

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 1	What should Town Council do to develop a diverse and representative pool of qualified candidates for the Planning Committee, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and other committees that it will appoint?	How would you prioritize and fund Amherst's capital project needs? In particular, would you support an override?	Specify one or more initiatives that you will support to increase affordable housing in Amherst.	How would you address the effects of declining school-age populations and charter schools on the Amherst school systems?	How can Amherst become a municipal leader for local efforts to mitigate climate change?
<p>Sharon Povinelli 493 Montague Rd Owner/Manager sharonfornorthamherst.org</p>	<p>I believe it's critical that our government encourage viable, meaningful participation from our residents. The new Town Charter supports this by the creation of a Participatory Budgeting Commission and, via the Town Manager, a Resident's Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>Resolving the Elementary School infrastructure needs of our community is my top priority for our capital projects. A debt exclusion override and a municipal bond are supportable options to begin to address this and the other needed projects.</p>	<p>I support the East Street School project. Development of a 40R district creates a Smart Growth Overlay District (SGOD) providing additional housing for an underserved population, revitalizing a dormant/underused building and triggers non earmarked state funding and school funding.</p>	<p>Amherst will be more attractive to young families by increasing our starter home stock, slowing the increase of residential property taxes and providing the best facilities we can for the education of our students.</p>	<p>I strongly support Community Choice Energy (Plus). This, combined with the Net Zero Building bylaw will promote Amherst as a forward acting community significantly engaged in climate mitigation.</p>
<p>Cathy Schoen 519 Montague Rd Retired/Economist cathyschoen.org</p>	<p>The Council should publicize openings in advance and invite people with diverse experiences or willingness-to-learn to apply for Boards/Committees. For Planning/Zoning, experience includes: architectural designs that enhance a town's character, economic development, net-zero energy, farming, affordable housing, and innovative cluster/co-housing.</p>	<p>Amherst's major projects' backlog totals over \$100 million, without roads/sidewalks. I would prioritize by urgency (SCHOOLS FIRST) and minimize tax impacts by requiring cost-effective designs, phasing and long-term bond financing. BEFORE override discussions, I would inform residents about choices/timing.</p>	<p>Develop affordable housing on the East Street School site; identify sites for cluster/denser affordable, energy-efficient housing; strengthen zoning by-laws to require affordable units in new multi-unit developments; and UMass public-private-partnership expansion of on-campus housing to reduce in-town rent pressure.</p>	<p>I support replacing/rebuilding aging elementary schools pursuant to an educationally/fiscally sound assessment of classroom-space across preK-12; encouraging curriculum competitive with Charter schools, particularly language offerings; marketing Amherst schools' strengths; and securing full-funding of State Charter-offsets and fixing the Charter formula.</p>	<p>Amherst can lead by: implementing our net-zero energy policy for new municipal buildings; expanding net-zero-energy design to major library and private developments; authorizing exploration of a 3-town (Amherst-Northampton-Pelham) initiative to pool community electrical purchases and redirect supply to renewable sources.</p>

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 1 (continued)	What should Town Council do to develop a diverse and representative pool of qualified candidates for the Planning Committee, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and other committees that it will appoint?	How would you prioritize and fund Amherst's capital project needs? In particular, would you support an override?	Specify one or more initiatives that you will support to increase affordable housing in Amherst.	How would you address the effects of declining school-age populations and charter schools on the Amherst school systems?	How can Amherst become a municipal leader for local efforts to mitigate climate change?
