

Responses of Town Meeting Candidates*

Your name as it appears on the ballot	Incumbent?	Years Residency	What interests and concerns motivated you to run for Town Meeting? Please touch on at least one major issue facing Amherst today.
Precinct 1			
Laura Fitch		28	Fort River and Wildwood schools are in deplorable condition and need to be replaced. Our teachers and students deserve healthy, light-filled spaces. Amherst has great outdoor resources which need our attention. We must prepare for a future by reducing sprawl, increasing bike paths and buses, supporting local farms and businesses.
Margaret Gage		57	I'm committed to meaningful representative town government and support the continuation of Town Meeting. As a Charter Commissioner I've come to see ways Town Meeting could be improved to be more efficient and representative. I want Amherst to manage growth in ways that benefit the whole community.
Philip W. Gosselin	X	29	"Smart planning" has brought a windfall of waivers and tax breaks for developers and real estate interests with infrastructure costs (parking, traffic, etc.) transferred from developers to taxpayers. Amherst's historic beauty is endangered (the north entrance to town now looks like a minimum security prison with worse yet to come).
Stephen King	X	21	I am a firm believer in the benefits of representative TM and urge the Charter Commission to recommend its continuation. I worry that Amherst is too expensive for many families to live in and believe that this problem's solution requires sensitive, participatory, and transparent planning for the long term.
Nina Mankin		50	I returned to live in my family home in North Amherst 6 year ago to raise my son close to nature and in a community that cares deeply about the values of education, diversity and sustainability. I want to be part of stewarding those values as we grow and change.
Melissa Perot	X	7	Town Meeting works when Members engage in the wide diversity of the community, listen intently and act in accordance with the Master Plan. I am interested in citizen participation in the process of inevitable change, balancing growth with austerity and creativity with stability as we struggle with complexity.
Kerry Spitzer		13	My family has lived in Amherst for four generations. After working and studying in NYC and Boston, I returned to raise a family. I am running for TM in order to ensure that Amherst remains a great place to live and to keep Amherst public schools strong.
Dominick Usher		4	I want to be a more active participant in the development and growth of this great community. I also want to ensure that there is a greater representation of the needs and concerns of young families with varying perspectives in town governance.
Precinct 2			
Ira S. Addes	X	30	I have learned much about local government at TM. As new concerns arise I will remain aware of the big picture. Ideological and special interest approaches need to be balanced by voices from our local communities that are capable of critical thinking. The voices of our communities need equal access
Nolan Anaya	X	17	I'm running for my 3rd term because I strongly believe in representing my neighborhood. I actively seek out the opinions of my precinct and try my best vote accordingly. Please check out my voting history and my attendance to see my commitment to Town Meeting. Thanks for your support.
Lisa Berry		8	Recent issues such as the proposed changes to schools, library, DPW and fire department have inspired me to run for Town Meeting. A social worker by training, I am an active community member, researcher, and parent of 2 Wildwood boys. I am skilled in listening, asking questions and thinking critically.

This report includes only candidates who provided statements for the League of Women Voters Election Guide.
Additional candidates may appear on your ballot.

