

# **Belmont Town Election**

## **Voter Guide**

**Election Day is  
Tuesday, April 2, 2024**

*published by*



# **VOTER GUIDE**

for the

## **BELMONT TOWN ELECTION**

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024**

**7AM to 8PM**

This Guide is prepared by members of the League of Women Voters of Belmont to provide you with information on all of the candidates who will appear on your ballot for this election.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization. It does not endorse or oppose any candidates. The League's purpose is to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of all citizens.

All candidates were contacted by email and asked to respond. Town Meeting Members were asked the following question: **"Belmont citizens look to our elected officials for fair and responsible solutions to the issues facing our community. Please pick an issue or two from this list, and describe what you have done recently &/or how you would deal with this in the future: capital projects, housing & zoning (e.g. MBTA Communities zoning changes, affordable housing for young families & seniors), schools (e.g. public or private), financial management (e.g. taxes, overrides), traffic, and transparency."** Town-Wide candidates were asked a simpler question. Responses, limited to 100 words, are printed verbatim. Contact information, if provided, is included. Candidates who did not reply to the questionnaire sent to them by the League are included in the Guide so that you will have a complete list.

**Asterisks and numbers:** An asterisk (\*) preceding the candidate's name denotes an incumbent. Where applicable, **attendance** at Town Meeting for the past three years, according to the Town Clerk's records, is given in parentheses. The second number indicates the **number of Town Meetings** the candidate was **eligible** to attend. If one or more Special Town Meetings are held on the same night as a regular Town Meeting, each is counted as a separate meeting. If candidates were previously elected at caucuses or moved within Belmont, they are not incumbents, but their attendance is noted. Third number is the **number of years served** as a Town Meeting Member.

*If you value receiving the Voter Guide, please help us to cover the costs of printing and distribution by making a tax-deductible donation to the Belmont Voter Education Fund. This fund covers the cost of sending the Voter Guide to every household in Belmont. Please mail your contribution to LWV Belmont, P.O. Box 426, Belmont MA 02478 or go to **BelmontLWV.org** click on **DONATE TO US** and use the link for **Voter Ed Fund**. Thank you for your support.*



The League offers free rides to the polls for every election! Call 617-771-8500 or email [rides@BelmontLWV.org](mailto:rides@BelmontLWV.org). For more info about the League, go to our web page: [BelmontLWV.org](http://BelmontLWV.org)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

LWV INFORMATION	PAGE 4
POLLING LOCATIONS & PRECINCT MAP	PAGES 5-6
BELMONT TOWN MEETING	PAGE 7
TOWN-WIDE OFFICES	PAGES 8-13
BALLOT QUESTIONS	PAGES 14-16
CANDIDATES' NIGHT INFO	PAGE 41
LWV MEMBERSHIP FORM	PAGE 47
PRECINCT ONE	PAGES 17-20
PRECINCT TWO	PAGES 21-25
PRECINCT THREE	PAGES 26-29
PRECINCT FOUR	PAGES 30-32
PRECINCT FIVE	PAGES 33-35
PRECINCT SIX	PAGES 36-40
PRECINCT SEVEN	PAGES 42-46
PRECINCT EIGHT	PAGES 48-51



**The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a non-partisan, multi-issue organization, established at the national, state and local levels to promote voter education and participation in government. We study and take positions on issues, but do not endorse or support candidates or political parties.**

### **What does the League of Women Voters do?**

- Conducts studies on issues and develops positions based on member consensus.
- Studies local issues such as education, housing, open space, marijuana, and regionalization.
- Sponsors Candidates' Nights for local elections.
- Sponsors Warrant Briefings before Town Meetings.
- Hosts forums on issues including education, civil service, ballot questions and affordable housing.
- Hosts local speakers at our Winter Luncheon and regular "brown bag" lunches.
- Publishes the Belmont Voter (newsletter) for our members.
- Works with the State and National Leagues on issues of common concern.
- Publishes and mails the Belmont Voter Guide for local elections to every household in town.
- Registers voters and encourages individual participation in the political process.

We welcome new members. For more information contact:  
**info@BelmontLWV.org** or look at our website **BelmontLWV.org**

# POLLING PLACES

7<sup>AM</sup> to 8<sup>PM</sup>

**“Vote By Mail” or In-Person for this Local Election; no “Early Voting” at Town Hall**

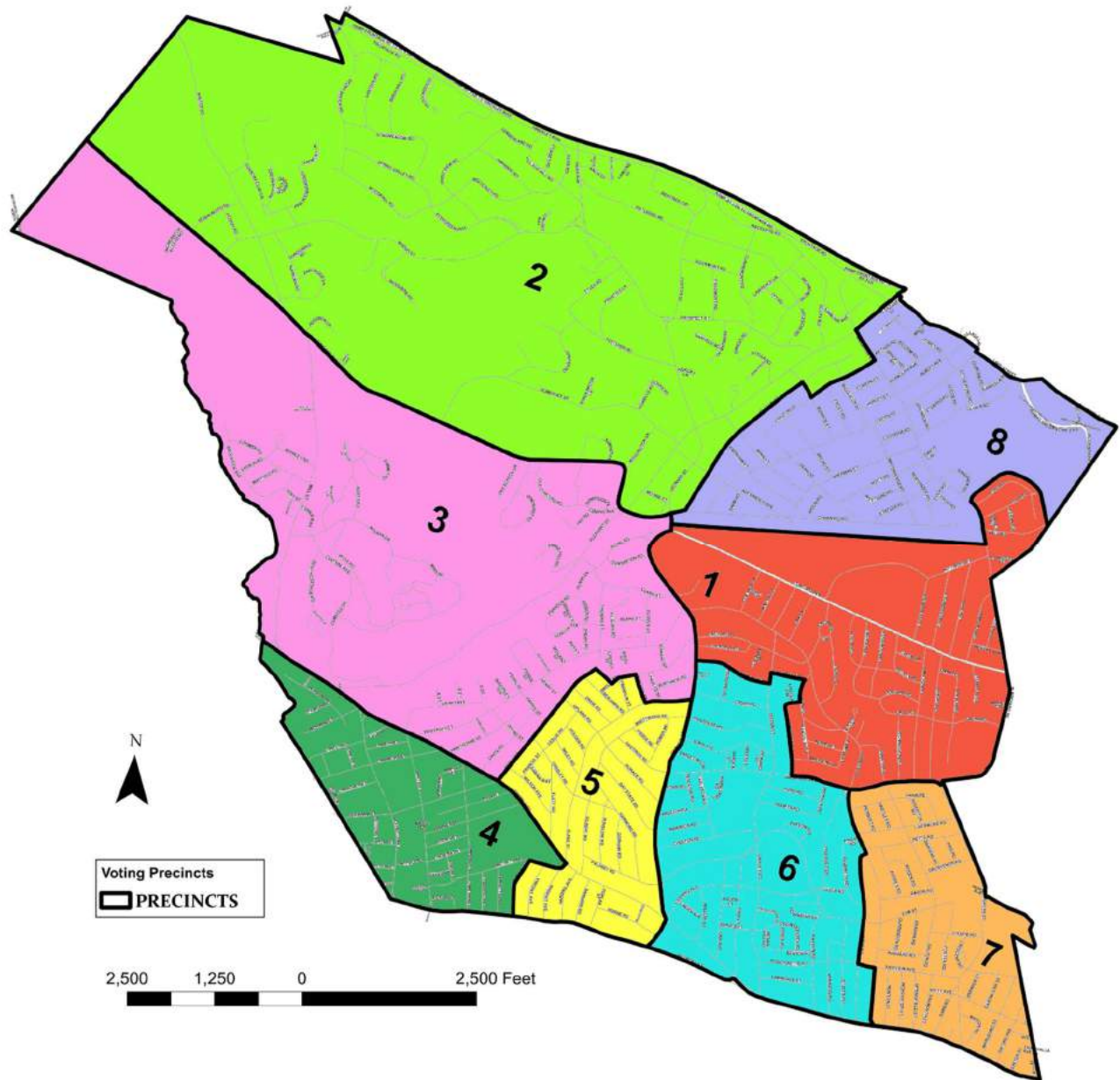
Precinct 1♣	Beth El Temple 2 Concord Ave Zonis Auditorium
Precinct 2	Belmont Town Hall 455 Concord Avenue
Precinct 3♠	Beech Street Center 266 Beech Street
Precinct 4	Butler School Gymnasium Enter from White Street
Precinct 5♠	Beech Street Center 266 Beech Street
Precinct 6	Fire Station Headquarters 299 Trapelo Road
Precinct 7	Burbank School Gymnasium Enter from driveway
Precinct 8	Winn Brook School Enter from Cross Street

Notes: ♣ Precinct 1 location changed due to library construction  
♠ Precincts 3 and 5 both vote at the Beech Street Center.

## WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate’s name on the line provided on the ballot. Completely fill in the oval to the right of that line. It is helpful, but not required, to list the street address of the candidate as well.

# PRECINCT MAP



For more information about Precincts, including detailed Precinct Maps, go to the Town Clerk's website:

<https://www.belmont-ma.gov/town-clerk/pages/elections-general-information-voter-registration>

<https://www.mapsonline.net/belmontma/voting.html>

# Belmont Town Meeting

**Town Meeting** is the legislative branch of town government, used to enact local laws, pass budgets and authorize spending of town money. The Town Meeting form of local government is only used in New England. The Town of Belmont is currently governed by a **Representative Town Meeting**. Voters in town elect **Town Meeting Members (TMMs)**. Only Town Meeting Members may cast votes on the articles.

**Belmont Town Meeting** has 288 elected members (36 for each precinct) and several at-large members. One third of the members from precincts are elected each spring (12 per precinct). At large TMMs are: Select Board; Moderator; Town Clerk; Treasurer, State Senator; State Representative; and Chairs from: Warrant Committee, Library Trustees, School Committee, Board of Health, Board of Assessors, and Planning Board, unless already elected as Town Meeting Members.

A **Warrant** is published for each Town Meeting, including the date and time of the meeting. Each item of business is called a **Warrant Article**, and Town Meeting can only discuss and vote on articles contained in the Warrant. Articles may be placed on the Warrant by the **Select Board** or by citizen petition.

**Annual Town Meeting** takes place in the spring, and typically lasts for six evenings (typically Monday and Wednesday). Special Town Meetings are occasionally called at other times of the year. The **Town Moderator** facilitates all town meeting sessions and preserves order and decorum.

