

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEEDHAM

VOTER GUIDE

APRIL 9, 2024 TOWN ELECTION



League of Women Voters of Needham

2024 Voter Guide

Tuesday, April 9 Town Election

Print Edition

The Voter Guide is compiled by the League of Women Voters of Needham (LWVN). This guide is also available on the LWVN website at www.lwv-needham.org.

We thank the candidates for their willingness to participate in Needham government and for submitting their information to this Voter Guide.

The League of Women Voters: The League is a non-partisan, multi-issue, grassroots membership organization. The League neither supports nor opposes political parties or candidates. For more information about LWVN membership and activities visit our website at www.lwv-needham.org.

Voting in the Needham Annual Election

Visit the League of Women Voters of Needham (LWVN) website (www.lwv-needham.org) for additional information on candidates, ballot question, and voting.

Voting Deadlines:

Last Day to register to vote in this election: Friday, March 29, 2024

Last Day to apply by mail for Absentee or Vote-by-Mail Ballot: Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 5pm

Last Day to apply in person for Absentee Ballot: Monday, April 8, 2024, 12pm (noon)

Early Vote by Mail/Absentee Voting: You must submit an application to receive a mail-in ballot. All completed early/absentee ballots must be received in the Town Clerk's office by the close of the polls on Election Day (April 9); please plan accordingly if you are mailing your application and/or ballot. Applications and instructions are available on the Town Clerk's website (www.needhamma.gov/townclerk) or by calling the Town Clerk's Office (781-455-7500 x 216).

Early Voting In Person: March 30 – April 5 at Needham Town Hall

Saturday, March 30: 10am-2pm

Monday, April 1 – Friday, April 5: 10am-2pm

Tuesday evening, April 2: 7-9pm

Election Day (April 9) Polling Hours: 7am–8pm

Don't know your precinct? Look it up at www.WhereDoIVoteMA.com.

Precincts A+B	The Center at the Heights	300 Hillside Avenue
Precincts C+D	Newman Elementary School Gymnasium	1155 Central Avenue
Precincts E+H	Needham Golf Club	49 Green Street
Precincts F+G	Rosemary Recreation Complex	178 Rosemary Street
Precincts I+J	Needham Town Hall, Powers Hall	1471 Highland Avenue

For more information, visit the Town Clerk's website at www.needhamma.gov/townclerk or contact the Town Clerk's office at 781-455-7500 x 216.

Write-ins: If you wish to vote for someone who is not listed on the ballot, you may do so by writing the name and address of a registered voter on the line titled "(Write-In)" provided for each office on the ballot after the list of candidates. Remember to fill in the oval next to the write-in line. For Town Meeting, write-ins must live in your precinct.

Rides to the polls: As a voter service to Needham residents, the LWVN will offer rides to the polls on Election Day. Call 781-343-1031 and leave a message to request a ride. Please call at least 24 hours in advance.

Townwide Candidates Voter Guide

This Voter Guide is also available on the LWVN website (www.lwv-needham.org). Information on Candidates Night (March 25), Ballot Question, and Town Meeting Member Voter Guide are also on the LWVN website.

Information contained in the Townwide Voter Guide: The LWVN asked candidates for townwide office to list their qualifications for office (300 character limit) and their most important goal if elected or re-elected (500 character limit). For the two contested offices, Select Board and Needham Housing Authority, candidates were asked additional questions. The information from candidates is printed directly as written by each candidate. Candidates' names are printed in the order in which they appear on the ballot.

* Indicates a candidate for re-election

Select Board – 3 years/vote for 2



Kevin J. Keane*

88 Lexington Avenue
votekevinkeane@gmail.com
www.electkevinkeane.com

What are your qualifications for office: I was elected to the Board in December 2021 and now serve as vice-chair. Over the past two years, I have learned a great deal about town government and have helped notch a number of wins for Needham. I believe I bring the best of qualifications: I am collaborative, level-headed, and experienced.

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if re-elected: One goal? That's impossible; the Select Board moves on so many fronts. But if I must pick one, I would say climate action. And under the umbrella of climate action, I want to tackle stormwater controls, implement measures from the Needham Climate Action Plan Committee, find an elegant solution to connect the rail trail to Chestnut St., develop the rail trail to Newton, undertake a tree summit, and support our Sustainability Manager's efforts to secure environmental grants for the town.

