

2018 Amherst Election Guide



*THEODORE PARKER 26 Woodlot Road

Builder

Resident: 26 years

Amherst must prepare itself for the 21st century rather than remaining tethered to the 20th. We need a more equitable and inclusive community that reflects the state, nation and world around us. We to embrace change.

BARRY L. ROBERTS

AMILCAR SHABAZZ 29 Chapel Road

UMass administrator, author, and teacher

Resident: 11 years

Democracy is a form of government that does what the people want and advances their interests. The economy motivates me to run. I will listen and debate the tough issues we face. With fiscal good sense I will enact our town's values of political and economic democracy.

DEMETRIA SHABAZZ 29 Chapel Rd.

Lecturer at UMass-Amherst

Resident: 10 years

Community is everything. We are a better town, our children thrive, and we prosper when we are informed and engage together in decisions that affect us all. Town Meeting represents an ongoing opportunity to foster community cohesion, civic participation, and bring more diverse voices into town-wide decisions.

*MARY STREETER 66 Larkspur Drive

Retired Amherst elementary teacher

Resident: 54 years

I run to ensure that Amherst has a transparent well-managed Town government that makes fiscally and ecologically wise decisions, has fair zoning, and protects neighborhoods. Safe quality schools are a must. I listen, carefully research issues, volunteer on Town committees, and have 100% Town Meeting attendance for 15 years.

*JOAN TEMKIN 325 Middle St.

Retired

Resident: 7 years

As a parent and former School Committee member (12 years), I think maintaining our schools in the face of decreasing school population and dwindling state resources is a huge challenge.

*GERALD WEISS

1 YEAR - VOTE FOR 1

*SHIRLEY MARKHAM 67 Woodlot Road

Registered nurse

Resident: 26 years

Our town is at a crossroads: We can build on our strengths of an engaged citizenry, grassroots activism, and shaping of our future by many dedicated and informed neighbors, or we can become a city governed by a few. I believe in the diversity and wisdom of Town Meeting.

TOWN MEETING PRECINCT 9

3 YEARS - VOTE FOR 8

MICHAEL ASH 47 Mount Pleasant

UMass professor

Resident: 18 years

A robust public sphere that improves education, environment, housing, and health benefits everyone, especially people from vulnerable or excluded groups. I will vote for inclusive, expansive public services supported by fair taxes. I support schools, a dense downtown, convenient public transportation, and more affordable housing for diverse households.

*CLAUDIA BROWN 47 Pokeberry Ridge

Higher Ed administration

Resident: 4 years

I'll work to change zoning bylaws to stop over-sized, poorly-sited dorms downtown. Town Meeting wisely rezoned property on University Drive to allow high-density student housing, appropriately placed out of residential neighborhoods and town center. I'm voting NO Charter! to save checks and balances, independently elected, separate branches of government.

*EMILIE GAIL HAMILTON 24 Chestnut Court

Retired nanny

Resident: 3 years

I believe in the New England tradition of Town Meeting as the most democratic form of self government. I believe having a Town Manager/Select Board/Town Meeting structure of government offers the best protection of checks and balances for responsible fiscal governance. I truly value participating in Town Meeting.

*NANCY E. HIGGINS 558 Main Street

Retired

Resident: 38 years

I believe strongly in preserving and protecting Town Meeting. Amherst's tradition of citizen governance is under threat. I remain concerned about all proposals to change zoning regulations in my neighborhood.

JOSEPH JAYNE

KRISTOPHER ELIAS KOLBERT

2 Salem Place

Research assistant

Resident: 5 years

The charter to restructure Amherst's government will not create a representative democracy. I was raised in NYC, where it's easy to lose your voice. Town meeting is inspiring to me, and I want to be a part of what it continues to do: work for the people, by the people.

*NIELS P. LACOUR

SARAH LACOUR

CAROLYN LATINO

280 N East St

Student

Resident: 3 years

I am running because I want to see Amherst move forward in environmental sustainability initiatives. In addition, forging a connection between the University students and Amherst residents would greatly benefit the community, boost local businesses, and spur local governmental involvement.

DAVID MARKLAND

47 Pokeberry Ridge

Higher Ed administration

Resident: 4 years

I love Amherst's long and successful 250-year tradition of Town Meeting. It works! Participatory democracy in action through citizen self-governance. That's me and you. Wow! Sadly, it's now under threat by the proposed Charter. Our neighborhoods too! I will defend our residential neighborhoods. Vote NO for the City of Amherst.