## Upcoming Town Meetings:

**All Town Meeting Sessions are expected to begin at 7:00 PM**

<b>Annual Town Meeting - Segment A Dates</b>	<b>Annual Town Meeting - Segment B Dates</b>
Monday, April 29, 2024	Wednesday, May 29, 2024
Wednesday, May 1, 2024	Monday, June 3, 2024
Monday, May 6, 2024	Wednesday, June 5, 2024
Wednesday, May 8, 2024	Monday, June 10, 2024

**Town Meeting** can be watched on **Belmont Media**, cablecast live on **Channel 8 (Comcast)** and **Channel 28 & 2130 (Verizon)**; and livestreamed or on-demand at: **[belmontmedia.org/govtv](https://belmontmedia.org/govtv)**

## Deadlines for submitting Amendments to Articles on the Town Meeting Warrant

Deadline to file amendments to motions for Town Meeting sessions is the close of business on the third business day before that session of Town Meeting. Amendments **must be submitted in writing** (Word preferred) emailed to [ecushman@belmont-ma.gov](mailto:ecushman@belmont-ma.gov) and [townclerk@belmont-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@belmont-ma.gov). All amendments must contain the name and contact email of the Town Meeting Member proposing the amendment.

## Documents & Roll Call Votes for Completed Sessions of Town Meeting:

For past Warrant documents, videos of Town Meetings, and past Roll Call Votes taken at Town Meeting, start here:

<https://www.belmont-ma.gov/town-clerk/pages/town-meeting-documents-completed-sessions-of-town-meeting>

# CANDIDATES FOR TOWN-WIDE OFFICE

## MODERATOR

For One Year

Vote for not more than One

### \* MICHAEL J. WIDMER

126 Gilbert Road

Contact: (617) 688-1111; mike.j.widmer@gmail.com; reelectwidmermoderator.com

I have worked hard for Belmont's citizens and Town Meeting in countless ways:

- assembling diverse, talented and dedicated committees with a transparent and thorough process;
- updating and streamlining dynamic Town Meetings;
- introducing Hybrid Meetings to broaden access;
- and working closely with Town leaders and citizen petitioners to plan meetings, provide members with helpful materials, and assist presenters.

Throughout my 102 meetings we have debated contentious issues with fairness and respect, achieving major successes. I am running for a final term because this year's challenging and emotional Town Meeting issues demand a strong Moderator with my extensive experience.

### MICHAEL CROWLEY

119 Farnham Street

Contact: (617) 752-2250; crowley4belmont@gmail.com; crowley4belmont.com

The Town Moderator's primary responsibilities are running Town Meeting and making appointments to critical town committees like the Warrant (finance) Committee. I will improve Town Meeting—increasing education and outreach to encourage more of our diverse residents to participate, organizing childcare to help parents attend, improving hybrid options, and ensuring discussion and debate are inclusive and free of unnecessary restrictions. For the Moderator's committee appointees, I'm advocating for transparency and selection of residents who are representative of Belmont's diversity, have skills, and are committed to public engagement and community-based priority setting—including for the budget work of our Warrant Committee.

*(Please turn page)*



## MEMBER OF THE SELECT BOARD

For Three Years

Vote for not more than One

ALEX HOWARD

30 Holden Road

Contact: [info@alexforbelmont.com](mailto:info@alexforbelmont.com); [alexforbelmont.com](http://alexforbelmont.com)

My top issues are *citizen engagement* and *fiscal responsibility*. As a **practical, pragmatic, and independent** candidate, I will bring a fresh perspective to the Select Board, my agenda is the people's agenda. I am committed to making Belmont the best Belmont it can be. I am an experienced problem solver, persistent in understanding and implementing solutions, and will not shy away from big ideas. Whether you were born and raised in Belmont, came here to raise your family, or are just passing through, your ideas, hopes, and dreams for our community are the issues that matter to me.

GEOFFREY GEORGE LUBIEN

38 Unity Avenue

Contact: (617) 852-7060; [glubien@gmail.com](mailto:glubien@gmail.com); [lubienforbelmont.com](http://lubienforbelmont.com)

Belmont is in a critical state. For too long we have managed the town from one year to the next without a long-term view. I support the development of a comprehensive 10-year plan that will address current and future challenges in terms of fiscal, zoning, commercial development and housing. I have taken the lead in creating the Belmont Voter Financial Compact, a framework for long-term planning and financial sustainability. This Compact will propose reducing the annual expense growth rates to bring expenditures in closer alignment with revenue while promoting new sources of revenue. Please visit [lubienforbelmont.com](http://lubienforbelmont.com) for more information.

MATTHEW SCOTT TAYLOR

59 Edgemoor Road

Contact: [matt@02478.org](mailto:matt@02478.org); [mattforbelmont.com](http://mattforbelmont.com)

I serve on our Warrant Committee (education, pensions, and visualizations) and Town Meeting. I create software that empowers residents with insights from economic, property, and town data (see: Belmont Visual Budget <https://www.02478.org/visb>). My kids attend Burbank and Chenery. We must strategically manage limited funds. I will set tangible goals that unify our work and prioritize our time. My most important goal: reaching a commercial tax base that allows Belmont to shift the tax burden away from residents. Using evidence-based policies, we can modernize our infrastructure while preserving what we love about our town: our schools, local services, and community.

(Please turn page)

## **BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

**For Three Years**

**Vote for not more than One**

\* PATRICK JOSEPH MURPHY, IV

41 Cedar Road

Contact: (617) 894.9550; patrick@hmlawllp.com

REPLY RECEIVED AFTER DEADLINE

## **BOARD OF CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS**

**For Three Years**

**Vote for not more than One**

\* ELLEN O'BRIEN CUSHMAN

38 Scott Road

Contact: (617) 484-4817; jpcor@aol.com

Since 2021, the Board of Cemetery Commissioners has been working to transfer all Belmont Cemetery and Highland Meadow Cemetery records from a data system that is no longer supported by Microsoft to a customized GIS-based system hosted by the Town's GIS provider, at a fixed price. The process is coming to a close in 2024 with the ultimate goal of making Belmont's Cemetery records available to the public by mobile app or online look-up. The Cemetery Commission's involvement continues in collaboration with the DPW Cemetery folks who are now responsible for the data, testing and ongoing day-to-day use.

## **BOARD OF HEALTH**

**For Three Years**

**Vote for not more than One**

DAVID MICHAEL DUDZINSKI

23 Clairemont Road

Contact: dmdbelmont@gmail.com

For 19+ years, I have called Belmont home, lived in 3 parts of our Town, been a Scouting leader, and raised 3 children here. During this time, I have been a physician at MGH, and I aim to use my background to serve the Town on the Board of Health. I earned degrees at Harvard Medical School and Harvard Law School, and also studied at the Harvard School of Public Health. My philosophy is to have honest and open discourse, informed by contemporary scientific, health, ethical, and medical precepts, that serve the interest of health in Belmont.

*(Please turn page)*

## TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

For Three Years

Vote for not more than Two

\* CORINNE MCCUE OLMSTED

28 Stone Road

Contact: cmobelmont@gmail.com

The new library building project and the available operating budget are the two issues that will most affect library services over the next few years. As a Library Trustee I have and will continue to work diligently to ensure that the Belmont Public Library is able to continue to successfully serve our community during the construction and opening of the new library in light of current budgetary challenges. I appreciate your continued support of the library and ask for your vote on April 2.

STEPHANIE SOUTHWICK CAHOON

58 Winn Street

Contact: stephaniesouthwickcahoon@gmail.com

I have had a library card since I was four and a Belmont Library card since my family moved here in 2000. Libraries have always been important places for learning and inspiration. They also play a critical role as community centers. In my recent role as co-president of the Friends of the Belmont Public Library, I supported the Library through event planning and fundraising. I also gained a deeper appreciation for work of the staff. I look forward to supporting the community as we build a new building and usher in a new era of library use.

*(Please turn page)*

## MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD

For Three Years

Vote for not more than Two

### \* STEPHEN KLIONSKY

196 Payson Road

Contact: sklionsky@gmail.com

I am running for re-election to the Municipal Light Board to continue my, and the Board's, efforts to make Belmont Light a utility Belmont residents can be proud of. Belmont Light has achieved 100% 'green' status under the Board's direction these past two years while maintaining excellent reliability of service and keeping rates as low as possible. Going forward I will push for enhanced purchases of renewable resources and programs to reduce Belmont's carbon footprint such as time varying rates, energy efficiency measures and rebates to customers who electrify their energy uses. I would appreciate your vote on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### \* MICHAEL MACRAE

63 Kilburn Road

Contact: michael.macrae.BLB@gmail.com

My motivation to serve on our Light Board is simple – ensure low-cost electricity that is reliable and sustainable. I have worked in energy budget management, policy, and facility operations for over a decade, including the Belmont Light Board Advisory Committee from 2019 to 2022, am an ambassador for the Heat Smart Belmont program, and am knowledgeable of Belmont's energy needs. I am excited to continue applying this expertise toward achieving our town's energy priorities and maintaining Belmont Light's award-winning reliability at low costs. My family moved to Belmont in 2017. I earned my PhD in Chemistry and am LEED accredited.

*(Please turn page)*

## MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

For Three Years

Vote for not more than Two

\* MEGHAN A. MORIARTY

22 Garfield Road

Contact: [meg4belmont.com](mailto:meg4belmont.com)

As a parent, education professional, and experienced School Committee member, I understand the School Committee's role. Elected in April 2021 and serving as chair for two years, I worked with town leaders and state officials to accomplish important things including negotiating union contracts, securing one-time money, and hiring a new superintendent. Like other taxpayers and volunteers in Belmont, I appreciate "individual commitment to a group effort is what makes [Belmont] work." I am excited to continue serving our community and making our fantastic school district better. I want every student to want to be a student in Belmont Public Schools.

ANGUS ABERCROMBIE

79 Winn Street

Contact: [info@angusabercrombie.com](mailto:info@angusabercrombie.com); [angusabercrombie.com](http://angusabercrombie.com)

The primary concern facing our schools is budget constraints. I am committed to reducing Special Education cost growth by supporting cost-effective in-district programs. Exploring revenue streams within schools through initiatives like space rentals and advertising is crucial for financial stability. Additionally, I will advocate for broader town budget and revenue work, supporting zoning reforms and facilitating community involvement. As the sole candidate with recent K-12 classroom experience, I'll bring that perspective to contemporary challenges such as digital literacy, mental health, and pandemic repercussions. I'll bring a grounded perspective and a record of getting the job done to the School Committee.

MATTHEW KRAFT

81 Taylor Road

Contact: [kraftforbelmont@gmail.com](mailto:kraftforbelmont@gmail.com); [kraftforbelmont.com](http://kraftforbelmont.com)

I am a dad of two young kids attending Belmont schools, a professor of education and economics, and a former high school teacher. I have a deep understanding of public education finance and the analytical skills to make strategic budget decisions, getting the most out of every dollar we spend. My 20+ years studying K-12 education and working with public schools give me the experience to drive continuous improvement in teaching and learning. I see enormous potential in Belmont schools. Let's work together to align our resources and policies with our shared values and support all students to succeed.

