Wrentham Voter Guide

Election Day is Monday, April 7, 2025



www.wrenthamvoterguide.com

About the Wrentham Voter Guide

Local elections, those that matter most, exert direct effects on our day-to-day lives because local officials' decisions affect our schools, roads, public safety, and local businesses. Your votes in local elections give you a say in who makes decisions that affect you and let your voice be heard.

The Wrentham Voter Guide (WVG) is designed to help you, as a voter, make informed decisions because lack of information about candidates and the positions they hope to fill are among the primary reasons that voters do not turn out at local elections.

We reached out to every candidate who filed to run as a candidate and to those we learned are "write-in" candidates for the April 7, 2025 election, and requested the following information:

- 1 2 sentence statement about why he or she is running for office
- 100 150-word bio
- Photo
- Website, social media channels and LinkedIn profile if available

Every candidate responded to our inquiries, which enabled us to share the information they provided.

We hope that this information, available in PDF format and on the Web can help you to make informed votes and hope that you will share it with your friends and neighbors and encourage them to vote.

Your vote makes a difference because it puts you, the voter, in the driver's seat.

Questions: wrenthamvoterguide@gmail.com

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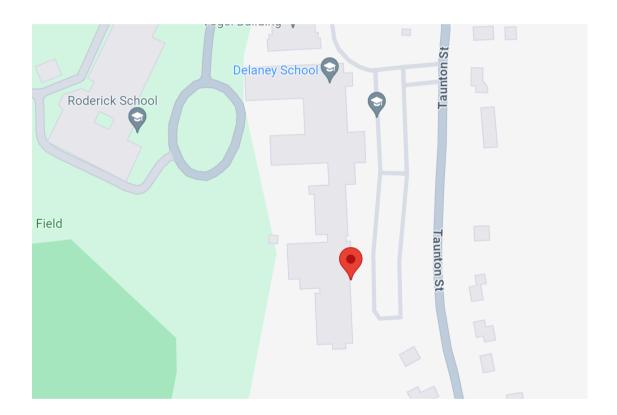
Housing Authority

No candidates pulled or submitted nomination papers for this position.

Annual Town Election

Wrentham's Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, April 7, 2025 at the Delaney Elementary School, 120 Taunton Street.

Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Voter registration is open now, so go register to vote! The last day to register to vote will be Friday, March 28, 2025. The Town Clerk's office will hold a voter registration on Friday, March 28th, at the Fiske Public Library (110 Randall Road), from 9 am to 5 pm.

Note that absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's office.

Open Seats

- Board of Assessors 3-year term 1 opening
- Board of Health 3-year term 1 opening
- Constable 3-year term 3 openings
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Cable 8 Candidate Profiles & WE Candidates Forum

Complete Cable 8 Candidate Profiles 2025 <u>bit.ly/CandidatesProfiles2025</u>



Wrentham Engagement Candidates Forum 2025 <u>bit.ly/CandidatesForum2025</u>



Board of Assessors

3-year term - 1 opening, 0 candidates

The Board of Assessors consists of three members, each elected for 3-year staggered terms.

The Board of Assessors is responsible for assessing the value of all real and personal property within the Town of Wrentham. The Board of Assessors works to ensure that property is assessed at fair market value, and that taxes are levied uniformly and equitably. "The Assessor's responsibilities include the ongoing updating of our detailed parcel database via cyclical permit and sales inspections, processing motor vehicle excise tax abatements, personal exemptions, property abatements, chapter land, preparing abutters lists, name and address changes, updating parcel maps and GIS systems on a yearly basis, providing a public access terminal and providing parcel data to those who inquire" (Board of Assessors, Town of Wrentham).

Candidates:

No candidates pulled or submitted nomination papers for this position.

Board of Health

3-year term - 1 opening, 2 candidates

Wrentham's Board of Health consists of three members; members are elected for 3-year staggered terms.

The Board of Health (BoH) has a number of responsibilities related to protecting and promoting public health in town. In Wrentham, the BoH is responsible for "...protecting groundwater from contamination, protecting private and public water supplies, ... enforcing DEP regulations on the disposal of wastewater (Title 5), enforcing EPA/DEP regulations on preventing pollution from air, water, solid waste and toxic wastes, enforcing regulations to control noise pollution and so on" (Board of Health, Town of Wrentham).

