

2018 Amherst Election Guide



less lopsided tax base. If re-elected I promise to remain an accessible, responsive, and accountable representative.

IAN T. M. RHODEWALALT

TOWN MEETING PRECINCT 3

3 YEARS - VOTE FOR 8

***ANDREW CHURCHILL**
59 Pine Street
School administrator
Resident: 23 years

Amherst has a number of unresolved and connected challenges, including high taxes, multiple building projects coming due at once, housing pressures pushing families and town workers out of town, and no agreement on what downtown should look like. If Town Meeting continues, I will keep working to connect the dots.

***CLAUSE TELLIER**
235A Pine St
Retired
Resident: 22 years

My priority issue is sustaining and rebuilding quality education for our children, which is tied to addressing the competition between student and resident housing, planning and funding our long term capital needs, and well-thought out zoning decisions that benefit the common good.

RENEE K MORGAN
131 Pine Street
Learning and development manager
Resident: 6 years

It is difficult for young professionals to make a life in Amherst. We're underrepresented in town government, home prices are out the roof, and full-time positions are scarce. Affordable housing, diversity in town government, and small business will make this a better place for young professionals to live and work.

***CATHARINE PORTER**
220 Rolling Ridge Rd.
Retired ombudsperson
Resident: 50 years

The Charter is a poses a major decision for Amherst. The town also has a list of projects that deserve attention and residents need to be well informed about the impact on each and every person as it relates to affordability and quality of life.

2 YEARS - VOTE FOR 1

DEBORAH ISABEL MARGOLIN
157 Pine Street blue house
Academic coordinator
Resident: 28 years

I was inspired to run again (I first served about 24 years ago) after joining town meeting to voice my concerns about the design plans of the new school. I was impressed by my fellow constituents thoughtful responses. I am in favor of retaining town meeting.

TOWN MEETING PRECINCT 4

3 YEARS - VOTE FOR 8

JOHN SNYDER
74 Blue Hills Rd
Physician
Resident: 3 years

I'm an Amherst-based physician, business owner and parent, with a uniquely informed perspective on the issues that matter to the Amherst community. I have a passion and commitment to science, public health, and rational problem solving. I'm excited to work toward improving our quality of life, commerce, housing, and diversity.

***BAER TIERKEL**
30 Dana Place
Mandolin player
Resident: 15 years

I would like to continue my 12 years of efforts in Town Meeting to ensure the human rights of banjo players in our town. In this age that sorely lacks tolerance of those different from ourselves, we must actively work for loving kindness.

***BARBARA CATHERINE VAN DEN BERG**
50 Amity Place
Homemaker
Resident: 2 years

My first term as a Town Meeting member showed me the importance of listening to a variety of voices to decide on projects for the town. The proposed new charter will eliminate Town Meeting, an essential institution for democracy. I will vote NO on the

new charter.

2 YEARS - VOTE FOR 1

***CAROL M. JOHNSON**
21 South Sunset Ave
Executive director, Amherst Cinema
Resident: 20 years

1) Safe and modern school structures, conducive to learning, for our children. 2) A vibrant, pedestrian-friendly and welcoming downtown. This will require a parking garage. 3) Vibrant and pedestrian-friendly town centers elsewhere in town.

ROBERT OLMSTED
22 Blue Hills Rd
Senior living nurse
Resident: 5 years

I would like to see a broader tax base to help maintain the quality of town services while reducing the burden on home owners, support a more diverse community and provide more affordable housing.

TOWN MEETING PRECINCT 5

3 YEARS - VOTE FOR 8

***PATRICIA K. CHURCH**
75 South Prospect St
Physical therapist
Resident: 22 years

I live in a vulnerable neighborhood on the edge of downtown; a transition area between town center and neighborhoods farther away. Please return me to Town Meeting to represent my neighborhood. I believe we will continue to provide wisdom, caring, and historical continuity to the issues facing our town.

***JONATHAN DIRUSSO**
24 Tyler Place, Apt. 4
Research assistant
Resident: 5 years

Amherst is a diverse community with people who have varying needs and resources. As our town grows and contends with multiple capital projects and increasing courtship by developers we need to ensure these projects and zoning changes address the needs and concerns of all in Amherst.

REGINA EAST
36 Snell Street
Teacher
Resident: 23 years

What motivated me as an African American Woman local who graduated from UMass Amherst, is that the Town that I grew up in is changing in front of my eyes. I would like to be an active member of this community in order to make a difference.

