

**2019 Franklin in Focus
Candidate Query**

**Candidate responses,
Alphabetical by last name**

BERGEN, ANNE

CANDIDATE NAME: Anne Bergen

* Brief Biographical background (not more than 100 words) I have been a passionate advocate for Franklin Public Schools for nearly fifty years as teacher, elementary principal, middle school principal and member of the School Committee for four years (the last two as its Chair). I promote social/emotional health and wellness as host of two cable access tv programs. In addition I serve on the FPS Substance Abuse Task Force; the Board of Managers of the YMCA (to promote its charitable work); the Norfolk County Sheriff's Task Force on Juvenile Substance Abuse and Mental Health; the Dementia Friendly Franklin Steering Committee and on the Board of Directors of the Franklin Cable Access TV.

*What are the 3 top issues you would hope to work on if elected/reelected? (150 words, max)

1) Support the 4 key goals in our District Strategic Plan, particularly the social emotional well-being of students and staff, by carefully monitoring progress and holding us all accountable for its success.

2) Make two-way communication a top priority in sharing information about the fiscal issues facing our community by working together with the Finance Committee and Town Council as "One Franklin".

3) Promote the importance of providing for our students and parents information about the multiple pathways to success post high school.

* What are the top 3 reasons for a voter to support you? (150 words, max)

1) I believe public schools are a fundamental pillar of democracy. We must keep them strong and make sure ALL citizens have good, solid reasons to invest in them. But we must be fiscally responsible in doing so. I will continue to work with other town officials as we are One Franklin and must share its precious resources.

2) Leadership isn't always easy. It shouldn't be; sometimes tough decisions have to be made. But they have to be made wisely and compassionately. I will continue to work respectfully with the entire committee to make sound, wise decisions in the very best interest of our students.

3) As all the candidates, I love my community and wish to serve. It gives my life a sense of meaning and purpose. It's about giving back and trying every day to make a difference. I pledge to do my very best, continue to work hard and do all I can to keep Franklin a thriving, vital community!

BISSANTI, ANDREW

* Brief Biographical background (not more than 100 words)

I have served 3 consecutive terms as a town councilor, 3 terms on the Economic Development Committee and 2 terms as Chairman of the EDC. I am a Father and a Grandfather helping raise my 2 grandchildren with my wife and daughter. I worked hard as a councilor listening to the people's concerns and addressing their needs when it came to business as well as life issues in and around the town of Franklin, Sidewalks, Roads, water alcohol awareness, the opioid crisis and smart growth initiatives we as a town can pursue to slow and control the residential growth that can no longer be sustained under our outdated bylaws and regulations.

*What are the 3 top issues you would hope to work on if elected/reelected? (150 words, max)

- 1) I think I would really like to sit down with the director of the DPW and have a friendly Discussion about what is going on with the water in Franklin. We have always had a good rapport. I just think we are all getting information in bits and pieces. on the repairs, the costs, the problem itself.

- 2) I'd like to hear an update on the Opioid crisis. there have been some recent deaths. I know we have made great strides from five years ago, and I applaud the department. Is there anything else the council and the coalition can do to help. I want to explore Narcan training a little more widespread amongst merchants and the public. I had discussed this with some Coalition folks and they were very excited about it.

- #3) I'd like to keep some kind of discussion going on new zoning which would have inclusionary Open Space and Inclusionary Affordability as a component to subdivision approvals. Also Smaller lots, Smaller homes, private roads, less bedrooms, We cannot sustain the town if we continue building large 1m houses whose tax revenues can't even support one student through the school system for one year.

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* What are the top 3 reasons for a voter to support you? (150 words, max)

- 1) Experience: my six years on the Council and the Economic Development Committee taught me a lot about how the town runs, and what we can do as councilors can make it better.
- 2) The relationships I built over the years with the various town departments. I listen to their concerns. That's important. I also have always had a good relationship with the administration whether we agreed or disagreed on matters.
- 3) my experience as a local businessman. I understand and have watched the town grow over the last 35 years.

