

# 2021 Amherst Election Guide



## Election Guide for Town Election, November 2, 2021

### VOTING IN THE UPCOMING ELECTION

#### VOTE BY MAIL:

Applications to vote by mail must be signed and be received at the Town Clerk's Office by October 27 at 5 pm. For more information, contact the Town Clerk at 259-3035 or email [townclerk@amherstma.gov](mailto:townclerk@amherstma.gov). Mail-in ballots must be received in the Town Clerk's office or in the Town Hall drop box by or before November 2.

#### EARLY & ABSENTEE VOTING:

In-person EARLY VOTING is available at Amherst Town Hall, Monday through Friday, October 25 through 29 from 8:30 am to 4 pm, and on Thursday, October 28 from 8:30 am to 8:00 pm. Permanently disabled persons, and specially qualified voters, such as military personnel and those temporarily out of town, may apply for an absentee ballot at the Town Clerk's office. More information at <https://www.amherstma.gov/164/Absentee-Voting>

#### 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.

The polls are open in Amherst from **7 am to 8 pm on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.**

Precinct	District	Polling Location
1	1	North Zion Korean Church Church Hall, 1193 North Pleasant Street
2	2	Amherst Pelham Regional High School 21 Mattoon Street
3	1	Immanuel Lutheran Church 867 North Pleasant Street
4	3	Amherst Pelham Regional High School 21 Mattoon Street
5	4	Bangs Community Center 70 Boltwood Walk
6	2	Fort River School 70 South East Street
7	5	Crocker Farm School 280 West Street
8	5	Munson Memorial Library South Amherst Common, 1046 South East Street
9	4	Wildwood School 71 Strong Street
10	3	Amherst Pelham Regional High School 21 Mattoon Street

Prepared by the **League of Women Voters of Amherst**. The Election Guide is jointly funded by the Amherst League of Women Voters and the Daily Hampshire Gazette, with the help of generous donations to the League's Education Fund from Sponsors Pauline Stark and Anonymous, Supporter Judith Seelig, and Friend Andrea Battle.

### TOWN ELECTION

All Town offices have two (2) year terms. Questionnaires were sent to all candidates for Town offices. Each candidate was asked to reply to the questions below (50 word limit). Candidate statements have not been edited.

**Disclaimer:** The statements given in this Guide are written, submitted, and provided by the candidates and do not reflect the position of the League of Women Voters of Amherst in whole or in part.

