Where do I vote?

Check the link below for voting locations.

http://www.wheredoivotema.com

All polling places are accessible. The Town of Brookline does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services or activities. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Town of Brookline are invited to make their needs known to the ADA Coordinator, Town of Brookline, 11 Pierce St., Brookline, MA 02445 Telephone: 617-730-2330; TDD 617-730-2327

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Precinct 1: BU-Wheelock College, 43 Hawes Street, Monmouth Street Entrance

Precinct 2: Ridley School Gymnasium, Stedman Street Entrance

Precinct 3: Morse Apartments, 90 Longwood Ave

Precinct 4: Brookline Town Hall, 333 Washington Street

Precinct 5 & 5A: (New) Lincoln School, 19 Kennard Rd

Precinct 6: BHS Schluntz Gymnasium, 115 Greenough Street

Precinct 7: O’Shea House, 61 Park Street

Precinct 8: Ridley School Gymnasium, Stedman Street Entrance

Precinct 9: Senior Center, 93 Winchester St

Precinct 10: Driscoll School, Gymnasium, Washington Street Entrance

Precinct 11: Driscoll School, Gymnasium, Washington Street Entrance

Precinct 12: Runkle School Gymnasium, 50 Druce Street (Front entrance)

Precinct 13 & 13A: Runkle School Gymnasium, 50 Druce Street (Front entrance)

Precinct 14 & 14A: Heath School Gymnasium, 100 Eliot Street

Precinct 15: Fire Station #6 (rear), 962 Hammond St

Precinct 16: Putterham Library, 959 West Roxbury Parkway

Precinct 17: Coolidge Corner Library, Community Room, 31 Pleasant St.

The Sara K. Wallace Fund for Voter Education

The Sara K. Wallace Fund for Voter Education of the League of Women Voters Brookline was established in 1977 to promote informed and active participation of citizens in government.

The Sara K. Wallace Fund supports voter registration drives, candidate debates and forums, publishes the Voters Guide to Town Elections annually and the periodic publication Brookline Close Up. These activities are made possible through tax-deductible contributions from Brookline residents and businesses.

Donate online: https://tinyurl.com/2p8wy3sm

Or mail your contributions to:
SKW Fund for Voter Education
League of Women Voters Brookline
PO Box 32
Brookline, MA 02446

Or here:

The League would like to thank the Town Clerk’s Office for its cooperation in providing information for the 2023 Voters Guide.

The League would also like to thank Ken Liss and the Brookline Historical Society for providing the historical information for this year’s guide. http://brooklinehistoricalsociety.org

Publisher:
Production Staff: Betsy DeWitt, Ernie Frey, Diana McClure, Shana Penna, Carol Seibert, Joel Shoner

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this Voters Guide.

If Voters have questions, they are encouraged to contact their candidates.

The League policy is that we do not edit the responses from the candidates.

An (*) next to a candidate’s name denotes incumbency.

LWV Nonpartisan Policy

The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The League does take positions on issues after study and consideration but does so separately from voter service activities.
**SELECT BOARD**

Salary: Chairman: $4,500 per annum.
Other members: $3,500 per annum

Duties: The Select Board carries out the votes of Town Meeting; reviews the annual budget for bonds and notes for the borrowing of money; appoints certain department heads, assistants, advisors, boards, and committees; serves as a licensing board and as the police and fire commissioners; represents the Town before the General Court in all regional and metropolitan affairs; and enforces the Town bylaws and regulations.

Select Board. LWV member Louise Castle in 1960 became the first woman elected to the Board of Selectmen. Future governor Michael Dukakis and future lieutenant governor and U.S. cabinet secretary Eliot Richardson managed her campaign. In 2007, the board had a female majority (Nancy Daly, Betsy DeWitt, and Jesse Mermell) for the first time.

**Question 1:** Biographical data.

**Question 2:** How would you balance the many Town needs against the fiscal challenges facing the Town?

**Candidates For Three Year Term Vote For Not More Than Two**

John R. VanScoyoc (*) / 307 Reservoir Rd.

1. In 2018, I retired after 23 years as a producer of nightly news/talk programs for New England Cable News/NBC10 Boston. 1975-1985, I was editor of the Brookline Chronicle. My wife Barbara and I have lived in Brookline since we were married in 1975. Our children, Ellen and Robert went through Brookline Public Schools K-HS. I've served as president and treasurer of the Brookline Historical Society; Town Meeting Member from Precinct 13; board member (recently retired) at Brookline Center for Community Mental Health; board of Brookline Adult and Community Education; volunteer for the New England Region of Met Opera Auditions. I was first elected to the Select Board in the Covid-postponed election of 2020. I am seeking re-election to a 2nd term.

2. The fixed costs of debt, pensions and retiree health care are consuming an ever-larger share of revenues, forcing essential services (Schools, Police, Fire) to get by with minimal year-over-year budget increases. Management struggles to hold labor contracts to rate of inflation. Employee morale suffers, as does competitiveness in hiring. Options for increasing revenues include overrides of the Prop. 2 1/2 tax levy cap, commercial growth, and lobbying for greater state and federal aid. Other options include revisiting our timetable for paying down unfunded liabilities, increased fees, and maximizing enterprise programs. All options need to be on the table. However, there must be no retreat from fiscal policies governing reserve funds. Maintaining the highest credit rating is essential in order to control borrowing costs.

Arden Reamer (New) / 72 Stedman St.

1. I was raised in Brookline, and I am now raising my own family here. My husband and I have 2 teenagers, who attend the Florida Ruffin Ridley School and Brookline High School, and our dog, Oreo. My mother and brother are also longtime Brookline residents. With a Master’s in Education and an MBA, I began my professional life in social services with underserved communities and managing the public safety budget for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I have served as Devotion/Ruffin Ridley School PTO Treasurer and School Building Committee Parent Representative. I’ve been active in supporting Brookline’s reproductive health providers. In 2021, I became a Precinct 8 Town Meeting Member and won re-election for a 3 year term in 2022.

2. To ensure Brookline’s future, we are asking a lot from residents to shore up the structural deficit Brookline is facing. We must strive to benefit the most people and protect the most vulnerable with policy choices. The key to our financial future is commercial spaces occupied with thriving businesses, providing quality jobs and an expanded tax base. To enable this goal, housing availability and affordability must improve, so that those who want to live in Brookline can afford to and those who want to stay in Brookline can continue to live here. In addition, development in transit accessible areas should use sustainable, fossil fuel free standards such as Passive House to help guarantee access to state and federal funding assistance. Expanding the tax base to increase revenues to cover critical services is the top choice to bridge the gap in future needs and improve quality of life here.

Paul Warren (New) / 71 Carlton St.

1. I am committed to making town government work differently and better. I am a seasoned business executive with 30 years of experience managing people, budgets and responsive operations. As a teenage husband and father, I relied on section 8 housing and social services to survive. I know what it means to be food and housing insecure and the importance of helping under-resourced neighbors. Having served on the Town’s Advisory Committee and in Town Meeting, as one of its most active members, I understand how our government works and how to make it work for others. As a parent with two young children in the Public Schools I understand, first-hand, the critical need to provide access to an equitable, quality, public education to all children.

2. We need to live within our means. This requires a disciplined approach that focuses on core government services. These include public safety, education, critical social services for our seniors and under resourced residents, and maintaining our public infrastructure including roads, public buildings and parks. Demand for town services continues to grow and is placing significant strain on our budget and the finances of many town residents. In the near term, we need to engage with the public to set and align our budget priorities with our values. Importantly, we must turn our attention to the future and develop long term forecasts for our operating and capital budgets, and a revenue growth strategy that ensures that we can continue to meet the needs of our growing community. All of this must be done with a focus on keeping Brookline affordable for its low and moderate income residents.
Question 1: Biographical data.

Question 2: Discuss your priorities for improving or maintaining the services offered by the Brookline libraries.

Candidates For Three Year Term Vote For Not More Than Four

Chris Chanyasulkit (*) / 16 Corey Rd.

1. LEADERSHIP/SERVICE: President; American Public Health Association; United for Libraries (Board Member); Library Trustee; Brookline Asian American Family Network (Steering Committee Member); Brookline Medical Reserve Corps; Brookline Community Emergency Response Team; Brookline Community Foundation (Board Member); EDUCATION/WORK: PhD (Northeastern University), MPH, BA (Boston University); Chief Magic Officer/Travel Advisor at Chris Upon A Star Travel; Adjunct Assistant Professor (Temple University). FAMILY: Married to James Bardin, Mother to 3 children & 2 puppies.

2. I come to my library advocacy as I do my public health advocacy. Libraries play a pivotal role in health because they are a trusted and safe place in the community. Libraries provide air conditioning on a hot day for folks or heat when the weather is cold. They can also be a place where social services are provided. It cements the notion that everything is about health and that the connection between public libraries and public health is strong and should be a priority. I will continue to advocate for full funding for our libraries and to ensure that they remain welcome and open spaces for all!

Karen Livingston (*) / 1501 Beacon St

1. My husband and I raised our three sons in Brookline. Our oldest son is getting his PhD next month, our middle son is soon to have a second son, and our youngest is working on his undergraduate degree out West.

I retired from a career in Cable Television National Accounts and Marketing at HBO & Disney. I continued as a cable consultant through the birth of our third child.

For the past 25 years, I've volunteered in a hands-on capacity (classrooms, etc) as well as on several Boards (BAC, Library, etc). After the kids left home, I spent 4 years as a Home Visitor in Brookline's Parent Child Home Program

2. With support from the Brookline Library Foundation and Friends of the Library, the Trustee's have been able to offer our community a vast array of books and activities in multiple languages, as well as collections (museum passes, electronic media services, etc). Our Library of Things offer patrons telescopes, camping equipment, hot spots, Chromebooks, iPads equipped with assistive technologies, Osmo kits, tools (electric and manual), fanciful cake pans, 3D printers, board games, ELL kits, sewing machines, yard games and more!

I plan to work with the Library Director and Trustees to provide everyone with equal access to leisure and learning opportunities, to reach deeper into our community through strategic partnerships, and in the next year or two, to launch an electric book mobile.

Jonathan Margolis (*) / 49 Harvard Ave


2. The Library is perhaps Brookline’s most cherished institution. My goal is to keep it that way, by maintaining the excellence of its services and collection, and by working with our superb staff to continue to offer the best experience possible to our patrons.

Marissa Farland Vogt (New) / 12 Tabor Pl.

1. (She/her) I am a planetary space physicist at BU and have lived in Brookline with my husband since 2014. Our son is in kindergarten at Pierce and our daughter is in preschool at BEEP. Both kids are avid readers and regular visitors to the Brookline Village library branch. I have served in Town Meeting (Precinct 6) and on the Pedestrian Advisory Committee since 2020. As a Town Meeting Member I have advocated for increased library funding and was disappointed to see library budget cuts in FY2020 and FY2021. Unfortunately the library’s share of the overall Town budget has been decreasing since at least FY2016 and the FY2023 funding in actual $ is ~10% smaller than it would have been if the budget had kept up with modest inflation (2.5-3%).

2. The job of a Library Trustee is to help our library system serve the community - - a role that includes setting policies that ensure equitable access to library resources, hiring a director who shares our community values, advocating (locally and beyond) for robust funding and for competitive staff salaries & benefits, and helping with community outreach. Our Brookline libraries and their staff are invaluable resources.

I am consistently in awe at the diversity of their programming, both in terms of the types of events/programs that they offer and at the range of languages, cultures, identities, ages, and interests that are represented and included in their programming. As a Library Trustee I will support these ongoing efforts and will apply a social justice lens in prioritizing new initiatives.

Judith Goleman (New) / 57 Mason Terr

1. A resident of Brookline for 37 years and a retired English professor at UMass Boston, I believe I have relevant values, knowledge, and skills. At Boston’s only public university I was shaped by its core mission of diversity and inclusion and am committed to inclusive learning in all contexts. My professional expertise is the teaching of writing and the active reading practices that support it. A central premise of my work is that language and literacy growth are life-long processes supported by multiple institutions which, of course, includes our libraries. My husband, Neal Bruss, and I raised our daughter in Brookline, sent her to public school here, and spent hours with her in the children’s room of the Brookline Village branch.

2. I appreciate that the Library’s Strategic Plan states that “The Library strives to meet you where you are.” Meeting people where they are is harder than it sounds. Serving a stratified, multicultural community, the Library has no homogeneous “you” to address. This is a central challenge of our times. Further, the Library’s aim to “connect patrons to resources through innovative approaches online and in person” also stands out as an essential goal. I want to support our library’s forward progress in connecting patrons to resources. Advocating for Library resources to reflect current needs for Brookline’s diverse citizenry—its parents as well as children, its teachers and staff as well as students, our senior citizens, public service employees, immigrant neighbors, language learners, the physically challenged or isolated are worthy goals for which my experience prepares me.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Salary: Unpaid.

Duties: The School Committee has the power to select and terminate the Superintendent of Schools; approve and review budgets for public education; establish educational goals and policies for the schools in the district consistent with the requirements of the law and state-wide goals and standards established by the Massachusetts Board of Education.

Ridley School. Florida Ruffin Ridley, a writer and activist for the rights of African Americans and women, and her husband, the tailor Ulysses Ridley, were perhaps the first African Americans to own their own home in Brookline. e new house on Kent Street that they purchased in the 1890s still stands. In 2020, the former Edward Devotion School, originally named for a colonial era slaveholder who left money to the town, was renamed the Florida Ruffin Ridley School.
Question 1: Biographical data.

Question 2: What are the most critical issues facing the School Committee now and how would you address them?

Candidates For Three Year Term
Vote For Not More Than Three

Suzanne Federspiel (*) / 3 Greenough Circle

1. Elected to the School Committee in 2017 and have served as vice chair and chair. Educator for more than thirty years in Connecticut and Massachusetts. My positions have included special education teacher and team leader, literacy coach, early childhood coach, and fifteen years as an elementary school principal for the Boston Public Schools. Currently a volunteer tutor in Boston.

Degrees in education from Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs, and Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst; MBA from Boston University. My husband and I have lived in Brookline since 1985. Our two children graduated from Pierce School and Brookline High School.

2. I continue to prioritize the development of the social-emotional, physical, and intellectual abilities of all our students. I am committed to low student-teacher ratios, teaching to the whole child, and racial justice and equity throughout the district. The school budget must reflect these priorities which is why I support the town’s operational override and the debt exclusion for the new Pierce School.

I served as vice chair and chair of SC during the pandemic when we created and expanded the Office of Equity; established our new Diversity & Inclusion subcommittee; hired Superintendent Guillory and more social workers; raised paraprofessional wages; established an environment panel.

Currently I chair the Curriculum subcommittee and serve on the finance and negotiations subcommittees. I will keep working to support students and staff in the post-Covid era. I ask for your vote on May 2.

Andy Liu (*) / 61 Griggs Rd

1. Andy Liu was first elected to the School Committee in 2020, and now serves as Vice Chair and Negotiations Chair. He holds a BA in philosophy from Harvard University and a PhD in mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley.

He works as a research fellow in neurobiology at Boston Children’s Hospital, where he does experiments to understand how cells in the eye sense light and communicate with the brain.

He is a former Town Meeting Member from Precinct 10, and has a son who is a fifth grader at Pierce School and a graduate of BEEP.

2. Our students have suffered academically, socially, and emotionally from the pandemic. While student needs have risen, both the schools and the Town are facing a mismatch between our revenues and the expenditures needed to serve our students and residents. The School Committee's task is to ensure that Brookline's schools continue to pursue excellence and equity in a way that justifies the level of taxpayer support that we're requesting. We've just gone through a period of instability in the school administration, which has made it hard to set priorities and follow through on them. I'm hopeful that we're now entering a period of stable leadership and finances. This would allow us to make progress on a crucial long-term priority: attracting and retaining an educator workforce that broadly reflects the diversity of the students and families that we serve.

Mariah C. Nobrega (*) / 33 Bowker St

1. I am proud of my Town service which extends nearly 15 years. Since 2020 I have served on the School Committee and chaired the finance subcommittee. Previous service includes Advisory Committee 2015-2020; Commission for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Relations 2019-2021; Town Meeting 2009-2022; and project committees (River Road Study Committee, Kent/Station Street Committee, Murphy Playground Committee).

About me personally: born and raised in Brookline (proud Lawrence and BHS alum!). I live on Bowker St across from my parents. Married to Arthur, we have three children - two at BHS who attended Pierce, and a kindergartner at Lawrence. Employed at Northeastern, from which I received my MBA.

2. The most critical issues are strategic planning and budget. STRATEGIC PLANNING: PSB has recently kicked off a strategic planning process. I am committed to ensuring the plan articulates the type of district PSB intends to be and the metrics we will use to determine our progress towards that vision, and that it is developed in an inclusive process. This is an tremendous opportunity to build shared understanding of and commitment to excellence in public education in Brookline.

