

THE NEEDHAM TIMES VOTERS' GUIDE 2010

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

STATE SENATE

(Vote for one)

LIDA E. HARKINS, Democrat
14 Hancock Road
Needham, MA. 02492
774-233-6088
617-797-7118
781-449-1840 (Fax)
campaign@lidaharkins.com
www.lidaharkins.com

Qualifications:

Current State Representative. Served as Majority Whip, Chairman of the Committee on Education, Science and Technology and Affordable Housing. Former School Committee Chairman, Town Meeting Member, and Chairman of the Democratic Town Committee. Authored laws which reformed Special Education, revamped the School Building Assistance Program and created jobs.

Candidate Statement:

Creating jobs and economic development are the critical issues we face. We need to continue to encourage investment in bio-technology and green jobs, promote job training for the unemployed, and use stimulus money for critical construction projects. I fought hard for a guaranteed 17.5% state contribution to communities for education aid; I will fight to enhance that commitment. I am concerned that we work to maintain the social safety net, especially for our seniors. I have passed legislation that provides supports like personal care attendants to help seniors stay in their homes while saving the state money.

RICHARD ROSS, Republican
29 Franklin Street
Wrentham, MA. 02093
508-384-6240
508-954-4535 (cell)
www.voteross.org

Qualifications:

Massachusetts House of Representatives, Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies (ranking member), Elder Affairs, Education, Global Warming & Climate Change and Post Audit Oversight. Co-chair Elder Caucus. Former Selectman and Board of Health member. Owner and operator of seventy year old small, local family business.

Candidate statement:

Jobs and the economy are issue one for us all. Too many of those forming public policy around job creation and economic growth have little or no experience in the private sector. Decision makers should have an understanding of the relationship between public jobs and the revenues necessary from the private sector to sustain them. I will continue to work to get government out of the way of recovery, and to highlight that government too often creates problems rather than solutions. Long term we need a predictable, stable tax environment to encourage businesses to grow, locate or relocate here.

PETER SMULOWITZ, Democrat

36 Hillcrest Road

Needham, MA. 02492

781-444-0881

smulowitzforsenate@gmail.com

www.petersmulowitz.com

Qualifications:

I am an emergency room physician with an expertise in health care policy. I know how to make health care work better and cost less. I am a progressive Democrat dedicated to sharing our values and putting the concerns of our district's families and businesses first.

Candidate Statement:

1. Jobs and rebuilding our economy: I will promote small business growth via improved access to credit, streamlining of burdensome administrative and regulatory hurdles, and cutting the skyrocketing cost of health care. I will encourage further investment in development of a clean energy economy.

2. Health care: the cost of health care is suffocating individuals, communities and businesses. I will work to eliminate the disparity in health care pricing, rebuild primary care and finally fix our dysfunctional malpractice system.

3. Our public education system requires proper funding, support for teachers and ongoing innovation, and reform to reduce the emphasis on standardized testing.

LOCAL ELECTION CADIDATES

MODERATOR, one year
(Vote for one)

MICHAEL FEE
137 Fox Hill Rd. 02492
No reply received

BOARD OF SELECTMEN, 3 years
(Vote for one)

DANIEL MATTHEWS
31 Rosemary St. 02494
781-444-1067
mattlaw@comcast.net

Candidate statement:

Continuing issues include: maintaining town services in a challenging economic environment, addressing facilities and service needs within the limits of available resources, and assuring that our government is open and accountable. I appreciate having the opportunity to serve as a Selectman and hope to keep on with that work.

TOWN CLERK, 3 years
(Vote for one)

THEODORA K. "Tedi" EATON
51 Bonwood Road 02492
781-455-7510 X 216
781-444-9249
617-967-9245 (cell)
781-449-1246 (Fax)
Teaton@needham.gov

Candidate statement:

Major issues include: implementation of new State Ethics Legislation including online municipal training, Campaign Finance, and Open Meeting Law requirements. Redistricting precinct lines upon completion of 2010 Federal Census, working toward passage of statewide electronic vitals system, updating election laws and funding for state reimbursement to cities and towns for Special State Elections are also issues to be addressed by the Town Clerk's office.

ASSESSOR, 3 years
(Vote for one)

THOMAS COLARUSSO
89 Edwardel Road 02492
508-253-8853
781-444-0171
781-929-4478 (cell)
Tom.Colarusso@staples.com

Candidate statement:

There are no major issues facing the current Board of Assessors. We are in the middle of the annual review of abatement, deferral and exemption applications. We continue to strive to be sure our tax payers understand the assessment process and encourage them to provide complete information when applying.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE, 3 years
(Vote for three)

JOSEPH BARNES
589 High Rock Street 02492
781-453-9002
781-856-9001 (cell)
Je.barnes2@verizon.net

Candidate statement:

Major issues facing the school committee include: 1. Maintaining a quality education with limited financial resources. I will continue to advocate for spending that directly supports teachers and students. 2. Renovation of Newman School. We need to monitor project to ensure that students and staff have a safe and healthy environment., 3. Negotiating Teachers' Contract: I will negotiate to provide a fair and competitive compensation package.

CONSTANCE BARR
205 Edgewater Drive 02492
781-444-4645
781-453-9772
Connie_Barr@needham.k12.ma.us

Candidate statement:

Ongoing issues include: 1. Budget in these challenging economic times, 2. Optimizing the teacher/student teaching/learning experience at all levels, 3. Newman project, 4. District goals. We will need continued innovative problem solving as a School Committee in collaboration with School Administration, Town Government, Finance Committee and Needham residents.