What are the biggest challenges facing the town: Needham faces several challenges (Pollard and Mitchell rebuilding projects, funding the Route 128 sewer interceptor, and the Needham Housing Authority Linden-Chambers project), but the devastating August 8th rainstorm made it clear that Needham needs to prioritize climate resiliency. Increased weather volatility means short, high-intensity rain events that overwhelm our neighborhoods. The town must focus on stormwater management and work diligently toward a carbon-free future.

As a Select Board member, what would you do to maintain and improve the vitality of businesses in Needham: This is a great topic: the town is currently working on a redesign of Great Plain Ave in the Center. Presently, that area embodies the 1950's vehicle-centric mindset. That doesn't work for Needham, and businesses are hurting because of it. The downtown should be redesigned so it is a pedestrian-friendly destination that is vibrant, charming, and safe. This redesign will stimulate economic development, which will require bold thinking commensurate with this once-in-a-lifetime transformation.

What are the three main ways you would look to improve housing options in Needham: We must rebuild the Needham Housing Authority's Linden-Chambers St properties. Second, the state's "MBTA Law" gives us the opportunity to reinvigorate our downtown areas with some multi-family housing, while respecting the quiet residential quality of our neighborhoods. Third, we need options for empty-nesters to downsize (and the MBTA Law will help with this). And I would add a fourth: we need to address over-housing. The phenomenon of knock-downs is dichotomizing the town.

When considering the town's annual operating budget, what factors would guide you in making tradeoffs among competing funding priorities: My priorities are: Police, Fire, and Department of Public Works (DPW). My guide in making tradeoffs is a document called the "Fiscal Year Department Spending Requests". This annual 389 page document is the Rosetta Stone of town departments. It provides data and a narrative from town directors about new opportunities, best practices, residents' interests, and shifting demands. It provides critical information we need to weigh our options.

How should the Select Board support implementation of the recommended actions in the Needham Climate Action Roadmap: With gusto. I am proud to serve on the Needham Climate Action Plan Committee. CAPC has been very nimble over the past two years in identifying opportunities, and the Select Board has moved on those opportunities effectively. Municipal Electrical Aggregation, a Sustainability Manager, and Specialized Building Code have been important steps. Coming up are solar canopy zoning, adoption of an Electric Vehicle-first policy for town vehicles, a tree summit, and flood resiliency.



Kristina L. (Tina) Burgos

31 Fairview Road

262-951-0985

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www.tinaforneedham.com

What are your qualifications for office: My service as chair of the Needham Human Rights Committee and a member of the REAL Coalition in the Needham Public Schools, the Needham Resilience Network and Council of Economic Advisors stems from my desire to listen to and learn from all residents and bring people together around town issues.

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if elected: My goal is to continue to bolster our diverse and vibrant town. I will continue working toward greater inclusivity by ensuring we understand all perspectives. We need to maintain open and respectful communication to understand our array of challenges and try to find the best solutions for everyone. As a woman of color, I believe I provide an important and unique perspective that takes into consideration residents who may feel marginalized. Representation matters because it strengthens community.

What are the biggest challenges facing the town: Housing affordability is a critical issue we must address. Young families, seniors, low-income residents, and the invisible middle class each face their own set of issues that need to be thoughtfully addressed. Second is climate change. We need to find ways in which we can create a more environmentally sustainable Needham. Finally, we need to explore ways to increase economic development to attract and retain a diverse mix of business. This will boost our vitality and support Needham as a whole.

As a Select Board member, what would you do to maintain and improve the vitality of businesses in Needham: Economic vitality is directly linked to housing. I would encourage more mixed use and apartment development in retail centers, increasing walkability, a vibrant streetscape and access to public transportation. I also want to provide educational tools for small businesses, potentially through state and federal programs, to offer training around planning, financial management and technology. I would also collaborate with the Office of Economic Development to creatively market Needham's offerings.

What are the three main ways you would look to improve housing options in Needham: I support the Housing Needham Committee's MBTA Communities Act recommendations. We should zone for market affordable inclusionary multifamily housing near rail stations. I advocate for rebuilding, rehabilitating, and adding units to NHA subsidized developments, including Linden Chambers. I would also seek zoning approvals and town agency guidance, leverage CPA funding, and seek state and federal advocacy.

When considering the town's annual operating budget, what factors would guide you in making tradeoffs among competing funding priorities: Fiscally responsible progress is key. We need to exercise financial discipline to maintain a

balanced budget. I maintain economic health in my own small business by planning for both immediate needs and anticipating future situations and challenges. In order for Needham to successfully move forward, we must find the balance between progress and spending. We will need to have thoughtful, inclusive conversations about how we can best serve current and future needs without overburdening residents.

