



Running for Elective Office in Amherst

Annual Report 2020- 2021

This coming November 2021, Amherst will hold its second election under the Amherst Home Rule Charter. All seats on the Town Council, elected boards and elected committees are up for election, as they will be every two years from now on.

The LWVA wondered how we could support residents seeking local elective office - first-time candidates, in particular. This winter we invited those who ran for contested offices in 2018 and 2019, both successfully and not, to chat with us about the process. Many generously shared their experiences and suggestions, which inform a new LWVA Guidebook now on our website: [Running for Elective Office in Amherst](#).

We also held two informational webinar forums this past April. The [first forum](#), moderated by Jessica Ryan, focused on the logistics of running for elective office. Susan Audette, Amherst Town Clerk, spoke about the nomination process, Jim Pistrang and Eric Nakajima discussed their experiences as local candidates, and Sarah Barr, who was campaign manager for Representative Mindy Domb, spoke about running a political campaign.

The [second forum](#), moderated by Phyllis Lehrer, delved into the financial aspects of running for elective office, including the role of treasurer. Jason Tait, the Education and Communications Director of the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Financing (OCPF), discussed pertinent financial rules and regulations, including those related to public employees. MaryAnn Grim and Bonnie McCracken spoke about their experiences as campaign treasurers. Both events responded to questions from viewers.

These two webinars are now aired periodically on Amherst Media Channel 17. You can also find them online on the YouTube channel by searching for ***Running for Elective Office in Amherst***.

Many thanks to the stellar group of LWV of Amherst members who worked on the Guidebook and both forums: Elaine Berger, Cynthia Brubaker, Bonnie Isman, Phyllis Lehrer, Joan Rabin (Chair), Janice Ratner, and Adrienne Terrizzi. Much appreciation also goes to Trish Farrington and Jessica Ryan for publicity, Kathy Campbell for webinar hosting, including streaming live to Amherst Media, and to Marla Jamate for administered the forums on Facebook Live. It takes a village!!

Submitted by Joan Rabin