Additional duties may include:

- Inspecting food service establishments;
- Investigating public health complaints;
- Promoting public health education;
- Monitoring communicable diseases.

Candidates:

Margaret D. Settle, RN, PhD

Michael J. White (no materials submitted)

Margaret Settle, RN, PhD

Why are you running?

I'm running for the Board of Health because I love Wrentham, and I'm concerned that the rapid pace of change is putting what we love about this town at risk. I cherish our open space and our history as a farming community, and I worry about how the pressure to grow could impact our quality of life.



Bio

A Wrentham resident for 28 years, Margaret (Peggy) Settle brings over 40 years of nursing experience across hospitals, home healthcare, and academia. As a nurse director, she collaborated with the Department of Public Health and led teams through state and federal health inspections. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Peggy managed a team of 80 nurses, focusing on the safety and care of patients, families, and healthcare personnel. She now teaches at Endicott College's School of Nursing. With expertise in public health policy, regulatory compliance, and community health education, Peggy is dedicated to protecting Wrentham's health, educating on regulations, and advocating for evidence-based policies.

Website, Social Media

Margaret Settle, RN, PhD (LinkedIn)



3-year term - 3 openings, 3 candidates

The Office of the Constable consists of three members, each elected for 2year staggered terms.

The Office of the Constable is a law enforcement position with specific duties and responsibilities. Responsibilities include serving civil and criminal processes, such as summonses, subpoenas, and warrants; executing writs of attachment; enforcing local bylaws. The constables also "serve all warrants and other processes directed to them by the board of selectmen for notifying of town meetings or for other purposes" (<u>Chapter 116, An Act Establishing a Charter for the Town of Wrentham</u>).

Candidates:

Michael C. Abril (incumbent) (no materials submitted) Michael F. Galasso (incumbent) (no materials submitted) <u>Peter J. Tullock</u> (incumbent)

Peter J. Tullock

Why are you running?

I chose to run for Constable because of my desire to make a meaningful contribution to the community.

If elected, I feel that I can make an important contribution to the integrity of our town.

Bio

I was born and raised in Walpole, MA and attended North Bennett Street School in Boston where I studied Furniture Making. I went on to work in the antique restoration business for several years before opening my own shop in 1999.

I have lived in Wrentham for 21 years along with my wife and two daughters.

I am an active member of the Board of Trustees at Pond Home for the past decade, as well as a member of the Finance Committee at Pond Home/Pond Meadow.

Fiske Library Board of Trustees

3-year term - 2 openings, 2 candidates

The Fiske Library Board of Trustees consists of six members, each elected for 3-year staggered terms.

The Trustees have custody of, and manage, the library and all property of the town related to the library. All funds and property that the town may receive by gift or bequest for library support or maintenance is administered by the Board in accordance with the gift or bequest. The Board of Trustees, subject to terms of the town charter, has all the other powers and duties given to the boards of library trustees under the constitution and laws and other powers authorized by the Town Charter, bylaw, or other town meeting vote.

Candidates:

3-year Term

<u>Suzanne S. Bove</u> (incumbent) <u>Kristen Smith</u> (incumbent)

Suzanne S. Bove

Why are you running?

The library is an integral part of the Wrentham community. It serves all age ranges with a variety of services. For example, where else in Wrentham can you check out books, utilize the Passport Acceptance Service, and see a puppet show with your children, all in the same building? I view my role as one to work with the Library Director and other library trustees to continuously enrich what the Fiske Library offers.



Bio

I have been a Library Trustee since 2015 and a Wrentham resident since 1994.

I earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Masters in Business Administration. I have been in the financial services industry for the majority of my career. I am a Certified Project Management Professional, a Certified Fraud Examiner, and a Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager. I am studying to become a Certified Internal Auditor.

Over the years I served as a volunteer for Junior Achievement in addition to the Library Board of Trustees.

I would appreciate your vote on April 7, 2025. Thank you.

Kristen Smith

Why are you running?

I'm running for Library Trustee because as a former librarian, I believe libraries are the cornerstone of a compassionate, thoughtful, and welleducated community. I want to continue my work with the Library Trustees and Library Director to create a space Wrentham deserves; to expand the library's collections, services, and events so everyone has a space to feel welcome.



Bio

After earning my Master's in Library and Information Science, I held various positions serving communities through libraries including research intern, adult literacy instructor, and librarian.

