

**TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATES RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION:
What are the three most important tasks to be accomplished by this first Town Council during its three-year term to ensure that the new town government gets off to a strong start?**

DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES	
<p>SHARON T. POVINELLI Small business owner Resident for 25 years</p>	<p>My overarching goal as Town Councilor is to create a culture of inclusion and transparency in our government so that all residents are able to share their perspective on these three most important tasks facing the council.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Addressing capital needs, starting with our schools. Our children deserve clean and safe learning environments. 2. Reducing property increases by increasing our tax base. This can be done by encouraging density downtown and in our village centers by returning to owner-occupied homes, increasing affordable rentals, which will give us more stability. 3. Making North Amherst safer for pedestrians and cyclists.
<p>CATHY A. SCHOEN Economist/Retired Resident for 35 years cathyschoen.org/</p>	<p>Launching the Council successfully requires transparency, accountability, fiscal responsibility and open-minded councilors. Council actions will shape the town's future. Three tasks are key: 1. Prioritizing capital spending to meet urgent needs while minimizing taxpayer impact. Amherst has tough cost and timing choices for schools, roads, fire station, DPW and library; 2. Fostering a plan to fix our schools, especially elementary and preschool; 3. Ensuring development downtown and in villages enhances, not threatens, Amherst's quality of life. My life-long experiences as an economist would serve to build a positive foundation. I will be an independent voice on behalf of North Amherst.</p>
<p>SARAH E. SWARTZ Farmer and Personal Care Provider Resident for 28 years</p>	<p>Establish rules and procedures that ensure transparency. Establish a precedent for regular meetings with constituents. Ensure careful and well balanced appointments to committees.</p>
<p>NICOLA USHER Academic Advisor Resident for 5 years votenicola.org/</p>	<p>The inaugural Town Council should focus on preserving what makes Amherst wonderful while identifying areas where progress will be beneficial for all residents. This includes supporting new and improved elementary school facilities that are fiscally responsible, pedagogically sound, and include expanded, affordable preschool options; easing our residential tax burden by allowing smart growth and development downtown and in village centers; and establishing a culture on the council that enables a transparent, accessible, and civil government.</p>

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DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES	
<p>PATRICIA C. DEANGELIS Educator Resident for 25 years</p>	<p>We face a variety of issues as a town, perhaps the most challenging being the divisions that have occurred over our schools, our form of government, and who gets heard; divides that need to be bridged. We need to focus on learning to listen and collaborate as we create effective policies and practices. We need to find what binds us and build from there as we create ways to fund capital projects, particularly the schools and the DPW, and develop the downtown areas and village centers so they meet the long term needs of our diverse community.</p>
<p>LYNN GRIESEMER Executive Director, UMass Donahue Institute (retired) Resident for 29 years Lynnfordistrict2.org</p>	<p>We have one chance for a good start. I will listen to many viewpoints, find common ground, and help move Amherst forward. Residential property taxes cannot continue to shoulder all of the burden. I bring my experience in economic development to broadening the tax base and providing relief to homeowners. Economic development must serve our values through better solutions for parking, balancing businesses and housing, and respecting our small-town character. I will be a responsible steward and a forceful advocate for necessary improvements to schools, public works, fire and library facilities through a financially and environmentally responsible capital plan.</p>
<p>VICTOR ANDRES NUNEZ-ORTIZ Veteran Advocate Resident for 13 years m.facebook.com/vote4vic</p>	<p>ORGANIZE COUNCIL 1. Elect a President and Vice President to lead the group of councilors. 2. Establish a sub committee to propose rules for the town council to follow. 3. Create a sub committee tasked to oversee Town Manger Appointments. COMMUNICATION 1. Enhance communication between citizens and Council i.e. Newsletter, social media, website. 2. Keeps Council informed especially when citizens raise concerns. 3. Clarify Council, staff, committee communication expectations FOLLOW MASTER PLAN 1. Focus on providing quality services Schools, Fire Department, Police and DPW.</p>
<p>JUAN MANUEL RUIZ-HAU</p>	<p><i>Candidate has withdrawn although his name remains on ballot</i></p>
<p>PETER VICKERY Attorney Resident for 19 years votevickery.com</p>	<p>Ensuring that we maintain great schools, preserve open space, and foster a more favorable climate for small locally owned businesses.</p>

