LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NEWTON

PO Box 610207 Newton, MA 02461
http://www.lwvnewton.org
info@lwvnewton.org

2009 VOTERS GUIDE

Newton Municipal Election

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VOTE: Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Polls open from: 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

Please note that for this election, the ballot is double-sided; when you vote, be sure to fill out both sides of your ballot.

About the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that promotes informed and active participation in government. The League does not support or oppose specific candidates or political parties. It does, however, take positions and advocate for issues that it has studied.
Membership in the League is open to all women and men.
For information, call 617-964-0014 or visit the Web site at http://www.lwvnewton.org.

About the Election

The Newton Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. The polls will be open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm. If you are unable to get to the polls on November 3rd, you may vote absentee. Call the Election Commission at 617-796-1350 or visit the website at http://www.ci.newton.ma.us (click on city departments, select Election Commission).

Newton municipal elections are nonpartisan: candidates are not designated as members of political parties.

For this election, the ballot is double-sided; when you vote, be sure to fill out both sides of your ballot.

About the Voters Guide

This Voters Guide has been prepared by the League's Vice President of Voter Service and co-Chair, Sharyn Roberts, and the League's Vice President of Operations/Program & Action, Anne Borg, with the assistance of the President of the Newton League, Terry Yoffie, Board of Directors member and Voter Service co-Chair, Bonnie Carter, Voter Service co-Chair, Barbara Sydney, and the Board of the Newton League. This Guide is the compilation of responses to a questionnaire sent to all candidates whose names will appear on the municipal ballot on November 3rd.

This guide lists the candidates in the following order: Mayor (vote for one of the candidates), Ward Alderman (vote for one candidate from your ward), Alderman-at-Large, (vote for two candidates from each ward), and School Committee (vote for one candidate from each ward). Within each office, candidates are listed in the order that they will appear on the ballot.

Candidates were asked to limit their responses to 50 words for biographical information and 75 words for each question. If a response exceeded the word limit, it was cut off at the number of words allowed; indicated by an ellipsis (...). It is also League policy that responses were not edited, or subjected to spell check by the League. Candidates were informed of these policies. The League of Women Voters Newton takes no responsibility for the content or accuracy of the responses in this Voters Guide. Replies were formatted to fit within the space constraints of this document.

Please note that candidates are listed in ballot order for each office.

About the position of Mayor

The City of Newton has what is described as a "strong Mayor" form of government. The Mayor, who is elected for a four-year term, is the chief executive officer of the city. He or she has veto power over legislation passed by the Board of Aldermen, appoints most of the municipal department heads, and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the city government. The Mayor presents the budget to the Board of Aldermen for approval. The Mayor is also an *ex-officio* member of the School Committee.

Mayoral Candidates - vote for not more than one candidate

Setti D. Warren - Candidate for Mayor

Bio: Born and raised in Newton, Setti Warren lives in the house where he grew up with his wife Tassy and daughter Abigail. He graduated from Newton North, Boston College and Suffolk Law. He worked as an aide to President Clinton, Regional Head of FEMA and Senator Kerry's Deputy State Director.

QUESTION 1: As we address our capital needs, such as major renovations and new building projects, how will you make a commitment to investing in measurable energy efficiencies and more durable construction techniques?

I believe we must start with energy audits of all municipal and school buildings and implement both short and long-term changes to reduce energy consumption everywhere we can. With respect to all renovation and new construction, we must green our building codes, providing both requirements and potential incentives for sustainable design and construction as well as green living. Finally, we must apply for both federal and state grants now available for greening our public buildings.

QUESTION 2: What, if any, resources could Newton share with neighboring communities that may serve to cut expenses and/or improve services?

First, we can enter into bulk purchasing agreements with neighboring communities for basic goods and services like paper and fuel, benefiting from high volume discounts. Second, we can look at potentially sharing services like IT that are difficult and expensive for any one community to staff. Finally, we should always look to learn from knowledge and best practices of other communities. In this way we can void making mistakes or re-inventing the wheel.

QUESTION 3: Do you think we need new development in the city? If so, why, what type of development, and where?

Newton has limited opportunity for new development but we should take advantage of those opportunities by planning ahead, developing a comprehensive and integrated plan for what we want, adhering to smart growth principles like mixed use, open space and a commitment to affordable housing and planning for long term impacts on traffic, parking and school enrollment. Development is possible at Needham Street, Newton Centre and Riverside and would bring much needed vibrancy and revenue.

Ruth B. Balser - Candidate for Mayor

Bio: As a single mom, a health-care manager, a four-term Alderman, and a six-term State Representative, Ruth Balser has demonstrated her ability to work with people and to bring new approaches to solving tough problems. For more information about Ruth's record of accomplishment and vision for Newton's future, visit www.ruthformayor.com.

QUESTION 1: As we address our capital needs, such as major renovations and new building projects, how will you make a commitment to investing in measurable energy efficiencies and more durable construction techniques?

I will declare Newton a Green Zone enabling us to attract more federal, state, and private funds for energy-efficient practices for renovations and replacements of public buildings. I support taking advantage of a new statutory option that allows municipalities to adopt more stringent energy-efficient building codes. Also, I will expand the auditing program underway with an energy efficiency company with whom the city has a performance contract.

QUESTION 2: What, if any, resources could Newton share with neighboring communities that may serve to cut expenses and/or improve services?

Regional cooperation is an innovative approach to making the best use of our resources and saving money in coming years. Early in my administration I will begin discussions with the leaders of neighboring municipalities to investigate forming a regional purchasing consortium, and I will communicate with them regularly about ways that we might combine forces on research, economic development, and sharing ideas.

QUESTION 3: Do you think we need new development in the city? If so, why, what type of development, and where?

When done properly, development adds to the vibrancy and economic stability of the city. I support efforts to revitalize our village centers, so long as the community, both residential and business, is included in the process. Smart growth principles should guide development, assuring access to transit and promoting walkability. Wells Avenue can handle more growth. Economic development offers the added value of relieving the residential property owner of a tax burden.

Ward Alderman Candidates listed below - vote for not more than one candidate from your ward:

Ward Alderman, Ward 1: Scott F. Lennon - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: Lifelong ward one resident. Graduate, Newton public schools. First elected 2002. Currently serve as Vice President of the Board. Member, Public Facilities, Finance and Post Audit Committees. Chair, Audit Sub-Committee. Serve on Snow and Traffic Calming working groups. Employed as Audit Director in State Auditor's Office. Married to wife Wendy.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

Mayor, Board and School Committee need to work together to develop a measurable long range plan so we can accurately assess our city's needs and bring trust back to city government on the expense side. Alternative methods of revenue will fail before the voters if we don't comprehensively analyze what we have and are doing with it. We do not do a good job of explaining to residents how we spend their money and why.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

Have been worked on improvements to snow removal in working group. City's approach to snow removal can be improved through better communication between departments. Clearly defined responsibilities of all will assist during winter. Need to assess where effective removal is based on limited city resources. Need to revisit removal around public transportation because there is no relief from state. Mandatory snow clearing enforcement would be problematic. In favor of alternative removal methods first.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

Believe that if our zoning ordinances and methodology towards development were better we would have less of a problem trying to create affordable housing and accessory apartments. The lack of clarity and approach with zoning is a problem and discourages developers and homeowners to try and find ways to invest in housing. Working together with developers and zoning professionals would assist in creating a friendlier atmosphere to building and would assist in creating more housing.

Ward Alderman, Ward 3 Anthony J. Salvucci - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: I am a lifelong Newton resident, a Veteran, and I have been the Ward 3 Alderman since 1988. I seek the office of Ward Alderman to continue to provide constituent services to the people of Ward 3, including being a necessary voice to interface between residents and municipal Departments.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

I would like to see more input from taxpayers of Newton. I would ask the Planning Department to restructure its annual survey to obtain voter opinion regarding our financial decisions. The City, like the homeowner, has a limited amount of income. We must budget our spending, be careful about credit purchases and decide which discretionary programs to fund and which to defer. It is not as easy as it seems to spend $320,000,000.00.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

Establish dedicated bike lanes on roads wide enough to support them; establish a program to promote awareness of the existing paths; establish means of clearing snow and ice from the paths; and establish an awareness and instruction program for motorists and bicyclists through a partnership between the City and a non-profit to make people aware of safety rules to protect the bicyclists and of the responsibilities we all have when using the public streets.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

Housing needs vary from time to time. I would give the homeowner, who occupies a house, greater latitude in using their home for a multiple-dwelling. I would cut homeowner costs by giving control of the program to the Inspectional Services (Building) Department, eliminating the need for expensive plans, landscaping and lawyers. This would allow Newton to create more housing. It would allow homeowners to obtain additional income which they may need to stay in Newton.