Since my election in 2024 (1-year term) to the Fiske Library Trustees, I was appointed as Secretary and helped to manage a refresh of the Library's policy manual. I've worked to advocate for library funding, resources, and staffing.

I continually strive to engage in Wrentham's close-knit community including:

- Past volunteer for Metacomet Greenway Association
- Member of Wrentham Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
- Secretary for Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

I would greatly appreciate your vote on Monday, April 7.

Town Moderator

3-year term - 1 opening, 1 candidate

The Town Moderator is an elected position and is subject to reelection every three years.

The principal duties of the Moderator are to run Town Meeting and to appoint the Finance Committee.

Specifically, the Town Moderator presides over town meetings and ensures that they are conducted in an orderly manner, determines the outcomes of votes taken at the meeting and announces the results, certifies the results of the meeting and submits them to the town clerk, appoints election officers for town elections, and appoints members of the Finance Committee. The town moderator is critical to ensuring that town meetings are conducted in a fair and orderly manner.

Candidates:

Edward Goddard

Ed Goddard

Why are you running?

I am running for reelection as Moderator to continue my commitment to public service to Wrentham.

Bio

My name is Ed Goddard. I am currently the Town Moderator and have been the Moderator for 5 or 6 years. I have lived in Wrentham since 2001 – watching Vinatieri's kick to win the Patriots first Super Bowl on a milk crate in my empty living room. I have 3 children: Jack (27), Bryce (24) and Calvi (23).

Prior to being elected as Moderator, I have served as the Chair of the Wrentham Public Schools School Committee, Chair of the Board of Selectman, served as a Member of the KP School Committee and have been appointed to serve on several search committees for School Superintendent and Town Administrator. I was previously appointed and served as Chair on the Marra Property Reuse Committee and as a Member of the Sheldonville Fire Station Committee.

I was the Chair of the Wrentham 350th Anniversary Committee, was a former multi-year "celebrity" judge in the Dancing with Wrentham Stars event, and was a Founding Member and Board Member for W.E.S.T.

LinkedIn Profile

Edward Goddard

Planning Board

3-year term - 3 openings, 3 candidates

Wrentham's Planning Board consists of seven members; members are elected for 3-year staggered terms.

Wrentham's Planning Board is responsible for managing the growth and development of the town through the implementation of the Wrentham Zoning Bylaws. Some of the specific responsibilities of the Planning Board include: reviewing and approving subdivision plans; reviewing and making recommendations on zoning bylaw amendments; Issuing special permits for certain land use projects; site plan review; long-range planning, and public outreach.

Candidates:

<u>James Lawrence</u> (current board member, write-in candidate) <u>Julie Garland</u> (write-in candidate) <u>Justin Fairbank Schlesinger</u> (write-in candidate)

James Lawrence

Write-in:

148 Thurston Street

Why are you running?

I'm running for re-election and did not get my formal papers in on time. I'd like to keep serving the town in this capacity if the town folk want me to continue.



Bio

I grew up in Falmouth, MA, attended Dartmouth College, and spent most of my career in all various aspects of residential Real Estate on Cape Cod and in the City of Boston. I moved to Wrentham in 2002 and have loved living in the Town for the last 23 years. In 2012 I decided that I'd like to give back and serve the Town if there was a way I could find to do that. At that time there was an opening on the planning Board and I was selected by the Select Board at the time to fill it. I have been re-elected to the Board 3 times, so this would be my fourth re-election should the town folk re-elect me.

In my time on the Board I have endeavored to use critical thinking and keen listening skills to assist the board in arriving at clear understanding of the issues before us. I intend to carry on that service.

Julie Garland

Write-in:

555 West Street

Why are you running?

I'm running for Planning Board because I believe in the importance of thoughtful, well-planned growth that aligns with our town's vision and values, and because I believe that my background, experience and passion particularly as it relates to open space can provide important contributions to our planning challenges.



Website www.julie4planning.com

Bio

Wrentham deserves thoughtful, well-planned growth that preserves its character and open spaces. Having lived here with my family for 15 years, I am passionate about helping implement Wrentham's Master Plan 2030 and ensuring Wrentham remains a great place to live.

For the past eight years, I have served on the Wrentham Conservation Commission, including six as Vice Chair. In this role, I have worked on the Commission to ensure developments comply with state and local wetland regulations - experience that directly prepares me for Planning Board decisions. My career as Director of Operations at an access and architecture consulting firm has strengthened my ability to navigate regulations and balance competing priorities.