***BARRY FEDERMAN**

***JACQUELINE LUCETTE MAIDANA**
22 Lessey St.
Artist
Resident: 6 years

I have gladly served in Amherst Town Meeting with a strong sense of civic duty. Researched issues, given a great deal of consideration and come to informed decisions. Am honored to participate in Amherst's legislative decisions. In my lifetime having a voice in government has never been more important.

***LEO MALEY**

***JAMES BURGESS OLDHAM**
17 Columbia Drive
Non-profit director
Resident: 20 years

No single issue is more important than all others. Keeping Amherst affordable and livable, maintaining excellent schools despite shrinking enrollment, and caring for vulnerable members of our community are all critical. To address these and other challenges fairly, we need diverse voices in government, not an all-powerful 13-member council

***NANCY H. PAGANO**
24 Greenleaves Drive, Unit 417
Senior center director
Resident: 50 years

I worry about the impact of local, state and Federal budget cuts on programs and services. Town facilities badly need upgrading and many Town departments (particularly public safety) are understaffed. Our burgeoning elder population who have health and financial constraints need support to age in place. Parking limitations challenge everyone.

***AMANDA ROBERTSON**
39 Northampton Rd
Stay at home mom
Resident: 3 years

Creating a BALANCE between critical

development for Amherst while maintaining a sense of preservation. Not only in terms of new buildings while maintaining historic ones, but also for our schools, libraries, facilities and cultural climate.

1 YEAR - VOTE FOR 2

KEVIN P COLLINS
409 Main St Apt 19
Music teacher
Resident: 55 years

We need to do something about a \$20 million backlog of street repairs. Town Meeting needs to focus on what needs to be done. I can't think of a better way to kill what makes Amherst exceptional than trying to keep things just the way they are. Especially the potholes.

CAITLIN CULLEN
15 Sunrise Ave
Biotech Lab Research Intern
Resident: 3 years

The opportunity to increase the diversity, representation, and participation in local government, while preserving the democracy of Town Meeting is my main motivation for running. I stand for racial, gender, and LGBT equality, better education, environmental protection and sustainability, and a thriving community that celebrates our rich culture and diversity.

***ADAM THOMAS WILLIAM HOOLE**
24 Tyler Pl Apt 4
Graduate student
Resident: 4 years

The single most critical issue facing Amherst is the high property tax rate that is providing little public return while contributing to a dearth of affordable housing and jeopardizing middle income home ownership.

TOWN MEETING PRECINCT 6

3 YEARS - VOTE FOR 8

DIANE AMSTERDAM
45 oak knoll
Physician
Resident: 34 years

I'm running for town meeting because I still believe we can make democracy work and that the voices of many will ultimately best represent our diverse town. That said, there should be more accountability and availability of meeting members and I hope to contribute to a better town meeting.

IVAN B BABIAN
187 Colonial Village
Politics
Resident: 12 years

The new town charter is consolidation of power to elites. It silences minority voices, and the people of Amherst. It feels like a coup. Instead Town meeting should meet more often. Let's do better than this proposal, we need a compromise that meets our best needs together as a community.

***JEFFREY D. BLAUSTEIN**
204 Aubinwood Road
Professor emeritus
Resident: 35 years

I support the proposed Charter and would like to see Town Meeting replaced by a more representative and more accountable Town Council. However, if Town Meeting continues, I will continue to support strategic, economic development and a vibrant downtown in order to maintain critical town services, including quality schools.

***MARILYN HECHT BLAUSTEIN**
204 Aubinwood Road
Retired
Resident: 35 years

It is critical that we restore trust in the knowledge and expertise of the Town's leadership (Town Manager, Town Council/Select Board, School Committee, Library Trustees and boards and committees) so that we can collectively move forward and make informed decisions about the Town. Passing the Charter will facilitate this process.

MICHAEL CHILDS
45 Oak Knoll
Clinical psychologist
Resident: 33 years

The vote on our form of government is the most important issue facing this town. I am concerned enough about the flaws in either the current or the proposed form of government to step forward and either make town meeting better or assist in the transition to a council.

TANIKA J. DOUGLAS

***GORDON A FREED**
33 Echo Hill Rd
Dentist
Resident: 10 years

I'm concerned about preserving our quality of education and services given our aging infrastructure and high taxes. It's essential to have informed citizens willing to vote in a balanced way - recognizing that the town cannot remain unchanged and continue to prosper; while ensuring fidelity to its character and values.

