

Precinct 6 Town Meeting Candidates

Eight to be elected for 3 years, eight on the ballot

One to be elected for 1 year, one write-in candidate (Kristopher Galletta)

If no candidate profile is shown, the candidate did not submit a profile.

(* indicates incumbent)

Catherine Cote Tomey*

5nassau@comcast.net

Community Activities

Town Meeting Member (15+ years)

Winchester Girl Scouts - Adult Leader/Volunteer (20+ years)

St. Eulalia Parish – Various ministry and service roles (30+ years)

Support of /participation in various Town groups – Friends of Winchester Public Library, Wright-Locke Farm, WPS Parent/Teacher Associations

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

Town Finances – Operating and Capital Needs

Housing Affordability

Green and Sustainability Initiatives

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

Town Finances – During my time as a Town Meeting Member, I've had the opportunity to vote on annual budgets and numerous projects with financial implications. While I believe many officials are good stewards of the Town's financial resources, at times I feel that the information being presented might not represent the whole truth or is being spun to fit the desired narrative. I also sense that many leadership members assume that taxpayers will simply pass tax overrides as presented to them which I feel is unfair. I support the communication efforts of the Town whose goal will be to increase information on a variety of issues to our citizens, including financial matters. I think better information will improve everyone's understanding which in turn will drive more questions and accountability of all of us in Town. I hope better information and wider participation will result in a clearer picture of our finance resources, constraints and goals.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

The reputation of our school system continues to be the pride of our Town. My two daughters, as with all our children, have greatly benefited from the public education they received here.

The volunteer aspect of our town government always impresses me. While I at times find myself opposed to the positions of some volunteers, I stand in awe of their dedication and the countless hours that many of our citizens commit to serve on the various boards and committees that we have.

Since the demise of our local printed newspaper, it has been incredibly difficult to get factual reports on various issues at the local level. As discussed earlier, communication efforts from the Town will help to fill that void, even if coming from sources that can't always be unbiased.

The Town Meeting Communications Study Committee has recommended that a written communications plan be prepared and a town communications manager be appointed by FY2025 (https://www.winchester.us/DocumentCenter/View/9219/Communications-Study-Committee_Final-Report_Recommendations). Do you support both recommendations, even if they would involve adding a new full-time position (salary and benefits) to the town budget? If not, what alternative ideas do you suggest?

Again, I feel improved communication on municipal matters is greatly needed and I would support the addition of a paid communication manager to the Town's staff.

Patrick Matteson

Taylor Tinmouth

taylor@tinmouth.com

Community Activities

Family Action Network (FAN), Network for Social Justice, St. Eulalia's, youth sports

Candidate Statement

My husband, Leigh, and I live with our three children (ages 6, 4, and 1.5) in Precinct 6 near VO. After living in Boston and New York City, we chose to return to Winchester to raise our family in Leigh's hometown due to the positive experience he had growing up in this beautiful community. I am running for Town Meeting to help ensure continued representation for young families in town.

After graduating from Boston College in 2006, I spent 16 years working in research and consulting, including seven years (2015-2022) in the Social Impact and Sustainability practice at Boston Consulting Group. I left BCG and corporate life last summer to spend more time with my children and get involved in our local community.

In addition to cheering on our kids at their town sports and activities, my husband and I are members of St. Eulalia's Parish and the Network for Social Justice, and I serve on the FAN board of directors. I am also pursuing a Master of Social Work at Boston College, with a focus on health equity and community development, as I hope to devote the next chapter of my career to social impact work at the local level.

My professional experience taught me the importance of welcoming a broad variety of viewpoints and engaging all stakeholders when making decisions, and I will be steadfast in this approach if elected to Town Meeting. The challenges of the past three years have further highlighted the importance of working together, and I will support efforts to keep our families, friends, and neighbors thriving.

I am passionate about finding smart ways to expand Winchester's commercial tax base, increase our mixed-income housing stock, and prioritize short- and long-term environmental sustainability efforts. With a careful approach, these steps can be mutually reinforcing and benefit everyone in our community.