# Ballot Question 1:

Shall the Town of Belmont be allowed to assess an additional \$8,400,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of supplementing the capital budget and the town and school operating budgets for the fiscal year beginning July first, two thousand and twenty-four?

YES ☐ NO ☐

---

## WHAT YOUR VOTE WILL DO:

**A YES VOTE WILL** protect Belmont from devastating changes. It will maintain fire/EMT protections, senior services, trash and recycling pickup, access to the regional library network, and strong schools.

**A NO VOTE** stops the town from increasing your property taxes by \$8.4 million next year and permanently every year thereafter. It demands fiscal responsibility and accountability.

---

## STATEMENT OF FISCAL CONSEQUENCES:

**A YES VOTE** generates \$8.4M in revenue to avoid deep cuts by stabilizing the municipal budget. According to the town, it will cost \$740 per year for a \$1M home.

**A NO VOTE** prevents a tax increase of \$94 million over the course of ten years; forces the town to create responsible, sustainable balanced budgets.

---

## CONTACT:

Dave Lind  
Campaign Chairperson  
david.lind@investinbelmont.com  
(617) 717-8441  
www.investinbelmont.com

Wayne Wild  
Chairman of No Override  
info@2Much2Ask.org  
(617) 465-5113  
www.2much2ask.org

---

**NOTE:** *The answers above and on the next page are written by the Invest in Belmont (FOR) and the No Override (AGAINST) campaigns. The League of Women Voters is not responsible for the content of their messages.*

---

# Ballot Question 1 (cont'd):

---

## ARGUMENTS:

### IN FAVOR:

Belmont needs an override to prevent losses that will hurt residents:

- 1) Longer EMT/fire response times.
  - 2) Losing access to the regional library network.
  - 3) New \$360 trash/recycling fee.
  - 4) No school buses for 85% of current riders/Increased rush hour traffic.
  - 5) Loss of critical senior services.
  - 6) No sports/theater/clubs at BHS.
  - 7) Fewer AP/elective classes.
  - 8) Closure of Burbank School.
  - 9) Elimination of 50+ teachers/staff.
- The first-year budget is written. If the override fails, cuts begin July 1 and roll out over 2 years. Belmont has maintained its AAA bond rating through fiscal prudence, but its purchasing power has declined as inflation has risen. Operating overrides allow towns to catch up with inflation, but in the past 20 years, Belmont has passed only one. Failing to pass this override would tear into the fabric of our community. Let's keep the Belmont we love intact. Vote YES on Question 1.

**AGAINST:** A NO vote will allow us to focus on our shared priorities as a community and protect senior citizens and renters while ensuring that spending will not outpace revenue. Residents have stepped up in recent years to approve \$370 million for a new middle/high school, a new library and a new ice rink. The 2021 Belmont override was rejected by the voters. In spite of dire warnings of severe cuts to schools, senior services and other essential services those cuts didn't happen then and they shouldn't happen now. The tax increase that would result from this override is simply too much to ask. The spending growth in this override will lead to a projected \$7 million override in 3 years. For more information, visit [www.2much2ask.org](http://www.2much2ask.org).

# Ballot Question 2:

Shall the Town vote to have its elected Board of Assessors become an appointed Board of Assessors of the Town?

YES ☐ NO ☐

WHAT YOUR  
VOTE WILL DO:

A YES VOTE WILL ...

A NO VOTE will ...

[intentionally blank; see note below]

[intentionally blank; see note below]

STATEMENT OF  
FISCAL  
CONSEQUENCES:

A YES VOTE is

A NO VOTE means

[intentionally blank; see note below]

[intentionally blank; see note below]

CONTACT:

yes2belmont@gmail.com

facebook.com/yes2belmont

**NOTE:** *The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization and does not endorse or oppose any candidates. Because no formal opposition committee to Question 2 has been formed, the LWV was not able to provide more information about the Question. Please join us at Candidates' Night on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, when we hope to have facts presented about the Board of Assessor's job.*



# PRECINCT I

## CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MEETING MEMBER

**For Three Years**

**Vote for not more than Twelve**

**\* MARK PATRICK CARTHY**

21 Stone Road

(22 of 29; 20)

Contact: mpcarthy@outlook.com

I have lived in Belmont for more than 30 years and been a town meeting for 20 years. I plan to hold the Town accountable for open transparent planning, good fiscal management and for bringing capital projects on time and budget. Secondly traffic congestion has become a big problem for drivers, cyclists and walkers in town. Too often we can't get on our own town roads at rush hour. It seems other towns send their drivers through Belmont. How can we thoughtfully work with other towns and state authorities to reduce congestion from cars passing through Belmont?

**\* NICOLE A. DORN**

42 Madison Street

(22 of 22; 2)

Contact: nicoleadorn@gmail.com

I am dedicated to finding solutions to Belmont's challenges and to increasing our fiscal sustainability. I have been an active participant at Town Meeting and helped lead the successful rink campaign in 2023. We need to pass the override to maintain high-quality services and schools, but also need to increase our commercial tax base and identify other sources of revenue. I support efforts to make it easier for Belmont businesses to grow and thrive and to increase affordable housing. I look forward to representing Precinct 1 in working to ensure Belmont remains a vibrant community for years to come.

**\* ALISA L. GARDNER-TODREAS**

16 Chenery Terrace

(21 of 22; 2)

Contact: alisagt@mac.com

I've lived in Belmont for 19 years with my husband and children, who attended the Belmont Public Schools. One issue I've been involved with is housing. I was on the Belmont Housing Trust (BHT) for 9 years; Chair for 2 years. During my tenure with the BHT, I worked with multiple Town committees, Town departments, and other stakeholders to advocate for affordable housing. I support the MBTA Communities Zoning changes. I also volunteered in the public schools for over a decade and recognize the need to pass the override both to preserve our excellent schools and to maintain Town services.

*(Please turn page)*

\* DAVID ALEXANDER LIND

68 Fairmont Street

(28 of 29; 4)

Contact: davidlind@gmail.com

Our town is at a critical juncture, which is why I am running for re-election to Town Meeting. I will continue to help find solutions to make our town better for all residents. We need to be more business-friendly to grow our commercial tax revenue. We must support our schools and town employees, and provide vital support and services to our seniors. In addition to Town Meeting, I serve on the Recreation Commission and the Community Preservation Committee. Due to the critical need to pass this override, I volunteered to be the Chairperson of the Invest in Belmont campaign.

\* HOLLY HART MUSON

40 Temple Street

(26 of 29; 13)

Contact: (617) 489-1881

I know the town's ongoing challenge of balancing the need for essential services with fiscal responsibility. I currently serve as Chair of the Community Path Project Committee. The path is an off-road route across Belmont that will provide safe and convenient access for kids to get to school, for commuters to get to transit hubs, and allow anyone who wants to be outdoors to walk, jog or cycle. The path will be built with millions of dollars of state and federal funds, leveraging our relatively small CPA investment to create a huge infrastructure asset for the town.

\* HENRY MCFARLAN OGILBY

96 Taylor Road

(29 of 29; 4)

Contact: henry.ogilby@verizon.net

Re-elect lifelong resident who cares deeply about future of the town. Voted for new high school, new library, and new skating rink. Childhood education is very important. Seniors in our neighborhood are also important. Need prudent financial management while keeping high level of services so seniors are not forced to leave. Make town a welcoming place for all new residents. Thank you for your vote!

*(Please turn page)*

\* EMILY A. PETERSON

22 Glendale Road

(27 of 29; 5)

Contact: dremilyp@gmail.com

I voted to change the zoning laws to attract more businesses to Belmont to decrease the tax burden for residents. I support additional affordable housing to comply with MBTA in the form of mixed-use buildings that are the right size for Belmont and can bring investment, but also not add too much density that will burden our services. I support the override and investment in our schools, bringing more special education services, but also maintaining educational excellence and challenge for learners at all levels, especially in math. I advocate for green spaces, safe walking, biking, reduced cut through traffic.

\* BRED A ZIMKUS

134 Concord Avenue

(25 of 29; 4)

Contact: bzimkus@outlook.com

As a Town Meeting Member up for re-election, I will continue to invest in the future of our community while carefully considering the fiscal implications of each vote. I am committed to ensuring that Belmont's students have the support that they need to be successful in school, and I do not want to see critical services cut for our residents. Given that our town is limited by its small commercial tax base, we must examine zoning reform to increase commercial tax revenue and consider public-private partnerships to assist in funding future capital expenditures.

DAWN MACKERRON

70 Becket Road

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

I am the Owner of a manufacturer's representative company working in the automation industry. I work with local manufacturers on automation solutions that help improve productivity and the bottom line. I have many years of experience with volunteer positions in industry organizations and a local church. I am passionate about advocating for common sense spending by our town officials, a balanced budget and advocating for taxpayers' concerns. As President of Citizens for a Fiscally Responsible Belmont I work with fellow residents bringing awareness of the town's financial condition to our followers and the community, and request accountability from our leaders.

*(Please turn page)*

MARTIN TROPPER NOVEMBER

15 Goden Street

Contact: martynovember@gmail.com

As a long-term Belmont resident with 3 children who went through Belmont public schools, I'm concerned about our town's structural issues and siloed decision-making. We need innovative revenue solutions, like pursuing PILOT funds from non-profits (e.g., McLean Hospital, Belmont Hill School), zoning changes to expand our commercial base, and repealing the 75% tax break enjoyed by Belmont Country Club. Long-term planning and collaboration on capital projects is a must, as is meaningfully addressing the Collins Center report recommendations, including expanding the Select Board. Finally, we need to ensure streets are safe for students. Our community's future depends on these changes.

DAVID QUYEN TU THU

27 Taylor Street

Contact: davethu19@gmail.com

Belmont is a wonderful place to live. I believe it is important to support policies that keep our town's integrity as a whole intact, while helping it meet its needs in a sustainable way. Finding the right plan regarding the MBTA Communities Act can help us keep the town we want, while also providing opportunities for smart business development that will diversify our revenues and thus help residents. I am a strong supporter of education and want to sustain our town's excellent education system, which will benefit us now and in the future.

JOSEPH MELVILLE WRIGHT

(1 of 1; <1)

70 Edgemoor Road

Contact: joewright@me.com

At work, I'm a doctor for people experiencing homelessness. At home, I'm so grateful for our family's beautiful house in Belmont. But I'm always thinking of our region's housing crisis, rooted in old zoning restrictions designed for exclusion. The results: housing scarcity, skyrocketing costs, and economic harm. I started a group called Belmont Town of (More!) Homes to support diversity, affordability, sustainability, and fiscal stability in Belmont. We can have more diverse housing for all stages of the life cycle; more mixed-use residential-commercial zones to increase commercial taxes without sacrificing neighborhoods; and a nature-filled, inclusive, child-friendly town.

