

Facilitator Questions

Opening Round

When you tell friends and neighbors that you are running for election, what do they tell you is the number one issue or problem that needs to be addressed, and what do you tell them about how you will address it?

Target Round

Select Board

Town Meeting and Town Vote recently voted to advance three significant capital projects (WPS, Tri County, DPW). One of these projects, the Tri-County renovation funding will be on the April 1 ballot. What do you think should be the strategy to fund these projects, and how do you communicate to the taxpayers that this is necessary?

Last November Town Meeting voters seemed to indicate that they wouldn't want the Select Board to appoint the BOA and BOH etc, and wouldn't trust the Town Manager, a person appointed by the Select Board, to appoint the Town Clerk because they don't trust the Select Board to do this. How do you respond to this? Should the Select Board as the executive board of the Town be able to appropriately accomplish this?

Planning Board

A significant challenge that the Planning Board will be focusing on this year is the MBTA Communities Act Bylaw. What do you see as the major challenges for the Planning Board and Wrentham in the effort to comply with this bylaw?

How do you see the boards role as a shaping mechanism for future zoning, particularly as it pertains to the Master Plan? Are there particular recommendations within the Master Plan you would most like to see accomplished?

Board of Assessors

Last year's Charter Review Committee recommended making the Assessors office a division of the Finance Department. Do you think this would make the Town's financial management more cohesive, and what do you see as the impact to the Board of Assessors?

Board of Health

What do you think are the most significant lessons learned for the Town and the Board of Health from the COVID-19 pandemic? How do you see to best address those lessons?

Moderator

Last November's Town Meeting had 432 voters attend, which is easily the most attended Town Meeting in the last 10 years. Over that span, the average attendance at

the June Town Meeting is 116 and the average at the Fall Town Meeting is 190. This question is not to imply that it's the Moderator's responsibility to improve attendance. But what are your thoughts on the level of attendance at Town Meeting?

Wrentham School Committee

What role do you see the school committee playing in helping the public understand the effort for a new renovation, especially regarding voters who don't have children in the school? What role do you play in developing funding strategies?

KP School Committee

As a regional school district, there is a challenge of coordinating and coalescing the priorities and assessment for three towns. Do you see your challenge as one more related to balancing the budget, or to curriculum and programs – or even something else?

As a school committee member, what do you think is your role to get input from teachers?

There is a long time trend for parents to be very actively engaged with their children's school at the elementary level, but very much less so at the high school level. Do you see the same trend at KP and is that a concern or a challenge?

Library Board of Trustees

At the national level, surveys are showing a declining use of local public libraries. One such report by the Survey Center on American Life states that almost 60% of Americans say the seldom or never visit their local public library. Are you seeing that trend here, and what ideas do you have to reinvigorate the role of the library in our community?

Housing Authority

Many people have little knowledge of the role and impact of the Housing Authority. I think it is fair to say that of all our elected positions, this is the one where the most voters have the least knowledge of the roles and responsibilities. Does that negatively affect your mission, and if so, what can be done to overcome that?

Wrap Up

If elected or re-elected, what does success look like at the end of the term?

Questions Received from the Public

General

1	Why are you running.
2	What will you do
3	What is your view of how Town government currently operates? Is it effective, efficient or operating poorly?
4	Why do you want to serve?
5	What is your biggest motivation for serving?
6	Tell us about your experience working in government or business and why you think you are the right person for the position you are seeking.
7	Please talk about a topic or issue that directly relates to the seat you are seeking and how you would make an impact within the scope of the role.
8	I'd like to hear views/ input on the MBTA communities law as this will impact these town leaders and the town for years to come.
9	The trash disposal process is broken. The trash cans are too small. If there is overflow trash, the purple trash bags tear easily and are not allowed to be placed in a trash can at the curb, they must be left outside of a container. And the Wrentham does not have a transfer station, nor have they partnered with another town to share access to a transfer station. Are there any plans to improve this process?

Select Board

1	Do you support organizations like Massachusetts Family Institute that preach an anti-LGBTQIA+ platform? How does that affect your beliefs about restricting books in schools?
2	Should the Town budget money to buy or otherwise restrict undeveloped open space to keep it natural to protect the Town's drinking water supplies?
3	Wrentham's designation as an "Adjacent Community" within the new 3A zoning guidelines, otherwise known as "MBTA Zoning", would require Wrentham to allocate areas of town for increased density/multifamily housing by right. Do you support this initiative and how would you work towards bringing the community into compliance?
4	Incumbents - Why are your meetings still on Zoom when the other boards meet in person ? Candidates - Do you feel the board should still be on Zoom when the other boards meet in person ?
5	Passing an MBTA Communities bylaw has become an issue in town. Since Wrentham is a community adjacent to towns with train stations, we are required to amend out zoning bylaws to increase density by right in some area of our town. As a Select Board member, how do you view your responsibility to encourage our Town's compliance with state law?

