celebration Committee, Progressive Brookline, Brookline Food Pantry, Brookline Senior Center, and Hebrew SeniorLife. I'm the Creative Director of True Mood Studio, my sole proprietorship. I was

born and raised in Tennessee. I'm a member of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians.

2. I'm running for Town Meeting in Precinct 10 to improve our quality of life in Brookline, especially for groups burdened, and to take on budget problems. I propose a uniform reduction in spending and promote selected development. The latter can raise revenue for Brookline and create affordable housing. Zoning matters. Better finances will ensure our schools stay strong. I believe in human security without violating privacy, support the 2025 Climate Action & Resiliency Plan, and encourage alternative transportation.

**Nimisha Schneider (new) / 34A Park Street
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate**

1. I've lived in Brookline for 15 years with my family and also grew up here (Brookline High School and Baker School alum). I have three children in the Brookline public schools, with one entering BHS this fall, one at Pierce, and a little one who is a future Pierce kindergartener. I'm a biologist and data scientist, and my work focuses on using data and analysis to understand complex problems and support good decision-making. I'm endorsed by Brookline for Everyone and Progressive Brookline. I'm excited for the opportunity to represent my neighbors in Town Meeting.
2. Brookline should be a place where families, seniors, and people at a range of income levels can live and thrive. I support thoughtful, well-planned approaches that expand affordable housing options and creative development that strengthens our commercial tax base and supports local businesses. I am also a strong supporter of our public schools, including efforts to ensure all students are served equitably. I believe it's important that residents feel informed and connected to Town Meeting decisions. I want to hear from my neighbors and make it easier for people to have the information and access they need to be engaged in town policymaking.

Precinct 11

Candidates for Three-Year Term Vote for Not More Than Five

**John Franklin Hilliard* / 26 Summit Ave
Attendance: 21 of 21**

1. I moved to Boston for school in 2005 and never left. By trade, I'm a software engineer and enjoy building teams, mentoring, and solving problems. Previously, I was the CTO of an

eCommerce company. Currently, I work as an engineering leader for a payments company. My wife and I moved to Brookline about 7 years ago, and we now have a 4-month-old son. Outside of town meeting, I'm also a member of the Police Commissioner's Advisory Committee.

2. Housing and ICE are the two biggest issues I hear about, and they're both on the warrant this cycle. On ICE, this has been a consistent topic in the Police Commissioners Advisory Committee and something residents bring up regularly. I'll continue supporting measures that protect people in Brookline and push back on federal immigration enforcement in our community. On housing, I'm voting yes on the Chestnut Hill Commercial Overlay District articles. The town needs commercial tax revenue and housing units, and the Route 9 corridor is the best opportunity we have to get both.

John A. Rumpler* / 97 Mason Terr

Attendance: 18 of 21

The candidate did not respond for print version.

**Jennifer Goldsmith (new) / 148 Jordan Road
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate**

1. Brookline resident since 2003 | Driscoll/BHS parent of two adult sons, PTO Treasurer | Researcher/Author 100 Years of Driscoll School | Town Meeting Member (2012–2023) | Brookline Commission for Women (2015–2020) | Redesigned & Reimagined Town Meeting Member Handbook (2023) | Co-led 249 Corey Developer/Boston/Brookline Community Negotiation | Co-sponsored 2022 Warrant article proposing expanded master planning process of Lynch Municipal Golf course to consider broadened open space and recreational priorities | Professional Experience | Adjunct Faculty at Tufts, Brandeis, Simmons | Consultant collaborating with senior policy & program leaders in the US and globally on strategy, program and partnership development, communications & analytics.
2. In May's Town Meeting we have the opportunity to improve on longstanding zoning codes by approving residential and commercial zoning that contributes to increased housing and revenue. Additional housing is fundamental to a thriving, economically diverse community. We can increase supply through thoughtful flexibility—reducing the regulatory and zoning barriers that reflexively limit what can be built where. We can shift from a

TMM11-TMM12

Question 1: Biographical Data.

Question 2: Which of these issues is/are important to your constituents, and how would you address their concerns and provide feedback to them? (Subjects such as housing, ICE in Brookline, senior services, or something else.)

gatekeeping mindset to a problem-solving one, prioritizing home creation for all income levels over preserving long-held exclusionary land-use patterns. Equally we must commit to revenue growth opportunities through rezoning to create long-term support for essential services and quality of life for all in Brookline.

Andrew Halpert (new) / 207 Mason Terrace
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. Brookline resident and Precinct 11 home owner since 2006. Married with three very energetic boys, including one FRR student. Manage R&D for a medical device startup transforming care for heart failure. Grew up moving between small towns and big cities and feel very grateful to have found a place that provides our kids with the best of both.
2. We must develop a sustainable approach to our budget. Proposition 2½ imposes artificial & unsustainable financial limits, making it a challenge to retain high-caliber employees & keep pace with peer communities. Brookline should & can remain an excellent community with top-notch schools. We must adapt our municipal landscape to various transportation and access needs and create affordable housing and vibrant commercial space while advancing diversity and equity throughout our town. We need to be prepared to stand up for our values if & when they are threatened by anyone, in particular would-be authoritarians. Town Meeting should enable dialogue that builds on our diversity rather than trying to pass resolutions that only serve to divide us.

