

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Demographic and Contact Information as you'd like it to appear:

**Name:** Cheryl Doyle

**Address:** 12 Sumner St., Norwood, MA

**Phone:**

**Email address:** doyleforselectmen@gmail.com

### Questions:

**1. Tell us about yourself and how your experiences will make you a good candidate for this office.**

I am running for the second time for a seat on the Board of Selectman in the Norwood Town Election being held on Monday, April 6th. I would like your vote.

I am a 9-year US Navy Veteran and served three of my years in South Korea. This experience instilled the qualities of discipline, teamwork, and strong work ethic. It also made me aware of how fortunate we are to live in the United States of America.

For over 25 years, I have held a Commercial General Contractor's License and work in commercial construction and commercial property management. This work experience provides me with a broad base of knowledge regarding current and future development. I routinely handle trouble-shooting and problem-solving commercial issues. I need to work with a variety of people. I am very organized, manage multiple subcontractors, and manage my time efficiently.

Additionally, I am a homeowner and have been a resident in Norwood for nearly 30 years. I have two children who attended Norwood Public Schools and graduated from Norwood High School. I understand the importance of educating our children in a very competitive world. At the same time, the town looks for maximum fiscal responsibility in all its budgets, both with the schools and general government.

Over the past 16 years, I have served on numerous committees including: the Conservation Commission, the Historical Commission, the Community Preservation Committee, 1.5% Task Force, been a Town Meeting Member for sixteen, and currently on the Town Meeting Rules Committee. My volunteer service includes being a member of the Neponset Valley Sunrise Rotary where I enjoy giving back to the community.

I am an active voice at planning and zoning meetings. My unique background enhances my ability to perform the duties of the Board of Selectmen. I am always prepared for meetings I attend.

**2. What do you think is the biggest challenge Norwood is facing right now and what would you do to address it?**

The financials are the biggest problem. There are two sides to this problem - income

and expenses. We need to look at both sides. We have millions of dollars in long-term debt annually, in addition to the regular budget. We need to scrutinize our budget, analyze our spending, our debt service, and explore new income possibilities.

New income possibilities, for example, to explore could include: raising construction fees, developing a new property tax rate of \$15 per thousand on apartment structures with ten or more apartments, examine the meals and hotel taxes, study the auto dealers total number of used parking spots for car sales and determine a modest fee for each - as the auto dealers' parking lots cover much impervious service that adds to the issue of flooding; and analyze - with an in-depth study - the profitability (or not) and broader economic impact of Norwood airport businesses.

We also have an unresolved storm water management/flooding issue. Norwood did not pay enough attention to developing appropriate infrastructure while population density and large apartment dwellings increased. The Police and Fire Departments have been recently publicizing that higher density has translated into increased calls. Our schools are experiencing growing challenging demographics in their student body composition, especially with increases in the economically challenged group. Our issues are not statistically comparable to nearby towns. We have work to do.

### **3. What do you think should be included in Norwood's Comprehensive Plan?**

The comprehensive plan is approaching its final phase of completion. I took part in the surveys and attended the public opportunities regarding the plan that took place at the Simoni Room at the library. There is a broad team of resident volunteers on the comprehensive plan committee. Once it is completed, it is attention to the plan's implementation that will be of the most importance. Using the plan as a true guidance tool will be the work of Norwood's future leaders.

### **4. What is an important issue that you would like the Board of Selectmen to address that they currently are not?**

Despite having Housing Production Plans for decades, the town of Norwood did not proactively prepare to comply over the years with the 40B housing laws. Norwood has not developed a first-time home buyers' program to help younger families get into the real estate market, has not provided adequate relief to seniors and disabled populations with increased housing stock- despite these groups being referred to as a priority in housing plans, and has not used CPC funds to assist renters.