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DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES	
<p>STEPHEN R. BRAUN Medical editor Resident for 18 years stevebraunforcouncil.org/</p>	<p>We need to create new structures for citizen involvement and input. We should implement instant-runoff voting. And we need to support and finance the renovation or replacement of two elementary schools, a new fire house, and a new DPW facility. My experience on the Finance Committee convinces me we can afford these projects with a combination of cost control, smart sequencing and bonding, and generating new revenue with development that is contextual, appropriate, and sustainable.</p>
<p>JOHN R. PAGE student, dining hall supervisor Resident for 3 years johnpageforamherst.com/</p>	<p>My first priority is rebuilding the elementary schools. It is our responsibility to ensure our schools have the facilities they need to provide the highest quality education from Pre-K through high school. Secondly, with surmounting capital expenses, responsible development downtown and in the village centers is necessary to increase Amherst's tax base including diversifying the housing stock to meet the needs of all residents. Third, is developing a strategic plan for Amherst's public infrastructure including the fire station, public works building, library, and the senior center. We must pursue these goals while maintaining our community character and preserving the environment.</p>
<p>DOROTHY S. PAM Adjunct lecturer, Holyoke Community College Resident for 8 years dorothypam.com</p>	<p>Strengthen community through maintaining our multi-age residential neighborhoods, increase affordable housing, preserve green spaces for recreation and farming; expand teen programs at a refurbished Jones Library; create more venues for theater, music, visual arts, and locate development appropriately without destroying the soul of Amherst.</p> <p>Develop transparent and inclusive town government policies and programs that represent all of the people.</p> <p>Invest in building welcoming human-scale elementary schools with fully-funded Pre-K, new up-to-date Fire Department and Public Work buildings. Develop and encourage new technologies, food and energy self-sufficiency for green energy jobs and sustainability in Western Mass.</p>
<p>GEORGE E. RYAN College teacher - Holyoke Community College Resident for 31 years georgeryanforamherst.org/</p>	<p>The Council's first task is to organize itself so that it can efficiently and transparently conduct the Town's business. Its second task is to set priorities. The Town faces four important capital projects: the schools, the DPW building, the Fire Station, and the Library. The Council must decide in what order they get done and how to responsibly finance them. And thirdly, the Council must come together to forge a shared vision of Amherst's future: one that encourages smart growth, increases the tax base, promotes environmentally sound practices, and preserves the charm and character of the Town.</p>
<p>JOYCE A. THATCHER semi-retired educator, scholar/practitioner as an international psychologist and therapist Resident for 28 years</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainability in our open green spaces, parks, recreational areas and walkways 2. Coalition building with the residents of District 3 and bordering businesses to strengthen existing partnerships with UMass and Amherst College in preserving the historical nature of our downtown neighborhoods and maintaining fiscal responsibility in our tax base 3. Enhancing greater greening by raising animal awareness, sensibility to their welfare and creating a pedestrian mall downtown

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DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES	
NIELS P. LACOUR	<i>Candidate has withdrawn although his name remains on the ballot</i>
JACQUELINE LUCETTE MAIDANA Artist and teacher Resident for 21 years electmaindana.org/	Having many years of experience in Town government , I am fully prepared to serve as Amherst Town Councilor in District 4. One major concern is affordable housing for low to moderate income families and seniors. The judicious use of Amherst resources is another priority. We have great schools, libraries, acres of conservation land and superb social services. Amherst is a wonderful place to live so maintaining a vibrant cultural community is my goal. I love this Town.
DAVID G. REFFSIN Sales manager Resident for 30 years	1. A strong commitment to bipartisanship among the Town Councilors. 2. Insuring that all town residents have the right to have there voices heard on all issues before the Town Council. 3. Making sure there is a clear understanding of all issues before any vote is taken on any and all issues before the town.
JAMES ROCHE	
EVAN ROBERT ROSS Lecturer at UMass Resident for 7 years evan4amherst.com/	The inaugural Town Council must first engage its constituents and build trust with the community. This involves setting up lines of communication between the Council and the public, defining the responsibilities of the Community Participation Officer, and considering new local campaign finance rules to limit the influence of money in town politics. The Council must also begin work on Amherst's most pressing challenges, especially increasing housing for low and moderate income non-student residents. And finally, the Council must take on Amherst's infrastructure challenges, ranging from failing school buildings to roads and sidewalks in disrepair.
STEPHEN D. SCHREIBER Architect, Professor Resident for 13 years steve4amherst.com	The Council must take a large view of important issues and deal with complex problems carefully and rationally. The structure and culture must embrace multiple perspectives and with respect for all. The Council must work with the community and Planning Board to update the master plan, to ensure that it is guideline for sustainable development and conservation. There should be a clearer connection between the master plan and zoning. The Council should take another look at infill development in our village centers, to increase our tax base, breathe new life into our centers, and increase our diversity.