Akiva Leibowitz (new) / 94 Mason Terrace
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate
The candidate did not respond for print version.

Andrew Riely (new) / 1514 Beacon Street
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. I grew up in Newton and have lived in Brookline full-time since 2018; I live on Beacon Street with my wife and young son. I studied geography at Macalester College as an undergraduate and subsequently at UT-Austin for my Masters degree. Now, I work at Wellesley High School teaching US History. In addition, I serve as a trustee for my condo association and have been active

with the Brookline Parents Organization and Learning First parents group. In my free time, I enjoy reading, biking, and gardening. My family and I are often found at one of Brookline's many wonderful playgrounds or walking to and fro from Clear Flour Bread.

2. I am particularly interested in education and believe that a strong public school system is perhaps the most important function our town government provides. I'm encouraged by Bella Wong's leadership of BPS so far and thus will vote in favor of the tax override, despite the difficulty of the added tax burden for town residents. I'm also interested in the development challenges that Brookline faces: I favor the rezoning initiative to encourage commercial development along Route 9 and residential development near public transportation. Finally, I appreciate the excellent quality of life that Brookline offers and plan to focus on maintaining high-quality town facilities and services rather than seeking major expansions of them.

Precinct 11**Candidate for One-Year Term
Vote for Not More Than One**

Carol B. Caro (new) / 1550 Beacon Street
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. Moved to Brookline in 1988.
Automation Librarian/Library Systems Department 1988-1996.
Executive Director of Minuteman Library Network 1997-2003.
Age-Friendly City Committee 2021- Present
BrooklineCAN Communication Committee 2011-Present
Friends of the Brookline Library 2003-Present
Brookline League of Women Voters 2003-Present
Brookline Commission for Women 2021-Present
Brookline Park & Recreation Commission 2025 – Present
Brookline-Quezalguaque Sister City Project 2002 – Present
Elected TMM for Precinct 8 (2004-2013)
Elected TMM for Precinct 10 (2014-2017)
Advisory Committee 2014-2017
2. The 2 issues that immediately come to mind are housing and senior services.
Housing: This is one of the reasons I am running for town meeting. I want to be able to cast a vote to support the Chestnut Hill Development Project. Not only will this project increase the housing stock, but it is critical for the financial future of Brookline.

Senior Services: With the senior population near 20% more attention needs to be paid to services and decisions for these residents. One example is the Fisher Hill property owned by the town. Last Town Meeting passed a Warrant Article encouraging the town not to forget the senior population when making decisions about the use of this property. I want to be part of any role that Town Meeting will play.

Precinct 12**Candidates for Three-Year Term
Vote for Not More Than Five**

Stephanie A. Bruce* / 185 Rawson Road
Attendance: 19 of 21

1. Brookline resident and homeowner since 2009. TMM since 2017. Member of Mothers Out Front, Brookline Parents Organization, and PAX. Served on the town's redistricting committee in 2021. Parent of BHS 9th-grader and Runkle 1st-grader. Labor and employment attorney. Married to local business owner Ben Kelley.
2. Brookline's most critical issue right now is funding the schools and town services. I support the override because we need those funds to maintain the town's excellence. We also need to consider additional options to help generate revenue for the town, including commercial development. I have supported and will continue to support efforts to grow and support local business, increase housing supply and density, prioritize excellence and student enrichment in our schools, and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and single-use plastics. It is critical to set the agenda locally on issues important to our community, including protecting our civil rights, given the current threats to our values at the federal level.

Michael A. Burstein* / 50 Garrison Road
Attendance: 20 of 21

1. Town Meeting Member since 2001; only missed one night in 25 years. Library Trustee since 2004; chair 2014-2016, 2021-2024. Endorsed by PAX in all elections. Harvard College: A.B., Physics; Boston University: M.A., Physics. Brookline resident 1991-3, 1995-date. Teacher (1995-2004): Cambridge School of Weston, Rashi School; Editorial Manager (now): Savvas Learning Company. Condominium owner in precinct 12 with twin daughters, age 16. Award-winning science-fiction writer and editor.

TMM12-TMM13

2. Right now, I'd say the most important issue is funding the schools and town services, including the libraries. The town very much needs the override to pass, but at the same time, we need to find other ways to fund the budget for the services the town has come to expect and appreciate. We need to look at other solutions, such as good, smart commercial development. We also need to continue looking at how to create proper affordable housing. Finally, most of us in Brookline are opposed to the overreach by the current federal government and we need to continue to find ways to fight that at the local level.

Margaret B. Molloy* / 176 Winthrop Road
Attendance: 9 of 9

1. I am a 12 year Brookline renter, and a middle school English teacher with 11+ years of experience in public education; I'm passionate about public education, both in our schools and publicly funded institutions, like our libraries. I was caucused into Town Meeting in the Fall of 2024, elected in May 2025 Education: College of the Holy Cross, BA, 2011; Harvard Graduate School of Education, M.Ed., 2015.