Responses of Town Meeting Candidates*

Robert C. Biagi	X	21	I've been involved with town governments for many years. I believe deeply in our representative government where many citizens have input, not just a select few. I'm interested in maintaining a responsive electorate which responds to town as well as neighborhood needs.
Michael Birtwistle	X	32	Towns, like organisms, grow or die. I favor sensible, organic growth - but some in Amherst are putting us on steroids, forcing growth unhealthy for our long term development and destructive of our quality of life. In Town Meeting, I'll try to stop them from pumping up the dosage.
Amber Cano-Martin		6	I'm concerned that Town Meeting is not representative of parents of young children. Many of us, like myself, oppose the current plan to build a new elementary school. We want a new, truly participatory process to create an inclusive plan in the best interest of all Amherst children and families.
Deborah Lee Leonard		27	I am a parent to three children, one each in the elementary, middle, and high schools. I have been a Fort River parent and volunteer in many different roles for over a decade. I combine an institutional memory of our school system with a realistic, forward-looking view of its future.
Sovann-Malis Loeng		22	I am a Cambodian refugee and Wildwood parent. I am running for Town Meeting because I want to see, be, and have more diverse representation of immigrants in town governance. As a working class renter and parent, I am interested and particularly concerned about school issues and cost of living.
Edith Nye MacMullen	X	17	In his farewell address President Obama stressed the importance of civic involvement. His words convinced me to run again for Town Meeting. Complaining does nothing; commitment and participation accomplishes much.
William J. Mullin	X	50	Town Meeting has important decisions to be made on new Town facilities to be built. The Town can apparently afford these projects. While TM should continue intelligent questioning, I feel it must listen more carefully to its leadership. Its constant micromanaging has led to a real diminishment of progress.
Luke Ramage-Healey	X	7	I am most interested in contributing to town meeting as a parent of young children and active member of the community.
Anthony Rosa	X	26	As a long term resident with 3 kids going through the Amherst Schools, they're education, health and wellbeing have been my main focus. School budgets and how the schools handle budget cuts, along with our lack of adequate funding for AFD and APD are important and very concerning.
Jean Schwartz	X	18	My primary interests in running for Town Meeting include supporting Amherst public education, encouraging wise fiscal management, and supporting the appropriate development of Village centers to further strengthen our tax base.
Peter Vickery		18	Amherst has been a great place to raise our children, and I would like to help keep it that way. Ensuring that Amherst remains sustainable will require greater fiscal prudence and a less lopsided tax base. If elected I promise to be an accessible, responsive, and accountable representative.

Precinct 3

Toni Brennan Cunningham		4	As a parent of two young children, my current focus is the strength of our small schools and the accessibility of safe, outdoor play spaces. In addition, I am interested in preserving the aesthetic of Amherst and the prioritization of spending in order to keep taxes down.
Jonathan DiRusso		4	I am running to represent groups that are not currently represented in town meeting, especially college students and minorities. I plan to focus on advocating for responsible spending by the town and ensuring a continuing democratic process that protects the financially vulnerable and disenfranchised members of our community.
Irene Dujovne		8	I am deeply concern about the changes proposed to our schools and to the thread of our society. I want to see Amherst take decisions in a rational, informed way.

This report includes only candidates who provided statements for the League of Women Voters Election Guide.
Additional candidates may appear on your ballot.

Responses of Town Meeting Candidates*

Adam Hoole		3	I am motivated to run for Town Meeting to bring greater representation of low-income, working class, and student ideas and concerns to the forefront. I will fight for a more responsible municipal fiscal policy and for the adoption of policies that aid underrepresented members of our community.
William Kaizen		1	I recently moved to Amherst with my family. My son has just begun kindergarten at Wildwood. My daughter will soon follow. I want to keep our public school's top notch, and see that Amherst remains a vibrant town for families with school age children as well as students and seniors.
Robert B. Kusner	X	29	The Town is planning multiple large capital projects over the next few years, including more than \$100,000,000 to replace, renovate or reconfigure our elementary schools. We must thoughtfully balance the concerns our older friends and neighbors have about affording these large projects with the educational needs of our youngest residents.
Jeffrey Mazur		2	In response to the current events in our country, I am inspired to be more active in local governance. My primary issues are the environment, education, and equality. Climate change is a major concern of mine. I want future generations to be able to inherit a livable planet.
William Furnas Snyder		5	Decisions about public education are my primary motive. My interests arise from concerns about privilege and inequality, about natural resource management for the future; for climate justice, and for community-connected learning. Amherst has significant resources. We need to include more voices, think creatively, and work harder to find common ground.
Eve Vogel	X	9	- schools - protecting Amherst's (Pre)K6 community schools; promoting equity, inclusion and real community dialogue, while taking seriously costs, administrative needs, etc. - transportation and zoning - promoting a comprehensive multi-modal network for all kinds of people, trips. - strong, diverse, inclusive communities that support neighborhoods, families and local businesses.
Precinct 4			
Stephen George	X	43	I will consider the upcoming capital projects with respect for the motives and efforts of advocates for the projects, but also with a concern for financial and other impacts on town residents.
Michael Giles	X	15	As a long time resident, with three children in the public schools, I have a deep interest in working for change that supports the long term health of our town government and community. As a TM member I try to foster productive, respectful, fact-based conversations about critical town issues.
Kay J. Moran		23	After 12 years on the Finance Committee, I want to continue working for the well-being of Amherst and all its residents. Encouraging appropriate development in our town and village centers is necessary in order to increase the tax revenue that pays for good town services.
Caroline Murray	X	33	I work to increase the power of everyday people to have control over decisions that affect their lives. Together, we can end the extractive economy and create healthy, thriving, and connected local economies. I am an organizer and sponsor of the Amherst Sanctuary bylaw petition for Town Meeting.
BARBARA CATHERINE VAN DEN BERG		2	I believe the town meeting is a very important institution and should not be replaced by another form of government, such as, a mayor and town counsel. The thorough discussions by a variety of town representatives is essential for the proper functioning of democracy.
Precinct 5			
Kevin Collins	X	54	By not passing the Bond Authorization for the 5% override for \$67M for 2 schools that the voters accepted on Nov 8, Town Meeting voted in the biggest tax increase in the history of Amherst without the voters having a say. Town Meeting should do its job, not other people's.