Ward Alderman, Ward 4: John W. Harney - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: I'm a lifelong resident of Newton, living in Auburndale with my wife and family for the past 22 years. I am running for my fourth term as Ward 4 Alderman because I believe that I am accessible, responsive and I continue to represent the interests of my constituents well.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

I strongly support the concept of zero-based budgeting for Newton. Before asking more money from our citizens, we need to look at every department, both on the municipal and school sides, and consolidate when possible and restructure when necessary. Every expense needs to be justified, and everything needs to be on the table. We need to tie future labor contracts to increased revenues in the city, and we cannot spend more than we have.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

We really need to encourage and support the walk to school programs. We also need to find grants, federal and state funding to help create more bicycle paths in appropriate locations. The city should invest more money to provide bike racks in parks and outside public buildings.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

I agree with Alderman Sangiolo that affordable housing advocates should be doing everything possible to purchase both single family and multi-unit buildings currently existing in Newton. We're in a recession, and the market is favorable to buyers, so rather than building more units, the focus should be on purchasing existing units. We also need to look at our zoning ordinances, and make changes that would allow the creation of accessory apartments and rear lot subdivisions.

Ward Alderman, Ward 2: Stephen M. Linsky - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: Raised in Oak Hill Park and attended the Memorial School. Newtonville resident since 1991. Children have attended Cabot Elementary, Day Middle and North High schools. Attorney/ mediator. Co-founder of Family Co-Mediation and The New Law Center. First elected to Board of Aldermen in 2001. Chair Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

I favor employing a zero-based budgeting process as a first step.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

I strongly favor the creation of bike trails, marked bike and pedestrian lanes on designated travel ways, as well as the Safe Routes to Schools program.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

I have long supported the extension and liberalization of accessory apartment use as among the least costly and most effective manner of promoting 'affordable' housing.

Ward Alderman Candidates listed below - vote for not more than one candidate from your ward:

Ward Alderman, Ward 5 - vote for not more than one candidate:

John B. Rice - Candidate for Election

Bio: John Rice is the Executive Director of the Hyde Community Center, an elected member of the Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council, a founding member of the Brigham Community House, longtime chair of Newton Highlands Village Day, former Newton Child Care Commissioner and PTO president.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

The largest financial sustainability issue is City of Newton labor costs – wage increases plus growth in benefits costs well exceed the natural 3-4% annual growth in revenue base. I believe that the primary solution is not in cutting compensation; rather, it's keeping growth in headcount to a bare minimum. Our focus on contract negotiations with city and school workers should be on win-win solutions to improve productivity.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

I support design guidelines for roadway projects and new development projects that recommend pedestrian oriented measures, transit accessibility, and bicycle accommodation. I will encourage efforts to revise zoning and land use so that new development does not degrade traffic, pedestrian, bicycle and transit use. I will work to encourage and establish safe routes to school all year and a program for safe routes to other key destinations. We should provide incentives for walking, bicycling, by children going to school.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

I support proposals to increase residential density in our villages, especially where there is easy accessibility to transit. I support efforts to revise our zoning to legalize accessory apartments and to enable the creation of new accessory apartment (such as "in-law" apartments) that will respect the character of our neighborhoods. In general, I support the work of groups like Newton's Housing Action Plan Initiative (H.A.P.I) to evaluate sensible methods to create and build more affordable housing in Newton.

Anil Adyanthaya - Candidate for Election

Bio: Anil lives in Newton Upper Falls with his wife and daughter. He is Senior Corporate Counsel at Analog Devices. He graduated from Harvard and the University of Virginia School of Law. He is running because he believes Newton needs aldermen who are fiscally conservative and receptive to innovative ideas.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

Because employee compensation represents 80% of city costs, any serious effort to keep costs in line with revenues must require union contracts under which compensation increases do not exceed the city's rate of revenue growth. I also support consolidating city functions into single departments and outsourcing services that are not central to the mission of the department currently providing them. I also support regionalization of certain services as another method of savings.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

I support a reevaluation of our current snow clearing practices because too many streets are unwalkable during the winter. I would support a sidewalk clearing ordinance so long as it provides a method to assist seniors and others who cannot shovel their own sidewalks. I support the establishment of improved signage and clear bike lanes that connect our villages, as well as secure bike parking facilities at village centers.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

The city must expand its stock of affordable housing so that it can maintain control of its overall planning and not be subject to 40B projects. One way to expand the stock of affordable housing is to bring the estimated 1,000 – 2,000 illegal accessory apartments in the city into legal compliance. Another way is to encourage (such as through improved zoning ordinances) the development of affordable housing in village centers and near transportation hubs.

Ward Alderman, Ward 7 R. Lisle Baker - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: Seeking fourteenth term as Ward 7 Ward Alderman to continue working to preserve and enhance the quality of life in the Ward and in Newton; currently president of the 2008-09 Board of Aldermen; Professor of Law, Suffolk University Law School; educated at Williams College and Harvard Law School; website: www.aldermanbaker.org.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

The Citizen Advisory Group, which as Board president I helped appoint, recommended nine "game changers" (www.ci.newton.ma.us: CitizenAdvisoryGroup), which provide a place to start. These include reengineering municipal operations, prioritizing services, moderating overall employee compensation growth, selective user fees, using performance management, and increasing municipal revenue. For example, we should increase meals taxes as we have hotel taxes, as recently authorized by the state, to help offset recent cuts in state financial aid to Newton.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

We need varied measures, such as proposed at www.bikenewton.org. For example, I supported "share the road" bicycle signing and safer walkways to our schools, including the "walking school bus." We also need pedestrian-activated warning signals, such as those coming on Waverley Avenue near Franklin and Arlington Streets, or the Waverley Avenue crossing guard near Lorna Road, or the new walkway to the Chestnut Hill T station from Middlesex Road, all of which I helped secure.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

I support the recent amendment to Newton's zoning which provided for greater incentives for affordable housing, the fourth generation of what has sometimes been called "inclusionary zoning." Since even accessory apartments may not be affordable, being rented at market rents, I voted for a program which set aside funds from the Community Preservation Act to provide technical assistance and financing to those accessory apartment property owners willing to rent to low and moderate income tenants.

Ward Alderman Candidates listed below - vote for not more than one candidate from your ward:

Ward Alderman, Ward 6 - vote for not more than one candidate:

Richard B. Blazar - Candidate for Election

Bio: Newton High School-Class of 1966, Brown University-Class of 1970, American University Law School-Class of 1977; attorney in private practice. I am seeking the Ward 6 Alderman position against a 26 year incumbent because the Board of Aldermen needs new blood and fresh thinking.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

I would recommend controlling employee compensation and benefits which comprise almost 80% of municipal costs. This would include limiting wage increases across the board and bargaining with the unions to have the city workers join the state health insurance program. Consolidation of city departments should also save some money as will the new trash collection program. Increased user fees - for example for recreation and community education-might also be necessary.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

I would have the schools emphasize the importance of physical exercise-including walking and biking-so that our children learn at a young age how important these activities are. Hopefully this will open discussions between children and parents about getting out of our cars and using our legs more. I would consider having a bike lane on the carriage road on Commonwealth Avenue and possible other roads in the city.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

I support the current Newton programs which fund non-profit and for-profit developers who will increase the supply of affordable housing, and I support an accessory apartment incentive program as well as the Homebuyer Assistance Program. Of critical importance for increasing the availability of affordable housing is the city being able to raise revenue for these programs and/or cutting its expenses in other areas so that it may continue to provide the necessary funding.

George E. Mansfield - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: 13-term Alderman, current Chair, Land Use Committee, 5-term Vice President, 39-year Newton resident, Planning Director, Town of Carlisle, former Newton schools parent, Board of Directors, Newton Highlands CDC, member, Crystal Lake Long-Range Planning Committee. I believe I bring valuable experience as well as innovative ideas to the Board.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

While the budget is always balanced, as required by State law, each year it becomes more difficult to provide basic City services. Our "structural deficit" is fueled by rising healthcare, pension and energy costs, while tax revenues stagnate and State aid decreases. The CAG report recommends nine "game changers" within City control and I will support these, especially limiting wage increases, bonding capital projects, considering user fees, prioritizing services, and, if necessary, small targeted overrides.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

Newton should be a walkable city. Sidewalks in village centers, near public transportation and schools, in dense residential neighborhoods and along busy arterials must be kept in good repair by the City, and in winter must be kept clear of snow and ice by a combination of City policy and efforts of residents and businesses. I have always supported shoveling requirements applied where they are most needed, observed by good neighbors, and enforced when necessary.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

As Carlisle's Town Planner, I helped create an affordable accessory apartment program that is one of only two approved by the State. Both Newton and Carlisle committed CPA funds to support these apartments, but Newton has yet to create a single unit with these resources. I would like to work with the new Mayor to get State support for our subsidy program, promote it to homeowners, and use this tool to create low-impact affordable housing.

