# THE CONCORD INSIDER

# CITY VOTER GUIDE

See what issues the candidates for mayor, city council and school board find most pressing; plus, your polling location and voting times



7

#### WHERE TO VOTE

#### WARD 1 **Merrimack Valley High School**

106 Village Street (Parking in High School Student Parking Lot)

#### WARD 2

**Gvmnasium** 

The Barn at Bull Meadow 63 Bog Road

#### WARD 3

**Beaver Meadow School** 40 Sewalls Falls Road

#### WARD 4

**Green Street Community** Center

39 Green Street

#### WARD 5

#### **Christa McAuliffe Elementary School**

17 North Spring Street (Rumford Street/Gymnasium Entrance)

#### WARD 6

#### **Christ the King Parish Hall**

72 South Main Street (Thorndike Street Entrance)

#### WARD 7

**Abbot-Downing School** 152 South Street

#### WARD 8

**Bektash Temple** 

189 Pembroke Road

#### WARD 9

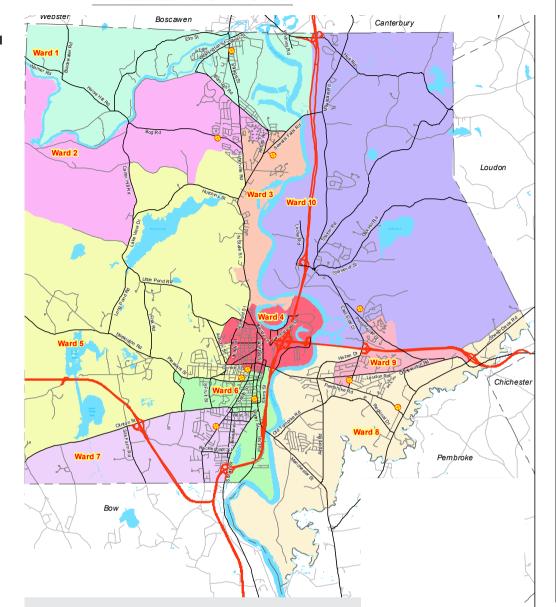
**Citywide Community Center** 

14 Canterbury Road

#### **WARD 10**

**Broken Ground School** 

51 South Curtisville Road



#### **OUESTIONS FOR** THE CITY

Should you have any questions about the upcoming Election, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (603) 225-8500 or via email at cityclerk@ concordnh.gov. The City Clerk's Office is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with extended hours until 6 p.m. on Thursdays.

#### WHERE'S YOUR WARD?

You can search by your street name at concordnh.gov/

#### **HOW ABOUT MY SCHOOL ZONE?**

There's a Concord School Board election as well, and the district breaks down its voting by zones. Zone A includes Wards 1, 2, 3, 4; Zone B is Wards 5, 6, 7; and Zone C is Wards 8, 9, 10.

#### **MONITOR COVERAGE**

Get results on all the races on election night at concordmonitor.com and in the Wedndesday, Nov. 8 Monitor.

**VOTING IS TUESDAY, NOV. 7** from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

#### **Come To Our** Holidav Fair! At East Congregational Church U.C.C

51 Mountain Road, East Concord

#### Saturday Nov. 4th 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Crafts, a Great Bake Sale, Deli Delights, Collectibles, Jewelry, Attic Treasures, Themed Raffle Baskets, and more! Tickets will be available for a premium raffle with prizes of a beautifully handcrafted wooden side table, professional photography and a \$200 gas gift card!

Join us for lunch at the Church Cafe. ing corn chowder, chili, hot dogs, dessert and beverage.

Directions: Just 3/10 mile north of I 93 exit 16. Any questions, please call 603-224-9242 or visit www.eastchu Handicapped accessible.

#### A Child Needs Your Voice.

Now more than ever, advocates are urgently needed to speak up for children who experienced abuse or neglect. Join us.

Visit www.casanh.org/ infosessions





#### Iohn Winant's Rise In time John Winant won acclaim as New

Hampshire's innovative Depression-era governor, defied his own party to align himself with Franklin Roosevelt and Social Security, and inspired hope in beleaguered World War II London as the U.S. ambassador to England. All that was set in motion when a small group of Progressive Republicans, after a decade of irrelevance, gathered for a secret meeting at the Hillside Inn on the shore of Newfound Lake -- and chose him as their candidate for governor in 1924. No one there -- including Winant-expected him to win.

Mark Travis, a longtime journalist and author, tells the story of John Winant's rise in Concord in the tumultuous years after World War I and his first, most unlikely triumph.

#### Thursday, November 9th | 7pm Kimball-Jenkins Carriage House 266 North Main St., Concord, NH

Presented by

The Concord Historical Society 266 North Main St, Concord, NH www.Concordhistoricalsociety.org





#### **Byron Champlin**

Years in Concord: 40 Experience: I retired in



2018 after 27 vears in marketing communications and corporate philanthropy with Lincoln **Financial** Group and

its predecessor companies in Concord. I have served 10 vears on Concord city council, first representing Ward 4 and now as an at-large councilor representing the entire

#### Three key issues and potential solutions

■ Maintaining top-flight safety services will be at the forefront of the next city council's concerns. Concord is facing unprecedented challenges recruiting and retaining qualified police. Senior officers are retiring and our highly-trained officers are prime candidates for cherry picking by other municipalities. The State Police and other departments are offering sign-on bonuses of \$10,000 or more. Our officer

vacancy rate has been as high as 30 percent. We need to be nimble and creative in how we respond. Our chief's forward-thinking proposal to add two police social workers, which we approved in the current budget, is a step toward redefining policing in a positive way. The Problem Oriented Policing Unit, which has had great success in dealing with drug houses, crime in homeless encampments and other challenges, needs to be fully-staffed. At the same time, we need to focus on our firefighting infrastructure and maintaining our current level of excellence in firefighting and ambulance services.

■ Expanding economic development and retaining and growing existing businesses must be a focus of the next two years. As I talk to neighbors, I hear concerns from retirees worried about being taxed out of their homes and younger folks anxious about the cost of living in our community. A broadened tax base is the key to keeping tax rates low while paying for the services and amenities our residents expect. We've laid the foundation for growth with the reorganization of the Community Develop-

ment Department. I also would explore reinstating a version of the Economic Development Advisory Council and restoring the Mayor's Business Visitation Program. But businesses will not relocate or expand here without housing for their employees. Fortunately, there are more than 3,000 new units in the city either under construction, permitted or proposed. The city can partner with developers to facilitate new projects, like city efforts to help Dakota Partners bridge a \$1.9 million funding gap for workforce housing on The Heights by applying for Community Development Block Grant funds and state Invest NH dollars. We can also make zoning changes to encourage housing density, detached accessory dwelling units and "missing middle" housing such as duplexes and triplexes.

■ Concord is one of New Hampshire's most diverse communities, and in this diversity lies one of our great strengths. You need look no farther than the new businesses being created and run by our New American, LGBTQ and other communities to see this. But diversity is more than economic opportunity. It is also about the richness of our quality of life through shared experiences. Concord is a welcoming city where the only limits to personal success should be one's ambition and imagination — where everybody feels welcome and valued. If elected, I plan to continue Mayor Bouley's multi-year Belonging initiative through the proposed citizen-driven DEIJB Steering Committee, identifying areas where we can remove barriers to meeting this goal. As an at-large councilor I have tried to be visible and engaged with our many cultural communities and I would continue that policy as mayor. If I can be useful as a visible symbol of our city's welcoming character, I will serve in that role.

#### **George Jack**

Years in Concord: 20 Experience: Remote Cus-



tomer Support Manager, Bestselling AudioBook Reader. Partner, Nitro Brothers Flavor Com-

#### Three key issues and potential solutions

- The homelessness situation. The city needs to be more intentional in helping improve every homeless individual's situation in particular, and cultivating physical resources to help with alleviating the houseless and homeless situation in general, finding landlords that will donate housing, any other way we can figure out how to help.
- Economic development. Encouraging individuals to start businesses and matching them with landlords looking to lease their properties to prospective business owners, lowering zoning fees to encourage business development, attract outside companies, make Concord a boutique destination to start a business, create revenue to lower property taxes.
- Get rid of the purple trash bags. If we can't get rid of them, bid out to trash bag manufacturers the opportunity to come to Concord and manufacture the bags and get them made here instead of out of state - the bags are poorly made to begin with. Or, replace the bags with stickers, which are less expensive.







manager for the Capitol Center for the Arts. Previously, I worked for more than 5 years with a prototype manufactur-

ing company. I've served on the Concord School Board and, prior to working in manufacturing, worked in several wonderful restaurants.

#### Three key issues and potential solutions

■ Currently, Concord is facing a severe shortage of affordable housing options. Compounding this problem is that, once a community member loses their housing, it becomes increasingly difficult for them to preserve the stability necessary to sustain a quality of living that all of our neighbors deserve and to access the resources that could help renew that stability. Along with solutions, such as collaborating with community organizations and developers, addressing zoning policies and practices, and expanding wraparound services; one of the most pressing solutions is community education and engagement. The stigmatized perception of homelessness in our community is a severe barrier to reaching real progress. Our homeless neighbors are valuable, talented, and important members of Concord worthy of our support and investment. When we invest in each other we are able to nurture a strong society with healthy citizens that will then help contribute back to our collective success.

■ Another opportunity for Concord to grow is in our transportation infrastructure. There are a number of ways in which we can make our transportation system more accessible, as well as practical, for our community members. One area of focus is our bus system. Concord

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will benefit from a review of the routes and where stops are located (there is no stop at the Green Street location where our city council meets), timing (the bus does not run during most of the times our city council meets and it does not run on the weekends), access to benches and coverings at our bus stops (some community members that depend on our bus system do not have the physical ability to stand for extended periods of time). Additionally, our community would benefit from an increased attention to the maintenance and safety analysis of our bike lanes and sidewalks.