This report includes only candidates who provided statements for the League of Women Voters Election Guide.
Additional candidates may appear on your ballot.

Responses of Town Meeting Candidates*

WILLIAM BRIAN DEVORE		5	Like many others I've been shocked into political action by recent national and local events. Amherst needs advocates for smart growth and managed progress. As a father of 2 young children, I will prioritize sensible investments in our town's future.
Mandi Jo Hanneke	X	6	I am running for re-election because I want more families and younger residents to be represented and involved. I want my voice as a supporter of the schools and libraries in town to be heard, including my 6 years of recent experience using the libraries with small children.
Hallie Hughes		9	As a mother, spouse, attorney and reader, I believe in the importance of education, our town libraries and emergency services. These services need upkeep and expansion. I currently serve as co-chair of the Crocker Farm PGO and as a board member of the Friends of the Jones Library.
Alexandra Monesson-Olson		10	I am motivated to run for Town Meeting after observing the conflict around the new school. I believe that there needs to be a stronger voice from parents of young children. We are just getting started in this town, and I would like to have a hand in its future.
Andrew Parker-Renga		4	I am concerned for the future of Amherst and the appropriation of funds for children and early education, including the Jones Library Project and the new elementary school. I hope to be a fresh voice for new families looking to move to Amherst.
Russell Vernon-Jones	X	36	I want Amherst to be a welcoming, inclusive community for people of all income levels and racial backgrounds. Any public building projects taken on in town should reflect the best practices of sustainable building and add as little as possible to the carbon footprint of our town.
Mary L. Wentworth	X		I am running for re-election to Town Meeting, a vital part of our town's government. I will be working to find a way to provide truly affordable housing for Amherst families, to protect neighborhoods from undesirable development, and to ensure Amherst will remain a great small college town.

Precinct 6

Stacey Beganny		2	As a parent of two children in the Amherst Public School system and as a staff member in the Biology Department at Amherst College, I am directly involved with education in Amherst. I am running for Town Meeting because Amherst's children deserve equal and inclusive education.
TracyLee Saraia G Boutilier	X	18	I am seeking re-election because I am committed to continuing my service to Town Meeting. As one of those under 45yrs, I represent a younger perspective and bring diversity along with my passion for social justice, housing, and education.
Michael A. Burkart	X	26	I have owned a home in town for 26 years. I am a strong proponent of TM. As a friend of mine said, the ones who will protect your interests best are your own neighbors, because they are the ones who live where you do and share your concerns.
Patricia DeAngelis		23	I believe we must continue to build a community where all people are safe, welcomed, and engaged in the collaborative life of our town. I support the need for clear and thoughtful dialogue, which sees the common good as more important than individual positions. I believe diversity is our strength.
MaryAnn Grim		40	I was motivated to run for Town Meeting after watching the debates for the bond authorization for the Wildwood school building project and around issues tangential to the library building project. I want to be part of the body that makes further decisions around the library project, which I support.
Bennett Hazlip		9	I believe Town Meeting needs to be more representative of the town itself. As a father of two young children in my early 40s, I look forward to continuing my engagement with important local issues such as strong public schools in an official capacity as a Town Meeting member.
Lisa Kleinholz	X	29	As a parent whose two children went through Amherst's public schools, from kindergarten through high school, I'm a strong supporter of Amherst's schools. As a writer, I am grateful for our wonderful town libraries and would like to see some improvement to the branch libraries, especially in North Amherst.