<p>Sarah Swartz 11 Meadow St Farmer sarahswartzdistrict1.org</p>	<p>We need to contact leaders of various communities to recruit candidates. The Council must provide with child care and transportation costs, offer varying meeting times and adopt politicizes to shorten meeting times. Candidates for important boards must be interviewed.</p>	<p>All projects must be prioritized by the Council. I cannot commit to support every capital project without studying first. I'm generally opposed to passing an override. However, I will enter each new project with an open mind.</p>	<p>I support the initiatives put forward by the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. I also support strategies to fund these initiatives by broadening the tax base: increasing industry, non-academic business related jobs, and businesses that meet people's essential needs.</p>	<p>It is important for the schools to offer a variety of new programs and curriculums that meet the needs of a majority of students. Increasing housing for lower and moderate income families would help the two maintain student enrollment.</p>	<p>The Council needs to work to become a Community Choice Energy (CCE) town. This includes collaborating with public and private groups to begin treehouse gas reducing features. I support the Zero Energy Bylaw and guidelines in the Paris Accords.</p>
<p>Nicola Usher 37 Harris St Academic Advisor votenicola.org</p>	<p>Council members must be committed to hearing and representing viewpoints that differ from their own. One potential strategy for boards and committees: anonymous applications that allow councilors to review potential appointees free of personal association/connection to known perspectives.</p>	<p>Our elementary school buildings are the top priority. I would support an override, as Amherst voters did, twice. There are several other important capital projects, which we're not going to be able to fund without revenue from commercial development.</p>	<p>I would like to see the council explore development of a 40R (Smart Growth Overlay) district. I recognize that finding a suitable location and garnering community support may be challenging.</p>	<p>Work with the SC on effective information collection from families that leave the district. The council needs to lead Amherst in a difficult, data-driven conversation about whether we can afford to maintain 5 school buildings without compromising educational excellence.</p>	<p>The net-zero energy bylaw is a step in the right direction. Although it's in early stages, I hope community choice energy comes to be. I would like to see more aggressive efforts toward reducing reliance on motor vehicles.</p>

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 2	What should Town Council do to develop a diverse and representative pool of qualified candidates for the Planning Committee, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and other committees that it will appoint?	How would you prioritize and fund Amherst's capital project needs? In particular, would you support an override?	Specify one or more initiatives that you will support to increase affordable housing in Amherst.	How would you address the effects of declining school-age populations and charter schools on the Amherst school systems?	How can Amherst become a municipal leader for local efforts to mitigate climate change?
<p>Patricia DeAngelis 21 Ward St Retired teacher/educational consultant patforamherst.org</p>	<p>Open the definition of “qualified”; step out of the usual recruitment channels; include citizens with direct interest in/or impact from decisions; clarify tasks and time requirements; be open to changing meeting times and locations to accommodate members; provide childcare. Listen.</p>	<p>Reevaluate each capital project in a context of citizen needs and available funding; consider renovation before new construction where possible. I support an override when/if other options will not work and the request is in context of all current projects.</p>	<p>I support expansion of Amherst Community Land Trust; zoning changes that increase affordable housing requirements; inclusionary development where market rate and affordable housing options occur together in the same “neighborhood” and the continued development of 40R Districts.</p>	<p>Investigate the “decline” to determine if this is a trend or a point in a cycle; establish a dual language program in Spanish; investigate magnet school possibilities; and create options that make housing affordable for young families.</p>	<p>Our net-zero bylaw, actively pursuing Western Mass Community Choice Energy, and supporting Valley Bike Share are good starts. We need to support expansion of PVRTA routes and review building/zoning regulations to assure development is based on green and sustainable practices.</p>
<p>Lynn Griesemer 83 Flat Hills Rd Executive Director UMass Donahue Institute (retired) lynnfordistrict2.org</p>	<p>By reaching out to communities not always in the town government loop. My experience with the Amherst Survival Center has helped me learn about ways to reach diverse communities, and connect stakeholders with opportunities to make their voices heard.</p>	<p>As chair of the fire station/DPW committee I’ve supported a balanced capital plan that also includes the schools and library. Using existing reserves and maximizing state funding we can limit an override, but some additional tax dollars will be needed,</p>	<p>One of our best options is continued emphasis on mixed-income projects in both the Master Plan and the Zoning Bylaw. The Town Council will have to act on both, and I will bring this priority to the Council.</p>	<p>Nearly all communities face declining school-aged populations. There are good models for sharing certain school facilities while still maintaining a small-school atmosphere, and Amherst should continue to learn from other communities and apply those lessons here.</p>	<p>I was part of the group that revised our successful Zero Energy bylaw, and I believe it combines ambitious goals with practical solutions. I’d like to see both our cooperative process and our sustainable solution be models for other communities.</p>

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 2 (continued)	What should Town Council do to develop a diverse and representative pool of qualified candidates for the Planning Committee, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and other committees that it will appoint?	How would you prioritize and fund Amherst's capital project needs? In particular, would you support an override?	Specify one or more initiatives that you will support to increase affordable housing in Amherst.	How would you address the effects of declining school-age populations and charter schools on the Amherst school systems?	How can Amherst become a municipal leader for local efforts to mitigate climate change?