**For Two Years**

**Vote for not more than One**

NO CANDIDATE PAPERS FILED — WRITE-IN ONLY

## PRECINCT 2

### CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MEETING MEMBER

**For Three Years**

**Vote for not more than Twelve**

\* LESLIE J. AITKEN

70 Evergreen Way

(24 of 29; 25)

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

Belmont has very good schools and we need to maintain their excellence. I am however, concerned about the amount of taxable property that the Belmont Hill School has taken off the tax rolls. I am also concerned that this was to put in a parking lot. Belmont needs to establish PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) for something like this, other ISL schools pay their towns, I think it would help the finances in our town and possibly could reduce the need for overrides.

\* W. SUMNER BROWN

35 Ross Road

(28 of 29; 18)

Contact: sumner3144@gmail.com

While I was a graduate student I lived beside 91 Beatrice Circle. My suggestion to discourage this inappropriate development is to change property tax assessments to reflect what families find so valuable in Belmont: our schools! Developments with large numbers of bedrooms can take heavy advantage of our expensive schools, so add number of bedrooms to land area and total living area to assess property value and taxes.

\* M. PATRICIA BRUSCH

52 Radcliffe Road

(28 of 29; 37)

Contact: (617) 489-3778

I have served on the Capital Budget Committee and various building committees for a number of years. By taking care of our capital assets on an ongoing basis we can prevent costly repairs and major renovations in the future. We need better and more affordable housing, but we must find ways to accomplish this in appropriate settings. We also must balance the needs of our senior population with those of the rest of our town. The generation who have worked to make this a great community should not be forgotten.

*(Please turn page)*

\* RONALD H. GEIGER

27 Stella Road

(29 of 29; 14)

Contact: (617) 489-0539

Belmont faces many challenges. We need full transparency in all aspects of government. Finite resources need to be spent wisely. Need full discussion regarding financial impact of MBTA Communities Act in regard to housing and impact on commercial development which is essential to the town's future. Zoning changes are necessary to increase our commercial tax base and reduce tax burden on home owners. Need to maintain excellent schools and improve public safety with sidewalk and road repairs. Support housing options for seniors who are being priced out of Belmont.

\* ANNE K. HELGEN

243 Marsh Street

(25 of 29; 11)

Contact: (617) 489-1102

As a longtime member of the Warrant Committee, I'm deeply involved in town finances and issues, and bring an analytical and thoughtful approach to finding opportunities and solutions to town and school challenges. As a long-term resident, I value our excellent schools and small-town feel. I support acting on the recommendations outlined in the Collins and SCIG reports, including improving the budget process to promote broader public engagement and understanding, using "best practices" to enhance efficiency and delivery of services, driving new revenue, and rethinking the decentralized town governance to improve accountability and decision-making-all critical to managing the structural deficit.

\* DAVID C. HURLEY

20 Birch Hill Road

(29 of 29; 12)

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

NO REPLY RECEIVED

\* LYDIA L.W. KOGLER

30 Rutledge Road

(29 of 29; 3)

Contact: lydiakogler@gmail.com

As a parent of three young children, I am keenly interested in the success of Belmont Public Schools. Since 2021, I have volunteered to run the Winn Brook PTA Extracurriculars Program which offers students hour-long classes before/after school. Extracurriculars provides students with opportunities to explore new topics, parents with an additional hour of child care, and the PTA with their largest revenue source. Now a CUE parent, I volunteered to run the equivalent PTO program (ASE) and participate on the CUE Parent Advisory Committee. I am committed to soliciting, listening, and acting on the opinions of Precinct 2 constituents.

(Please turn page)

\* ANNE-MARIE LAMBERT

79 Chilton Street

(27 of 29; 20)

Contact: ammlambert@gmail.com

As a Town Meeting Member for 20 years, I have supported our public schools, overrides that allow us to attend to both town and school needs, measures to protect the environment, and motions to ensure we focus on issues in Town Meeting's purview. Our daughters attended Winn Brook, Chenery, and BHS. I have engaged with citizens, high school students, and town officials in efforts to reduce flooding risk, curb pollution, and build climate change resilience. Please vote for Anne-Marie Lambert!

\* ROBERT E. MCLAUGHLIN

81 Wellesley Road

(29 of 29; 16)

Contact: remsr@gilmac.com

I am socially liberal and fiscally conservative. I try to bring that philosophy to bear in my service to Belmont on the Warrant Committee, Middle and High School Building Committee, Library Building Committee, Permanent Building Committee and, of course, as a long-standing Town Meeting Member. I ask for your vote so that I may continue.

\* DERAN MALCOLM MUCKJIAN

108 Village Hill Road

(25 of 29; 3)

Contact: (617) 872-4503; deranmuckjian@verizon.net

As a current Town Meeting member as well as a business owner in Belmont Center and lifelong Belmont resident, I have a solid understanding about what makes Belmont a desirable place to live. I am also on the Economic Development Committee and serve as the President of the Belmont Center Merchants Association. I believe that fiscal responsibility is critical to maintaining a vibrant and affordable community. We cannot continue to ask our residents to cover large tax increases that some just cannot afford to pay. We need to work within our Town budget and stop using tax overrides as the [LWV truncated at 100]

\* JOHN S. ROBOTHAM

19 Scott Road

(26 of 29; 16)

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

The desire to create high-value commercial space (office buildings with no housing) is running into the new MBTA requirements for substantially more housing, without any financial planning by the town. Meanwhile, non-profits like Belmont Hill School are transforming acres of land into tax-free non-residential zones. This puts extreme pressure to transform the small parcels already zoned for light commercial use, directly adjacent to single-family neighborhoods, into either large commercial buildings or large housing projects. Shouldn't we be focusing on accessory apartments across the entire town? This would spread more affordable housing everywhere while maintaining the residential character of the town.

(Please turn page)

\* SUZANNE H. ROBOTHAM

19 Scott Road

(25 of 29; 27)

Contact: (617) 489-0602

The State's requirement that all MBTA communities adopt zoning to allow new multi-housing rental units has caused a stir in Belmont just as we face unprecedented fiscal struggles. So many questions arise: Should we allow the minimum number of new units (1632) or welcome over 3000 units? What will be the financial impact of several thousand new residents on our schools and town services? How will the property values of neighboring homes be affected? Will there be enough new affordable units to qualify the town for Safe Harbor status? We must resolve these issues by December.

**For One Year**

**Vote for not more than One**

ROSEMARY B. BURKE

216 Prospect Street

Contact: burknett@gmail.com

Belmont Hill School's expansion, failure to compensate for lost tax revenue and the Town's disappointing management of the process has been traumatic. The Town did not negotiate for a reduced scale, environmental mitigation and protection of settled neighborhoods, tools within their reach. We must do better. Belmontians are generous and patient; to help address budget shortfalls and improve services we should adopt the recommendations made repeatedly regarding employee health insurance and contracts, retiree investment strategies, civil service and overall accountability. Update our zoning and permitting to attract appropriate, eco-conscious development and stimulate commercial zones for tax rates and revenue.

TIM DUNCAN

699 Concord Avenue

Contact: [bu.edu/law/files/2023/09/ResumeTimDuncanJuly23.pdf](https://bu.edu/law/files/2023/09/ResumeTimDuncanJuly23.pdf)

My wife, Laura, and I moved to Belmont 14 years ago. As an attorney (now teaching at BU Law School) and executive who helped manage a \$500 million budget at a federal agency in the Obama Administration, I believe fiscal discipline is critical. Belmont has the dubious distinction of being the highest taxing Massachusetts town based on residents' income, with over 7% of Belmont seniors living in poverty largely because of that property tax burden. As your Town Meeting Member, I will work to make the town functional again, to improve Belmont's ability to manage our budget and control spending.

*(Please turn page)*



BRIAN L. PALMER

210 Clifton Street

Contact: bpalmer.belmontma@gmail.com

To help keep Belmont a community of people who choose to live here and care about each other, we must efficiently allocate the available scarce resources to their highest benefit for the most residents. Belmont is known for its public schools, and we need to continually strive to make them great. Excellence in the schools requires focusing on the students and allowing students of all levels to thrive—we need to effectively teach fundamental skills to keep all (including most special needs students) in Belmont, and we need advanced courses to keep inquiring minds engaged and challenged.

## For Two Years

## Vote for not more than One

ANDREW JOSEPH POULSEN

1105 Concord Avenue

(6 of 6; 1)

Contact: poulsen@alum.mit.edu

I would appreciate your vote to continue serving as precinct two town meeting member after being elected by caucus. I am chair of the Disability Access Commission and member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Implementation Committee. I am determined to advocate for an excellent quality of life for all in Belmont with a fiscally responsible approach. We need to find creative ways to meet the town's financial obligations and sustainable future while striving to reduce residential property tax burdens. Having raised our children in Belmont, I am committed to maintain access to a high-quality public education for Belmont children.

NANCY G. SARRIS

11 Hough Road

(4 of 4; 1)

Contact: gsnsarris@gmail.com

Simply stated, I am passionate about Belmont. Professionally, I held leadership/executive level positions at State Street, Citizens Bank and Belmont Savings; expertise in accounting, auditing, investments, Risk, Compliance, lending, and banking. Previous board positions; Belmont Woman's Club (pres); Belmont Media Center, Taxiarchae Church (pres & treas); currently Treasurer for a not for profit. I fully understand every aspect of finance. I ask for your vote knowing I will represent the needs of ALL residents and work to stabilize our finances. As parents and longtime residents, my husband and I feel strongly about ensuring the quality and legacy of our town.

# PRECINCT 3

## CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MEETING MEMBER

**For Three Years**

**Vote for not more than Twelve**

\* ADESHINA AYODEJI BAPTISTA

44 White Street

(29 of 29; 3)

Contact: adeforbelmont@gmail.com

We have decisions to make in order to ensure Belmont's status as a welcoming, desirable and inclusive community that is enjoyed by many. Our seniors should continue to receive the services they need. Our schools and our town services should be funded properly. Let's encourage smart transit oriented development, affordable housing and help small businesses thrive. Create a vibrant space in the underutilized Waverley Square for people to live, work and entertain. We should further consider sustainable building practices on new development so we can reduce our town's energy costs and carbon footprint. Let's help Belmont continue to move forward!

\* JOSEPH JOHN BERNARD

71 Waverley Street

(28 of 29; 9)

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

NO REPLY RECEIVED

\* JOLANTA K. ECKERT

68 South Cottage Road

(21 of 22; 2)

Contact: 1989jke@gmail.com

Over the last two years as a Town Meeting Member, I have focused on becoming familiar with the financial challenges of Belmont. Over the next three years, my focus will be to engage in identifying and developing potential solutions to ease the growing burden being placed on the taxpayers, especially those that are already struggling to stay in town. It is important to balance the growing demands of many Belmont residents while maintaining diversity of age, culture, and financial means.

