

Precinct 8 Town Meeting Candidates

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

One to be elected for 1 year, two on the ballot (L. Conti and C. Lowenstein)

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

(* indicates incumbent)

Norman Doucette, Jr.*

n_doucette@msn.com

Community Activities

Town Day Committee Member, Jumelage, Inc Treasurer, Woburn Breakfast Lions Club Member, WinCam Member, Winchester Historical Society Member, Retired Winchester Transfer Station Operator/Recycling Coordinator

Candidate Statement

What are the three or four issues facing Winchester that you think are most important?

Flooding

Schools

High Rents, Home Prices and Taxes

What are your positions on these important issues?

I have supported all of the projects to control flooding in Winchester. The last project of installing two more culverts under the railroad tracks behind Muraco School should happen this year. This will alleviate some of the flooding in the North End of Winchester.

I have supported all of the School Addition and Reconstruction Projects.

The tear down of average size homes to build larger one or two family homes only serves the interest of the builders and raises the average homes prices in Winchester. Affordable Housing Rental Units are still out of reach for most minimum hourly pay individuals. I have supported all of the recent affordable housing proposals for Wainwright Rd, River St., Washington St., and the Winchester Train Station Lot.

Do you support Winchester adopting the Community Preservation Act? What reasons do you have for your position?

This is just another property tax on the home owners in Winchester. Lynch School Override will kick in soon. A general override may be in the works for next year to keep the Town in good standing with Moody's Triple A Ratings. A Muraco School Override is also in the near future.

Hank Lin*

Martin Mahoney II*

Frieda Nace*

Heather Von Mering*

John Wile*

Erin Fogel

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Community Activities

I'm a member of Precinct 8 residing at 30 White St., unit 3. My husband and two sons (7TH grade at McCall and 5th grade at Lynch) have lived in Winchester since 2012.

My professional background is in consulting and nonprofit technology. I started my career at a transportation consulting firm working with State and Federal agencies on policies and software solutions to support commercial vehicle safety. After receiving my MBA from Babson College in 2008, with a focus in Social Entrepreneurship, I transitioned my attention to nonprofit technologies, specifically website design and development. Since 2012, I've been the co-owner and Principal of [DevCollaborative](#), a web development company devoted to working with progressive, social justice, health equity, educational, and arts organizations.

I have been active in the community in many ways:

- Winchester Town Meeting – became a member via caucus (Fall 2023)
- Kids' Corner – Executive Board of Directors, Secretary (2017-2022)
- Winchester Cooperative Theater, parent committee & Chair of Program Book (2022-present)
- Lynch Parent's Association Volunteer
 - Drama Club – co-chair, Yearbook – co-chair, Room Parent, Library Volunteer, chaperone and classroom volunteer (2015-present)
- Winchester for Peace – participant
- Lynch's KIN group – participant
- Town Common Committee – advised on early discussions about technology platform.

Candidate Statement

Important Issues and Position

Investing in our schools and young residents is very important to me. We need to maintain the high standards of educational excellence for which our town is known so that our students can reach their full potential. I'm particularly interested in making sure Winchester considers implementing the same high quality, evidence-based curriculum in all schools and classrooms. Expanding the town's affordable housing is important as it fosters greater diversity and promotes inclusivity. It also may help our teachers find housing in town and allow our seniors to stay past retirement.

Investing in our playgrounds, of which several are in dire need of repairs, and finding additional opportunities to offer structured recreational activities for middle school and high school students is important to me. Our students should have equal access to Performing Arts programs, such as an integrated drama program with productions being part of the curriculum.

I'd be interested in exploring ways to increase the commercial tax base in town to help fund these ventures.

Finally, I support rebuilding the Muraco school – every student deserves a decent building to maximize their learning potential.

Do you support Winchester adopting the Community Preservation Act?