<p>Victor A. Nunez Ortiz 5 Blackberry Lane Veteran advocate vote4vic.org</p>	<p>The most important thing our Town Council need to establish a diverse pool is to outreach to profit, non-profit and town departments in order to attract and identify qualified individuals to serve on respective committees.</p>	<p>The school project and the south Amherst fire Station should be at the top of our capital spending priorities. I believe both projects deserve equal attention, as education and public safety are key elements for a vibrant, welcoming, safe communities.</p>	<p>An initiative I will support is an inclusionary housing policy that would require developers and current landlords to provide units that are affordable to low and moderate income residents and hold them accountable.</p>	<p>Establishing a collaborative relationship with the school committee will be essential in advocating the needs of our public education systems. I will commit to being and advocate to our elected officials to address and voice our concerns.</p>	<p>One of the ways we can make an instant impact is to continue to educate our residents of the progress made to reach 100% renewable energy through the collaboration of Northampton and Pelham with Community Choice Energy initiative.</p>
<p>Peter Vickery 71 Cherry Ln Attorney votevickery.org</p>	<p>(1) Ensure that meeting schedules accommodate people with young children, people with jobs, and people who use public transport; and (2) treat committee members with respect, value their work, and actively welcome diversity across a variety of dimensions.</p>	<p>Top priority: building a new elementary school, per the clear wishes of the voters, possibly with a grant from Massachusetts School Building Authority. No, absent new and compelling evidence that an override is absolutely necessary, I would not support one.</p>	<p>I will support: (1) the East Street School project; and (2) the creation of a chapter 40R district in Amherst that would allow for denser development than is currently allowed under the Zoning Bylaw.</p>	<p>I support revising and expanding Inter-district School Choice and the METCO program so as to attract students from other communities, in particular Springfield and Holyoke. I also support revising the charter-school law to end the cutting the sending district's funding.</p>	<p>Amherst can serve as a model of climate resilience via permeable paving surfaces, rain gardens, green roofs, and reducing zoning/permitting impediments to solar and photovoltaic energy production. We also need to take a lead in encouraging micro-hydro electricity production.</p>

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 3	What should Town Council do to develop a diverse and representative pool of qualified candidates for the Planning Committee, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and other committees that it will appoint?	How would you prioritize and fund Amherst's capital project needs? In particular, would you support an override?	Specify one or more initiatives that you will support to increase affordable housing in Amherst.	How would you address the effects of declining school-age populations and charter schools on the Amherst school systems?	How can Amherst become a municipal leader for local efforts to mitigate climate change?
<p>Stephen Braun 180 Lincoln Ave Medical editor stevebraunforcouncil.org</p>	<p>Actively reach out with emails, social media, flyers, networking, and personal connections to under-represented groups to encourage people to apply to these critical boards.</p>	<p>First: renovate or replace 2 elementary schools (with override). Second: DPW facility (with bond). Third (after DPW has moved) Fire Station on former DPW site (with bond). Fourth: Jones Library renovation</p>	<p>Hire person to evaluate sites for 40R district. Seek RFP for former East St. school conversion to affordable housing. Work closely with developers and state to find creative funding solutions for below-market units.</p>	<p>Pursue policies to increase housing affordable for young families, support School Committee efforts to retain students with high-quality curricula and language immersion programs.</p>	<p>Push for 100% sustainable energy sources for municipal buildings, implement net-zero construction, encourage municipal electric vehicle use, continue robust recycling efforts and use of recycled materials.</p>
<p>John R. Page 96 N Prospect St Student/Dining hall supervisor johnpageforamherst.com</p>	<p>Knocking on doors does not stop in November. We must reach out, meet people where they are at, and bring them into to be a part of the democratic process. One person, one conversation at a time.</p>	<p>1 Elementary Schools 2 DPW Building 3 Fire Station 4 Senior/Community Center 5 Library renovation. I would support an override for rebuilding the elementary schools. Council would approve the funding plan but the will voters would decide the override.</p>	<p>The East Street project is well under way. Any way the Town Council can expedite the process I would support. Additionally, we must encourage building housing for moderate and low income families and individuals.</p>	<p>Young families are attracted to Amherst because of our schools, our commitment to social justice, the environment, and the arts. I will continue to invest in those. High cost-of-living pushes families of a moderate and low income out.</p>	<p>-Creating a Community Choice Aggregation with Northampton and Pelham which including sustainable energy goals in the RFP. -Encouraging infill development downtown and in the village centers. -Local food production: protecting our farmland and addressing food insecurity.</p>