Ward Alderman, Ward 8 Cheryl Lipof Lappin - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: I am excited about running again for Ward 8 Alderman. With a new Mayor, new members of the Board and School Committee, we will have the opportunity to implement positive changes for the City. I am a Marketing Consultant and longtime Newton resident. My husband and I have two children.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

With shortfalls in State aid and tax revenue, we need to reduce expenses and find new sources of revenues.

Expenses can be reduced by eliminating redundancies in City departments, minimizing health care expenses by joining the States program and using technology to improve efficiencies and reduce costs.

Revenues can be increased by exploring opportunities for public private partnerships, pursuing grants opportunities, and encouraging responsible development.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

Newton is experiencing more automobile traffic than ever before. We need to encourage alternative modes of transportation while making Newton streets and sidewalks more accommodating for pedestrians and bikers.

This will involve a combination of solutions including: improving the snow plowing of village centers and reevaluating our sidewalks plowing plan; adding bike lanes and signage on streets that can accommodate them; promoting programs to encourage students to walk to school; and encouraging smart development.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

Newton has increased its affordable housing stock in recent years but we have a long way to go. There are residents that grew up and work in Newton and can't afford to live here.

What can we do? We can publicize the fact that there is CPA money designated for the creation of affordable housing. We can make it easier to create accessory apartments. We can encourage "smart growth" including affordable housing near public transportation.

Alderman-at-Large, Ward 1 - vote for not more than two candidates:

Guive Mirfendereski - Candidate for Election

Bio: 21 years in Newton. NYS coach 6 yrs. Married. Parent of NPS graduate. Lawyer of the Year 2008. BA, Georgetown (Government); PHD, Fletcher/Tufts; JD, Boston College. I am running in order to bring a clear voice, a unique set of skills and a renewed sense of purpose to the Board.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

I would encourage zero-based budgeting, promote smart growth and making changes to zoning laws; effect savings in public employee health insurance; reform the procurement model; seek PILOTs and SILOTs; and look to new sources of revenue such as an environment fee on cars over a certain size and collect 1% of value of real estate transactions. I would encourage the conversion of the community preservation act program to a capital improvement account.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

Increasing walking/biking as alternative modes of transportation requires a massive culture change, perhaps beginning with school-age children. Planning of commercial and recreational amenities closer to residential neighborhoods would help, as would the elimination of parking along certain roads and increasing the cost of parking. That said, the ultimate enhancement of biking and walking year round would require that we keep the sidewalks and road ways clear of snow and ice in the winter months.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

The accessory apartment program is not doing well because we have failed to identify and address its shortcomings in an open and honest way. I would encourage affordable housing by means of promoting smart growth development. In any event, we must assess the expansion of housing opportunities, rental or ownership, affordable or not, against the capacity of the City to deliver municipal services, including its effect on the schools.

Carleton P. Merrill - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: Life long Newton resident. Attended Cabot, Underwood, Bigelow and Newton High School. WWII veteran discharged to "On The Job Training" program of the Veterans Administration. Attended Lowell Textile Evening School. Presently on the Board of Aldermen's Land Use Committee, Programs and Services Committee, and chairman of the Real Property Reuse Committee.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

We need political office holders that can deliver services to people at a reasonable cost to the taxpayers. We must maintain city services, make government more responsive and open, and deliver more efficiency at budget time. A study should be made of the use of solar panels as securing alternative energy and programs must be established so that our senior citizens, on a low income, may continue to be able to reside in our community.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

Create more walking and biking paths that are clearly marked out for the safety of the walkers and bikers. Biking paths upon our street must be clearly marked out with signs so that motor vehicle operators would drive with caution and with proper signs also located at the location of the walkers' paths.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

A complete review must be made of our zoning ordinances as some pertain to affordable housing and accessory apartments. The City of Newton has made positive steps in this direction, but we must look for additional avenues where improvements can be made within our present ordinances. Many of our low income senior citizens are in need of affordable housing and so immediate action must be taken as soon as possible.

Allan L. Ciccone, Jr. - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: My Name is Allan Ciccone Jr. I reside at 22 West St. Newton, Ma. I have been a Police Officer for 16 years and currently serve on Newton's Board of Alderman and was elected in November of 2007. I have 4 children, Allan, Joseph, Caitlin and Colleen.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

The first objective would be raises to employees throughout the city and not just one department. You can no longer give raises which exceeds the 2 1/2 percent revenue the city generates each year. this 2 1/2 percent is the total package (salary and benefits) the city should be looking at to keep in line with a balanced budget.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

I don't like to promote biking in the winter months. The width of the roads decline because of snow and ice. It's tight enough in some areas to get two cars to pass. To have bikes trying to use the road too is just a tragedy waiting to happen. For walkers I would try to educate homeowners the value of clear sidewalks for walkers. I won't however support punishing homeowners for not clearing sidewalks.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

Give homeowners a reason for having an accessory apartment. If there are some which are not legal, give the owner the oppurtunity to make it legal by grandfathering the unit. The homeowner gets the benefits of having a legal apartment(s) and the city gets the taxes from the new unit. It's a win/win situation.

About the Board of Aldermen

The legislative branch of Newton's government is a 24-member Board of Aldermen. There are 16 at-large aldermen and 8 ward aldermen; all are elected every two years. In addition to deliberating legislation, the Board of Aldermen conducts land use proceedings. It also appoints the City Clerk/Clerk of the Board and Comptroller of Accounts and confirms various appointments made by the mayor. The board acts on the budget proposed by the mayor. The aldermen cannot increase the budget, but they can reduce it or they can request that the mayor increase the budget. The Board of Aldermen meets on the first and third Mondays of the month. Aldermen receive a stipend, and are eligible for medical, dental, and life insurance as city employees. Elected officials are also entitled to participate in the city's retirement program, which is vested at 10 years of service.

Alderman-at-Large, Ward 2 - vote for not more than two candidates:

Susan S. Albright - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: I am the Director for Educational Technology at Tufts University School of Medicine managing a staff who create award winning innovative software to enhance health science education. This software is shared with the developing world. I love family, knitting, gardening, Cape Cod and caring for Newton and its citizens.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

The city has already gained savings from our street light change over and will soon start saving from the new trash collection system. We should take advantage of the only ability the state has given us to raise revenue and increase the meals tax by .75%. Changes in our zoning code to facilitate smart growth could lead to new revenue. A performance management system will help find administrative efficiencies which will lead to cost savings.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

Public education regarding snow removal will remind citizens how important this is for pedestrian safety. Public education should include civic reminders for neighbors to help neighbors to clear sidewalks. We can create safer bike routes and "share the road sign" reminders. More bikers might actually make the bike lanes safer. The use of raised crosswalks on our most dangerous roads to slow down traffic will make roads safer for pedestrians.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

To increase the housing stock I refer to Phil Herr's suggestions of expanding availability of accessory apartments, linking housing with business development and adding new residential uses to underutilized public sites. A redevelopment of Austin st. parking lot is one possible example of this. I continue to feel that a revision of Newton's zoning ordinances could facilitate these three initiatives. Hopefully, our new Mayor will see this critical need and fund this essential task.

Marcia T. Johnson - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: As an alderman in my sixth term, I will continue working to preserve the diversity and quality of our neighborhoods, and increase affordable housing units. I also will work to implement the ideas put forward by the CAG. Learn more about me from my website www.marciajohnson.org.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

My primary focus will be to work with the Mayor to ensure that the City is managed properly. The priorities must be eliminating redundant work, e.g. clearing of snow by both Parks & Recreation and DPW; implementing a comprehensive performance management system for departments and individuals, and creating a compensation plan aligned with the city's vision, strategy, objectives and budget. A *well* managed City is a City that can *live within its means.*

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

We all need to look out for each other, not just ourselves. Bicyclists and motorists must obey traffic laws. To that end, I would work with School and Community Groups to promote bicycle and vehicular safety through education and communication. We should devote premium "real estate" on the City's Website to promote walking and biking. I support the creation of bike lanes and installation of bike racks, where feasible and appropriate.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

As a supporter of affordable housing, I sponsored the amendments to make improvements to the Inclusionary Zoning ordinance. Through expedited review and density bonuses, this ordinance assists developers and the city to increase the number of affordable units. I support proposed amendments to the Accessory Apartment ordinance to provide more flexibility for homeowners who want to create affordable units. I support Smart Growth development at the Austin Street Parking Lot.

