



I'm Bret Murray, and I'm running for re-election to the Marblehead Select Board.

I grew up in Marblehead, and my wife, three sons and I are fortunate to call Marblehead home, embracing all it has to offer. In short, I would be proud to serve another term on the Select Board to ensure our town remains fiscally strong and continues to be an idyllic place to live.

Professionally, I have worked in the insurance industry for over twenty years, and currently, I am employed as the Director of Risk Management at New England's premier higher education institutions. I am also an attorney.

Goals

Our town faces many challenges, but with active stewardship and community engagement, I believe they can be resolved. The three most critical areas are building a strategic plan, improving transparency and developing a reasonable budget.

Budget

Our town has a structural deficit — recurring expenses are increasing faster than recurring revenues. Over the past year, the Select Board has explored ways to generate revenues, without raising property taxes. However, we need thoughtful debate about how to fund our town's operations, including our schools, so Marblehead remains a great place to live.

Strategic Plan

A strategic plan is an important roadmap that details our town's goals and how to achieve them. Many town departments — from the Park & Rec to the Harbor & Waters Board and the School Committee — have goals that require funding. To effectively guide our community, we need to define our goals through an assessment. Level funding our budget in perpetuity doesn't work, but neither will approving ad hoc overrides. A strategic plan creates a path for funding what matters to Marbleheaders.

Transparency

Our citizens deserve to know how our town operates and conducts its business. The need for numerous citizen articles at Town Meeting demonstrates that our town is not as open and transparent as it should be. In addition to clear guidelines and procedures for our elected and appointed governing bodies, citizens should have virtual access to meetings and clearly posted minutes.

Over the past year, the Select Board has made progress in each of these areas, but there is still much more to do. If I am fortunate enough to be reelected, I will continue to work with the other members of the board to further address these goals, so that Marblehead remains a vibrant community and great place to live.

Please vote for Bret Murray on Tuesday, June 11th.