

# Board of Selectmen

## 3 Year Term

2 for 3 years

Suzie Barry

Precinct: 6

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### Community Activities:

- Board of Selectmen (Nov. 2014-present), Chairman (2016-present)
- Cary Library Board of Trustees (Nov. 2014-present); Cary Library Executive Board (2017-present)
- Fund for Lexington (2018-present)
- Hanscom Area Towns Committee-HATS (2017-present), Chairman (2018-present)
- Lexington Community Coalition Steering Committee Member (2016-present)
- Policy Manual Committee (2019-present)
- Selectman Liaison to: Board of Health, Communications Advisory Committee, Lexington Housing Assistance Board (LexHab), Lexington Council for the Arts, Lexington Housing Partnership, Recreation Committee, Town Report Committee, Town Seal Committee, Tree 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)

### League Question for Board of Selectmen candidates:

**How would you balance pressures for increased municipal spending against the need to limit the tax burden on residential properties?**

Open and clear communication among and between Boards and Committees and the greater community is a crucial first step. Priorities and Goals should also be clearly communicated and understood. Needs are different from wants and while we might want many things in our municipal budget, we need to slow down and ask the question of do we need them all or are there other ways to receive the same result. Detailed planning and forecasting for larger projects is also essential to build a sustainable budget that is respectful of the potential impact on residents.

## **Joe Pato**

Precinct 2

joe@joepato.org

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### **Community Activities**

- Board of Selectmen
  - Elected 2013, Re-elected 2016
  - Chair, 2014-2016
- Town Meeting Member, Precinct 2, 2008-2013
- Appropriation Committee Member, 2009-2012
  
- I'm currently a member of or liaise to more than 16 committees in town and serve as chair of the Library Board of Trustees and the Selectmen's Policy Manual Committee.

### **League Question for Board of Selectmen candidates:**

**How would you balance pressures for increased municipal spending against the need to limit the tax burden on residential properties?**

I serve so Lexington may be an inclusive community that continually provides quality education, excellent police, fire, and social services, and can meet the demands of our growing community through smart financial and sustainable planning. I work to rebalance our sources of revenue, provide relief for taxpayers in need, and carefully analyze the need for spending.

Lexington needs a more balanced set of revenues. Today, most tax revenue comes from residential property owners. We need to enable creation of high-value commercial properties that shift the tax burden away from our residents.

The Hartwell Avenue rezoning initiative is in the early stages of envisioning a modern multi-use commercial district. This opportunity creates a zone where buildings are replaced with denser facilities that are both more valuable and more sustainable. If we work to carefully manage the traffic and environmental impact, this initiative helps shift tax burden away from residential properties.

I will continue to advocate for non-traditional sources of revenue and cost reductions for residents. Programs like the electricity purchase program have saved residents more than \$2M over the last 18 months while the deployment of solar panels on buildings and at Hartwell Avenue now generates more than \$400K in net revenue per year.

Several tax relief programs exist to help taxpayers facing immediate financial challenges. Information on these programs is available from the assessors' office. In addition, I have been leading the Selectmen's investigation into programs to shift our residential tax burdens.

Finally, I keep a close eye on all budget requests. I ask tough questions to ensure that every penny spent by the Town is justified. From my first days on the Appropriation Committee to today, I roll up my sleeves and work to find ways to save residents money.