How should the Select Board support implementation of the recommended actions in the Needham Climate Action Roadmap: Climate change is a growing threat. We are experiencing warmer temperatures, increased drought, and severe rainfall. Locally, we need to support state, national and international efforts, and address what we can control. I support Needham’s commitment to reducing fossil fuel emissions. By following the Climate Action Roadmap, the Select Board will find ways to reduce the use of fossil fuels, focusing on all-electric whenever possible.



Joshua W. Levy

1606 Great Plain Avenue
781-343-1242
SelectJoshuaLevy@gmail.com
www.SelectJoshuaLevy.com

What are your qualifications for office:

- Town Meeting member (13 years)
- Finance Committee member (6 years) and past chair
- Member of Housing Needham (HONE) Advisory Group responsible for recommending multi-family zoning in compliance with MBTA Communities Law
- Member of working group to study Pollard and Mitchell renovation options

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if elected: My most important goal is to be responsive to residents’ questions, desires, and concerns and to ensure that the diverse range of perspectives among Needham residents is represented on the Select Board. This commitment to responsiveness and representation can take many forms, including answering questions, helping residents navigate various town departments, crafting policy to address recurring issues, or raising public awareness of proposals impacting Needham. Serving town residents is my goal.

What are the biggest challenges facing the town:

- To increase the supply and variety of housing so that Needham is more accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds
- To finance reconstruction of the Pollard and Mitchell school buildings in a timely and cost-effective manner
- To improve walking and biking accessibility while reducing motor vehicle collisions
- To improve drainage infrastructure and reduce the impact of frequent flooding, while also protecting our environment
- To ensure that all residents feel welcome, safe, and appreciated

As a Select Board member, what would you do to maintain and improve the vitality of businesses in Needham: The success of our commercial centers – both in Needham Center and Needham Heights – relies on these centers being destinations more than areas to pass through. Needham can facilitate this by upgrading the streetscape to invite more foot traffic and by hosting “Concerts on the Common” to make our centers community gathering places. These initiatives aim to invite a wider variety of establishments catering to all ages and creating places where people want to spend time popping into shops.

What are the three main ways you would look to improve housing options in Needham: I want to increase the supply and variety of housing so that Needham is more accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. As a member of the Housing Needham (HONE) Advisory Group, I am working to recommend zoning to allow for more multi-family housing within a half-mile of our train stations. Second, I want to explore ways to incentivize construction of smaller (and more affordable) homes. Third, I want to protect and enhance the low-income housing provided by the Needham Housing Authority.

When considering the town's annual operating budget, what factors would guide you in making tradeoffs among competing funding priorities: The Select Board oversees department funding requests and the Town Manager's budget recommendation, all of which inform the Finance Committee's proposed budget submitted to Town Meeting. Funding for new programs should be prioritized according to their necessity, urgency, and impact. In addition, the Select Board should periodically review budgeted but unspent funds that could be used elsewhere. Lastly, the budget is a value statement that should always reflect the values of Needham residents.

How should the Select Board support implementation of the recommended actions in the Needham Climate Action Roadmap: The Select Board must create policies to reduce energy consumption of town buildings and vehicles in order to achieve Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions. Priorities include Energy Conservation (limit energy use while buildings are closed to the public and limit idling of town vehicles), Energy Efficiency (install energy efficient equipment wherever possible), and Renewable Energy Sources (phase out fossil fuel use and negotiate Community Energy Aggregation for green and inexpensive electricity).

Town Clerk – 1 year/vote for 1



Louise L. Miller
5 North Hill Avenue

What are your qualifications for office: I am an attorney who has spent the last 15 years in municipal administration. During COVID, as Town Administrator in Wayland, I faced a Town Clerk vacancy. I worked closely with Town staff and Town Counsel to oversee a successful town election, including a new Town Clerk.

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if elected: An initial goal is to update the website for information and broken links, and to work on expanding web-based notifications. Other goals will follow from what I learn from

Tedi Eaton, who has been an incredible Town Clerk.

Board of Assessors - 3 Years/vote for 1



Michael A. Diener
30 Kenney Street

What are your qualifications for office: I have been a town meeting member for 25 years and I am well-prepared on the issues that arise. I will be learning more about assessing specifically through a course that is available and preparation.