I would be honored to contribute my experience and passion to the Planning Board and respectfully ask for your vote on Monday, April 7th. Please write in Julie Garland, 555 West Street.

Justin Fairbank Schlesinger

Write-in:

17 Cypress Street

Why are you running?

As Chair of the Wrentham Historical Commission, I already advocate for preserving the town's character. On the Planning Board, I will ensure that new developments align with Wrentham's historical and architectural integrity. Wrentham First.



Bio

My name is Justin Fairbank Schlesinger. I am originally from Dedham, and as of October 2022, reside in Wrentham. My family settled Dedham Massachusetts in 1636 and came to Wrentham after. Currently, I am the the Regional Sales Director at a company named Clarus, where we create amazing glass products for higher education, healthcare, government, and the corporate sector. I have a strong background in sales and relationship management. More importantly, I am interested in giving back to my community. In addition to my professional roles, I serve as the Chair of the Wrentham Historical Commission, which I believe demonstrates a deep commitment to preserving local history and maintaining this town's past. I also serve on the board of my family's museum, the Fairbanks House in Dedham.

Website

www.jfschlesinger.com/

Select Board

3-year term - 2 openings, 3 candidates

Wrentham is governed by a five-member Select Board; members are elected for 3-year staggered terms.

The Select Board are the town's Chief Elected Officials. They have general supervision over all matters not specifically delegated by law or vote of the Town Meeting to another officer or board. The Select Board is responsible for hiring and supervising Town Administrator; setting policy and goals for the town, which are then implemented by the town administrator and other town officials; collective bargaining, serving as a licensing authority; and appointing community members to boards and committees.

Candidates:

<u>William D. Harrington</u> (incumbent, Clerk) <u>Leo E. Immonen</u> <u>Roy C. Lamothe</u>

William D. Harrington

Why are you running?

I proudly serve the residents of Wrentham as a current member of the Selectboard. I'm running for reelection and hope to continue to give back to town and to be your voice at the table.

Bio

I've been a Wrentham resident since 1993. My wife, Angela, and I have been married for 38 years. We have four grown children.



I care deeply about our town. I've been an active member in the town since we moved here. I've been a Pop Warner football coach, member of The Capitol Budget Committee and Finance Committee member. I sat on the selection committee for the previous DPW Director. I am an active member of St. Mary's parish. I'm a active member of the Knights of Columbus, Wrentham Lions and Wrentham Sportsmans Association.

I am a proud supporter of our public safety, police and fire. For these reasons, I am committed to the future of Wrentham.

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to continue to represent you on the Wrentham Selectboard. I look forward to the next three years.

Social Media

Elect Harrington for Selectman (Facebook Group)

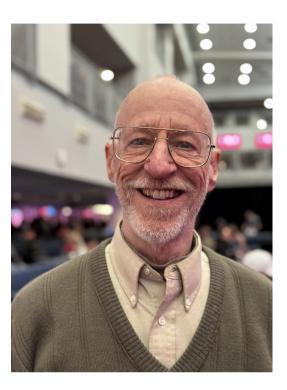
Leo E. Immonen

Why are you running?

I will bring a fresh perspective to the Select Board. I believe I can contribute to making Wrentham an even better place for all who call it home.

Bio

I graduated from Norwood High School, where I ran cross country country, played basketball, captained the tennis team and was the Student Council President. After graduating from University of Massachusetts, Amherst, I served three years in Germany during the Vietnam War as an officer in the US Army.



I then taught math for 35 years in Norwood. I coached the tennis team for 19 years. I introduced Advance Placement Computer Science at Norwood High School. I earned a Masters Degree from Salem State College.

During my 35 years in Wrentham, I have served on numerous committees including 19 years on the Zoning Board of Appeals. I am currently in my 18th year on the Conservation Commission.

I have a son and a daughter who have each enriched my life with one grandchild. I have run 5 marathons including Boston.

Website

www.LeoForWrentham.com

Roy C. Lamothe

Why are you running?

At the behest of Joe Botaish and in honor of his life, I have begun to seriously think about how I can give back to the only town that my daughters and seven grandchildren have ever called home. For my children, your children and for generations to follow I will seek to create a more efficient and effective town government that can assure them a community and a town with the same shared values that drew my wife and I to Wrentham some four decades ago.