2. The MBTA Communities Act motivated me to become engaged in local politics and am a Brookline for Everyone Board Member and TMM. I moved to Brookline because I love living in a walkable, public transit friendly community, and saw the MBTA Communities Act as a way of bolstering that part of Brookline's character. Affordable housing (both subsidized and market rate) is the key to so many issues: welcoming immigrants and so many other groups threatened by the federal government means making sure that Brookline is an affordable, safe place for everyone; a walkable, transit friendly community helps the elderly age in place, while also helping Brookline achieve its climate goals.

Tracy Margaret Harrison (new) /
 14 Claflin Road

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. I have over 30 years of experience in commercial real estate investment. My duties included budgeting, valuations, leasing and management. I also served as the partner liaison representing the financial partner in joint ventures with developers. I was involved in the development of several hotel, retail and multi-family projects nationwide. My second career was as a Human Resources Specialist for Whole Foods. My duties included employee benefit programs and

recruiting. I handled five locations including the Brookline and Brighton locations.

2. My primary focus will be on a balanced budget. Taxpayers are becoming very weary of overrides for budget shortfalls on the election ballot. There needs to be more discussion and accountability for these overrides. An open checkbook is unacceptable. It is not a viable option to hope an override passes on a vote. If it does not pass, then we face service cuts. We must be able to sustain the services we provide to the community. Emergency cuts to programs and cuts to staffing will erode voter trust in the abilities of their representatives. Email is a great way to inform a large audience all at one time. I also feel personal interaction is important. I am very accessible and happy to speak with the constituents of my precinct.

Jonathan Phillips (new) / 3 Addington Road
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. I have lived in Brookline for 6 years, and live with my wife, daughter, and dog near Washington Square. We love the walkability of Town, the strong services (including dog parks!), and are looking forward to sending our daughter to BPS. As an avid runner, I serve on the Pedestrian Advisory Committee and am on the Beacon Street Bridle Path Design Review Committee. I also served in Town Meeting during the Fall of 2025. I am dedicated to realizing a progressive vision of Brookline, and am on the board of Brookline for Everyone.

2. My two biggest issues are the Town's financial situation and the affordability of housing. Brookline needs to allow more commercial development to develop our commercial tax base, which will allow for a more financially sustainable Town without adding to the cost of living. We are in the midst of a years-long housing crunch, and Brookline can meet the moment by allowing for more residential housing. Before Town Meeting this spring is a very important project, the CHCA, which will bring in millions of commercial tax revenue per month and add substantial housing, helping address both of these issues.

Christopher James Stadler (new) /
 316 Tappan Street

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. I grew up in Belmont and have lived in Brookline since 2020 with my partner, Flora, and our cat, Golde. I love living a block from the T, being close to so many great restaurants and businesses, and walking in the beautiful neighborhoods around me.

Professionally, I am a software engineer, building services used by towns and other municipal agencies across the country. I am proud that through my work I help make the jobs of government employees a little easier, and give residents better access to their governments.

2. The biggest concern for many is the override, and the budget deficit that makes it necessary. To avoid future overrides while maintaining excellent services we need to promote sensible commercial development. We also need to create more affordable housing so that Brookline can continue to be a diverse welcoming community. We have great opportunities to accomplish both of these without hurting the character of the town. Regarding broader concerns such as climate change and the erosion of democracy, I believe local civic engagement creates a foundation for addressing these issues. As a Town Meeting member I would support policies to increase government accessibility and voter participation, and I would personally be a resource for residents.

Precinct 13

**Candidates for Three-Year Term
 Vote for Not More Than Five**

Michael Thomas Best* / 37 Englewood Ave
Attendance: 15 of 21

1. I am a Driscoll parent and have been non-profit attorney, organizer and lobbyist for a more equitable economy for 20 years. I spent a great decade in D.C., but came home to Massachusetts to raise our kids and put down roots in a community where I could connect my policy and politics skills to local action. I believe in finding common ground, and building coalitions to get work done, and never letting the perfect be the enemy of the good. I hope I can lend those skills to our town.

2. I live in a dense part of town and pedestrian safety and how to build more housing loom large. Like my family, many of our neighbors moved to Brookline for the excellent schools. The uncertainty around funding the schools is of great concern and I think people want to see a plan for how to keep the high quality of the schools going far into the future.

TMM13

Question 1: Biographical Data.

Question 2: Which of these issues is/are important to your constituents, and how would you address their concerns and provide feedback to them? (Subjects such as housing, ICE in Brookline, senior services, or something else.)