Candidate for Councilor-at-Large Vote for 3	What are your thoughts about development in Amherst?	How can the Town Council support racial justice work in Amherst?
Robert E. Greeney 76 McClellan Street Community College Professor <a href="https://bobgreeney.wixsite.com/mysite">https://bobgreeney.wixsite.com/mysite</a>	Amherst needs to broaden its development priorities and strategies. The Town Council, CRC, and Planning Board needs to include a greater diversity of people, ideas and strategies in their work to meet the diverse housing needs of our town. Including all voices will lead to better outcomes.	Supporting racial justice work includes ensuring an appropriate diversity of voices are included in policy formation and decision making. Financial support in good measure is also required. Collaborative work diminishes divisiveness and will lead to greater unity and better outcomes.
Viraphanh Douangmany Cage 12 Longmeadow Drive, Unit 21 Associate Director, BakuCare Adult Day Health <a href="https://voteforvira21.com/">https://voteforvira21.com/</a>	Amherst has been made prone to the greed of developers, investors and speculators to the detriment of achieving the people's goals of climate, racial and economic justice including preservation. We want sidewalks, and safe streets to bike on. We want a viable downtown where big buildings don't loom over us.	Let us move on reparations, move on fully funding Community Safety Working Group proposals, support a strong public school budget & library budget where our lowest paid workers, library technicians, on-call firefighters and para educators do not have to fight for a living wage. Police budget is out of control.
Andrew J. Steinberg 17 Hitching Post Road retired Legal Aid lawyer <a href="http://www.andyforamherst.org">http://www.andyforamherst.org</a>	To increase the budget, we need new development. Downtown and village centers provide the best opportunities. We must assure that downtown development fits a realistic community vision and has sustainable retail, art, music, restaurants. Downtown can have some residences, they cannot dominate. Village centers must be consistent with surrounding neighborhoods.	(1) Listen before making decisions. (2) Be accessible. (3) Recruit and include diversity on committees. (4) Assure that timing and length of meetings are not barriers. (5) Have staff provide support as requested. (6) Explain financial or legal barriers and collaboratively seek solutions. (7) Acknowledge prior injustice. (8) Demonstrate respect.
Mandi Jo Hanneke 26 Foxglove Lane Mother <a href="http://www.VoteHanneke.org">http://www.VoteHanneke.org</a>	I am seeking re-election to continue implementing the Master Plan and addressing the housing crisis in Amherst. I support: guiding new housing growth to areas that minimize the impact on Amherst's open space; creating dynamic, walkable, and attractive downtown and village centers; and diversifying Amherst's housing stock.	In my first term on the Council, I supported wage protections for workers, oversight for Town technology use that could potentially be misused against marginalized populations, re-evaluating the Town's approach to community safety, and climate justice projects. I will continue this work to support racial justice if re-elected.
Ellisha M. Walker 35 Autumn Lane Executive Assistant and Office Manager <a href="https://www.ellishaforamherst.com/">https://www.ellishaforamherst.com/</a>	I believe in density in village centers and in responsible development. All building projects must be sustainable. Focus areas include: Mixed use buildings that provide affordable housing geared towards local residents, the opening and retention of diverse local businesses, Creation and maintenance of sidewalks and bike lanes.	Our Council must provide consistent, accessible, and transparent communication to residents, through an equity lens that considers anti-racist practices, stipends for participation, language services, and multiple means of engagement - written and verbal. We must value and validate qualitative, lived experience as data to be considered in decision making processes.
Vincent J. O'Connor 175 Summer Street #12 Community Organizer	Amherst Center UMass dorm proposals/approvals must be stopped, and permitting agencies and zoning bylaws responsible changed. Vibrant village centers need local businesses/affordable housing, not roundabouts/UMass dorms. Development to reduce taxes/increase revenues is failing. Better - \$1,000,000+ annual Amherst College PILOT/increased annual Commonwealth UMass impact compensation.	Create Public Safety Department with - a Police Division, an independent CRESS Division, an Independent Dispatch Service. Fund review of recent school educational structure decisions for disparate impacts. Vote: Veeraphanh Douangmany Cage/Ellisha Walker, Councilors-at-Large; Ben Harrington/Phoebe Merriam/Jennifer Shiao Page, School Committee; No! on the Library Project
Candidate for District 1 Councilor Vote for 2	What are your thoughts about development in Amherst?	How can the Town Council support racial justice work in Amherst?
Michele Miller 374 Old Montague Road mindfulness educator, writer, and entrepreneur <a href="https://www.votemichellemiller.com/">https://www.votemichellemiller.com/</a>	My slogan is Progress With Purpose because I believe we must be intentional about the ways in which we seek progress in our community. Preserving our history and open spaces, while pursuing thoughtfully planned developments, will help us to achieve our goals of being a vibrant, diverse, and equitable community.	Amherst has a responsibility to view every decision through the lens of racial justice. In a community of mostly white residents, it takes education and sustained practice to dismantle old systems. It also takes a commitment to supporting each other in productive and caring ways, as we work toward change.
