

League of Woman Voters Website

I am a lifelong resident of Marblehead, a graduate of Marblehead High where I was the President of my senior class, and am a Dentist with a Master's in Public Health, both degrees from Harvard, and I have previously served 18 years on the Marblehead Board of Health. I am seeking to return to the Board to continue serving the Town I love.

To be a collaborative and functioning Board of Health member, it is necessary to have experience and a focus on the health and welfare of all the citizens you represent. My background fulfills those requirements. My record shows that I have advocated for children and women's rights for over four decades. For 24 years I have been editor-in-chief of a nationally-awarded professional publication.

Going at issues from a negative point of view is not constructive. During my 18 years on the Board of Health, I can proudly say that we accomplished much good for our Town. I established a strong reputation of listening to all sides of an issue and finding common ground. Those who know me are aware that I do not hold grudges and I am very even-tempered. I am not a one-issue candidate. I am fully aware that my responsibilities are to regulate and monitor health conditions at our beaches, our food establishments, our town facilities and the health and welfare of our citizens. I am a strong believer that the Board of Health has a responsibility to inform, educate and advocate for the public on issues of health and welfare.

One major focus we should have is to deal with the anxiety and mental health issues of our residents (especially our children) that are prevalent and directly a result of the COVID pandemic. We are facing a mental health crisis. We need board members with public health experience to face it. In my opinion, this should be our number one focus—to provide the services needed to help alleviate the problem. My public health experience, career, research and teaching, which includes work with child abuse, give me a unique perspective to advocate for our town and citizens. We are lucky to have the Marblehead Counseling Center and social service agencies like HAWC as a foundation.

We also should have education forums on how to communicate with each other more productively, including the proper use of social media as a positive communication tool. Negativism is so destructive to the social fabric of our town.

As to the transfer station, there are many misconceptions about the obstacles that the Board had to deal with during the remediation process. We need to educate the public about the history and evolution of the project. This is not a one-issue Board. In order to serve the town properly, leadership has to be able to adapt to whatever is thrown at them.

I was on the Board when we were mandated by the DEP to cap the landfill. After town meeting and the voters approved an override to cover state mandates, remediation costs skyrocketed when our engineering contractor discovered greater than expected contamination on the site and in abutting properties, including conservation land. Because of the due diligence of the subsequent Board of Health the additions had to be addressed and had to be covered by the approved funds. An attempt was made

to get more funds so that the project could go on with the original design, but this subsequent override was not passed by the voters. I admire how well the Board and its administrator have been able to devise a recovery plan with existing funds that will still be able to provide a functioning facility and a modern building for the employees. Marblehead will still have a modern transfer station that provides great service for its residents and still will provide service for local commercial use. It is and will be the envy of many communities that do not have this kind of facility. Being a Board member, your purpose is not to find fault for everything, your responsibility is to find solutions. Please remember that this is The Board of Health, not only The Board of Transfer Station.

I would embrace the opportunity to be a part of this transfer station project's completion. Marblehead has a transfer station that provides great service for its residents and still will provide service for local commercial use and is the envy of many communities that do not have this kind of facility. I know this is and will be a facility that makes this community proud.