BUDGET: I have been, and will continue to be, focused on budget transparency and accountability. Education is the largest expense in the Town: it is critical to demonstrate that funds are being spent responsibly and efficiently, with student achievement and well-being as the guiding principles. We are at a critical crossroads in the funding of public education in Brookline: PLEASE VOTE YES ON QUESTIONS 1 AND 2

What’s the 411?

411 was the number dialed by actual telephones for directory assistance in the 1940’s & 1950’s. It now refers to any type of information.

Christopher Mutty (New) / 15 Green St.

1. Christopher has lived in Brookline since 2014 with his wife Peg & dog Fitz. He is a stay-at-home parent of 2 boys, Morgan & Malcolm (5+2). Morgan is at the Ridley school where Christopher is room parent for his kindergarten classroom. Christopher coaches rugby & co-founded Hub Rugby. He co-founded Brookline Growen & Green Line Growers, a farm stand/hydroponic farm in Waldo Durgin/Coolidge Corner. He was a substitute teacher in Boston Public Schools, helped businesses carshare, & developed solar arrays in VT. He was raised in Winookski, VT & attended public schools for K-12. He graduated from Middlebury College. He is also running for Town Meeting in Precinct 17. www.chrismutty.com 617-935-2589. Endorsed by PAX

2. The 3 issues I’d tackle if elected to the School Committee are (1) BEEP is great but doesn’t work for everyone. We need universal preK by extending the day & ensuring no family has to pay for public education.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Candidates For One Year Term
Vote for Not More Than One

Natalia Linos (New) / 336 Washington St.

1. Natalia is an epidemiologist and the Executive Director of the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard. She lives in Brookline Village with her husband, Paul, and their three children (all at Pierce)-- Amalia and twins Leo and Alexandra. Natalia is a Brookline Town Meeting Member and chair of the town’s Advisory Council on Public Health. She also serves on the Board of the Environmental League of Massachusetts and Brookline for Racial Justice & Equity. In her previous roles she has worked as a high-school teacher in Beirut, as a science advisor at the NYC Health Department, and over ten years in various roles at the United Nations, including addressing climate change. Natalia grew up in Greece and is a three-time Harvard graduate.

2. As we emerge from the pandemic, the School Committee must focus on efforts to recover and rebuild in an equitable manner. This should include assessing and addressing academic and socio-emotional needs of students, paying particular attention to those most directly impacted including children with disabilities; supporting teachers and staff, many of whom are facing burnout; and fostering community bonds. As a public health professional, I hope to bring my expertise to support the mental health of the school community and serve as a bridge to the Health Department. As someone educated outside the US, I also will work to celebrate and benefit from our multicultural community, ensuring that needs of English language learners are met. Finally my commitment to climate action transcends all my work. I support the Pierce debt exclusion and will work towards more green and healthy buildings.

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2. The 3 issues I’d tackle if elected to the School Committee are (1) BEEP is great but doesn’t work for everyone. We need universal preK by extending the day & ensuring no family has to pay for public education.
(2) A robust mental health program is critical to school’s success. Students & teachers need access to good mental health services to ensure everyone is okay/recovering from pandemic trauma. (3) Brookline needs diverse teachers. We need to recruit more BIPOC staff. My wife & I were public school kids. I believe in public education, my children are in BPS, & I want my sons & all children to have access to quality public education so that they can go on to lead rich & fulfilling lives.

**Housing Authority**

**Salary:** Each member may receive a salary of not more than one-fifth or 2% of the gross rental receipts from veterans housing.

**Duties:** The Housing Authority is the agent for the Town in all public housing activities ranging from determining community needs for such housing to development and management.

**Question 1:** Biographical data

**Question 2:** What are your priorities for maintaining and improving the quality of Brookline’s public housing, and how would that be funded?

### Candidates For Five Year Term Vote For Not More Than One

**Susan Cohen** (*) / 31 Russell St., 2

1. Current Commissioner of the Brookline Housing Authority
2. General Counsel, Cambridge Housing Authority
3. Participating in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization’s Housing Justice Campaign
4. Served as general counsel and legal advisor to many Massachusetts housing authorities in Massachusetts including Brookline Housing Authority.
5. Board member and past president of Housing and Development Law Institute, the only national organization solely addressing the legal issues facing public housing agencies.
6. Former Town Meeting Member from Precinct 9 and former member and chairperson of the Brookline Rent Board.
7. 41 year resident of Brookline, mother of 2, grandmother of 3.

Endorsed by Brookline PAX

2. The biggest challenge facing BHA right now is finishing the rehabilitation of our senior housing developments, and forging a path to preservation of state assisted family public housing. Additional funding from the state legislature must be aggressively pursued. Federal and state resources can support redevelopment and leverage private investment.

Land that is owned by the BHA and the Town can be utilized to expand the number of affordable units. The Town and the BHA need to continue to direct both federal and other available funds to the BHA, as has been done the last few years through both federal COVID recovery funds and other appropriations.

**Kimberley Richardson** (New) / 347 St. Paul St. #3

1. My name is Kimberley Richardson. I have lived in Brookline as a Brookline Housing Authority (BHA) resident since 2012 and sent my children to the Public Schools of Brookline. I am a community member who works toward making equitable changes for Brookline's most underserved communities. I am a licensed clinician of color where I support a very vulnerable community— LGBTQIA youth of color. Additionally, I have spent the last 26 years as a state employee working in the trial court where I not only have ample experience in handling budgets and other administrative duties, but the ability to truly understand the human impact of policy decisions.

2. My priority is providing representation. To bring a voice to a table where the decisions are often made for those voices that are often silenced. My training as a social worker and my experience as a BHA resident allows me to truly grasp the human impacts of housing policy. I will work alongside other commissioners to find funding, specifically for state funded housing which is often overlooked. As a social worker one of the many things I do well is find the necessary resources and advocate for what is needed. I will do the same to ensure we find funding to improve the quality of life for the BHA community.

**Town Meeting Members**

**Salary:** Unpaid.

**Duties:** As the legislative body of Town government, Town Meeting Members vote on budget and capital items and must consider and vote on any changes in Town Bylaws, including those pertaining to zoning and administrative structure and procedure.

Representative Town Meeting. In 1916 Brookline became the first town in Massachusetts to change from an open town meeting in which any registered voter in attendance can participate in decisions to a representative town meeting in which voters elect Town Meeting Members to represent them in the town’s legislative body.

**Question 1:** Biographical data

**Question 2:** What are the problems most often mentioned by your constituents or neighbors and how would you address them?

“We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.”

VOTE!

### Candidates for Three Year Term Vote For Not More Than Five

**Rui Andre Pinto Albuquerque** (*) / 24 Euston St., 2

1. Rui was born in Mozambique and resides in Brookline since 2015. He teaches finance at Boston College. Rui works with the NGO Portuguese American Leadership Council of the United States to promote greater civic engagement by the Portuguese community in the US. He works with two other NGOs: the Cooperative League of the USA in promoting associativism of smallholder farmers in Mozambique; and, Jesuit Refugee Services in the design of their global sustainability strategy. Rui is currently endorsed by Brookline PAX.

2. I hear my neighbors talk about youth safety and education, and of maintaining Brookline a welcoming, livable community to families, young and old. These are also my primary concerns and what led me to run for Town Meeting. I want to assure: a high level of education for all and a work environment that keeps teachers supported and focused on our children; that we invest in quality and training of our police officers; that Brookline increases opportunities for young families, of diverse backgrounds, to find Brookline their home.

**Sarah Ericsson** (*) / 79 Carlton St.

1. My husband and I have been Brookline residents for over 30 years and our 3 children attended Brookline schools.

I am a Grammy nominated harpist and a former Boston Symphony Orchestra harpist. I will continue to advocate for Precinct 1 and its issues. Endorsed by PAX and Brookline by Design.

2. Precinct 1 is a dense neighborhood and a thoughtful planning process is needed to balance development with preserving the integrity of the neighborhood. It should be community driven and not left solely in the hands of the developer. I am committed to protecting our green space and expanding our Tree Canopy preservation. Growth is inevitable but it needs to be approached with an overall plan.

**Amy R. Evenson** (*) / 71 Carlton St.

1. I am a proud mother, wife, surgeon, and resident of Brookline. I work in nearby Longwood and my children attend Brookline Public Schools. My husband and I chose Brookline for its walkability, excellent schools, and its diverse community. My mother recently moved in around the corner and enjoys the ability to walk to most services and enjoy the beautiful Halls Pond, Muddy River and Emerald Necklace parks with her grandkids. As a town meeting member and active member of our community, I want to preserve and protect our green spaces while also working to improve our housing availability and increase our commercial tax base to continue to support our municipal services. I am endorsed by Brookline PAX, Brookline by Design, & Brookline for Everyone.
Cost of housing/Aging in place-by pushing for a planning process that accounts for the full range of needs and allows thoughtful increases in truly affordable housing options. Pedestrian and cyclist safety-supporting Vision Zero and infrastructure for everyone. Sustainability and public health-by acting locally to enable bold, trend-setting moves curb climate change, ecological degradation and other public health hazards.

Regina Healy (New) / 20 Chapel St B407
1. Married to Bob Sloane, deceased, mother of two sons, lawyer and founding partner of law firm.
2. Fair and democratic housing availability, retaining Brooklines character, great schools. Also, make certain that all are treated fairly regardless of race, age, gender, and income level.

Precinct 2
Candidates for Three Year Term
Vote For Not More Than Five

Markus L. Penzel (*) / 182 Pleasant St.
1. I was born in New Hampshire and grew up in Texas. I came East for college and law school. After a judicial clerkship, I worked in South Texas as a legal aid lawyer. I spent the rest of my professional life representing victims of discrimination in the workplace. My wife Cathy Corman and I have lived on Pleasant Street since 1998. We are parents of adult triplets who attended what is now the Ridley School. Recently retired, I am eager to serve the community my family and I have been so lucky to live in. Elected to Town Meeting in 2022, I have served on the Advisory Committee (Public Safety, Human Services, and ad hoc subcommittees) since July 2022. Endorsed by: Brookline Pax, Brookline by Design, Brookline for Everyone
2. Constituents consistently mention creation of affordable housing and preservation of green space as ongoing problems in Brookline. I consider these concerns when I vote at Town Meeting and on Advisory Committee. My votes try to reflect stakeholders’ interests, including those who live in single family homes, condos and apartments, and in public and affordable housing. I generally support Brookline’s efforts to comply with the MBTACA, provided reasonable mechanisms are included to preserve the viability of arvard Street’s commercial businesses and their contribution to our tax base, and incentives are included to encourage affordable housing.

Stuart P. Rubinow (*) / 19 Thatcher St., # 5
1. I have lived in Brookline since 1987, and my daughters attended Devotion and BHS. My careers were as a clinical psychologist, executive coach, and corporate trainer. Since retiring, I record books at the Perkins School studio, and volunteer and lead tours at GBH and Gore Place in Waltham. I serve as a Town Meeting member from Precinct 2 and have been endorsed for re-election by Brookline PAX and Brookline By Design.

2. People mention high property taxes, shortages of affordable housing, and the serious need for improvements to Pierce School. Frequent overrides burden all residents. We must find a way to fund school and public needs without them, a difficult but critical job. We need a larger commercial sector, since now we rely more on property taxes than peer communities do.

With the pressure to increase housing, we need a housing affordability plan that comes from the needs of residents more than developers who build much high-end housing.

It’s essential to find an affordable solution to Pierce’s needs that still controls our debt. And we must enact practices to cope with our changing climate, that increase sustainability and resilience.

Ariel Jeremy Soiffer (*) / 221 Freeman St.
1. I have lived in Brookline for about 20 years. My wife and I met when I lived in Boston and we decided to settle in Brookline because we think that this is a great place to live. Part of what I love about Brookline is how walkable our town is, while having a little bit of a suburban feel as well.

My mother is of mixed Moroccan and Hispanic origin; my wife is of mixed Asian and Hispanic origin. We have three children that we are raising in our Jewish faith.

By profession, I am a lawyer that focuses on technology and biotechnology transactions. I work on complex intellectual property arrangements and other complex commercial transactions.

2. Many folks are concerned about school quality. Objective measures of school performance in Brookline have not been moving in a positive direction and schools do not push each child to the maximum ability of each child.

With the pandemic receding, it’s time for more focus on school performance. I would like to work on improving our schools by focusing on programs that yield positive results and reward each child for striving.

Many of our roads are in increasingly bad shape. We need to make roads that work for cars, bicycles, scooters and other forms of transportation, and so we need to improve funding for quality of roads.

Carlos Mario Tamayo (*) / 341 Saint Paul St., # 6
1. My name is Carlos Mario Tamayo, I'm 25, and I'm excited to be running for re-election! I am a proud first-generation American. I spent my childhood living in tiny apartments in the area with my family and attending local schools. In 2012, we moved into the Brookline Housing Authority, and we've been here ever since. I became the first in my family to graduate from college, earning a political science degree from Boston College in May 2021. In the last year, I spoke up during Town Meeting on several Warrant Articles, and I am a member of the Town's commission for diversity. In my spare time I enjoy flying airplanes, singing, and socializing with the community. I hope to count on your support so that I may continue serving this great Town!
2. When I knock on doors at Brookline Housing, I often hear of maintenance issues. As a housing resident and a community leader, I care deeply. I've been working with community leaders and organizations to advocate for more funding for housing. I am conducting outreach to get tenants more informed about the Town, services that are available to them and to listen to their concerns so that I can be a better leader. I am concerned about rising costs for renters, which is why I'm working with other community leaders to create workshops for tenants to learn about what services may be available to them. I am excited to continue advocating for housing solutions in Brookline so that we can ensure that our community's future is prosperous and bright.

David E. Trevvett (*) / 177 Babcock St., Unit 1


Primary professional: 1982-2010 managed central information systems departments for University of Chicago. Good at listening, analyzing, translating between disparate groups, bringing people together. Endorsed by BrooklinePAX, Brookline for Everyone, Brookline by Design.

2. Parents worry that vehicles on streets between home and school endanger kids walking or riding bikes. We must slow traffic down, improve intersection safety, hire more crossing guards.

Seniors can feel ignored by Town decision-making. Hard-hit by Covid, often isolated. We must increase Senior Center funding, expand services.

Public housing residents see basic needs & personal challenges not well addressed. The State has underfunded housing maintenance for years, Brookline must push them to do better, and do more ourselves.

Soaring real estate prices prevent many (e.g., teachers or retail employees) from living here. To avoid becoming a “wealthy-only” Town, we need smart zoning reform. It all takes money. Expand the commercial tax base.

Raphael Bueno (New) / 39 Adams St.

1. I have lived in Brookline for almost 40 years and, with my wife, Kate Poverman, have raised two girls -- now young women in their twenties -- who received excellent educations through the Brookline Public School System. I am a strong supporter of public education.

I am a thoracic surgeon at Mass General Brigham hospital and received my undergraduate and medical degrees from Harvard.

2. I hear concerns that Town decisions are being made based on ideological views that often do not represent the majority Brookline residents' values. They are tired of overrides and debt exclusions that are poorly explained and poorly justified.

The Town must adequately fund its critical needs within its budget, including adequately maintaining the Town's buildings, ensuring employees' safety (especially Fire Dept. employees), and addressing the needs of the DPW, Police, and Fire Departments, and providing adequate Senior Services. This may require reallocating funds currently given to the schools and require reevaluating the Town-School Partnership.

Rebecca Bueno (New) / 39 Adams St.

1. I am a Brookline native and have spent many years working in politics. I began my political career interning in the State House, and then for then AG Maura Healey. I subsequently ran a successful campaign for Paul Brodeur, now Mayor of Malden, as my first job out of college. I then worked in the state house for 2 state representatives. One being the former TUE Chairman and 4th leader, and the other being the vice chair on elder affairs. I now work in finance but, despite my young age, have vast political experience.

2. Town Meeting is meant to be representative. While the average age of the Brookline resident is 33 the average town meeting member is roughly 65. In order to make Town Meeting more representative of our community, I am running for town meeting to ensure all of Brookline has a voice.

Robert M. Miller (New) / 19 Copley St

1. I grew up in New York City and moved to Brookline in 1980. I have two children who were raised in Brookline and went to Brookline schools. I chose to make my home and raise my family in Brookline because it is a diverse and accepting community.

After working for over 20 years in high tech in Cambridge, I went to work as a teacher in Brookline. I taught science at the Heath School for 20 years before retiring this year.

I am passionate about stemming the climate crisis. I am a board member and past president of Climate Action Brookline. I have used a bicycle as my primary means of transportation since high school.

2. The two issues that I hear about most often are housing and budget. During the 40 plus years that I have lived in Brookline, the cost of housing has far outpaced inflation, making it harder for low and middle income people to live here. Brookline has long prided itself on its diversity. One of my favorite traditions of Brookline High School graduation is the multi-lingual greetings from students of differing nationalities. We need housing for all incomes and backgrounds in order to preserve this important Brookline value.

Brookline is a community that demands above average schools and services. In order to provide these we need to increase the budget. One way to do this is through attracting more commercial taxpayers.