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DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATES	
<p>SHALINI BAHL-MILNE Mindfulness Consultant and Educator, Local Business Owner Resident for 14 years shalinifordistrict5.org/</p>	<p>Create policies and procedures for Town Council to run its meetings and engage diverse populations for decision-making and reaching town's goals. Attend to priorities for a safe and healthy Amherst, such as rebuilding our two failing school facilities with Universal Pre-K and free after-school programs for income-eligible children. Strategize and build the foundation for diversifying our tax base and change zoning bylaws to adhere to a vetted master plan that revitalizes downtown and village centers in a way that maintains the essential character of Amherst and is welcoming and accessible to families and our diverse populations.</p>
<p>PAUL G. BOBROWSKI Attorney/consultant Resident for 25 years paulforamherst.org</p>	<p>There are many responsibilities to be undertaken in this new form of government. Among the most important are: Establish procedures and precedents that ensure citizen participation in local government, including meeting with constituents on a regular basis Establish rules and procedures for the Council Establish a Finance Committee and possibly serve on it Other regular but significant tasks include: Confirm department heads and appointments to multi-member bodies Adopt and possibly modify the annual budget</p>
<p>DARCY A. DUMONT Retired teacher, grant writer, lawyer Resident for 23 years darcyfordistrict5.org</p>	<p>The Council must: Win trust by establishing a high degree of public access. Appoint members to town committees and boards to reflect diverse opinions. Initiate monthly meetings for open discussions with the public. Ask tough questions about the planning process so we can resist pressure to approve future development projects that don't meet goals of sustainability, social and racial justice and maintenance of the town's character. Decide the necessity, priority, feasibility of municipal projects. Invite creative solutions to make Town more affordable for low and moderate income families. Ensure that tax exempt institutions contribute appropriately to our town's well-being.</p>
<p>AARON A. HAYDEN Engineer Resident for 29 years</p>	<p>Establish precedence and policy to encourage the widest engagement of voters. Improving our schools, fire station, public works, libraries, housing, environment, broadening our tax base, enhancing the Town's quality of life can only be tackled with an engaged community. Get the job done, the Town's work will not pause while we make our transition. Budgeting, negotiating, contracting, permitting, and enforcing are on schedules that need to be met. Communicate with the citizenry. How the Council is doing and whether it is the right thing can only be learned by communicating our ideas and observations among ourselves and neighbors.</p>

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DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATES (CONTINUED)	
<p>JEFFREY C. LEE Software developer Resident for 24 years leeforamherst.org</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish budget priorities and continue the planning and public discussion of four ongoing capital projects -- new elementary schools, a South Amherst fire station, a modernized Dept. of Public Works facility and library system improvements. 2. Oversee a well-managed rollout of retail marijuana businesses in town. 3. Understand and flesh out the new form of government. Establish a collaborative relationship between Town Council and newly constituted boards and committees while maintaining a high degree of citizen engagement.
<p>SAMUEL A. MACLEOD Publishing manager Resident for 46 years sammacleodforamherst.com</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Establish directives to encourage and promote a green, business friendly, year-round local economy with a more diversified tax-revenue base. 2) Leadership that ensures: Sound long term financial stability while minimizing taxes; Efficient delivery of high-quality services needed by our residents; A prioritized and responsible plan to address our most urgent infrastructure and building needs. 3) Ensure a responsive government and a culture of respect and collaboration by listening to the residents of Amherst and other voices of town government as decisions are made to serve the needs and values of our diverse community.