Resident: 35 years
I am concerned that the defeat of the new elementary school was an amazing opportunity lost to the children and citizens of Amherst. I will continue to support the schools, the improvement of infrastructure, and the health and safety of our citizens. I understand the importance of zoning. Thank you.

MARYANN GRIM
65 Alpine Drive
Paralegal
Resident: 42 years

Amherst is facing many big issues in the next few years, including many big capital projects. As a long time resident of Amherst I felt it was time to get involved at this critical time in our town. I hope I have your vote.

CHRISTOPHER KOSTAS
24 Summerfield Rd.
Physicist
Resident: 15 years

I support a new elementary school building to replace Fort River. The new charter concentrates too much power with the Town Council (TC). Voter initiative/veto measure rules (8.3/8.4) create a strategy for TC supporters to suppress their own vote in a special election to drive voter turn-out below 20%.

JOAN LOGAN

***ANDREW T. MELNECHUK**
245 Pelham Road
Printer and carpenter
Resident: 27 years

We moved to Amherst in 1990 and our son received an excellent K-12 public-school education. I served on the public transportation committee, extending bus routes and making the streets safer for all. I have served three terms on Town Meeting and want to help it continue to improve.

DINA NAVON

***TAMBETSU PARKS**
264 Harkness Road
Financial assistant
Resident: 12 years

Making sure that a wide spectrum of voices and opinions are heard and that votes count even for those who are silent.

KARLA RASCHE
33 Ward St
Nursing supervisor
Resident: 12 years

The biggest problem in Amherst right now is "Representative" Town Meeting. I am running simply because it is the only way to have a voice in Amherst right now. I was pro-schools in 2017 and am pro-Charter now. If elected, I will vote responsibly, progressively, and thoughtfully.

JOSNA REGE
245 Pelham Road
English professor
Resident: 27 years

I support our schools, the most vulnerable among us, open-space conservation, energy self-sufficiency, and smart, sustainable development in the spirit of the Book and the Plow. As an immigrant I want to contribute to Amherst's participatory democracy at a time when the nation is going in the other direction.

***RUTH B. SMITH**
823 Main St
Retired social worker and educator
Resident: 5 years

I believe that the Town Meeting structure is much more representative than a Mayor and councils, and offers all citizens the opportunity to make their opinions known on issues in a variety of ways including attending committee meetings, speaking at Town Meeting and contacting the representatives of their precincts.

ABBY STERN

***FAYTHE TURNER**

TOWN MEETING PRECINCT 7

3 YEARS - VOTE FOR 8

ANDREA BATTLE
520 Riverglade Drive, Apt. B
Retired teacher
Resident: 7 years

I think the biggest most important issue is development and affordable housing in Amherst. Many town employees, UMass employees, etc work here but, cannot afford to live here. Hopefully we can address these issues

ALTHEA DABROWSKI
*REBEKAH DEMLING
20 Atwater Circle
Preschool
Resident: 10 years

I'm concerned about preserving our quality of education and services given our aging infrastructure and high taxes. It's essential to have informed citizens willing to vote in a balanced way - recognizing that the town cannot remain unchanged and continue to prosper; while ensuring fidelity to its character and values.

VIRAPHANH DOUANGMANY CAGE
12 Longmeadow Dr, Un 21
Consultant
Resident: 12 years

Exercising our political voice locally through Town Meeting is fundamental to a healthy, vibrant democracy. Voting for the charter will disenfranchise 240+ people. More of us (not fewer) should have a voice at the table in all budgetary and zoning matters impacting our schools, neighborhood and libraries.

BENJAMIN J HERRINGTON
99J Southport Drive
Custodian
Resident: 12 years

I am running for Town Meeting because I believe in participatory democracy and I intend to be a part of improving on the system of governance that makes Amherst such a great place to live.

MAURA KEENE
25 Dennis Drive
Physician
Resident: 36 years

I fear that the new charter poses a threat to democracy, removing our existing separation of powers and concentrating all power, unchecked, in the hands of 13 councilors. Diversity in our current government will be lost and with the influx of money in elections, special interests may have outsized influence.

