

LWV Candidate Information:

Question for Select Board candidates:

Because of recent federal legislation, Lexington will be receiving a substantial infusion of funding (ARPA funds) over the next year or so. As a member of the Select Board, what processes would you set in place to determine priorities for using the remainder of the funds? What would some of your own priorities be? How would you envision public input in that process?

Suzie Barry

Precinct: 6

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*** Community Activities:**

- Select Board (Nov. 2014-present), Chair (2016-2019)
- Cary Library Board of Trustees (Nov. 2014-present)
- Cary Library Executive Board of Trustees (2017-present), Chair (2021-present)
- Semiquincentennial Commission-Lexington 250 (celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Lexington 2021-present)
- Appointed to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Special Commission on the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution (2021-present)
- Fund for Lexington (2018-present)
- Hanscom Area Towns Committee-HATS (2017-present), Chair (2018-2019)
- Policy Manual Committee (2019-present)
- Select Board Liaison to: Council on Aging, Design Advisory Committee, Lexington Council for the Arts, Lexington Youth Commission, Munroe Center for the Arts, Recreation Committee
- 300th Anniversary Celebration Sub Committee (2010–2014) Liaison
- Sidewalk Committee (2008 - 2010)
- Commission 2000 (celebrating the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Lexington 1997 – 2000)
- Town Celebrations Committee (1995-2014)
- Town Meeting Members Association Treasurer (1995-1996)
- Town Meeting Member-Precinct 6 (1995-1999)

Lexington will be receiving \$9,903,381 in American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Funds. The Select Board in January unanimously agreed that our focus for the initial distributions of APRA funding would be to four categories: Public Health, Economic Recovery, Affordable Housing and Human Services. It is important that we put the money to work where it can do the most good across the community and get the money into the hands of the people who truly need it. The Board is also having discussions about launching a program for the public to participate in directing where some of the funding could go; those details are still being worked out. As this was an unexpected amount of money for the Town to receive, it is important that the Board and the Town be transparent in the decisions that are made regarding spending and update the community on a regular basis through the Town e-newsletters, Town website and print media.

Joe Pato

Precinct: 2

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Phone number: 781 325-8631

* Community Activities

Joe began serving Lexington as an election inspector in 2002 followed by election to Town Meeting in 2008 and winning a Select Board seat in 2013. Since then, Joe was Chair of the Board for two terms and has served on more than 25 committees in town. More information is available at <https://joepato.org/about>

My priorities for using ARPA funds are to address the harms caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. At the top of my list is supporting residents who are experiencing food or housing insecurity and providing support for businesses that have suffered financial strain due to the pandemic. In addition, I favor funding programs that strengthen our ability to provide public health services or support delivery of town services more safely in protected or outdoor venues.

The Board is in the process of determining how to create a public process for participatory budgeting in allocation of additional funds. My goals are to make sure that there be a clear process for submission of proposals, for verifying that these projects satisfy the ARPA funding restrictions and that they align with the

Board's stated community goals, and finally that there be a clear process for encouraging and collecting community feedback on the proposals. It is essential that we reach out broadly to the community so that everyone is aware of the process and eligible to participate.

Should there be more funding available, then I would consider using ARPA funds to support eligible non-recurring Town projects. This, however, should be after we are clear that we have satisfied the needs created by the pandemic.