■ Concord is home to an incredible, diverse group of people, all with their own experiences, values, abilities, and needs. We can, as one community, benefit greatly from choosing to be intentional when it comes to creating access for everyone to participate in our local government and in our discussions on policies that impact all of us. While this could look like many things to many people, one of the most important factors related to hearing people's needs is making sure they are able to be in the room to tell you in the first place. This is why I support ensuring our public transportation runs to and during city council meetings, zoom access for those meetings, working to include public comment on any topic at every monthly city council meeting, having translators at those meetings, prioritizing access for folks with physical limitations, and providing stipends for members of the DEIJB committee in Concord so that additional barriers, such as child care for example, can be removed in order for people that historically have been unable to be in the room to tell us how to include them can finally get there.

#### CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE

There are five candidates for two at-large seats.

#### **Nathan Fennessy**

Years in Concord: 11 **Experience:** Litigation attorney at Preti Flaherty



**PLLP Three** key issues and potential solutions

■ With the rise of residential property

values, our residents are shouldering a larger share of the property tax burden than in the past. We need to increase the commercial property tax base through a renewed focus on economic development. There are few

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greenfield sites remaining in the city for significant industrial or manufacturing business so we need to get creative about utilizing the existing commercial property inventory we have by targeting small and medium size companies to move into those spaces. We need to continue pursuing public-private partnerships like the investments the city made at Exit 17 to facilitate the development of that area. And we need to be looking down the road for capital investments that the city needs to make to provide the necessary infrastructure to support redevelopment of

places like the Steeplegate

■ We need to continue to develop the supply of safe and affordable housing in the city to address both the affordability issues that we have and the homelessness issue. On the supply side, I have been impressed by the number of approved units we have in the pipeline at the Employment Security Building (64 market rate), Sheep Davis Road (48 affordable units), Pembroke Road (84 affordable units with 123 total units), the Railyard (192 units with approximately half affordable). This does not include other potential projects at the First Congregational Church,







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THURSDAY,





CASA of NH would like to thank and congratulate Fred Hurwitz and Marc Clement for their 30 years of advocacy on behalf of New Hampshire children who have experienced abuse and neglect. Over the last three decades, they've driven thousands of miles and given thousands of hours to improve the lives of dozens of local children.

We also celebrate and are grateful for the more than 600 advocates statewide who dedicate their time and energy giving vulnerable children a voice in court, ensuring their best interests are heard.

Steeplegate Mall, or the Monitor property. The city needs to continue to work with developers to make sure we are not an obstacle to these projects moving forward and look for opportunities to encourage developers and landlords to include units for those chronically homeless individuals that we are seeking to move into a permanent situation. I have been impressed with the level of coordination that has developed between the Coalition and various stakeholders in the community including our police department over the last year. There is no one solution to addressing chronic homelessness, but the little steps we are taking over time should get more people off the streets and into permanent housing.

■ We need to continue to invest in public safety and infrastructure. Residents have come to expect a certain level of service from our

police and fire departments and our water and sewer systems. As the Monitor has covered, municipalities are struggling to attract and retain police officers and firefighters. The situation with our police department is particularly acute given the current level of staffing. If we want to continue to maintain a safe community, we need to invest in personnel, consider what we can do as a community to be attractive to first responders, and we may need to re-think the types of services that we expect the police and fire department to provide. On the infrastructure side, we need to continue to be proactive in funding our street paving program and improvements to our water and sewer systems. We cannot expect to increase our commercial property tax base or housing supply without having the necessary water and sewer infrastructure in place to support it.

#### **Taylor Hall**

Years in Concord: 5 Experience: Student Finance at Southern New Hamp-



shire University, previously ran my own business

**Three** key issues and potential solutions

■ Public

safety. I want to ensure that Concord remains a safe place to live and do business.

- Economic Development. Ensuring that Concord remains a desirable and affordable place for businesses to operate and for families to stay
- Running an efficient government. In an election cycle where many seats could change hands, it is important for our elected officials to focus on running an efficient government focused on the residents of Concord

#### **Matthew Hicks**

Years in Concord: 50 Experience: School administrator, Planning Board,



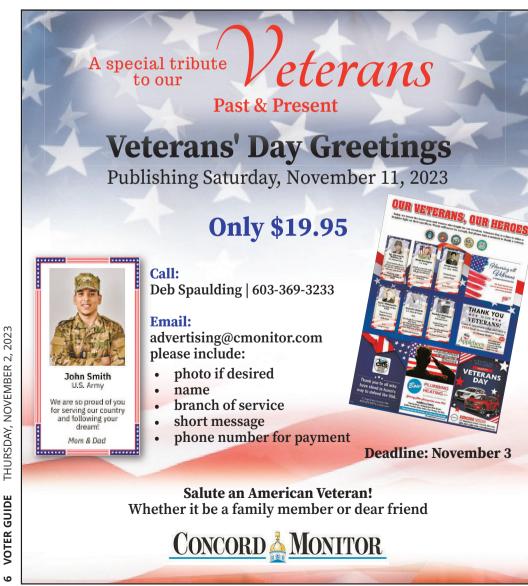
Planning Commission. State Representative **Three** 

kev issues and potential solutions

■ The affordability of living in Concord is an important issue we must continue to address. Concord needs an increase in housing, of all types, but especially middleand low-income housing. We currently have a few building projects on-going in the South End and on the Heights, with more in the pipeline, but likely more will be needed. Penacook Landing is one example of a recent successful project. In addition to housing, we must continue to hold the line on

taxes. The City Council has done a great job keeping the tax rate stable, but this will become increasingly difficult without more economic development. Hopefully, through public-private partnerships, like at Exit 17, we can attract more businesses to Concord and offset future increases on residential taxes. These issues are linked. Without adequate housing, businesses will not have employees. If we want an exciting, vibrant capital city, this is one way to achieve it. After all, if we don't build it, they won't

■ In my 50 years living in Concord, I have always considered it a safe place to live. Though I still feel that way, we all know about recent events that raise concerns. I have great respect for our emergency responders and the efforts the City Council has already taken to ensure the police and fire departments have the personnel





■ Concord is well on its way to transforming how we power the city. With a commitment to renewable energy sources and energy independence, we will hopefully be able to reduce costs. I know despite my best efforts, controlling my electric and heating costs becomes more difficult each year. This has already impacted many Concord residents who struggle to pay their bills. Just as we need to be creative and forward-thinking about housing and economic growth, we must examine energy the same way. Hopefully, we can also do this in a more sustainable way. Solutions to the issues I mention will involve community-wide effort, including continuing to encourage more people to participate in the process. Concord is at a turning point. How we move forward in the next few years will dictate what our city will look like for decades to come. We should work to include as many voices as possible.

#### **Judith Kurtz**

Years in Concord: 4 Experience: Classroom teacher, library/media and STEAM specialist

Three key issues and potential solutions

■ Homelessness: All of us



want to be able to afford to live in a safe and thriving community. As a councilor, I would push for the Homeless-

ness Steering Committee to revisit and update its remit from monitoring the situation to a more active stance. I would vote in support of establishing a citywide advisory committee with representatives from all of the organizations currently addressing homelessness, including our police and other first responders, the hospital and the various non profits – all of whom are already doing excellent work. We have the brains to make real strides towards solving homelessness but we need to collaborate efficiently and avoid being siloed in our efforts.

■ Housing: A change to zoning, as proposed by our City Planning Department, would make it easier to build more mixed use buildings and various kinds of housing. This would increase the available housing stock at various price points and also support economic development by creating walkable villages with opportunities for smaller businesses to be connected to residential communities. We need all of the housing we can get, but by revising our Master Plan and carefully updating our zoning, we can meet housing needs while preserving the charm of Concord.

■ Public Safety: In regards to public safety, Concord is struggling, as is much of the state, with recruitment and retention. Our police department has just hired a social worker, a move that I fully support. I think we can and should learn from this by tracking data and listening to feedback from this position

to determine effectiveness and additional needs. As a city council we can support funding for public safety training in specific areas to respond to the changing nature of calls - in the areas of mental health and addiction. and overall we can create a livable city through diversified housing stock that attracts young people interested in joining our forces and staying here long term. Finally, as we increase housing and the population, we must increase our public safety to match the rising demands.

#### **Kevin Porter**

Years in Concord: 9 Experience: VP of Loan Originations for ROC USA, a national organization that



supports residentownership of manufactured ("mobile") home communities nationwide. I've worked in

community development finance for over twenty years. I also served on the Board of Directors of Clean Energy NH for six years, including two years as Vice Chair.

Three key issues and potential solutions

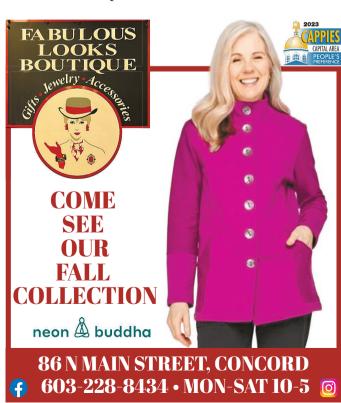
■ Property tax burdens and the need for fiscal re-

sponsibility are the first maior issue. The "tax and spend" mentality is not financially sustainable, and it needs to change. The City Council should always remember that they work for the taxpayers of Concord. Recreation spending should focus on core facilities and activities, and not lavish developments that will have office space and eating establishments that will compete with the private sector. We should also look at the major institutions in Concord that have significant real estate holdings. While these institutions may be nonprofits, they are still using city services, and some of these institutions have grown tremendously. We need to make sure that what they are paying into the system has kept up with how much they have grown and their use of city services has increased. Expanding economic development is another way to limit the growth in property taxes on the residents of Concord. However, there hasn't been a consistent economic development strategy in place, and there should be. Some sectors that could be focused on include healthcare services. agritourism and the tech sector. We should be leveraging the existing economic infrastructure that exists locally and regionally.

■ Homelessness/housing availability are the next major issues I would point to.

I've worked in housing finance for over 20 years, and I also served on the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. One bright spot in the fight against homelessness nationally has been that homelessness among veterans has decreased. The main reason for this is that a "housing first" approach has been taken. We need to make it easier to build housing where it makes sense and is appropriate in terms of size and scale. For certain types of housing (housing with a small number of units; housing that is replacing underutilized commercial parcels; supportive housing) requirements such as the number of parking spaces should have flexibility. And the administrative burdens need to be eased. It simply needs to cost less to get housing approved in Concord (particularly the types I describe above). And it's not just unhoused individuals that are suffering from the lack of housing; companies that can't hire people because they can't find housing; seniors living on fixed incomes; and young people that are trying to start their own households are facing a very tough time.