This report includes only candidates who provided statements for the League of Women Voters Election Guide. Additional candidates may appear on your ballot.

Responses of Town Meeting Candidates*

Christopher Kostas	X	14	Amherst needs new elementary schools. In the fall I voted for the bond authorization for the 2-6 dual school project but by December could only abstain. The school project has very divided support. A project without grade reconfiguration is a better solution. The DPW also needs new facilities.
Joan Ross Logan	X	47	Will we have the housing for the talented people who could live and work here?
Allison Bleyler McDonald		14	Our recent debates around the proposed new elementary school motivated me to run for Town Meeting. While that plan eventually may not pass, I believe we need a T.M. that better represents the diversity of our citizenry, and is more accountable through competitive elections.
Sarah McKee		17	Retaining Town Meeting means a lot to me. So does retaining Amherst's historic charm. This affects our quality of life, and is a major economic asset. How could Amherst weather a serious breakdown of, e.g. the national grid? How to achieve 100% renewable energy? Such questions concern me as well.
Suzanne Schilling		26	I am motivated to run for Town Meeting by the issue of retaining a strong tax base in Amherst, whether that is achieved by growth in business development opportunities, or keeping and expanding the diverse, intelligent and vibrant residents raising families.
Susan J. Tracy		33	As a longtime Amherst resident, I am interested in solving Amherst's problems. If elected I would support energy and conservation projects and the economic development of the downtown and village centers. I support the building of an early childhood education center at Crocker Farm and a co-located school at Wildwood.
Kathleen Traphagen		12	My priorities are public schools that provide excellent education for all children and ensuring Amherst has vibrant resources for all. I support building new schools, renovating Jones Library, and declaring Amherst as a sanctuary community. We must spur economic development, streamline small business regulations, and protect open spaces and farmland.

Precinct 7

Christopher Boyd		20	I support investing in the cultural resources of our downtown.
Isabelle M. Callahan	X	89	I have watched the town grow from 6000 to over 35,000 population. I am always interested in any suggestion to change streets, build new housing and improve our schools. I've been in Town Meeting about 35 years. I am particularly interested in low income housing.
gertrude como	X	31	To attract a diverse population, Amherst must foster a strong educational system and reasonable real estate values and tax rates. Only through collaborative interaction can we make sound educational and fiscal decisions to meet these goals. The current contentious adversarial climate frustrates these efforts. We must listen to one another.
Melissa Giraud		4	I love Amherst. As an educator and a parent of young children of color, I am particularly interested in projects that serve kids and families of all stripes and would look forward to digging into issues around our schools and libraries.
Carol Gray	X	13	I voted "No" on the school plan. Why? Expensive! The 2012 national average cost-per-square-foot for elementary school construction: \$211; that plan:\$441. Let's keep K-6 neighborhood schools. Solution? New schools in current locations. Grant application for Wildwood. Bond out Fort River. Seek contribution from colleges. Let's keep our community together.
Benjamin Herrington		11	The impact of town spending on low and middle income residents, is a major concern for me. The proposed "mega school" and the price attached, will result in higher taxes that will adversely impact Amherst's working class residents, while providing very little benefit in the long run.

This report includes only candidates who provided statements for the League of Women Voters Election Guide.
Additional candidates may appear on your ballot.

