

Precinct 3 Town Meeting Members 2021

7 for 3 years

1 for 2 years

1 for 1 year

Question for Town Meeting Member candidates:

What Lexington issues do you think are most important? What does Lexington do well? What could be improved? How do you view the role of Town Meeting in implementing improvements?

Incumbents

Joshua F. Apgar

Delanot Bastien

Precinct 3 - Incumbent Candidate Lexington Town Meeting

E-mail address: dbastientmma@yahoo.com

Phone number: 617-799-6373

Town of Lexington Resident since July 2007, with his wife Juliette, and two teenage daughters. Both of his daughters are enrolled in Lexington Public Schools.

*Community Activities / Professional and Volunteer Experience:

- Town Meeting Member, Precinct 3 (One year);
- Member, Association of Black Citizens of Lexington (One year);
- Real Estate Sales and Broker (35 years);
- Education Advocate/Parent Consultant for Children with Special Needs and/or Disabled and for Adults and Elderly with Disabilities (11 years);
- Clinical Herbalist - Holistic Specialist (10 years);
- Chairman & Member (1988-2000), Worcester Area Rainbow Coalition: Civil Rights/Community Organizer/for Social Justice and Changes in the State of Massachusetts, and International, in South Africa and Haiti, West Indies);
- BA, Worcester State University, Class of 1994
- Radio Talk Show Host (Voice to the Voiceless), 1990-2000

*Question for Town Meeting candidates:

What Lexington issues do you think are most important?

Lexington needs to make readily available Covid-19 Vaccination Education, Information and vaccine access to town residents. Provide social services and Therapy/Counseling to our Students population due to the Cause and effect of the Covid-19 Pandemic Social Isolation. The

most important thing is keeping our community safe from Covid-19 Pandemic. Further, have all of our students return back safely in person to school full time immediately.

What does Lexington do well?

Lexington is a prosperous, peaceful and tranquil residential community with a rich history and culture. The town also has an excellent school system.

What could be improved?

Our High School Building is severely overcrowded which severely hampers the experience for students. We need a solution asap. We need more affordable housing and also to take steps to make Lexington more inclusive to people of color. We also need a new modern Police Station. Further, the Lexington needs a police force that is well versed and trained in racial sensitivity training.

How do you view the role of Town Meeting in implementing improvements?

Town Meeting needs to listen and pay more attention to town residents' concerns and issues that affect their daily lives. In addition, to better serve town residents, the Town Meeting Member Association needs to be more engaged and involved in Lexington's cultural and community affairs.

David L. Kaufman

Precinct 3

E-mail address DavidLKaufman@rcn.com

Phone number (781)862-2386

* Community Activities

Town Meeting Member originally Precinct 6 for more than 20 years, now Precinct 3
TMMA Executive Board-various positions, including web master and email list moderator
Conservation Steward since the Stewardship program was started. Currently lead Steward for Willards Woods and Turning Mill Pond

Conservation Steward Director, former Stewardship web master.

Former webmaster for the Estabrook School.

Member Citizens for Lexington Conservation

Elected member Lexington Democratic Town Committee-now 20+ year member. Former web master and recording secretary.

* Question for Town Meeting candidates:

The most important and complex Issues for Lexington are related to zoning. How can we have a diverse population that can work and live in Lexington, without everyone having a gazillionaire in the family? Environmental sustainability is also an issue of increasing importance. Lexington, as a Town, has done a lot to support the environment with renewable energy, recycling, etc. but the goals of net zero housing will require a lot of work and expense by the owners over a long period of time. In the shorter term financing the much needed Police Station and a new High School will require the Town Meeting's approval, and that of the voters, though both apparently are off the warrant for the spring Annual Town Meeting.

Letha M. S. Prestbo

Precinct: 3

E-mail address: lprestbo@gmail.com

Phone number: 617-335-1153

* Community Activities:

Board member Association of Black Citizens of Lexington, Board member Five Fields Neighborhood, Town Meeting Member for 2 terms (current candidate), parent of 3 daughters - current and past students of Lexington Public Schools and Minuteman High School

* Question for Town Meeting candidates:

What Lexington issues do you think are most important?:

- Overcrowding of schools, need for new high school
- Engagement with community around issues of racial and social equity
- Control and management of new construction both residential and commercial
- Moving forward with issues and resolutions around climate change

What does Lexington do well?:

- great strides are being made in the above subjects and I have been encouraged by my experiences so far in Town Meeting. I am glad that citizens can be heard but I think they can sometimes feel they are not listened to. I strive to continue my community engagement and make myself available to learn and discuss any concerns that my neighbors may have.

What could be improved?:

- Communication between those holding differing opinions and experiences.

How do you view the role of Town Meeting in implementing improvements?:

I believe that Town Meeting members are a wonderful connection to town decisions. I do think that more conversations with concerned citizens could be immensely helpful for all sides of an issue.

Robert Rotberg

Michael J. Schanbacher

Amit Srivastava

New Candidates

Hassan Aldahan

Christopher Buenrostro

Edward F. Dolan

Precinct: 3

E-mail address: edwarddol48@gmail.com

Phone number: 617-312-6646

Community Activities

Member of Lexington Democratic Town Committee

Member of Cary Memorial Library Social Justice Book Discussion Group

Board Member of FISH

Volunteer Driver for Neighbor Brigade

Volunteer Driver for Lexington Food Pantry

Questions for Town Meeting candidates:

What Lexington issues do you think are most important?

- Guaranteeing adequate affordable housing for seniors and others to ensure a healthy, creative and diverse community.
- Helping town offices, residents and businesses further the development of a non-discriminatory community.
- Reforming and regulating activities (construction; transportation; etc.) that deteriorate the environment for current and future generations.
- Adapting policing procedures and constructing/adapting facilities to meet evolving community standards and expectations.
- Establishing standards for sustainable water use, both commercial and residential.

- Continuing the “greening” of Lexington.

What does Lexington do well?

- Lexington has a vibrant, diverse community that seeks to continually improve its openness and generosity.
- Lexington has an outstanding educational system, child through adult, schools through library.
- Lexington has a police department that has worked hard at inclusion, compassion and humaneness in its practices.
- Lexington is a very green community, with a wonderful set of conservation lands, walkways and historic artifacts that enrich the lives of everyone.
- Lexington has a thriving commercial center.
- Lexington has striven to expand its industrial tax base – with due caution to community character – to support growth and development.

What could be improved?

(See “Issues” question, above.)

How do you view the role of Town Meeting in implementing improvements?

- Town Meeting can fund activities.
- Town Meeting can shape zoning to encourage and discourage various activities.
- Town Meeting can establish and revoke fees for services to encourage and discourage various activities.
- Town Meeting provides a forum for residents to air, debate and improve consensus on both practical and philosophical issues that underlie a healthy, well-functioning democracy.

Amelia Snow O’Donnell

Prashant Singh