CORMIER-LEGER, TED

CANDIDATE NAME: Ted Cormier-Leger, Candidate for election to Town Council

* Brief Biographical background (not more than 100 words)

I am a life-long Mass. resident who moved with his family to Franklin a little over 2 years ago. I enjoy many activities with my kids here in town such as Cub Scouts, football and baseball. I am an Eagle Scout and serve as the President of the Oakland Parkway Neighborhood Association. I am a visual artist and exhibit my paintings online and in shows throughout Mass. I am also a realtor based in Hopkinton. I speak, read and write conversational Italian with roots on my mom's side to Calabria, Italy. I enjoy cooking, traveling, walking and playing with my dog.

*What are the 3 top issues you would hope to work on if elected/reelected? (150 words, max)

1) Education- I am pro-public education and want to create a better dialogue between the school committee and town council. I think there is a lot we can do if we work together. There are many issues facing the town and its budget going forward and our schools, its teachers, staff and programs must remain a priority.

2)Public Safety- I want to ensure our police and fire personnel have the resources they need to keep us safe and do their jobs effectively. I would like to see the number of paramedic related calls that we currently outsource to other communities reduced significantly as we should be able to handle service to our own residents. And more ambulance/paramedic service to Franklin residents means more direct reimbursement to the town by insurance carriers.

3)Water- We deserve clean water (to drink and use for household purposes.) And we deserve a cost effective, modern, and reliable delivery system. I am in favor of limited outdoor watering restrictions during droughts but it seems we have a ban on outdoor water use for most if not all of the summer. I have been told this is not a state issue or a supply issue but rather it's a result of a failing, old delivery system. Let's get it fixed! Everyone benefits when properties are kept up and maintained.

* What are the top 3 reasons for a voter to support you? (150 words, max)

1) I am an honest person. I pride myself on my character and integrity. If I don't know the answer to your question(s), I will let you know but then I pledge to find it and get back to you.

2) I am a husband, father, business owner and home owner in town. I have a vested interest in keeping our town in all aspects at its best. I am also an advocate for everyone. Whether you are a child in need of special ed services at our schools, a family struggling to make ends meet and in need of services especially food, or perhaps you are a senior on a fixed income and you are concerned about rising costs of living- I am here for you. I want to be known as a powerful voice for Diversity & Inclusion so Franklin can be a safe and happy place for all.

3) For over 20 years I worked as a nonprofit executive in Greater Boston. I managed multi million dollar facilities and camps and worked with complex budgets, especially during tough economic times. I know how to bring people from all walks of life together, as I have managed hundreds of staff and volunteers and we always got the job done! I have also raised millions of dollars in donations over my career from private donors, companies, foundations and grants. I took my responsibility as steward of these gifts very seriously and pledge to do the same with helping to manage the town budget.

D'ANGELO, JENNIFER L

CANDIDATE NAME: Jennifer L D'Angelo

* Brief Biographical background (not more than 100 words)

I am a lifelong Franklin resident and a proud graduate of the Franklin Public Schools. My professional experience began in the financial services industry upon graduating from Bentley University with a Bachelor of Science in Finance. After only a few years, I realized my passion for education and began volunteer work advocating for students. This led to a career educating students first as a paraprofessional, then classroom teacher and most recently district administrator. With over fifteen years of experience in public education, I am well versed in a variety of areas including school finances, instructional practices and state and federal regulations. In addition to my work experience, I also hold a Master of Business Administration from Suffolk University and Master of Education from Bridgewater State University. I feel my skill set would be invaluable as a member of the Franklin School Committee.

*What are the 3 top issues you would hope to work on if elected/reelected? (150 words, max)

- 1) The budget is always a challenging topic and one that involves making tough decisions that are not always favorable. With that being said, it is also important those decisions are based on thoughtful consideration and understanding of the impact on our students. As we experienced during the last budget, these challenges are real and we as a committee need to explore ways to financially sustain and support the educational needs of our students.
- 2) Continuity among schools, more specifically elementary and middle level, is a concern that has been expressed by parents and teachers. With six elementary schools and three middle schools, common curriculum, grading systems and expectations should be aligned across the district.
- 3) Communication among all stakeholders is also an essential element of providing exceptional educational opportunities for all students. Students, families, teachers, administrators and community leaders all play an important role in public education. Fostering these relationships with honest and open communication should be a top priority for all.

