

2022 Select Board Candidates

Two to be elected for three years

Anthea Brady

Precinct 1

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Community Activities

- Personnel Board, Town of Winchester
- Admissions Co-Chair, A Better Chance Winchester
- Secretary, Family Action Network
- Membership Co-Chair, Family Action Network

Candidate Statement

Thank you for taking the time to learn about candidates for Winchester's Select Board. I am running for Select Board to raise the voices of Winchester's residents who are often quiet or under-represented. Winchester, along with the rest of the country, faced extreme challenges in the past two years, and we need to work together as a Select Board and town to help our residents recover. This includes using our ARPA funding, working collaboratively with other boards for the health of the town, and supporting our most vulnerable residents.

I understand that the desire to make change happen and the process to do so often have different timelines, but that doesn't stop progress from happening. My professional experience with federal and state agencies, and my background in public policy, built my knowledge of working with public bodies. I understand deeply the importance of communication and transparency from public organizations and will work with the other members to increase the town's confidence in the Select Board. I am passionate about equity and making sure that decisions made take into account all stakeholders and all potential outcomes, including balancing costs or profits with public good. Through my work, I have experience in public sector bid and proposal processes and understand the guidelines for managing and responding to procurements.

Winchester is a well-managed and effectively staffed town government, with a budget that many towns would envy. We need to continue to balance town initiatives such as traffic safety and parking, ensure that our most vulnerable residents are supported, and manage budgets for the financial health of the town.

There are several pressing issues facing Winchester and the Select Board. Affordable housing and real estate is the most prominent, as we have limited land available for development and empty lots and construction are very visible.

That said, traffic safety and a lack of transportation options need to be studied across town, allowing us to implement changes that will make our roads safer for walkers, bikers, and drivers.

We likely will face overrides in the upcoming years for rebuilding the Lynch and Muraco schools; both overrides need to be passed to bring the quality of school buildings in line with our other elementary schools. We also need to include parks and recreational spaces in planning, and increase the safe outdoor spaces frequented by children and families.

Like everyone, pandemic recovery for residents and business owners is critical and we cannot leave anyone behind as we come out of the past two years.

Much of this will fall on the shoulders of a new town manager, whose selection will fall to the Select Board for a well-managed, transparent process.

Nearly all of these issues boil down to equity - an issue I will be a passionate voice about. Leaders in town need to consider how each decision affects all residents, not just the loudest voices or the squeakiest wheels, but people such as seniors, children, people with lower incomes, and minority residents.

I believe the Select Board has taken the appropriate role to date in moving forward affordable housing in Winchester. The Select Board as a proponent of Town Meeting Warrant Articles on affordable housing is critical, and the management and purchase of land designated for affordable housing falls most appropriately under the Select Board. We can do more, however. The Select Board needs to take ownership of communication to ensure that Town Meeting decisions and town procurement activities are not derailed by special interest groups. Working collaboratively, the Select Board can creatively increase affordable housing in town to increase the cultural and economic diversity in Winchester.

As a member of the Select Board, I hope to help lead the town through the critical issues of the next few years, and to do so with a sensitivity to the concerns of all of Winchester's residents. I hope to have your vote on March 19th and to listen to your needs in the coming years.

John Fallon

Precinct 3

votejohnfallon@gmail.com

Community Activities

Over the past thirty years I've held the following volunteer positions in Winchester:

- President of Winchester Swim & Tennis Club
- Cub Scout Leader
- Winchester Youth Soccer Coach
- Member of Winchester Finance Committee
- Member of Winchester Board of Assessors

Candidate Statement

What skills and experience would you bring to the Select Board?

Every resident and employee deserves to be respected and heard. Listening and questioning are two key skills that I use each day to be an effective manager. My professional background in engineering and real estate allows me to understand the complexities of constructing a school or undertaking a significant infrastructure project. For the past twenty-five years, I have provided risk management advice to some of the largest cities and authorities in Massachusetts. I have been a member of the Winchester Finance Committee for three years the Winchester Board of Assessors for six years. I possess the management, leadership, technical and problem-solving skills required to be a contributing member of Winchester's Select Board.

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

Maintenance of scholastic excellence, fiscal balance, affordable housing and growth of a vibrant downtown are the issues I believe are most important.