Werner Lohe* / 25 Salisbury Road

Attendance: 19 of 21

1. Co-founder, Climate Action Brookline. Co-sponsored the Town Meeting article requiring Fossil Fuel Free new construction, forming the basis of the ten-community state pilot program in which Brookline is now participating. Chaired the committee to make the new Driscoll School fossil fuel free (FFF). Led SolarizeBrookline for 60 new residential solar installations. Member, Zero Emissions Advisory Board; member, past chair, Brookline Conservation Commission; former president, Salisbury Road-Corey Farm Neighborhood Association; graduate of Yale College and University of Pennsylvania Law School. My wife, Carol, is a Library Trustee; our two daughters graduated from Driscoll School and BHS, and I coached both in youth soccer for a decade.
2. My neighbors are concerned about preserving the things that brought them to Brookline: great schools, walkable neighborhoods, local businesses, vibrant community life. To protect these, we must encourage thoughtful, planned development that includes both commercial and residential uses to increase our tax base and make housing more affordable. We should expand the modern, form-based zoning we have enacted on Harvard Street to protect residential neighborhoods and local businesses while encouraging more affordable multifamily housing on our busiest streets. We also need to fully fund our schools and municipal services, while managing our finances responsibly to preserve the Town's AAA bond rating. Endorsed by PAX and Brookline for Everyone.

David Mendels* / 11 Evans Road

Attendance: 16 of 21

1. My wife and I are 25 year Brookliners and raised 2 amazing boys who graduated Driscoll and BHS. I have worked as a leader in the private sector as CEO of a software company, and in recent years in multiple social impact nonprofits. I am a co-Founder of ZeroCarbonMA, focused on developing smart policies for reaching our Net Zero goals in Brookline and MA; Board President of Resilient Coders where we teach low income people of color software engineering to

advance racial and economic justice in the tech sector; and lastly, I work with first time entrepreneurs from Palestine and Israel to start social impact ventures and build trust in that conflicted region via my role at Our Generation Speaks.

2. Fiscal matters and the Override

Housing in Brookline (availability, affordability)
Chestnut Hill Office Park Zoning (and broadening the tax base)
Sustainability
Safe Streets

Victoria Fernandez (new) / 3 Englewood Ave
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. I am originally from Cincinnati, OH, and moved to Brookline in 2024. In the fall of 2025, I was caucused into Town Meeting. In addition to my role in Town Meeting, I am proud to serve on the Commission for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Community Relations.

I have been teaching English-Language Arts for the past five years, an experience that has shaped my commitment to communication, critical thinking, and community engagement. I take pride in being half white and half Filipino, drawing on my heritage for inspiration, especially in my love of cooking and baking.

In Town Meeting, my primary focus is advocating for abundant and affordable housing, as well as improved transportation.

2. Housing is clearly a top concern. Residents should have housing that is both affordable and sufficiently available to meet demand. To address this, I would support policies that encourage the development of more housing while also prioritizing affordability.

Another issue is traffic safety. Automobiles are driving too fast through our streets, making it less safe to walk, bike, and enjoy our community. I would advocate for traffic-calming measures such as speed humps, protected bike lanes, and better enforcement to help ensure safer streets for everyone.

Faiza Khan (new) / 68 Windsor Road

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. Faiza Khan is a longtime Brookline resident and parent of four graduates of Brookline Public Schools. She is an experienced public school educator and administrator with fifteen years of experience in curriculum design, evidence-based instructional implementation, and systems-level improvement. As Director of Mathematics for Medford Public Schools, she works closely with the superintendent, central-office leaders, educators, and families to develop coherent instructional pathways that

support student learning, manages the departmental budget, and supports instructional improvement. She holds an Ed.D. in Leadership in Schooling, a Master's in Secondary Math Education, and an MBA, bringing both educational and financial expertise.

2. Among the many issues that Precinct 13 residents care about, two stand out: affordable housing and climate change. Ensuring access to affordable housing is essential to maintaining a diverse and inclusive community, as many families are increasingly priced out. At the same time, climate change requires urgent and responsible action.

Recent concerns about ICE activity in Brookline have also raised important questions about safety, trust, and the well-being of all residents. It is important that our community remains informed and committed to policies that uphold dignity, transparency, and respect for all.

As a TMM, I will raise these priorities with colleagues and support warrant articles that promote thoughtful discussions on this issue.

Precinct 13

Candidate for Two-Year Term Vote for Not More Than One

Philip Steigman (new) / 58 Corey Rd

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. I'm a policy strategist focused on how we support children and families. I spent ten years in Massachusetts state government improving early childhood and afterschool programs. Today, I work nationally to help align schools, health care, and community programs around what kids need to thrive. I bring a national perspective to local work and stay closely connected to the challenges families are facing, from school quality to affordability. I'm running for Town Meeting to make local government more accessible, strengthen community voice, and ensure Brookline remains welcoming, well-managed, and responsive to residents.
2. The issues I hear most about are housing affordability, the rising cost of living, and how kids are doing day to day. Families are navigating a lot, especially as phones and AI reshape how kids learn, connect, and spend their time. On housing, I support thoughtful growth that helps families stay in Brookline while maintaining strong neighborhoods and fiscal stability. But we also need to focus on what helps kids thrive, strong schools,

afterschool, relationships, and real opportunities to connect beyond screens. I believe Brookline should be a place where all families feel safe and supported. My priority is making local government more accessible, with clearer communication and more ways for families to shape decisions.

