

2019 Amherst Election Guides



Election Guide for Town Election November 5, 2019

VOTING IN THE UPCOMING ELECTION



ABSENTEE VOTING:

Any voter who will be unable to go to the polls on November 5 either because he or she is out of town or is physically disabled, or for religious belief, may apply for an absentee ballot at the Town Clerk's office until November 4 at 12:00 noon. In-person absentee voting is also available through November 4 at 12:00 noon. For more information, call the Town Clerk's office at 259-3035 or email townclerk@amherstma.gov.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES:

A voter may write in the name of a person not listed on the ballot in the appropriate write-in space. Don't forget to fill in the oval to the right of the space. A mistake in the spelling of the name does not invalidate the vote if the intent of the voter can be determined.

POLLING PLACES:

The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

Precinct 1: North Zion Korean Church District 1 Church Hall 1193 North Pleasant Street	Precinct 6: Fort River School District 2 70 South East Street
Precinct 2: North Fire Station District 2 603 East Pleasant Street	Precinct 7: Crocker Farm School District 5 280 West Street
Precinct 3: Immanuel Lutheran Church District 1 867 North Pleasant Street	Precinct 8: Munson Memorial Library District 5 South Amherst Common 1046 South East St.
Precinct 4: Bangs Community Center District 3 70 Boltwood Walk	Precinct 9: Wildwood School District 4 71 Strong Street
Precinct 5: Bangs Community Center District 4 70 Boltwood Walk	Precinct 10: Bangs Community Center District 3 70 Boltwood Walk

TOWN ELECTION

Questionnaires were mailed to all candidates for Library Trustee and School Committee. Each candidate was asked to reply to the question below (60 word limit). Candidate statements have not been edited.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE YOUR TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS?

Information was compiled by the League of Women Voters of Amherst which thanks the Amherst Town Clerk's office for assistance. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of the information in the guide. We sincerely regret any errors.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

VOTE FOR 6

Lee R. Edwards
Incumbent
5 Wildwood Lane
Retired academic

My 3 top priorities are: to help sustain the ongoing work of the staffs of the Jones/Munson/North Amherst libraries; to encourage more private support to underwrite the libraries' programs and activities; to move forward with the library's renovation and expansion project.

Austin Sarat
Incumbent
76 Snell Street
Professor Jurisprudence & Political Science

I seek re-election as a Library Trustee to insure that our libraries remain welcoming places where people of varied backgrounds and ages have access to books, technology, and programs. I am committed to renovating and expanding the Jones, supporting the branch libraries and library staff, stewarding the endowment, pursuing appropriate fundraising strategies, and partnering with Amherst's cultural and educational communities.

Robert Pam
Incumbent
229 Amity Street
Retired

Virtually everyone values the library highly, but not everyone supports its planned expansion. The main task is to ensure that our areas of agreement predominate and that public and private support continues and grows. Our services, staff, management and programs must continue to justify this support. Better outreach will expand services and increase public understanding of the library's value.

Christopher J. Hoffmann
Incumbent
170 E. Hadley Road,
Unit 16
Software engineer

My top priority for the next two years is to ensure our state grant is used to create an accessible, energy-efficient, attractive, renovated main building that provides the services our users will want for years to come.

Tamson Ely
Incumbent
26 Middle Street
Retired Community College Library Director

"Our town needs a library which serves the entire community. The Jones fails to do this since it isn't fully accessible. Room layout is confusing and space is inadequate to serve the needs of a diverse population. Accepting the state grant will provide more open and differently configured space affording increased participation in Jones's outstanding collections, services and programs.

Alexandra Lefebvre
Incumbent
52 North Prospect Street
Volunteer

Work with the community to take advantage of grant funding to help pay for a 21st century library that meets

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the needs of our entire community and pays for necessary building renovations and systems to maintain the building's integrity and assure public safety. Continue the work of increasing the diversity of library staffing, programming, and collections to reflect our community.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

VOTE FOR 5

Katie Lazdowski
20 Overlook Drive
Program Manager
www.katieforamherst.com

My two priorities, in no particular order are to ensure the success and expansion of programs that reduce the opportunity gap/increase access, such as the restorative justice program and the dual language program (Caminantes); and to lead constituents through decision-making processes that respond to outlined considerations (available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zZdJXKa_e0) in order to provide appropriate school infrastructure for students and staff.

Benjamin Joseph Herrington
99J Southpoint Drive
Custodian
www.Benjaminherrington.com

My top priority is always our students, teachers, care givers and support staff and their well being. One of my other priorities is improving our schools and creating a facilities development policy in order maintain and update our buildings sufficiently. I will add my perspective to responsible budgeting decisions and help our school system rise to its full potential.

Peter M. Demling
Incumbent
20 Atwater Circle
Software Engineer
www.demlingforsc.org

"Honored to have served for two+ years. Will continue to fight for fully funded public schools, and oppose all charter school expansions until we get fair funding laws. Will work for a compromise building solution that doesn't leave Fort River or Wildwood behind. It must be net-zero. It must minimize cost. And it must happen as soon as possible."

Kerry Spitzer
Incumbent
56 Berkshire Terrace
Research Coordinator
spitzerforschoolcommittee.com/

Addressing the capital needs of our districts, with a focus on renovating or replacing our elementary schools and improving accessibility across the districts; continuing to increase the diversity of our teachers and staff so that they reflect the diversity in our schools; and, working to maintain the academic, athletic, and artistic excellence in our schools while focusing on student wellness.

Eric Nakajima
Incumbent
592 West Street
Economic Development Consultant

I want to improve our school facilities, and hope the MSBA supports our effort to build a new elementary school. We also have to improve and green our existing facilities. I believe in our school community, its teachers, staff, students, families and leadership. Working together, we can continue to improve and help every student in our district grow and succeed.

Lauren Mills
12 Longmeadow Drive
Community volunteer, homemaker

1. Making sure there is a clear plan for new formation of grades and the new school building, and the plans are inclusive.
2. Technology is a bridge for education in classroom and homework, and all students have access to technology.

Allison Bleyler McDonald
Incumbent
43 Hop Brook Rd
Nonprofit Marketing and Communications
www.allisonforamherst.com

I'm a 16+ year resident of Amherst & have 2 sons in our schools. Since I joined the Committee, we have accomplished many things, including building consensus around our application for state \$ to build a new elementary school, a process I led together with our committee chair. My priorities are to continue improving building facilities & addressing achievement gaps.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

VOTE FOR 3

Nancy E. Schroeder
168 High Street

Michael A. Burkart
Incumbent
92 Aubinwood Road

David W. Williams
Incumbent
158 Rolling Ridge Road

ELECTOR, OLIVER SMITH WILL

VOTE FOR 1

Carol Jeannette Gray
Incumbent
815 South East Street

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

is a nonpartisan political organization. We encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and advocate for League positions adopted after study and consensus.

Subscribe to our monthly e-bulletin or join us at lwvamherst.org.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Sample ballots for elections on November 5 are posted online at amherstma.gov/650/Upcomingand-Past-Election-Information. More candidate statements are available at amherstma.gov/3508/Candidate-Statements