■ Concord lags behind other cities in New Hampshire when it comes to the clean energy transition, and it is costing residents and businesses money because of this. There was a great deal





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of excitement in 2019 when Concord launched a plan to reach 100% renewable energy by 2050. Unfortunately, there has been very little action actually taken towards this goal. Specifically, we should enroll in Community Power as soon as possible, which will save money, increase consumer choice and make it easier to get our electricity from local, renewable sources. Concord is about nine months behind where we should be on this, and taking part in Community Power needs to be made a priority. We also need to develop municipal solar projects, and to make it easier for people to put solar up on their own homes or businesses. Solar is now the cheapest form of energy. Energy should always be in the discussion when major new developments are in the planning phase. Implementing clean energy measures during development is much more cost effective than doing it later. Things such as EV charging stations, district heating, microgrids and solar should also be priorities when new developments are being planned.

#### **CITY COUNCIL WARD 1**

This race is uncontested.

#### **Brent Todd**

Years in Concord: 25 Experience: I am a risk analyst for Electric Insurance Co., a subsidiary of General Electric. I have been Ward 1 City Councilor since

#### Three key issues and potential solutions

■ Taxes. My job as councilor is to strike a balance be-



tween needs and wants, and maintain efforts to keep taxes affordable to all, including those on fixed in-

comes. City taxes make up approximately one-third of our total tax bill. The rest goes to schools, the county, and state education. On a property valued at \$300,000, the city tax portion is \$2,840. About 94% of that goes toward four expenditures: Concord Police (\$866), Concord

Fire (\$758), General Services (\$600) (which includes road maintenance and winter maintenance), and Debt Service (\$441) (which is principal and interest payments on bonds issued by the city to fund capital projects). By comparison, the annual amount of taxes that go toward operations and capital improvements for facilities unique to Concord is far less: Beaver Meadow Golf Course (\$7), Everett Arena (\$0), our many public swimming pools (\$30). Future potential projects (new golf course clubhouse, arena and pools improvements) will have moderate tax impacts similar to these. Councilors and city staff strive to be good stewards of tax dollars. This means careful spending on new items, and timely investments toward upkeep of existing facilities so they retain their value.

■ Economic development/

quality of life. A way to help keep taxes low is to generate revenue by adding new assessed value. Value can also be added with investments in infrastructure. By partnering with my fellow councilors, city staff, the community, property owners and others we've been able to achieve the following in Penacook in the last two years: the new Market Basket and other stores and restaurants opened at Merchants Way; new business tenants are moving from downtown Concord into downtown Penacook (Strings & Things Music, Warren Street Architects); new affordable and market-rate apartments were built and are under construction; over two dozen of our local streets have been revitalized; construction has commenced by Boys & Girls Clubs of Central NH on a new Penacook Community Center, offering childcare and space for our Branch Library (construction should be completed July 2024); planning has completed for our new park on Canal Street (construction should start early spring and finish in late summer or fall of 2024). Additional dollars from tax base expansion can be put toward support for essential services and to develop ways to augment our Police and Fire Departments, which is vital to maintaining safety and quality of life.

■ Housing and homelessness. I plan to encourage more housing options, such as the proposal at Monitor Way on an extension of Whitney Road. More housing, including affordable housing, helps combat potential homelessness. The city can continue to support agency investments in permanent housing, which is cost-effective and can dramatically reduce homelessness. Amending Concord's zoning regulations can generate positive change to our housing crisis, to be followed by work on a new City Master Plan. There are other important issues to focus on, such as: creating a comprehensive plan related to trash disposal to educate on ways to reduce, reuse and recycle; supporting continuing efforts of the strategic plan for achieving 100% renewable energy goals in Concord; promoting and improving our Complete Streets initiative for multiple choices of safe transportation modes (walking, bicycling, public transportation) and supporting our trails initiatives; improving economic vitality by making Concord a visitors' destination, through highlighting historic preservation and heritage and supporting the Abbot-Downing Historical Society's Concord Coach museum venture; bringing members of our community together to continue to discuss how we can make Concord even more welcoming to all. I look forward as always to hearing from the community about priorities and concerns.

#### CITY COUNCIL WARD 2

#### **Michele Horne**

**Years in Concord: 20** vears



Experience: Office Manager at **IBEW Local** 490 as well tions Specialist for a

tential solutions

■ Affordable housing is a top issue that also ties into the homelessness crisis as well as our economic development. The shortage of affordable housing is leading to a critical workforce shortage and causing our younger population to leave the area. We need to address land use regulations and ordinances and lessen the red tape in zoning and permitting. We need to require developers to provide mixed-income housing within their projects. We need a diverse housing stock to attract and keep people in our community - everyone from the grocery clerk to the engineers and from the young to the retired.

■ The homelessness crisis is, in ways, tied to the housing crisis, but also has its own unique set of contributing issues. First and foremost, everyone wants the unhoused to leave their encampments and move into a home, yet we simply do not have enough homes for that many people. And we are at a point where many working class families are also one property sale or medical crisis from becoming homeless. Simply stated - we need enough homes for everyone to live in. While we have many amazing non-profits in our community that are working tirelessly on this issue day in and day out, I think the city needs to take a more active and proactive role in this crisis. I do not believe that having a Steering Committee to End Homelessness that only meets once every three months is adequate and I do not think relying on a Plan to End Homelessness that was written 10 or more years ago is reasonable. The city needs to work with the non-profits that are boots on the ground to rework this plan and then implement actionable goals as a city entity- not simply relying on the non-profits to do the work.

■ The last big issue for me is economic development. I would like to see a resurrection of the Economic Development Advisory Council. We need people educated and versed in this area to work on attracting new businesses to the area. It's obvious we would all like more businesses to hopefully offset the private property taxes. Permore tradespeople and con-Part of my job is attracting electricians to work here. As a city councilor, I would like to expand that to all trades. If you have tried to hire a



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as an Operasoftware company sonally, I would love to see Three key issues and potractors come to our area.

plumber or HVAC tech recently, you know the need for tradespeople. And many of our own contractors that the IBEW works with are out of state. With all of the building the city is hoping for (housing, mixed-use and commercial), wouldn't it be wonderful if we had local contractors and tradespeople to do this work and could keep all this money in the community? We will also need this increased labor force as we are obligated to update our infrastructure to accommodate all of the proposed new projectsand this will include a lot of tradespeople.

#### **Rob Kleiner**

**Years in Concord: 45** years, 15 in Ward 2

Experience: I am a Director in Operations at North-



east Delta Dental where I have worked for 11 years. Loversee the Customer Service,

Provider

Service, Eligibility and Auditing departments. I also serve on the Board of Directors for Kimball Jenkins, NHTI, Red River Theatres and the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness

#### Three kev issues and potential solutions

- One of my foremost commitments as a City Council candidate is to address the pressing issue of affordable housing. In my view, every individual in our community deserves not only a place to live but a safe and affordable one. This fundamental belief drives my passion for advocating on behalf of affordable housing initiatives. I am dedicated to working diligently to promote affordable housing options within our ward and the city.
- I believe in transparent governance and active community engagement. Your voice matters, and I will ensure that your concerns and ideas are heard and considered in every decision. Together, we can create a Concord where residents are empowered, resources are utilized wisely, and sustainable development is prioritized.
- I also believe that responsible fiscal management

is not just a principle; it's a promise to the residents of our city. It's about making every dollar count, ensuring transparency in financial decisions, and protecting the financial well-being of our community. Responsible fiscal management means creating budgets that prioritize essential services while seeking innovative ways to cut waste and inefficiencies. My extensive professional background has primarily revolved around the field of auditing, which has equipped me with valuable financial expertise. This experience in finance will undoubtedly prove to be a significant as-

#### **CITY COUNCIL WARD 3**

This race is uncontested.

#### Jennifer Kretovic

Years in Concord: 35 Experience: I am an HR technology consultant assisting large employers across North America with the HR and payroll technology solu-

Three key issues and potential solutions



■ Property Taxes: Overall, the new tax rate will change from \$25.12 to \$25.89 per thousand. The city portion rose

\$0.37, while the school district rate rose by \$0.96 in Concord and \$1.30 for Merrimack Valley. The state and county reduced their tax portions. City Council only controls that \$0.37 increase When the value of your property increases, so do your taxes. Market stability will do much to help all of us. That leads us to housing availabil-

■ Housing, Housing, Housing: Property tax rates are tied to property tax revenue and we must expand the tax base. For housing, there are almost 1,500 units over the next three years being added to our housing stock and it is still not enough, and, if we are truly going to commit to environmental change and sustainability initiatives, we are going to have to expand commercial and housing options

on space that exists in and near our current neighborhoods. We can and should protect our open space. Urban sprawl will make us creep ever more closely to the Manchester and Nashua type of expansive cities. I don't support urban sprawl because it will forever change the Concord landscape.

■ Public Safety: Home-

lessness continues to grow here, and homeless camps are popping up everywhere. This has a negative impact to our police and fire, who are perpetually addressing crimes and fires in these encampments. Collectively, we need to start pushing for help from the state and county. The Housing First initiative, that many of our social service non-profits are utilizing, is the only current program with high success rates. This type of program works best for those who want to be helped. Those who identify themselves as survivalists and living "off-the-grid" do not necessarily want our help. It's a problem that needs big interventions. Beyond a shortage of patrol officers and many experiencing work fatigue, our police department needs our support to retain current officers, and fill our vacant positions. Add to this, members of our fire department are experiencing trauma fatigue. We are on a precipice, working diligently with our leadership teams to meet these challenges and support the people at the front line of public safety.

#### CITY COUNCIL WARD 4

#### **Sarah Beauregard**

Years in Concord: I am a local. I was born here in Concord and have lived here my entire life.

Experience: I worked in



the Concord School District for a number of years after college. I have also worked as an office manager at

**Bay State Physical Therapy** in Concord and then worked as a senior administrator assistant at Whole Health Concord. Currently I am working for the Lawson Group.