Precinct 13

Candidate for One-Year Term Vote for Not More Than One

Leigha Cuniberti / 1824 Beacon Street
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. I have been a proud Precinct 13 resident for more than fifteen years. My husband and I have raised two teenage sons in Brookline, one of whom is a sophomore at Brookline High School and the other who is in his first year at college.
I first became active in the Brookline community by volunteering in the Brookline Public Schools where I've served as a School Site Council member for both Runkle School and Brookline High School. Currently, I volunteer with Jewish Family and Children's Services Visiting Moms program where I meet with and support parents who are adjusting to parenthood and may feel isolated or overwhelmed. I also serve as a Board Trustee and Co-Chair of the Social Action Committee at Temple Ohabei Shalom.
2. Two issues I hear people talking about are the proposed override and Route 9 redevelopment. I support both of these initiatives. If the override doesn't pass, we'll face deep cuts to our schools and town services. The potential school losses feel personal; my children benefited from the middle school's world language and music education programs, both of which will be eliminated without an override. I also believe we need to generate new tax growth to reduce our reliance on overrides. This is why I support the Route 9 redevelopment, which is estimated to generate \$5.5M per year in net new tax revenue and will contribute more than \$10M into the town's Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
You can reach me at lcuniberti@yahoo.com.

Precinct 14

Candidates for Three-Year Term Vote for Not More Than Five

Youkavet Samih* / 1799 Beacon Street

Attendance: 18 of 21

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Sharon R. Schoffmann* / 6 Eliot Crescent

Attendance: 20 of 21

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Sami Zelkha* / 228 Dean Road

Attendance: 189 of 21

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Sassan Zelkha* / 1799 Beacon Street

Attendance: 20 of 21

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Brenda Hefter (new) / 653 Chestnut Hill Ave
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. I am a life-long resident of Brookline, attending the Public Schools (Runkle/BHS) and have advanced degrees in Special Education and Social Work. Together with my husband Jesse, we raised our three children here and 7 of our 12 grandchildren live here as well. I enjoy outdoor activities and meeting constituents and discussing issues of concern to them. I was caucused into Town Meeting to fill a vacancy in our Precinct for the last year and participated in Fall 2025 Town Meeting.
2. My constituents are concerned with thoughtful housing development, senior citizen services, road infrastructure, and Town budget pressures. I regularly attend multiple committee meetings to remain aware of issues, policies, and challenges. For example, I glean current information by attending Transportation Board, School Committee, and Select Board meetings. I reach out to Town elected officials to get answers to constituents questions.

Precinct 15

Candidates for Three-Year Term Vote for Not More Than Five

Arisa Susan Boit* / 271 Goddard Ave

Attendance: 19 of 21

1. I moved to Brookline in 2003 and raised both of my children here... I am an artist and former teacher. My kids started their academic journey in Brookline at BEEP (one is in college and the other has her first post college job). Over the years I served on the

board of Brookline Youth Baseball and led a Girl Scout troop for 6 years. I have volunteered with people who suffer from addiction for over 30 years and serve on the Greater Boston Council on Alcoholism. I am a Preservation Commissioner and have served on the Community Preservation Committee. I've been composting & using rain barrels my whole life & bee keeping 10+yrs. I grew up below the poverty line & still have my Brazilian citizenship (my father is Brazilian)

2. I am an advocate of access to nature being a basic human right and that all voices should be served by the choices of our town. I am most concerned that we are losing our middle class and the ability for people to age in place. We need to refocus our priorities and make sure our first responders & teachers are being truly valued. We have been overspending on non essentials and if we want Brookline to be accessible for everyone then we have to find ways to economize or find new streams of revenue because the average family can no longer afford to live in our town. I am also very concerned about Brookline being used as a cut through for commuters and think we might explore some of the congestion fees/tactics that NYC has employed.

Jane M. Flanagan* / 854 Hammond Street

Attendance: 14 of 21

1. Homeowner in Brookline for 30+ years. I am an appointed member of the Park and Recreation Commission, a board member the Brookline Greenspace Alliance and a friend of Putterham Woods, Dane Park, Soule and Baldwin Playgrounds. I am a professor of nursing at Boston College and a nurse scientist at Massachusetts General Hospital with a research focus on healthy lifestyle interventions for caregivers and those with chronic health conditions.
2. 1. In my precinct, the most pressing issue is the rezoning of the area. Along with my neighbors and fellow town meeting members, I am in support of a plan that respects the neighborhood while enhancing commercial growth and housing.
We need our town leaders to balance our budget. Public safety, a priority, should not be subject to an override. I will continue to work within my precinct and beyond to promote a responsive leadership that prioritizes the need to balance our budget while making sure the money allotted any one group is not so disproportionately high that it leaves the money allocated to others such as our seniors minimized. I value our town's commitment to public safety, schools, recreation, parks and green spaces.

TMM15-TMM16

Question 1: Biographical Data.

Question 2: Which of these issues is/are important to your constituents, and how would you address their concerns and provide feedback to them? (Subjects such as housing, ICE in Brookline, senior services, or something else.)