Alderman-at-Large, Ward 3 - vote for not more than two candidates:

Ted Hess-Mahan - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: Ted Hess-Mahan, Alderman-at-Large Ward 3, attorney, age 50, married, three children in the Newton Public Schools. I am seeking re-election to a fourth term to continue working on my priorities, including housing affordability, zoning reform, smart growth, fiscal accountability, strategic and long range planning, and performance management and budgeting.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

- Align total public employee compensation, including salary and benefits, with available revenues
- Persuade public employees' unions it is in members' best interests to join the state health insurance plan
- Ask public employees to share more of the cost of health plan premiums and co-pays
- Implement zero-based budgeting and performance management practices
- Establish a revolving fund to keep up with maintenance and reduce long-term costs to maintain public buildings and schools

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

- Create bicycle/pedestrian lanes on all major roads and carriageways
- Support bicycle/pedestrian paths on railroad right-of-ways
- Install sufficient bicycle racks & bicycle/scooter parking in village centers and at all public buildings, schools, parks and playgrounds
- Encourage smart growth near business districts, transportation hubs and in village centers to create more places for people to live within walking distance to where they work, shop, dine, recreate, go to school and access public transportation

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

- Promote private development that includes affordable housing on public property near business districts, transportation hubs and village centers (e.g., Newtonville's Austin Street parking lot)
- Amend accessory apartment ordinance to facilitate creation of more affordable units, especially near transportation hubs and village centers
- Continue to approve the use of CPA funds to support community housing projects
- Use inclusionary zoning payments in lieu of construction to acquire and/or develop more affordable housing units

Greer Tan Swiston - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: Greer Tan Swiston is a long time Newton homeowner. Formally trained as a software engineer, a graduate of MIT and a former IT Executive at Merrill Lynch, Greer combines her business skills, management expertise and community awareness to serve Newton as a current Aldmerman-at-Large. For more info, see www.greertanswiston.org.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

Our administration needs to be more open to creative solutions. Example: taking back our city's ambulance services. The revenues would enable us to buy the equipment, staff our firestations (EMTs and Paramedics are often fire fighters as well), and still provide the same, if not better first response emergency care to our residents.

Why not maximize our resources AND have an additional source of income for the city? I support creative ideas like this.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

I would promote a reliable, inexpensive and convenient intra-city public transit system. We need true smart growth with a balanced mix of business, retail and housing. Most importantly, our residents need to feel safe sharing the roads with cars. If people can feel as safe on the road out of a motorized vehicle as they do in one, they would be more likely to walk or bike instead of drive.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

Institute a program that rewards and acknowledges landlords that create legal housing at affordable rates.

Embrace the ability for owners of the larger/historic homes to open rooming or boarding houses in order to supplement their income and be able to stay in their family home. Again, true mixed use developments with housing units at affordable rates (i.e. 1 bedroom, studios and smaller units) would also contribute to the housing situation a great deal.

Alderman-at-Large, Ward 5 - vote for not more than two candidates:

Brian E. Yates - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: Master of Urban Affairs, Boston University. BA, English, Boston College. Newton Public Schools (Emerson, Meadowbrook, South). Chair, Zoning and Planning Committee. Member, Public Facilities and Community Preservation Committees. Values: Environment (President, Friends of Hemlock Gorge), Villages (defended branch libraries, made community libraries practical), History (Sixth Generation Newtonite), Energy Conservation, Alternative Energy

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

Salary increases must be held to increases in revenues. We should continue tough negotiations with health insurance companies to hold down costs and support efforts to strengthen municipal powers over health care costs. The new Telecom revenue should help meet increasing costs. We should encourage tourists to stay in our hotels and pay the hotel tax and encourage city residents to patronize city restaurants so that the city can get more meal tax revenues.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternatives modes of transportation year round?

I would fill gaps in the Charles River Pathway. The Pathway would be a great alternative to the sections of Quinobequin Road that are unsafe for walking or biking. Sidewalks and bike-lanes should be installed or repaired and cleared of vegetation where necessary like the western side of Concord Street. We should promote the use of the aqueducts and clear trails along our brooks where appropriate. Book exchanges or community libraries in village centers would let residents get books without driving

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

I would support the use of CPA funds to acquire small, older homes for use as starter homes for people of modest means.

I would support some tweaking of the provisions of the current Accessory Apartment Ordinance, but on the whole, it has been an effective means of gradually adding units to the housing stock.

I would support reductions in property taxes for property-owners who sign legally binding agreements to hold down rents to affordable levels.

William F. Brandel - Candidate for Election

Bio: Bill Brandel is married and the father of three. He was first elected to the Board of Aldermen in 2007. He is a recognized software industry analyst, e-Business practitioner, and award-winning journalist, with over 20 years of experience in the technology industry. He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Michigan State University.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

Prioritize and coordinate city services. A CFO should manage municipal and school finances, while a CIO should manage city-wide information technology management. Eliminate redundant tasks. Automate processes where possible. Adopt zero-based cost justification practices and bid out operations where appropriate. Reward employees for initiating and successfully implementing innovative practices and cost efficiencies. Consider moving city health care program into GIC. Leverage bonding capacity to relieve operating budget of debt service.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

Newton should encourage walking and bicycling. Street accommodations should be provided for bicyclists. Children should be encouraged to walk with programs like Safe Routes to School. Novice bicyclists should be encouraged by providing safe pathways between villages and commercial centers. Signage, striping, lighting, and a snow removal must be provided to ensure safety and access. The city must provide clear communication regarding policy, expectations and enforcement during snow incidents.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

Affordable housing should be adopted so that it reasonably adds value to all community stakeholders. Ideally, affordable housing should adhere to all tenets of the Comprehensive Plan, including respect for the character of a community or neighborhood, preservation of open space and avoid adding to parking or traffic congestion by concentrating density near public transportation. The city should review the zoning ordinance to determine how, whether and where to make accessory apartments safe and legal.

Deborah J. Crossley - Candidate for Election

Bio: I need your vote to make a positive difference in our community, bring broad community, professional experience and enthusiasm for problem solving to the challenging issues facing our City.

Focus: repairing, restoring city buildings/grounds, energy-efficiency, long-range planning. Architect, activist, former LWV president, Mom , two children… www.debcrossley.org

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

Short term: Align salaries/ wages with ability to raise revenue, while retaining high quality employees; explore all means of controlling health care costs. Measure and reward performance. Explore consolidating, regionalizing some services.

Longer term: Prepare comprehensive facilities inventory to inform capital needs and maintenance planning; invest in energy efficiencies. Failure to do so costs more in the long run. Encourage development we want by revising, simplifying, clarifying zoning laws. Streamline permitting.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

If we make biking and walking safer and more convenient we can encourage greater pedestrian travel = fewer cars:
- New development: promote design requirements to link pedestrian pathways throughout and to public transit, provide bike storage facilities and clear rules for all, incorporate traffic calming measures at intersections,
- Explore/ facilitate connecting pedestrian pathways throughout city.
- Coordinate and clarify public and private responsibilities to keep pedestrian ways clear of snow and ice.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

Our laws should be written to encourage a range of housing opportunities to support the needs of our diverse population, inviting young and old into our community.

I support ordinance revisions to expand opportunities for legal accessory apartments, a minimum required number of housing units be part of mixed-use development, shared parking and public transit to satisfy needed parking function when small (< 2BR) units are near services, upper story apartments in village centers.

Alderman-at-Large, Ward 4 - vote for not more than two candidates:

Leonard J. Gentile - Candidate for Re-election -

No response received from candidate.

Amy Mah Sangiolo - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: Married, three children. Attorney, NY and DC. Trustee/founder, Charles River Neighborhood Foundation. Founder, Asian American Democrats of MA. Graduate, Juilliard Pre-College; Barnard College, Rutgers University School of Law (Newark). Board member, Springwell. CAB member: WGBH. Former CAB member, UMASS Boston Institute for Asian American Studies. Member, Screen Actors Guild.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

It's not that the City's budget isn't balanced, it's how to provide the programs and services that our residents expect and deserve in a more cost-efficient and effective way. We must evaluate the programs and services we offer - review costs, question relevance, explore options in delivery, seek alternative programs and services, and decide whether we should completely subsidize or make them self-sustaining. Consolidation, regionalization, public/private partnerships, and better use of technology must be considered.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

Measures I would promote include INSTALLATION, TIMELY MAINTENANCE, and PROPER SNOW CLEARING of sidewalks, the creation of a bike rental program, more on road bike lanes, development of safe bicycle routes to schools, and installation of more bike racks throughout the city. I would support expanded opportunities to create neighborhood community spaces – like the branch libraries, to afford safe, neighborhood gathering spots for our children and our seniors that they can walk to.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

Create more by-right opportunities for accessory apartments, use CPA funds to purchase EXISTING housing units to limit over-development of lots with new construction, encourage a mixture of housing opportunities to address the needs of elders and singles and couples who do and do not have children, create some centralized system or clearinghouse that would serve as a resource of what is available in the city, and increase awareness throughout the community about our housing needs.