Yes, I'm in favor of adopting the CPA as it supports improving our open spaces, fixing our playgrounds, and supporting affordable housing all in the interest of protecting Winchester's heritage.

Laura Conti

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Community Activities

I moved to Winchester in 2010 and my three children attend Muraco School. I'm an active volunteer with MESPA (Muraco Elementary School Parents Association) as a room parent, enrichment coordinator, member of the safety committee, and help with teacher appreciation activities and the Fall Festival. I am also a volunteer with Winchester Cooperative Theatre, serving as co-chair of the publicity committee and a member of the concessions committee for the spring musical: Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

I served on the board of Winchester Cooperative Nursery School from 2017-2023 in the roles of Class Liaison and Enrollment Chair. My husband and I also organized a neighborhood block party in 2019, 2021 and 2022 to help build community. I joined in the town's opposition of the Eversource 345 kV line and worked to keep neighbors informed throughout the appeal.

Candidate Statement

What are the three or four issues facing Winchester that you think are most important?

- Maintaining high quality public schools
- Addressing pedestrian/bike safety and traffic calming measures
- Growing business tax base without sacrificing our hometown culture
- Increasing affordable housing & improving parks/playgrounds/recreation spaces

What are your positions on these important issues?

I believe our most valuable asset in Winchester is our public schools. As such we must support high quality education by ensuring proper funding of the school budget. In particular I am very concerned about the early literacy curriculum. This issue has been ignored for several years and I believe a significant investment in this area is needed.

In our neighborhood specifically, careful attention will be needed as Eversource completes the 345 kV line and begins restoration work along Cross (and Washington) Streets this spring, **keeping public safety at the forefront**. As the River Street apartments open we will need to monitor vehicle/pedestrian/bike traffic impacts and if current crosswalks and traffic controls are sufficient.

As a bedroom community we must be smart with our spending and find ways to stretch our dollars as far possible by seeking opportunities for outside funding and matching grants.

Looking at ways to responsibly grow the business tax base should continue to be explored.

Do you support Winchester adopting the Community Preservation Act? What reasons do you have for your position?

Yes, I support Winchester adopting the Community Preservation Act. It will help our tax dollars go farther by enabling the town to take advantage of matching funds from the state for projects that we are already planning on doing.

Christine Lowenstein

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Community Activities

I volunteered extensively throughout the time my three children were in elementary school including PTA, room parent, and committee activities.

I was involved with sports teams at the high school level as a volunteer and captain's parent, particularly over the past 4 years with the football team, actively engaged in obtaining local business sponsorships, organizing, and fundraising.

Candidate Statement

What are the three or four issues facing Winchester that you think are most important?

- Preservation of top-notch schools.
- Better management of road construction projects.
- Fiscal responsibility.

What are your positions on these important issues?

The educational experience should be effective for all students: whether an honors student, an average student, or one that requires special services.

The road construction projects around town, especially in precinct 8, have been unbearable for residents over the past several years. Why are they taking so long? Why are they all happening at once? It seems each construction project occurs in a vacuum without any coordination or consideration for concurrent projects thus causing extreme inconvenience and stress for citizens trying to get around town. There must be a better and more thoughtful way for these projects to be undertaken.

I will seek to be a prudent custodian of taxpayer funds by prioritizing "needs" over "wants."

With respect to these three and any of the numerous other issues to be considered, I expect to address each with common sense and pragmatism. I have lived in Winchester for over 25 years, my husband and I have truly enjoyed living here, and our three sons have gone through the public school system. That experience informs my belief that I am well equipped to assess the issues that come before the Winchester Town Meeting.

Do you support Winchester adopting the Community Preservation Act? What reasons do you have for your position?

I support the Community Preservation Act in as much as it will promote the quality of life for all Winchester residents. Preservation of historical buildings and landmarks as well as open space and recreational areas is very important in maintaining the character, reputation, and cultural identity of a town; a reasoned, common-sense approach to the decisions made in the execution of the Act is required.