

Name \*

Name

First

First

Last

Last

(ID 39)

Email (will be kept private) \*

(ID 40)

Campaign website/Facebook page/ Etc. (optional)

(ID 41)

I'm a candidate for: \*

(choose)

of Assessors

Board

of Cemetery Commissioners

Board

Board of Health

Town Moderator

Municipal Light Board

School Committee

Select Board

Town Clerk

Town

Meeting

Trustees of the Public Library

Town Treasurer

Housing Authority

Select which office you are seeking from the drop-down list.

(ID 42)

I am running as a: \*

First-time candidate

Candidate for re-election

(ID 43)

I live in: \*

- Precinct 1
- Precinct 2
- Precinct 3
- Precinct 4
- Precinct 5
- Precinct 6
- Precinct 7
- Precinct 8

Indicate which Belmont Precinct you currently reside in.

(ID 45)

### Volunteer & community activities? (optional)

Feel free to list any volunteer or community activities you have engaged in. This could be serving on a committee, coaching/assistant coaching a youth team, volunteering for a civic/religious organization, etc. etc.

(ID 46)

### Candidate's Statement \*

Please provide a short statement (100-250 words) about why you are running and what you hope to accomplish in office. (You may re-use or expand upon your League of Women Voters statement if you have already written that!)

(ID 47)

### Accomplishments \*

Briefly: describe any accomplishments in your most recent term in office.

(ID 56)

### Your Precinct (optional)

If there are issues specific to your Precinct that you wish to address as a member of Town Meeting, please describe them here.

(ID 48)

### Balancing Belmont's Budget \*

Belmont derives the vast majority of its operating revenue from residential property taxes, the growth of which is capped at 2.5% annually (not including new growth). Given that inflation for local government has averages more than 2.5% for the last four decades and is currently running well above 2.5%, how can Belmont balance its budget without making drastic cuts to services such as education, recreation, roads and so on?

(ID 49)

### Building Belmont Businesses \*

In its report on Belmont, the Edward J. Collins Center at UMASS urged the Town's leadership to focus on commercial development and promoting commerce and industry in Belmont as a means of reducing the

town's near total reliance on residential property taxes to fund its operations. What are two ideas you have for how Belmont can increase its commercial tax base and promote sustained commercial development in Belmont?

(ID 50)

### Supporting Belmont Public Schools \*

Belmont's public schools are in fiscal crisis, with a projected \$886,000 deficit for fiscal year 2023 - a figure that is being driven by special education (SPED) costs and out of district placements. This has already prompted a hiring freeze and cuts to spending on school supplies. Further budget cuts could lead to layoffs of scores of instructors and staff, larger class sizes, reduced course offerings, higher student activity fees and so on. What do you feel is the best way to address this chronic problem? As a School Committee member, what would you do to help our district address this financial crisis?

(ID 52)

### Safe streets for Belmont \*

After more than a decade of study and discussion, the Belmont Community Path is moving forward. However, Belmont faces larger challenges in making its streets safe for cyclists and pedestrians, as well as motorists. What do you believe is the best approach to making Belmont's streets and byways safe for everyone?

(ID 54)

### Government reform \*

Recently the Edward J. Collins Center for Public Management at UMASS released a report on Belmont's Town Government that recommended changes to the way our town is run. Among other things, the Collins Center called for Belmont to create a government organization that is more centralized; formalize a Financial Management Team; and replace elected positions with appointed ones, including the Town Treasurer and Board of Assessors. Have you read the Collins report? And do you believe reforms are needed to Belmont's government? If so, what reforms do you believe should be a priority?

(ID 55)

### Strategic electrification \*

Strategic electrification is a strategy that is attracting a lot of attention. Could you explain your understanding of this concept, whether you support it and why you believe that is it important (or not) to ratepayers?

(ID 57)

### Community Health \*

How would you contribute to the Board in realizing our health and climate goals for Belmont?

(ID 81)

### Belmont Public Schools - non budget priorities \*

Putting aside the well established financial challenges facing the Belmont Public Schools, what are your top 3 non-financial/budget priorities for the district?

(ID 82)

## Housing \*

In addition to its budgetary challenges, Belmont is struggling with a shortage of affordable housing and housing prices. Almost a third (31%) of Belmont households are “cost burdened” meaning they pay 30% or more of their monthly income on housing costs. Also, high housing costs put Belmont out of reach for many prospective home owners, meaning that most people who work in Belmont cannot afford to live in town. As Belmont works to update its Housing Production Plan, what do you think is the best way for the town to promote the creation of more, and more affordable housing?

(ID 83)

## A Proposition 2 1/2 Override for Belmont? \*

The current Select Board and the Warrant Committee have not been supportive of holding an override vote this April to avoid cuts to school programs. Given that a Proposition 2 1/2 override is needed to balance the town's books, what do you think would be the best time to put such a question before voters? How can Belmont avoid deep cuts to school and town services while it waits to put an override before voters?

[Submit Your Answers]