Precinct 3

Candidates for Three Year Term Vote For Not More Than Five

Jeffrey R. Benson (*) / 101 Stearns Rd., #1

1. I am a long time educator--former principal and teacher--and I now coach and consult in schools all over the country. The majority of my career has been informed by my work with children who have been the victims of trauma, poverty, and exclusion. Both of my children went through K-12 in Brookline schools. I have lived on the amazing Stearns Road for 27 years, which has taught me much about the importance of neighbors and diversity. I play music in local bands, and have performed in all the Brookline Porchfests.

2. There is much concern lately about rats, and I have collaborated with others in keeping the DPW alert to current conditions. The need for additional affordable housing means we in Town Meeting, and all of us as active residents, must push for zoning changes that do not lock us into what has always been, but what could be. The threat of climate change impacts the budgets of homeowners, renters, businesses and our town government, and we can be leaders through warrant articles and regulations in setting precedents for sustainability (improving conditions for electric cars, bikes and scooters; increasing limits and expanding incentives to build without fossil fuels).

Murray W. Dewart, Jr. (*) / 90 Toxteth St.

1. I grew up in Brookline, have been a Town Meeting member since 1988, am a former Lawrence School parent. Taught in the Brookline schools for 31 years and at St. Anselm College. Married to Mary Dewart, Sculptor and author. Organized the MLK sculpture by John Wilson for Town Hall.

2. Lack of affordable housing and the pressures of urban development. The town needs to implement a comprehensive plan around zoning and design review. Our neighborhood is heavily impacted by the Longwood Medical Area, a world class destination. High rise buildings loom on our horizon. We cannot change that but we can mitigate some of the impacts of the intensified development. Miscellaneous piecemeal solutions are not working.

Donald G. Leka (*) / 140 Sewall Ave., A

1. Yale College, Harvard Law School, Senior Legal positions with The Gillette Company and Teradyne, Inc.; long time Board Member Greater Boston Legal Services; 28 year resident of Brookline; Endorsed by PAX; Member of Town Meeting Green Caucus; former president Condominium Association; Pianist with the Washington Square Jazz Quartet.

2. We are concerned about increased density, project by project, with no overall plan and a without commitment to true "affordable housing." Instead, each development is in a silo.
We want a collaborative process with all stakeholders to coordinate Smart Growth in Precinct 3. Growth that takes into account, for instance, pedestrian safety, Complete Streets models, mitigation of heat islands and the creation of open space for the enjoyment of all. Preservation of historic buildings and growth are not mutually exclusive with a thoughtful plan. I also support initiatives to promote ethnic and economic diversity in Brookline, for example help in funding a down payment for first time home buyers who can afford monthly mortgage payments.

Joanne Marie Liautaud (*) / 160 Sewall Ave.

1. I am a 18-year Brookline resident, married with two college-aged kids; former President of the Lawrence After-School Program (7 years); Chair of BHS After-The-Prom Party (4 years); Executive Steering Committee Brookline Education Foundation (4 years); former TMM (4 years); Stanford graduated; and recently I have joined the business development committee at Brookline.new's new local news source for Brookline. I am ready to work hard to ensure we have good planning as we “upzone” Harvard Street, develop our infrastructure, expand our housing opportunities, meet our climate goals and objectives, identify our transportation needs and serve all residents in our town.

2. Brookline needs to develop more affordable housing, maintain vibrant commercial districts and invest in sustainable infrastructure. Considering proposals like “upzoning” Harvard Street, my neighbors are concerned that development will go unchecked, and nothing will be done to address these concerns. We need assurances that these plans include diverse housing and our main streets have ample storefront space, outside dining, safer bike lanes and available parking (with electric chargers) as we grow and build. Currently there is no way to ensure any of these concerns. If we rush forward without a comprehensive planning process, we may not be able to control or adapt these plans, and developers will be making these decisions for us.

Felina Silver Robinson (*) / 41 Brook St., #1

1. Born in Boston, raised in Brookline by parents Faye & Walter Mucha, Felina is a mother to six adult children ranging in age from 21 to 39. She has been involved in Town Government for nearly two decades Anand has a poetry blog that she works on in her spare time.

2. Most people are concerned about affordable housing for low income individuals, families and the elderly. People want and deserve homes that look like homes. It would be nice to turn and/or build homes from vacated houses or condos.

Another pressing issue is the way both of our police and fire departments currently function. Both have amazing well thought out and run programs, but there are tasks that both departments spend their time doing that could be done by auxiliary/volunteer officers or firefighters

Sean Leckey (New) / 48 Marshal St., # A

1. Sean Leckey works as an electrical engineer focusing on transmission of electricity and has connected over 10 GWs of wind, solar and batteries to the grid across the country. He is also active in the stakeholder process advocating for reforms of our electric grid on topics including the climate crisis. He is the father of a Lawrence student and active volunteer for a variety of progressive issues impacting our town, state, nation and planet.

Sean is endorsed by and supports Brookline for Everyone and the Brookline Equity Coalition.

2. I’ve been asked about the housing crisis, climate crisis, and our schools. The MBTA Communities Act empowers the town to support transit corridors like Coolidge Corner, and compliance with the act is popular among neighborhood residents. The proposed Office of Housing Stability helps those impacted by the housing crisis. I support these initiatives. Climate action has broad support in town, and my expertise is in climate policy and the electric grid. Heating rates this past winter were high despite a mild winter, and residents are concerned about future weather. The Pierce school violates safety and accessibility standards, which is why I support Yes For Brookline's efforts to modernize infrastructure, support services, and sustainability.

Anne L. Turner (New) / 97 Toxteth St.

1. 40 yrs in Prec. 3; owner/renter. Past Board of Brookline Community Found., Lawrence Extended Day, x town Brookline Extended Day Advisory Bd, BHS After the Prom Party. Led creation of Greater Toxteth Neighborhood Conservation District to moderate neighborhood development, allow for thoughtful growth, & preserve greenspace. Active in stopping conversion of Longwood Ave to 1 way traffic. Volunteer & Board at Brookline Food Pantry & Water for S Sudan

25 yr career in financial services before moving to nonprofit focusing on educational equity & access. Now Director of Strategic Planning & Outreach at TERC, a STEM education research nonprofit.

Wife of Harry Bohrs, mother of Katharine & Nathaniel-Lawrence & BHS grads.

Christopher Dempsey (*) / 257 Walnut St., I

1. I have been honored to serve as a Town Meeting Member since 2012 – representing Precincts 6 and 4 – and I am running for re-election to keep Brookline a great place to live whether you are in the first decade of our life, your tenth, or any time in between. I am a graduate of Pierce School and Brookline High School. I live with my wife, Anna, at 257 Walnut Street. I previously served as Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Governor Deval Patrick, and have worked in a variety of roles in public policy, including leading the No Boston Olympics campaign and running for State Auditor.

2. I hear about issues that are local (the town budget, rodents, sidewalk repairs, or the survival of Kurkan’s), regional (housing costs and transit), and global (climate change). Town Meeting can help with all of these, and more. I have played a leadership role on warrant articles related to housing (creating more flexible and affordable housing types), transportation (transit signal priority on Beacon Street), short-term rentals (AirBNB regulations), and more. I am proud that these articles have often required significant compromise, which is the best way to get things done in a legislative body such as Town Meeting. I support funding the Pierce School and high-quality services, including the Police + Fire Departments

Precinct 4

Candidates for Three Year Term
Vote For Not More Than Five

Elizabeth Childs (*) / 157 Walnut St.

1. In Brookline for 33 years, I am a child, adolescent, adult psychiatrist, mother of two Brookline High graduates, wife of a Navy veteran. My education: B.A. Mount Holyoke College, M.D. University of Cincinnati, M.P.A. Harvard Kennedy School. Selected local and state government experience: Currently MA Catastrophic Illness in Children’s Relief Fund Commission, Norfolk County Advisory Board Vice Chair, Brookline’s 9/11 Remembrance Committee; Formerly MA Mental Health Commissioner, MA Department of Early Education and Care Board, High Street Hill Board, Brookline Committee on Police Reform, Brookline School Committee and Town Meeting. Endorsed by BBD (Brookline By Design).

2. We are first and foremost a community of neighbors. Neighborhood input should guide Town policies, budgets, and zoning regulations. Town government should be responsive to residents and businesses, fiscally sound and sustainable. All members of our community deserve to be safe, and I will put the needs and concerns of all our neighbors first in my decisions at Town Meeting. Maintaining the character and scale of family- and senior-friendly neighborhoods with the wish to make our community even more welcoming to new neighbors who bring diversity and fresh perspectives requires open and realistic conversations about trade-offs and impacts of perceived zoning changes, particularly along the Harvard Street corridor. All voices must be heard.

Christopher Dempsey (*) / 257 Walnut St., I

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2. I hear about issues that are local (the town budget, rodents, sidewalk repairs, or the survival of Kurkan’s), regional (housing costs and transit), and global (climate change). Town Meeting can help with all of these, and more. I have played a leadership role on warrant articles related to housing (creating more flexible and affordable housing types), transportation (transit signal priority on Beacon Street), short-term rentals (AirBNB regulations), and more. I am proud that these articles have often required significant compromise, which is the best way to get things done in a legislative body such as Town Meeting. I support funding the Pierce School and high-quality services, including the Police + Fire Departments

Check out Brookline’s local news!  
Brookline.News
Matthew Hyatt (*) / 87 Walnut St.

1. A proud Brookline resident for 26 years, I am a practicing commercial architect, specializing in projects for higher education and adaptive building reuse. As a father to two sons who graduated from Lincoln and BHS, I understand the importance of a strong educational foundation and the impact it has on our community. My passion for improving our neighborhood has led me to serve on the HSHA (11 yrs), CMAC (3 yrs) the 10 Brookline Place Committee (2022) and as a TMM in 2022. In my free time, you can often find me and my loyal companion, Ozzy, enjoying the many parks and green spaces our town has to offer. I am passionate about making Brookline an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

2. As a long-time resident of Brookline Village, I'm excited about the significant continued investment and redevelopment proposals underway. With zoning studies of Harvard Street and the Boylston Street Corridor, we have a tremendous opportunity to work together to shape our collective future positively. All of us who live in the Village have a shared responsibility to work together to find solutions that balance the town's need to increase our tax base to fund increasing needs for services with strategic zoning and redevelopment that increases housing and business diversity. As an architect and advocate for smart development, I am committed to improving the public realm that connects us all.

Liz Linder (*) / 31 Station St., 5

1. As a resident and independent business owner in Brookline Village for almost twenty years, I have served on local committees and boards addressing smart, sustainable growth. As a photographer, I work with both celebrated and invisible populations, elevating both. I was drawn to the scale, character and culture of Brookline and live in a historic building by the T where I can walk around the corner to my photography studio. I value and respect the fabric of this community.

2. The Precinct 4 community is facing continued development that will substantially change this area. Additionally, the complex issues around transportation and sustainability in development impact P4, which has a dense population on the edge of Brookline. For those living and working here, transparency regarding impacts of development (both positive and negative), along with local community inclusion in thoughtful decision-making is vital to our well-being and that of our neighborhoods. I value sustainable growth, green and open spaces, and historic assets, all of which form the unique character of Brookline Village.

Wendy MacMillan (New) / 55 Village Way, 212

1. I am originally from London, England. My son graduated from BHS in 2015 and BHCC in 2020. I have lived in subsidized housing in Brookline Village for 16 years. I have been working as a Brookline paraprofessional for the past 21 years in the early childhood department. I am also a very proud member of the Brookline Educators Union and part of the BEU Leadership Team (BEU Membership Chair and a Paraprofessional Negotiator). I love Brookline and any opportunity I have to represent the community I live in. Honored to be endorsed by Brookline Equity Coalition and Brookline for Everyone.

2. Affordable housing, Racial Equity, Social Justice, the environment, fully funded schools, having diversity and a voice in our neighborhood and our government are all critical issues in PCT 4 and the reason why I want to lend my voice and time to being a Town Meeting Member. I have co-sponsored 2 housing Warrant Articles and 1 Warrant Article that basically provided equal opportunities to low income children. I stand by my values when I put my name to a WA and when I vote. I will continue to support any effort put forward that increases funding for low income and affordable housing options for the workforce, middle class, elderly, our BHS Grads, and families who want to continue to live in Brookline or want the opportunity to move into Brookline.

Awet Teame (New) / 263 Walnut St., 2

1. Awet Teame is a multi-talented performer who was born in Eritrea and raised in Boston since the age of five. She is a stand-up comedian, voice-over artist, and actress known for her captivating humor and versatility. Awet earned a BA in Visual and Media Arts/TV from Emerson College and currently stars as Dr. Salena Patel on Showtime’s ‘Dexter New Blood.’

In addition to performing, Awet is a dedicated teaching artist who shares her expertise to help fellow actors release anxiety before auditions. Outside of her work in entertainment, she is an active member of her community and hopes to apply her skills to local issues and initiatives.

Awet has been endorsed by the Brookline PAX Campaign Committee and Brookline for Everyone.

2. A couple of issues concerning my neighbors are climate change and affordable housing, which demand a balanced approach. A few suggestions would be - sustainable transportation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions which may combat climate change. Inclusionary zoning, tax incentives, public-private partnerships, and community land trusts make affordable housing accessible.

I think careful planning and green policies like carbon pricing and energy efficiency may ensure that new developments are sustainable and affordable.

*Endorsed by Brookline PAX and Brookline By Design.

Kalymba D. O’Neal (*) / 55 Village Way, 38

NO REPLY

Precinct 5

Candidates for Three Year Term
Vote For Not More Than Five

Bonnie M. Bastien (*) / 32 Oakland Rd.

1. I have lived in Brookline for about 20 years and in Precinct 5 for 12 years. I am the parent of an amazing Lincoln School third grader. My background is in art. I am an activist and an organizer working for racial justice and equity in Brookline and beyond. In 2020, I co-launched Mutual Aid Brookline to address unmet critical needs in Brookline as the COVID-19 pandemic hit. I was appointed to the Select Board’s Task Force to Reimagine Policing in Brookline to envision a path to a more equitable form of public safety. Today I continue to organize in Town government to write and pass progressive legislation in Brookline.

I have been endorsed by:
Brookline for Everyone & the Brookline Equity Coalition

2. The most mentioned problems in MY neighborhood are about the lack of parking/bad roads. My time as a TMM began in 2020, so advocating for road repair hasn’t been on the priority list with less money in the Town coffers and more critical needs taking precedent during COVID. Today at this new stage of living with COVID, addressing the torn up roads is important. I support the override which includes streetscape transformation & deferred maintenance.

My High St. Vets neighbors are mainly concerned with the horrid conditions of that state-funded BHA property. For 3 years a group of us prioritized advocating to fund repairs in BHA properties and succeeded in 2022 to secure millions in ARPA funding. I look forward to seeing results.

Anthony E. Flint (*) / 254 Walnut St.

1. I am the father of two sons at Brookline schools (Lincoln/BHS), resident of Walnut Street near Brookline Village, and vice president of the High Street Hill Association. I was elected as Town Meeting Member representing Precinct 5 in 2021 and re-elected in 2022. I’ve been a journalist most of my career and am currently senior fellow at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, a research organization concerned with land use and urban planning.

2. I am for strengthening what we all love about Brookline, and what makes this such a great community. I think a lot of residents are concerned about affordability, and also learning about the things we can do as individuals and a community to confront climate change.

Wendy A. Friedman (*) / 322 Walnut St.

NO REPLY
1. Resident of Brookline since 1981, married to Susan; both children are graduates of Lincoln School and BHS. Served 6 years on the Brookline Select Board which included 4 years as its Chair. Prior to that, served on the Brookline Advisory Committee (the Town’s Finance Committee). I have chaired a number of Town Committees including one which considered the acquisition and redevelopment at the Newbury College site and resulted in the Town’s acquisition of about half the former campus plus the largest contribution to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund in its history. Current board member of the Greater Point Neighborhood Association. Endorsed by Brookline PAX and Brookline By Design.

2. I am often asked, when are we going to become a city? To that end, I hope to be part of a campaign to collect the over 6,000 signatures necessary to place the formation of a city charter commission on the ballot. More immediately, we are faced with a requirement by a new state law to rezone parts of Brookline to allow denser, multi-family housing to address our regional housing shortage. The Planning Dept. is leading a zoning study of the Harvard St. corridor and is aiming to make a proposal this Fall. The challenge will be how to comply with the letter and spirit of the law while preserving what we love about the corridor including active street level storefronts, and creation of more affordable housing choices.

Susan Wishinsky (*) / 20 Henry St., 2

1. I’m a current TMM for Precinct 5 and Brookline Thrives volunteer; Librarian (retired) and 40-year Brookline homeowner with my husband Neil and 2 children who both attended Brookline schools K-12. As a librarian I learned that people often don’t ask the questions that match the answers they seek; and as a TMM, warrant articles sometimes pose solutions without adequately identifying or analyzing the problem needing to be addressed. I try to approach each proposal with an open mind and ask the right questions to get to the right answers - not necessarily for myself, but for those I represent.

I’m proud to have been endorsed by PAX and Brookline By Design.