#### Three key issues and potential solutions

- Safe Street. There is a shortage of police officers in Concord and that has put a strain on the city. I think as a council we work together to create a plan to provide a home based police force familiar with the specific needs of this city. A force that can work with our expanding labor market and new citizens. A force that can communicate with people in the neighborhoods. A police force that is visible in the neighborhoods and provides a safe outreach to all people
- Affordable Housing. I think Concord faces a number of issues within the aspect of affordable housing. We need to expand and improve our existing housing. There is a need for reasonable parking requirements in our ward 4 with our congestion in our streets. Being in ward 4, our streets should be walkable and accessible.

■ Under use of our parks, rivers and trails. Concord has access to four rivers, 14 parks and a little over 80 miles of trails. There is so much opportunity for growth in Concord.

#### Karen McNamara

Years in Concord: 16 Experience: I have 20plus years in public educa-



tion Currently, I teach 5-8th grade reading essentials at Southside Middle School in Manchester.

#### Three key issues and potential solutions

■ Expanding our tax base and holding the line on property taxes. Not once has a constituent asked to have services eliminated. Instead





people ask for more services and recreational opportunities. The city's job is to provide all citizens a quality of life, outstanding infrastructure. The city works very hard. We must be very thoughtful to provide economic development where density allows for it without harming our quality of life. The city does a great job but we can't do it all without private and public partnerships. The city has begun the revitalization process. Bringing the value back up to 80 million from the 10 million where it is at now is a great start. Continuing to build affordable and working-class housing, and getting businesses back on the tax base.

■ The unhoused population and crime. Prevention is the key along with more low income and affordable housing. The solution starts with the continued efforts connecting people with human service before people find themselves unable to pay for their rent, heat or groceries. There has been more collaboration between the county, state, CAP, Concord Coalition to End Homeless advocates coordinating their efforts. More partnerships are needed with builders like

Dakota, who set aside 10 units for the unhoused, and continuing to work with RiverBend and NAMI to continue connecting and offering support to those who struggle with addiction and mental health.

■ Recruiting and retaining our public safety officers. There have been many added pressures on our public safety folks. It is becoming harder to retain and hire high-quality officers. Being down 19 police officers and facing more needs around addiction, mental health and chronic unhoused individuals, the work load on the job has increased. Supporting the hire of a social worker to provide outreach and direct services will be boots on the ground. Providing support to those in need and our officers is a win!

#### CITY COUNCIL WARD 5

#### **Stacey Brown**

Years in Concord: 14 Experience: I am the Ward 5 City Councilor and serve on multiple city committees, including Community Development, Energy and Environment, Conserva-



tion Commission, Parking, and Transportation Policy. I am the Administrative Assistant for the Concord

Public Library Foundation, with experience as an Intelligence Agent, Intelligence Officer, US Army Sergeant, and English teacher.

Three key issues and potential solutions

■ Homelessness is one of the top issues I hear among residents frustrated by the expense to clean up encampments or additional security around commercial buildings that does nothing to solve the problem. The problem of homelessness appears to be growing. The Coalition to End Homelessness has had a difficult time with housing folks due to zoning. The mother of one frequently unhoused person shared her frustration with a current system that doesn't share information. Homelessness is solvable. It was created by systems and policies that can be changed to make it brief and rare. The first step to ending homelessness is making it a priority and updating

our Master Plan to reflect it. While the Master Plan is not regulatory, it is the blueprint we follow as a community and tailor our zoning to meet those goals. As a top community priority, we will pull together resources and agencies in the most efficient way. The second step is gathering by-name data and recognizing the individual needs of each person experiencing homelessness. We will need to align with the federal and state policies, but with everyone pulling together for a common, understood goal, we will be successful.

■ Affordable Housing is a current challenge across our city. There are over 3,000 units currently in development, but our Master Plan has not been updated to accommodate and include them. The recent removal of Langley Parkway has created a vacuum in the decades-old transportation plans that included it. The

current Master Plan was drafted in 2008 - so much has changed since then. An updated Master Plan allows us to create the vision of our city's development and strengthen the connectivity between our city of villages. As we recognize the necessity of moving away from fossil fuels, we have an opportunity to redesign a system of transportation that incorporates a sustainable multimodal transportation network. We don't want to just build homes anywhere; social infrastructure is critical to a healthy community. New housing units should have easy access to municipal resources such as libraries, parks, pools, trails, good sidewalks and public transportation. Reinforcing and expanding the transportation networks between our local schools, childcare, and employers creates a resiliency in our workforce and supports local industries.



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■ Sustainability is an important issue as we move beyond our reliance on fossil fuels. By joining Community Power, we have the opportunity to expand our portfolio of green energy resources. We can ensure that older homes are weatherized and residents have the ability to access renewable resources from solar to heat pumps. Being sustainable is also expanding our tax base to alleviate the burden on property owners and carefully examining our expenditures to ensure we are investing in areas with the greatest benefit for the most people. Property taxes only contribute about a third to our budget. User fees are also a significant municipal revenue stream. Charging non-residents more for memberships and municipal services could offset property tax increases to residents. We should also be highlighting our unique resources as an economic driver, investing in our local businesses and making it easier for residents to become entreprenures. The Sunfox Farms Sunflower Festival attracted 15,000 people to the heart of Concord in its first year here. The Multicultural Festival had its largest, most profitable year yet. As the most diverse, northern-most city in NH, we have an opportunity to attract more folks because of our celebration of sustainability and inclusivity.

#### **Noemi Wierwille**

Years in Concord: 10 Experience: I am currently the Chief Learning Officer at Teach For America. I have 16 years of experience in non-profit management. I'm a former school leader and teacher.

Three key issues and potential solutions



■ Public safety and belonging: Attracting, retaining, and supporting a diverse first responder work-

force is critical. We must prevent people from becoming unsheltered by connecting them with services that keep them in their homes. Collaboration between our police force, city services and nonprofits creates a unified approach to supporting our unsheltered community mem-

■ Affordability for all: By growing our commercial tax base, we will reduce the pressure on homeowners. Public private partnerships and focusing on revitalizing our distressed commercial properties must be a priority. We need to continue to steadily increase the amount of affordable housing.

■ Clean and Green: We can champion sustainable initiatives that reduce our carbon footprint, preserve our natural resources and lower our utility expenses. Our public parks and green spaces are an incredible asset we can preserve and make accessible for all.

#### CITY COUNCIL WARD 6

Jau Beluea and Paula McLaughlin are running for City Council Ward 6. Neither returned a Monitor candidate questionnaire by the deadline.

#### CITY COUNCIL WARD 7

Keith E. Nyhan

Years in Concord: My entire life; I am a Concord na-

**Experience:** Insurance regulator



**Three** kev issues and potential solutions

■ It is imerative that Concord's elected offi-

cials always make decisions with the city's taxpayers in mind. Prudent fiscal policy decisions will ensure the city remains capable of delivering both critical and leisure services to all city residents at an affordable cost.

- In the next biennium, the city must find a way to retain its experienced law enforcement officers and attract new officers to bolster public safety. If re-elected. I will do everything within the scope of my position to ensure Concord's first response units are fully staffed and trained.
- Homelessness. Councilors and city staff, including the Police and Human Services Departments, must continue their work with the Coalition to End Homelessness to ensure support services are delivered to those who are in need and who desire assistance. Equally important, I will support and champion every effort to eliminate and prevent homeless encampments in our neighborhoods.

#### Jim Schlosser

Years in Concord: Seven Experience: I am a physi-



cian with more than 30 years experience as a physician leader and provider in public hospitals I

served for 19 years in the Veterans Health Administration and managed multimillion dollar clinical budgets. I am a trained facilitator with an MBA in statistics and productivity.

Three key issues and potential solutions

■ Housing. Talking with residents in Ward 7 it is clear. For renters, rents are increasing. For homeowners, real estate taxes are increasing. It is difficult for people to find affordable homes. We need more housing – of all types: market rate housing, workforce housing, starter homes for young families, senior housing, affordable housing and, for some disabled people, supportive housing. Experience from other communities shows that increased housing can moderate area-wide cost of living increases. How can our city promote more housing? I know of two main ways. I'm sure there are more. First, we can swiftly enact the new ConcordNEXT form-based zoning code. We can allow for accessory dwelling units to promote increased density. Denser housing is more climate friendly. We can speed the approval process for homeowners and developers. For anyone trying to add an accessory unit or develop a housing project, time is money. Second, the city can take a more active leadership role to ensure sufficient housing is developed. If private projects cannot deliver enough housing, then city government, private developers and nonprofits can work together to design and finance housing projects. We can collaborate actively and openly to generate the housing our community needs.

■ Homelessness. Homelessness is a key issue for Ward 7. Recent incidents in our parks and wooded areas highlight the problems of people with no place to live...but tents. The safety of residents and our children is paramount. I applaud the increased cooperation and communication between Concord Police and homeless outreach workers to identify and engage encampments. Residents are invited to report problems by contacting the Concord Police or emailing Capital Area Street Outreach workers at casoc@ capbm.org. Homelessness is solvable. Communities across the country have achieved functional zero homelessness for specific populations (e.g Veterans, persons with chronic homelessness, etc.). This doesn't mean homelessness never happens, but that it is rare and brief. Key ingredients of a homelessness management system include 1) a community-wide shared aim to end homelessness with shared accountability and with progress measured at the community level, not just "my program;" 2) improved "real-time" community-wide data updated at least monthly; 3) a transparent system with small scale tests of change that, if successful, can be scaled up rapidly; and 4) flexible housing and service funding deployed strategically. And of course, increased affordable housing is a key element to preventing and ending homelessness.

■ Climate-friendly economic development. Economic growth coupled with sustainable development can keep our city vibrant and attractive. Expanding our tax base can be good for both businesses and residents. We need to moderate increases in property taxes. Environmental sustainability can be balanced with commercial viability. We must continue to invest in our parks, hiking trails and tree planting. Community power may provide a win-win: more climatefriendly energy with lower

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#### **CITY COUNCIL WARD 8**

Jonathan Cate is also running for City Council Ward 8. He did not return a Monitor candidate questionnoire

#### Ali Sekou

**Years in Concord:** I have been in Concord for more than a decade for school, work or residency.

Experience: I am a man-



ager at Hannaford and a community leader who spent his time, energy, experiences and expertise volunteering

to make our city a better place for all. I serve on more than five boards of nonprofite.