*(Please turn page)*

\* BONNIE L. FRIEDMAN

16 Hay Road

(28 of 29; 12)

Contact: home@bonnieanddavid.com

Asking for your vote for my 5th term. I've worked on many issues I care about: open/green space, affordable housing, multi-modal transportation, and educating voters through work with LWV. I've served as Vice-Chair of Community Path Project Committee since inception. Once completed, the Path will make it safer to get to school and alleviate some traffic. Grants make us less dependent on CPA funds. As Editor of this Voter Guide for over a decade, I've increased participation, added more information, and gotten it in your hands sooner (printer dependent). As organizer of Candidates' Night, I've added the virtual TMM Parade.

\* JULIET BLAU JENKINS

76 Lorimer Road

(27 of 29; 9)

Contact: jerbly@yahoo.com

The MBTA Community zoning changes provide a unique opportunity for our town to come together and deliberately plan HOW we want to best design new overlay districts that will both bring our housing stock into the future while maintaining the character of our community that we all dearly love. As a TMM, I follow the progress of the committee's work, share my understanding with neighbors & friends & use social media to help get the word out so that more citizens of Belmont can educate themselves on the complex process and issues involved.

\* MARY KILLOUGH KENNEDY

11 Lorimer Road

(23 of 29; 26)

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

As a town meeting member candidate, it might be helpful to communicate my thinking on a few of Belmont's key issues overlooked. With the financial cliff looming, there is an immediate need for progressive thinking with achievable solutions. MBTA Zoning is forcing Belmont to develop a town wide action plan. For years unresolved planning has contributed to financial instability. Little thought is given to natural assets Rock Meadow, Lone Tree Hill, Audubon's Habitat Education Center and Beaver Brook Reservation. Belmont should capitalize on these assets. I will continue to support these valuable conservation lands, and work with CPC to allocate additional funds.

\* DIANE BECKLEY MILLER

80 Clark Street

(17 of 29; 8)

Contact: dianem@millerdesignllc.com

REPLY RECEIVED AFTER DEADLINE

(Please turn page)

\* VINCENT P. STANTON, JR.

32 Royal Road

(24 of 29; 22)

Contact: vstanton@verizon.net

Capital projects: by passing three debt exclusions in recent years (school, library, rink), all of which I supported, Belmont has locked itself into much higher tax rates. The request for an operating override in 2024 thus arrives at a particularly bad time. I support the override, but believe Belmont must do much more to provide tax relief to its older citizens on fixed incomes. Preserving a demographically balanced population is essential to prevent still further cost escalation. Rezoning: the goal of more revenue generating commercial development is in some tension with our affordable housing goals; the two must be balanced.

\* CAROLE ANNE WILLIAMS

3 Stables Way

(26 of 29; 7)

Contact: wcarole216@gmail.com

I LOVE BELMONT! Persons with disabilities of any kind must have an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the town's services, programs, and activities. The ADA sets requirements for town facilities, new construction and alterations, communications with the public, and policies and procedures governing town programs, services, and activities. As Belmont advances with any capital projects I want to ensure those requirements and residents' needs are all met.

\* MICHELLE A. YOUNG

34 Davis Road

(26 of 29; 6)

Contact: (617) 484-8541

I have been a Belmont resident for over 30 years, have seen a lot of changes in town. I believe that education is very important and should be supported. I also think we need to be fiscally responsible with the decisions that are being made regarding the town's budget.

JOHN P. ALCOCK

5 Stables Way

Contact: jalcock1009@gmail.com

The MBTA Communities Act offers Belmont an opportunity to establish sensible zoning requirements for multifamily housing that will help direct the development of more affordable housing compatible with current housing stock. Continuing our current zoning requirements would result in haphazard, inefficient development and contrary to the new state law. An impact study of the Advisory Committee's final draft of their recommendations for the Planning Board is needed before a town meeting vote takes place. The 2½ override question should be adopted to keep the services the town currently provides with an eye to efficiencies that cap future expenses.

(Please turn page)

MERYL ANN JUNIK

14 Royal Road

(1 of 1; <1)

Contact: meryljunik@gmail.com

Belmont resident for 12+ years and parent of two children in Belmont Public Schools. Previously served as co-President and Treasurer of Wellington PTO and am running for Town Meeting to continue my commitment to supporting our schools and advocating for Belmont's future. I was elected at our precinct caucus in January 2024 and participated in the Special Town Meeting that month; I look forward to being elected for a full term and continuing to represent Precinct 3 in Town Meeting.

**For One Year**

**Vote for not more than One**

KATE B. VIGOUR

3 Thomas St.

Contact: kate.vigour@gmail.com

My family and I have called Belmont home for 10 years. I have a son at the middle school, a daughter at CUE, and two kids who have just started at Wellington where I've been a PTO volunteer for 9 years. You can find me coaching soccer and softball and cooling off at the Underwood Pool in the summers. I support the schools and projects aimed at improving diversity, equity, and belonging in our community. I will work to ensure Belmont remains a great place to raise a family. I'm eager to represent our precinct at Town Meeting.

## PRECINCT 4

### CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MEETING MEMBER

**For Three Years**

**Vote for not more than Twelve**

\* SAMI S. BAGHDADY

14 Loring Street

(28 of 29; 18)

Contact: (781) 646-7050

The two most challenging issues facing our Town are the budget and affordable housing. Affordable housing must be Town-wide, and not mostly limited to Waverley. We already have too much traffic and congestion. More housing will also further strain our budgets for excellent schooling and Town services. We must expand our commercial base. As a Town Meeting Member, I will support creative solutions to these important challenges.

\* DEBRA DEUTSCH

56 Hull Street

(29 of 29; 10)

Contact: belmontma@ddeutsch.org

Young families and seniors are being squeezed by rising housing costs. Two local causes are repurposing or redevelopment of owner-occupied housing and property tax increases simply due to rising valuations, exclusive of overrides or debt exclusions. I support measures that encourage the retention and production of moderate and affordable housing units and/or ease the real estate tax burden for seniors. For example, Watertown provides a percentage-based residential tax exemption for taxpayers who own and occupy a property as their home. Somerville collects transfer taxes that support affordability programs when investors, developers, and absentee landlords buy or sell properties.

\* LUCIA E. GATES

11 Agassiz Street

(29 of 29; 38)

Contact: (617) 893-0542

I have been attending all the public hearings on the MBTA Communities zoning changes. This will have a large impact on precinct 4 and I think we need to monitor it carefully. After more than 35 years on Town Meeting I have the experience to do this. Affordable housing, the community path and our town's financial future will all be impacted by this state requirement to overlay zoning changes on the Waverly Square area. The new zoning is designed to make multi-unit housing attractive to developers. More housing stock is desirable, but at the same time we have to watch [LWV truncated at 100]

\* LINDA DEVITO GHILARDI

16 Church Street, 3L

(22 of 29; 6)

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

NO REPLY RECEIVED

(Please turn page)

\* EILEEN LIZETTE HANSON

238 White Street

(11 of 11; 1)

Contact: elfhanson@gmail.com

REPLY RECEIVED AFTER DEADLINE

\* JIRAIR M. HOVSEPIAN

44 Chandler Street

(28 of 29; 20)

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

NO REPLY RECEIVED

\* MICHAEL ANTHONY PALOMO

113 Sycamore Street

(12 of 29; 3)

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

NO REPLY RECEIVED

\* GITANJALI S. REGE

64 Beech Street

(26 of 29; 6)

Contact: ms.gituska@gmail.com

I am grateful to live in Belmont - a wonderful, diverse community of people. Not least of which is demonstrated by our difference of opinions! One thing I know we can all agree on: our town is facing significant financial issues both in the short and long term. I hope you will join me in voting "YES" to the override on April 2nd. In the short term, it is necessary to preserve town and school services. In the long term, we must work towards fiscal sustainability by reducing operating costs, encouraging business development with thoughtful zoning and streamlining government.

\* ELIZABETH B. SCHMIDT

59 Lexington Street

(29 of 29; 12)

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

As a retiree and 35-year Belmont homeowner, I'm concerned with maintaining an excellent quality of life for townspeople of all ages. Our high property taxes are already forcing some folks out, yet a sizable override is looming. Concurrently, capital projects are amassing, infrastructure is deteriorating, town officials' salaries are rising, and police and firefighters are in peril of being removed from civil service. I believe that careful long-term planning and some consolidation are necessary and will continue to work toward these goals. Small-scale development could help to keep tax rates down but must remain neighborhood-friendly and consistent with Belmont's character.

*(Please turn page)*

\* DANIELL G. STEVENS

3 Chestnut Street

(24 of 29; 6)

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

NO REPLY RECEIVED

\* DAVID MICHAEL WEBSTER

18 Holt Street

(29 of 29; 21)

Contact: (617) 489-1029; dwebster9999@gmail.com

With expenditures projected to exceed revenues, Belmont needs to retain its stable financial footing and maintain our high quality schools and services. We should seek operational efficiencies, regional options, affordable housing, and ways to increase commercial income and other revenues. I support our commercial, residential, and transportation mix in Waverley Square and other neighborhoods. Upcoming zoning changes required for MBTA communities, including Belmont, could impact future housing density, building heights, traffic, and development. Belmont's path should both comply with the law and seek to maintain livable communities without eliminating opportunities for commercial development that would help lower residential taxes.

RACHEL M. WATSON

73 Hull Street

(4 of 4; 1)

Contact: rmwchen@gmail.com

I care deeply about Belmont schools. As co-chair of Belmont's Special Education Parent Advisory Committee, I help families navigate the system and advocate for quality special education in our district. Quality special education improves education for all students. Finding new ways to increase our tax base and reduce the burden on residents is also important to me. I live in a multi-generational household, and I believe smart solutions to attract the businesses we want in our community is good for residents of all ages. All residents should be able to be heard and have their needs addressed by Town Meeting.

**For One Year**

**Vote for not more than One**

JONATHAN RICHARD BRIDGES

47 Sycamore Street

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

NO REPLY RECEIVED

**For Two Years**

**Vote for not more than One**

ANDREW WHITMAN SCHULTZ

10 Ripley Road

(4 of 4; 1)

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

NO REPLY RECEIVED



# PRECINCT 5

## CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MEETING MEMBER

**For Three Years**

**Vote for not more than Twelve**

\* JESSICA J. BARNARD

48 Alma Avenue

(29 of 29; 3)

Contact: jessicabarnard19@gmail.com

I campaigned for the unsuccessful override in 2021, and I will work even harder this time to connect with Belmont voters and discuss why this 2024 override is critical to our town. I am co-hosting informational events in private homes to have personal conversations in a non-inflammatory environment. You will also see me out there holding a sign- please honk!