Responses of Town Meeting Candidates*

Chri Hoffmann	X	27	I believe I provide a good balance between a strong desire to keep the small-town feel of Amherst, while also being aware of the revenue and spending challenges we face trying to maintain that feel. I've served on both town budget committees and our affordable housing committee.
Marla Jamate	X	11	I appreciate Amherst's very good K-6 public schools, and hope to see K-6 preserved, plus school plans driven by curriculum innovations. I'm concerned about development pressures and preserving Amherst's charm. Amherst has Hampshire County's highest residential property tax rate, and I'd like to see a measured approach to capital spending.
Thomas V. Jamate	X	12	I live in South Amherst and am a parent of two children in the Amherst public schools, I also work here. I'd like to see Amherst make smart and intelligent choices concerning the schools (strong curriculum), affordability, transportation (walkable communities, bike lanes) and in town growth and development.
Lisa Kosanovic		18	Town Meeting is under fire - for some good reasons, and for some reasons that are not good. I believe strongly in participatory democracy, and I want to be part of an effort to make Town Meeting stronger and better in order to keep it both alive and relevant.
Roger Magnus	X	9	I am both pragmatic and have the desire to see Amherst retain its independent spirit and not become like many other places as some forces are seeking to re-make it. Town Meeting must be kept to stop poor fiscal policies that don't always represent the will of the town's residents..
Jane Mairs		5	I want to help preserve Amherst's natural resources, cultural and economic diversity, and tradition of active citizen engagement in democracy. My career has been in education and publishing for non-native speakers of English. In recent years, I've participated in political action and volunteered at Amherst's homeless shelter and hospice.
Richard Morse	X	22	Our revenue situation is delicate. I cannot vote to reject huge state grants, after hours of careful volunteer deliberation. Our consensus includes a desire to avoid retail sprawl and a love for open space. That imperative requires compromise elsewhere, to fund services adequately and replace important buildings.
Cynthia H. Rhodes	X	59	I want to make sure that the town's resources are used wisely so that all of Amherst's residents can afford to remain in town. Safety is also important and a fire station in the south is long overdue.
Narayan Sampath		4	My name is Narayan Sampath. My wife, children and I have been residents of South Amherst for almost 4 years. There a number of reasons we like living in Amherst but am intrigued and would like to better understand the Town Finances.
Kevin Vanderleeden		20	I support sensible development, diversifying the tax base, and ensuring that all Amherst students have access to quality schools and educational resources.
Paul Wright		21	I am motivated to run by a sense of civic duty. I do not have an agenda. My views tend to be progressive, but I am a good listener. If elected I will hear all sides of issues before reaching conclusions and will strive to balance information gathering with advocacy.

Precinct 8

Nelson Acosta	X	38	I love the town of Amherst & its New England Charm, its a great place to raise a family & enjoy the outdoors. Th school education system, the fabric of our town & open space, our communities diversity & what makes it a place to great to live.
Elayne Berger		14	My experiences with the Community Gardens, and as a parent whose children have recently graduated taught me about some important aspects of life in Amherst. As your representative in Town Meeting, I would like to help my fellow citizens with the important decisions that will affect our future.
James Boice	X	18	I generally vote for progress; things like new schools for our kids and rezoning to encourage development in town centers.

This report includes only candidates who provided statements for the League of Women Voters Election Guide.
Additional candidates may appear on your ballot.