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if elected: Provide reasonable oversight and consider ideas for improvement in the assessing process. In the capacity of deciding on abatements and other payment modifications, to follow the law and fairly balance the interests of taxpayers and the town.

School Committee – 3 years/vote for 2



Elizabeth Anne (Liz) Lee*

42 Blacksmith Drive
slizzi@yahoo.com

What are your qualifications for office: I am passionate about education and have worked as a classroom teacher, taught engaging engineering and science in K-8, work at Lesley University as adjunct faculty in Education and supervised student teachers. Lastly, I also work with schools and other groups to center their practices on equity.

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if re-elected:

If re-elected, three areas stand out. 1. School Buildings - Guiding school rebuilding projects (pollard/mitchell) 2. Communication - Continuing to bridge gaps in communication among educational stakeholders and working to make sure all voices are heard, and 3. Equity in Education - supporting the district in their work centering programming on equity and using data to make informed decisions in order to meet the needs of all learners.



Michael E. O'Brien*

1600 Great Plain Avenue
meobrien02492@gmail.com
www.mikeforneedham.com

What are your qualifications for office: I am a parent with two children in Needham Public Schools, serve on the School Committee, and a liaison to other town boards. I am also a Town Meeting Member, Newman PTC Board Member, Exchange Club member, and coach in Needham youth sports. I work at Bentley University and hold business degrees.

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if re-elected: Continue to promote and advocate for the district's strategic initiatives aligned with the Portrait of a Needham Graduate's future-focused and student-driven ideas. Prioritize achieving equity in learning outcomes and ensure universal access to educational resources. Contribute to the implementation of the School Facilities Master Plan by renovating Pollard Middle School and constructing a new Mitchell Elementary School, fostering an inclusive and conducive learning environment for all.

Trustee of Memorial Park/Veteran – 3 years/vote for 1



Jason T. (Jay) Kravetz

8 Jayne Road

What are your qualifications for office: Veteran who resides in Needham

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if elected: I like to support the Veteran community in anyway I can. I am currently the Caretaker of the Veterans Cemetery and the Coordinator of Ceremonies for the town. I see this new position as just another avenue to support Needham's veterans.

Trustee of Memorial Park/Non-Veteran – 3 years/vote for 1



William R. (Bill) Dermody (appointed incumbent)

12 Concord Street

What are your qualifications for office: I have been a Trustee for the past two years and was previously a Trustee in the earlier 2000s.

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if re-elected: When I am elected I hope to make more people aware of the meeting space in the Memorial Park Building. Its a great space.

Trustee of Needham Public Library – 3 years/vote for 2



Jay M. Fialkov*

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jay_fialkov@wgbh.org

<https://college.berklee.edu/people/jay-fialkov>

What are your qualifications for office: Long-time Needham resident - I value greatly all the Library offers to our town. Current Chair of the Library's Board of Trustees. Deputy General Counsel, GBH (Boston's public broadcaster) - I serve as lawyer/advisor to senior executives and producers. Professor, Berklee College of Music.

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if re-elected: The Library is hiring a new Library Director, and I look forward to working with my fellow Trustees, Library staff and town representatives to help ensure a smooth leadership transition. Working together, we will pursue the many goals described in the Library's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan (and measure our success in achieving these goals), and also follow-up on plans to update and renovate parts of the Library as proposed in the town's recent Library Space Utilization Study.



Joshua Adam Small

27 Richard Road

What are your qualifications for office: I am a long time Needham resident and have been a user and supporter of the library for many years.

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if elected: My goal is to continue to support and grow the great institution that is the Needham public library. I look forward to helping it move forward with its continued innovation

Board of Health – 3 years/vote for 2



Robert A. Partridge*

38 Sutton Road

What are your qualifications for office: Member of the Needham Board of Health for 5 years. Practicing ER doctor for 35 years, with an intimate understanding of public health issues that affect people of all ages. Needham resident/parent for 17 years with 3 children who went through the Needham school system.

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if re-elected:

My most important goal for the Board of Health is to promote and preserve public health initiatives that benefit all Needham residents. Specifically, I plan to work with the other Board members and the Health Department to apply science-driven education, prevention, and regulatory efforts to improve community health. Areas of focus include timely issues such as mental health, smoking/vaping, substance abuse, health care access, senior health, environmental health, and teen safety.