Cathy A. Schoen 519 Montague Road Retired, Economist and Health Policy <a href="https://www.cathyschoen.org">https://www.cathyschoen.org</a>	Development can enhance our downtown, villages, and neighborhoods and provide affordable housing if we include provisions for sidewalks and setbacks for space to meet, walk or bike, and build on efforts to require affordable units in large developments. Amherst would benefit from adding development "linkage fees" to fund public infrastructure.	The Council can build on community responder workforce and reparations fund to provide resources to support alternatives to traditional policing to improve trust, health, and safety, and address past inequities. For racial and social justice, we should provide pathways for marginalized or under-represented residents for an equitable and inclusive community.
Candidate for District 2 Councilor Vote for 2	What are your thoughts about development in Amherst?	How can the Town Council support racial justice work in Amherst?
Lynn Griesemer 83 Flat Hills Road Executive Director, UMass Donahue Institute, Retired <a href="http://Lynnfordistrict2.org">http://Lynnfordistrict2.org</a>	Our downtown and village centers should be vibrant - retail, restaurants, and affordable housing. Parking needs to respect neighborhoods and narrow streets ensuring access for residents and emergencies. Zoning changes need to respect our small town character. Investments - water/sewer, sidewalks, bike lanes, and public transportation.	We need to support the creation of the CRESS Program. I proposed an amendment to increase the number of positions from 4 to 8. We need to support African Heritage Reparations Assembly's guidance regarding Reparations. Town Committees and the Town Council need to include representatives of the BIPOC Community.
Patricia De Angelis 21 Ward Street Town Councilor District 2 <a href="https://patforamhest.org">https://patforamhest.org</a>	Development is a way to increase revenue from property taxes, improve services, and support community. I support changes that contain multiple benefits, for example those made to Inclusionary Zoning, Accessory Dwelling Units, permitting duplexes, triplexes, and that promote co-ops, co-housing communities and mixed-income communities like Olympia Oaks and Butternut Farm.	Engaging BIPOC residents in leadership roles and diversifying town departments. Implementing the CRESS program. Free/Accessible youth programming and mentoring led by a diverse set of leaders. Facilitating access to transportation, food, and housing by utilizing an approach connecting residents to services. Ongoing Council and Staff trainings focused on anti-racism.
Candidate for District 3 Councilor Vote for 2	What are your thoughts about development in Amherst?	How can the Town Council support racial justice work in Amherst?
Dorothy S. Pam 229 Amity Street college professor <a href="http://dorothyhypam.com">http://dorothyhypam.com</a>	We can have both new growth, more density, increased tax rolls and still preserve the sense of Amherst as a New England college town. But we must have a more thoughtful zoning process with good design standards, public and private green space, parking, and set backs. Neighborliness and aesthetics matter.	Town Council must include and listen to people of color, not just tell them what they need. We must support their rethinking of delivery of public safety and social work, support the youth initiatives, and work with the BIPOC community to increase safe neighborhoods, strong schools, and increased home ownership.
George E. Ryan 18 Dana Street Teacher (retired) <a href="https://www.georgeryanforamherst.org">https://www.georgeryanforamherst.org</a>	Responsible development in our downtown and village centers will lessen the attraction of converting single family homes to rentals, provide badly needed tax revenues, help meet the enormous demand for housing, and help us realize the goals of the Inclusionary Zoning bylaw. It is also better for the planet.	Convince voters to back a debt-exclusion override for a new elementary school, push for universal pre-K, create a civilian review board to improve dialog between residents and APD, support affordable housing initiatives and zoning reforms to increase housing production thus increasing housing opportunity at all income levels.
Jennifer Lynn Taub 259 Lincoln Avenue Grant Writer/Consultant <a href="http://www.jennifer4district3.org">http://www.jennifer4district3.org</a>	Support existing and attract new retail and entertainment establishments. Keep Amherst unique. Contextually appropriate buildings yield the same tax revenue as boxy, oversized apartments. Permitting 61 new single-family homes vs 505 rental units (with 267 more coming), mostly for students, between 2015-2020, doesn't serve or expand our year-round/family population.	Council should support and fund the Community Safety and Social Justice Committee's implementation of CSWG's full slate of recommendations. Ensuring that Amherst's BIPOC community is represented on all Town governing bodies is essential to having a seat at the table - as is implementation of a robust language translation service.
Candidate for District 4 Councilor Vote for 2	What are your thoughts about development in Amherst?	How can the Town Council support racial justice work in Amherst?
Evan Robert Ross 40 Spaulding Street, Apt. 2 UMass Lecturer <a href="https://evan4amherst.com/">https://evan4amherst.com/</a>	Amherst is in a housing crisis that threatens our values of diversity and opportunity. To address it we need to produce more housing across all income levels. Housing development should be focused on downtown and village centers but be accompanied by smart design guidelines that create vibrant and lively streetscapes.	Amherst must work to fully implement the community responder program and other recommendations from the Community Safety Working Group to create a town where BIPOC residents feel safe and supported. We also must achieve racial justice in housing by eliminating exclusionary zoning and creating pathways for BIPOC homeownership.