Responses of Town Meeting Candidates*

Donna Brunelle		25	My interests in running for Town Meeting member include upcoming projects in Precinct 8 that include a fire station, a new school, as well as upgrades in Groff Park. I would like to be a part of the decision making process for the improvements in South Amherst.
Lisa Cain		7	I am a mother of 2 children in the public schools and I want to help inform the choices the town makes about finances. We have a number of large public works projects coming up and I want to evaluate them and help choose the best way to move forward.
Ute J. Dymon		31	To provide an unbiased opinion on issues. I want to make sure that taxpayer's money is spent wisely. While schools are usually the largest taxpayer's outlay, we should not overlook the fire and police department. We should ensure that our water supply stays safe and adequate.
Kent W. Faerber		39	As a 39-year resident of the Town, active in its non-profits, I would like to provide some fresh perspective about how to preserve what is unique to Amherst – why we live here – while embracing the unrelenting demographic, economic and technological forces that are affecting it.
Frank M. Gatti	X	26	I value conversations with those voters concerned enough to initiate a discussion with me and the discussions that occur in the debate on the town meeting floor. Representative town meeting is one of the only places where decisions are made through listening to each other, through dialogue and questioning.
Paul Goulston		17	Having worked with families and children in Hampshire County for 35 years I continue to feel a commitment to human services. As a social worker I can be a useful resource to our community. My expertise is in alcohol and drug addiction, education advocacy, medical advocacy and housing resources.
christopher hoch		15	I have spent the last 20 years in Amherst as the owner of a nearby manufacturing business. I am interested in energy conservation and the environment, safety and sidewalks in South Amherst near Atkins, and (although my children are grown) the future of the Amherst Elementary Schools.
Bernard Kubiak	X	21	As someone with experience in local governments (selectman, town administrator, county commissioner) and a public policy background I have an inherent interest in making town government productive, responsive and efficient. I currently serve on the Finance Committee. I look forward to a second term on town meeting.
Richard (Rick) Last		21	Deciding the course of town government is the job of all citizens. In these times, when democracy is threatened, we need to support structures like Town Meeting. I do not want to be a bystander. I am a former Amherst teacher and a good listener who will welcome your input.
Ellen Brout Lindsey		12	My top priority is investing in Amherst's future. As a parent of an ARMS 7th grader, I support new schools for our children's success and an updated library for a stronger community. I will listen to community members, be accountable, and work to keep Amherst vibrant for the next generation.
Jennifer Shiao Page		9	I believe that Town Meeting is a true expression of democracy, and we need democracy now more than ever. When elected to Town Meeting I will listen to all sides of an issue with an open mind and an open heart.
Theodore Parker	X	25	Amherst is currently faced with a number of challenges: deferred capital improvement projects, a contentious elementary school building project, declining school enrollment and a lack of housing for young families of moderate means. Town meeting needs the participation of citizens who are committed to addressing some of these problems.
Janice D. Ratner	X	39	Participation in Town Meeting is important to protect the safety and well-being of all, preserve our education system and libraries, maintain the Town's infrastructure and reserves, plan growth, and protect natural resources, farmland, and conservation areas, while being fiscally responsible. The four proposed building projects will be a challenge.

This report includes only candidates who provided statements for the League of Women Voters Election Guide.
Additional candidates may appear on your ballot.

Responses of Town Meeting Candidates*

Jonathan Salvon		11	I have 2 elementary age children at Fort River and Crocker Farm schools and I am motivated by the need for modern and healthy schools. I am also an owner of a business in town and have an interest in Amherst having a diverse and vibrant downtown.
Timothy J. Sheehan		2	As a long-time Amherst educator and current resident, my interests lie in making sure that the town is making the best choices with regard to public education, development, and issues that have an impact on the quality of life and social justice in our community.
Alice C. Swift		50	I have served in town meeting (precinct 7) more than 35 years. I like to participate in making decisions for the town and understand how decisions were made. I want to support the Library project, replacing the two elementary schools, and Bay Rd. crosswalks. I'm the only candidate from Applewood.
Erika Zekos		12	I will work for smart, sustainable growth that supports vibrant village centers, advocates for our dedicated public safety providers, increases access to housing and services for our neighbors in need, celebrates our diversity, and keeps students at the center of decisions about education.