\* CLAUS CHRISTIAN BECKER

20 Poplar Street

(22 of 29; 12)

Contact: clausprecinct5@gmail.com

As a member of the Capital and Energy committees I work to improve long-term planning for Belmont so we can stop going from crisis to crisis. Until we get our finances in order we will struggle to meet the town's strategic priorities, as adopted by Town Meeting.

\* SUZANNE W. BLOORE

37 Hastings Road

(28 of 29; 24)

Contact: (508) 810-6241

Financial Management: With past and current debt exclusions, and overrides Belmont taxpayers are facing an \$8.4 million override this year. Belmont taxpayers will be overwhelmed. We need to operate within budget constraints. Thank you for the honor of serving you in Town Meeting.

\* THAYER DONHAM

77 Hammond Road

(29 of 29; 22)

Contact: thayer.donham@gmail.com

I am a member of the MBTA Advisory Committee and the Planning Board. I have been working hard with my colleagues to create a fair and focused response to the MBTA zoning that enhances the housing options for all residents of town. Despite the MBTA zoning law's mandate to increase housing production only, we are also working to preserve and enhance commercial opportunities. I look forward to a town-wide master planning effort in the future that can implement commercial and residential zoning changes in a more comprehensive manner.

*(Please turn page)*

\* RAYMOND J. JOHNSON

53 Hammond Road

(28 of 29; 7)

Contact: rjohnsonvt@yahoo.com

Dear Belmont Voter, This election, Belmont will make a decision for the future of our town. Will we vote for the growth of our public sector jobs or the wellbeing of our residents? I ask for your support so I can continue my role serving the taxpayers as Town Meeting Member.

\* NORMA MASSAROTTI

53 Bay State Road

(23 of 29; 3)

Contact: (617)484-4283

I served on the Structural Change Impact Group for over 10 months with a diverse and skilled team who put forth many sound ideas that would drive efficiencies in our town. I currently serve on the Disability Access Commission. Capital projects, housing/zoning, and education are all important and as your returning TMM I promise to gather and assess facts and advocate for balanced solutions which protect the reasons why we all chose to live in Belmont – its beauty and scale, small town feel, excellent school system, affordability for all residents, and strong sense of community in our neighborhood and town.

\* TOMMASINA ANNE OLSON

10 Bay State Road

(29 of 29; 33)

Contact: tomi.olson@gmail.com

Transparency and financial management are essential pillars of good governance. As a Belmont Town Meeting Member, my work has been committed to upholding these principles serving the Town's best interests. Transparency ensures that elected officials and agencies are held accountable for their actions and decisions. Accessible information makes it easier to identify instances of mismanagement, corruption, or inefficiency, including how our tax dollars are spent and policies formulated. This has been my committee work focus. Proper financial management allows for the strategic allocation of resources to support essential services. I have actively fought for fair and equitable distribution of resources.

*(Please turn page)*

\* ROGER P. WRUBEL

165 Slade Street

(25 of 29; 26)

Contact: roger\_wrubel@msn.com

As a member of the Belmont Energy Committee, I educated the Select Board and Town Meeting members about the advantages of adopting a new energy code that disincentivizes fossil fuel use (space and water heating, cooking) in new residential and commercial construction. The warrant article passed Fall Town Meeting by 87%. I support the current override and zoning changes to allow more multifamily affordable housing. With the adoption of the new energy code multifamily buildings will be constructed to a higher energy efficiency standard resulting in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, lower operating costs and healthier buildings.

KRISTEN LYNN CAHALANE-PETCHAR

179 Trapelo Road

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

As a long time resident of Belmont and a BHS graduate, I am very invested in the continued success of our town. With nearly 20 years of working in higher education, I am specifically concerned with maintaining a strong public school system and ensuring that families have access to educational resources. It is important that Belmont schools continue to offer strong academic and extracurricular programs. In addition, I would like to see new businesses fill our empty store fronts to add life to our centers and additional financial resources to our town.

LAURIE ANN CAHALANE-PETCHAR

179 Trapelo Road

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

I am a 12 year Belmont resident and homeowner, and I'm now looking to get more involved in the town. As a Town Meeting member, I am excited to be of service to Belmont. I will advocate for seniors, particularly regarding access to affordable housing and improved quality of life services. My wife and I hope to start a family soon, so strong public schools are of the utmost importance. The number of empty storefronts around town is concerning; I hope to be part of finding a solution to make Belmont more business-friendly.

## PRECINCT 6

### CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MEETING MEMBER

**For Three Years**

**Vote for not more than Twelve**

\* JOHN JOSEPH BOWE

20 Elizabeth Road

(29 of 29; 21)

Contact: belmont@bowe.us

The MBTA Communities act is both a responsibility and opportunity to increase “critical mass” of density, enhancing the vibrancy of our business districts, which we all know need more life. TM must fully support such development through our zoning authority and policies to obey state law and encourage businesses. Governments, including Belmont's, learned much through remote work during the pandemic, including both official (open!) meetings, government operations, and better documentation. This gave us greater transparency and new channels for public participation. TM members should continue to press the rest of government to retain and even enhance those efforts.

\* CHRISTINE M. DOYLE

15 Cedar Road

(29 of 29; 13)

Contact: chrisdoylebelmont@bramsdoyle.com

I am running for reelection to TM as a constructive, practical problem-solver. Financial constraints require careful and transparent evaluation of the short- and long-term needs of the Town and Schools. Sustainable operating choices and capital investments advance both our financial and climate goals. Our school system is a community asset that benefits everyone (directly or indirectly) and I support investing in its success, especially the expansion of LABB for our special needs students. I lead our Town capital planning committee and endeavor to balance all views and advance the analysis of our 30-year capital needs and related funding.

\* THEODORE DUKAS

236 Payson Road

(29 of 29; 27)

Contact: dukassoc@aol.com

As a senior homeowner, I am concerned with the direction of the town in dealing with the long-term needs of the senior population of the town and support the initiatives of the Age Friendly Action Committee. At the same time, the financial health of the town depends upon its ability to allow a diversity of housing possibilities such as ADUs (accessory dwelling units) and affordable housing units exemplified by the MBTA projected plan, which I also support. I look forward to hearing from precinct voters on the various issues that Belmont must deal with.

*(Please turn page)*

\* STEPHEN A. EVANS

100 Van Ness Road

(27 of 29; 9)

Contact: (617) 872-8689

I have been a TMM for 12+ years and previously served on the boards of the Foundation for Belmont Education and the Wellington After-school Program. I support investing in our wonderful community, including capital projects such as the rink, bike path and library and will vote yes on the April override. I would also like to see the town lobby for a reduction of the Chapter 61B tax breaks that private non-profits and country clubs enjoy. Although these types of reforms are an uphill battle, let's get started. Please call or email if you have any questions.

\* PRIYA ADHIKARI LICHT

174 Lewis Road

(27 of 29; 7)

Contact: priya.licht@gmail.com

As an immigrant, small business owner and parent of two kids in the Belmont public schools (current and recent graduate), I hope to bring fresh perspective, a commitment to maintaining and improving our wonderful schools, and transparency on town matters. I support the override because I believe in continuous investment in education and infrastructure and recently voted in favor of the library and the skating rink. I have also worked with Belmont Math Parents to advocate for challenging, rigorous and accessible math programs at the Chenery and in our high school.

\* GAIL S. MANN

196 Payson Road

(27 of 29; 6)

Contact: gailsmann@aol.com

As a long-time resident of Belmont and a Town Meeting member seeking re-election, I support maintaining the high quality of educational and other town services we in Belmont value through continued strong fiscal management, including passage of an operating budget override. I am a Library Trustee and have worked hard to make a new library a reality. As part of that effort, I have helped with the significant fundraising efforts that will lessen the cost of the library to taxpayers. I ask for your vote on April 2.

*(Please turn page)*

\* MELISSA A. MCKENNA

15 Warwick Road

(22 of 22; 2)

Contact: melissa@ideadrop.com

As a Town Meeting Member, parent of two BPS students, and long-time volunteer, I will continue my commitment to supporting our schools, ensuring access to services and resources for all Belmont students and residents, and increasing opportunities for small businesses and economic growth in Belmont. I will prioritize collaboration and supporting the spaces and activities that bring us together here in town. I support maintaining community resources, including the library, rink, safe town infrastructure, and robustly staffing schools and services. We must continue to plan for and meet the needs of our community, as equitably as possible.

\* KATHERINE OATES

82 Cushing Avenue

(29 of 29; 5)

Contact: katherineoates@gmail.com

I have enjoyed serving Precinct 6 as a Town Meeting Member since 2019 and am seeking re-election because I am committed to representing residents and engaging in the town governance process for both the operating and capital budget allocation. I advocate for fiscal discipline, environmental stewardship and sustainability, and deep support for schools. I support the spring 2024 override, and I also support expanding the town's commercial tax base to ease the strain on the town budget, ensuring that we can sustain critical services in town.

\* AARON B. PIKCILINGIS

24 Branchaud Road

(27 of 29; 6)

Contact: aaron.pikc@gmail.com

Belmont must make strategic investments to secure our future and continue providing excellent town and school services, so I am urging all Belmont residents to join me in supporting the override. Recognizing both the need for an override and the difficulty increased taxes can present, I am working to get tax relief programs on the warrant for this year's Annual Town Meeting, and am committed to adding more programs in the future. I will also continue serving on the Comprehensive Capital Budget and Community Preservation Committees to ensure ongoing investment in vital community assets.

*(Please turn page)*

DOUGLAS N. KOPLOW

18 Oak Avenue

(4 of 4; 1)

Contact: dkoplow@yahoo.com

I work at the intersection of public policy and markets, structuring incentives and mandated transparency to efficiently achieve clean energy and environmental goals. In Belmont, I have co-run the Cushing Square Neighborhood Association for more than a decade, ensuring resident concerns were heard during the Bradford's challenging redevelopment process. On 3A, I am working with residents and town committees towards a proposal that equitably shares development impacts and protects the small town feel that so many of us love. I have also served as chair or vice-chair of the town's Solid Waste and Recycling Committee over three cycles.

MATTHEW LENNON

26 Pequotsette Road

(4 of 4; 1)

Contact: (617) 388-6063; matthew.lennon@gmail.com

Having served as a TMM since last fall, and as a stepparent to children in the Belmont schools, I strongly believe that funding our education system is critically important for our community's health and viability. Strategic investments should be coupled with a plan for economic growth and a commitment to making balanced fiscal decisions. My experiences as a Senior Director for technology companies and Finance Committee Chair and Vice President of Operations for our local synagogue enable me to provide a valuable perspective on some of our most pressing issues like capital infrastructure and short- and long-term financial planning.