2. Taxes and infrastructure. Big ideas are often, unfortunately, expensive, and have unintended consequences. We all understand climate imperatives; the real challenge is affording the price of our collective virtue, and making compromises that move us forward without penalizing those who have already acted within their means. Neighbors recognize the need for more housing, but also value neighborhood shops, greenspace and community-scaled streetscapes. They object to out-of-scale, tone-deaf ‘luxury’ developments and are upset when zoning falls short. They’re proud of our schools but question the cost, and fear that attacks on Police funding are misguided. I try to correct misinformation; look for balance, and vote for informed change.

Wendy Stahl (New) / 25 Edgehill Rd.

1. I moved to Brookline with my family in the summer of 2020 because we were fearful of the increasing fires where we were living in CA. I am a psychiatrist who graduated from medical school and residency at UCLA and worked with the underserved in LA county, before moving here. My husband and I own our home in Pill Hill and we have two kids: a 2nd grader at Lincoln, and a soon-to-be kindergartner.

Alok Kumar Somani (New) / 126 Cottage St.

1. We moved to Brookline in 2019 from Shanghai China after completing an expat assignment. We chose Brookline because we were seeking a community that was welcoming, engaged, forward looking, with great schools, a vibrant commercial center and with parks and green space. My wife, Arsheya, works in education, we have two children and our rescue dog, Baozi. I am a small business owner providing last mile delivery services and have mentored many start-ups.

I have served on the Advisory Committee since early 2021 and the Audit Committee since fall 2021. I am endorsed by BrooklinePAX and Brookline By Design.

2. What I hear most is how much people enjoy living in Brookline and treasure the schools, but that affordable housing is a concern, as well as ensuring public safety, green space, a vibrant commercial center and diversity. Another emotive topic is about the current debt burden, proposed overrides and the potential impact that will have on property taxes and affordability. And finally, many parents seem to be concerned about, now that access is pretty much guaranteed, ensuring that we balance social equity goals with community health when it comes to issuing more recreational marijuana licenses.

Carlos R. Rios (New) / 218 High St., Apt 4

1. My name is Carlos Rios and I’m running for Brookline Town Meeting, Precinct 5. I have lived in Brookline for 20 years and I have gone to Lincoln School and graduated from Brookline High School. As a junior, I began my work as a community organizer. I was a part of the MBTA Youth Pass efforts, I advocated for more affordable housing in JP, led workshops on race, class, and privilege at the Brookline Teen Center, and educated and worked with LGBTQ+ youth at BAGLY. In the past few years, I have worked politically on campaigns and at the state house, learning about policy and government. I have my strong sense of social justice from my mother, a single parent with an immigrant background. If elected, I’ll use my lessons to best rep my precinct.

2. A major complaint I’ve heard is neglect. Our development is home to elders, folks with disabilities, is made up of predominantly people of color (with a few folks with immigrant backgrounds), and low to low-middle-class incomes. We are a very highly dense population here in Brookline.

***Town Engagement: I'm on the leadership team of Mothers Out Front, and I am the current Chair of Brookline's Zero Emissions Advisory Board whose mission is to get us to net-zero emissions by 2040.

(***)Endorsements: Brookline For Everyone, PAX, Brookline Equity Coalition

2. (1) The Climate Crisis -- Brookline has been a leader on climate action, and we need to continue to do so. The biggest thing we can do is stop burning things...in our car engines and in our home heating systems in particular. I believe that local action can spark state action, and that if we work creatively and boldly as a town, we have the power to improve the future of the planet we all share. (2) Affordability -- Brookline is fast losing its vibrant middle class, and we need to make sure that housing opportunities are available to a wider variety of incomes. We need to fund programs that will uplift our most vulnerable residents, and allow every person to thrive.

Out Front, and I am the current Chair of Brookline's Zero Equity Coalition

2. We have a lot of opportunities for equitable change here in Brookline, and we need to do those changes with our most vulnerable communities in mind.

Endorsed by Brookline For Everyone and Brookline Equity Coalition

Cruz Sanabria (New) / 20 Rice St.


2. The most serious problem affecting the residents on "The Point", as this neighborhood is referred to, is affordable housing. Real estate prices have skyrocketed, gone completely out of reach of people who could afford to live here only a short while back, have now been priced out of the market.

Another problem is the speed of the cars traveling on Cypress and Franklin Street through the Point from Brookline to Boston and the Paul Pender Rotary, especially during the early morning and later afternoon rush hours. Maybe another traffic light would help.

The third problem are the theft of bicycles from back yards and our front porches.

Precinct 6

Candidates for Three Year Term
Vote For Not More Than Five

Clinton Q. Richmond (*) / 3 Greenough Circle


2. Constituents write about a wide range of subjects including expanding composting in town, expanding and enforcing our plastics by-laws, rodent control, & how the town can address pesticide usage such as glyphosate.
I have led efforts on our plastics by-laws such as for bags, & I support keeping us in the forefront of this important public health & environmental issue. Enforcement of our by-laws, rodent control, & expanding composting requires funding which can be addressed in the operating overrides, which I support (along with the Pierce override). DPW does not use pesticides, but town-wide restrictions would require state legislation such as a Home Rule petition or a bill such as https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H14/, which I support.

**Marissa F. Vogt** (*) / 12 Tabor Place  
1. (She/her) I am a planetary space physicist at BU and have lived in Brookline with my husband since 2014. Our son is in kindergarten at Pierce and our daughter is in preschool at BEEP. I have served in Town Meeting and on the Pediatric Advisory Committee since 2020. I am a member of the “Yes for Brookline” campaign team supporting the Pierce debt exclusion and operational override.

My primary goal as a Town Meeting Member is to help make our community more equitable and our government more transparent. Last year I was the lead petitioner on a Town Meeting resolution to increase the transparency of the Town Meeting email list and two-by-law changes to introduce financial interest ethics requirements for Town Meeting Members.

2. *Housing: Residents are concerned about Brookline’s affordability and housing is a critically important factor -- far too many residents are rent-burdened. I support building new housing and making major investments in affordable housing.

2. *Schools: I support rebuilding Pierce, fully funding our school department, and livable wages for all town & school staff.

2. *Transportation: I have been a strong pedestrian & bicyclist advocate and have led Town Meeting proposals focused on improving sidewalk accessibility. *Climate change: I supported the bold anti-fossil fuel efforts that were proposed to Town Meeting last fall and I support other sustainability efforts.

Proudly endorsed by Brookline Equity Coalition and Brookline for Everyone.

**Patricia Correa** (New) / 32 Davis Ave.

1. Thirty-year Brookline resident, parent of two grown sons (Pierce and BHS grads). Retired lawyer with 14 years combined experience as Brookline’s First Assistant Town Counsel and an Associate Town Counsel, and 11 years combined experience as a Civil Rights Division Assistant Attorney General/Director of the Disability Rights Unit of the MA Attorney General’s Office.

Advisory Committee member at large. Member of leadership team of Mothers Out Front-Brookline. 2022 recipient of the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association’s President’s Award for career service to the betterment of municipal law/the MMLA. BA: Yale University. JD: New York University School of Law. ENDORSEMENTS: Brookline Pax, Brookline for Everyone.

2. An issue close to the hearts of many is the high cost of housing and the seeming impossibility that young adult children can relocate or stay here. Greater Boston has an affordable housing crisis. That said, the Town does lag in housing creation relative to some of our neighbors. Per a new State law (the MBTA Communities Act), the Town must accomplish some rezoning in 2023 to facilitate the creation of additional multi-zoning housing proximate to public transportation. I support the goals and implementation of the law here and believe there could be positive impacts to the Town's economic vibrancy. But: I will ask questions about whether and how the Town could locate some of this (experiment in) rezoning beyond the Harvard St. corridor.

**Ruthann Sneider** (New) / 30 Perry St  

Currently ”compost queen” at BHS old cafeteria on Wednesdays representing Mothers Out Front Zero Waste Management Team.

Owner/occupant 3 family house 50 years.

Retired elementary school teacher. M.S.ED. Wheelock College.

Children attended Pierce-METCO host family.

2. Most recently: Successfully organized neighborhood opposition to animal hospital opening 24/7 in St. Mary's High School building by researching the law, ringing doorbells to sign petition, encouraging letters and attendance at Planning Board Meetings.

** Bitsy Perlman** (New) / 40 White Pl., 3

1. I moved to Brookline in 2009 following a common path: to attend school. I am a renter that has lived in several different Brookline neighborhoods; I’ve been in Brookline Village since 2019. I have been cycling as my primary mode of transportation for over 15 years and see Brookline from the point of view of someone using two wheels, my feet, and the MBTA. I graduated from BU with an Economics PhD in 2016. For work, I study science and innovation policy. Outside of work, I think about transportation policy and am part of an urban planning book club. I’ve attended Temple Sinai for over a decade. I proudly to be endorsed by Brookline for Everyone and Brookline Equity Coalition.

2. My neighbors and I care deeply about Brookline continuing to be a strong and vibrant community. We wish to see it grow into a place that reflects the best American values. In particular, we worry about a “Palo Alto-ification” path: a homogenization of the town, where only the wealthiest can afford to live and where the only businesses are banks and high-end restaurants. Supporting local communities and environmental goals means investing in dense, walkable places where more people can afford to live and more businesses can find locations to grow. We also care about creating a safe transportation environment that encourages pedestrians and cyclists by, among other things, reducing street widths, adding crossings, and protected bike lanes.

2. An issue close to the hearts of many is the high cost of housing and the seeming impossibility that young adult children can relocate or stay here. Greater Boston has an affordable housing crisis. That said, the Town does lag in housing creation relative to some of our neighbors. Per a new State law (the MBTA Communities Act), the Town must accomplish some rezoning in 2023 to facilitate the creation of additional multi-zoning housing proximate to public transportation. I support the goals and implementation of the law here and believe there could be positive impacts to the Town's economic vibrancy. But: I will ask questions about whether and how the Town could locate some of this (experiment in) rezoning beyond the Harvard St. corridor.

**Catherine C. Anderson** (New) / 106 Davis Ave.

1. I am retired from state government, where I was Legislative and Budget Director for Sen. Cynthia Creem. I returned to school in my 50’s, receiving a Master's in Public Policy from Northeastern and also taught for several years at local colleges. Our family has lived in Brookline Village for 30 years, and our three children attended Pierce and BHS. I am thrilled that we have an opportunity to rebuild Pierce in time for my grandchild to attend a 21st century school. Former Town Meeting member (20+ years). Endorsed by Brookline PAX (Board member).

2. I strongly support the Pierce debt exclusion (Q.1) to make sure our local school is finally brought up to the standards of the other K-8 schools. This expensive reconstruction has been put off over a decade, but Pierce is simply the wrong building now for educational needs, and remodeling is not sufficient to bring it to ADA compliance, provide adequate 4 section classrooms, make it net zero, etc. It is shortsighted to think turning down almost $40M in state aid is smart. Property values are protected by good schools, and it is Pierce’s turn. The second issue is whether we will agree to pay for all the services we need and expect, by voting Yes on the operating override (Q.2). This includes important funding for a rat control officer!

**Alex J. Villanueva** (New) / 46 Waverly St., 2

1. A resident of Brookline since 2018, I have come to love this community dearly and look forward to serving my neighbors.

A native of Upstate New York, I came to the area for grad school. I have a degrees in history, political science, and public relations, and am currently the Executive Director of Communications & Marketing at Massasoit Community College in Brockton. My previous work was in public relations supporting nonprofit and health care organizations.

My wife and I (we met apartment hunting in Brookline) have lived on Waverly Street since 2020.

2. My constituents and neighbors care deeply about the quality of life in Brookline - but that takes many different forms.

They care about roads and public resources, guaranteeing a great education for our children, being a welcoming environment for families, businesses, and immigrants, but most often they discuss issues related to the cost of living in Brookline, especially housing. I hope to be an advocate for all of these issues and making our community accessible and ensure that it can flourish. I hope to support projects that build more ownable housing, entice new businesses, and can boost the tax base to support critical infrastructure projects.
Precinct 7
Candidates for Three Year Term
Vote For Not More Than Five

John P. Hebert (*) / 21 Auburn St

1. Precinct 7 homeowner since 1976. With wife Barbara, raised two sons who prospered at Pierce and BHS from 1985 to 2000. Founded in 1992 and managed Hebert Communications, a Brookline-based PR firm, for more than 20 years. Served as a PR Society of America member (1985-2016), Boston Chapter officer (2010-2016) and treasurer (2010-2013). Currently serve as treasurer of Brookline-based non-profit Dorer Community Service Foundation.

2. Frequent concerns range from real-estate development and impact on neighborhood character, to high property taxes, parking problems, and lack of civic pride (e.g. litter on sidewalks) and engagement (e.g. low voter turnout). I see my role in Town Meeting as a good listener and questioner, and advocate for smart, informed decision-making on all issues. Being a Town Meeting Member is demanding and time-consuming. Doing the job well requires an extraordinary investment to understand the many issues brought before Town Meeting and their impact on Precinct 7 and the Town. I am committed to making this same investment for the next three years to bring a moderate voice into the debate, and to achieve results that are fair, just and sustainable.

Mark E. Levy (*) / 61 Park Street, 10J

1. I was born and raised in Brookline, educated in Brookline public schools grades K–12. After college and grad school I returned to Brookline 40+ years ago. I was elected to Town Meeting from precinct 10 in 1984; have represented precinct 7 for several years now.

In Town Meeting, I have championed tenants rights and affordable housing and also served on the Brookline Housing Advisory Board.

During a term on the town's watchdog Advisory Committee, I chaired the Finance Subcommittee and got a broader view of town budgeting and revenues.

Throughout my service I have been guided by the principles of fairness and equity before ideology, listening over sloganeering, and trying to find real life answers to real life problems.

2. The most pressing issue I've heard is adding affordable housing for households across the income scales. I have heard from both senior homeowners and longtime renters that rising rents and costs like property taxes are pushing them out of their homes and out of Brookline.

I support current efforts to boost the number of affordable homes in Brookline by judicious lowering of zoning barriers, without turning Brookline's future over to for-profit developers.

I also hear concerns about the effect of budget shortfalls on Brookline schools and other town services. I endorse the badly needed Prop 2½ overrides on the May town election ballot but will seek further property tax exemptions for those in need.

Rita Shao-Lin Shon-Baker (*) / 10 Alton Ct., 3

1. An immigrant from Taiwan, retired scientist. Lived in Brookline since 1978.
2. Adult children both were graduates of Brookline High about 20 years ago.
2. Rat problem
I signed a petition for more funding for DPW.

Amy Isakoff Newell (New) / 15 Alton Ct., 3

1. I've lived in Brookline since 1998 & on Alton Place since 2002. My husband Max and I have two kids, both went to Pierce and BHS, where our younger is in 10th grade. I recently stepped down from my role as VP of Engineering at a small tech company to focus on my writing, art, and activism.

I'm queer, Jewish, and I have bipolar disorder, and those identities inform my politics. I care about antiracism, disability justice, reproductive justice, queer and trans rights and the climate crisis. I'm a member of the Brookline Equity Coalition and serve on the Cannabis Mitigation Advisory Committee. In addition to BEC, I've also been endorsed by Brookline For Everyone. This is my first time running for office.

2. Precinct 7 is a mix of owners, renters, multifamily & single family homes. But we've all chosen to live here in the urban heart of Brookline because we like the diversity and vibrancy of city life, so we worry about housing prices and want our neighborhood to be able to support a diverse population.

Many of us have or had children at Pierce School and know firsthand how terrible that open floor plan design is and how badly it needs rebuilding. We want our educators to be well-paid. We love the walk/bike ability & easy transit access of our neighborhood, but we sure wish the Green Line was more reliable and faster. We would like to develop shared solutions to some of our nuisance neighborhood problems such as the ongoing issue with rats.

Max E. Isakoff Newell (New) / 15 Alton Ct., 3

1. Born in Boston, raised in Newton, Max Newell has lived in Brookline continuously since 1997. Partner to Amy Newell and father to two children (one teenager, one adult). Max decided to run for Town Meeting because of his longstanding interest in housing and transportation policy and how they both can be used to advance socioeconomic justice and greener living. Max has been endorsed by Brookline For Everyone and the Brookline Equity Coalition.

2. Ongoing affordability for residents. Sufficient investment in the schools. Desire to keep Brookline a diverse community.

Patricia Maher (New) / 413 Washington St., 2

1. I am running for Town Meeting to focus on promoting a healthy community. I believe this will involve addressing the issues of housing, the climate and justice. My husband and I have lived in Brookline for 37 years and raised our two sons here. Both went to Lawrence School and graduated from BHS. I am a newly retired nurse practitioner and psychiatric nurse specialist and served on the Brookline Advisory Council on Public Health for many years, including as chair during the earlier years of the Covid pandemic.
2. I am now working with others to revive the Friends of Brookline Public Health, and am on the Board of Climate Action Brookline.

I have been endorsed by Brookline For Everyone and Brookline PAX and Brookline Equity Coalition.