Benedicte J. Hallowell* / 96 Sears Road

Attendance: 21 of 21

1. I have lived in Brookline for 25 years and raised 2 sons here. I continually learn from those who have lived here all of their lives. I am married to a professor who went to school in Brookline and whose mother was a teacher in Brookline for 19 years. I have coached on town teams, served on the Moderators Committee on leaf blowers and been involved in the preservation of green spaces. I am an incumbent Town Meeting Member and have served for 13 years. I am actively involved in Board of Friends of Larz Anderson Park and I am passionate about protecting Green Spaces for future generations.
2. I am concerned about lack of economic development, threats to open and green space, continuous overrides, lack of affordable homes. I support and respect our neighborhood while working for balanced approach to commercial growth and housing. We need to achieve all of these things while balancing our budget. For these reasons, I volunteer much of my time to listening to our constituents in precinct 15 and trying to represent their concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Rory Hallowell* / 96 Sears Road

Attendance: 9 of 9

1. I was born and raised in Brookline and I have served as a TMM for a 3 years. I am also an appointed member of the Parks and Recreation Commission and Vice President of the TMM Association. I interned for Representative Tommy Vitolo last summer and I am interning for Representative Schwartz this upcoming summer. I am a graduate of Colby College in Maine and presently, I am a graduate student at the Fletcher School of Diplomacy.
2. I am running for re-election because I believe in the duties of the role. Those who have the honor to be elected by their peers to represent them in government should honor the trust they build with their constituents. I plan on focusing my energy towards productivity and protection and constantly adapting where appropriate. Solutions to the housing crisis shouldn't take the form of a single warrant or rezoning process, but instead should be layered,

informed, thoughtfully-structured and produced in both an honest and transparent presentation. We need to balance the budget, enhance growth and protect our citizens. I would appreciate consideration for your support. Thank you.

James C. Rourke Jr.* / 679 Hammond Street

Attendance: 5 of 21

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Blair Hines (new) / 745 Heath Street

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Precinct 16

Candidates for Three-Year Term Vote for Not More Than Five

Deborah Moore Abner* / 265 Russett Rd

Attendance: 21 of 21

1. I have been a Brookline homeowner for 34 years in South Brookline with my husband. I am a resident of Russett Road and our street has been transformed since the completion of the addition to Hancock Village. Traffic is heavy and stop signs are ignored. I am also an educator in the Brookline Public Schools.
2. I believe that more affordable housing is necessary and needed but I am not happy with the current model of using developers to build and ignore zoning. We only get a small amount of housing and it is not even affordable. I am also concerned about our inadequate tax base which is resulting in a deficit for the town. Health care costs are 1/3 and I wonder if we need to consider increasing premiums to decrease costs. And while we should consider an override I am concerned about the third of our population who are over 65 and on limited incomes. I also think we need to think creatively to provide more transportation for senior citizens. South Brookline has limited public transportation options so this neighborhood might benefit.

David S. Day* / 333 Russett Road

Attendance: 21 of 21

The candidate did not respond for print version.

Michael Harrington* / 135 Beverly Road

Attendance: 21 of 21

1. I am a twelve-year Brookline resident. For one of those years, I lived in Hancock Village, so I am well aware of what a vibrant and diverse neighborhood it is and how the many families living there contribute to our wider community. I am the son of a public school teacher and a graduate of public

schools, so I know how important Brookline's schools are. My husband and I have two boys who are in the Brookline Public Schools system. Prior to becoming a stay-at-home dad in 2017, I was an in-house attorney at State Street Bank. B.A. Williams College, J.D. Boston College Law School.

2. South Brookline residents are concerned about the profusion of development in town. Although the region suffers from a lack of housing – and Brookline has a role in helping alleviate that shortage – we need to be sure that development is done in a planned, reasonable, smart way considering the impact on surrounding neighborhoods. As a Town Meeting member, I would resist any rush to re-zone areas in a way that benefits developers over residents and smart growth. My constituents are also concerned about the numerous tax overrides that the Town has been placing in front of voters, and I want to make sure that we are fiscally responsible in a way that benefits Brookline as a whole.

Judith Leichtner* / 121 Beverly Road

Attendance: 21 of 21

1. President Baker PTO. Chair Baker School Council, Town Meeting Member, BHS PTO executive Committee, resident since 1973, Husband Alan, 2 children-graduates of Baker and BHS, 2 grandchildren-Driscoll and BHS
2. my priorities
 - preserving neighborhoods while increasing housing options, I support the Comprehensive Plan so that the above values are incorporated
 - supporting our schools and police, fire, and DPW services
 - preventing companies like Flock from recording data about our residents
 - preventing masked ICE agents from operating in Brookline
 Brookline is a special community and I will do everything I can to ensure it continues to be a great place to live.

Nick Fetzer (new) / 19 Conant Road

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. I was born at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina. My father was a career Marine Corps helicopter pilot, and as a result, I moved quite a bit during my childhood. Between Washington, DC, Okinawa, Japan, North Carolina, Ohio, and Virginia, I've had the opportunity to experience a wide variety of communities. It's that experience which makes me confident when I say that Brookline truly stands out. My family—my partner Jen and our sons Ethan and Miles—recently moved to Brookline from Richmond, VA in August 2025. We chose Brookline as our desired

destination for its diversity, beauty, and the reputation of the Brookline Public Schools. I'm reminded every day what a great decision that was.