Alderman-at-Large, Ward 6 - vote for not more than two candidates:

Victoria L. Danberg - Candidate for Re-election

Bio:
* 30+ year resident and activist in Newton
* Husband pediatric dentist John Ficarelli and three children who attended Newton Public Schools.
* Brookline High teacher, 12 years
* MBA, Finance and Management.
* Sat on Chelsea Receivership Team which brought City out of bankruptcy
* Auditor, corporate finance; lecturer, entrepreneurship
* Current health care manager

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

1. Develop new permanent sources of revenue. Encourage appropriate business.
2. Consolidate municipal operations where feasible.
3. Creatively re-think our educational model to increase cooperation with local colleges and make better use of technology.
4. Expand SILOS
5. Expand use of analytical performance management systems.
6. Match total employee compensation to real revenue growth.
7. Increase fee for service programs. Users help pay for some services with subsidies for those in need.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

1. Follow the Comprehensive Plan – design streets to meet needs of all.
2. Improve sidewalk snow clearing, on school routes, near commercial/transit areas.
3. Support **Walk To School** efforts at our elementary schools.
4. Add bike racks and accommodations everywhere possible – formal or otherwise can improve safety and encourage biking.
5. Provide safe bike routes to school, starting with middle/high schools.
6. Seek opportunities for improvement upon repaving – Herrick/Union is a good example of what can be done.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

1. Refine zoning regulations to:
   a. Facilitate building affordable and senior housing near village centers and as part of mixed-use construction
   b. Enable appropriate existing and additional accessory apartments to be regulated for safety and declared legal.
2. Continue use of CPA funds to supplement state and federal resources to make financing possible.
3. Recognize that we build a better city and stronger community through encouraging diversity and commit to discharging our moral responsibility by doing so.

Charles N. Shapiro - Candidate for Election

Bio: Third generation dedicated and involved Newton resident. Married 20yrs to Debra. Children: David (18) Rebecca (14). First time candidate bringing a "Sensible and Fresh Perspective" to City Hall. President, Massmedia, Inc. (http://www.massmedia.net), Elected NewTV Board. More info: http://www.VoteShapiro.org. Please vote Shapiro for Alderman at Large - Ward 6. Thank you!

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

I will work collaboratively with Newton's new mayor and my colleagues on the Board and use the CAG report as a reference guide for rebalancing our financial priorities. Newton residents expect and deserve superior city services with a customer friendly attitude. I look forward to working with the community to determine which services are 'musts' versus those that are 'desired', and focusing our attention on how to deliver services in a cost effective manner.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

Newton takes great pride in being environmentally conscious and that includes walking and biking. I support adding bike lanes wherever feasible and bike racks at all public buildings, schools, libraries, public transportation locations, and village centers. I'll also work to promote age-appropriate bike safety courses. We need to improve our sidewalk maintenance to make walking and biking easier and safer for everyone. This certainly includes working to improve Newton's snow removal efforts and policies.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

We must make Newton a more affordable place to live, especially for our seniors. I'll work to promote programs that make it easier for seniors to afford to stay in their homes. We also need more clearly defined and consistent goals for accessory apartments and new construction, balancing the need for more affordable housing with avoiding overcrowding in our schools. Above all, Newton must always be an inclusive city with equal opportunity for all.

Alderman-at-Large, Ward 7 - vote for not more than two candidates:

Sydra Schnipper - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: For 24 years, I have been privileged to serve Newton. Retired as the Mathematics Coordinator at Brookline High, I am chair of Public Facilities, Solid Waste Commission and a member of Finance bringing experience, commitment and leadership. A parent, grandparent and honoree in Who's Who in American Teachers and Women.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

Through hard work and diligence, I have played a critical role in instituting our new automated trash and single stream recycling program saving the city $7,500,000 over five years. New street lights are saving $625,000 per year and hiring an ESCO allows us to upgrade our buildings providing significant energy savings.

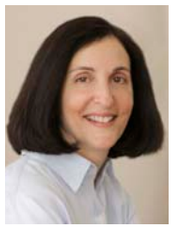
Key to additional savings will be working with our employees to negotiate mutually agreeable contracts containing costs while improving working relationships.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

Improving the condition of our sidewalks and roads is key to encouraging walking and biking. Snow removal from our roads cannot block our sidewalks and intersections. Citizens must be encouraged to shovel their sidewalks allowing safe passage. Providing bike lanes wherever feasible needs to be part of road reconstruction. We must also promote the use of public transportation which we are fortunate to have in Newton

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

I have a record of supporting affordable housing in Newton. As a member of the Finance Committee, I have voted for the affordable housing proposals which utilize CPA funds. Our zoning allows accessory apartments; we must find ways to help homeowners create them. Many seniors would like to downsize and continue to live in Newton. We need to create housing options for all our citizens to support diversity in these difficult economic times.



Ruthanne Fuller - Candidate for Election

Bio: My work as Vice-Chair of the Citizen Advisory Group on Newton's finances and management practices, my five years as President of my local neighborhood association, and my professional experience as a strategic and financial planner provides me with the experience and knowledge to help Newton address its serious challenges. (www.RuthanneFuller.org)

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

- Spend less by increasing productivity and efficiency
  - Consolidate (e.g., snow removal)
  - Outsource (e.g., school food services)
  - Regionalize (e.g., dispatching).
- Moderate growth in the City's costs
  - Slow increases in total employee compensation
  - Implement energy efficiencies
  - Reduce scope of services when necessary.
- Pursue "smart growth" development opportunities that ensure the vitality and diversity of our commercial centers and bring in more tax revenues while preserving our residential neighborhoods

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

- Improve safe pedestrian and bike routes near schools to encourage students to walk/bike to school and after-school activities (e.g., crossing guards, striping and signage for bikes, sidewalk classification system to require snow removal on major routes)
- Make walking and biking safer and more accessible and pleasant in commercial areas and village centers and to public transit nodes (fewer expanses of asphalt, promote street-level retailing, provide bike racks and pedestrian and bike pathways)

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

- Newton's planning efforts, use of Community Preservation Act funds, and ordinances should enable housing development to better support a diverse population (including senior citizens and low and middle income residents) and meet the state 40B "exemption" level of 10%:
  - Revise zoning to make small and moderately sized housing feasible within business areas and village centers;
  - Use publicly owned sites for housing among other needs
  - Refine Newton's stringent accessory apartment zoning requirements

Jeffrey Seideman - Candidate for Election

Bio: Newton resident 17 years. Both daughters Newton North graduates. Founding member Newton For Fiscal Responsibility, Citizens For Responsible Waste Management and Firefighters campaign. Lead plaintiff lawsuit protecting CPA funds. Board of NewTV. Former Board Ward After School program. Public relations professional, former national board, Public Relations Society, college professor, MBA.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

Total employee compensation is 80% of the city budget, so controlling growth in this area is essential to managing our finances. We have to control the rate of increase of total compensation, which includes salaries, benefits, health care and retirement costs. Another area, which seems obvious, is to consolidate duplicate departments. We have duplicate personnel, purchasing, snow plowing and building maintenance and triplicate IT departments. We should also expand our outsourcing.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

I rode my bike everywhere when I was growing up and don't know why it's not kids' primary mode of transportation now. I would push for the installation of sidewalks everywhere and bike/walking trails where possible. It's great exercise, pollution free and costs almost nothing. The city must also do a better job of keeping the sidewalks clear of now during the winter.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

I have been pushing for accessory apartments for years. Right now there are widely believed to be at least 1,000 illegal apartments (some say 3,000). Making them legal provides income for the owners, the protection of fire and building safety codes for the residents and additional tax revenue for the city. By legalizing accessory apartments Newton would once again take back control of its zoning by no longer have to operate under 40B regulation.

Alderman-at-Large, Ward 8 - vote for not more than two candidates:

Mitchell L. Fischman - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: Having served four terms, I enjoy constituent services and have extensive development and transportation experience; Vice-Chair, Land Use Committee; Member, Public Safety and Traffic Committee; Past Chair, EDC; BA, University of PA; MBA and Masters in Urban Planning; Director of Planning, Tetra Tech Rizzo; Resident of Newton for 35-years, married, with two children.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

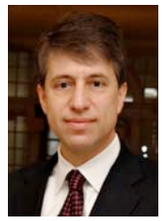
Negotiate payments with tax exempt organizations. Pension fund transfer to state investment trust could improve performance. Reduce health insurance premiums by joining state health insurance plan after collective bargaining agreement changes. Sale/lease of excess city land and leasing cell towers on city buildings adds to revenues. Introducing grant writer position to maximize funds receipt from state and federal governments. Accelerating responsible commercial and residential development proposals.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

Sharing the road works in other nearby communities requiring new and widened existing bike lanes and better signage. Increased fines for violations both by bikers and drivers should be considered. Plans for introducing new bike paths throughout our parks should be developed. Sidewalks must be well lit, safe and passable. In winter, owner enforcement is needed for snow removal and city should extend cleaning program beyond school blue zones or public building areas.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

In other cities, developers partner with Community Development Corporations or non-profit housing providers to jointly develop both market rate and affordable housing. In better times, this linkage assures that affordable housing will be produced. Focusing on available sites as well as on commercially zoned land, there should be an affordable housing production plan developed to provide more housing throughout Newton. Continuing to focus on making accessory apartments easier to develop and occupy will also increase more affordable housing.