2. I have heard concerns about the ways in which Covid has affected our well-being as individuals and as a community. Initial hopes that the pandemic would bring us together have been replaced by concerns that we are finding ourselves further apart.

I believe we need to be innovative and to support our public schools, especially Pierce School, increase housing options, improve transportation, support our kids mental and physical health, address the racial and economic inequities that are baked into our systems, support local businesses, make our streets safe and decrease our greenhouse gas emissions. We also need better ways to communicate with each other- to start, a local newspaper and over time, more community activities.

Brianna Nicole Mirabile (New) / 33 Stearns Rd., 2A

1. “We have to move to Coolidge Corner, it’s the best place to live in or around Boston.” Those were the words my new roommate said to me as I prepared to move back to Boston after 6 years in Washington, DC. All that time engaging in public life, both professionally and personally, has given me a particular appreciation for public servants and motivated me to run to serve Brookline as a Town Meeting Member.

I want to continue to make Brookline a destination for young professionals like me - people who are just starting out and building our careers and lives. I am excited to have a chance to represent the town and neighborhood that I love, and I hope to earn your vote for Town Meeting.

2. Affordability: Many residents are rightly worried about affordability. I would look at every vote through the lens of affordability.

The Pierce School: I support a Pierce renovation, but I believe our town’s financial situation is hurting vulnerable residents and we need to chart a new path forward that balances their needs with our students.

Harvard Street Zoning: I believe that we need to build more housing, with implications for accessibility, equity, and our climate - but we need to proceed very deliberately.
Supporting our Seniors: We need Town Meeting Members to work on behalf of Brookline’s seniors, working on issues like increasing affordability, healthcare access, mobility, and integration into the community.

Jessica W. Stokes (New) / 9 Auburn Place

1. I grew up in Brookline, attended Lincoln School and Brookline High, and was thrilled to return here to raise my children (current Pierce 8th grader and BHS Senior). I have worked in Corporate Strategy at Ernst & Young for over 25 years, and I am a passionate volunteer, mentoring students who are first in their family to go to college and actively supporting various Democratic political campaigns. In my free time, I love to garden, run, read novels and hike with my family.

After being very involved with politics at the National and State level, I want to bring my advocacy “home,” focusing on issues of equity, climate, education, housing, and thoughtful economic development. I am proud to be endorsed by Brookline For Everyone.

2. Common sense development. I led my district’s 18-mo battle against an over-reaching developer. Our only ask was that the project follow the law, and I found it egregious that we had to fight so hard just to ensure our Zoning Laws were fairly applied. I continue to advocate in front of the Planning and Zoning Boards on behalf of my neighbors. Given the urgency of climate change, I propose “green” requirements before any consideration of variances. I also propose the Zoning Board become an elected position.

I know we need to increase our tax revenue base to avoid future override votes, and I want to be involved in economic planning that balances the need for development with increased affordable housing and the rights of existing owners.

Precinct 7

Candidates for One Year Term
Vote For Not More Than One

Ryan Black (New) / 11 Stearns Rd., #4

1. Hi neighbor, my name is Ryan Black (pronouns he/him/his). I've lived in Brookline since 2018 and am set start a Master's program in World History at Northeastern come the Fall semester. My hope is to subsequently pursue a PhD and after that become a high school social studies teacher. With me as your Town Meeting member you will get a progressive vote for climate justice, all forms of social justice, and fully funding our public schools and town services (including local public housing). Additionally, I'll be a vote for housing policy that genuinely addresses the affordability crisis and prevents displacement — specifically community land trusts, rent control, and affordable housing overlays. I consider myself a democratic socialist.

2. The problems I often hear about are the (1) affordability of housing and (2) structural/policy-born obstacles to participating in local government.

Regarding participating in local government: We must make hybrid meetings a permanent option, and fight for non-citizen voting rights plus same day voter registration.

Precinct 8

Candidates for Three Year Term
Vote For Not More Than Five

John Harris (*) / 41 Osborne Rd.

1. Proud 32 year resident of Brookline Career in human service management 10 year Town Meeting Member Co-Chair, Climate Action Brookline Board Member Biking Brookline, PAX Friends of Hall’s Pond MBTA COMMUNITIES ACT: state mandate. Smart compliance will allow population growth while preserving our lovely streetscapes & grow our retail sector. A larger commercial tax base means fewer overrides! I lead SITE WALKS on Harvard St. where Town staff point out Act impacts & opportunities building by building. Join us! Also, I am working to schedule neighborhood Charrettes, prob in May, so we can set priorities to include in a new Zoning by-law to minimize impact on nearby, avoid excessive height, massing, tacky facades, intrusive loading zones, etc.

2. RAT CONTROL I work with residents to advocate w/ DPW, Health Dept & Select Board to increase enforcement. Public health is a basic function of government. I will not rest until the infestation is brought under control. Rat problem? Let me know! VISION ZERO, COMPLETE STREETS, GREEN ROUTES, & SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL. We must make the streets of Brookline safer for ALL users, even the most vulnerable. A tireless advocate for safe sidewalks for pedestrians, lanes for autos & protected separate micromobility lanes on major thru roads.

2023 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE. I helped secure a grant to create Working Teams to formulate measurable objectives to reduce fossil fuel use & greenhouse gas emissions in Brookline. Want to join? Let me know

Nancy Heller (*) / 40 Abbotsford Rd.

1. Select Board 6 yrs; Town Meeting 34 yrs; Advisory Committee 7 yrs; School Committee 12 yrs. Now: Co-Chair BHS Expansion/Renovation Committee; Chair Tree Protection Committee; Chair Community Preservation Act Committee; Co-Petitioner 2022 bylaws on demolition delay. PAX+BBD endorsed. Previously: Petitioner 2012 bylaw to ban polystyrene; Co-Petitioner 2010 bylaw on noise/nuisance.

2. RAT CONTROL I work with residents to advocate w/ DPW, Health Dept & Select Board to increase enforcement. Public health is a basic function of government. I will not rest until the infestation is brought under control. Rat problem? Let me know! VISION ZERO, COMPLETE STREETS, GREEN ROUTES, & SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL. We must make the streets of Brookline safer for ALL users, even the most vulnerable. A tireless advocate for safe sidewalks for pedestrians, lanes for autos & protected separate micromobility lanes on major thru roads.

2023 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE. I helped secure a grant to create Working Teams to formulate measurable objectives to reduce fossil fuel use & greenhouse gas emissions in Brookline. Want to join? Let me know

Leadership Roles: Environment/Climate, Senior issues, PTO, Extended Day; Day Care; Understanding Disabilities; Graffam-McKay Historic District; BHS China Exchange, Friends of METCO. Family: Widow of Pediatrician Dan Heller, 3 children graduated Brookline Schools, 3 grandchildren attending Brookline Schools; Retired Attorney/Medical Administrator/Social Worker

Alexander Joseph Lebovitz (*) / 3 Bradford Terrace

1. I am a health policy analyst, former civil servant, & a longtime supporter of progressive campaigns and causes. I have lived in Precinct 8 for seven years & I am wrapping up my first year in Town Meeting. In my first term, I have been a reliable vote for climate solutions and racial equity. I passed a bylaw to reduce paper use & costs in Town operations, created & chaired a new Town Committee focused on reforming our Payment in Lieu of Taxes program, & secured Town support for studying the development of a public outdoor swimming pool. I am also sponsoring legislation with the Commission for Women to enact local protections for reproductive & gender-affirming care. I hope to earn your vote for a second term and would love to hear from you!

2. The issue I have heard from constituents on most frequently over the last year has been concern over the surging rat population in North Brookline. I have been a vocal advocate in support of more rodent control funding from the Town, which has begun to take action on this critical issue. I have introduced an article for the May Town Meeting that will increase fines on repeat violators of our refuse bylaws to give our Town stronger enforcement tools to combat the rat infestation at the source. I have also endorsed and am campaigning for the operating override, which will secure additional funds for staff and equipment needed for rodent control.

Susan Ellen Cherry (New) / 34 Babcock St., 102

1. I’m a Midwesterner by birth and upbringing. I relocated to Brookline, Massachusetts, around 17 years ago. After all this time, my landlord has remained the same, and I have been residing in the same apartment and building near Coolidge Corner.

2. Infrastructure, education, affordable housing, public safety, and treatment for addiction and mental health are among the topics that constituents consider to be of the utmost importance.
Policymakers might spend money on maintaining and improving infrastructure, providing enough school financing, assuring access to high-quality education, and assisting efforts that promote educational fairness in order to solve these issues. Helping tenants or homeowners who are having problems paying their mortgages might also be advantageous. It’s crucial to remember that resolving these challenges typically necessitates collaboration and communication among various government agencies and levels.

Francine B. Perler (New) / 74A Fuller St.

1. I’ve lived on Fuller St for 40 years. Retired. Biotech researcher (PhD) and lab leader for 35 years, which taught me the importance of getting a project done on time and on budget. I’m a Point of Contact liaison between my neighbors and the Health Dept. concerning rats. I led a grassroots effort to control rats and solid waste, talking to numerous officials, hundreds of residents and 100 businesses, collecting over 1200 signatures for my Rodent Mitigation Volunteer. Volunteering: Friends of Hall’s Pond Board Member and maintenance team; Associate Member Council on Aging; Senior Center; Mass Audubon; led Bird Club trips. I added a pollinator garden to my flowery yard years ago; now visited by many bees and butterflies. Endorsed by PAX, BBD

2. I will never stop working to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. I solve problems by considering all aspects, including unintended consequences. My highest priorities are improving basic services, helping our seniors, ensuring quality education and protecting the environment. I successfully lobbied to devote more town resources to rat control. Seniors are 20% of our town. While on the Council on Aging, I learned that many face food and housing insecurity: The budget is tight, so I’ll work to make sure these areas are a priority. Increasing taxes are burdening our working families, seniors and local businesses, so we need to spend wisely. As a woman who worked in a male dominated field, I understand the need for greater equity.

Alisa Plazonja (New) / 152 Naples Road

1. I have lived in Brookline for almost 27 years and am running for Town Meeting because our Town government depends on civic participation. I recently retired from a career in Human Resources and am a member of the Board of Directors of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. I am passionate about environmental issues, including preserving green space and biodiversity for future generations, combating climate change, and achieving environmental equity. Endorsed by PAX and Brookline by Design.

2. We have a rat problem caused in large part by a garbage problem. There is a good plan to try to address this issue, including adding more enclosed public waste receptacles and more aggressively enforcing sanitation rules, especially for dumpsters, but it will require a sustained commitment from the Town. We also have a housing problem (availability, affordability and access) but need to make sure that we do not just raze our Town in the pursuit of density - we should encourage a balanced approach that preserves open spaces, trees and our streetscapes by creatively reusing existing structures and incentivizing the development of more compact units.

Richard S. Sheward (New) / 102 Naples Rd., 6

1. Rich lives on Naples Road with his wife, Lea, and two daughters, Beatrice (8) and Flora (4). Richard is the Director of System Implementation Strategies at Children’s HealthWatch in this role, Richard leads the organization’s cross-sector policy work and initiatives. Before joining Children’s HealthWatch, he completed an Education Pioneers Fellowship at Jobs for the Future, where he contributed directly to the organization’s policy research and analysis and supported the Vice President in scouting out organizational strategy, resource development, and external relations. Mr. Sheward received his BA from the University at Albany (SUNY) in English. He received his Master’s of Public Policy from the Heller School at Brandeis University.

2. I am running to bring forth the perspectives and interests of all members of my Precinct 8 community to ensure Brookline is a thriving, welcoming, and vibrant place to live, work, and raise a family. As a young (compared to the average Town Meeting member), progressive, civic-minded community member, I will focus on issues that affect all town residents, including but not limited to:
   1) strong public schools;
   2) walkable streets, recreation opportunities, and a family-friendly built environment;
   3) unique businesses that enrich the community; and
   4) housing that is affordable to low, moderate, and middle-income households. I am endorsed by Brookline for Everyone.

Eric Stone (New) / 60 Beals St.

1. I am an FRR dad of two, a pet-owner, and a co-founder of a Boston startup. I love Brookline but would like to see the town become more affordable as the housing shortage continues to move us in the opposite direction. I believe our town can also continue to do more as a beacon of progressiveness, especially in terms of climate change, bike & pedestrian friendliness, more equitable policing practices, racial justice, and women’s rights & gender equality. I have been endorsed by the Brookline Equity Coalition and Brookline For Everyone.

2. My neighbors in Coolidge Corner are a conscientious bunch, and many are fellow parents. Currently the issue of higher-density more-affordable housing is at the top of many people’s list. I acknowledge this is a complex issue, and as a 1st-term Town Meeting member I intend to learn as much as possible about it before voting. But my perspective is that we are behind on making Brookline a place anyone can live, we must comply with the new state law, and the plans I have seen to do so appear reasonable.

Many of my neighboring parents share my concern that too many drivers use our North Coolidge Corner neighborhood as a cut-through, creating a danger to our kids and pets. I intend to call more attention to traffic calming if I am elected.

Andrew Cooper Warren (New) / 18 Gibbs St.

NO REPLY

Precinct 9

Candidates for Three Year Term Vote For Not More Than Five

Lee L. Biernbaum (*) / 7 Verndale St., 3

1. I moved to Brookline following graduate school & made it my forever home. I've both rented & owned apartments. Now I live car-free in a walkup that cannot legally be built in Brookline anymore.

I am a parent of two children at the Ruffin Ridley School & am a long-time Brookline election worker. My professional life focuses on transportation policy, in both the public & private sectors. My policy interests are the overlap of transportation, land use, & social justice. I am a co-founder of Brookline for Everyone.

Brookline is an amazing place to live, but that does not allow us to rest on our laurels. We have hard work to do to maintain what is great about Brookline & to ensure it can be amazing for everyone. Endorsed by B4E and BEC

2. Our housing crisis dominates conversation. We do not have enough homes, driving out all but the richest of the rich. We need more housing & it must be easier to build: subsidized, workforce, family, & market-rate housing.

Less immediate, but more existential is our climate. I was disappointed to see our attempt to fund household decarbonization turned into a disingenuous complaint about punishments. We must redouble our efforts, including land use & public transportation as key pillars.

Finally, Town government is inadequate to address our needs. We must engage in conversation about professionalizing it. We cannot remain reliant on an unrepresentative caste of volunteers, dictated by who can engage in hundreds of hours of unpaid work.

Marion H. Freedman-Gurspan (*) / 11 Wellman St., #3

1. My husband and I have lived in Precinct 9 for 35 years. Our daughter Raffi attended Brookline Public Schools K-12. I have been named by the Council on Aging to represent seniors on the Affordable Housing Overlay Study Committee, and I am a member of the Livable Community Action Committee of Brookline CAN. A social worker by training, I was the Director of Policy and Planning for the Division of Child-Adolescent Services for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. I am on the Advisory Committee of the Mass. Association for Mental Health and on the Data Release Committee of the Center for Health Information and Accountability which is a Mass. state agency.

Endorsed by Brookline PAX and Brookline by Design

2. 1. The MBTA-CA Harvard St project - Actions: Encourage resident participation in the Planning Dept.’s visioning sessions; support efforts to change the state guidelines; vote to have Town explore more options than just Harvard St. 2. Dangerous sidewalks- Action: Fund DPW to hire more staff using money from operational override and reallocation of town funds. 3. Rats.

Action: Fund DPW to expand its control/eradication activities including exploration of legal means to place traps on private property 4. Housing costs. Actions: Continue aggressive pursuit of federal and state funding; urge public discussion of recommendations that emerge from the Affordable Housing Overlay Study; support a home rule petition for rent stabilization.

Martin R. Rosenthal (*) / 62 Columbia St.

1. Ridley ’60; BHS’64; Harvard ’68; Stanford Law (Poli.Sci MA). Dad [SaraAnn (Ridley’11, BHS’15]. Litigation (criminal & atty-discipline), public defender’73-90; Managing Atty CJ Harv-Law’90-92. Chair MA Citizens Aagnst DeathPenalty’94-02; MA Sentenc’g Comm’n ’14-18; ACLU Bd ‘85-99; MBA ’22 Access to Justice ProBono Award; CPC’S ’09 & BBA ’00 Thurgood Marshall Awards; Selectman ’85-88; TMM ’79-now (100% attendance); CTOS’89-22; Advisory’83-5; Co-chair BrooklinePax.org; Police/Community Relations Rpt ‘87; Police Reform Comm’ee ’19-21; immigrant sanctuary ’85-’06-’17. BY-LAWS: Diversity Comm’n by-law co-drafter ’13, ’22; Police Comm’rs; sidewalk-snow; restaurant bathrooms; campaign-signs; 2-hr parking; Transport’n Bd; reform; BrookOnline; etc
2. (1) Chronic: climate crisis; budget shortages (so, urgent Overrides!); regressive taxes (e.g. for seniors!); exclusive housing; non-collaborative incivility, e.g. exaggerating Brookline’s racism (messaging “Stay Away, BIPOC’s!”). Diversity Comm’n should build bridges, not walls. (2) A 4-decade BPD reformer, I rue conflating of our excellent Cops with Mnpls, Memphis, etc., demoralizing them, and our low salaries making young, experienced, diverse cops leave. (3) I oppose Townhall’s MBTA Act Harv. St Plan, 4-story luxury housing, demolishing walkable, beloved shops, “destroying our Town to save it [and enrich developers].” Already very dense, we should fight the Act, esp’y a single contiguous up-zoned area (instead of spreading demolitions).