Aarti Sawart-Basak

1 Paul Revere Road

www.linkedin.com/in/aarti-sawant-0197739

What are your qualifications for office: Aarti is a clinical pharmacologist at AstraZeneca and adjunct faculty at the University of Arizona. Aarti received her BSc. and MS from Mumbai University and Ph.D from University of Illinois (UIC), College of Pharmacy.

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if elected:

During her industry tenure Aarti has led cross-functional teams on early research and development programs and volunteers scientific societies and external scientific initiatives. Aarti plans to use her experiences to contribute to the goals of the Board and the Town Health Department.

Planning Board - 5 Years/vote for 1



Justin D. McCullen

22 Miller Street

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jmccullen@gmail.com

What are your qualifications for office: Planning Board / 5 Years I know how to work within a team and understand that while we may not agree on everything, it is important not to sacrifice meaningful progress in the face of differing opinions. Advancement through cooperation and compromise is, in my experience, incredibly effective at enacting positive change.

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if elected: I

look forward to bringing town-wide comprehensive planning back to the top of the list for the planning board. My goal is to bring robust short and long-term planning skills to the board while ensuring that meaningful public and stakeholder engagement drives the board's direction. My approach to planning centers on listening to impacted groups and building consensus. I believe in transparency and accountability in elected boards, and this can only be ensured by following a public process.

Needham Housing Authority – 5 years/vote for 1



Ross M. Donald

25 Chambers Street, Unit H

339-225-2620

ross.m.donald@gmail.com

<https://lindenletter.town.news/>

What are your qualifications for office: Public Policy - Suffolk, Education - Framingham, Building - Harvard Graduate School of Design, Landscape Architecture - Boston Architectural Center. community organizing, research/development, fund-raising, conference planning, housing authorities, contracts w/ state/Federal agencies/Departments.

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if elected: The goal is to save public housing in Needham. State housing is the only permanent affordable housing in MA. Residents want and deserve a peaceful stable high quality of life that can be met with a nurturing environment of plants, animals, and children. Changes in personnel have produced inconsistent, erratic, and upsetting results for tenants. The #1 problem is the condition of the property, inside and outside. #2 The threat of redevelopment. The sense is that NHA cannot be trusted.

How can you contribute to the success of the NHA Board: The success of the NHA Board, as a Landlord, depends on the services provided. Tenants are positioned to provide feedback. The residents at Linden/Chambers are restarting the moribund Local Tenants Organization (LTO.) Elections are Tuesday April 2, 2024. The role of an LTO is to see and realize the benefits in working with the NHA. Tenants need counseling, not an authoritarian bureaucracy with complaint processes, grievance procedures, and sham evictions meant to intimidate and punish

What are your views on NHA's Preservation and Redevelopment Initiative: My perspective is that PRI, which started as Modernization (MRI) is too much of a shifting amalgam of interdependent but separate projects, requiring changes in zoning, ownership, conversions, and funding. This plan requires each domino to fall into place in a timely manner. The past master plans are outdated. NRA needs post pandemic guidelines, for common areas and private outdoor space (e.g. balconies) in every unit. Also, PRI needs to be climate responsive, but not, as an after thought.

How can interested Needham residents be better informed about and support the work of the NHA: Needham residents can be better informed by subscribing to receive the NHA and other Board packets and notifications from Needham's Town Hall website. They can make friends with the residents of public housing. Also, they can read the local news outlets and go to meetings. ...or they can read The Linden Letter at <https://lindenletter.town.news/>

What services and programs do you feel are the most beneficial to Needham Housing Authority residents? What changes, if any, would you suggest: The most beneficial services and programs to NHA residents are provided by the established groups, e.g. Community Council, food programs, thrift shop, community farm, garden clubs, Center at the Heights, churches, Town Government, Health Department, Exchange Club, etc. There could be better communication and coordination with NHA. Considering the history and performance of NHA, the residents must consider putting NHA into receivership to appoint a conservator to oversee Tenant run housing.



James D. (Jim) Flanagan

863 Webster Street
jimdfanagan@gmail.com

What are your qualifications for office: Town Meeting Member G, Needham Housing Coalition Steering Committee, 17 yr Needham resident, 30+ years of private and public sector management experience, MBA in Finance and Marketing, Former Member-Chicago Board of Education, Former Treasurer-TECCA Board, Former Commercial Real Estate Lender

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if elected:

Support completion of the Preservation and Redevelop Initiative (PRI) on time and on/under budget with as little construction impact on current residents as possible. In partnership with the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA), Needham has the opportunity to replace/modernize 288 current units and add up to 180 new units by leveraging outside financing to generate a 10X+ return on local investment. Successful completion is critical to NHA's future viability.

