

## MODERATOR

Name: Gerri Slater  
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### Questions:

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

Choosing Norwood as the best place to live and raise a family, I moved here over thirty years ago. Our family loves living in the town and taking advantage of all it has to offer. I had been a long-time town meeting member and more importantly a fan of the process. Town Meeting is the legislative branch of town government where the people of the town make the important decisions for the town on the budget, borrowing, land purchases and sales along with town by-laws, including zoning. My family and I are believers in public service and have stepped up to serve. In addition to being the current Town Moderator, I have served on several selection committees, the Rules Committee, and as a member of the Morse House Committee. I also sit on two Norwood based non-profit boards.

I'd like to continue to serve as your Town Moderator, as I've enjoyed the experience and can continue to implement positive change while I know there's always more to learn. Enabling Town Meeting to be a welcoming forum for all voices to be heard while continuing to improve the process is a challenge I am willing to take on.

I believe this is the right position for me to continue to serve our town.

**2. As moderator how would you manage the discussion at Town Meeting to ensure all voices are heard?**

Once a motion is open for debate by recognizing different speakers and not recognizing someone who has already spoken. This is the reason I scan the room when hands go up, ensuring I select someone who hasn't yet contributed. This does become harder when there are registered speakers as they must be recognized first in the order they registered. I do ask registered speakers if they are planning to speak for or against a motion, but they are not required to tell me. Although the body votes on moving the question and stopping debate, as Moderator I do not have to accept the motion if in my opinion all sides have not been heard. In that case, it will allow the debate to continue and more voices to be heard.

Will also continue to emphasize the importance of treating everyone with dignity, even if we disagree, and to call out anyone who is using contemptuous language while debating an issue.

### **3. What would you tell people to encourage them to seek election to Town Meeting?**

We are extremely fortunate in Norwood to have a representative Town Meeting. It is the purest form of government where the people of the town make the most important decisions for the town. It is a forum where the voices of our residents can be heard on all articles being addressed. This is a privilege not universally enjoyed in other parts of the country and the world. In encouraging people to run I say try it. Run for a one-year term, if available in your district, and give it a try. It is an opportunity for your voice to be heard and everyone's vote truly counts. Town Meeting greatly benefits from diverse opinions and representation, so we need you. Please take the opportunity to shape our town.

Lastly, don't be intimidated by the rules or procedures. We have all sorts of resources to help you through those including Town Meeting 101, the Town Clerk's office, watching meetings on NCM and the Moderator is there to help. Plus the League has many great resources too.

### **4. How can residents contact their district's Town Meeting members regarding issues and concerns?**

All Town Meeting members are listed by district on the town's website, [Town Meeting Members by District.pdf](#). The Town Clerk's office updates this listing after each election. Members have listed their email if they can be contacted via email. All members have their addresses published so you can easily drop them a line.