Three key issues and potential solutions

■ Fiscal responsibility. I will work to ensure that our taxpayers' money is spent based on the needs of the community and by prioritizing where it should be spent. When elected, I'm going to work with the other city council members to find creative ways to help attract new businesses and developers to invest in and help alleviate the tax burden on the property owners and build a stronger and welcoming community. It will be crucial to welcome businesses, and to make it easy for them to do business and become established. During my campaign, I heard our constituents' concerns on taxes, roads, water and sewage. They expressed the need to know where the money is going and to invest it where it is necessary to protect our infrastructure. I will support bringing back the community development committee to examine ways to attract more business to generate income for the city. Since COVID 19 hit, the cost of living has skyrocketed. It made it almost impossible to buy a house or find a place to rent. During grad school, through nonprofits boards and in group sessions at Leadership New Hampshire, we learned from experts in the field of community development, housing, and public safety. I will bring that to the city of Concord to

implement solid solutions

for the issues facing our city.

■ Public Safety. I worked

■ Public Safety. I worked for the United States Embassy in Niger as a security officer before immigrating to the U.S, and I learned that public safety is a collective effort and a huge responsibility. It taught me that nothing gets achieved without guaranteeing safety of all. I volunteer with the National Alliance on Mental Illness on panel discussions. I organized meetings and events with NAMI's experts to educate our leaders, and we invited their teams into our community to learn and build relationships. As a father of two and a committed community leader, public safety for all will be one of my priorities. As I mentioned during my meeting with the commissioner of public safety and his team, we all care about Concord and its people. People who feel safe bring their best to the table and share their ideas and experiences freely. We thrive when our physical and mental health is stable. I have been working on this and will continue collaboratively with all city council members and city leadership to provide our police, fire departments and first responders the necessary funding to be able to hire and retain highly qualified individuals and to purchase and maintain the equipment needed to do those jobs well.

■ I serve on the New Hampshire Housing Advisory Council and on the Board of Directors for the Community Loan Fund, two housing organizations that are doing great work to support and make housing more affordable and fairer for all. I have heard amazing ideas that, once implemented, can benefit everyone, and will take care of some of the most urgent housing needs. My constituents in Ward 8 shared concerns about the camps used by those lacking housing. When housing needs are met, safety concerns will be decreased. I am keenly aware of the difficulties faced by a very large number of our constituents when seeking rental units in Concord. We need a spirit of collaboration and teamwork to address the housing needs and come up with a solid plan. This will attract more young professionals and help retain talents that we already have in our community. I will also address the homelessness issues that are facing our city. I know homelessness can be based on many reasons; we will find ways to help connect them with experts. We can bring new ideas, share expertise and experiences to create more sustainable housing for all and invite everyone to the table to exchange and have a solid

#### **Dennis R Soucy**

Years in Concord: 41 Experience: 40 years at

HP Hood. US Army specialist.

Three key issues and potential solutions

need more

housing, more jobs to come to Concord, lower taxes. Ease up on zoning laws, more companies to locate in Concord. Lower taxes.

#### CITY COUNCIL WARD 9

#### **Andrew P Georgevits**

Years in Concord: 36 Experience: Outside Sales Representative

Three key issues and potential solutions

■ Property taxes are generally one of the largest sin-



gle-family expenses in Concord. The city has many taxexempt properties (i.e. government buildings,

churches, and private schools). This leaves many homeowners to carry the burden of making up for the lost contributions. I was born





plan.

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and raised in Concord and my roots here run deep. I purchased my home in 2017 and have experienced firsthand the anxiety from receiving my quarterly invoice in the mail.

- The homeless epidemic has come to Concord. It is discouraging tourism, affecting the community's sense of public safety, and adding a significant financial burden on both our city funds and local businesses. I believe that an improvement to the accessibility of mental health services for these individuals could help them in making long term changes, so they do not end up back on the streets.
- I am excited to see the multiple housing projects starting within our community. It has been brought to my attention by multiple public workers that the physical infrastructure of many of our public works' facilities are deteriorating. A lack of funding in the past has resulted in temporary repairs to buildings and equipment, like our fire stations, that are now in need of major restorations. A strong infrastructure is essential for supporting our society and encouraging our continued growth.

#### **Kris Schultz**

Years in Concord: 15 Experience: Current 4term State Rep; 14 years Su-



pervisor of the Checklist. Nonprofit Consulting, former political consultant. Past Chair, Greater Concord In-

terfaith Council, past chair Concord City Democrats, past chair NH House Progressive Caucus, volunteer for overnight emergency shelter, Family Promise &

#### Three key issues and potential solutions

■ Property Taxes are too high, and are tough when you are retired. Renters never see a decrease in rent. We need to grow the tax base, especially those who can afford jt, and give the rest of us a tax break. Given tax inequity in recent years, we should seriously consider reducing taxes for most all of

us with offsets from luxury property taxes. Two ways to do that are a mansion tax and a big box store tax.

■ Public safety: I am especially concerned about how the response to community concerns was lacking in two situations: in the case of the murder of a couple from Alton Woods, where I live, as we didn't know if it was safe to be out walking; and in the two incidents with literal Nazis downtown outside one of our cafes, where I often eat. In both cases, we needed more info, or at least more community presence, from our police chief. Thus far, the silence has been deafening.

■ Traffic. we need to look at ways to relieve gridlock on Loudon Road.

#### CITY COUNCIL WARD 10

#### **Jeffrey Foote**

Years in Concord: Fourth generation Concord native

Experience: I am a licensed professional engineer and currently serve as the director of public works in Bedford NH

Three key issues and potential solutions

■ Quality of life. Geographically, Ward 10 is the largest, most rural and least

densely populated area in the city. One of my priorities is to maintain the quality of life that we as East

Concord residents enjoy. Police, Fire and General Services play a significant role in ensuring residents are safe and they are the people who provide basic city services we all rely on. All three of these departments have significant personnel vacancies which in turns strains other staff members in the performance of their respective duties. The city needs to continue and expand efforts to improve employee compensation and retention for first responders as they are the folks who we rely on for safe streets and neighborhoods. Well maintained infrastructure including roads, clean water and sewer infrastructure, parks, pools, hiking trails, the city ice arena and golf course facilities are important city attributes that resources should be directed towards. The increase of homelessness, encampments and panhandling has significantly impacted and altered the delivery traditional city services and is a public

safety concern. I support an all hands-on deck approach to help those who need and want help to get them off the streets and into housing.

■ Property tax stability. Economic development is necessary to expand the tax base and lessen the individual tax burden. Economic growth must foster ideals that promote good and safe roads, clean water, provide good environmental stewardship and recreational opportunities. Economic development must be thoughtful, well planned and methodical with a purpose that contributes to the tax base while minimizing the need for city services. The redevelopment of the Steeplegate Mall appears to fit this criterion with a nice blend of housing and commercial uses. The city should use any existing capital reserve accounts dedicated for this purpose in the area if utility improvements are needed which should be minor given the surrounding city infrastructure including roads, sidewalks, municipal water and sewer was designed and engineered to accommodate the original use. Public private partnerships

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are also a great tool to grow the tax base. Expanding the use of tax increment finance districts to grow the tax base will assist in reducing the individual tax burden. The city should support partnerships that benefit both the city and the developer. We have seen positive results of public private collaboration on Main Street over the past several years, this has spurred investment and reinvestment the corridor. If elected I would promote these same efforts along the Storrs street corridor with a street connection to Constitution Drive and the Horseshoe pond area.

■ Affordable housing. Providing affordable housing is critical if the city is to retain its workforce and keep young professionals and families in Concord. I believe Mayor Bouley and city staff have done a remarkable job promoting affordable housing in Concord. For the past several years the city has relaxed its developmental impact fees and since 2020 city staff and the Planning Board have advanced approximately 3,000 units of housing that are in various stages of

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development. This includes 575 affordable housing units. This is a significant commitment to housing which makes Concord a leader when compared to our neighboring communities in terms of the number of housing units increased per capita. Concord can not solve the housing crises alone; other communities need to be encouraged to step up their efforts to mitigate the housing shortage.

#### **Zandra Rice Hawkins**

Years in Concord: 10 **Experience:** Concord City Councilor for Ward 10, 3 terms (2019 to present);



member, Concord Transportation Policy, Public Safety, Community Development, Solid Waste, and Everett

Arena Advisory Committees and Mayor Bouley's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Justice & Belonging Committee; Executive Director, Concord-based non-profit (15 years); Mill Brook School PTA Treasurer (3 years)

#### Three key issues and potential solutions

■ Investing in our local economy and expanding our commercial revenue base. The City Council plays a critical role in creating an environment that attracts and retains quality businesses that contribute to our local economy, provide jobs, and expand our revenue base. I've been proud to encourage

economic development in Concord, including supporting public-private partnerships to spur investment and bring necessary projects to reality. The Merchants Way development at Exit 17 is an example of how we can work together to both provide solutions for community needs and generate additional commercial revenue, which in turn helps keep our resident taxes lower. Working with our economic development staff, Concord has the opportunity to encourage mixed use spaces of housing and retail in our city center and other commercial spaces, expand our Main Street investments toward Storrs Street to build a strong second "Main Street" area, and strengthen small business opportunities in existing, underutilized spaces in Concord and Penacook. I support smart, responsible economic growth in the city that invests in our future and creates more opportunities for all of us.

■ Increasing affordable housing and complete streets. We must address challenges like affordable housing, which is an existential threat to the ability for Concord working families to afford to live in our community, and for those already in homes to be able to stay here, especially our elderly. Concord must complete ConcordNext zoning updates, which could provide residents with more housing options while preserving the character of our city. Specifically, accessory dwelling units (ADU's) are one option that allows elderly family members to age in place, or young adults to remain at





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home, and increases housing density. Public transportation options and complete streets initiatives (walking, bicycling, public transitfriendly streets) are interconnected issues; multimodal transportation options allow a broader range of families to seek housing in different areas of Concord and still be able to easily access groceries, jobs, and health care. Complete streets also encourage safe, healthy lifestyles for all Concord residents. When housing is not being developed quickly enough, Concord must bring together leaders and resources to explore options. Affordable housing is a concern across New Hampshire, and our community and state must take urgent action to ensure every family has the opportunity to find safe, secure, affordable housing.