2. Housing affordability, the availability of public parks, town budget issues, ICE in Brookline, and data collection issues (i.e. flock) are all important to me. I hope to bring my public finance experience to help address each.

The first thing I must do is listen! I have so much to learn. Through listening, I hope to be a conduit for feedback in both directions as we seek out solutions that serve us all.

**A. Joseph Ross (new) / 201 Sherman Road
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate**

1. UMass Amherst 1967, BU Law 1970. Admitted to Mass Bar 1970. Staff Attorney, Brookline Rent Control Board, 1972-74, private law practice since 1975, now semi-retired. §Town Meeting Member 1979-88, 1989-94, 1999-2004, 2005-12, 2015-2017; Moderator's Committee on Parking, 2011-2012; Board Member, Town Meeting Members Association, Co-chair, 2001-2003. President, Brookline Tenant Union 1979-83; 20-year Member, Brookline Democratic Town Committee; Brookline Cable Monitoring Committee, 1985-89; Housing Code Subcommittee, Brookline Public Health Advisory Council, 1979-88; Past Board Member, Brookline PAX. I was caucused back into Town Meeting in May 2025 and have attended all four sessions since then.
2. The two biggest issues facing the Town now are housing and revenue. Unfortunately, housing development can hurt the Town's revenue picture and commercial development can take up space that could be used for housing. But we need to do both and must do so carefully.

Precinct 17

Candidates for Three-Year Term Vote for Not More Than Five

**Katherine Elizabeth Haenschen* /
1236 Beacon Street
Attendance: 12 of 12**

1. Hi! I'm Katherine. I'm a 44-year-old professor, public school parent, and Brookline Town Meeting Member representing the best place in town: Coolidge Corner! By day I am a professor of political communication at Northeastern University, where I research and teach about voting, social movements, and analytics (and yes, there **is** a lot going on these days!). By

night I am a Mom of two great kids (ages 4 and 6). Prior to entering academia, I was a long-time community organizer working on electoral and issue campaigns in Austin, Texas. You can usually find me in our neighborhood shopping at Trader Joe's, exercising at HealthWorks, or waiting for the T.

2. My priorities are housing, economic development, affordability, and climate. Housing supply is too limited for families to grow and seniors to age in place. We need more homes of all sizes, configurations, and price points built near transit to meet the needs of our friends and neighbors who already live here! This will reduce our reliance on cars and help the planet. We need to bring down the crushing costs of daycare and after-school care that are hurting families and working parents. We can solve all of these problems together by proactively enabling commercial and housing development in our existing transit corridors. Brookline can be a community that helps families, working people, and retirees thrive, not just survive.

**Jonathan Klein* / 150 Saint Paul Street
Attendance: 20 of 21**

1. I moved to Brookline in 2008, and got involved in the Town in about 2018 when I was appointed to the Housing Advisory Board (HAB). Before retiring from law practice in 2020, I primarily represented nonprofit, mission-driven organizations that build, own, and operate affordable and mixed-income housing, including tenant-owned developments and limited-equity co-ops. I currently Chair the Castle Square Tenants Organization Charitable Trust, which makes grants for affordable housing and youth development through Greater Boston. In Brookline, I have been a member of the HAB, a TMM, and a proud and active Board Member of Brookline for Everyone. I have a bachelors and law degree from the University of Michigan.
2. Based my conversations with constituents and surveys, including for Comprehensive Plan, the most pressing issues for Brookline are the high price of housing, the fiscal challenges of our Town budget, and the larger issue of climate change. We can address all three by reforming our zoning to allow more multifamily housing and mixed-use/commercial development in and near our richly served transit corridors. Over time, more housing will lead to lower prices; more commercial development will enhance our Town revenues and allow us to retain our quality Town services; and building

multifamily housing near transit is key climate strategy, since apartments near transit are so much more efficient than single family homes near highways.

**Elizabeth A. Schafer* / 28 James St
Attendance: 18 of 21**

The candidate did not respond for print version.

**Joseph Valencia* / 56 Pleasant Street
Attendance: 6 of 6**

1. I moved to Brookline in 2024 when my partner and I were drawn to Greater Boston as an ideal place to begin our careers and wanted to experience life in an area of the country with history and urban quality of life. I work as a scientific researcher in the biotech industry helping to design vaccines. I previously obtained a PhD in computer science from Oregon State University.
2. I am running for Town Meeting because I believe that affordable housing is a prerequisite for economic stability and mobility. The region is facing strong challenges due to its high cost of living and many people around my age are forced to move out of the metro area or the state, especially to raise families. To combat these headwinds, I believe we must enact policies to increase the supply of housing. Within Brookline, I see Coolidge Corner as a model neighborhood and hope to support policies which improve environmental sustainability and improve access to our urban amenities.