John D. Freedman - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: John Freedman has lived in Newton for 15 years, and his three boys are students in the Newton Public Schools. Professionally, John is a physician and healthcare consultant, focusing on improving the quality and lowering the cost of heath care. He chairs the Rules Committee and is Vice Chair of Programs and Services.

QUESTION 1: What efforts would you suggest and support to bring current expenses in line with revenues in order to balance the City's budget?

Basically, we need to adopt the broad recommendations of the CAG report. While not all potential revenue sources and cost savings are feasible, the most important change will be the implementation of specific and measurable objectives for every city department. Performing a cost-benefit analysis on every significant expenditure should be routine.

QUESTION 2: What measures would you promote to enhance walking and biking as alternative modes of transportation year round?

With cost-benefit in mind, we should start with improved marking of roads to indicate bike lanes. This doesn't need to be on all the major roads, but a clear system of through routes for bikes should cover the entire city. Enhancing walking will be more difficult, but efforts should focus on more students walking to school, and encouraging greater use of the T by Newton residents through easier parking for cars and bikes plus careful attention to snow removal.

QUESTION 3: What proposals do you support to increase the availability of affordable housing including the creation of accessory apartments?

We should continue to allocate CPC funds to support affordable housing in all areas of the city. I am open to liberalizing the zoning of accessory apartments, but this has been a thorny issue and will take time to work through.

School Committee, Ward 1 - vote for not more than one candidate:

Geoffrey N. Epstein - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: 19-year Newton resident; Parent of Newton North 9th grader; Physicist, engineer, teacher; President, RGB Software; Ph.D. Physics, post-docs at Oxford, MIT; Past assistant professor of physics, BU. I will continue to bring a stronger math/science perspective to the School Committee to prepare our kids well for the future. www.geoffepstein.net.

QUESTION 1: What are the challenges in allocating Newton Public School resources equitably among schools?

The biggest challenge is knowing what each school needs, given the differences in size, student population, teaching staff , facilities and PTO fund-raising. Sound school improvement plans are the key to equitably allocating resources. Such plans should be user friendly, easy to update, and up front and center in budget planning and School Committee review. The challenge is for the community to elect a School Committee which will take school improvement plans seriously.

QUESTION 2: In your efforts to grapple with the current fiscal constraints, what programs would you cut, downsize, or consolidate? Are there any programs into which you would put more resources?

The key to working within our fiscal contraints is to not 'think cuts' but focus on the finances, building infrastructure and technology infrastructure within which programs exist. If oxygen is in short supply, we need to tend to the environment, not adapt to an inferior life. We need to put more resources into fielding an energized, skilled School Committee team which forthrightly recognizes the crisis we are in and acts.

QUESTION 3: What qualities and experience will you look for in a candidate for the school superintendent position?

Any candidate for school superintendent must recognize the importance of fiscal sustainability, sound buildings and a high quality digital infrastructure as key elements of our educational solution. Combined with these bedrock understandings of reality must come vision, persistence, accountability, superior management skills and an ability to inspire. Curiosity, intellectual engagement and forthright honesty are also essential qualities critical to finding solutions which work and discarding those which don't.

About the School Committee:

The Newton School Committee oversees the Newton Public Schools. It is made up of one representative from each of the city's eight wards. All members are elected citywide every two years. The mayor serves as an *ex officio* member of the School Committee. The School Committee meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from September through June. It is responsible for recommending the school budget to the mayor, approving system-wide policies, establishing the educational goals of the schools, and hiring the superintendent. The superintendent of schools directs the educational activities of the fifteen elementary schools, four middle schools, and two senior high schools and carries out the policies of the School Committee. There are term limits to service on the School Committee. Each member may serve only four consecutive terms of two years. He or she may, however, run for election again after waiting a two-year period. Members of the School Committee receive a stipend, and are eligible for medical, dental, and life insurance as city employees. Elected officials are also entitled to participate in the city's retirement program, which is vested at 10 years of service.

School Committee, Ward 2 - vote for not more than one candidate:

Reenie Murphy - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: My husband Jay and I have lived in Newton for 18 years with our three children. I have served three terms on the School Committee and am currently serving as co-chair of the Superintendent Search Committee. Professionally, I was a budget/financial analyst and hold an MBA from Suffolk University.

QUESTION 1: What are the challenges in allocating Newton Public School resources equitably among schools?

Size, socio-economic and demographic makeup of the school population, variations in physical buildings and fundraising ability all affect delivery of service. Recent staffing changes to place necessary educational supports across the district based on need has proven successful and should continue. Academic performance has increased significantly with the placement of math coaches at select schools, ELL staff at all schools, introduction of grade level teams, and after school tutorial support at the high schools.

QUESTION 2: In your efforts to grapple with the current fiscal constraints, what programs would you cut, downsize, or consolidate? Are there any programs into which you would put more resources?

The CAG has advised that we continually ask ourselves "is the service a necessity or is it desirable?" Cutting or consolidating programs should be data informed and aligned with our core program goals. Program cost cutting will be reduced if we bring necessary changes to delivery of healthcare, continue to invest in energy savings measures, and introduce new programs such as the alternative high school which is designed to avoid costly out of district placements.

QUESTION 3: What qualities and experience will you look for in a candidate for the school superintendent position?

Our superintendent must build on what we do well and challenge us to change where necessary. This person must: have a well articulated vision of public education, be able motivate faculty and staff, encourage innovation in the classroom, incorporate advanced technology into the district, strengthen our managerial function, make difficult fiscal and programmatic decisions, support data informed decision making, and serve as a strong ambassador for our schools, both in and outside of Newton.

Margaret L. Albright - Candidate for Election

Bio: Margaret Albright is a 19-year resident and parent of a 6th grader at Day Middle School. She and her family live in north Newtonville. Margaret is an active volunteer with our schools. Professionally she is a planning and grant development consultant to education, social service and healthcare clients across Massachusetts.

QUESTION 1: What are the challenges in allocating Newton Public School resources equitably among schools?

We must recognize that equal is not always equitable. Each school is unique with its own strengths and weaknesses. Our planning and budgeting process should include a plan for each school that addresses its academic, technology and maintenance needs. These plans will help us direct resources to the educational needs of each individual school and ensure that we provide all of our schools with the resources to support and improve learning.

QUESTION 2: In your efforts to grapple with the current fiscal constraints, what programs would you cut, downsize, or consolidate? Are there any programs into which you would put more resources?

Cutting our way out of our fiscal problems has not worked very well. The Citizens Advisory Group made it clear that we must make long-term decisions not short-term cuts. We must use multi-year budgets and long-term plans to direct our decisions. We should invest in proven programs and best practices, examine innovative and cost saving initiatives and be open to new ideas to improve teaching and learning in our schools.

QUESTION 3: What qualities and experience will you look for in a candidate for the school superintendent position?

Newton needs a superintendent who is a community builder, excellent manager and academic leader. He/she must be willing to replicate best practices, try new ideas, and be a partner with families. He/she must be able to manage enormous change and restore the community's confidence in our schools. But we can't lose sight of the fact that Newton is a large district with a $164 million budget and needs a leader with strong financial management abilities.

Visit the League's website: www.lwvnewton.org for election information and links to the candidates' websites.

School Committee, Ward 3 - vote for not more than one candidate:

Kurt S. Kusiak - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: Kurt Kusiak was elected from Ward 3 in November 2007. Kurt was active in the Peirce PTO for many years and is one of the founding members of the Newton chapter of Stand for Children. A former captain in the United States Air Force and a magna cum laude graduate...

QUESTION 1: What are the challenges in allocating Newton Public School resources equitably among schools?

The challenges come in four forms. First, different schools draw students from different demographics within the city. Accordingly, some PTOs can draw from a wealthier base than others. Second, some PTOs are far more active than others and are more committed to providing raising money and providing resources to their respective schools. Third, pilot programs at specific schools can result in temporarily inequitable allocation, but they are important to test new ideas. Fourth, some schools...

QUESTION 2: In your efforts to grapple with the current fiscal constraints, what programs would you cut, downsize, or consolidate? Are there any programs into which you would put more resources?

Under the current fiscal constraints, the School Committee has already made significant cuts the last two years, which are shown in the budget. If the fiscal situation were to get significantly worse, I would consider cutting or charging larger fees for some sports programs, as other school districts across the country have been forced to do. I would also consolidate the separate maintenance programs that the city and schools now have regardless of whether our...