KRISTA OESTERLING RISING
241 Shays St.
UMass store, apparel
Resident: 19 years

I believe in Town Meeting rather than Town Council because of the expertise and collective memory in Town Meeting, and because it is important to vote on safe, attractive development not dominated by profit to developers. I believe all TM candidates must maintain communication with our constituents.

***NARAYAN SAMPATH**
46 Pomeroy Lane
Administrative director
-UMass Amherst
Resident: 5 years

The one year I spent on TM, provided me valuable insight into the workings of the Town and would appreciate the opportunity to continue to be a part of this unique democratic process.

***ADRIENNE M. TERRIZZI**
61 Pondview Drive
Retired professor
Resident: 50 years

The charter. It's about much more than eliminating Town Meeting. It collapses independent branches of government necessary to a democracy into a single executive and legislative body of 13. No mayor to veto, no checks and balances, severely restricted participatory governance, and diminished authority of a Town Manager.

***PAUL M WRIGHT**
11 Norwottuck Circle
High school math teacher
Resident: 22 years

I think that Town meeting ought to be populated with members who are willing to listen and hear all sides of an issue and synthesize new information, not individuals who seek to advocate fixed mindset positions.

TOWN MEETING PRECINCT 8

3 YEARS - VOTE FOR 8

NELSON ACOSTA
3 Autumn Lane
Realtor
Resident: 39 years

I love the town of Amherst & its New England Charm. It's a great place to raise a family & enjoy the outdoors. The school education system, the fabric of our town & open space, & our community's diversity are what makes it a place to great to live.

ERIC D. BEAL

***ELAYNE SHIELDS BERGER**
19 Woodlot Road
Editor and teacher
Resident: 15 years

After my first year attending Town Meeting, I see that more efficiency would benefit my fellow citizens. Many necessary services would be improved by more constant administration. I hope to continue by attempting to help our community reach an accord based on the shared vision of a highly functional government.

***CLARE E BERTRAND**
610 Bay Road
Property management
Resident: 36 years

I will vote to support healthy school buildings and other municipal facilities that face possible upgrades. However I am concerned about the high cost of taxes and will pay close attention to the proposals and will push for costs savings where possible.

JANET W. CHEVAN
337 Spencer Drive
Retired financial officer
Resident: 51 years

The economic, budgeting, borrowing, and tax impact of the major projects currently planned is the most critical set of issues facing Amherst. As an Accountant with 38 years of budgeting experience I will carefully review and support sensible budgets for schools, roads, public health and safety, leisure and senior services.

NICHOLAS REED ELKINTON
16 Sherry Circle
Graduate student
Resident: 24 years

I am a graduate student at UMass and lifelong resident of Amherst. I love this town and care about its future! Town meeting should reflect Amherst's diversity; unfortunately students have not always been fully represented. I would like to see Amherst grow its tax base and have thoughtful long-term planning.

JOSEPH BARRY ELKINTON

***FRANK M. GATTI**
53 Iduna Lane
Physician, child psychiatrist
Resident: 27 years

To continue Town Meeting, Select board, town manager government. Our representative governments are failing due to money's influence, electronic medias' and not working together for a common good. An exception is Amherst TM where any resident can appear and advocate for themselves or join representatives on a common concern.

***AARON HAYDEN**
1491 South East St
Engineer
Resident: 29 years

Active participation in service to my community remains the most important reason to run for Town Meeting. Getting friends and neighbors to engage with their representation to the town governance will continue to be my goal so that all our needs can be effectively represented.

TERRY S. JOHNSON
15 Teaberry Lane
Retired teacher
Resident: 34 years

A diverse 240 Town Meeting membership who approves most executive decisions OR a flawed Charter with 13 councilors holding unchecked power to pass zoning laws? I support three-year Town Meeting terms, not elections of every town official (28 in total) for two-year terms on the same day.

PEGGY MATTHEWS-NILSEN
27 Teaberry Lane
Psychotherapist-retired
Resident: 9 years

I'm concerned about high-density 5-story buildings in downtown Amherst that are changing the character of our small college town. I want to collaborate on other ways to develop a robust downtown economy. I want to have input into balancing the proposed large capital projects with what we can afford.

The LWVA Annual Book Sale will be held July 27-29 & August 3-4 at Fort River Elementary School

For more information, see our website, www.lwvamherst.org

To further aid voters in making their decisions, Town Meeting members' attendance and tally voting records are available on the town's official web site: www.amherstma.gov. to access them, click on government, then on Town Meeting, then on Town Meeting archive.