Judith A. Vanderkay (*) / 16 Columbia St


2. My constituents are concerned about the rash of demolitions and replacement of historic houses and open space by luxury modernist condos. The proposals to rezone Harvard Street are causing additional anxiety and fears that our quality of life may be irreparably damaged. They are also distressed by the rats in our neighborhood. Graffiti has also become an issue in some areas.

I would -- as I have already have been -- try to address these issues by informed activism: attending Planning Board and other hearings, communicating with Town departments on seeking solutions for constituents, and supporting the creation of a town-wide development plan to guide future growth. I will continue to make informed votes at Town Meeting.

George Abbott White (*) / 143 Winchester St., 2


2. Practical stuff: Close to Harvard Street, parking is a steady concern as well as rodent infestation. Increasing staff to enforce the two-hour parking regulation would certainly help, as would continuing the Town-wide common sense public health campaign to avoid poisons; secure garbage; and add more electric “zappers.”

Too many sidewalks need obvious repairs, breaks and elevations threaten children and the elderly alike. Winchester Street from Boston to Beacon Street needs a few speed traps to slow down what has become Detroit drag way.

Susan K. Howards (New) / 19 Winchester St.

1. I am a full time domestic violence attorney office in Brookline I also substitute teach mentally challenged adolescents with anorexia JD Suffolk Law School PhD Boston College life long resident of Brookline I have been endorsed by Pax and Brookline by Design I am also a Discovering Justice legal mentor.

2. Accessibility Very concerned about the Coolidge Corner proposal How will it affect accessibility to moms and pops we all rely on Coolidge Corner is sacred the effect on services police fire DPW Street sidewalk scooter bike lane maintenance Public Safety fund our first responders Affordable housing health care and food safety Parking and public transportation to name but a few.

Matti E. Klock (New) / 5 Verndale St., #4

1. My husband and I crossed the river to Brookline in 2018 to be near friends and quickly fell in love with Brookline’s libraries, parks, businesses, and people. I bike to my tech job in Kendall, live in a gorgeous multifamily brownstone that can’t be built under today’s zoning, have a cat who has traveled overseas, and am proud to be endorsed by both Brookline for Everyone and Brookline Equity Coalition. Last year I got to act on my values by donating a kidney to a stranger.

2. Housing. I’ve talked to residents who are moving away because they can’t afford to continue renting and can’t afford to buy. Others are upset about the injustice of living in a metro area where only the rich can afford to move.

Brookline has restrictive zoning that makes it near impossible to build dense and affordable housing. But historically Brookline knew how to build that housing – I live in an example! – and we need to update the zoning code to make it possible again. Town Meeting can do that.

I also hear worries about the police, about environmental policy, and about the Town’s declining revenue – all areas where TM has the power to act, to develop an override plan, to incentivize lower-carbon living, to fund new social services.

Timothy John Rodriguez (New) / 16 Kenwood St., 1

1. I’m a 33-year old Brookline renter since 2015; first-gen Latino with a MLSIS from Simmons University (2015); records manager with the EPA; volunteer with Brookline Food Pantry; and the assistant music manager and tenor with BU’s Marsh Chapel Choir. I would love to bring my voice to TM as a gay POC, anti-racist, environmentalist, accessibility and biking proponent, renter, and local/small business lover. I believe in nurturing community and putting in the work to cultivate one’s environment to feel like home. I take pride in being an attentive and responsive neighbor, so running for Town Meeting and representing Precinct 9 feels right. I am endorsed by Brookline for Everyone and Brookline Equity Coalition.

2. As a current constituent, the problems I see and also have heard that need to be addressed are: lack of housing; high rent, and food insecurity. Lack of housing and high rent are intrinsically linked.

With the deadline coming up to comply with the MBTA Communities Act, I am in support of the Planning Dept's Harvard St Corridor Proposal, additional density and redevelopment in certain areas, but also being mindful of beloved local businesses. And for food insecurity, with the end of federal COVID SNAP benefits near, and 3 extra months from the Healy admin, Brookline and TM need to work to see how we can keep supporting those individuals and families in need by supporting our local food pantries, and investing in other food security avenues.

Precinct 10

Candidates for Three Year Term Vote For Not More Than Five

Suzette Abbott (*) / 63 Winthrop Rd.

1. I grew up under the Apartheid regime in South Africa. As a teacher I have worked as an early childhood teacher in South Africa, London, New York City and, since moving to the area, Cambridge MA. I have lived in Brookline for 29 years, with my 2 sons going to the Brookline schools. I have been involved with Climate Action Brookline and then 350 Mass, a statewide climate action group. I have worked with JALSA on getting out the vote and fighting voter suppression. Currently I am involved with 1st Parish, Justice Seekers. I volunteer in the Cambridge Public Schools and continue to work on voter suppression and other social and racial justice issues.

2. The most pressing issue my constituents have shared with me is one that is on the ballot this Spring. Passing the override for the Pierce School renovation is essential for our children to have a functional school building! We have studied this question for a number of years, and the current plan is the one that has emerged from that study. I strongly support voting YES for the Pierce School Override! Another much discussed issue is the State mandated rezoning of the Harvard Street Corridor, with the idea of increasing the amount of available, and affordable, housing in Transit friendly zones. I think our Planning Department has developed a workable approach, and we can comply with State law and preserve a vibrant commercial district.

Cher K. Duffield (*) / 40 Gartner Rd.

1. Involved Brookliner with four school-age children. I was the Pierce PTO co-chair for three years and am currently a room parent and on the BHS PTO exec team. I also am a Board member of childrens’ choir VOICES Boston, a Scout leader, a BPDF exec board member, a XC team booster, middle-school cross country coach. I’m originally from Wisconsin, daughter of a stay-at-home mom and a small business owner dad. I love the outdoors, especially hiking. I have run the Boston Marathon several times. I work as a yoga instructor and was previously a management consultant. I’m often at Griggs Park with my dog Havoc and our bunny Dido greets people from our front yard. Education: Yale (first generation college student), Oxford (Fulbright Scholar, Harvard.)
2. Roads without potholes. Pedestrian and biking safety. Great public services including libraries, police and schools. Beautiful parks. Thriving small local businesses. A commitment to climate action. Fiscal responsibility by leaders. A great community for all ages. I co-sponsored warrant articles to open our largest green space in Brookline to more uses along with golf and to let citizens decide by popular vote how many marijuana retailers we want.

Casey Ann Hatchett (*) / 84 University Rd.

1. Thank you for considering me for re-election as a Town Meeting Member for Precinct 10 (formerly in Precinct 12). I have lived in Brookline for 29 years and own a home on University Road with my husband, Derek, three sons, Max (age 18), Alex (age 16) and Dylan (age 15) and daughter, Madeline (age 12), & two dogs, Huck & Finn. I have been very active in our community for many years, serving as a Brookline Police Officer for the last 25 years, as past Co-Chair of the Brookline Commission for Women for 14 years, as a volunteer for the Brookline Food Pantry, as an active parent at Driscoll School and BHS, as a Rotarian & CERT coordinator. I will continue to work hard as your representative at Town Meeting & as an active voice for your concerns.

2. The issues I most often hear from constituents are related to ensuring public safety (crime and traffic), maintaining strong and supported Town services & schools, thoughtful development, equity and inclusion, and budget concerns. As your Town Meeting representative, I will continue to be actively engaged in discussions related to these issues and to contribute ideas and expertise where I can. I will support warrant articles and initiatives that improve our Town's public safety, schools, transportation, town services, and community-driven development while ensuring we can do so with a focused eye on equity and inclusion and within budget constraints.

Kimberly Loscalzo (*) / 1601 Beacon St., 203

1. I live in Washington Square with my husband, Alex and two children who attend Driscoll and BEEP. I have lived in Brookline for 17 years and taught for 7 years at the Les Petits Nursery School. After my daughter was born I switched gears to become a nanny. I have been working with the same family for the past nine years.

I’m currently the PTO co-chair at the Driscoll School and on the PSB CARE (Coalition for Anti-Racism Education) team, as well as a member of the Brookline Equity Coalition, a local Girl School Troop leader and regularly volunteer with the Thrives Program. I have been part many recent political campaigns including the successful debt exclusion for the New Driscoll School and the current “Yes for Brookline” campaign.

2. As a TMM, I have worked hard to listen to my neighbors and support warrant articles that will help make Brookline a more inclusive, equitable and affordable place to live and work. Many of my constituents have asked me to support affordable housing initiatives and give renters a voice.

I’m also a lifelong proponent for a quality and equitable education for every child which our schools serve. It is important that we support our teachers, staff and students, which is why I support ways to make the School Budget robust to match these values. Representation is also important to my constituents and I prioritize racial justice and equity in our Community. Brookline needs to be a welcoming and open town where everyone has a stake and voice.

Ariel C. Maddocks (*) / 64 Griggs Rd.

1. I have been a Brookline resident for 14 years and now call the Griggs Park neighborhood home. I have been a Town Meeting Member since 2018 and I have volunteered in various capacities related to town and school needs. I am the parent of two kids at Pierce, with one getting ready for high school! I also enjoy connecting with and helping neighbors which I often do while outside gardening (please stop and chat, we are the house with the dragon and unicorn in the winter months).

At work I am a leader who listens and gathers input to inform solutions and guide technology decisions that improve the human experience and I actively participate in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts and Environment, Social and Government considerations.

2. Brookline has many qualities I love (walkability, parks, tree lined streets, schools, community spaces, libraries, services for all ages, neighborhoods of caring neighbors) and I believe we have work to do to create racial and economic justice, affordable and public housing, climate action at both a personal and town level, and ensure the best schooling experiences. I support rebuilding the Pierce school and the operating override to ensure we maintain our quality town services. I invite anyone interested in talking to reach out.

As a Town Meeting Member I listen to neighbors, carefully consider warrant articles and actively support efforts that improve the town in alignment with the values I mentioned. https://www.brooklinep10.com/

Nicole E. Stephens (New) / 30 Gardner Rd., 2G

1. I have lived in over 30 homes throughout my life. I grew up as a military brat, was born in Oklahoma, graduated high school in Seattle, and came to New England, like many, for college. I graduated from BU in 2012 and I am currently a member of BU’s Young Alumni Council.

I worked for the Massachusetts Legislature for 8 years and earned an MPA from UMass Boston in 2015. I recently began working at Massport after completing an additional master’s in urban and environmental policy and planning from Tufts University in 2022.

My now husband and I moved into our home on Gardner Road in 2021 and recently renewed our lease; Gardner Road is my third apartment in Brookline.

Endorsed by "Brookline for Everyone" and "Brookline Equity Coalition"

2. Housing and transportation are the two biggest challenges I hear about from neighbors. The high cost of housing and unreliable public transportation combine to impede economic security and further exacerbate inequality.

Brookline can increase housing production by allowing increased density and multi-family dwellings near transit routes. In addition to welcoming new neighbors, increasing housing production enables existing residents to stay within Brookline as their needs change.

Brookline should continue its strong inclusionary zoning policy, especially its commitment to affordable ownership opportunities.

Brookline can alleviate some of the pressure on public transportation by improving walkability and expanding bike routes as well

Karin L. Weaver (New) / 67 Winthrop Rd.

1. I have been a Brookline resident for 40 years, living in the Washington Square neighborhood. I have raised two children here who attended Driscoll and Brookline High School. I have just retired from a career in Project/Process/Program management and want to contribute more to a community that I have come to care deeply about.

In my professional role, I managed globally distributed project managers and project teams, with a focus on on-time, quality output and streamlined process efficiency. We analyzed and decomposed problems, planned out solutions and negotiated compromise to create final deliverables, and I believe these same skills will apply in the ongoing evolution that Brookline wants. I love to work with others to fix and improve

2. My neighbors’ priority concerns are: (1) climate change/Brookline’s response to zero emissions by 2050; (2) focusing Brookline on being equitable and diverse; and (3) improving/preserving high-quality services (affordable housing, schools, libraries, green spaces, etc.).

My focus would be on supporting non-car transportation options, ensuring green and fossil free building in all town spaces, increasing housing density and affordable housing, particularly via conjunction with the MBTA-CA Harvard St corridor planning process, and, financing the replacement of Pierce school and upgrading other antiquated parts of our infrastructure. I would focus on processes geared to racial and economic justice. Endorsed by PAX & Brookline for Everyone.

Precinct 11

Candidates for Three Year Term
Vote For Not More Than Five

Jonathan J. Golden (*) / 1450 Beacon St., 301


2. I hear most often about the need to invest in our schools and town services. I share those positions as a strong supporter of the Yes for Brookline campaign to approve the Pierce School project and the override to fund key municipal services including street maintenance, road safety, and rodent control. Neighbors also express concern and lack of clarity about town government and wonder if it is meeting the needs of our community.
I support efforts to explore new approaches to Brookline town government and hope that there will be a future ballot question on whether to form a commission to consider the possibilities. Finally, I hear concerns about affordable housing and am grateful to have had the endorsement of Brookline for Everyone.

Martha E. Gray (*) / 113 Summit Avenue

1. I am an educator and recently retired from working at ROCA, Inc in Chelsea and Lynn. I belong to Temple Beth Zion and the Brookline Havurah Minyan.

2. Two critical issues: racism in Brookline and addressing the needs of our schools to equitably provide excellent educational environments and stellar experiences for all of our students. I stand firmly in favor of the YES for Brookline campaign. We need a new Pierce School.

As a Town Meeting Member I pledge to actively participate in honest and constructive conversations. I promise to ally myself with constituencies that are truly committed to addressing the racism that stains and plagues our community.

David Lowe (*) / 177 Mason Terrace

1. Local: 10 yrs in Town Mtg., Former head of Climate Action Brookline (CAB), continuing Board Member, founding member of var. community climate and sustainability initiatives.

Driscoll & BHS parent (K-12), now a local college freshman. Regionally: Board Member for 10 yrs (till c. 2018) on Massachusetts Climate Action Network and municipal/community climate engagement leader.


2. Construction noise & mess are most discussed. I travel in climate circles so hear more about addressing our energy use transformation; how to electrify home heating and transportation; providing more sustainable infrastructure. Transportation delays are a gripe.

Challenges include balance of housing vs. affordability vs. rising tax costs. Cost of living in general. Equity around access to services.

Building constituent awareness and engagement around contemporary town policies and services (among busy residents) is both a challenge and a partial solution. We are fortunate in Precinct 11 to have a strong Town Meeting delegation and team that works collaboratively. Honored to be part of this group!

Susan B. Fried (New) / 50 Winchester St., 402

1. I have lived in and loved Brookline for nearly 30 years. I am retired and feel this is a good time to give back to the community that has meant so much to me throughout my adult life.

2. I am running because I see the direction of our local government being overly influenced by special interest. Although they may have lofty goals, I believe the groups’ decisions are not well thought out and create short-term fixes and long-term problems. We need to listen to what the subject matter experts say and consider the pro’s and con’s before supporting any given solution. My neighbors have expressed similar concerns and are looking for representatives that will be open to hearing ALL sides of an issue and, hopefully, broker a compromise that will make all parties feel like they have been heard.

John Franklin Hilliard (New) / 26 Summit Ave., Apt. 6

1. I moved to Boston for school in 2005 and never left. By trade, I’m a software engineer and enjoy building teams, mentoring, and solving problems. Previously I was the CTO of an eCommerce company. In that role, I led various initiatives and projects across domains like web design, infrastructure, education, security, and others. Currently, I work as an engineering leader for a startup. Outside of the tech industry, I was on the board of Aarons Presents, a Boston area nonprofit that helps kids give back to their community. My wife and I moved to Brookline about four years ago. You can often find us going for weekend walks and trying out new food in Coolidge Corner.

2. Ever-increasing expenses are one of the most common problems that I’ve heard about and felt. The cost of utilities is increasing, the cost of rent is increasing, and the cost of everyday groceries is increasing. There are meaningful and actionable agendas that we can pursue as a town to ensure Brookline has affordable housing and that our most distressed neighbors have access to the resources they need.

Rodents are another problem that’s come up several times. We should fully fund and implement the Rodent Control Action Plan (RCAP) as a starting point.

Jacob Arash Pourati (New) / 31 York Terr.

1. I have been a proud Brookline resident since 1988, when my family immigrated from Iran. We were welcomed into the community, and I have been here ever since. I am an alumni of the now-Florida Ruffin Ridley School and Brookline High and remained in Brookline while pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. I am a practicing periodontist and also am a part-time lecturer at Harvard Dental School. I also live in Coolidge Corner with my wife Sabrina, my two children, and our composting worms. Many of my relatives live here as well, and I would like to give back to the community we all love.