How can you contribute to the success of the NHA Board: I have 20+ years of experience serving on or reporting to boards. I have seen boards function well and otherwise. I can complement the strengths of current board members in support of the NHA vision, mission, and goals. I know how to collectively hold NHA leadership accountable and support them - without interfering or micromanaging. I will draw on my experience in finance, project management, operations, and advocacy.

What are your views on NHA's Preservation and Redevelopment Initiative: The PRI is urgently necessary as the properties have been critically underfunded for decades. Like any project, the PRI comes with some risk and uncertainty. That's why NHA has partnered with the Cambridge Housing Authority. CHA has successfully navigated many similar financing and development initiatives. So, the greater risk is delaying capital improvements as the properties slide further into obsolescence with poor accessibility, compounding maintenance issues, and increasing safety concerns.

How can interested Needham residents be better informed about and support the work of the NHA: Needham residents can access information that the Town and NHA provide via the Observer, Needham Channel News, and L/C website (<https://linden chambers-needham.com/home>.) Check <https://www.needhamma.gov/calendar.aspx> for notice of open meetings and packages. The outreach and communications on the PRI have been strong, and I'll help sustain them. And email me at jimdfanagan@gmail.com. I find great joy and purpose in engaging with the NHA residents and their allies. Please join us!

What services and programs do you feel are the most beneficial to Needham Housing Authority residents? What changes, if any, would you suggest: The most essential service is a safe and comfortable living environment with maintenance addressed promptly. The PRI is the game changer there. In addition, work order systems must be accessible with systemic accountability. Beyond that, I'll study surveys and other resident input on needs. I know that does not sound exciting, but I've found that listening carefully to needs, and then helping NHA leadership match to programs, is better than guessing and proposing.

Commissioner of Trust Funds – 3 years/vote for 1



Julia Satti Cosentino

265 Great Plain Avenue

What are your qualifications for office: For nearly 34 years, I have been a trusts and estates attorney at a Boston law firm. I advise clients on best practices in the operation of charitable trusts, family foundations, and nonprofit organizations. In addition, I am a trustee or director of numerous private trusts and family foundations.

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if elected: My most important goal, if elected as a Commissioner of Trust Funds, is twofold: preserving and growing the trust funds in a prudent way, and faithfully adhering to

the intent of the donor of each fund when considering requests for distributions from the funds. I also hope to have opportunities, working alongside the other Commissioners of Trust Funds, to share stories of the good works supported by the various trust funds that our neighbors have established over the years.

Park and Recreation Commission - 3 Years/vote for 2



Christopher J. (Chris) Gerstel*

184 Maple Street

508-816-6345

cgerstel01@gmail.com

What are your qualifications for office: I have been a park and recreation commissioner for the past 9 years and served as the chairman numerous times. I have help get many projects completed for the department which have included the Rosemary Recreation Complex and most recently the Mcleod Field Renovation.

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if re-elected: I would like to see all the projects we have been working on come to completion and also be kept up to the standards of which they were built and make sure they are being used for not only 1 group but for many user groups and the community. I would also like for people to know which projects were done and how they were completed.



Dina Hannigan*

24 Brookside Road

What are your qualifications for office: Having served on the commission for the past three years, I bring a wealth of experience to the table. Additionally I am dedicated to assisting and giving back to my community, and will continue to do so.

What do you see as the most important goal you would like to achieve if re-elected: In terms of recreation, my utmost priority is to ensure that all demographics including the younger and older populations, are adequately represented within Needham. During my term I aim to ensure that this is done with fairness and transparency.

Town Meeting Member Candidates

Needham Town Meeting Members are elected within each of the 10 precincts. There are 24 Town Meeting Members per precinct, elected to 3-year terms. In 2024 each precinct has eight available seats, with an additional seat in precinct B due to a vacancy. Don't know your precinct? Look it up at www.WhereDoIVoteMA.com.

Candidates for Town Meeting Member were asked to respond to the following question in 300 characters or less: What are the 3 highest priority issues facing the town? Responses are available at the Town Meeting Voter Guide at www.lwv-needham.org.

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS for three years

VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN EIGHT PER PRECINCT, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED BELOW.