QUESTION 3: What qualities and experience will you look for in a candidate for the school superintendent position?

We need a superintendent who has substantial experience running large programs and managing people. Some of the important qualities I would look for are:

- leadership (as opposed to simply management) skills;
- the will and energy to innovate and make changes;
- great communications skills and a willingness to be out in the community advocating for the schools;
- commitment to the 21st century education model: and
- an understanding of technology as it applies to teaching.

School Committee, Ward 4 - vote for not more than one candidate:

Dan Proskauer - Candidate for Election

Bio: Dan Proskauer grew up and attended school in Newton. His three children attend school at Franklin and Day. Dan believes we can grow back into our reputation; fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of our children and community. On the school committee Dan will represent YOU, not the status quo. http://www.danforward4sc.org

QUESTION 1: What are the challenges in allocating Newton Public School resources equitably among schools?

Resources should be allocated to bring the best educational outcome to all students regardless of school. Equitable does not have to mean "same." Each school has unique qualities as well as unique challenges. Some schools may need more of something than others and that is OK. Newton Public School resources should be expected to adequately meet the needs of all students and all schools - including technology. Supplementing basic materials should not be necessary.

QUESTION 2: In your efforts to grapple with the current fiscal constraints, what programs would you cut, downsize, or consolidate? Are there any programs into which you would put more resources?

Simply answering this question each year is what got us into the mess we are in. We must establish a financial model and structure that supports the programs we value within reasonable revenue expectations. Once we have some breathing room we can invest. One investment example is improving early intervention at the integrated preschool which will reduce SPED costs in later years. Another is virtual classrooms which will allow us to increase breadth of offerings.

QUESTION 3: What qualities and experience will you look for in a candidate for the school superintendent position?

Our next Superintendent must be an experienced change agent who has demonstrated success under financial challenge. They need broad leadership skills; someone who can inspire teachers, students and the wider community. Our Superintendent must be aligned with our vision for Newton Schools, and be accountable for achieving specific and measurable goals. It is up to us to have the vision and craft the goals that will take Newton Schools where we know they can be.

Jonathan L. Yeo - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: I am an environmental scientist directing water supply protection for Massachusetts. I have a BA from Wesleyan and Masters in Public Policy from Harvard. I was co-president of the PTO at Williams School, an active parent at Brown and South, and now an independent voice on the School Committee.

QUESTION 1: What are the challenges in allocating Newton Public School resources equitably among schools?

Because Newton has a strong neighborhood-based elementary school system, there are population shifts from year-to-year that create class size imbalances requiring NPS to move staffing resources. Size differences and documented need at the elementary and middle schools makes resource adjustments necessary for service equity and performance improvement. All schools receive an equal per-pupil allocation and PTO fundraising is subject to an equity policy, except for technology where NPS must help schools with less fundraising capacity.

QUESTION 2: In your efforts to grapple with the current fiscal constraints, what programs would you cut, downsize, or consolidate? Are there any programs into which you would put more resources?

I have effectively advocated for more resources in programs that both save money over the long-term and improve classrooms and schools including energy conservation, preventive maintenance in school buildings, and alternative in-district programs for challenged students instead of out-of-district placements. Other savings resulting from better school-city building coordination and the employee health insurance system are possible. Possible cuts need to be balanced, well studied for long-term impacts in the classroom, and discussed with the public.

QUESTION 3: What qualities and experience will you look for in a candidate for the school superintendent position?

Newton Schools need a man or woman who is an outstanding educational leader and manager with a proven track record, and full of ideas and energy to make NPS a model public school system know for excellence, resourcefulness and continuous improvement. An exceptional communicator is needed to inspire students/staff, interact with the public and build confidence. We need an innovator in education and fiscal management, someone who can re-think and help re-invent long-held educational models.

School Committee, Ward 5 - vote for not more than one candidate:

Susan E. Rosenbaum - Candidate for Election

Bio: Newton resident for nineteen years
Married, three children, NSHS '06, '08, '11
Education, B.A. Smith College, Ph.D. Boston University School of Medicine, Biochemistry
School Council member at Countryside, Zervas, and NSHS (co-chair)
Creative Arts and Sciences Committee.
Board member of Understanding Our Differences and Temple Emanuel
Coach, Newton Girls Soccer
Website: www.susanrosenbaum.org

QUESTION 1: What are the challenges in allocating Newton Public School resources equitably among schools?

Allocating resources equitably among all Newton public schools can be challenging because we have 21 schools composed of different sizes and populations, different teachers, and different needs. Also, the ability of each school to raise additional funds varies widely. The School Committee has equity guidelines to ensure that each school and every student in the system has access to the same opportunities but we need to work together and institute more city-wide, community fundraisers.

QUESTION 2: In your efforts to grapple with the current fiscal constraints, what programs would you cut, downsize, or consolidate? Are there any programs into which you would put more resources?

In order to maintain our current breadth of programs I would try to consolidate some of the classes and programs at the high school level either by merging low enrolled classes at the two high schools or working with local universities to teach some upper level courses. I would put more resources into teaching world languages at the elementary schools even if they were taught through video conferencing. I would also add more intramural sports.

QUESTION 3: What qualities and experience will you look for in a candidate for the school superintendent position?

The primary responsibility of the School Committee is to hire the Superintendent. I hope to hire a new Superintendent who is bright, thoughtful, forward-thinking, innovative, experienced, and a great communicator. The new superintendent will be expected to find a way to maintain the excellence school programs, update the older school buildings, and be a community leader in a time of fiscal instability. The superintendent should be a motivator and enable us to reach our goals.

Steven Siegel - Candidate for Election

Bio: Steve Siegel is a 20-year resident, parent of Newton 5th and 8th graders, owner of a local structural engineering firm, and co-founder of "Newton 20/20: Vision for Effective Government". He's passionate about our schools and is committed to bringing best practices into their operation. Learn more about Steve at www.stevesiegel.org.

QUESTION 1: What are the challenges in allocating Newton Public School resources equitably among schools?
We readily speak of using differentiated instruction to meet students where they are. Our resource allocation must also differentiate. We must assess the individual strengths, support systems, and needs at each school, and allocate teachers, support staffing, and materials to meet each school's needs. One size may not fit all.

Individual school demographics and student achievement should dictate the concentration of social workers, curriculum support, provision of technology, and might even impact student teacher ratios.

QUESTION 2: In your efforts to grapple with the current fiscal constraints, what programs would you cut, downsize, or consolidate? Are there any programs into which you would put more resources?
Cuts and consolidation are important, but they represent an incremental approach that distracts from the largest issue: Our budget is fiscally unsustainable (CAG Report, 5/2009) due to our employee compensation structure. Health insurance and salary are growing faster than city revenues, dwarfing savings and efficiencies, and causing unacceptable layoffs.

We must attract great teachers with reasonable pay and great working conditions; then we can focus on the more marginal gains from cuts, efficiencies, and fees.

QUESTION 3: What qualities and experience will you look for in a candidate for the school superintendent position?
Our new Superintendent must be a strong, informed, inspiring educator, committed to understanding and adopting current educational best practices. S/he should be honest about our situation, embracing our strengths and learning from our weaknesses – modeling this behavior for students, staff, and parents.

S/he should be an excellent manager, communicator, and leader. S/he must be capable of handling a $164 million operation with 2000 employees, 11,500 customers (students), 71,500 other stakeholders, and $1 billion in property.

School Committee, Ward 6 - vote for not more than one candidate:

Olivia Mathews - Candidate for Election

Bio: I will be the only School Committee member to have worked in an elementary, middle, or high school. My experience includes K-8 assistant principal, elementary school teacher, and Executive Director of children's literacy organization *Everybody Wins Metro Boston*. My husband (middle school principal) and I have three kids. Website: www.oliviafornewton.org.

QUESTION 1: What are the challenges in allocating Newton Public School resources equitably among schools?

Our fundamental challenge is determining how to distribute resources so every child is challenged to learn as much as s/he can. Also, we must provide adequate support in the early years, so students don't develop gaps that are more costly to remediate later. I will examine every expenditure in terms of impact on student learning. Not every improvement costs more money. The key is figuring out what resources each child needs to reach his/her potential.

QUESTION 2: In your efforts to grapple with the current fiscal constraints, what programs would you cut, downsize, or consolidate? Are there any programs into which you would put more resources?

It is widely known from the CAG report that our schools are on an unsustainable growth trajectory—Newton Schools are on a path of "cumulative erosion" of our "educational infrastructure." We must look at the effectiveness of current practices. For example, the "pilot" Thursday early release days reduce instructional time. How effectively have these days been used? Instead of adding new initiatives, could we better leverage existing programs? This analysis of effectiveness should guide resource decisions.

QUESTION 3: What qualities and experience will you look for in a candidate for the school superintendent position?