Precinct 9

Katherine Appy		10	I am deeply committed to preserving and enhancing our public schools as a strong advocate for true integration and strong economic support. I also want to advocate for sustainable economic development backed by a sound and strategic financial plan. Careful growth helps our public institutions thrive.
Shavahn M. Best	X	46	There was once a thriving grocery store and many more bookstores in the center of town; and a popular youth program that provided educational, employment and recreational opportunities for Amherst's youth. I am interested in working with others to reach consensus on issues regarding future development, zoning and land use.
Felicity P Callahan	X	34	Preserve Town Meeting. Use restraint in decisions causing tax increases, notably multiple huge proposed capital projects. Support public services, including education, human service agencies, and public safety. Find ways to balance zoning changes, affordable housing needs, and preserving Town character. Continue to protect the environment, water resources, and dwindling farmlands.
James Chambers		9	Amherst is a great town in which to live, work, and further your education. I will strive to strike a fruitful balance between the shared, deep history in Amherst and the numerous opportunities to develop downtown, revive our great public schools, and make room for smart growth.
Lea Douville		16	I am a parent of two children in Amherst public schools. The successful future our community relies on the continual investment in education. I hold an advanced degree in economics, and favor a balanced approach to town development. I am grateful to call Amherst my home.
Eliza Frasier		2	I believe in the value of live-work-play communities and in the importance of smart growth for our town.
Noah Kuhn		22	I was born and raised in Amherst, attending Wildwood, the Junior High, and ARHS. I believe in safe, healthy schools that serve all our children. I also believe in smart, thoughtful development of our downtown. I'm running because I want to increase the representation of young families at Town Meeting.
Leonard Lucien Jr		15	I am against the Wildwood Fort River Megaschool project. I am for settling disagreements by honest discussion, listening and accepting differing opinions. We teach our 8 and 5 yr old to do this so shouldn't we? I won't be bullied but I look forward to the discussion.
David Markland		3	Residential neighborhoods are the backbone of our community and I want to protect them. Town Meeting is the final check to aggressive, ill-conceived development. We need smart and appropriate development. That I will support. Give me the opportunity to represent you. Please vote for me on March 28th. Thank you.

This report includes only candidates who provided statements for the League of Women Voters Election Guide. Additional candidates may appear on your ballot.

Responses of Town Meeting Candidates*

Jacob Mayfield		5	I believe Town Meeting offers a voice to viewpoints that would otherwise remain unheard. Unfortunately, my work schedule now conflicts with Town Meeting and I ask that voters choose another candidate. I hope to serve in the future.
Craig E Meadows		38	There are two primary issues that motivated me: first, as a parent of four children that attended the Amherst Schools and grandfather of three attending, I am extremely concerned with the elementary schools; secondly, I am concerned over what appears as an erosion of democratic principles within town government.
Jonathan O'Keeffe	X	20	I am committed to bringing transparency and accountability to Town Meeting. I have worked to implement electronic voting at Town Meeting, and full attendance and voting information for myself and all other representatives are available on my website, www.tallyvotes.org .
Carol C. Pope			If elected, I will urge this important forum toward greater responsiveness to our community; advocate fiscal responsibility; and seek to include underrepresented groups such as young parents, renters, minorities, seniors. I will host frequent gatherings with constituents, and strive to save the institutions we prize and the neighborhoods we value.
Kristen Roeder		15	Positive change! I am a Wildwood teacher and mother of a school age child and I support safe, healthy, and well-funded public schools. I would like to see planned, sustainable development that supports the town's human and economic development, neighborhoods, and the protection of open space.
Thomas Roeper		43	I support progressive values in town/UMass relations, especially in co-ordinating the Sanctuary movement, off-campus housing, resisting anti-democratic Trump actions, and developing a philosophy for state/town grants. Previously taught Freedom School in Mississippi (SNCC), taught with my family in Bosnia, worked for SAGE in Amherst, and in Town Meeting.
Julia Rueschemeyer	X	16	During eleven years on Town Meeting, I have seen hundreds of residents become involved in the governance of the town we love so much. As a professional attorney mediator, I bring an open mind to the debates and diverse perspectives needed to support and improve our critical community institutions.
Stephen Schreiber	X	12	I am chair of the Amherst Planning Board and chair of the UMass Department of Architecture. I support town meeting articles that focus on sensible, sustainable, infill development in our town centers; increased attainable housing; strong public schools; and improved infrastructure.
Sarah E. Thomson		27	I am concerned about the increasing urbanization of Amherst.
Jason Threlfall		4	Safe, healthy, and well-funded public schools. Planned, sustainable development that supports the town's human and economic development, neighborhoods, and the protection of open space.
Jessica Wilkinson		8	I was motivated to run for Town Meeting after a ~3 year hiatus because I am an advocate for positive change for Amherst. I support strong, healthy, and well-funded schools and planned sustainable development that advances a robust local economy and the protection of open space.