* What are the top 3 reasons for a voter to support you? (150 words, max)

Education is a collaborative effort among teachers, administrators, families, community members and elected officials. As an elected committee member, my major focus would be

those issues and concerns that are a priority to the parents, students, and teachers I represent on the committee. It is important to be open to the opinions and views of all in order to make thoughtful decisions in the best interest of our students. As our schools face some challenging decisions in the coming years, I am confident I can be an impartial committee member who can make well-informed decisions based on the needs of our community.

HAMBLÉN, MELANIE

Dear Franklin Community, I am excited to say that my name will be on the ballot for re-election for my second term on the Franklin Town Council. Thank you to all who signed my nomination papers.

When I look back on the past two years I am proudest of these accomplishments:

1. As a Member of the Economic Development Subcommittee:
 - a. Updating a by-law so now craft brewery taprooms do not need a full commercial kitchen, allowing young innovative entrepreneurs to start-up businesses.
 - b. Updating the Zone Use Table to protect citizens right to farm and grow their own food by allowing the keeping of poultry 25' away from lot lines instead of 100'.
 - c. Involved with creating a new Mixed Business Innovation Zone with Bryan Taberner, the Director of Planning and Community Development. The New Zoning District, located along Fisher St and Hayward St is on the far end of the Franklin Cultural District and allows for incubator shared office spaces as well as art galleries, artisanal and craft maker spaces, and restaurants.
2. With the Agriculture Commission:
 - a. And the DPW to start the first ever Town of Franklin "opt out" program for the glyphosate weed spraying.
 - b. And the DPW in creating the first "Pollinator Pasture, a no spray, no mow zone where bees can eat without worry". With more to come.
 - c. Sent Ch 61 and Land trust information out to all owners of land over 7 acres.
3. Organized the first SEMAP legislator tour of farms in Norfolk County. The tour brought State Rep Jeff Roy, State Senator Richard Ross and the Commissioner of the Department of Agricultural Resources John Lebeaux through the Norfolk Aggie, Medway's Community farm and farms in Franklin.



If I am on the Town Council again I look forward to:

1. Continuing important work with the Agricultural Commission protecting our environment, promoting local farms and planning a "Franklin Farms Day".
2. Continue attending the Joint Budget Meetings next term as your advocate on the Budget Subcommittee. Where I can expand on the Town Council's relationships with the School Committee, School Department and the Finance Committee.
3. Be a contributor to the Transfer Station redesign to encourage kitchen scrap composting to remove more solid waste from trash which will help keep fees down.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you and your consideration when you vote on Nov 5th 2019.

Melanie Hamblen

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KEENAN, TIM

CANDIDATE NAME: Tim Keenan

* Brief Biographical background (not more than 100 words)

I'm a 49 year old father of two kids in the public school system. (One in elementary and one in middle.)

I have two jobs... in my corporate job at a large financial institution I lead a research and analytic team that uncovers insight to inform strategic decisions.

I also started and run a kid-centric business in Franklin... Strive Ninja Fitness. My business focuses on enriching kids' lives through unique fitness experiences.

*What are the 3 top issues you would hope to work on if elected/re-elected? (150 words, max)

1) I am not looking to promote any personal agendas with respect to the issues I think are most important. I prefer to work collectively with other committee members, the community, the superintendent, school administrators, faculty and kids to identify and prioritize the most pressing issues for our specific community.

2) an area where I believe I can contribute uniquely is that I can help facilitate a structured problem solving approach. This would not be specific to one issue... instead, this would help ensure the committee's approach to problem solving includes clearly defined problem statements and a rigorous approach to analysis and solution generation

3) I would work as a team to further optimize to get the most out of the existing budget. My extensive analytic experience would help me contribute strongly here

* What are the top 3 reasons for a voter to support you? (150 words, max)

1) I am 100% dedicated to efforts that are aligned in the best interests of kids and their families

2) I want to help enhance the connection between the committee and the community. I strongly believe we can arrive at better solutions when all voices are heard and considered

3) I can help facilitate a highly structured, strategic and data-informed approach to problem solving

Thank you!

KELLY, MATT

CANDIDATE NAME: Matthew Kelly

* Brief Biographical background (not more than 100 words)

I relocated to Franklin in 1993 with my parents and brother, I attended Franklin High School and married my high school sweetheart Lesley Douglas. My wife Lesley I never thought twice about where to raise our family. You see Lesley is a 4th generation Franklin resident and we both love Franklin so living here in town was the obvious choice. Today I live at the family homestead on Crescent St with my wife and 2 daughters Madison and Abigail. As a member of the Franklin School Committee, the long range Financial Planning Committee and a Franklin Rotarian I feel privileged to live in and give back to a community that offers so much to their citizens.