2. We frequently discuss the need for fresh voices and ideas in Brookline politics. In terms of issues, there is a need to focus on: (1) our schools - the infrastructure, curriculum, and teachers; (2) our safety - the police and their relationship to the Town; and (3) our community, including greater respect for diversity. Improving each will lead to a better Brookline.

John A. Rumpler (New) / 97 Mason Terr. Apt. 5

1. John Rumpler is a long-time environmental advocate who has lived on Mason Terrace since 2011. John began his activism at Tufts (’88) and earned his law degree at Northeastern (’96). His wife Carol works in education, and his daughter Serena is a recent graduate of Brookline High School.

2. When I ask my neighbors what they value most about Brookline, two main themes come up: 1) education: I support continued investment in both our school buildings and the excellent teachers our kids deserve; 2) quality of life - including walkability/transit access, open space, and vibrant local businesses; I will support policies and development plans that maintain and enhance these priorities. In addition, my neighbors care about climate and environmental stewardship; I will support policies to promote clean energy and prevent pollution in our community.

Precinct 12

Candidates for Three Year Term

Vote For Not More Than Five

Jonathan Michael Abbett (*) / 168 Gardner Rd.

1. I’ve lived in Brookline since 2003, when my wife Sarah and I married and found our first apartment on Beacon Street. Both having grown up in Route 128 suburbs, we were eager to live our lives closer to the city. Then as today, Brookline offers the ideal balance.

I lead the user experience design team at a healthcare technology company in Boston, and Sarah is an anesthesiologist at a community hospital in Milford. We have three children — ages 16, 12, and 10 — who attend Maimonides School on Philbrick Road and are devoted fans of Brookline’s many parks and baseball fields.

In 2012, we moved to Gardner Road and Precinct 12. Last year, I was elected to a 1-year term as Town Meeting Member and today I ask for your vote for a full 3-year term.

2. Every neighbor has some unique need or perspective, but what most conversations have in common is the exorbitant price of housing. Brookline’s long inaction on housing has already introduced harmful change: first, middle-income families could no longer afford Brookline, and now even higher-paid professionals are shut out. I am very fond of my neighbors but income diversity will be a thing of the past unless we act now. We are very fortunate to have an incredibly professional Planning Department whose proposal for Harvard Street multi-family construction is a strong first step that fits into our comprehensive planning process. I plan to support this effort and serve as a resource to our precinct for rezoning facts and sober evaluation.

Stephanie A. Bruce (*) / 185 Rawson Rd., 3


Endorsed by Brookline PAX and Brookline For Everyone.

2. My Brookline neighbors most often mention the need for commercial development/revenue, affordable housing, curbside composting, fossil fuel reduction, better school curriculum, and pandemic economic recovery.
I have supported - and will continue to support- efforts to grow/support local businesses, increase housing supply/density, reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and single-use plastics, promote town-wide curbside composting, and support science, social studies and literacy curriculum in the schools. It is critical to set the agenda locally on climate change, even if it is inconvenient or costly, because we cannot afford the consequences of inaction, and because Brookline can influence changes across the state and across the country.

Michael A. Burstein (*) / 50 Garrison Rd., 1

2. The biggest issue mentioned is the need for a town budget that will adequately fund the services we have come to expect. In my role as both a Town Meeting Member and Chair of the Library Trustees, I continue to advocate for a budget that will allow us to hire the town staff we want and continue to make Brookline the desirable place where we all want to live.

Mazal Jaret (*) / 182 Rawson Rd. NO REPLY

Michael Kushner (*) / 205 Winthrop Rd., 5
1. I am a 27 year old social worker focusing in community mental health. I have lived in Brookline for 3 years. I am life long rendered and I am deeply interested in housing affordability.

2. Housing affordability is a huge issue in Washington Square and Brookline at large. We need to explore all options protect and grow our supply of affordable housing, provide housing security for renters and ensure that Brookline is affordable for all residents to stay in Brookline for the long term.

Irving A. Kurki (New) / 333 Tappan St., 4
1. I have lived in Brookline since 1992. During that time I have been involved in campaigns to strengthen our public health, build a more peaceful and sustainable world, make bicycling safer in town, and build substantive equality.

I am honored to be endorsed by Brookline for Everyone and endorsed by The Brookline Equity Coalition.

2. Housing is too expensive, there is no affordable child care, and modes of transportation are too much weighted toward motor vehicles. Adequate affordable housing should be a right not a privilege; therefore we need more community programs for affordable housing. We need municipal programs that provide affordable child care. We need to be more aggressive in limiting fossil fuel emitting vehicle use and heating use in our town and make it safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Judith E. Selwyn (*) / 285 Reservoir Rd.

2. Funding for all Town Services and Departments must be developed as a whole, we cannot afford more overrides as the school/town split goes more and more heavily toward school spending, leaving other town services wanting. Harvard St study has resulted in a no-bid contract for $250,000, while the vote by Town Meeting to fund a planning study in the same amount has been ignored. I see the Town budget in a balanced way and we can still get good schools and good services.

Lee L. Selwyn (*) / 285 Reservoir Rd.
1. Lived in Brookline for more than 55 years. TMM since 2009, reelected six times. Sent three children (Mark, Jeremy, Amanda) to Brookline Public Schools, K-12. Served on Advisory Committee and its Land Use Subcommittee since 2009. Active in numerous Town government activities, including 2014-15 Override Study Committee, Audit Committee, Moderator’s Committee on Parking (chair), sponsor of Warrant Articles including the successful 2016 effort to limit construction of oversized houses and developers’ attempts to game our zoning by-law. Education: B.A. in Economics, Queens College (NYC), S.M. and PhD in Management, Sloan School of Management, MIT. Economic Policy Consultant specializing in public utilities and other regulated industries

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2. My constituents want fiscally responsible Town government that maintains affordability of living in Brookline for all residents – homeowners and renters. Escalating budget demands of the Schools are squeezing other Town departments – police, fire, public works, libraries – that undermine these important public services. We need to fully fund the legitimate needs of Brookline Schools while avoiding de-funding of other Town priorities which, among other things, has made it difficult to attract qualified personnel. Proposals for increased development, such as on Harvard Street, will impose massive new costs that are nowhere near offset by the additional tax revenues, and tax overrides serve only to make Brookline less affordable for all.

Michael Thomas Best (New) / 37 Englewood Ave., 1
1. Runkle parent and non-profit attorney and organizer for a more equitable economy for the past 15 years. I spent a great decade in D.C., but came home to MA to raise our kids and put down roots in a community where I could connect my policy and politics skills to local action. I now lead a state legislative program at a national nonprofit focused on passing bills that make sure debt collection doesn’t push low income families over a financial precipice. I believe in finding common ground with people, building coalitions to get work done, and never letting the perfect be the enemy of the good. I hope I can lend those skills to the work of the Town Meeting.

2. Funding for all Town Services and Departments must be developed as a whole, we cannot afford more overrides as the school/town split goes more and more heavily toward school spending, leaving other town services wanting. Harvard St study has resulted in a no-bid contract for $250,000, while the vote by Town Meeting to fund a planning study in the same amount has been ignored. I see the Town budget in a balanced way and we can still get good schools and good services.

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Endorsed by PAX, Brookline for Everyone and Brookline Equity Coalition.

2. I hear how imperative it is to keep the schools excellent (that is why so many of us chose to live in Brookline), the streets accessible and safe for pedestrians and bicycles, and the need for more housing. I also hear about the existential crisis that climate change poses and how much more difficult the world may be for our children in 20 years. While these are complicated policy problems that need to be addressed at various decision making levels, Town Meeting will have questions before it that impact them all to some degree. I will use my vote and my voice to help nudge us in the right direction.

Laura Knott (New) / 126 Westbourne Terr., 2


2. I hear worries about the present and the future: Can our streets be made safer for cyclists and pedestrians? If Brookline adds more housing, will the schools remain excellent? Will the town’s heat islands become unlivable? Will my family be able to afford living in Brookline next year, or five years from now? Therefore, I support policies that allow for more affordable, transit-friendly, multi-family housing; that fully fund schools, municipal services, and shared streets; that enable new and diverse commercial enterprises; and, crucially, that move Brookline toward net zero. I support prudent budgetary oversight.

We possess the technical skills to address big challenges. With new and vigorous bonds of community, we can meet them.

David Mendels (New) / 11 Evans Road

1. My wife and I are 23-year Brookliners who have raised two amazing boys who graduated Driscoll and BHS. I have worked as a leader in the private sector, and in recent years in several social impact nonprofits. I am a co-Founder of ZeroCarbonMA, where we develop smart policies to reach our Net Zero goals in Brookline and MA. As Board President of Resilient Coders, we teach software dev to low income people of color as a step toward racial and economic justice in the region and tech sector. I also work with entrepreneurs from Palestine & Israel to start social impact ventures & build trust in that conflicted region via my role at Our Generation Speaks. Endorsed by Brookline PAX and Brookline for Everyone.

2. Safe streets, housing and climate are important issues. I love the walkability, the beauty, the access to the T, and the great local businesses in Brookline. It can be even greater if we improve affordability, diversity, use of public transit, and foot traffic to our shops and restaurants. A sensible approach to allowing new housing can help us achieve that without losing what we love about Brookline.

Also, we have a important town goal to hit Net Zero emissions by 2040. Our next step is to approve Brookline's entry into the new Massachusetts fossil fuel free new construction pilot program. Beyond that, we need to invest in education, programs and incentives to accelerate the electrification of our buildings and transportation.

Allyala Krishna Nandakumar (New) / 77 Cleveland Rd.

1. My wife and I along with our two young children moved to Brookline in 1990; our children attended the Brookline Schools and today our daughter, son-in-law and two grand kids live in Brookline. My wife is the Assistant Dean for Finance at BU School of Law. I am a Professor of the Practice at Brandeis University and serve as the Academic Director for Global Programs at the Heller School and Direct the Institute for Global Health and Development. I serve as a Senior Advisor at the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator and a Senior Advisor to USAID India’s health office. My work in global health financing focuses on four key issue: sufficiency, efficiency, equity and accountability. My candidacy has been endorsed by “Brookline by Design”

2. Quality of our public schools and ensuring that Brookline remains inviting to all segments of society including the elderly and small businesses.

To me a community led effort, where everyone's voice and views are heard in a respectful manner, is key as we decide on the future of our beautiful town. Brookline should make decisions that are in OUR OWN short, medium and long-term interests and ones that are not driven by the pursuit of federal dollars or beholden to special interest groups such as builders and property developers. There is vibrancy to Brookline that is coupled with a deep sense of caring for those most in need. I will bring a strong commitment to social justice while insisting on accountability

Michael Rubenstein (New) / 130 Willard Rd.

1. My wife and I have lived 30 years in Brookline and raised two children here. After founding and leading a successful software business for 25 years, I have worked in several areas of social justice: As co-chair of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization Health Care Team, which worked with state leaders to save $1.2B from the BI-Lahey hospital merger, lower prescription drug costs by $100M annually for Massachusetts, and increase access to affordable mental health care. On the Alliance for Business Leadership Climate Council, which advocates for clean energy policy. As Governance Chair of Prospect Hill Academy Charter School in Cambridge & Somerville, which serves children Pre-K to 12. Endorsed by Brookline PAX and Brookline for Everyone.

2. My neighbors love Brookline, its neighborhoods, tree-lined streets and, especially, our schools. I will ensure that the town is fiscally prudent as we build upon its strengths. Neighbors ask how we maintain the character of our neighborhoods and ensure everyone in Brookline can afford a home. Here are my ideas:

1. To remain vibrant, Brookline should welcome people from a variety of backgrounds and economic circumstances. 2. Brookline’s affordable housing stock is too close to state minimums. As a result, state law forces Brookline to absorb construction where we have no say in what gets built. By improving our zoning laws, developers will be able to build within the town’s guidelines as we continue to enjoy our neighborhoods.

Precinct 13

Candidates for One Year Term Vote Not More Than One

Jonathan Fine (New) / 57 Willow Crescent

1. Endorsed by Brookline By Design and by Brookline PAX. Lifelong Brookline resident; caucused into an open Precinct Thirteen Town Meeting seat in November, 2022; previously a long-time Town Meeting Member; former Library Trustee; former Advisory Committee Member.

2. The issue most often mentioned by my neighbors is the real estate tax. Brookline residents expect a high level of services and an excellent school system. Quality town services and excellent schools are necessarily funded by a higher level of real estate taxes. It is the responsibility of those in town government to control the growth of these taxes through sound management practices, prudent fiscal controls and efforts to expand the tax base. Expansion of the tax base is critical to the Town’s future as a way of easing the tax burden on residential owners (read the upcoming operating budget override and the Pierce School debt exclusion override).

Kevin Thomas Mackenzie (New) / 19 Strathmore Rd., 3

1. I am a Brookline educator, proud union member, and renter running to represent Precinct 13 at Brookline's Town Meeting. I am committed to public education, fully funded Town services, affordable housing, transit accessibility, environmental justice, civic engagement, and support for Brookline seniors.

I found my way to Brookline by chance, starting as a student teacher in our public school system. I quickly fell in love with Brookline and have since remained in the district, first as a paraprofessional and now as a middle school teacher.

To learn more about me visit kevin@brookline.com

2. Town services and municipal workforce need relief. Our workers continue to be asked to do more with less. We need to vote Yes on the operating override to give departments the resources they need. As a Town Meeting Member, I would be a strong advocate for Town services and our municipal workers.

Brookline faces worsening affordability. The increasing cost of living here is pricing many out. Young families should not be priced out and our neighbors should be able to age in place. Brookline needs to be affordable for everyone. There is also a lot of work to do to secure affordability for BIPOC residents - in addition to working class, low-income residents. At Town Meeting, I would support efforts to increase affordability in Town.
Precinct 14

Candidates for Three Year Term
Vote For Not More Than Five

Shaari S. Mittel (*) / 309 Buckminster Rd.

1. BHS, B.U., Phi Beta Kappa Currently: Town Meeting Member-36 yrs.; Board Member Brookline League of Women Voters-50+ yrs. (former President) & Board Member Fisher Hill Neighborhood Assn.-48 yrs.;

I am also a member of Friends of Larz Anderson Park. I serve on a variety of committees for our community and students. I work as an Art Historian.

Formerly: Town Advisory Committee- 25 yrs.; LWVMA Legislative Aide; Runkle Planning Comm. Chair; V.P. Town Meeting Members Assn; Brookline Substitute Teacher & Deputy Probation Officer.

Endorsed by Brookline PAX & Brookline By Design.

2. Many neighbors are concerned about current lobbying efforts to extend multi-family housing development to all Town Districts. They fear the resulting higher population density in their built-up neighborhood will result in school overcrowding, reduced open space, traffic congestion and more demands on Town services. They worry their quality of life would decline as would their property values, (thereby lowering much-needed contributions to our Commercial Tax Base).

I will vote against any such major zoning change at Town Meeting (which sets our Land-Use Policy). Since much careful planning is needed to balance our Town's many needs, I'll continue to support our Comprehensive Plan study process & encourage community participation.

Youskavet Samih (*) / 1799 Beacon St., 1
NO REPLY

Sharon R. Schoffmann (*) / 6 Eliot Crescent, 1

1. I have lived in Brookline since 1994, and have served as a Town Meeting Member for Precinct 14 since 2014. After a long career as a professional musician, I am now a Financial Planner at an investment firm in Wellesley. My husband and I sent our daughter through Brookline Public Schools.

2. Affordable housing is a constant concern of my constituents. Neighbors are disheartened by the fact that we have become a community that cannot welcome people of various means, and even our public employees cannot afford to live here. It's a complex problem for the town to address. The rezoning of Harvard Street may be a good place to start. Long-term, sensible planning is necessary to preserve our sense of place while providing the development that is necessary to meet our goals.

Sami Zelkha (*) / 12 Dean Rd.
NO REPLY

Sassan Zelkha (*) / 1799 Beacon St., 1
NO REPLY

David P. Morse, Jr. (New) / 82 Fairway Rd.

1. Been a Brookline resident for 27 years. Married with two daughters - one graduated from Brookline Public Schools, second is going to the Brookline High School next fall. Currently employed as a Brookline Fire Fire Fighter. I've ben employed there for the past 10 years; prior to that was a self employed landscape contractor.

2. The most often mentioned problem is the quality of education. Most people are concerned that our schools teach only for the MCAS. If this is true why aren't our kids topping the charts? I believe there needs to be more oversight in our children's education and the content being taught.

We have also experienced a great decline in the quality of our roads. I know weather is a huge factor and our underground infrastructure was not designed for todays traffic, but there are laws in place to hold contractors liable for maintaining any openings they put in our roadways - these laws have not been enforced.

Precinct 14

Candidates for One Year Term
Vote For Not More Than One

David Quinn Gacioch (New) / 18 Spooner Rd.