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<p>Dorothy S. Pam 229 Amity St Adjunct instructor, Holyoke Community College dorothypam.com</p>	<p>Seek mix of experience and new talent. Advertise information and visit local civic, religious, and academic organizations. Consider timing meetings to recognize family needs and offering childcare. Ensure that recommendations are given serious consideration on policy.</p>	<p>Renovate/rebuild Fort River and Wildwood Schools in cost effective manner, meeting 21st century standards using state funding and local bonding. Relocate/update DPW, Fire, and Library within capital budget. An override vote for controversial projects allows full public input.</p>	<p>Change zoning resolution to require some affordable, moderate income units in all new large apartment buildings. Support East Street proposal for service-supported low-income housing. Research ways zoning and grant funds can be used to expand opportunities.</p>	<p>Quality faculty and language/art/tech enriched curriculum key to keeping/attracting families. Reduce rancor on policy and personnel disputes which drive families away. Population decline cyclical, so keep capacity. Fight charter school funding formula inequities. Amherst schools rock!!</p>	<p>Amherst already leader through net zero bylaw, bagging restrictions. Open large solar arrays, rooftop opportunities. Join Massachusetts multi-town power purchase agreement to augment municipal and private efforts and incentives. Encourage local self-sufficiency and sustainability through local sourcing.</p>
<p>George Ryan 18 Dana St College teacher, Holyoke Community College georgeryanforamherst.org</p>	<p>Guidance of Town Manager and professional staff will be critical. Above all we need qualified people who have the appropriate background and experience and who can make the serious time commitment such key town service demands.</p>	<p>The "Big 4" (DPW building, Fire Station, Elementary Schools and Jones Library upgrade) must be done; the order will be determined largely by economic realities. They can be funded by prudent borrowing. At least one will require an override.</p>	<p>East Street School property should be made available for affordable housing and the Council should consider creating a 40R District where allowing increased density in appropriate areas can help create housing for both lower and middle income residents.</p>	<p>Urge State Board of Education to review how charter schools are funded, encourage creation of academic programs (e.g. dual language) to attract charter school population, build 21st Century schools to give us the flexibility to respond to changing demographics.</p>	<p>By adopting Zero Energy Bylaw Town Meeting has taken a giant first step in this direction; we must make "living green" a town policy and priority for all Departments; we should explore where appropriate alternate energy sources such as solar.</p>

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 4	What should Town Council do to develop a diverse and representative pool of qualified candidates for the Planning Committee, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and other committees that it will appoint?	How would you prioritize and fund Amherst's capital project needs? In particular, would you support an override?	Specify one or more initiatives that you will support to increase affordable housing in Amherst.	How would you address the effects of declining school-age populations and charter schools on the Amherst school systems?	How can Amherst become a municipal leader for local efforts to mitigate climate change?
<p>Jacqueline Lucette Maidana, 22 Lessey St; Teacher/Artist; electmaidana.org</p>	<p>The Town Council will be re-appointing and appointing new members and will be in a position to invite people with a fresh vision. Amherst has no shortage of concerned citizens with expertise to fill these committees.</p>	<p>The renovation of the Fort River School would be my first priority. I believe it could be done without an override ,renovation of Wildwood may require an override. The DPW and main fire station clearly need total renovations.</p>	<p>Town Council will be in a position to revise zoning bylaws to reflect the intent of Special Permits. Working closely with the Amherst Municipal Housing Authority to develop ways to generate affordable housing by selling the East Street School. One initiative would be to turn the East Street School into affordable housing. The Planning Board should require all future housing construction to contain affordable housing. The Board should pursue developers who would build small affordable housing clusters.</p>	<p>In some cases student enrollment is going up, we need affordable housing so that we can attract young families. One issue, charter schools offer classes that we no longer provide. The financial formula needs to be changed state wide.</p>	<p>Amherst has been a leader in addressing climate change and energy efficiency with its Climate Action Plan in 2005. Town Meeting took three actions in 2017, the Resolution to Implement Carbon Free and Dividend Program and Net Zero Energy bylaw. Retrofit all town buildings with alternative energy sources. Require all new construction to have a ZERO energy policy and have LEED certification. A longer term goal would be to have all new town vehicles be electric or hybrid.</p>