I seek a superintendent who will unite the district around the fundamental mission of maximizing learning for all students. The superintendent will be able to put difficult issues on the table and manage the necessary conflict that ensues—s/he will convey that healthy debate will strengthen our school districts' effectiveness. The superintendent needs to be someone with a track record of making decisions that lead to desired educational outcomes and cultivating widespread support for those choices.

Claire Sokoloff - Candidate for Re-election

Bio: Vice-Chair School Committee, Co-Chair Superintendent Search**.** With my background **(**Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior from Yale; former Partner, Synectics Innovation Consulting) and school leadership experience (Bowen and Oak Hill PTO president, Newton South Council chair), I have the skills to help prepare our children for success and achieve fiscal sustainability.

QUESTION 1: What are the challenges in allocating Newton Public School resources equitably among schools?

The Newton Public Schools must continually examine and address variations in school size, class size, resources, and need. NPS policies aim to ensure excellence and consistency. The elementary equity policy recognizes the need for entrepreneurship but must ensure quality and equal access across our schools. Newton Schools Foundation, alumni networks, and public-private partnerships are actively engaged in bringing new revenues to NPS. Balancing entrepreneurship with equity is an ongoing challenge needing continuous oversight.

QUESTION 2: In your efforts to grapple with the current fiscal constraints, what programs would you cut, downsize, or consolidate? Are there any programs into which you would put more resources?

To create a sustainable budget, we must lower health insurance costs, accelerate energy efficiency initiatives, and reduce food service costs. In addition, school maintenance (currently a collaborative effort with the city building department) is inefficient and must be streamlined. Our highest priority is to hire and develop top quality teachers and to make investments that maximize their effectiveness in the classroom. The School Committee, Superintendent and community must work together to identify priorities and tradeoffs.

QUESTION 3: What qualities and experience will you look for in a candidate for the school superintendent position?

- A world class educator, full of energy and ideas to ensure NPS has a vibrant curriculum and excellent teachers who prepare *all* children for success
- A tough-minded manager who will inspire staff, encourage and evaluate innovative practices, and implement a continuous improvement model for living within our means
- A skilled communicator who enjoys interacting with staff, students, and the community to engender trust and confidence and garner enthusiastic support for our schools

School Committee, Ward 7 - vote

Matthew Hills - Candidate for Election

Bio: Matt and Lisa moved to Newton in 1992, and their four children attend the NPS. Matt has been involved with and held leadership positions on committees for our schools, city and non-profit organizations. He is a partner at a venture capital firm and received his MBA from Harvard Business School.

QUESTION 1: What are the challenges in allocating Newton Public School resources equitably among schools?

Our key challenge is managing the conflict between two core values and our financial constraints. Our community strongly values neighborhood schools and equal or similar opportunities for all of our children. We must ensure that all elementary schools, all middle schools and both high schools provide similar opportunities for our children and, where not practical, that students have access to those opportunities at neighboring schools within Newton.

QUESTION 2: In your efforts to grapple with the current fiscal constraints, what programs would you cut, downsize, or consolidate? Are there any programs into which you would put more resources?

Meeting our fiscal challenges involves more than simply eliminating programs; our School Committee must oversee changes to our system to mitigate the need for debilitating program reductions. Reductions and increases in programs must be assessed by the School Committee and Superintendent within the context of the key mission of our school system: to provide depth and breadth in a high quality education for all of our students.

QUESTION 3: What qualities and experience will you look for in a candidate for the school superintendent position?

We face significant financial, managerial, structural and academic challenges and need a leader who can work with the School Committee to successfully meet our challenges while continuing to improve the quality of our education. The three key criteria, given this context, are: 1) ability to inspire and lead a high-quality school system; 2) strong demonstrated managerial skills appropriate for a $165 million school system, and; 3) comfort with financial issues.

for not more than one candidate:

Susan Flicop - Candidate for Election

Bio: Sue Flicop is a passionate advocate for the Newton public schools, having served as PTO Council and Bowen Elementary PTO co-president as well as on numerous boards. She has an MBA from Northeastern University, and has both analytical skills and knowledge of our schools. Please visit www.SueFlicop.com for more information.

QUESTION 1: What are the challenges in allocating Newton Public School resources equitably among schools?

Differences across schools regarding student needs and size of student populations are exacerbated by the amount of resources available, creating challenges. Some school staff should be allocated on a proportional basis, but financial resources make this difficult to do well. To respond to larger schools and those in need more support for various reasons, the ideal situation is to add more support where needed, and NOT reduce the support currently in the rest.

QUESTION 2: In your efforts to grapple with the current fiscal constraints, what programs would you cut, downsize, or consolidate? Are there any programs into which you would put more resources?

I would try to avoid cuts in programming, since that is a great strength of our schools. Any change needs to be evaluated using long-range planning methods, so that we can see the effects in context—what will happen to programming and to school finances in the future. This year, the school system will begin evaluating several areas worthy of consideration, including the maintenance process and the school lunch program..

QUESTION 3: What qualities and experience will you look for in a candidate for the school superintendent position?

Our new Superintendent must be an experienced educational leader. With our large school system and high expectations for educational excellence, we need a person who has the skills to manage a large staff and budget, and at the same time provide an exceptional education to all Newton students. In addition, the new Superintendent should be an outstanding communicator who is open to new ideas.

School Committee, Ward 8 - vote for not more than one candidate:

Margie Ross Decter - Candidate for Election

Bio: My family has a 40-year history in Newton. Two of our children attend Memorial-Spaulding and our third will graduate NSHS in 2023. I have 20-years' experience as a business executive, community board leader and public policy advisor. I will champion responsible innovation and sustainable excellence for every school.

QUESTION 1: What are the challenges in allocating Newton Public School resources equitably among schools?

Newton must ensure that all children receive the same quality education no matter where they attend school. Some challenges include varying student needs, limited resources and inevitable fluctuations in enrollment. We need a more flexible allocation model to appropriately staff and accommodate student diversity.

Equity does not necessarily mean everything is the same. A needs-assessment can better identify gaps and inform a plan to equitably raise and distribute funds to where they are needed most.

QUESTION 2: In your efforts to grapple with the current fiscal constraints, what programs would you cut, downsize, or consolidate? Are there any programs into which you would put more resources?

Newton cannot sustain a model with capped revenues and twice the increase in expenditures. I propose the following:

- reduce health insurance costs
- coordinate city and school maintenance
- better integrate special education and regular education to tailor instruction for all children
- generate new resources through public-private partnerships for professional development, teaching staff, new classes, and investment in supportive technology
- streamline administrative processes and improve on-line knowledge-sharing to improve productivity

QUESTION 3: What qualities and experience will you look for in a candidate for the school superintendent position?

Our Superintendent must bring:

- a vision, passion and track record for promoting progressive change, motivating people, and achieving educational excellence in a large and diverse school system
- experience with planning and managing complex budgets and programs with the fortitude to explore and take risks and the creativity to do "more with less."
- strong communications skills to build trust and collaborate with the School Committee, staff, principals, teachers, parents, students, and the community.

Tom Mountain - Candidate for Election

Bio: You've known me as the Newton TAB columnist who has challenged the Newton political establishment for much of the past decade, especially the School Committee. These inept politicians have nearly bankrupted our city (think Newton North) while letting our school ratings drop. They need to go.

I volunteer for the job.

QUESTION 1: What are the challenges in allocating Newton Public School resources equitably among schools?

Resources for the individual schools are scarce because of the insane decision by the School Committee and City Hall to tear down a thirty-year-old Newton North and replace it with a $200 million building. So if your child's elementary school is cold, run down, and looks like it ought to be condemned, remember, I warned repeatedly in my TAB columns that this high school project would drain the city treasury. And I was right.

QUESTION 2: In your efforts to grapple with the current fiscal constraints, what programs would you cut, downsize, or consolidate? Are there any programs into which you would put more resources?

I'd cut those expensive administrative hacks left over from the Cohen-Young era, such as 65 administrators who make over $90,000-$100,000 annually. I'd reduce the blotted SPED bureaucracy by a third, and fire those SPED personnel who want us to believe that about one-fifth of Newton students have learning disabilities. I'd shut down the useless curriculum department, then use the savings to eliminate those burdensome bus, parking, and athletic fees that the school department extorts from parents.

QUESTION 3: What qualities and experience will you look for in a candidate for the school superintendent position?

My choice for superintendent would be someone who has worked in the private sector for a decade running a business, balancing a budget, firing underperforming managers, hiring innovative people. He'd be more concerned with celebrating academic excellence, than celebrating diversity. He'd stress patriotism and discipline. He wouldn't try to manipulate the School Committee, push obnoxious educational fads, raid the city treasury, or force tax overrides. He'd be a normal mainstream superintendent we can be proud of.