

PRESENTED BY



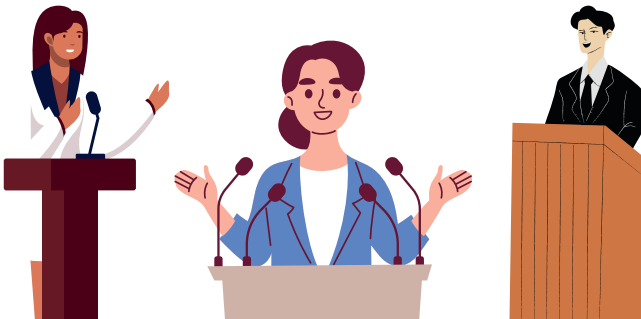
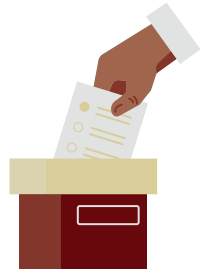
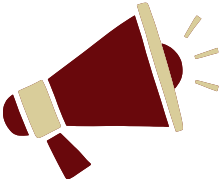
GUIDE TO

THE

2025

TOWN

ELECTION



**A primer on the seats up for election and the candidates running for them, as well as the two ballot questions.**



# WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

## Planning Board | 3 Candidates for 2 Seats

The Planning Board approves special permits & site plans and weigh in on issues related to zoning. The Board also hires & supervises the Planning Director and casts advisory votes on relevant Town Meeting Warrant Articles. *Term length: 5 years. Listen to our interviews at [Burlington Buzz on the Mic](#).*



With 17 years previously on the Planning Board, **Jack Kelly** believes he has the expertise and historical context to fill the void left by departing Board members.



**Greg Ryan** has served on the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee & Town Meeting and thinks streamlining the permitting process will help Burlington's economy long-term.



Jeremy Harrington has served on the Zoning Board of Appeals and Town meeting and says his long-term commitment to the town will help him bring a new vision to the Board.

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### Question 1: Shall the town vote to have its elected Town Clerk Office become an appointed Town Clerk Office of the town?

The Town Clerk is responsible for maintaining the town's records, overseeing elections and much more. Currently, Burlington's Town Clerk role is an elected office. The elected nature places certain limitations on the role, one which is that the Clerk is required to be a Burlington resident, thereby narrowing the potential applicant pool. That is the only requirement, however, for this essential town role, and proponents of Yes on Question 1 say making the position appointed will allow for more direct supervision and establish expectations around working hours, collaboration with other town departments, and other facets of the job that are not currently regulated. Opponents say an appointed Town Clerk might be subject to undue influence by the Select Board and/or Town Administrator, who would likely be the appointing authority. Another concern is that a non-resident might have a steeper learning curve in learning about the town and folding into its operations.

### Question 2: Shall the town consider repealing the prohibition of marijuana establishments as set forth in Article XIII, Section 1.42 of the Town of Burlington Bylaws? (This is a non-binding question.)

Question 2 asks whether or not voters support the lifting of a ban on recreational marijuana sales that was put in place by Town Meeting in 2017 after a state election where 54% of Burlington residents did not approve of allowing the legalization of recreational marijuana sales. This non-binding referendum vote will inform town officials and representatives as they consider whether or not to lift the ban and implement zoning that would allow recreational dispensaries. Medical dispensaries are currently allowed statewide but do not generate local tax revenue; recreational dispensaries can generate 3% in taxes to the municipality.

Proponents say the legalization of recreational dispensaries in town will generate tax revenue to the town in a time when many building projects are set to cost the town hundreds of millions of dollars and that this move will allow local regulation of sales. Opponents say the social impacts of marijuana use are ignored in this proposal and that having a dispensary in town could deter other businesses from wanting to locate in Burlington.

# WHAT IS TOWN MEETING?



## Approving the town's spending and bylaw changes

Town Meeting is Burlington's legislative structure. While most towns have an Open Town Meeting, where any citizen can come, engage in debate, and vote, Burlington has a Representative Town Meeting. This means voters elect neighbors to represent the interests of each precinct. There are 126 Town Meeting Members altogether, with 18 Members representing each of the town's seven precincts. Seats are filled on a rolling basis, with six per precinct opening each year.