KENNETH E. LIND

60 Hurd Road

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

Belmont is an outstanding town with several challenges. While we need an override to fund and maintain essential services, we can't continue to operate this way. We must grow commercial options to relieve the burden on residents and prioritize initiatives that revitalize and create a vibrant community. I serve on Belmont's Transportation Advisory Committee where I hear issues important to our community, listen to all voices, and work to deliver solutions. I am also a parent of students at BMHS and support continued investments in our schools. I look forward to building and sustaining the future of Belmont.

*(Please turn page)*

BRIAN S. SAPER

16 Old Middlesex Road

(27 of 29; 17)

Contact: briansaper@yahoo.com

One topic that creates a lot of discussion is the appearance that Belmont has continually gotten voters to allow excessive property taxes. It is important to understand the difference between voting to increase taxes to cover the increases in town service expenses and voting to allow the town to borrow money for capital and building projects. I believe the town needs both. Another problem that annoys most residents is the traffic snarls surrounding the train overpass in Belmont Center. I am planning to learn more about the improvements such as a rotary in front of the Lions Club.

**For One Year**

**Vote for not more than One**

MARY ANGELA CARINI

39 Benton Road

Contact: (617) 957-4421

If elected to represent precinct 6, I will support thoughtful zoning changes that will comply with the MBTA Communities Act as well as those that could lead to a reduced tax burden on residents. As a parent of a 6th grader at Chenery and a supporter of the Override, I will seek to balance the varied needs of the community while also advocating for the necessary staffing, programming, and curriculum improvements to our schools. I value being informed and having an understanding of all perspectives as critical to representing our neighborhood. Relevant experience; town election worker 3 years, school volunteer.

**For Two Years**

**Vote for not more than One**

CABELL T. EAMES

26 Lewis Road

(12 of 14; 2)

Contact:

WITHDRAWN

ERIN K. ROWLAND

178 Goden Street

Contact: rowland\_erin@hotmail.com

I am running to help maintain the qualities that make Belmont a great place to live, while securing a fiscally sustainable future for the town. To achieve this, we must pass the override – which is why I am volunteering as the campaign manager for the “YES” campaign. In addition, I support common-sense reforms to increase commercial tax revenues, such as making it easier to open small businesses and incentivizing property owners to rent empty storefronts. I am also an advocate for strong schools, caring for Belmont's parks, achieving our sustainability goals, and funding emergency response, senior services and the library.





*Presents:*

# **CANDIDATES' NIGHT**

**Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at 7<sup>PM</sup>**

*Viewing Options:*

**Zoom meeting webinar: 886 6333 2579**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88663332579>**

**Live broadcast: Belmont Ch 8 (Comcast); Ch 28 (Verizon)**

**Livestream or on-demand: [belmontmedia.org/watch/govtv](http://belmontmedia.org/watch/govtv)**

*We'll start with:*

**Town Meeting Member Video "Parade"**

*Followed by:*

**Short Speeches and Question & Answer with**

**All Town-Wide Candidates**

*And Finally:*

**Ballot Question information**

***Remember:* Town Election Day is Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

# PRECINCT 7

## CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MEETING MEMBER

**For Three Years**

**Vote for not more than Twelve**

\* CAROL ANN KENNEDY BERBERIAN

93 Elm Street

(23 of 29; 3)

Contact: belmontcarolb@gmail.com

I am a current Town Meeting Member in precinct 7, Vice Chair of the Planning Board and member of the Community Preservation Committee. I am a lifelong resident of Belmont, a graduate of Belmont High School and the parent of two children in our public school system. I love being an active member of our community. I have volunteered in the schools, with the Foundation for Belmont Education, with the Belmont Woman's Club and as a youth softball coach. I am committed to increasing our commercial tax base, pursuing strategic changes to our zoning by-laws and achieving fiscal sustainability.

\* EDWARD BERDJ BERBERIAN

93 Elm Street

(16 of 29; 3)

Contact: berberianrealtor@gmail.com

I am a lifelong resident of Belmont, a graduate of Belmont High School and the parent of two children in our public school system. I have been fortunate to be involved in several Belmont Youth Sports programs. I serve on the board of Belmont Youth Hockey and coach both of my daughter's hockey teams. I am committed to our efforts to support and attract local businesses through strategic zoning changes. I hope to continue to serve our town as a Town Meeting Member and work to ensure the quality of life for all of our residents.

\* RICHARD A. "NICK" CANDEE

21 Anis Road

(24 of 29; 10)

Contact: (617) 484-2561; nickcandee@aol.com

I am a fiscal moderate. Growth in taxes will cause us to move elsewhere. We retirees do not have elastic income to keep pace with growing town payments for pensions and health care benefits other citizens do not get. MA is one of 27 states with Excise Tax on cars. Exacerbating the tax load is the socialist notion that we should subsidize low income housing with mandated, not elected, measures such as MBTA Communities Act. Has a Belmont seasoned economist done a cost / benefit analysis for compliance with this Act?

*(Please turn page)*

\* JOAN A. DREVINS

61 Betts Road

(22 of 29; 35)

Contact: joandrevins@gmail.com

The affordable housing issue in Belmont, has been a long time concern. Housing is a right, not a privilege. Additional housing will change the complexity, culture and population of our Town. It is essential that this growth be made in a thoughtful, considerate, compassionate, visionary, transparent, and collegial manner to satisfy the needs and concerns of current and future Belmont residents.

\* GEOFFREY GEORGE LUBIEN

38 Unity Avenue

(29 of 29; 9)

Contact: (617) 852-7060; glubien@gmail.com; lubienforbelmont.com

Belmont is in a critical state. For too long we have managed the town from one year to the next without a long-term view. I support the development of a comprehensive 10-year plan that will address current and future challenges in terms of fiscal, zoning, commercial development and housing. I have taken the lead in creating the Belmont Voter Financial Compact, a framework for long-term planning and financial sustainability. This Compact will propose reducing the annual expense growth rates to bring expenditures in closer alignment with revenue while promoting new sources of revenue. Please visit lubienforbelmont.com for more information.

\* MARY-ELLEN OBERHAUSER

2 Sargent Road

(29 of 29; 3)

Contact: (617) 489-3893

I have lived in Precinct 7 for many years. As a parent of 4 daughters who attended Belmont public schools, our schools remain a high priority. One of my major concerns is the significant need for additional housing. While I understand the state MBTA mandate, I am concerned about the requirement of 1,632 additional units. In no way can Belmont afford to lose commercial development in order to meet this mandate. Given our fiscal crisis, we must continue to look for increased revenue; for example, through PILOT payments and long-term commercial development. Fiscal management requires fiscal responsibility.

\* WILLIAM TRABILCY

70 Marlboro Street

(24 of 29; 6)

Contact: vze2ptmw@verizon.net

Environment, health and safety professional in risk management, engineering, and regulatory compliance. Advisor/instructor for enterprise-level learning, development, and performance. Teacher in early-STEM enrichment and creative development;

*(Please turn page)*

volunteer children's literacy coach. As custodian of citizens' interests, diligent transparency and advocacy on behalf of all residents is important. Exceptional circumstances require consideration of exceptional solutions.

- "Bumper sticker wisdom" doesn't work and inhibits broader understanding
- Looking beyond the "headline" is essential
- The path of least resistance is often not the wisest path
- Margins of improvement are usually the most costly/least beneficial; see Pareto Principle
- Facts and vision matter, toward forming solutions

\* ALEXANDRA ELIZABETH VAN GEEL

64 Livermore Road

(24 of 29; 12)

Contact: alixvangeeltmm@gmail.com

As an environmental consultant and parent of children enrolled in BPS, my priorities include ensuring our schools have the resources they need to support students academically and emotionally, and integrating green building practices into new projects. This year, we must pass the override or face devastating cuts to schools and to town services. In the medium and longer term, it is imperative to grow Belmont's commercial property tax base and explore ways to increase PILOT monies. Prudent governance requires a focus on long-term sustainability, including financial sustainability and responsible stewardship of the town's infrastructure, human resources, and natural resources.

\* GLENN PATRICK TEEN CH WONG

70 Livermore Road

(29 of 29; 9)

Contact: gwong@post.harvard.edu

As a proud parent of a 2022 BHS graduate and with two other children currently at BHS, I am very supportive of our public schools, and recognize the difficulties they face in our current fiscal climate. I believe in educational equity for all students, including those with special needs and advanced students who seek enriching challenges. Although Belmont is a small town, I am proud of our efforts to be environmentally responsible, fiscally prudent, and inclusive of our increasingly diverse community.

*(Please turn page)*

DEANNA EARLE

22 Park Rd., #1

(3 of 4; 1)

Contact: deannaearle.belmont@gmail.com

I seek to improve quality of life for all Belmontians. Pressing issues in our community include rising housing costs and traffic (safety/congestion). Housing must be affordable for renters and owners; this can be accomplished by building accessible multifamily housing, allowing ADUs, and broadening our tax base by attracting and taxing businesses. Traffic must be better managed with increased public transit, maintained sidewalks, and separated bike lanes, which will improve commutes for pedestrians, bus riders, cyclists, and drivers. As a FGLI Cornell University graduate, I particularly value diversity (age, disability, race, income, etc.); educational opportunities; and safe, green, healthy neighborhoods.

THOMAS FINNEGAN FOLEY

41 Unity Avenue, #2

Contact: (413) 386-9331; thomasffoley@gmail.com

I've been consistently impressed by dedicated town volunteers since moving to Belmont in 2018, and I want to contribute myself. The town's investments in our schools, public safety, library, athletic facilities, roads, and parks demonstrate our collective commitment to our neighbors and it's important to continue this commitment. I support the operating override because, in the face of increased costs, additional revenue over the 2 1/2 cap is needed to maintain town services and prepare for the future. At the same time, as a life-long Massachusetts resident, I appreciate town meeting's role in providing transparency and carefully monitoring the budget.

IRA MORGENSTERN

21 Clarendon Road

(4 of 4; 1)

Contact: (617) 869-4072; irabmrgnstrn@gmail.com

Belmont needs to expand revenue sources to ease the tax burden on residents, maintain excellent schools, and improve infrastructure. As a retired CFO, I will advocate strongly to increase non-residential revenue streams, improve transparency, and establish clear accountability. I'll urge that all major Belmont initiatives explicitly take into consideration our future financial needs. The last four months as a TMM, two years with the Vision 21 Committee, and my role on the Town's off-leash working group have given me a pragmatic perspective on Belmont government. Let's ensure Belmont remains a great place to live.