**Anthony J. Buono (new) / 133 Park Street
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate**

1. My commitment to Brookline is rooted in years of active service. I have served as a Town Meeting Member, a member of the Advisory Committee, and as President of the Town Meeting Member Association. Through my work on the Capital and Administration & Finance subcommittees, I've gained a deep understanding of the fiscal challenges and opportunities facing our community. Professionally, I hold a Master's degree from Boston University in Mathematics and Statistics and work as a data management consultant for the financial sector. In both my career and my public service, I pride myself on bringing people together to solve complex, data-driven problems. Those who have worked with me know I am analytical, results-driven, and tirelessly hardworking.
2. My constituents care deeply about housing affordability, roadway safety, and protecting our immigrant community. I will address housing and safety by executing our Housing Production Plan to grow the tax base and fund protected

TMM17-Ballot Question

infrastructure. To protect our immigrant community from federal overreach, I will ensure Brookline fiercely defends all residents regardless of documentation status.

To keep the community informed, I will maintain constant outreach through accessible newsletters and regular, local office hours in our commercial districts. I have a strong track record of building bridges on the Advisory Committee, and I will continue to work directly with residents to find neighborhood consensus.

Precinct 17

**Candidates for One-Year Term
Vote for Not More Than One**

Franklin Cohen (new) / 1272 Beacon Street
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate
The candidate did not respond for print version.

Jonathan Golden (new) / 50 Longwood Ave.
Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. Resident of Brookline since 1999 as both a renter and condo owner. Town Meeting Member in Precinct 11 from 2021 to 2026. Driscoll parent of a sixth grader and past Driscoll School Site Council Member. Member of Temple Beth Zion (TBZ). Educator and Consultant for OpenDor Media and HeartStance Education Consulting. Graduate of Princeton (BA), Hebrew College (MJEd) and Brandeis (PhD). Endorsed by Brookline for Everyone and Progressive Brookline.
2. In my conversations with constituents, the number one concern is our structural deficit and its implications for an override. While I am a strong Yes vote on the override and the services that would be supported, I think that our town government needs to work together to increase commercial development. With a coordinated effort, we can lessen the burden on residential taxation. This issue needs to be addressed first and foremost as it has implications for all of the services provided by the town. I thank the Town Administrator for his efforts to educate Brookline residents about our budget and financial challenges. It is time for Town Meeting Members to help educate the public as well and support commercial development efforts.

Elizabeth Hudson (new) /
228 Saint Paul Street

Not Incumbent Town Meeting Candidate

1. Hi! I'm Elizabeth and I've lived in Brookline for almost 10 years. I live in Coolidge Corner with my husband, our dog, and our two cats. We love that everything we need is a 10 minute walk or a quick ride on the T. When not at work as an attorney at a pharmaceutical company, I spend my time running and playing the cello. This past year I served as a caucused Town Meeting Member for Precinct 17. Now I'm running for Town Meeting Member so that I can continue to serve my community.

2. I'm particularly concerned with Brookline's housing shortage, Brookline's financial issues, and resulting override votes. Because Brookline has resisted building more high density housing, Brookline's town revenue has decreased resulting in a need for constant override votes to fund the town and its schools. By building more housing, we increase Brookline's tax based, bring in more businesses, and can actually afford to fund the schools and town services that bring people to Brookline.

Ballot Question: Shall the Town of Brookline be allowed to assess an additional \$23,254,439 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the costs of Brookline Public Schools (\$17,944,439) and funding the costs of additional expenditures in municipal departments (\$5,310,000) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026?

Narrative In Support of Question (Yes)

Brookline is one of many Massachusetts communities facing fiscal challenges due to inflation, rising costs, and state limits on property taxes. Without action, we face devastating cuts to public safety, education, essential infrastructure repairs, and vital community services.

Voting YES maintains the services we all rely on, while increasing our tax base 2.96%, 1.68%, and 2.35% over the next three years. Let's protect what makes our town thrive and plan responsibly for the future.

For our town, voting YES preserves:

- Fire safety (response times and avoiding losing 20 firefighters)
- Community safety (6 police officer positions)
- Sustainability, tree protection, and library services
- Senior Center shuttle
- And much more!

For our schools, voting YES preserves:

- 210+ teachers & staff (14.5% of total)
- Class sizes under 30+ students
- Middle school world languages
- Grade 4-8 music instruction
- Grade 1 full-time classroom aides
- Student support and athletics at BHS
- And much more!

Narrative Opposing the Question (No)

There is a lot of talk about affordability in Brookline. Homeowners balance their budgets. We are asking the town to do the same.

A \$23.25 Million property tax override would be the largest in Massachusetts history.

Since 2015, Brookline has raised more revenue through property tax overrides than any other Massachusetts community, ensuring a continuing path to unaffordability.

Town leaders have placed overrides on the ballot in 1994, 2008, 2015, 2018, 2023 and now 2026. In addition, multiple debt exclusions have also raised taxes and the cost to live here. We are pricing all but the very wealthy out of Brookline.

We value our essential town services and our schools, but we also know that many Brookline residents cannot afford a further 18% tax increase if this override prevails. Please vote to keep Brookline affordable. Vote for a sustainable, balanced budget.