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AT LARGE CANDIDATES	
<p>ALISA V. BREWER Select Board member; membership administration Resident for 20 years alisaforamherst.com/</p>	<p>We must work together to develop shared norms and new practices that meet our residents expectations for inclusive representation, while we fully understand and explain how the roles of our appointed and elected officials interact. We must work together with an adequately resourced Community Participation Officer to ensure we actively engage our residents through multiple avenues throughout the year, not only for required District Meetings and Forums. We must present a fully developed financial plan addressing the capital needs of our childrens schools, our public safety officials, our library patrons, and the thousands of users of our roads and sidewalks.</p>
<p>ROBERT E. GREENEY College Professor Resident for 24 years bobgreeneyfortowncouncil.wordpress.com/</p>	<p>Development - Master Plan Development of Amherst must reflect the best creative expression, and the collective vision of the people of Amherst. Current downtown development is misguided and antithetical to preserving and enhancing the unique and valued character of Amherst. Infrastructure - Buildings Our infrastructure of buildings, roads, sidewalks, bike lanes and recreational areas must be high priority. Democracy - Inclusion and Participation The process of decision making and governing must be broadly inclusive and participatory. Master Plan formation, early stage open forums, and all Committees must reflect the full diversity of views of Amherst’s citizens.</p>
<p>MANDI JO HANNEKE Mother Resident for 7 years votehanneke.org/</p>	<p>I want Amherst to thrive in all aspects of government. The Town Council will have many more than three important tasks. But I believe the most important tasks are to (1) establish procedures that are open, transparent, timely, and inclusive to make certain resident perspectives are reflected in Council decisions; (2) create a process that achieves the goals of the Master Plan in a responsible, coherent, and deliberate manner and embodies the vision of today's residents; and (3) work with Town officials to improve Amherst's infrastructure, including the elementary schools, all libraries, the downtown fire station, and the DPW building.</p>

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AT-LARGE CANDIDATES (CONTINUED)	
<p>ROBERT B. KUSNER Professor of Mathematics, University of Massachusetts Resident for 30 years</p>	<p>Most Massachusetts municipalities vest legislative and executive functions in separate, elected governing bodies. The new Amherst charter combines these in one body: Town Council (though daily details are handled by a professional manager and staff whose appointments are subject to Council approval). The first task of Council is to balance these governing functions, and the second is to ensure the manager and staff faithfully implement Council policies. A third task is to engage Amherst residents in self-governance: Council should appoint or approve a politically diverse membership on boards and committees, and should encourage active use of the resident petition process.</p>
<p>DILLON A. MAXFIELD Student Resident for 5 years facebook.com/Maxfield4Amherst</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promoting diverse housing development 2. Enhancing our municipal services 3. Commitment to education as prescribed by the voters
<p>JAMES W. PISTRANG Software developer Resident for 30 years jimforamherst.org</p>	<p>Establish a process that ensures that agendas are created transparently, voices of residents are heard in a fair, thorough and orderly manner, and decisions are made based on reason and following careful deliberation. Establish a long-range plan to support our pressing infrastructure needs, and then follow through with action. Replacement or rebuilding of our aging elementary schools and a new South Amherst Fire Station are at the top of my priority list.</p> <p>Create clear zoning bylaws that promote strong downtown and village centers, encourage affordable housing, and ensure adequate parking while preserving the character of our neighborhoods.</p>
<p>ANDREW J. STEINBERG Retired, law and nonprofit management Resident for 38 years andyforamherst.org</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue effort of the Select Board, on which I serve, to assure that government provides essential public services during and after the transition to the Council. 2. Establish processes that will be a model for future Councils, including forums required by the Charter and other mechanisms to inform citizens and consider your views. Forums should include diverse populations to involve the entire community in our government. 3. Continue sound management and financial practices that provide essential public services, address priority road and public building needs including schools and library, and assure adequate revenue without additional burden on homeowners.