Of those important issues, which one do you feel most passionate about, and what is your position on that issue?

A superior school system provides many benefits to a community. I have a keen interest in seeing the schools receive the funding they need in order to deliver the services our community expects.

What do you think the role should be for the Select Board in the development of affordable housing in Winchester?

Affordable Housing is an issue that Winchester continues to work to improve. There are many stakeholders involved in the affordable housing development process so it can be a challenge to reach a consensus. The average sale price of a home in Winchester is \$1.25M, and there is limited land to develop. These are but a few of the hurdles that we face as a community to develop more affordable housing. The Select Board working in a transparent process with the public and other invested groups such as the Housing Partnership Board can guide the Town as it strives to meet achievable affordable housing goals.

James A. Johnson III

Precinct 6

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Community Activities

Select Board Member, Citizen of Year, Town Meeting Member, Veterans Honor Roll Committee, Town Day Committee, Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, Founding Member of the EFPBC, Field Management Committee, Select Board Appointee of the Flood and Drainage Committee, Open Space & Recreation Committee, Wildwood Cemetery Committee, Housing Partnership Board, Local Business Man for over 49 years, lifelong resident of Winchester

Candidate Statement

What skills and experience would you bring to the Select Board

I will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience from being involved with town government for many years starting as a Town Meeting Member then becoming a Finance Committee Member, becoming involved in many groups and committee then being on elected to Select Board.

I was honor to be the 37th Citizen of the Year. I believe that with my knowledge, experience, dedication to hardwork, the use of common sense, the ability collaboration with all people to get thing done while respecting people and their opinion. I care about people and the effect decisions will have on their life. My goal is to make Winchester a better place to live for all.

What issues do you think are most important?

Strong Leadership

Follow the Town Charter

Short and long term Financial Planning and Management

Short and long term. management issues hire Town Manger, set goal and Objective for key employee, evaluation of key employee, make evaluation Known to the citizens
Well planned affordable housing
Town Wide Traffic Improvements
Town wide construction project and the impact on our citizens
Center Business improvements
Continuation of School Building Projects (MSBA)
Capital improvements needs
Respect for all people

Of those important issues, which one do you feel most passionate about, and what is your position on that issue?

Following the Town of Winchester Charter is the most important issue for me. The Charter sets out guidelines as to how Winchester should be Manage. The role of a 5 member Select Board, Town Manger, Town Meeting etc. To read The Winchester Town Charter is interesting and Informative.

What do you think the role should be for the Select Board in the development of affordable housing in Winchester?

The Select Board should be a leader of the community. Affordable housing is an important issue in not just Winchester but the entire state. I am in favor of supporting friendly affordable housing project working with a developer and getting a fair deal for all. A developer who bypassed the Town 40 b does not have to work with the town. It is our responsibility to provide affordable housing for our citizens. The Select Board must be the leader on affordable housing matters.

Vincent Lawrence Dixon

Precinct 3

vincedixon99@yahoo.com

Community Activities

Decades of professional, and public service include: Member of Town of Winchester Finance Committee (2015-2019) – Swing vote For Full Kindergarten; as Historian, have delivered full presentations to the Winchester Historical Society, Rotary Club, Guide on Town Day Trolley.

Candidate Statement

What skills and experience would you bring to the Select Board?

Two neighborhood-friendly re-zonings in Cambridge, that limited excessive Manhattan-style development between Harvard, and Central Squares; Ten years service on Cambridge Anti-Poverty Agency (helping to save a 60+ employee, and \$1.1 Million agency); and lots more.

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

Dynamic Engagement In The Rule Of Law; A Quality Town Of The Twenty-First Century – Implementing The Master Plan; including Affordable Housing. Improving the best possible schools: Including Full Enrollment for Pre-School Programs; Professional Staff Training.

Of those important issues, which one do you feel most passionate about, and what is your position on that issue?

Dynamic Engagement In The Rule Of Law. – In following the structures of law, Constitutional, Statutory, and Regulatory; and ensuring continuing staff training, there is a stronger possibility of objective standards, for performing public services, and answering the needs of our people.

What do you think the role should be for the Select Board in the development of affordable housing in Winchester?

As a Coherent Consensus Task Force, with specific Winchester goals; building A Regional Housing Creation Coalition; taking leadership to push State Government to take a stronger role.