6	A recent inspection of the Town's Eagle Dam on Route 140 found it to be in poor condition. The Town will either have to repair it or remove it. What process would you use to determine your recommendation to the Town?
7	Based on the Master Plan surveys and the numerous conversations surrounding the MBTA community mandate, it is evident there is a desire to preserve the rural nature of Wrentham and one way to do so is to preserve open space. What are your thoughts on land acquisition? What steps would you take to move in a direction that enables the Town to be proactive in acquiring land for either conservation, community gardens, passive recreation, etc.?
8	Is there even 1 controversial issue you are willing to address should you be elected? If so, what is it & what do you want to do?
9	We need more affordable housing in town. Seniors are being priced out and young people cannot afford to stay in town after university. What tangible steps with you push for to increase the number of affordable homes and apartments in town?

Planning Board

1	What are your feelings about the MBTA Community Zoning?
2	Do you support updating the Open Space Subdivision bylaw and why?
3	Housing stock, particularly Affordable housing options, continue to be a concern across the Commonwealth and Wrentham. Please speak briefly about your perspective on the challenges associated to the shortage as well any new or existing initiatives you would support/work towards as a member of the Planning Board.
4	Passing an MBTA Communities bylaw has become an issue in town. Since Wrentham is a community adjacent to towns with train stations, we are required to amend out zoning bylaws to increase density by right in some area of our town. As a Planning Board member, how would you view your responsibility to recommend the most reasonable, compliant bylaw to the June Town Meeting for its action?
5	Based on the Master Plan surveys and the numerous conversations surrounding the MBTA community mandate, it is evident there is a desire to preserve the rural nature of Wrentham and one way to do so is to preserve open space. What are your thoughts on land acquisition? What steps would you take to move in a direction that enables the Town to be proactive in acquiring land for either conservation, community gardens, passive recreation, etc.?
6	As a new planning board member, do you support the Senior Living Community (SLC) By Law changes being proposed? On Feb 7th, the Planning Board reviewed those changes but prior to their review, they voted to approve a bylaw zone freeze over a Senior Living Community development on Beach Street. Do you support them and how do you plan to support these potentially new bylaw changes if they are approved?

Board of Assessors

1	My taxes go up every year, what will you do to decrease the rate?
2	What kind of training do you have for this position?
3	Please explain how the revaluation process works and how does prop 2 1/2 play into this?
4	What are your expectations of "new growth" moving forward?
5	Why can't anyone at the Assessor's Office explain the difference between the town's assessment of my property and the market value of my property? If you can't explain it - do you really understand the difference?

Board of Health

1	What does the board do?
2	Knowing what we know now about the ineffectiveness of masks during the pandemic & how children are not susceptible to COVID, will you admit advising the masking of students was a mistake (even if it was well meaning)?

Grouped (Select Board, Planning Board, BOA, BOH)

1	Do you think Town Hall should be open on Fridays?
2	what is the best way to address the MBTA rezoning requirements?
3	were you for or against changing elected positions to appointed? and why?
4	How will we find resources to pay for DPW, Roderick and Tri-County?
5	These boards are a significant commitment of time, energy, and availability. Are you prepared to attend every meeting?
6	What is your stance on the state mandate for Wrentham to be an MBTA community? Are you for or against our participation?

Moderator

1	Why do town meetings never offer "any time" for questions from the public on a topic of their choosing? An opportunity for a citizen to voice a question to town government or an opinion to fellow residents seems like a bare essential of a democratically run community. An open discussion period can be time boxed to remain manageable.
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Wrentham School Committee

1	Do you support organizations like Massachusetts Family Institute that preach an anti-LGBTQIA+ platform? How does that affect your beliefs about restricting books in schools?
2	Do you think the correct processes are in place for deciding which books are available in the school library? If not, what changes would you like to see?

3	Do you think there are any books in the library now that shouldn't be there?
4	Knowing what we know now about the ineffectiveness of masks during the pandemic & how children are not susceptible to COVID, will you admit masking students was a mistake (even if it was well meaning)?

KP School Committee

1	What will you do to increase funding to the school
2	Do you support organizations like Massachusetts Family Institute that an anti-LGBTQIA+ platform? How does that affect your beliefs about restricting books in schools?
3	What is your opinion on banning books?
4	How do you plan to make the schools tolerant of students with deeply held religious beliefs - the kind that the public schools implicitly attack on a daily basis (rainbow flags, obsession with using the wrong pronouns etc)?

Library Board of Trustees

1	How will you Cchange the layout so more “recommended” books are on display instead of hidden
2	Do you believe all books should be available to all ages? How will you ensure that the Library continues to support access to information without censorship?
3	Why are you spending our tax dollars on books that promote a radically liberal agenda to our youth (especially in June) and never promote religious themes during the holidays?

Housing Authority

1	What is you understanding of the WHA role in Wrentham’s affordable housing?
2	What specifically do you want to change if elected?

Grouped (Moderator, WPS Committee, KP School Committee, Library Board, Wrentham Housing Authority)

1	What is your opinion on banning books at the schools and libraries ?
2	what is the mission of the Houring Authority?
3	Is there even 1 controversial issue you are willing to address should you be elected? If so, what is it & what do you want to do?