*(Please turn page)*

SUSAN REBECCA TITUS

26 Livermore Road

Contact: (617) 642-4321; titus.susie@gmail.com

Belmont, town of homes, has a tiny commercial tax base. We need smart fiscal planning, improved zoning, and creative economic development. Belmont already has one of the lowest per capita spending among neighboring towns, and further budget cuts will hurt Belmont's town services (trash pickup, public safety, senior programs), infrastructure, and schools. Incorporating special education services within our schools will address one enormous expense. Nobody wants to pay more taxes, but we cannot allow our town to fail risking a drop in our property values. We must plan to prevent further crises! I would appreciate your vote.

ALICE BECKER UFLACKER

214 Grove Street

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

I want to invest in our sought-after community, known for its excellent school system, senior services, and welcoming residents. Belmont is currently facing the risk of cutting critical services geared towards our children's education, senior services, public safety and environmental services. I have joined the Invest in Belmont campaign to support the override, keeping these services in place and making them sustainable for the future. As a mother with children in the Belmont public school system and as a physician working with seniors in the community, I hope to represent my precinct to make a positive difference.

**For Two Years**

**Vote for not more than One**

JOHN F. AVILLA

42 Worcester Street

Contact: NONE PROVIDED

My name is John Avilla, I live at 42 Worcester St. with my wife and twin 11 year old daughters. I support the override to pass this year but feel that it is imperative that alternate economic growth opportunities are researched and adopted to avoid a similar situation in another 3 years. Updating zoning bylaws should be a major focus in the coming years to expand commercial development to counteract current financial troubles. In addition to commercial development there has to be a focus on the vacancy issues of our existing commercial zones. Thank you for your consideration.



We welcome your participation in and support of the Belmont League! When you pay your LWV Belmont dues, you are also automatically a member of the State (LWVMA.org) and National (LWV.org) Leagues.


To conserve volunteer resources, speed communication, and save money, the Belmont League uses email whenever possible. **The Voter is now sent by email to all members. If you use email, please provide your current email address below.** *If you do not have an email account:* please contact the League at (617) 771-8500 to arrange to have The Voter mailed to you.

Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
2nd Name(s) _____ (family) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership    \$ 50
Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Family (2 members)    \$ 75
Home phone _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Family (3 members)    \$ 100
Cell/Work phone(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership    \$ FREE
Email _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution*    \$ _____
2nd Email (family) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Dues Assistance Fund*    \$ _____
Total amount    \$ _____	

*This membership expires on June 30, 2025.* In addition to accepting personal checks (payable to Belmont LWV) for your membership payment, you may also pay your membership dues and/or make a donation to the Belmont LWV via **PayPal**. Please go to **BelmontLWV.org** and click on **JOIN LWV**, then select **MEMBERSHIP FORM**.

\* Because the Belmont LWV advocates on policy issues, contributions of any amount, while gratefully accepted, are *not* tax deductible.

**Questions:** Contact the Membership Co-Chairs: Pat Hawkins at: pathawk4@gmail.com or Jocelyn Hayes at: jchayes60@icloud.com

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR DUES PAYMENT OR SUBMIT VIA**   
**Thank you for your support of the Belmont League of Women Voters**  
P.O. Box 426, Belmont, MA 02478

## PRECINCT 8

### CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MEETING MEMBER

**For Three Years**

**Vote for not more than Twelve**

\* CAROLYN A. BUNYON

50 Albert Avenue

(29 of 29; 16)

Contact: (617) 489-0866

As a native Belmontian, a lifelong resident, and a town meeting member representing Precinct 8, I have the following concerns: We can no longer put off the rebuilding of our roads and sidewalks; We must maintain quality town and school services; We must consider the financial burden of the taxpayer especially our seniors; and, We must focus on the utilization of the towns finances in order to keep the high standards for which Belmont is known. My plan is to work toward a balanced budget resulting in affordable taxes for Belmont residents.

\* MICHAEL FRANCIS CROWLEY

119 Farnham Street

(26 of 29; 8)

Contact: (617) 752-2250; mcrowley@gmail.com

Town Meeting Members have an important role in town government. For example, when it comes to the school budget, it is our responsibility to understand what's submitted. Ideally, we've attended budget deliberations before Town Meeting convenes. Where we see failings OR opportunities, we can act for the benefit of the community. Last year, I sponsored a school budget amendment to improve our response to surging special education needs. Ultimately, the measure failed. But it is our responsibility as Town Meeting Members to tackle problems in our community. My promise is to continue to advocate and legislate for a better Belmont.

\* GUANGHUA GAO

9 Plymouth Avenue

(19 of 22; 2)

Contact: nmrfan@gmail.com

I advocate reforms for improving efficiency and collaboration among town departments (Appointed Treasurer and Board of Assessors); I support measures to increase commercial tax base (Change zoning bylaws to make it easier to do business); I focus on public safety (Belmont police exiting civil service to have more eligible candidates); I vote for the appropriation of funds to build new library and rink & sports facility; Our students are our future. They deserve the best we have to offer. Please keep entrusting me with the task of making Belmont a better place to work and live in.

*(Please turn page)*



\* MELISSA ANN IRION

132 Dean Street

(27 of 29; 13)

Contact: melissa\_irion@yahoo.com

I have three children in the Belmont public schools. I am a BSA assistant coach for 8th grade girls soccer, and a town election worker. I try to stay educated on all town issues and value hearing from precinct residents on Town Meeting votes. Recently, I have advocated for issues such as reinstating school field trips, renovating Grove park fields, and completing the Alexander underpass. Transparency and integrity are key to building trust in town government. I support more economic development in our town to relieve the tax burden on residents.

\* MARK KAGAN

160 Claflin Street

(28 of 29; 3)

Contact: mark.s.kagan@gmail.com

As a parent of two young kids, who I want to attend a well-funded school system in a socioeconomically diverse community, my top issues are schools and affordable housing. Last year I fought to increase school funding for special needs without raising taxes by allocating funding to bring out-of-district placements in district. As a secretary of the Housing Trust committee I have contributed to the Housing Production Plan and grants to incentivize developers to build affordable housing. I will dedicate my background as a economics PhD to increase services to Belmont residents in a fiscally sustainable way.

\* STEPHEN M. KERINS

27 Sandrick Road

(26 of 29; 10)

Contact: skerins123@gmail.com

I support a new expanding revenue stream as a growing need for a wider commercial tax base. I will also continue to be a strong voice for excellence within the Belmont school system. This includes expanding cutting-edge technology support and training for after school programs. I support zoning enforcement, sound planning, traffic calming and public safety. I support a tax relief for the overburdened seniors. I am sensitive to our residents that are on a fixed income. I will continue to be a strong voice for you. I respectfully ask for your VOTE.

\* MELISSA MACINTYRE

94 Winn Street

(29 of 29; 8)

Contact: melissa4belmont@gmail.com

The chief issue facing Belmont is our fiscal viability. We must pass the Override to ensure vital services and programs (public safety, sidewalks, trash, essential & enriching school and senior center programs). However, Overrides won't establish or sustain

(Please turn page)

Belmont's lasting stability. I support actively pursuing options under the MBTA Communities law ("Section 3A") that include mixed-use development, thus increasing zoned multifamily housing as legally required — while also encouraging commercial development which will substantially lower the residential tax burden. Additionally, I support preserving Belmont's healthy environment through completing the Community Path, which will facilitate safe, car-free transportation and recreation options.

\* ROGER H. READ

62 Munroe Street

(29 of 29; 10)

Contact: roger.read22@gmail.com

I am a three-term member of Town Meeting, member of the Belmont Bylaw Review Committee, and a 30-year resident of Winn Brook. Zoning and fiscal challenges are at the forefront of issues facing our wonderful Town. Zoning for new housing under the MBTA Communities law needs to complement, not compete with, sensible commercial growth that expands our tax base. I support the current override to maintain strong Town services and schools, but we need steps to control costs to avoid the same deficit problem in the future. Let's keep Belmont a great place to live for all generations of residents.

\* PAUL C. RICKTER

119 Cross Street

(29 of 29; 11)

Contact: rickter@gmail.com

My work as a member of the Warrant Committee and as chair of the Structural Change Implementation Committee has focused on 1) searching for ways to make town governance more efficient, 2) improving residents' and town meeting members' understanding of financial issues, and 3) striving for ways to balance community expectations for school and municipal services with our dependence on residential property taxes. Passing the operating override is absolutely essential for maintaining the quality of life in Belmont and going forward we must increase our commercial tax base. I ask for your vote on April 2.

\* STEPHEN B. ROSALES

48 Farnham Street

(28 of 29; 36)

Contact: s.rosales@rosalesandrosales.com

Belmont needs revenue! We must be "business friendly" and streamline the permitting process to encourage new and greater variety of businesses to locate here to expand Belmont's tax base while enhancing Belmont's "quality of life." Empty storefronts and buildings create blight and depress our commercial districts. Balance "walkability" with convenient parking to make commercial areas thrive. Large-scale development, commercial and residential, needs practical analysis and compromise to balance neighborhood interests with Belmont's revenue needs. Fund our schools to provide the longstanding high quality education that Belmont is known for. Crumbling roads must be repaired and given higher budget priority.

(Please turn page)

\* ERICA ZIDEL

105 Farnham Street

(20 of 22; 2)

Contact: erica.zidel@gmail.com

To build a vibrant, sustainable Belmont, we need to appropriately fund town services and our schools. We must pass the override. I am part of the Invest in Belmont leadership team working to protect the town we love from devastating cuts. In addition, we should implement measures to attract businesses and support our commercial districts. Bringing business to Belmont will increase revenue and contribute to quality of life. I've worked for Belmont as a member of the Disability Access Commission and the Vision Implementation Committee and love representing Precinct 8 as a Town Meeting Member.

MARK A. PAOLILLO

42 Pilgrim Road

Contact: (617) 513-9510

In my 12 years as a member of the Select Board I have worked extensively, with my Board Colleagues and Town Administration on increasing investment in our Capital Infrastructure, increasing our affordable housing stock, addressing our challenging traffic issues to enhance both pedestrian and cycling safety, updating our zoning by-laws, improving transparency on Board matters. The Select Board recently voted to place an \$8.4 million-dollar operating override on the April ballot. It is imperative that this override pass to address our structural deficit and enable us to deliver the level of school and municipal services our residents deserve.

GAVIN TIEKEN-ZIDEL

105 Farnham Street

Contact: g.tieken.zidel@gmail.com

Belmont has an inherent duty to protect our school system. I am running as a pro-override, pro-community path, and progressive candidate seeking to raise funding for our excellent schools through the upcoming override. I also want to bring new businesses into the town by repealing archaic and anti-business laws to raise more general tax revenue through business taxes.



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Boston, MA  
Permit 59610

# **Voter Guide**

**Including**

**Candidates & Ballot Questions**

**for**

**Belmont Town Election**

**on**

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024**