*What are the 3 top issues you would hope to work on if elected/reelected? (150 words, max)

Our Town Council should always focus on 5 main priorities: public safety, infrastructure, the delivery of necessary services, promoting an environment that attracts and retains businesses and an advocate for our citizens in their time of need. As your Town Councilor there are many challenges that face our community including the need to keep spending inline with our budget, ensuring that a clear and concise plan for Open Space and controlled growth is executed, and our public infrastructures including water, trash, sewage services, roads and town buildings are maintained and repaired as required to keep our citizens safe.

* What are the top 3 reasons for a voter to support you? (150 words, max)

This campaign is about moving into the next era for Franklin, something we've needed to do for a long time. We need to tackle the big questions and get real answers, it's time to make decisions that are best for everyone in our community and not just a few citizens. People who know me will tell you I don't make promises I can't keep. I have proven that over the last 10 years representing our citizens and community. This campaign isn't about friends or popularity, it's about believing that most people know, deep down, that I am continuously trying to solve the problems we're facing in Franklin. It's about electing a Town Councilor that has clearly defined priorities, and can work together, and with others, to make them happen.

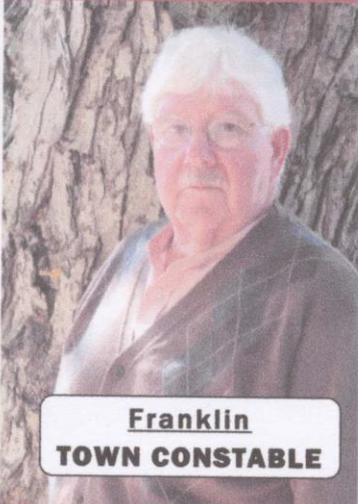
LAROSA, RANDY

Vote

RANDY LaROSA

Civic-minded, Dependable, Courteous

- Served as Temporary Constable (2012 -2014)
- Designated an Outstanding Eagle Scout -BSA
- Franklin History Museum Volunteer
- Commissioner for Mayflower Council - BSA
- Semi-Retired Public School Music Teacher
- Certified Firearms Safety Instructor



**Franklin
TOWN CONSTABLE**

Dear Franklin Voter,

I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself and to ask for your vote on Tuesday November, 5th, 2019

I have previously served as a Franklin Town Constable being appointed in September of 2012 to fill an unexpected vacancy. I am once again standing for election to this office. You will find me to be civic-minded, dependable, hardworking, available 12 months of the year, and always courteous

When serving court documents to citizens of the town, I keep in mind that these people are fellow townspeople and neighbors who are going through some difficult times. For the most part, they are not criminals and they deserve our respect and kindness. At the same time the legal rights of the plaintiffs need to be upheld.

Vote - Randy La Rosa - Franklin Town Constable

Your support is most appreciated! *Randy La Rosa*

McCAHILL, DAN

CANDIDATE NAME: Daniel McCahill

* Brief Biographical background (not more than 100 words)

My name is Dan McCahill I have lived in Franklin my whole life of 50 years and have been employed by the US Postal Service for 26 years. I have been serving as constable for the past 6 years. I was inspired to run for public office by my father John McCahill who served the town of Franklin for 34 years serving as a town selectman and the zoning board of appeals the Charles river pollution control district and constable. I also felt my experience as a landlord for the past 20 years gave me the knowledge of how the civil process works in Massachusetts and would be a valuable tool in helping others through the same situations I have also been through. I am also a member of the Massachusetts constable association of which I am always receiving the most up to date training to be and effective constable in Massachusetts. I hope to continue to serve the town of Franklin as constable for the next 4 years

*What are the 3 top issues you would hope to work on if elected/reelected? (150 words, max)

1) I hope to continue to serve the town of Franklin in a professional manner and be a good representative for the town of Franklim

2) I hope to be an asset to people who have solve disputes through the civil process in Massachusetts

3) I hope to continue my training through the Massachusetts constable association to be an effective constable

* What are the top 3 reasons for a voter to support you? (150 words, max)