■ Building a resilient, welcoming community. In June, a group of neo-Nazis marched on the streets of Concord and attacked a local business, spewing antisemitic and anti-LGBTQ+ slurs. The City Council has an incredibly important role in sending a strong message that hate has no home in Concord. Our community cannot thrive if our neighbors are threatened and our small businesses are targeted. In these moments, elected officials must come together swiftly to condemn hate activity and provide support to our community members and small businesses. We must use our city departments and resources to create strong plans that ensure the public safety and dignity of all Concord residents and guests. Our work to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion justice and belonging is instrumental here, because it guides us towards policies and ideas that address the needs and experiences of

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those community members most marginalized and under threat. Concord is a welcoming, inclusive community, but only if we continue to do the work to make it one, and to really engage community members in the decisions that impact them each day.

#### SCHOOL BOARD ZONE A

Zone A includes Wards 1-4. Robert Avery has dropped out of the race. Michael Gugliemo and Kristen Jackson did not return a Monitor candidate questionnaire.

#### Jessica Campbell

Years in Concord: 3 Experience: I am an Adjunct Professor of Anthropol-



ogy and at the SNHU MBA Program. I am also a Retail Market Manager for 26 Retail Bank **Branches** 

across NH and ME.

Three key issues and potential solutions

■ Student- and teacherminded decision-making. Our district will continue to face a rapidly changing world with competing priorities. My priority will always be on decision-making with the students' and teachers' needs in mind. I will work tirelessly to ensure our district is consistently focused on building an inclusive and welcoming environment while equipping our students and teachers with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive.

- Community inclusion. Our diverse community deserve continued prioritization on ensuring that every voice is provided space to be heard. I will continue to advance the district's current efforts in fostering an inclusive space where all our community members feel welcomed to participate in constructive public discourse.
- Academic excellence. I am passionate about academic excellence that reflects our community's needs and based on data and proven research. Academic excellence should reflect the needs of our students. Our students and teachers deserve a learning environment that is welcoming, challenging, and focused on the needs of each student. Academic excellence is more than a ranking - it is challenging our students to continue to grow and become lifelong learners and thoughtful citizens.

#### SCHOOL BOARD ZONE B

Zone B includes Wards

#### Elizabeth 'Liz' Boucher

Years in Concord: 6 Experience: Proud parent of two Concord School District children; Past Christa McAuliffe School PTO president; Founding member of CMS Cares and a district food pantry; Graduate of Leadership Greater Concord Class 2023; Mental health and substance use



disorder dietitian: Capital Area Food Access Coalition (CAFA) member; Food insecurity and food

access champion: Park and Rec Soccer Coach School board.

#### Three key issues and potential solutions

■ Food insecurity, homelessness, safe school infrastructure, media influences, and school violence are all examples of challenges disrupting the social-emotional, mental and physical health of Concord students. Students' mental and physical health are essential for successful learners, behavioral management, and resilient students. This is why, as a mental health dietitian with a Master's in Public Health, I am well suited to assist the district in advocating for universal free meals and the implementation of recent grant monies to address nutrition and mental health. As a member of the Capital Area Food Access Coalition, I am currently working to address food access in the greater Concord Community and working to provide socialemotional learning about food insecurity in to District elementary students. I support restorative justice practices to include education and continual development

opportunities for teachers, staff, and students to change the social norms in our schools and greater community. DEIJB is the number one priority of the district's strategic plan, and I am determined to support this commitment. City-wide community engagement, transparent communication, and educational opportunities for staff, students, and families are essential in meeting the needs of students' mental and physical health.

■ Education standards, resolution of learning loss, and improvement in literacy proficiency are interconnected curriculum and instruction challenges. The Department of Education's Minimum Standards for Public School Approval and the push towards competencybased education standards may directly affect the District's number two priority of curriculum, instruction, and assessment in the years to come. Additionally, the district must continue to recover learning loss from the pandemic and address deficiencies that were made worse by the pandemic such as the District's low math and reading proficiencies. I support the use of explicit, evidenced-based curriculum. I believe that over 90% of children can learn how to read with explicit, evidenced based methods. I will continue the District's effort to improve attendance, provide

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■ The most overt challenge facing the Concord School District is capital proiects. Providing a safe, secure, and healthful environment for learning is my top priority to meeting the hierarchy of needs for successful learning. The District's current capital projects directly affect the health and safety of our students. Ensuring fiscal responsibility is necessary while also meeting the capital needs of the district - projects like the middle school build, memorial field renovation, new HVAC systems, and remediation of lead in pipes. I will work with board members and district staff to prioritize essential components of projects as well as ensuring efficiency in completing these projects. I will continue to include the Concord community in discussions and provide transparency in decision making. If elected as your next School Board zone B representative, I will work to support the District's strategic plan and challenge the District to become a model- setting new ideals for what education can look like in the 21st century.

#### G. Bruce (Gib) West

Years in Concord: 4 ½ years

**Experience:** My 40-year career as an educator in NH includes serving as an En-



glish teacher, as well as a school administrator. My educational background includes a Certificate of

Advanced Graduate Studies in Educational Leadership through Rivier College; an MSW from the University of Connecticut, and BA Psychology, Education/English from New England College.

#### Three key issues and potential solutions

■ The challenge of where the Concord School District will locate its new middle school continues to be at the forefront of the School Board's agendas as well as public discussions. The Board's extensive work in preparation for this decision has included: population projects, sustainability goals, visioning sessions, historical and environmental reviews and more. On Sept. 26 and 27, the board held two community forums to gather further feedback in helping them make this decision. It was clear during the forums that most of the public who participated were in favor of rebuilding Rundlett at the current site. The concerns about the new site included: heavy volumes of traffic, the importance of maintaining green spaces, and the need for infrastructure upgrades. In addition, many shared that the Broken Ground site did not improve access to those living in our underserved communities on the other side of Rt. 393. While the forums are helpful, there needs to be more input from the parents who will be directly impacted by this decision. It would be reasonable for the principals of each of the district's schools to email a survey link asking for parent input. Ultimately, we are seeking feedback on the work that needs to be done.

■ One of the important

Greenhouse

challenges that the Concord School District faces is addressing the decisions that are made by Commissioner Edelblut and the State Board of Education. Commissioner Edelblut has consistently promoted school choice over public education, has undermined teachers, has failed to define what a "constitutionally adequate education" is in order to limit state funding, and continues to promote his "learn everywhere" agenda. While I certainly support extended learning opportunities for students, I am very concerned about adding requirements to the minimum standards for graduation and then promoting PragerU's 75-minute Cash Course as a means of earning that credit. This decision, and others like it, minimizes the importance of students receiving quality instruction and assessment from our credentialed and highly qualified teachers. When we place our children's education in the free market, many will choose the least rigorous option which dilutes the district's mission of "educating students for lifelong

■ When we strip away the

jargon, the test scores, and the politics, the job of our teachers becomes clear - to make meaningful connections with their students and through those connections engage them in the process of learning. The focus of our district is to support our teachers in this critical work. As a former teacher and administrator, I learned our successes are borne from those connections, from finding in each student an interest or opportunity that makes school fun, challenging, and a safe place to take risks. For some students, school is easier as they find success in academics, and/or co-curriculars, or sports. For others, it is really hard. Those are the students we must reach and help them find a connection, a teacher or staff member who is their "person." Parents can help our teachers make these connections by trusting that our teachers care about each student's success. Block out the noise in the press and social media. Learning in school is about the relationships between each student, teacher and parent. Your student's success depends on

these relationships.

#### SCHOOL BOARD ZONE C

Zone C includes Wards 8-10.

#### **Kassey Cameron**

Years in Concord: 8

**Experience:** I am a business owner in the health and wellness industry for the last 6 years

Three key issue and potential solutions

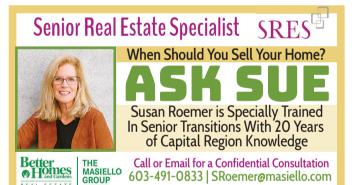
- Learning Loss from COVID.
- Change. Through new research, we have found new



ways that children learn and engage better. With the added issues of learning loss from COVID we need to

be able to also adapt to the immediate needs of the students as well as the adaptations that are needed to support learning loss, diversity, and equity across the board in all of our schools.

■ Budget. Making sure that the taxpayers dollars





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are being invested in programs that meet the long term needs and short term needs of our community while keeping the taxpayer's burden in mind.

#### **Brenda Hastings**

Years in Concord: 56 vears

Experience: Retired third grade teacher, Broken Ground School. School board

Three key issues and potential solutions

■ I am committed to advo-



cating for rigorous academic standards and innovative teaching methods that will prepare our students for the

challenges of the future.

■ I will actively engage with parents, teachers, students, and community members to foster a collaborative environment where everyone's voice is heard and valued with a commitment to inclusivity and diversity so that all students have equal opportunities for success.

■ I will work diligently to protect our tax dollars while making sure that our schools are well-funded and equipped to provide the best possible education for our students.

#### **Peteris Surmanis**

Years in Concord: 21 Experience: I am a business process expert at Philips Medical Systems.

Three key issues and potential solutions

■ We need to create a bet-



ter learning environment for students, to better prepare them for the future. This must start by improving our

school district's standards. Poor ratings show we are letting our students down: 34% Mathematics Proficiency, 43% Science Proficiency, and 64% Reading Proficiency. These low numbers are just not acceptable for Concord. We need schools our community can be proud of, so that parents want to send their

children to our schools.

■ I am happy with the progress made towards the middle school replacement. Our city deserves school buildings we are proud to send our children. I want to be sure that all groups are considered before the final decision is made. We need a location that encourages children to walk and bike to school. Because of the size of Concord, regardless of location, many students will still need to take a bus or be brought to school. We also need to be considerate Concord's growing migrant population, building a new school that helps support them, while contributing to the benefit of everyone in the community. As a Board member, I'd also be considerate of all of this and Concord's taxpayers.

■ Nearly one-quarter of Concord's 4,100 students are considered economically disadvantaged, and one in five is a minority student. Our immigrant population is growing. Each of these presents different challenges to our students, to the school, and to the residents of Concord. We must remain mindful of each group, as they are often the ones who can be overlooked

or even worse, ignored. This is not acceptable. As a community and school board, we

must ensure that all voices are heard and considered in all decisions.