<p>David G Reffsin 117 North Whitney St Sales manager</p>	<p>To insure diversity, the Council should contact, through the schools, all parents of school age children. Candidates should submit a resume and letter of intent. In-person interviews for important boards such as the Planning Board should occur.</p>	<p>All capital projects should be based on need not want. Since many capital projects will come before Town Council, incremental increases in taxes must be considered. This should be done cautiously.</p>	<p>One initiative would be to turn the East Street School into affordable housing. The Planning Board should require all future housing construction to contain affordable housing. The Board should pursue developers who would build small affordable housing clusters.</p>	<p>An effort must be made to be more creative in course offerings. Dual Language programs would be a positive step toward this goal. Also, efforts to offer more creative arts programs and technology programs should be considered.</p>	<p>Retrofit all town buildings with alternative energy sources. Require all new construction to have a ZERO energy policy and have LEED certification. A longer term goal would be to have all new town vehicles be electric or hybrid.</p>

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 4 (continued)	What should Town Council do to develop a diverse and representative pool of qualified candidates for the Planning Committee, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and other committees that it will appoint?	How would you prioritize and fund Amherst's capital project needs? In particular, would you support an override?	Specify one or more initiatives that you will support to increase affordable housing in Amherst.	How would you address the effects of declining school-age populations and charter schools on the Amherst school systems?	How can Amherst become a municipal leader for local efforts to mitigate climate change?
<p>Evan Robert Ross 40 Spaulding St Lecturer, UMass evan4amherst.com</p>	<p>The new Community Participation Officer (CPO) has the potential to play an important role in increasing diversity in Amherst government. Town Council should make the CPO a standalone position with sufficient resources and clear objectives to reach underrepresented communities.</p>	<p>Amherst's schools, DPW, and fire station are priorities. State support for these projects is important to minimize the financial burden on the Town. A debt exclusion override will be necessary to supply the Town's financial commitment for some projects.</p>	<p>Affordable housing production will require a multi-pronged approach, including continuing to implement our inclusionary zoning bylaw and affordable housing property tax credit, creating a 40R district to allow greater density, and supporting the Amherst Affordable Housing Trust's initiatives.</p>	<p>This is a complicated problem. One cause is the decline in young families due to lack of housing. Amherst must generate new rental housing to relieve the pressure of rental conversion on single-family homes to increase our starter home availability.</p>	<p>Addressing climate change will require rapidly moving towards 100% renewable energy, including locally-generated clean energy. We also need to expand electric vehicle infrastructure and pursue complete streets for multi-modal transportation options (including maintaining sidewalks and building bike lanes).</p>
<p>Steve Schreiber 100 High St Architect/Founding chair of UMass Dept of Architecture steve4amherst.com</p>	<p>Direct outreach to potential candidates is essential. I would first reach out to those who have paid attention to the activities of the Planning Board and ZBA, by attending meetings, writing letters, speaking out. Diverse viewpoints are essential.</p>	<p>The Town Council will have appointees to its Finance Committee and the Joint Capital Planning Committee. I will trust and support the work done by those committees. I would likely support an override if that is the recommendation.</p>	<p>Amherst needs to increase and diversify its housing for all income levels. I am particularly interested in modifying the zoning by-law to encourage owner occupied mixed-use buildings in the heart of downtown that will be occupied by actual families.</p>	<p>Families are often bidding against LLC's for the limited existing housing stock. More campus-focussed housing complexes will relieve the conversion of single family houses to college rentals, and make it more feasible for families to live in town.</p>	<p>Encouraging a greater density and mix of housing and retail in existing village centers (including downtown) is the single most important thing Amherst can do to reduce its per capita carbon footprint. We have an amazing bus and bike system.</p>

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 5	What should Town Council do to develop a diverse and representative pool of qualified candidates for the Planning Committee, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and other committees that it will appoint?	How would you prioritize and fund Amherst's capital project needs? In particular, would you support an override?	Specify one or more initiatives that you will support to increase affordable housing in Amherst.	How would you address the effects of declining school-age populations and charter schools on the Amherst school systems?	How can Amherst become a municipal leader for local efforts to mitigate climate change?