I have been serving the town of Franklin for the past 6 years as constable and I feel my experience in the many situations I have experienced in the past 6 years and my training have left me the knowledge to be a professional in my role as constable for the town of Franklin

2) I have been a landlord for the past 20 years and there isn't much I haven't seen and I am able to help people who many times are going through the civil process for the first time and give them reasonable expectations on how it is to navigate the Massachusetts court system

3) I am always keeping up on what it takes to be a constable in Massachusetts and attend training that is available to me and in my 6 years serving as constable I have met many others

constables in other towns and found them to be a great resource for knowledge as well to help me be a better constable

MCCARTHY EARLS, EAMON

CANDIDATE NAME: Eamon McCarthy Earls

- Brief Biographical background (not more than 100 words)

A Franklin native and graduate of FHS, I attended UMASS-Amherst and subsequently earned an MBA. I am a Franklin homeowner, working as an editor. A few years ago, there was very little visibility into how decisions were being made by the Town Council. I ran in 2017 to restore transparency and get more people involved in local decision making. In addition to the Council, I am involved in the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and Mass. Municipal Councilors Association, as well as the co-host of a local history program on Franklin TV.

*What are the 3 top issues you would hope to work on if elected/reelected? (150 words, max)

1) Increase involvement in community decision making and insist on transparency and extensive communications outreach by the Council—as well as better coordination between different boards, commissions and departments.

2) Focus on Franklin's water and sewer infrastructure and safeguarding these systems for the future as the town grows.

3) Review the town charter, by-laws and zoning statutes to make sure that they meet our needs as a community.

* What are the top 3 reasons for a voter to support you? (150 words, max)

- 1) I have scaled the learning curve, bringing a unique mix of experience, fresh ideas and connections with my fellow councilors, the town administration and state-level organizations

- 2) I have no interests but those of the town and am committed to working with all parts of our community

- 3) Over the past two years, I have established a track record of responsiveness and careful decision-making

McNEIL, DAVE

CANDIDATE NAME: Dave McNeill

* Brief Biographical background (not more than 100 words)

I grew up in Franklin and graduated from Franklin High in 2009. I went on to graduate from Framingham State, and I now work as a research analyst at the State House. Everyday at my job, I listen to a number of different stakeholders on a variety of issues and conduct research to produce and promote evidence-based public policies and legislation. Our town's and state's public education system has played an invaluable role in my life. I wish to apply these perspectives and skills towards paying it forward to the next generation of Franklin students.

*What are the 3 top issues you would hope to work on if elected/reelected? (150 words, max)

1) My time at Franklin High was so valuable due to a wide variety of class subjects that were offered to me. Having the opportunity to choose from a number of different course types allowed me to cultivate my particular interests and skills, and I would prioritize promoting a wide range of courses to allow students to explore their interests in the same way.

2) I was very excited to hear from Franklin High students about the school's recent trip to Europe. Having lived in Germany for four years, I know how valuable traveling is for broadening one's horizons, and I would look forward to expanding programs that help students grow into well-rounded people.

3) Mental health and substance use concerns are ever-present issues in schools. It is imperative to listen to parents, students, and research in order to find solutions that properly address these issues in the lives of Franklin students.

* What are the top 3 reasons for a voter to support you? (150 words, max)

1) The best decisions are made when a variety of perspectives are represented in decision-making processes. As a graduate of Franklin High, I would bring the perspective of a person who has been shaped by this school system. I believe having this point of view on the school committee would be extremely valuable.

2) I am passionate about public policy because of my belief in top-down solutions to create wide-sweeping improvements in systems and communities. As a researcher, I have a passion for crafting these solutions in evidence-based ways to ensure that they are effective and do the most good.

3) In public service, I believe the most important mandate is to listen in order to best understand and address the public's concerns. At the State House, I regularly listen to a variety of stakeholders in order to understand all perspectives of the issues I work with to craft and promote informed legislation.

MERCER, TOM

CANDIDATE NAME: Thomas D Mercer

* Brief Biographical background (not more than 100 words)

I am a lifelong resident of Franklin and I have successfully served you, the residents of Franklin, as a Town Councilor for the last 8 years, and the last year as Chairman, formerly as a School Committee Member for 10 years - 8 of which I served as Chairman. I was Chairman of the Building Committees for 3 of our largest and newest town structures – the Horace Mann/Oak Street/ECDC School Complex, the Franklin Senior Center and most recently the new state of the art Franklin High School. I have served on the Franklin Country Club Board of Directors for over 20 Years. I also serve on the Franklin Performing Arts Company Board of Directors for over 30 years.