MARIANNE COOLEY

86 High Street 02494

339-225-9278

mcooley@nethorizons.com

Candidate statement:

Getting a more sustainable cost structure to support the class size and quality we prefer requires different approaches on everything from career ladders to salary structures to teaching students in interesting and effective ways. "Same old" only guarantees the need for more cuts in the future. Focus on the classroom.

TRUSTEE OF MEMORIAL PARK (Veteran), 3 years

(Vote for one)

CHARLES MANGINE

40 Thorpe Road 02494

781-444-7459

Chuck.Mangine@verizon.net

Candidate statement:

"Our major issue as of now is the baseball diamond, and how to make it safer for the neighbors and Highland Avenue. As a trustee for twenty years, I will continue to support the sport activities at the field, and to ensure that the Veteran Memorials are properly honored."

TRUSTEE OF MEMORIAL PARK (non-Veteran), 3 years

(Vote for one)

JOSEPH MC SWEENEY

13 Maple Place 02494

No reply received

TRUSTEE OF NEEDHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY, 3 years
(Vote for two)

LOIS BACON
29 Harding Road 02492
781-444-3353
Lbacon2003@earthlink.net

Candidate statement:

Print and audio-visual circulation continues to rise. The library also provides access to electronic resources such as online databases and downloadable books. Providing these materials with a limited and tightening budget is a constant challenge. I will continue to advocate for increased library funding at the local and state levels.

ROSE DOHERTY
134 Melrose Avenue 02492
781-449-3175
rosedoherty@aol.com

Candidate statement:

The Needham Library's three major challenges are the economy, serving the community effectively and planning for the future. I will advocate for funding so that the library can respond to increased patronage in this economic climate and will continue to explore strategic opportunities for the library.

BOARD OF HEALTH, 3 years
(Vote for one)

STEPHEN EPSTEIN
117 Richdale Road 02494

Candidate statement:

Working with the community, I will seek to continue the strong public health measures implemented over the past two years, such as strong tobacco control regulation and a ban on trans-fats. Fighting obesity, environmental concerns, and emergency preparedness are other key issues facing our town.

PLANNING BOARD, 5 years
(Vote for one)

SAM BASS WARNER
32 Emerson Road 02494
781-449-1184
sambas@mit.edu

Candidate statement:

The Planning Board needs to find ways to prevent the tearing down of our small starter homes and needs to alter its permitting schedule to allow more time for planning. My special interest is in the public realm of Needham- the places for all of us, the places we all share.

NEEDHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY

REGINALD FOSTER, 3 years
898 South Street 02494
508-944-3837
regfoster@me.com

Candidate statement:

High Rock Homes has been a success, but we can't rest on our laurels. NHA has 316 units of affordable housing with 135 people on the waiting list. The average wait is 2 ½ years. Top goal: create more homes for needy people, while maintaining the character and charm of our neighborhoods.

PETER J. PINGITORE, 5 years
146 Hillcrest Road 02494
617-225-2400
781-455-0915
617-794-2199 (cell)
617-225-2480 (Fax)
PJP@Pingitorelaw.com

Candidate statement:

Continued improvement of NHA's housing stock, as was successfully done at High Rock Homes, is the major issue facing NHA. Leveraging federal, state and local government financing mechanisms, and having an active and engaged Board of Commissioners, operating staff, and resident group are the keys to addressing this issue.

OPEN SEAT, one year
No Candidate

COMMISSIONER OF TRUST FUNDS

JOSEPH P. SCALIA, 3 years
99 Canterbury Lane 02492
781-455-6821
781-449-2362
781-449-0299 (Fax)
jpscalia@comcast.net

Candidate statement:

My forty-five years of financial markets experience will be applied to the oversight of the investment management firm handling the trust fund moneys and proper judgment in applying donor wishes to funds available for disbursement.

HEYDON TRAUB, 2 years
232 Bridle Trail 02492
781-453-3929
781-449-0206
781-405-4410 (cell)
781-898-7647 (Fax)
h.traub@traubcapital.com

Candidate statement:

Most important issue on my mind is to invest the funds appropriately to provide growth in the funds' assets, but also preserving the assets through any further downturns in the investment markets. In addition, it's important that we ensure that the funds' assets are used as intended by the donors.

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION, 3 years
(Vote for two)

CYNTHIA CHASTON
119 Fox Hill Road 02492
781-449-7776
781-449-5575 (Fax)
cjchaston@aol.com

Candidate statement:

The major issues facing Park and Recreation are to continue to bring affordable programs to the community, and maintain/improve our parks, fields and trails.

I will continue to work with the Park and Recreation director, Town manager, Board of Selectmen, sports groups and neighbors within the current fiscal constraints.

MICHAEL RETZKY
121 Laurel Drive 02492
retzkymj@gmail.com

Candidate statement:

The major issues facing Park and Recreation Commission are preserving and expanding Needham's parks and fields, continuing to provide equitable use of the space for all and maintaining and updating all our facilities.

I will work closely with the Commission and the Park and Recreation Department to prioritize the responsibilities and needs of the department and its multiple sports and user groups. I will assist in developing an innovative plan for field use, maintenance and funding.

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