<p>Shalini Bahl-Milne 78 Linden Ridge Rd Owner of Downtown Mindfulness, Mindfulness educator/research shalinifordistrict5.org</p>	<p>We need to first understand the challenges for diverse populations to participate by speaking with them where they are. We also need to strategize about inclusion and equity to empower people to contribute at their highest levels.</p>	<p>My priority: schools, DPW, fire services, and library. However, funding for the library may be available first. I will work with the School Committee to make healthy learning environments available for our kids ASAP and support an override.</p>	<p>I support development of 40R districts that create mixed-income developments, along with affordable housing tax incentives and an expedited review process to encourage building affordable housing. I also support public-private partnerships that free up off-campus housing for residents.</p>	<p>Two reasons for declining school age-population are unaffordable housing and unhealthy learning environments; 40R districts will attract families and 40S state funding for schools. I will advocate for state's direct funding to charter schools instead of spending local tax dollars.</p>	<p>We need to minimize energy wasted due to poor insulation, leaky windows, inefficient lighting, heating cooling systems. I will advocate to eliminate market barriers for zero-energy buildings and develop a road map including education, exemplary buildings, and data gathering.</p>
<p>Paul Bobrowski 55 Hulst Rd Attorney/Consultant paulforamherst.org</p>	<p>The Council and Town Manager should increase its outreach beyond the usual sign-up form and reach out to recognized leaders in our diverse communities to help with recruitment of qualified individual. A local government mentoring program would also breakdown barriers.</p>	<p>The schools, fire station, and DPW all have health and safety concerns, so I'd prioritize those first, in that order. I would support a replacement override for the schools. We are financially prepared to do some of these projects simultaneously.</p>	<p>I support inclusionary zoning changes, other specific rezoning to accommodate particular projects that are ready to go, a 40R district, and I would continue my consistent support of CPA investments in affordable housing.</p>	<p>I would continue my work on enhancing town revenues from non-residential sources to slow tax increases on young homeowners. High taxes in town are a factor but the trends are statewide and some of this is out of our control.</p>	<p>Amherst is a leader already, with our own paid Sustainability Coordinator. I would urge the Council to meet with her regularly to coordinate new initiatives. I've supported every climate change mitigation proposal in town and will continue to do so.</p>

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<p>Darcy DuMont 142 Pondview Dr Retired lawyer, teacher, grant writer, current energy&climate advocate darcyfordistrict5.org</p>	<p>Better decisions are made with diverse decision makers. Adopt a policy that appointments to committees and boards must reflect diversity of backgrounds and viewpoints of town. Send postcard to every resident listing opportunities to volunteer and to nominate others.</p>	<p>Top 3 priorities: Fort River, Wildwood, Fire Station. Seek community's priorities, recommend fiscally sustainable budgets, identify other revenue sources to limit tax increases. Bond where possible for major capital projects; debt exclusion override required if more than one pursued.</p>	<p>Inclusionary zoning, AAHT's efforts to increase the number of affordable rental units, proposed Umass public/private partnership, housing UMass students on campus, increasing affordable, moderately sized and sustainable houses/condos for purchase, and increasing supported housing units for homeless residents.</p>	<p>Innovative, strong curriculum is crucial to growing schools. I support an aggressive ad campaign to promote the dual language program and other innovative curricula/identities at our schools and will work with legislators to correct the charter school funding formula.</p>	<p>Provide more time/visibility to climate/sustainability. Establish 100% renewable energy resolution benchmarks. Authorize Community Choice Energy "Plus", including Accelerating renewables - on town buildings, parking lots, brownfields And fun, town-wide energy efficiency initiatives. Partner with higher ed institutions for funding. Advance Community Choice Energy Plus enabling residents to choose renewable energy sources for electricity; Prioritize public transportation and complete streets; Targets/incentives for zero energy buildings/services, Preserve open spaces. MacLeod Family donated significant acreage for conservation (Lawrence swamp watershed).</p>
<p>Samuel A. MacLeod 1114 South East St; Publishing manager sammacleodforamherst.com</p>	<p>Town Council should genuinely commit to doing so! Empower the new Community Participation Officer; Have an extended outreach period; Collaborate with local community leaders early on; Provide flexibility in scheduling, meeting locations, while providing transportation and other services as needed.</p>	<p>1) Fort River and Wildwood Schools, robust public review of plans generated by a diverse school committee. I support a bond, school debt exclusion override resolving open classrooms with Quality PreK-6. 2) South Amherst Fire Station; 3) Senior Spacing, DPW</p>	<p>Enforcing our inclusionary zoning rules. Require new downtown buildings to include affordable housing or make in lieu of contributions to the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust. Reviewing options for the development of a 40R District within Amherst, East Street School Project.</p>	<p>Fully fund for quality schools and structures; Advance dual language programs for Spanish and Chinese; Petition the state to change the imbalanced charter choice funding formula; More affordable housing, consider lowering unrelated household members to 3 in designated town areas.</p>	

AT-LARGE CANDIDATES	What should Town Council do to develop a diverse and representative pool of qualified candidates for the Planning Committee, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and other committees that it will appoint?	How would you prioritize and fund Amherst's capital project needs? In particular, would you support an override?	Specify one or more initiatives that you will support to increase affordable housing in Amherst.	How would you address the effects of declining school-age populations and charter schools on the Amherst school systems?	How can Amherst become a municipal leader for local efforts to mitigate climate change?