*What are the 3 top issues you would hope to work on if elected/reelected? (150 words, max)

1) The structural Budget deficit will be a challenge. In these tough economic times it is the most important annual issue that faces the Town Council. The importance of reviewing every departments budget making sure every dollar is scrutinized and is accounted for. The cost of doing business far outweighs our ability to raise revenues. Most importantly, there has never been a year when the Town budget has never not been a challenge!! This coming year could be tough, but this will also be the case any year.

2) I believe one of the biggest issues facing Franklin and an issue I continue to feel passionate about is maintaining a high level of services. Public Safety, Emergency Services and Education are ever evolving and of the utmost importance to any community. During these very difficult economic times.

3) While local government is not a business because it can't make all decisions based on the best economic outcome, it can benefit from good business planning and performance strategies to help ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.

* What are the top 3 reasons for a voter to support you? (150 words, max)

- 1) I believe that I have the knowledge to ensure fair and honest representation for the residents and businesses of Franklin. I will work to keep and improve services and spend our tax dollars wisely. I have built a solid reputation as a leader, facilitating cooperative and constructive discussions that have led to success.
- 2) I have built a solid reputation as a leader, facilitating cooperative and constructive discussions that have led to success.
- 3) I will continue to work hard to improve the communication between town boards both elected and appointed. Franklin deserves leadership dedicated to open government, safe schools, and a healthy local economy

PFEFFER, JUDITH POND

Candidate Name: Judith Pond Pfeffer
Candidate for School Committee

Bio Sketch:

Life-long resident, product of the Franklin School System, have a B.S. in Education from Framingham State College and a Juris Doctorate from Suffolk Law School. Have been a prior member of the Finance Committee and have recently served 20 years on the Franklin Town Council.

As a member of the Council I served as Chair for many years of the Capital Budget committee which has continued to make favorable decisions to augment the schools by providing extras, such as: Chrome Books, transportation vans, new reading program to name a few.

I am a member of the Friends of Franklin Elders, Inc and the Friends of the Franklin Library, Inc and I am the former Chair of the most recent Franklin Library addition and renovation.

I have no children nor grandchildren currently in the school system. My experience has demonstrated that grandparents and seniors are also abundantly concerned in how our schools work and in how our town continues to adequately function with the yearly monetary decisions that need to be made.

Top Three Issues:

There is basically only one top issue. That is the Budget. The town of Franklin collects only a certain amount of revenue, we, the town elected officials, can only spend what is collected. There is an accountability and responsibility issue as a School Committee Member to the students, teachers, town residents. Town residents whose taxes fund all the town services. The schools being a greater part of the budget than the Police, Fire, DPW, Library, and all town functions. It is a fairness issue to adequately fund, to maintain services, all the basic services of which a town is responsible.

Top reasons for a voter to support me:

I know how to work between the Council and town departments

Experience and operational knowledge and knowing how the town council works

Knowledge, wisdom and experience working within the scope of getting results

Experience in finding better ways to afford items and programs in a tight budget

And it is always a tight budget

SCOFIELD, MARY JANE

CANDIDATE NAME: Mary Jane Scofield

* Brief Biographical background (not more than 100 words) I have been a resident of Franklin for thirty years, and have been volunteering my time for many years, through the School Committee, soccer, PCC's at Oak, Davis Thayer, Horace Mann, and FHS, CCD, and the Fourth of July celebration. I feel very strongly about giving back to the community. My two stepchildren and my son are FHS graduates, and all went on to earn Masters degrees. I am a research professional, dedicated to investigating new medications in various indications. The most gratifying part of my work is when a new medication is approved for use.

*What are the 3 top issues you would hope to work on if elected/reelected? (150 words, max)

1) Budget-The budget continues to be a major focus for the entire town. The School Committee will need to continue to work collaboratively with the Town Council and Finance Committee to provide the best services for all residents.

2) Counselors-Students are arriving at school with far more issues than in the past. The stories that we have heard from administrators about the needs of children from elementary to high school are horrifying. We need to do all that we can to provide every student with the tools that they need to achieve a positive sense of well-being. Their success is our success.