JONATHAN O'KEEFFE 73 Butterfield Terrace

Software developer

Resident: 22 years

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.

*MARGARET R. ROBERTS 2 Hills Road

Retired teaching from college

Resident: 66 years

I hope that with public participation we can find ways so that the town will be able to provide the school buildings that are needed, as needed.

JULIA RUESCHEMEYER 165 N Whitney Street

Divorce lawyer and mediator

Resident: 17 years

As a Charter Commissioner and Town Meeting member (for 10 years), my priority is to advocate for public participation in our community's decision-making process. Democratic participation in Amherst has created and supported the town we love from Town Meeting itself to town-wide citizen committees to public pools and open space.

*GARY TARTAKOV

109 High Street

Historian

Resident: 49 years

Our Select Board and Town Planning Board seem committed to the interests of the business community and real estate developers and the Town Meeting seems like the only place a citizen can go to work on limiting the building of more 5 story apartment houses with no parking, down town.

OLIVIA HOPE WILLIAMSON

TOWN MEETING PRECINCT 10

3 YEARS - VOTE FOR 8

*MAURIANNE ADAMS 14 Beston Street

Retired university professor

Resident: 48 years

I am strongly motivated to support Amherst's residential neighborhoods in balance with appropriate business development and open space. Previously, I helped write and approve the Local Rental Bylaw and Precinct 10's Local Historic District. My efforts now focus on affordable neighborhood homeownership through collaborative public and private projects.

*RICHARD N. BENTLEY 24 north prospect st

Retired

Resident: 30 years

open and innovative town government open to all who wish to participate

QUINTEN CHRISTIAN CASTILLO

44 Beston Street

Graphic artist

Being involved in our local government is the biggest issue we face. Town Meeting is the best form of democracy we have on the table. I am running for town meeting in attempt to work towards and improve town meeting for residents and visitors of Amherst.

*JOHN FOX 90 Fearing Street

Writer and teacher

Resident: 34 years

Town Meeting must be preserved as a crucial institution of democracy. By consolidating all executive and legislative power in a 13-person Council, the proposed Charter violates the fundamental separation of those powers called for by the "Concepts, Principles and Practices" for local government of Amherst's League of Women Voters.

*LENORE DEBBI FRIEDLANDER

31 Beston Street

Nurse

Resident: 22 years

New development is a critical issue. Downtown is becoming a dormitory for students, but doesn't really meet their needs. Residents without cars have fewer and fewer options for shopping and transportation. I'm in favor of affordable housing, better public transportation, and a full service grocery store in the town center.

*HWEI-LING GREENEY 76 McClellan Street

Human service

Resident: 24 years

To make sure that Amherst maintains its participatory democracy--all those who wish to serve and participate in town government can continue to do so. To address chronic homelessness with greater support from CPA funding. To create short- and long-term affordable housing opportunities for those below 30% Area Medium Income.

*LEWIS C. MAINZER 87 McClellan Street

Retired UMass professor

Resident: 64 years

Representative Town Meeting is certainly an imperfect form of government, but so is any proposed alternative. I have been honored to give service as an ordinary Amherst citizen local representative in a

society where government is regularly an impersonal, distant, untouchable, sometimes even outrageous, entity, favor keeping TM.

DAVID GEORGE MORIN

DOROTHY S. PAM 229 Amity Street

Adjunct instructor of English and Communications, Holyoke Community College

Resident: 7 years

I support Amherst Town Meeting and thoughtful sound growth that preserves, not destroys, the qualities that make Amherst a great place to live and work. Town meeting allows citizens to influence Town policy, address new needs, and check ill-thought-out proposals that can hurt the quality of life in Amherst.

TIMOTHY SCALONA

230 Sunset Ave, 327 Mackimmie UMass

Student

Resident: 2 years

As a low-income and previously homeless student at UMass and the oldest of my six younger siblings, I have long felt the sting of powerlessness and invisibility. I am running to be a student voice for marginalized perspectives, to advocate for affordable housing and to humanize the homeless experience.

SAUL SHANABROOK

44 Beston Street

Software developer

Resident: 17 years

Representation and inclusive process! We need to bring more people in so they feel empowered to run and talk with their representatives. What does this require? Openness and accessibility. I will work with whoever is interested to increase voter turnout and engagement.

RUSSELL WALLACK

10 Paige St

Self employed consultant and ecological design

Resident: 2 years

I do not think there is a single most critical issue, but I am looking forward to learning about what you see as the critical issues facing our town, and motivated by the opportunity to address them.