Precinct 10

Alfred Alschuler		35	I am committed to the following if elected to town meeting: actively seeking the input of residents about the issues coming before TM; being prepared for TM by educating myself on agenda items; advocating for responsible governance, responsible development and the preservation of the qualities that make Amherst unique.
Susan Bain		14	I am running for Town Meeting because while I am committed to maintaining what makes our town special, I also recognize the need for responsible growth. An active volunteer in social services and the public schools, I strive to represent the diverse voices in our community.

This report includes only candidates who provided statements for the League of Women Voters Election Guide. Additional candidates may appear on your ballot.

Responses of Town Meeting Candidates*

Stephen Braun	X	17	As a member of the Finance Committee I work to control costs of proposed capital projects, question assumptions made by consultants, and make decisions based on data, not emotions. As a board member of the Amherst Historical Society I work to preserve the architectural and historical fabric of town.
Gretchen G. Fox	X	33	Thirty three years in Amherst have shown me that TM works well, and can reflect community best. I will continue to vote in favor of issues that reflect two major concerns: retention of Amherst's family-friendly cultural and educational character; and planning initiatives that reflect sound social and fiscal policy.
Christine Kline	X	22	Preserving the ability of middle and lower income families to live in neighborhoods and educate their children in our schools, and preventing further development that replaces the New England charm of Amherst with the "new model" of oversized, urbanized, glass-and-steel architecture - motivates my run for TM.
Carole Learned-Miller		7	My career in education will be a helpful guide as I strive to support our schools as well as our greater community. I will reach out to precinct 10 residents to ensure their voices are heard and that Amherst is becoming increasingly equitable, inclusive and vibrant.
Alexandra J. Lefebvre		16	As property taxes increase and our infrastructure declines, we must find a way to keep Amherst vibrant yet affordable. I support responsible economic development that truly creates new sources of revenue, attracts visitors and new residents, supports local businesses, and maintains the historic character of our New England college town.
Gabor Lukacs	X	24	If elected, I will advance sustainability and strong community, in the face of climate change, and economic instability. I will vote AGAINST articles that divide our town (like the current school plan) and FOR articles that bring people together (like using CPA monies for farmer-incubator and affordable housing).
Renee Morgan		6	Amherst has a long-standing image as both a family-friendly community and a college town. As it stands today, we are struggling to attract and retain families, especially in lower-income brackets, while still staying relevant to college students. Keeping development smart, affordable, and accessible is imperative.
Christine F Pilsner		6	I am a parent of two small children and an owner of a home near campus. Top issues: 1) smart investments in our public schools 2) supporting a diverse and inclusive community 3) a vibrant, walk able downtown 4) maintaining historic districts 5) sustainable development 6) town-gown relations.
Jena Schwartz		4	As a parent of two school-age children, I am running for Town Meeting with an interest in supporting our schools, particularly when it comes to keeping economic, environmental, and racial equality and justice at the forefront of our priorities as a community.
James Turner	X	22	Town meeting is the best way for taxpaying citizens to have their voice heard and to make a positive impact on town government. We don't need expensive mayoral elections in Amherst and the special interest politics that come with them. Join me in voting NO CHARTER next year.
L. Paige Wilder	X	18	Our precinct contains some of the most historic, walk-able neighborhoods in Amherst. As pressure increases to "densify" Amherst and UMass plans to add 5,000 more students, we can thank Town Meeting efforts for helping to preserve our neighborhoods. I will continue working to keep our neighborhoods affordable, healthy and sustainable.

This report includes only candidates who provided statements for the League of Women Voters Election Guide. Additional candidates may appear on your ballot.