3) Communication- Communication with stakeholders has increased significantly over the past two years, and will need to continue. This isn't only about the families with children in the FPS's. All residents need to be informed of what is going on in the schools. There are many ways that information is being shared, newsletters, forums, and educational sessions, and these efforts will continue.

* What are the top 3 reasons for a voter to support you? (150 words, max)

If I'm given the opportunity to serve on the School Committee again I will continue to evaluate every issue from a common sense approach. There is no room for personal agendas. It is the responsibility of each SC member to work learning about the many aspects of successfully educating our children in order to make informed decisions governing our schools. Communication with stakeholders has increased significantly over the past few years, and will need to continue. I have worked hard over the years to ensure that concerns are addressed in an open and honest manner. I will continue to do what is right, and best for all residents of Franklin.

SPENCER, DENISE

CANDIDATE NAME: Denise Spencer

* Brief Biographical background (not more than 100 words)

My family and I moved to Franklin in 2017 and I have a son in the public-school system. My motivation for seeking this position is simple – we, as a community, need to invest in our schools. In addition to my professional background, which includes 12 years working in the financial industry, I am an active parent and member of the community. I want to apply my passion to advocate for all of Franklin’s students, families and educators. I would like the opportunity to serve and be a part of the continuous success of our school system

*What are the 3 top issues you would hope to work on if elected/reelected? (150 words, max)

- 1) Budget
- 2) Communication/transparency between the School Committee and the community
- 3) Social Emotional Learning

* What are the top 3 reasons for a voter to support you? (150 words, max)

- 1) I want to see Franklin thrive and believe that improved communication between the School Committee and our town is necessary to achieve that goal.
- 2) You can count on me to serve enthusiastically, cheerfully, and diligently. I am committed to serving with integrity and honesty, doing the work required to be fully informed on the issues, and listening to various constituencies when difficult decisions are at hand.
- 3) Public education is one of the most important mechanisms for improving the lives of children and strengthening our community. Not every family has the resources to advocate for their child’s education, but every child deserves to be advocated for. As a member of the community, I want to apply my passion to advocate for all of Franklin’s students, families, and educators.

STOKES, ELISE

Elise A. Stokes

Candidate for School Committee

Brief Biographical background (not more than 100 words)

I'm an educational consultant and mom who is passionate about teaching & learning. Over many years, I have worked in classrooms and with administrators at all levels and I've developed a keen understanding of how school districts operate. From the inside, I've seen other districts manage educational issues/trends, and that perspective is invaluable. I'll support FPSD to continue to provide high quality education, despite tough financial times. I don't have a personal agenda: I will seek out community perspectives, visit classrooms, analyze data, and collaborate with other school committee members to make informed decisions. I'm Stoked for School Committee!

***What are the 3 top issues you would hope to work on if elected? (150 words, max)**

- 1) I want to be part of the Davis Thayer School Closing study: to talk to the experts, to listen to the community, to hear the stories, to dig through the data, to think out-of-the-box, to consider every possibility. So that when the study is complete, I'll know it's thorough and valid. Then I can read the report knowing I gave it my all, and I can allow the data to guide the final decision.
- 2) I will advocate for the district's work towards the shared community vision of a "Portrait of a Graduate"; including best practices in social emotional learning, physical and mental health supports, and equity for all students.
- 3) I know that strong schools are vital for our property values, our youth, and our community. I want to help the community understand that we all benefit by investing in our schools.

*** What are the top 3 reasons for a voter to support you? (150 words, max)**

- 1) I have 20+ years of experience working in education as a teacher, program coordinator, consultant, adjunct professor, and staff trainer/coach. I understand the perspectives of a wide variety of students, teachers, administrators, and districts. Furthermore, I'm the product of the public education system here in MA.

2) My 2 children currently attend the Franklin Public Schools, and we couldn't imagine being anywhere else! I've always volunteered to help support their schools because education is my priority. I was on the Board of Directors at Franklin Children's School and the School Council at Davis Thayer. We've made strong connections with all kinds of families here in Franklin. It takes a village!

3) My personality is well-suited to this work: I highly value team collaboration and creative problem-solving, and I'm always up for a challenge! I'm curious, analytical, and persistent and I'd be Stoked to join the school committee.