1. Pragmatic, data-driven progressive. Lawyer who represents primarily hospitals and health systems in litigation. Father of four Heath School kids (grades 4-8). Volunteer youth soccer coach (Brookline Rec and Brookline Soccer Club). Represented P13 in Town Meeting from 2019 to 2022, with perfect attendance. Chaired Public Schools of Brookline Expert Advisory Panel 4 (COVID-19 Public Health, Safety, and Logistics) –helping our public schools to navigate the pandemic. Vice-chaired Brookline's 2021 Reprecincting Committee, revising precinct boundaries to ease voters' access to polling places. When I am not on the ballot, I serve as a Brookline elections worker. I look forward to continuing to work to make Brookline a better place.

2. I love and believe in Brookline. We have many challenges to overcome together, such as a multi-faceted affordability crisis. We tax and spend at levels at/below those of neighboring communities, but still have residents on fixed incomes for whom taxes are a challenge. We need better deferral options for those neighbors. We also need to create more housing—especially affordable housing—throughout our community, so people can afford to move and stay here. With recent contracts, we pay most public educators competitively but compensation/benefits for other Town staff lag and need more support. We also have a real legacy of institutional racism to confront and dismantle. These would be among my priorities to address in Town Meeting.

Efrat Zinnar-Shavit (New) / 20 Loveland Rd.

1. My husband and I came to the US in 1993 and moved to Brookline while my husband attended Berklee College of Music. In 2002, we purchased our home in Brookline where we raised our three children, all attended Brookline Public Schools.

2. Many, especially families with young children, are concerned with maintaining the high quality of public education in Brookline. I do believe that we should continue to invest in our education, first and foremost by supporting our teachers. With that said, I also support the Pierce School renovation. I was hesitant at first, but at a recent visit to the school it became clear to me that this project addresses real and immediate needs.

There are more issues we'll need to address, and we are fortunate to live in a community that consistently displays a broad base of shared values. I believe that acknowledging those shared values will help us achieve more of our objectives while fostering a stronger sense of connection to each other.

Precinct 15

Candidates for Three Year Term
Vote For Not More Than Five

Jane M. Flanagan (*) / 854 Hammond St

1. Incumbent town meeting member.
Resident/homeowner 28 years.
Co-chair of Friends of Putterham Woods.
Member of Friends of Dane Park.
Assoc. Professor of Nursing at Boston College.
Nurse Practitioner/Nurse Scientist at Massachusetts General Hospital.

2. 1) Lack of economic development. Neighborhood involvement would reverse that.
2) Threats to open space e.g. Larz Anderson.
3) Traffic and a lack of safe streets e.g. crosswalks, traffic lights. 4) Beaver Country Day using side streets for parking.
5) Threats to town services - police, fire, DPW.
6) Continuous cycle of overrides & increased fees making the town less affordable for residents and businesses.
7) A lack of a ladder truck in this area making our response times frightening.
8) Loss of affordable homes.
9) Massive destruction of old growth trees.

I address these by listening to constituents, attending & speaking at public hearings to voice concerns and through my votes at Town Meeting.
My constituents also want to make sure that our open spaces remain protected and cared for, an issue that I have been actively involved in for many years. Lack of public transportation, safe bike routes and pedestrian crossings, with heavy traffic is also an issue in South Brookline that needs addressing.

Julian Hart Fisher (New) / 320 Dudley St.

1. Yale BA, Johns Hopkins MD, 35 years on Harvard Medical School faculty (neurology) and at the Beth Israel Deaconess lived and worked in Peru (malnutrition research), published and exhibited photojournalist (social issues).

2. Respecting the Town’s history and character while preparing for a complex future. Maintaining fiscal responsibility to achieve these future goals while retaining the strong and broad middle class (lower, middle and upper middle - 85% or more of Brookline) character of the Town for all (100%).

Endorsed by PAX, Brookline for Everyone, Brookline by Design

James C. Rourke, Jr. (New) / 679 Hammond St

1. James C. Rourke Jr. 679 Hammond St.
Retired Boston school teacher Lifelong Brookline resident Graduate of Brookline High School BA English, UMass Amherst MA Special Education, Eastern Nazarene College

2. 1. The threat from people who would defund our Police Department
2. Lack of economic development
3. Traffic, overcrowded transit corridors
4. Taxes that are rising at an alarming rate
5. Overdevelopment, especially of luxury housing
6. An ability for people to age in place.

We face a nearly 10 percent tax increase on this year's ballot between the general override and the ridiculously over designed $212 million Pierce School. We should say no to both these ballot questions, come back with a reasonable proposal for Pierce and once and for all, address our structural budget deficit so that we no longer have to ask voters to supplement government mismanagement. Overrides are a byproduct of governmental failure. Let's balance our budget.

Cornelia HJ van der Ziel (New) / 100 Wolcott Rd.

1. Retired Ob/Gyn 39 year resident of Brookline; children attended Brookline Public Schools; on the Commission for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Relations and its various subcommittees; board member of Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility, Brookline PAX and Brookline Sister City, having led 4 public health campaigns with students from the US on projects requested by the small rural town, Quezalguacue. Have worked with many peace groups, was part of the many years' vigils in Coolidge Corner opposing US wars. Have worked and continue to work on campaigns for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Have introduced several warrant articles in Town Meeting including the adoption of Indigenous Peoples Day and ending nuclear weapons

2. The problems that we face continue to be responsible growth and the equitable funding of our essential services, all in an increasingly acrimonious environment. I am pleased that our Town Planning Department is taking the MBTA Community Act seriously. This is a work in progress that needs to evaluated with an open mind. We must support our schools, libraries and older adults and advocate for safe, well-maintained affordable and public housing. We are facing a climate crisis and need to move with all haste to confront this. The time for incrementalism is over. Issues of racial and economic justice must be faced honestly. All these issues require us to work together as a community. I hope to help with that task, as I represent you.

Precinct 16

Candidates for Three Year Term
Vote For Not More Than Five

David Spencer Day (*) / 333 Russett Rd.

1. Born in rural Nebraska, raised and attended K-12 schools in various states (VT, MA, Hawaii, Colorado, Iowa), earned a B.A. in Philosophy from Hampshire College, Ph.D. in Computer Science from UMass, Amherst, specializing in Artificial Intelligence. I have been worked for the past 34 years in a non-profit R&D organization (MITRE Corp.) doing AI research and engineering. Married to a graduate of BHS; we have two children who attended Brookline schools, both graduates of BHS. I am presently a Town Meeting Member for Precinct 16.

2. How to balance critical environmental challenges with the impact of these costs on constituents. We need to address climate change but how can we support town residents in making the changes needed? I think we should establish town programs that would reduce the costs of adopting fossil-fuel-free energy approaches without facing significant short-term financial hardships. How can we ensure greater access across Brookline residents to town-sponsored programs, activities and resources? Part of this revolves around transportation -- we should explore local options that are free and enable young and old to get anywhere in the community. More generally, people would welcome opportunities to make positive contributions to their town.

Michael Harrington (*) / 135 Beverly Rd.

1. I am a nine-year Brookline resident. For one of those years, I lived in Hancock Village, so I am well aware of what a vibrant and diverse neighborhood it is and how the many families living there contribute to our wider community. I am the son of a public school teacher and a graduate of public schools, so I know how important Brookline's schools are. My husband and I have two boys who previously attended the Baker School. Prior to becoming a stay-at-home dad in 2017, I was an in-house attorney at State Street Bank. B.A. Williams College, J.D. Boston College Law School.

2. Brookline's residents are concerned about the profusion of development in town. Although the region suffers from a lack of housing – and Brookline has a role in helping alleviate that shortage – we need to be sure that development is done in a planned, reasonable, smart way considering the impact on surrounding neighborhoods. As a Town Meeting member, I would resist any rush to re-zone areas in a way that benefits developers over residents and smart growth.

Benedicte Hallowell (*) / 96 Sears Rd.

I am married to a professor who went to school in Brookline and whose mother was a teacher in Brookline for 19 years. I have coached on town teams, served on the Moderator’s Committee on Leaf Blowers, and am actively involved in preservation of green spaces. I continually learn from those who have lived here all of their lives.

I have served on Town Meeting for 10 Years and voted in 38 of 39 votes this year. I am endorsed by Brookline By Design and my fellow precinct members with whom I work closely. I am also a member of Friends of Larz Anderson Park. I serve on a variety of committees for our community and students. I work as an Art Historian.

2. Brookline faces critical issues regarding the stewardship of our open spaces and our environment. My priorities are educating our youth and protecting the character of our neighborhoods, including spaces within them like Larz Anderson Park. I support strong town services and economic development. How we handle these issues will determine residents’ soaring taxes and quality of life.

I would appreciate your vote so I can continue to work on these issues for our town and for our children's future.

Arisa Susan Boit (New) / 271 Goddard Ave.

1. I am a visual artist and have raised two children in Brookline, now 17 and 19. I hold dual citizenship with Brazil. I am dedicated to ecological conservation and inclusive community building.

2. Preserving Brookline's character means protecting our green spaces and encouraging diversity. We need to make decisions thoughtfully and holistically so the children of Brookline can enjoy a bright future. Education is the key to all of this and we need to continue to foster the best schools in the Commonwealth.

Elisabeth W. Cunningham (New) / 397 Newton St.

1. I am a lifelong resident of Brookline where I raised my children and now have grandchildren who will soon be enrolled in the Brookline Public Schools. I am a practicing architect and have also been working at the local and state level on impactful climate legislation to accelerate action on our climate crisis. I have been a co-petitioner of many Warrant Articles to address the phasing out of fossil fuels in our buildings, as well as other climate-related articles. In the past, I served as a member of the Brookline Preservation Commission and as a Town Meeting Member. I care deeply about our town and believe we need to be leaders in addressing the pressing issues of our time.

2. My friends and neighbors in P15 are very concerned about our climate crisis. Brookline needs an actionable plan to achieve our carbon reduction targets. This is the most critical issue facing humanity. My constituents are also concerned about a lack of affordable housing, and a lack of growth in our commercial sector to support our town services and employees who work so hard to keep Brookline a vibrant and desirable place to live.
Residents are also concerned about the numerous tax overrides that the Town has been placing in front of voters, and I want to make sure that we are fiscally responsible in a way that benefits Brookline as a whole.

Judith Leichtner (*) / 121 Beverly Rd. NO REPLY

Deborah Moore Abner (New) / 265 Russett Rd.

1. 31 year old resident of South Brookline. Married and a homeowner in the Baker neighborhood. Parent of 4 children who attended Brookline Schools. I am a school librarian in Brookline.

2. The building project at Hancock Village has been stressful and impacted our neighborhood negatively. While there are some affordable housing units the gain to our town is minimal. Green space has been eliminated and traffic is entering onto Russett Road, South and Bonad Roads at high speeds and ignoring stop signs. The population growth at Baker will be a problem that the School Department will need to address.

Candidates for Massachusetts House of Representatives 10th Suffolk District Primary

Salary: Starting Base Salary $70,536/annually

The Massachusetts House of Representatives is comprised of 160 members, each representing a district of approximately 40,000 people. As required by the Massachusetts Constitution, the House may not adjourn itself for more than 2 days, meeting year-round in either formal or informal session to consider legislation. The Massachusetts House is led by the Speaker of the House who is elected by the members of the body at the beginning of each two-year legislative session. The Massachusetts Legislature, known as the General Court, has been meeting since 1630.

Question 1: Biographical data

Question 2: What principal issues will you concentrate upon as you represent the voters of Brookline, Jamaica Plain and Roslindale West?

VOTE LOCAL!
Anthony J. Buono (New) / 12 Greenway Court, #6
1. I've recently received my M.A. in Mathematics and Statistics from Boston University. I've taken a leading role in progressive political action throughout my life. I joined a progressive political organization and was elected President. We worked with the local SEIU, organized the student body to fight for more oversight over the university’s budget, worked with local progressive candidates in Boston and Sommerville, protested weapon manufacturers like Raytheon, and raised awareness about the war in Yemen. Now that Brookline is my home, I want to continue my history of civic engagement and make Brookline a better place than it already is.

2. As a former public-school student, I know we must continue to improve our school system. In addition, children in our community currently face hunger daily, and we must make fixing this a top priority. Residents are also extremely frustrated with housing costs. Brookline has one of the lowest apartment vacancy rates in Massachusetts, and it shows in the cost of housing. We need to address this by working with non-profit groups to build affordable housing, adjust certain standing laws about what percentage of each newly constructed building is designated to be affordable, and increasing our housing supply in strategic areas through a responsible process.

Jonathan Klein (New) / 150 Saint Paul St., #406
1. I am a retired affordable housing attorney, founder of Klein Hornig LLP and General Counsel of The Community Builders. I moved to Brookline 15 years ago, and in the last 5 years have become actively involved in our community. I am former TMM from P10, and a member of the Housing Advisory Board and the Comprehensive Plan Study Committee. Outside of Brookline, I serve on the board of the Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action (JALSA) am a Trustee of the Castle Square Tenants Organization Charitable Trust. I am married with 2 children and 4 wonderful grandchildren.

Endorsed by Brookline for Everyone, which works for a Brookline that is affordable, sustainable, welcoming and diverse, and the Brookline Equity Coalition.

2. While many issues require attention, including racial justice and climate justice, my personal focus has been on affordable housing, which is essential to retaining and increasing the diversity so many of us treasure in Brookline. We need more subsidized housing for low income households and more non-luxury housing for middle income households. I strongly support a real estate transfer tax dedicated to affordable housing, stronger inclusionary zoning, and allowing multifamily housing as a matter of right in transit corridors. I strongly support the Brookline Planning Department's work on a form-based zoning proposal for the Harvard Street Corridor to enhance Brookline's "Main Street" and to comply with the MBTA Communities Act.

Christopher Mutty (New) / 15 Green St.
1. Christopher has lived in Brookline since 2014 with his wife Peg & dog Fitz. He is a stay-at-home parent of 2 boys, Morgan & Malcolm (5-2), Morgan is at the Ridley school where Christopher is room parent for his kindergarten classroom. Christopher coaches rugby & co-founded Hub Rugby. He co-founded Brookline Grown & Green Line Growers, a farm stand/hydroponic farm in Waldo Durgin/Coolidge Corner.

He was a substitute teacher in Boston Public Schools, helped businesses carshare, & developed solar arrays in VT. He was raised in Winookski, VT & attended public schools for K-12. He graduated from Middlebury College.

2. HOUSING. We have an AFFORDABILITY crisis as rents go up faster than wages & many spend more than the RECOMMENDED 30%. AVAILABILITY too as demand to live here exceeds our housing supply. My family searches in vain for a 3BR APT & we are in bidding wars on APARTMENTS that are already too expensive for us. Inventory for sale is WORSE, making buying hard for most. ALSO the countless elderly residents on a fixed income who cannot afford tax increases. We need PLANNING to IMPROVE ACCESS for people moving in & provide STABILITY for people already here. Therefore we need a mix of new housing that addresses AFFORDABILITY & AVAILABILITY. The MBTA-CA will add new housing but it has serious flaws. We need to navigate it CAREFULLY & COMPREHENSIVELY.

Elizabeth A. Shafer (New) / 28 James St., #3
1. I've recently received my M.A. in Mathematics and Statistics from Boston University. I've taken a leading role in progressive political action throughout my life. I joined a progressive political organization and was elected President. We worked with the local SEIU, organized the student body to fight for more oversight over the university’s budget, worked with local progressive candidates in Boston and Sommerville, protested weapon manufacturers like Raytheon, and raised awareness about the war in Yemen. Now that Brookline is my home, I want to continue my history of civic engagement and make Brookline a better place than it already is.

2. As a former public-school student, I know we must continue to improve our school system. In addition, children in our community currently face hunger daily, and we must make fixing this a top priority. Residents are also extremely frustrated with housing costs. Brookline has one of the lowest apartment vacancy rates in Massachusetts, and it shows in the cost of housing. We need to address this by working with non-profit groups to build affordable housing, adjust certain standing laws about what percentage of each newly constructed building is designated to be affordable, and increasing our housing supply in strategic areas through a responsible process.

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The Brookline Town Election will be held on
Tuesday May 2, 2023

Educate yourself on the May 2nd Town Election Ballot Questions!
The 2023 Town Election will have 3 questions on the ballot.

Learn more here:

LWVB Friday Conversation on Ballot Questions:
Friday April 14, 2023 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Register by email: ernestafrey@comcast.net

BrooklineCAN and LWVB CANDIDATES’ FORUM
April 20, 2023 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
In person at the Brookline Senior Center, 93 Winchester St
or Live streamed at https://brooklineinteractive.org/live

Town of Brookline’s Override Central: https://www.brooklinema.gov/3590/FY2024-26-Override-Central

Talk to your Town Meeting Members and to the candidates on the ballot.

Check your voter registration status and make any needed changes at:
https://www.sec.state.ma.us/

Visit the Massachusetts Bill of Voters Rights (https://my.lww.org/sites/default/files/voter_rights.pdf) and the Massachusetts Bill of Voters Responsibilities (https://my.lww.org/sites/default/files/voter_responsibilities.pdf)

This is your community. Your vote is your voice. Please support Democracy at work by participating!

League of Women Voters of Brookline
https://my.lww.org/massachusetts/brookline