Bio

Drawn to this quaint New England town four decades ago, we raised four daughters, who attended our public schools and proudly wore the green and gold. Our daughters have since settled in the only town they have ever called home, raising seven of my grandchildren here.

With a finance degree from Bryant and career experiences spanning roles in manufacturing, product safety testing and mergers & acquisitions, I will bring a business focus to seek a more effective and efficient town government. Locally, I serve as Director-Treasurer for The Friends of Wrentham that supports individuals with disabilities at the Wrentham Developmental Center. I am also proud to be a coach of young athletes across two generations.

At the request of Joe Botaish and in honor of his life, I have committed to giving back and preserving Wrentham's traditions for my children, your children, and generations to follow.

Social Media and Contact Info

Roy Lamothe (LinkedIn)Roy.C.Lamothe@gmail.com (email)Roy Lamothe for Select Board (Facebook)516-768-9005 (cell)

Town Clerk

3-year term - 1 opening, 1 candidate

The Town Clerk is an elected position with a 3-year term. The Town Clerk serves as the keeper of vital statistics, custodian of the town seal, and administers oaths of office. This role oversees the issuance of licenses and permits, manages all aspects of elections, and serves as the clerk of Town Meeting, including maintaining meeting records. The Town Clerk may also preside over Town Meeting in the absence of the Moderator until a temporary Moderator is elected. Additional duties are defined by the Town Charter, General Laws, or Town Meeting vote. (Chapter 116: An Act Establishing a Charter for the Town of Wrentham *PDF)

Candidates:

<u>Ann V. Fisk</u>

Ann V. Fisk

Why are you running?

I am honored to be running for Wrentham's Town Clerk to continue the strong record of our retiring Clerk, Cindy Thompson. I believe that the skills developed from my experience working as Assistant Town Clerk and in the private sector will serve the needs of our community well.



Bio

My husband Dave and I chose to settle in Wrentham in 2013 when we found it to be an ideal community in which to raise our child.

I started working at the town elections in 2015. I am delighted that my "onetime" experience has evolved into serving our Town on a full-time basis. I enjoy that I get to regularly connect with and assist many of my neighbors. I was privileged to meet many others when I volunteered with the 350th Celebration committee.

Since joining the Clerk's office, I have been attending training classes offered by the Mass. Town Clerks Association and have graduated from the New England Municipal Clerk's Institute. I also earned my "Certified Municipal Clerk" (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. I previously worked in marketing and finance in the private sector.

LinkedIn Ann Fisk

Wrentham Elementary School Committee

1-year term - 1 opening, 2 candidates 3-year term - 1 opening, 2 candidates

Wrentham Elementary School Committee consists of five members; members are elected for 3-year staggered terms.

The school committee has the power to select and to terminate the superintendent; is responsible for reviewing and approving budgets for public education in the district; overseeing capital projects such as the construction or renovation of school buildings; and establishing educational goals and policies for the schools in the district that are consistent with statewide goals and standards established by the board of education.

Candidates:

1-year term <u>Cynthia A. Fuller</u> <u>Michael E. Hayek</u>

3-year term <u>Dawn Doyle</u> <u>Meaghan Drennen</u>

Cynthia A. Fuller

Why are you running?

I was appointed to the School Committee in November to fill an unexpired seat. I would love to continue on the committee for at least the next year.

Bio

I am a lifelong resident of Wrentham. I taught in the Wrentham Elementary School for 35 years.



During my teaching career I held many leadership roles, one of which was contract negotiations. With this being a contract year, I believe my experience will be an asset to the committee as they undertake this work. I have been a member of two building committees for the additions to the Delaney School. Again, my experience will be an asset as the committee moves forward with the Roderick School project.

As a School Committee Member I will continue to work, to the best of my ability, to help this wonderful school district keep moving forward for the betterment of the students, as they become lifelong learners, as well as the staff, parents, and community. After all, we're all here for kids' sakes!

Social Media

Cynthia Fuller (Facebook)

Michael E. Hayek

Why are you running?

I'm running for the school committee position because I am striving for transparency, keeping our kids safe, and ensuring kids remain kids. I would like to serve our children and be a voice for our parents and our community; access to excellent schools were a key reason why we moved to Wrentham nearly 8 years ago and I look forward to have a hand in shaping policy and budget to ensure students receive the best possible education.