<p>Alisa V. Brewer 5 Fairfield St Select Board member, membership administration alisaforamherst.com</p>	<p>Work together with an adequately resourced Community Participation Officer to actively engage our residents where they are, in order to connect various communities of interest to the discussions and decisions they care about. Residents don't know why they should serve.</p>	<p>It's become very clear that we haven't yet engaged our entire community in a successful conversation, even though the Select Board and Finance Committee have known for some time how the numbers add up. Schools and Fire come first.</p>	<p>Initiatives to meet needs of very low income individuals (e.g., SRO with wrap around services), young workers at the start of their careers, young families, and families that are downsizing but cannot find the right size and cost unit.</p>	<p>The decline will continue if we don't ensure families with children have access to housing. We have to admit that the days of two neighborhood schools each serving over 600 elementary students are long gone, and serve today's children.</p>	<p>As our voters learn about a solid long-term financial plan to address our several major building initiatives, it will not be that difficult to convince people that short-term costs may be a bit higher but that long-term savings are real.</p>
<p>Robert E. Greeney 76 McClellan St single family house, owner occupied bobgreeney.wixsite.com/mysite</p>	<p>Town Council must ensure that the pool of candidates for these positions is representative of all major constituencies. In cases where the diversity of the board or committee does not reflect the diversity of the town recruitment should be done.</p>	<p>Elementary schools, public works, fire station, libraries prioritized in that order. Fire station and public works may be switched. Roads, sidewalks and general infrastructure are also important. Willing to consider tax override but reasons and town support must be strong</p>	<p>Strong sustained support of public efforts such as the Amherst Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and grassroots non-profit groups such as the Amherst Community Land Trust (ACLT). Additional private, public-private partnerships, and creative solution from other communities need ongoing investigation.</p>	<p>Charter school funding formula must be fixed to be fair and reasonable. Schools should continue current efforts to address the diversity of student needs. New schools building design or renovations must include ability to adjust to changing enrollment.</p>	<p>Amherst is a leader already. We need to sustain and forward current initiatives, such as, Community Choice Energy and the Zero Energy Municipal Buildings bylaw. We benefit from the work of strong advocacy groups, such as, Mothers Out Front.</p>

AT-LARGE CANDIDATES (continued)	What should Town Council do to develop a diverse and representative pool of qualified candidates for the Planning Committee, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and other committees that it will appoint?	How would you prioritize and fund Amherst's capital project needs? In particular, would you support an override?	Specify one or more initiatives that you will support to increase affordable housing in Amherst.	How would you address the effects of declining school-age populations and charter schools on the Amherst school systems?	How can Amherst become a municipal leader for local efforts to mitigate climate change?