Richard Mucci*

Michael Bettencourt*

mbettencourt@winchester.us

Community Activities

Town Meeting Member (2014-Precinct 6), Select Board (2015), Housing Partnership Board, Affordable Housing Trust, League of Women Voters, Youth Basketball and Soccer Coach

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

I believe creating affordable housing, supporting our schools—including educators and providing a safe, healthy and connected environment for our seniors are most important for Winchester.

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

My background in service is advocacy for affordable housing. As the cost of living increases in Winchester I believe it's necessary to create affordable housing to maintain a diverse and inclusive community.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

I think Winchester is a highly engaged community that manages to leverage limited resources to produce great outcomes which support infrastructure, community activities, schools, and mental health. I think communication between stakeholder groups could be improved as our service can often be siloed limiting our efficiency and efficacy.

The Town Meeting Communications Study Committee has recommended that a written communications plan be prepared and a town communications manager be appointed by FY2025. Do you support both recommendations, even if they would involve adding a new full-time position (salary and benefits) to the town budget? If not, what alternative ideas do you suggest?

Sure. I think the Town will be facing a likely operating override in 2025 and this could be included in that budget. I would not advocate funding the position by cutting existing positions in the school and municipal budget to create a full time position in the current budget.

Robert E. Colt*

Philip A. Frattaroli

James A. Johnson, III*

Kristopher Galletta*

Kris.GallettaTM@gmail.com

Community Activities

Trustee, Winchester Affordable Housing Trust
Winchester youth soccer coach for my 7 and 10-year old girls' teams

Candidate Statement

What Winchester issues do you think are most important?

The most important issues for our town revolve around maintaining and building upon the factors that make Winchester such a wonderful place to live. I would describe these key areas of focus as:

- i) the continued support for our schools and educators to cement WPS as one of the top school systems in the state,
- ii) the advancement of a broad housing strategy that is respectful of the scale of a town like Winchester, and
- iii) maintaining fiscal discipline, including strengthening and broadening the commercial base in town to take pressure off residential property taxes

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

I am most passionate about housing issues in the community. We must execute upon a multi-pronged approach that allows for our residents, seniors and young people in particular, to remain a part of the town, while thoughtfully providing the levels of affordable housing required by the state. We have taken a number of steps in this direction in recent years and must continue to be proactive to defend against blunt instruments like unwanted 40B projects. This would entail small scale efforts such as the recent ADU by-law, programs to assist seniors to remain in their homes, and the advancement of well-located and thoughtful development.

My work on the relatively new Affordable Housing Trust established by the Town and my professional background in commercial and residential real estate investment nationally and across Massachusetts provide me with a perspective and skill set to be a positive contributor on these issues.

What does Winchester do well and what might be improved?

Over generations, Winchester has done well to maintain its position as an attractive suburban community in which to live and raise a family, driven by an excellent school system, a thriving transit-oriented downtown, and strong recreational and community resources.

We must continue to improve upon those traits for the broadest swath of residents. The combination of our residents – young and old, new and long-standing, across income profiles – is what gives our community dynamism. We cannot standstill, nor take these traits for granted – they must continue to be invested in and advanced.

The Town Meeting Communications Study Committee has recommended that a written communications plan be prepared and a town communications manager be appointed by FY2025. Do you support both recommendations, even if they would involve adding a new full-time position (salary and benefits) to the town budget? If not, what alternative ideas do you suggest?

I am supportive of the comprehensive and thoughtful recommendations from the Study Committee. Regular and clear communication from town officials, boards and town meeting members is crucial to an efficient and trusted town government. The lack of a broadly distributed town paper has made this more important than ever. The cacophony of social media is far from a suitable replacement.

Communication from and availability to town meeting members is of the utmost importance. I invite potential voters to contact me directly at Kris.GallettaTM@gmail.com