Town Meeting is charged with approving the town budget line by line, the overall school budget, and other financial requests; they also approve additions and changes to the town's general and zoning bylaws. The body meets three times a year (often for multiple nights) in January, May (the annual budget meeting), and September. Learn about the candidates for Town Meeting by reading [their profiles](#).

## ALSO ON THE APRIL 5, 2025, BALLOT

### School Committee

Hire and supervise the Superintendent; set School District policy; collaborate with Superintendent to set School Department budget. Meets twice a month plus subcommittees.

*Melissa Massardo and Christine Monaco are looking to retain their seats this year; there is no challenger.*

### Town Moderator

Moderate Town Meeting according to Robert's Rules of Order, ensure orderly debate and voting. Meets multiple nights in January, May, and September.

*Incumbent Bill Beyer is running uncontested for this seat.*

### Board of Assessors

Assess real estate values, work with Select Board to set the tax rate for the town. Approve abatements. Meets once per month.

*Incumbent Cathy O'Neil is running uncontested for this single seat.*

### Recreation Commission

Hire & supervise Recreation Director, set policies, direction and budget for the Recreation Commission. Meets two Mondays per month.

*Steve Nelson is the sole candidate to keep his seat.*

### Select Board

Approve appointments to town offices + appointed Boards and Commissions, use of the Town Common, liquor license applications, utility work grants of location and tax levy. Supervise Town Administrator. Meets twice monthly.

*Current Select Board members, Mike Espejo and Nick Priest, are running uncontested to remain in their seats.*

### Board of Health

Set policy and direction for the Health Department, hire & supervise Director of Public Health, approve and administer special permits. Meets twice per month, plus subcommittees.

*Current members Gayle DaMore and Edward Weiner are running to keep their seats.*

### Library Board of Trustees

Set policies, direction, and budget for the library; hire and supervise the Library Director. Meets one Thursday per month.

*Rob Neufeld and Janice Cohen are seeking re-election in this uncontested race.*

### Constable

Arm of the law enforcement; serve papers, responsible for postings of official Warrants (such as Town Meeting Warrants).

*Incumbents William Pepicelli and Dennis Otis are running to fill the two vacant seats.*

# TIPS FOR BEING AN INFORMED VOTER

*When you vote in the local election, you're exercising your right to have a say in how your town is run. Here are some ways you can stay on top of things:*



## Stay in the Know All Year Round

Don't wait for election season to roll around! Your elected leaders are making decisions for you every day. Read the Buzz and stay informed throughout the year.



## On the Internet

Watch recorded municipal meetings on the [BCAT website](#), read or listen to the [Burlington Buzz Candidate Profiles](#), and visit the candidates' social media profiles and websites.



## Attend a Meeting


Head out to a meeting of the Board you're looking to learn more about. Look at the agendas each week and participate in Pubic Participation/Citizen Time.

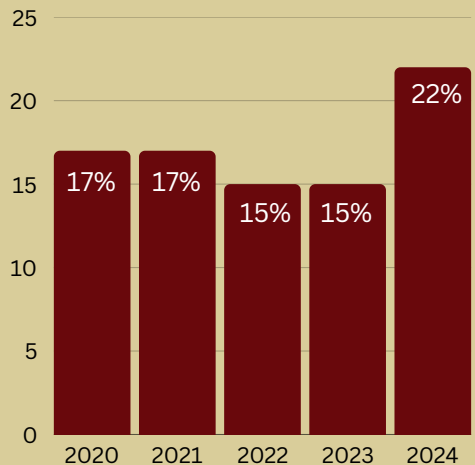


## Get to Know Your Town Meeting Members

How many of your Town Meeting precinct representatives can you get to know by name?

## KEY DATES

- **Mid-March** - Early mail-in and in-person voting begins
- **March 26** - Voter registration deadline
- **March 31** - Last day to request a mail-in ballot
- **April 5, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM**   
Local Election at Burlington High School



**BURLINGTON VOTER TURNOUT**