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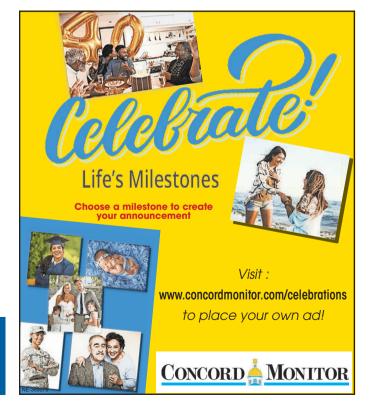
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VOTER GUIDE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

## Meet the Council at-large candidates

**By JAMIE L. COSTA** Monitor staff

The race to fill two community-wide positions on the Concord City Council features five candidates who share many of the same priorities like economic development, affordable housing, diversity and equity initiatives and public safety.

But with one incumbent and four newcomers, each candidate is promising to bring something unique to the 15-member council that will be led by a new mayor for the first time in 16 years.

Voters in each of the city's 10 wards will choose between incumbent Nathan Fennessy, Taylor Hall, Matthew Hicks, Judith Kurtz and Kevin Porter for two at-large council seats.

For Kurtz, maintaining equitable and sustainable development is a key focus of her campaign, while Porter said he wants to tackle homelessness and accessibility. Fennessy and Hall share similar commitments to increase the commercial property tax base to lessen the burden on homeowners, while Hicks is committed to affordability for all residents in the form of housing, transportation and accessibility.

#### **Nathan Fennessy**

Hoping to maintain his seat on the council, Fennessy promises to renew his focus on economic development and expand the commercial property tax base in the city, which remained flat during the pandemic.

He said he's running for the same reasons he ran in the first place - he wants to continue to make Concord a desirable place to live, work and raise a family.

"I've enjoyed my time so far, and I feel like there are a lot of great things going on and challenges coming down the road," Fennessy said. "I am well-placed to continue working on the things that are good and dealing with the things that are going to change. We are losing the mayor and we are going to have a fair amount of turnover, which is not necessarily a bad thing, but it will be tough to lose that institutional knowledge."

If residents want to keep the city's public safety, infrastructure and amenities affordable, growing the commercial property tax base is crucial, Fennessy said. Since the start of the pandemic in 2020, the occupancy of commercial property has decreased while the tax burden



GEOFF FORESTER / MONITOR STAFF

The candidates for the at-large seats on the Concord City Council are from left: Nathan Fennessy, Taylor Hall, Matthew Hicks, Judith Kurtz, and Kevin Porter.

on residents has increased.

Other top priorities include developing safe and affordable housing in the city, reducing homelessness and continuing to support city infrastructure and public safety by increasing retention and supporting recruitment, Fennessy said.

The council voted unanimously last week to add another \$500,000 to boost police pay to slow turnover in the department.

"I do have some concerns about our continuing ability to deliver the level of service that people expect with our current staffing levels," he continued. "Replacing infrastructure has had a tremendous positive impact on the community, and I want to make sure we are thinking ahead so that we can continue to upgrade and continue to replace aging infrastructure, which will save us in the future from potential costs and disruption of services.

Over the last four years on the council, Fennessy was proud to see the Exit 17 shopping plaza move forward, which increased the tax base for the Penacook School Dis-

Throughout his term, he served on the Parking Committee, the Beaver Meadow Advisory Committee, Recreations and Parks Advisory Committee and the Ad-Hoc Fee Committee and chaired the Ad-Hoc Building Committee for Beaver Meadow. Before he was elected to City Council, he served on the Concord School Board from 2015-18.

Fennessy, who grew up in graduated Georgetown University with a dual bachelor's degree in government and history before attending law school at the Catholic University of America. In 2013, he moved to Concord with his family and





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#### **Taylor Hall**

During the last election cycle in 2021, Hall ran against Mayor Jim Bouley, and lost by a 4-to-1 margin.

"The reason I ran two vears ago for mayor was because I was concerned about Bouley's potential conflicts of interest and with his day job as a lobbyist, running unopposed. I wanted to be able to offer voters an alternative," Hall said. "Now that he's no longer running and those issues aren't relevant, it made more sense for me to position myself into a role that may be a better fit for me."

Living in Ward 3, Hall is pleased with Jennifer Kretovic's efforts as his councilor and didn't want to run against her knowing she's serving the city well, he said.

"My top goal is to be a voice for the taxpayers of Concord. I feel like right now that the average resident of Concord doesn't have a strong voice in city government, and I want to be the one to change that and represent the issues of the people," Hall said.

By adding businesses to the city of Concord, the city would attract younger people and increase the quality of life and work/life balance. In turn, the increase in commercial property values would decrease the tax burden on residents, furthering the quality of life here, he said.

When asked about homelessness, diversifying the city of Concord and making the city more inclusive and accessible, Hall said those issues fall under the category of quality of life and he plans to focus on them as a whole, not individually.

"I am someone that is willing to listen to people, understand their concerns, work with them and get to the root cause of their problems," Hall said. "I think that if the voters of Concord are looking for someone who is going to keep their top interest in mind, thinks about what is best for them and understands the troubles of homeowners, then I am the person they should vote for.

Hall graduated from Xavier University with a bachelor's degree in entrepreneurial studies. He moved to Concord in 2013 and at Southern New

Hampshire University in financial services assisting students with financial aid.

#### **Matthew Hicks**

Hicks, already a member of the planning board, a state representative and the headmaster of the Shaker Road School, wants to try his hand as a city councilor because he shares many of the same goals as the people of Concord, he said.

Economic development, secure and affordable housing, police retention, transparency, transportation and equitable policies are just some of the initiatives Hicks would focus on as an at-large councilor.

"Affordability is more than just housing; it's taxes and broadening the tax base. We are losing commercial real estate taxes, and it's putting more pressure on the residential property side," Hicks said. "The housing supply is critically low, the younger people can't afford homes and the older people can't afford to stay in their homes."

Similar to Fennessy, Hicks wants to put more effort into retention and recruitment at the police department, increase safety in schools and make sure the city stays on the path of diversity, equity and justice initiatives.

"One of the biggest strengths of Concord is our diversity, and I want to make sure the city fully includes as many voices as we can in our government and make government more accessible," Hicks said. "Let's bring it to the people; don't make the people come to us.'

Additionally, Hicks wants expand transportation routes and hours while ensuring the city reaches its environmental goals by 2030.

Being an at-large councilor intrigued Hicks more than representing a specific ward, he said. Living in three different wards while going through the Concord School District and working gave him perspective of the city as a whole and made him want to represent it in its entirety.

"I am running for the city of Concord. I'm not running for any personal interest; I'm not a single-issue person unless that issue is the city." Hicks said. "I can work with just about anybody and in my work as an educator, I have many different viewpoints and goals, and I'd like to work

toward those goals together cord, then we won't continue with different ideas about the way to get there."

graduated from Hicks Hamilton College with a bachelor's degree in public policy before graduating from the University of New Hampshire with a master's in education. He received his teacher certification from Harvard University and went back to the University of New Hampshire for his PhD.

"I thought this would be a good opportunity to take my experience and put it to good use in the city and toward some of the problems we have," Hicks said. "I think I have the experience and the knowledge to do that in a constructive way."

#### **Judith Kurtz**

An activist at heart, Kurtz wants to deliver her advocacy work to the residents of Concord by representing them as an at-large councilor.

Since moving to Concord in 2019, Kurtz joined the Concord Greenspace Coalition as the vice president of the board. The nonprofit advocates for environmentally smart growth, equitable development and local climate action to ensure financially resilient, equitable and sustainable communities – goals she hopes to bring city-wide.

"The primary reason I am running for at-large is because the issues that I am interested in are city-wide issues, like zoning, composting and sustainable development," Kurtz said. "All of the work that I have been doing with Concord Greenspace is city-wide and, for me, it felt like an at-large seat is a continuation of the volunteer work that I have been doing."

Other priorities include increasing the housing stock, addressing homelessness and expanding public safety, she said. The adoption of a new zoning ordinance could help make a big impact on housing and homelessness, financial resilience, a diversified tax base and economic Additionally, development. she would push for the city to create an action plan on homelessness.

"I think that public safety is entwined with that, because if we increase our housing and residents, we need to increase our public safety," Kurtz said. "If zoning creates a range of housing to attract young people in Conto struggle as much with recruitment and retention.'

As a former educator and librarian, Kurtz is confident she can research and find positive solutions for change, she said. During her career. she was a high school English teacher, a writing tutor, a library media specialist, a STEM integrator and an adjunct professor. Kurtz graduated from Byrn Mawr College, where she studied theater and English, and later received her master's in education from St. Michael's College while working as a professor.

She was recently appointed to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

"I think a strength that I have to offer City Council is that I'm not an expert in any of these fields, but I am willing to work hard and bring experts to the table to have the conversations and make the decisions that we need to make to move forward," Kurtz said. "I would bring a fresh voice to city leadership and I am a hard-working, transparent, intelligent individual who really believes that civic engagement and the voices of the people should guide government decisions.

#### **Kevin Porter**

With a master's degree in economics and a passion for sustainable and equitable housing, Porter's focus as an at-large councilor would be on economic development.

For the last nine years, Porter has worked for ROC USA, a Concord-based organization that assists homeowners in manufactured housing to buy their communities and operate them as co-ops, he said. Through this work, he's seen how powerful it can be to engage diverse constituencies and how people can thrive when they are empowered and given the tools to exceed.

"It needs to be easier to build small, appropriately located housing; the housing crisis is causing people harm right now, whether it's emotional, physical or financial," Porter said. "At this time, the city is not where other towns and cities are, and household budgets are strained. I want to give taxpayers relief."

To do that, Porter wants to see the city focus its efforts on sustainable energy and join Community Power, an initiative designed to save residents money by expanding their electricity choices. Porter predicts the initiative could save residents \$20 a month on their electric bill.

Additional priorities include homelessness, diversity and equity efforts, general governance, government accountability and parency, Porter said.

