

League of Women Voters

6/1/2023

Jackie Belf-Becker.

As many of you know, for more than 2 decades I've had both the honor and privilege of asking for the vote of the people of Marblehead.

However, as the late, great Tip O'Neill once said, the most important thing any candidate for any office can do is to ask for your vote.

And I do so again tonight.

Now down to business.

First, I would like to say that it is important to recognize when an organization has challenges.

Our financial house was not in order, but we've put new management in place to fix it.

We have a new Finance Director, and a new Town Administrator so we are in control going forward. We have also have a new Treasurer to actively manage all of our banking issues.

The SelectBoard needs to put the right people in the right place and we have done that.

If I am re-elected, I will be able to keep the Board focused on making sure that we are fixing our issues. This is not a time for changing direction.

We've known that we can't continue to use free cash. We all knew it couldn't be sustained. We are proposing this override to stabilize our finances and we need your help. We are being open and transparent as to what and why there is a need for an override to address the structural deficit.

We know there is much work to be done. We are pointed in the right direction and must stay on this path.

We need long-term thinking because we've already come up with a strategy that we are currently implementing to improve systems, cut costs and effectively manage for the long term.

Constant communication with town leadership and frequent updates on the progress of long term goals is necessary. We do not need change just for the sake of change. We don't want to jeopardize the work of the new team. We are on the right path.

Part of what I do as a member of the SelectBoard is that I make it a point to show up to as many of the events, large or small, to attend Town volunteer activities. I really connect with people. I appreciate all of the work that volunteers perform to make our town the wonderful place it is.

I get many phone calls and always return them. I try to facilitate solutions of the many requests and questions I get.

I have lived in Marblehead for 49 years.

I was a special education attorney in my private practice; I then became a hearing officer at the Bureau of Special Education Appeals for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I then became the Director of the Bureau.

I attended Franklin and Marshall College and graduated in three years.

I attended the New England School of Law and am a member of the Massachusetts Bar.

I served on the Marblehead School Committee for five and a half years, three as Chair.

I am in my 18<sup>th</sup> year on the Marblehead Select Board; and served 13 years as Chair.

I ask the people of Marblehead who have trusted me with their votes for 18 years, to send me back to the SelectBoard to continue my work on the Board.

Thank you!