PRECINCT A

LANCE R. BROWN, 18 Webster Street (Candidate for re-election)
EMILY ROSE COOPER, 56 Lee Road (Candidate for re-election)
MARY E. KEANE-HAZZARD, 198 Webster Street (Candidate for re-election)
BRIAN M. MACKINTOSH, 50 John Street (Candidate for re-election)
KAREN B. SHAPIRO, 48 Taylor Street (Candidate for re-election)
IRWIN SILVERSTEIN, 44 Reservoir Avenue (Candidate for re-election)
MICHAEL A. COOPER, 56 Lee Road
PRERNA BHARGAVA SALUJA, 59 Ardmore Road

PRECINCT B

ABBY B. BERNSTEIN, 4 Jarvis Circle (Candidate for re-election)
JOAN M. DAYA-DALY, 28 Sunset Road (Candidate for re-election)
ELIZABETH J. GRIMES, 12 Clarke Road (Candidate for re-election)
CLIFFORD OWEN HAYDEN, 12 Crescent Road (Candidate for re-election)
ERIC G. PRESSMAN, 33 Andrea Circle (Candidate for re-election)
GERALD C. ROVNER, 48 Cynthia Road (Candidate for re-election)
SARAH ANN TORAN, 945 Central Avenue (Candidate for re-election)
THOMAS CHIN, 865 Central Avenue, J305
BRIAN WAYNE J. LeMAY, 11 Nardone Road

Candidate for one year / VOTE FOR ONE

GILBERT W. COX JR., 865 Central Avenue, G402

PRECINCT C

PETER A. ALPERT, 108 Locust Lane (Candidate for re-election)
BRIAN JAMES COLLINS, 120 Locust Lane (Candidate for re-election)
R. CYNTHIA LANDAU, 57 Pine Street (Candidate for re-election)

SUSAN B. NECKES, 36 Gay Street (Candidate for re-election)
EDWARD M. QUINLAN, 100 Gay Street (Candidate for re-election)
REBECCA WABER, 15 Powder House Circle (Candidate for re-election)
LISA W. ZAPPALA, 379 Charles River Street (Candidate for re-election)
THEODORA K. EATON, 51 Bonwood Road

PRECINCT D

JOSEPH ABRUZESE, 30 Bridle Trail Road (Candidate for re-election)
JANET K. BAUM, 1 Southfield Court (Candidate for re-election)
KATHRYN L. D'ADDESIO, 110 Linden Street (Candidate for re-election)
DOROTHY H. DeSIMONE, 40 Linden Street (Candidate for re-election)
JOSEPH J. LEGHORN, 40 Linden Street (Candidate for re-election)
STEVEN E. MOCK, 268 Marked Tree Road (Candidate for re-election)
CAROL L. B. PATEY, 32 Linden Street (Candidate for re-election)
ROSS M. DONALD, 25 Chambers Street, Unit H (Candidate for re-election)
ERHARDT GRAEFF, 207 Maple Street

PRECINCT E

EDWARD V. COSGROVE III, 17 Laurel Drive (Candidate for re-election)
AMY HURLEY, 130 South Street (Candidate for re-election)
KEITH M. LaFACE, 504 Chestnut Street (Candidate for re-election)
WILLIAM J. PAULSON, 111 Sutton Road (Candidate for re-election)
PAUL A. SIEGENTHALER, 1049 Webster Street (Candidate for re-election)
ANDREA J. WIZER, 7 Emerson Road (Candidate for re-election)
CYNTHIA J. WOLFE, 191 Fox Hill Road (Candidate for re-election)
MARGARET G. MURPHY, 88 Edgewater Drive
NORDO NISSI IV, 450 Chestnut Street
VICTOR PAUL SEIDEL, 56 Green Street

PRECINCT F

RICHARD W. DAVIS, 233 Nehoiden Street (Candidate for re-election)
STEPHEN L. DORNBUSCH, 51 Damon Road (Candidate for re-election)
ROCHELLE E. GOLDIN, 68 Warren Street (Candidate for re-election)
LESLIE A. KALISH, 48 Lake Drive (Candidate for re-election)
ELIZABETH ANNE LEE, 42 Blacksmith Drive (Candidate for re-election)
JOSEPH McCABE, 93 Garden Street (Candidate for re-election)
ADAM S. ZAFF, 134 Damon Road (Candidate for re-election)
PATRICK A. GATTO (*This candidate has announced his withdrawal from the Town Meeting Member race.*)