"I've engaged with the city around diversity, equity and inclusion, or rather the lack of," Porter said. "It led to a deeper look at city boards and commissions, revealing the disparity between the number of people of color in our community versus the number of people of color that have been appointed to boards and commissions. The disparities are stark and there has been resistance in addressing these issues."

If elected to the at-large position, Porter wants to reinstate the Board of Ethics, which has been idle for the last 11 years, he said.

"Through my job, I've worked all over the country and I've worked with a lot of different types of people from different backgrounds, and I've seen how powerful it can be to engage with diverse constituencies and bring people together over common goals," Porter said. "Coming out of COVID, people are becoming more aware of things that are happening locally, and many people want to get involved with local government."

Porter graduated from Bates College with a bachelor's in economics and received his master's in economics from the New School for Social Research. He served on the board of directors of Clean Energy New Hampshire from 2015-21, including two years as vice chair. He has advocated for clean energy and more diversity in the city during Concord City Council meetings.

"The pattern of inaction and maintaining the status quo in Concord costs all of us," he wrote on his website. "There are better ways to do things, and there are many dedicated, talented people who can bring a great depth of experience and perspective to the table. But when these individuals are excluded, we shortchange ourselves. We can do better, and we deserve better."

#### bulletins

#### The Crime of Witchcraft

On first impression, the witchcraft trials of the Colonial era may seem to have been nothing but a free-forall, fraught with hysterics. Margo Burns explores an array of prosecutions in 17th century New England, using facsimiles of primary source manuscripts, from first formal complaints to arrest warrants, indictments of formal charges to death warrants, and the reversals of attainder and rescinding of excommunications years after the fact; demonstrating how methodically and logically the Salem Court worked. This program focuses on the Salem witchcraft trials of 1692 and 1693, when 19 people were hanged and one crushed to death, but also examines a variety of other cases against women in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. The event takes place Nov. 2, at 6 p.m., at the Chichester Town Library on 161 Main Street in Chichester. For more information, please contact the Chichester Town Library at 603-798-5613.

#### An Informal History of **Beer in the Granite State**

Glenn Knoblock explores the fascinating history of New Hampshire's beer and ale brewing industry from Colonial days, when it was homeand tavern-based, to today's modern breweries and brew pubs. Unusual and rare photos and advertisements document this changing industry and the state's earliest brewers, including the renowned Frank Jones. A number of lesser-known brewers and breweries that operated in the state are also discussed, including the only brewery owned and operated by a woman before the modern era. Illustrations present evidence of society's changing attitudes towards beer and alcohol consumption over the years. Whether you're a beer connoisseur or a "tea-totaler," this lecture will be enjoyed by adults of all ages. The event takes place Nov. 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Over the Moon Farmstead on 1253 Upper City Road in Pittsfield. For more information, contact the Josiah Carpenter Library at 603-435-8406.

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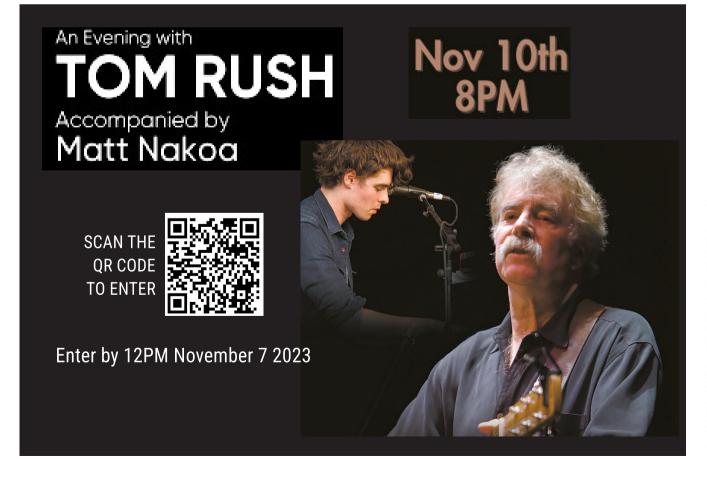


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# ; VOTER GUIDE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2,

## Housing top of mayoral minds

By MICHAELA TOWFIGHI

Monitor staff

When Kate West's landlord sold her apartment building, she and her child were forced to stay with friends until they found another place to rent.

Byron Champlin has watched his 34-year-old daughter try to call Concord home again. She's working two jobs and currently lives with her parents to make that happen.

George Jack rented in Concord for nearly two decades before his family purchased a home in the city.

The three candidates to become the city's next mayor agree that more housing is not only needed, but necessary. With vacancy rates below one percent, renters have few options, and when an apartment is available, it usually comes with a hefty price tag.

To provide more housing options, the city should continue to focus on partnerships with developers to support projects, while working to preserve Concord's character.

"We have a great bones in the city. We have great historic architecture, and we need to cherish it and preserve it," he said.

Champlin previously led an ad-hoc committee that focused on development fees here and elsewhere. Concord falls in the middle compared to neighboring cities when it comes to development costs, he said. Honing in on these expenses and promoting the city as an area for business growth and development will continue to add housing to the community while expanding the tax base with commercial development.

"We really need to look closely at any obstacles that we have to business growth in the city, whether it's in terms of our ordinances or whether it's in terms of our internal policies, the way that we handle development projects," he said.

Yet another way to invigorate the local economy would be to ensure that all residents of Concord, including those that are unhoused, are able to engage with their community, said West.

Solving homelessness in the city goes hand in hand with the need for more affordable housing, she said. But there's also a business component.

"One of the ways that it is often overlooked when it comes to expanding our tax bases, again, is investing in those individuals who need help now in the short term," she said. "Once they are out of the situation that they're in, they will be able to participate in the local economy. Investing in our homeless population would come back to us in terms of our collec-



GEOFF FORESTER / Monitor staff

Mayoral candidates Byron Champlin (left), George Jack, and Kate West at the Monitor's candidate forum at Concord High School on Tuesday night.

tive success."

This investment takes shape in a number of ways. First, it means identifying the needs of people experiencing homelessness on an individual level. Someone who is camping in the woods may have differing needs than West did when she was unhoused. she said

Second, city services need to be in place to support all community members. If it means the city provides housing itself, that's one solution West would back. But these services also include hiring a new social worker approved within the police department and ways to rethink public safety, she said.

When West visits Riverbend, she said she sees police called to respond to people with mental health needs that could be better supported by other forms of contact with the department, like a social worker, than officers

Recently, the city council unanimously approved a half million dollars for police retention as the department reported it has multiple vacant positions. Until the department can fill current vacancies, the city should not budget for more officers, said Champlin.

In the current budget, public safety accounts for roughly two-thirds of the city's expenses in the \$78 million general fund.

Unless residents want to see a cut to services, there's little appetite to cut expenses in future budgets, said Champlin.

To offset spending, the city needs

to continue to bring in commercial revenue to offset property taxes, like the redevelopment of Steeplegate Mall, he said.

"The reality is that city government is experiencing the same stresses that everyone else has in their household," he said.

To stimulate commercial activity, city leaders should evaluate empty lots in Concord as prime sites for development, said Jack.

With development underway in all corners of the city, transportation and accessibility to downtown and city services should also be at the forefront of leaders' minds, said West.

West relies on the bus system as her current form of transportation. Just attending City Council meetings is currently inaccessible through the bus system since it doesn't run during meeting times.

Non-native English speakers in Concord also face barriers to participation at city council meetings, she said. Without a translator present, the city inherently excludes a subset of the community that should have a voice in public engagement.

These are small changes that would improve access and representation for residents, she said.

"In order to have people serving and participating, we first have to listen, understand what's keeping folks from being able to participate and actively do work to solve those barriers," she said.

In a sense, Champlin's candidacy is a testament to the legacy left behind by outgoing Mayor Jim Bouley, who has held the position for 16 years. With a decade of experience working with Bouley on the city council, Champlin would continue the progress currently underway – like focusing on diversity in hiring for government positions and collaboration among homeless service providers, he said.

For the other two candidates, Jack offers the same approach to leader-ship as he would at the helm of a business. He has never held city office, but if Concord is thought of as a product, city officials should be doing what they can to ensure residents are positive consumers.

"I've had as much at stake as anybody," Jack said. "I love Concord. I'm not a lifelong resident of Concord but Concord took me in. I met my wife and we got married, moved here, had kids. I know the pain points that people have and I know there are tangible, measurable ways to help with those things."

West previously sat on the Concord School Board, but was removed when she no longer lived in the district after losing her housing.

With her candidacy, she offers a perspective that is often not heard in city government, she said. And that's one of a renter, parent to a child in the school district, a public transportation user and someone who has put community engagement, steered towards positive change in Concord, at the forefront of her work.

"Representation matters," said West. "Those are truths about me that I believe will help inform my role as Mayor." "Symmetry and alignment in the body is vital for function, strength and performance, just as it is in machinery and construction."

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## Well Adjusted

"Changes in athletic performance and physiological measures in university baseball players was assessed before, during and after a specific duration of upper cervical chiropractic care. Only those subjects in the adjustment group received chiropractic care. The results showed significant improvement at fourteen weeks in muscle strength and long jump distance in the group receiving adjustments."

Athletic Performance and Physiological Measures in Baseball Players Following Upper Cervical Chiropractic Care: A pilot study. Jon Schwartzbauer, D.C., Jason Kolber, Mitzi Schwartzbauer, D.C., John Hart, D.C., John Zhang, M.D., Ph.D. Journal of Vertebral Subluxation Research ~ Volume 1 ~ Number 4 ~ Pages 1-7

## **INVEST IN YOURSELF WITH** CHIROPRACTIC ADJUSTMENTS

## **CROSSROADS CHIROPRACTIC**

**MEREDITH** 

**PEMBROKE** 

**EPPING** 

Route 104 & 3 **3 Annalee Place** 

Route 106 & 3 **556 Pembroke Street**  Route 125 & 155 **629 Calef Highway** 

(603)677-1444

(603)224-4281

(603)679-3222

#### complete exam

with x-rays if necessarv

#### For over 23 years people have come to us for help with:

- Sciatica
- Neck Pain
- Low Back Pain
- ADD/ADHD
- Overall Wellness
- Enhanced Performance
- Headaches and Migraines
- Colic
- Digestive Problems Chronic Ear Infection

  - Numbness/ Tingling in Hands





THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023