

## Precinct 9 Town Meeting Members 2021

7 for 3 years

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**

**Hemaben P. Bhatt**

**Scott A. Bokun**

Precinct 9

E-mail address scottabokun@gmail.com

Phone number 781-860-9791

#### **\* Community Activities**

My wife and I have lived in Lexington for over 25 years. Our two daughters have been educated in the Lexington Public School system from K-12. My community activities include being a Precinct 9 Town Meeting member since 2015, being a member of the Lexington School Committee since 2019, and being a member of the Lexington Human Rights Committee since 2020.

#### **\* Question for Town Meeting candidates:**

The most important issues in Lexington right now, in my opinion, are issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. The Lexington Public Schools have hired a Director of Equity & Student Supports and are addressing racial issues through curriculum changes, professional learning, alternatives to suspensions (restorative justice), and a commitment to hiring employees of color. The Town Manager is looking into hiring for a similar position on the municipal side. And recently, Town Meeting passed a Systemic Racism resolution with the goal of starting to dismantle racism in our town.

Communication about all of these efforts to the entire community needs to be improved.

When Lexington works together as a well-informed community, we can really accomplish our goals. These issues, efforts, and goals can be brought up in Town Meeting as we debate the articles on the warrant, but more importantly, Town Meeting members need to reach out to their constituents afterwards to keep them informed and in the loop.

**Richard L. Canale**

Precinct: 9

E-mail address: richard.canale@gmail.com

Phone number: (781) 861-0287

\* Community Activities:

Town Meeting Member, present

Lexington Planning Board, present

Lexington representative to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), present

Member, Special Permit Residential Development Committee, present

Lexington Planning Board co-liaison to the Lexington Next Master Plan Committee, present

Lexington Representative/Alternate to the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (Boston MPO) (2011 – 2020)

\* Question for Town Meeting candidates:

Town Meeting passed a resolution on racial and economic equity this past Town Meeting. We need to make Lexington more inclusive and welcoming. We have recently passed zoning changes to substantially increase tax revenues. These increased revenues can help ensure that we can increase affordable housing choices including those that our Lexington School teachers and firefighters can afford.

Lexington does most everything well. The Town provides excellent services to residents and our schools are top-notch. Lexington should accept that it is a wealthy, resource-rich town, and that it has the resources to be more responsive to equity and wealth issues in the greater Boston area.

Lexington Town Meeting is the legislative branch of Lexington government. TM needs to take that responsibility to act both independently and interdependently with Town Staff and Administration, and with the Lexington policy boards.

**Mollie K. Garberg**

Precinct 9

Mollie.Garberg@lexingtonmma.org

781-863-8560

\* Community Activities:

Precinct 9, Town Meeting Member since 2006

Cary Memorial Library Foundation Board, Founder and Chair of the Corporate Donor Committee 2016-2019

Appropriation Committee 2009-2016

Electronic Voting Record Working Group, 2013-2014

Lexington 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration, 2012-2013

Economic Development Taskforce, Co-Chair 2006-2008

Lexington 2020 Vision Committee, 2006-2008  
Longtime Member, Temple Isaiah  
Former member, Lexington Public School PTAs (parent to 3 LHS graduates)  
Former Co-Chair, Stand for Children of Massachusetts

\* Question for Town Meeting 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?*

I love Lexington. Ours is a community with quality schools, open spaces, and services and amenities worth working for. It has been my privilege to serve as a Town Meeting member from precinct 9 since 2006. In that time, I've voted in support of smart growth to minimize property taxes, affordable housing to keep Lexington accessible, the acquisition of conservation land as well as sustainability initiatives to protect the environment and I've supported our excellent Lexington Public Schools.

I think it has become even more important to recognize Lexington's place in the region, nation and world. Climate change needs to be combatted at the local level as what we do or do not do will have ripple effects geographically and generationally. While I'm proud of Lexington's progress we will need to do more in the coming years to promote environmental conservation and sustainable practices.

I also think that issues of racial equity and social justice require focus. Lexington has been fortunate to have many local groups working on promoting diversity and inclusion such as the Lexington Human Rights Commission, No Place for Hate, ABCL, CAAL, IAL, LexPride and the Commission on Disability just to name a few. Over the past year, we've had community conversations, implemented curriculum geared to raising awareness in our schools and begun reviewing our Town by-laws from a lens of diversity and inclusion. But we must do more and as part of that, I'd like to see our police department perform reviews and implement policies that are in line with the community's efforts.