JEFFREY D. HELLER, 1092 Central Avenue
JACOB BUCK SHAPIRO, 68 Kingsbury Street
SARAH K. WOODS, 855 Great Plain Avenue

PRECINCT G

RICHARD DEMEIS, 126 Powers Street (Candidate for re-election)
ABIGAIL JONES HAYS, 54 Coolidge Avenue (Candidate for re-election)
SUSAN B. McGARVEY, 66 Upland Road (Candidate for re-election)
ALISA M. SKATRUD, 49 Sargent Street (Candidate for re-election)
KAREN L. WALKER, 13 Webster Park (Candidate for re-election)
PAUL O'CONNOR, 108 Wilshire Park
STEPHEN PIELA, 10 Webster Park
JAMES MARTIN VAN DYK, 535 Great Plain Avenue
DESIREE H. WALSH, 28 Eaton Road

PRECINCT H

ILAN BARZILAY, 77 Thornton Road (Candidate for re-election)
JULIA SATTI COSENTINO, 265 Great Plain Avenue (Candidate for re-election)
MICHAEL A. DIENER, 30 Kenney Street (Candidate for re-election)
KAREN ECKSTEIN HAN, 34 Grosvenor Road (Candidate for re-election)
KIMBERLY KNICKLE-TIERNEY, 206 Broad Meadow Road (Candidate for re-election)
NANCY E. MCCARTHY, 29 Sterling Road (Candidate for re-election)
KEVIN F. TIERNEY, 206 Broad Meadow Road (Candidate for re-election)
RICHARD A. ZIMBONE, 10 Woodbury Drive (Candidate for re-election)
DONNA L. MEYER, 70 Whittier Road
CATHERINE CHARLY NANDA, 38 Fuller Road

PRECINCT I

LISA CHERBULIEZ, 17 Lindbergh Avenue (Candidate for re-election)
DAVID J. ECSEDY, 20 Holland Terrace (Candidate for re-election)
DAVID J. ESCALANTE, 103 Woodledge Road (Candidate for re-election)
JILL C. KAHN-BOESEL, 44 Brookline Street (Candidate for re-election)
JOSEPH S. MATTHEWS, 31 Rosemary Street (Candidate for re-election)
ANNE W. WEINSTEIN, 3 Carey Road (Candidate for re-election)
REBECCA A. YOUNG, 1072 Highland Avenue (Candidate for re-election)
HENRIETTA SOTO CURLEY, 61 Rybury Hillway
WILLIAM D. MAHONEY, 349 Brookline Street
JENNIFER R. MEYERHARDT, 102 Birds Hill Avenue

MAGDA K. SCHMALZ, 32 Hoover Road

MOLLY E. SILVERBERG, 55 Rybury Hillway

PRECINCT J

ROBERT E. DEUTSCH, 14 Highview Street (Candidate for re-election)

ELIZABETH NICOLE KAPONYA, 27 Highland Terrace (Candidate for re-election)

GEORGE F. KENT, 184 Richdale Road (Candidate for re-election)

MICHAEL M. MATHIAS, 354 Webster Street (Candidate for re-election)

CHRISTINE S. McCOURT, 181 Richdale Road (Candidate for re-election)

DONNA M. MULLIN, 131 Paul Revere Road (Candidate for re-election)

DEBRA A. WHITNEY, 36 Hunting Road (Candidate for re-election)

MARSHALL S. DAVIS, 34 Concord Street

FRANCIS A. FLYNN, 47 Mellen Street

AARTI SAWART-BASAK, 1 Paul Revere Road

GILAD SKOLNICK, 33 Park Avenue

JONATHAN D. TRAUB, 12 Alfreton Road

Ballot Question

There will be one question on the April 9, 2024, Town Election ballot.

Question: Shall the Town of Needham revoke its acceptance of Chapter 31 of the General Laws relative to the Fire Department, and thereby remove the Fire Department from Civil Service? YES or NO

A yes vote would remove the members of the Fire Department from civil service and provide local control over the recruitment and promotion of personnel.

A no vote would result in no change to the civil service status of the Fire Department and the recruitment and promotion of personnel would remain under state regulation and control.

Complete information prepared by the Town and a recording of *Focus on the 2024 Needham Ballot Question* with the Fire Chief and Select Board Chair are available under "Needham Ballot Question 2024" on www.lwv-needham.org.