Bio

I am a proud father of three boys (ages 6, 4, and 2). My oldest is a 1st grader at Delaney. I've been a Wrentham resident since 2017, when I moved here with my wife when we were ready to start a family. My wife Jenna grew up in Wrentham and we knew this is where we wanted to lay down our roots. I'm an aerospace engineer and have over 17 years of corporate experience. I would leverage my professional experience working in teams to come to a consensus and do what is best for our children. I am also an assistant den leader for the Wrentham Pack 131 cub scouts and an assistant volunteer hockey coach. I have a Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a Masters degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Social Media

<u>www.mikehayek.com</u> (website) <u>Michael Hayek for Wrentham School Committee</u> (Facebook) <u>info@mikehayek.com</u> (email)

Dawn Doyle

Why are you running?

I believe deeply in the right for every child to receive a rigorous, high-quality education that also honors his/her developmental needs. I'm committed to transparency, accountability, and working tirelessly to address the challenges our schools face, whether it's navigating the budget, supporting new initiatives, or addressing the evolving needs of our community.



Bio

I am a mother, an educator, and someone who believes deeply in advocating for the rights of children. I hold a Masters Degree in Education, and I was a classroom teacher for 25 years. I have a deep understanding of curriculum and the inner-workings of schools. I am a member to the boards of both WEST and SEPAC, and I serve as the SEPAC representative to our School Council. I am also a homeroom parent and an active member of our PTO. I believe that teaching and learning should spark curiosity, foster a sense of belonging, and bring a sense of joy to all who enter the four walls of our schools. I believe that every child only has one chance to have a beautiful, precious childhood. If elected, I would fight to protect this precious gift.

Social Media

<u>www.doyleforwrentham.com</u> (website) <u>Dawn Doyle for School Committee</u> (Facebook)

Meaghan Drennen

Why are you running?

I am running for election to the Wrentham School Committee to ensure that my children and the rest of the children of this town receive the best education possible. My primary objectives if I'm elected are the following: support educational excellence, promote student wellbeing, invest in the best resources for students, increase transparency and involvement between the committee and parents in Wrentham, and enhance the facilities.



Social Media

<u>www.meaghandrennen.com</u> (website) <u>Meaghan Drennen for Wrentham Elementary</u> <u>School Committee</u> (Facebook)

Bio

I am a mother of two young children: Jake (7) and Christopher (5). My husband Pat and I relocated to Wrentham from Norfolk five years ago because we both love this town and wanted our children to grow up here with their cousins.

I have a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and earned several financial designations. I have over 17 years of professional work experience in research and investment management and would bring valuable experience to this role. I have always had a strong desire to give back to my community and have served my community in various ways over the past 15 years. In my free time, I enjoy being active with my family and golden retriever Bonnie. I'm an avid reader and believe strongly in increasing the literacy rates in our local community and beyond.

Housing Authority

5-year term - 1 opening, 0 candidate

The Housing Authority consists of five commissioners, each serving for 5year staggered terms. Four commissioners are elected by the voters and the fifth commissioner is appointed as provided in <u>section 5 of Chapter 121B</u> of the General Laws (e.g. one member of a housing authority shall be a tenant member appointed by the Select Board).

The Wrentham Housing Authority Housing manages and oversees public housing and affordable housing programs, ensuring that eligible individuals and families have access to safe and affordable housing options. It administers the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AVHP), maintains and manages public housing developments, and works to address the housing needs of low-income elderly/disabled individuals and families in Wrentham.

Candidates:

No candidates pulled or submitted nomination papers for this position.

About Write-In Candidates

A write-in candidate is not listed on the official ballot but asks voters to write their full name and address in the blank space provided for a particular office. Voters must physically write the name of the candidate and his or her address on the ballot rather than selecting a pre-printed name. Often, candidates will provide stickers with their names and addresses for voters to apply to a ballot.

A candidate who chooses to run for office as a write-in or sticker candidate should alert the town clerk in writing of his or her intent.

According to the Massachusetts' Secretary of State guide "How to run as a Write-In Candidate" "...if a voter misspells [the candidate's] name or address, the vote can still be counted, as long as the election worker can figure out the voter's intent" (<u>How to Run as a Write-In Candidate, Secretary</u> of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts).

A write-in or sticker candidate must receive the highest number of votes in a contested or uncontested race to win the seat.