If re-elected, I would also continue to advocate for and support infrastructure and capital improvements for our aging roads and buildings. We need to plan and prepare for a high school that can accommodate our student population, but we need to do all this with an eye to controlling costs. I ask for your vote so I can work on these issues as your representative to Town Meeting from Precinct 9.

**Phillip T. Jackson**

## **Thomas R. Shiple**

Precinct 9  
[tshiple@gmail.com](mailto:tshiple@gmail.com)  
781-296-3700

### \* Community Activities:

Town Meeting Member: 2018-Present  
Lexington Human Rights Committee, Police Working Group: 2020-Present  
Lexington United Soccer Club, President: 2014-2017  
Friends of Lincoln Field Lights, President: 2016-2017

### \* Question for Town Meeting candidates:

The most important Lexington issues are:

- Increase the diversity of the housing stock to encourage more socio-economic diversity.
- Carefully control growth in spending to save money for a new high school.
- Increase commercial development to slow increase in residential property tax burden.
- Promote racial and social equity.
- Meet and exceed State's goals for controlling climate change.

What Lexington does well:

- Active civic participation on Town committees and Town Meeting
- Quality public education
- Quality municipal services

What could be improved:

- Find better ways to inform residents on the structure of Town government and on current issues
- Increase voter turnout for municipal elections

To implement improvements in Lexington, Town Meeting members need to be involved with issues before they reach the floor of Town Meeting. Once articles reach TM they are (almost) fully baked and members are just voting up or down. To have an influence on what comes to TM, and how articles are shaped, members need to study the issues and actively participate in committee meetings over the preceding year. It's impossible for a member to follow all issues at this level, so the member must immerse themselves in a couple of issues that interest them most.

## **New Candidates**

### **Scott Foster Burson**

Precinct 9

Scottburson02421@aol.com

781-863-8367

#### **\* Community Activities**

Town Meeting Member 1997-2016; School Committee 2000-2006 (Chair 2002-2003); Trustee, Cary Memorial Library, 2000-2006 (Chair, 2004-2006); Cary Memorial Library Foundation, 2006-2010)

Lexington is a model community. We can be proud of our excellent schools, great library, extensive public services, and extensive citizen engagement. Maintaining Lexington's high quality public services and the general desirability of the Town as a place to live is a central function of Town Meeting. Recovery from COVID-19 will be an added challenge to those we have always faced, including support of our excellent schools, maintaining our infrastructure, and promoting sensible land and energy use. While this has never been cheap, Town Meeting is responsible for assuring that the Town receives excellent value for its public expenditures.

The next Town Meeting will face challenging questions about how to balance our desire to preserve the many aspects that make Lexington special against resources limited by the unusual economic conditions of our last year. As a former school committee member and 19 year town meeting member, I have the knowledge and experience needed to help us navigate these challenges.

For many years, Lexingtonians have invested in our future, supporting our children with strong schools, excellent recreation, and safe and attractive streets. We model our values, and that makes Lexington a special place. I am proud to be a member of this community and will work hard to assure it remains one of the most desirable communities in Massachusetts. I ask you to cast one of your votes for me.

### **Grace Claybourne**

**Kimberly Ann Hensle-Lowrance**

Precinct 9

E-mail: [khensle@gmail.com](mailto:khensle@gmail.com)

Phone number: 781-538-5193

**\* Community Activities**

- Board member and past co-chair of the Community Endowment of Lexington
- Parent co-chair of Clarke Middle School’s Site-Based Council
- Girl Scout Troop Leader
- Past parent co-chair and member of Bridge Elementary School’s Site-Based Council
- Past member of the Board of Directors for LexFarm
- PTA volunteer

**\* Question for Town Meeting candidates**

I’ve been a Lexington resident since 2011, when my family moved into town, eager to establish ourselves in this vibrant community known for its excellent schools, beautiful conservation lands, and significant place in American history.

I’m running for Town Meeting now because my voice—that of a parent with two children in Lexington Public Schools who cares about protecting our environment, ensuring equity and inclusion for all citizens, and protecting the democratic ideals that strengthen our country—is one that should be reflected in the decision-making body that impacts and shapes Lexington.

Town Meeting is a critical forum for ensuring that each person is represented in our town’s governance process and that the range of perspectives Lexingtonians share are considered and heard. Town Meeting has the responsibility to hold us all accountable to our shared values of equity and respect and to foster an environment that embraces innovative and progressive approaches to problem-solving. I value the participatory and thorough process Town Meeting offers, and I’d be honored to represent Precinct 9

**Daniel Joyner**