



Dear Marblehead Voters,

My name is Erin Noonan and I am a candidate for the Board of Selectmen. I had the privilege of growing up in Marblehead - our incredible seaside town, steeped in American history. Seven years ago, my husband and I settled our young family here, fulfilling a dream of mine that my own children would be able to call Marblehead home as well. Our three children are ages 12, 11 and 8, attending Marblehead schools, and enjoying all of the traditions, festivals, beaches, youth sports and park and rec activities that this town offers. It would be an incredible honor to me to have the opportunity to give back to our town and serve this special community.

I am an attorney with a background in civil litigation. For the past seven years, I have been running my own practice focused on cases in Juvenile Courts in Essex and Suffolk counties. I am a member of the Children and Family Law trial and appellate bar panels. The professional skills that I would bring to the Board of Selectmen include strong oral and written advocacy and analytical thinking skills. I am thorough in researching issues, performing all due diligence, including weighing all consequences and minimizing downsides. I also value volunteerism as demonstrated through my work as Co-Chair of the successful ballot override campaign for the new elementary school, my work with the PTO, and my service as a parent representative on the School Department's IEP Improvement Project.

I am running because I want to ensure that Marblehead remains a thriving seaside town for the next generation. We need to move Marblehead forward and tackle the long-term issues facing our town -- climate change and coastal resiliency, unmet housing needs, and economic vitality. This will require bold leadership from the Board of Selectmen to ensure that our town's finances and planning meet this moment. We also need to address capital infrastructure needs, ensure sound budgeting practices, and find new, creative ways to increase revenue. And of course, we need to ensure that we are providing the high-quality town services that our residents deserve and that will ensure Marblehead remains an attractive choice within the greater Boston area.

## **Strategic Master Plan**

While Marblehead has a rich and proud history, our ability to thrive relies on looking ahead with thoughtful planning. We should have a strategic master plan that sets forth a bold vision, establishes our goals and priorities, and offers a framework for all decision-making as we move forward over the next 5-10 years. This will help us execute on current initiatives in their earliest stages—such as protecting the coastline and addressing unmet housing needs. Critical to this planning will be promoting public participation in our town's government. We need to identify our shared priorities and improve communications from town government to the community around issues and deliberations.

## **Climate Change & Coastal Resiliency**

Marblehead is on the front lines of climate change as we face increasingly severe storms. Our town needs to identify vulnerable areas in addition to those laid out in the Coastal Resiliency study. We need to engage the community around this conversation and analyze the costs and benefits of proactive measures we can take to reduce coastal flood risk and adapt to changing conditions from catastrophic storms. We need to seek every outside opportunity through federal and state grants to undertake sustainability efforts for the future generations of Marbleheaders. The Marblehead Green Committee has done tremendous work in putting together the Marblehead Climate Vision. I plan to accomplish the work needed to achieve it.

## **Housing Needs**

We need to consider options to diversify housing options to meet people at different life stages and income levels. Although we have many affluent households, almost 30% of households in town are low-income, which includes half of single-person senior households and half of renter-occupied households. We need to expand and diversify our housing inventory according to the findings of the Housing Production Plan that the town adopted in 2019. Changes to our zoning laws could help accomplish this at no cost to taxpayers. The town will need to decide how to use three large parcels of land that are expected to be turned over by the School Department in the next year at Coffin, Eveleth and Green Street. These properties need to be given thorough consideration around whether they could serve to ameliorate the lack of senior and affordable housing in town.

## **Capital Infrastructure Needs**

We have no capital fund to budget for capital projects, yet we have a growing list of capital infrastructure and facilities maintenance needs. We need to ensure that we are maintaining our buildings, roads, facilities, parks, and other assets. While we have completed or are near completion on projects at Abbott Hall and Fort Sewell, our needs are extensive. There is the potential for federal funding becoming available if the American Jobs Act passes through Congress. We need to take real inventory of our needs and present shovel-ready projects deserving funds.

## **Fiscal Responsibility**

We need to address long-standing structural imbalances between town revenues and town expenditures. We should always be striving to find creative ways to generate revenue and attract commercial investment. I believe that we should maximize efficiency in operations and evaluate potential avenues for savings.

Thank you for your consideration and I humbly ask for your vote on June 22nd. To connect with me to learn more about my platform please visit [voteerinnoonan.com](http://voteerinnoonan.com).

Gratefully,

*Erin Noonan*