<p>Mandi Jo Hanneke 26 Foxglove Ln Mother votehanneke.org</p>	<p>Councilors should actively recruit residents who represent a diverse cross-section of Amherst and a variety of perspectives and opinions to apply for committees. They should directly ask qualified residents to apply and use their networks to do the same.</p>	<p>Amherst's neglect of its major capital infrastructure over the past decades means that several capital projects (schools, library, public works, and fire station) are equally necessary. None of them should be delayed further just to avoid an override.</p>	<p>I support (1) increasing the housing supply across many types of housing, including studio apartments for low-income residents; (2) renovating the East Street School for affordable housing; and (3) developing a 40R district (permits denser development than bylaws allow).</p>	<p>(1) Increase Amherst's housing supply and diversify the tax base to make family housing more affordable; (2) Support the School Committee's elementary language immersion program plan; and (3) Oppose charter school expansions until the state funding formula is fixed.</p>	<p>We need an energy policy that looks at the end-goal, shrinking Amherst's carbon footprint, and establishes a comprehensive plan. To start, this includes the Zero Energy bylaw (recently improved), electric car charging stations, electric Town vehicles, and solar arrays.</p>
<p>Robert B. Kusner 29 Van Meter Dr Professor of mathematics at UMass</p>	<p>Select a broad advisory group, a majority from among the "losing" Council candidates, that: 1) reaches out to politically diverse, under-represented communities; 2) helps mentor possible candidates & assess their qualifications; then 3) recommends them to the Council for appointment....</p>	<p>Renew/rebuild our neighborhood schools; construct a 3rd fire station serving S.Amherst, co-located with a DPW facility for flexibility in equipment maintenance & storage; improve our branch libraries while preserving the Jones; override thoughtfully, provided added value justifies added expense.</p>	<p>Use public (CPA, ...) & private funds to acquire affordability easements on existing neighborhood housing, and to proportionately build new affordable units, especially in transit-servable areas; increase affordability for our existing housing stock through more progressive real-estate taxation.</p>	<p>Adapt & compete: a decade ago we forfeited an English-Mandarin dual-language program; an Español-Inglés program at Fort River offers us a second chance; more broadly, invest in excellent teachers, and improve cooperation with nearby colleges & UMass.</p>	<p>Transportation & electricity production generate our largest greenhouse gas fractions: improve & integrate our bike-pedestrian-public transit systems with regional rail (to Boston, to NYC, ...); increase our buildings' heating & lighting efficiency...; deploy solar on more rooftops & parking lots....</p>

AT-LARGE CANDIDATES (continued)	What should Town Council do to develop a diverse and representative pool of qualified candidates for the Planning Committee, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and other committees that it will appoint?	How would you prioritize and fund Amherst's capital project needs? In particular, would you support an override?	Specify one or more initiatives that you will support to increase affordable housing in Amherst.	How would you address the effects of declining school-age populations and charter schools on the Amherst school systems?	How can Amherst become a municipal leader for local efforts to mitigate climate change?
<p>James Pistrang 51 High Point Dr Software developer jimforamherst.org</p>	<p>The Council in conjunction with the Community Outreach Officer must reach out to our diverse and traditionally underserved communities. Actively seeking feedback and listening respectfully is the first step towards developing a diverse pool of qualified candidates.</p>	<p>My priorities are to rebuild or replace our two aging elementary schools and build a South Amherst fire station. Projects can be funded through borrowing and a capital stabilization fund. I support a debt exclusion override to help fund projects.</p>	<p>I support an affordable housing development on the East Street School site, the development of a 40R district within Amherst, and revisions to our Inclusionary Zoning bylaws to ensure that new projects include set-asides for affordable housing.</p>	<p>I support new initiatives such as a dual-language program at an Amherst elementary school. I would also like the Council to work with our state representatives to change the current funding formula for Charter Schools.</p>	<p>Amherst is already a municipal leader with its plastic bag, styrofoam, and zero-energy bylaws and its ongoing acquisitions of watershed, conservation, and agricultural preservation. I support a future expansion of our zero-energy bylaw to include private commercial and residential developments. Work with other municipalities to implement Community Choice Energy; more electric car charging stations and expand town-owned fleet; more solar fields; help home owners install solar and make homes energy efficient; implement zero energy building bylaw; increase recycling and compost.</p>
<p>Andrew J. Steinberg 17 Hitching Post Rd Retired, former Executive Director of Western Mass. Legal Services andyforamherst.org</p>	<p>The Council can review relevant committee charges to define the purpose, required skills and knowledge, and expectations. The charge should be widely circulated and presented at District and other meetings. New committee members should be provided with training and support.</p>	<p>Consider priority where significant state or other funding is available. Other considerations are public and employee health and safety, and provision of quality cost effective town services. The need for overrides can be reduced with sequencing and careful management.</p>	<p>Pursue the AAHT effort to use the East St. School building and land if feasible. Use the tax incentive program that made North Square possible. Use Community Preservation Act funds to help to build new affordable housing.</p>	<p>Decline of school-age population is partly due to cost of housing for young families. Address housing affordability. Charter schools reduce the student numbers required to provide a variety of course choices and take money from traditional public schools. No expansion.</p>	