

Newtonville Area Council Candidate Statements 2019 Election



Vote on November 5, 2019

Ask for an Area Council Ballot at Your Polling Station

KIRILL ALSHEWSKI



I'm a new member of the community as I moved to Newtonville with my family 18 months ago. I hold two Bachelor's degrees from UMass Amherst and a Master's degree from Columbia University. I currently work as a Senior Data Engineer at a biotech company in Boston.

One of the most contentious issues in Newtonville is new development. I completely agree that we need to "refresh" Washington Street, attract new businesses and bring in more tax revenue. However, Newtonville needs responsible development that resonates with its infrastructural, economic, and aesthetic contexts. Simply "if we build it they will come" will not work. In addition, community feedback should be taken into account. After all, it is we who will continue to live here and not the developer.

If elected, I'll focus on:

- sustainable new developments that conform to neighborhood character;
- improvement/beautification of public green spaces; and
- using technology to create an eco-friendly and sustainable community.

JESS ARCHER



Public service has been a long-term goal for me, and I would be honored to continue on this path by being elected to the Newtonville Area Council.

I have been living in Newtonville for around 3 years with my husband, our roommate, 2 rabbits and at some point, a dog. Before that, I lived in different parts of Newton and Watertown, including Newton Corner for 6 years. I feel that Newtonville has become my true home.

I am an interested citizen on the Newton Human Rights Commission. When not attending meetings, I table at events or contribute to projects such as our Social Justice Reading Lists.

I want Newtonville to represent all citizens, including young professionals who wish to remain in or move to our community. This can only be done with more affordable housing, greater options in transportation and candid dialogues between citizens and government. I would like to be part of the solution.

VOTE for me and the "Pick-6" for a vibrant Newtonville!

DAVID BRONSTEIN



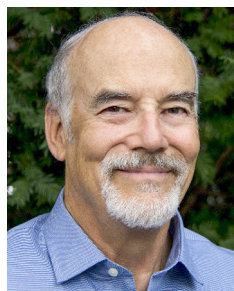
I was fortunate to have grown up in Newton (Franklin, Warren, the second North) as my parents were able to buy a 2-family home in West Newton. After living in Boston area, my wife, Jennifer Hyde, and I settled back in Newtonville to raise our kids; now a sophomore and senior in the

high school. We chose Newtonville because of its diversity, ability to walk to the schools, and the village with its stores and restaurants.

I work as a technology project manager, and have always had a strong interest in our area's transportation history. As a candidate for the NAC, I want to ensure conversations are taking place that represent the variety of opinions of ALL of our residents. I believe there is a bright future ahead for Newtonville and am looking forward to the possibilities that we can achieve.

VOTE for me and the "Pick-6" for a vibrant Newtonville!

PETER BRUCE



As President of the Area Council, I've worked hard to express opposition to overly large and expensive developments, and thus represent the will of most Newtonvillers. I was lead author and analyst of the NAC Survey, and stood up to the Establishment when they tried to ignore its findings. In the future,

I'll urge the NAC to monitor and compare the realities of new developments with their promises.

I ask for your vote so I can continue to represent you, inform you about what's going on in the city, help beautify Newtonville, and make the City more responsive to your needs.

As a cab driver, canvasser, and former political science professor with a Ph. D from MIT, I bring critical thinking and a detailed knowledge of Newton's people, traffic, and parking systems to my work as councilor. I'm also a U.S. Army veteran.

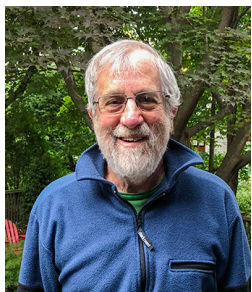
DANA D'AGOSTINO



My husband, Tony and I have lived on Cabot Street for over 30 years. We feel very fortunate to have raised a family here, where all three children attended Newton Public Schools (Cabot, Day, Bigelow and Newton North). I have a degree from Boston University Questrom School of

Management and helped grow a small business over the last 18 years. I was elected to the Newtonville Area Council (NAC) in 2017 and have been a strong voice for fiscal responsibility and transparency by developers throughout the Newtonville Area. During my term, I was involved in many NAC initiatives, including a community outreach meeting in late 2018 and the development and implementation of the Envisioning Washington Street Public Opinion Survey in 2018 and 2019. I am the acting Treasurer and this year a co-organizer of Newtonville Village Day, an annual event that celebrates our community.

BILL DAIN



My name is Bill Dain. My wife Ruth and I have lived in Newtonville since 1972. We raised two children here; one of whom lives nearby with two of our grandchildren.

For many years we have been involved in Newton politics. I am currently retired, but worked my

whole social work career in Boston, starting in 1967, with low income individuals and families, some of whom were homeless.

The lack of adequate housing in metro-Boston is of crisis proportions. Newton should do its part. Let us be fair-minded about housing. Let us care about those who have very limited resources and struggle to survive. Let us advocate for reasonable "smart development". Let us build a more just society.

VOTE for me and the "Pick-6" for a more vibrant Newtonville!

CAROLYN GABBAY



I am a 20-year resident of the Newtonville area. Since retiring from a national law practice ~2 years ago, my activities include:

- Tutoring in the Newton Free Library English Language Learners program;
- Volunteering in Newton's Food Pantry;
- Working with a charity that abolishes medical debt for financially challenged individuals;
- Participating in the Opt Out Newton campaign; and
- Serving on the Blue Ribbon Commission on Elected Officials' Compensation.

If elected to the Newtonville Area Council, I will seek to:

- Promote rational, right-sized development balancing commercial tax base expansion, affordable housing and residents' quality of life;
- Mitigate the impact of the vaping and marijuana industries on Newton's youth;
- Preserve green spaces, particularly in connection with the proposed NewCAL senior center replacement;
- Advocate for transparency and fiscal responsibility, including with regard to addressing the City's \$1.4 Billion unfunded liabilities for retiree benefits; and
- Press the City Council and Mayor to respect local residents' sentiments.

JEROME HAJJAR



My name is Jerry Hajjar and I am running for Newtonville Area Council. I am a civil engineer and professor at Northeastern University. My wife and I raised our daughter in Newtonville. She attended Newton Public Schools and our family has volunteered with the schools and other community

organizations.

Newtonville is a wonderful neighborhood with a great history and promise for an exciting future. For Newtonville to flourish, we should embrace smart, sustainable growth that will foster:

- A robust core with thriving new businesses;
- Improved transit service that better connects Newtonville with the region;
- Green common spaces;
- Safe streets for pedestrians and bikers;

- A dynamic farmer's market; and
- A diverse array of dining and retail options.

As a civil engineer, I have led teams to tackle issues related to sustainable buildings, smart transportation systems, and a clean environment. VOTE for me and the "Pick-6" for a vibrant Newtonville!

MARTINA JACKSON



I have lived in Newtonville most of my adult life and was a member of the Newtonville Advisory Committee, chair of the Newton Board of License Commissioners, and reporter on a local weekly newspaper covering the Newton School Committee, City Council and Massachusetts State House. I chaired both the Ward 2 and the Newton Democratic City Committees. Now, I chair the Democratic State Committee Public Policy subcommittee. I also ran successful campaigns for our current state representative, state senator and several city councilors, including Marcia Johnson and Mayor Tom Concannon. I also opposed the effort to eliminate locally elected ward councilors. For the last six months, I have been a (replacement) member of the Newtonville Area Council.

I favor community engagement in development that preserves Newtonville's historic character, while enhancing its affordability, accessibility and diversity.

HOWARD JOHNSON



My name is Howard Johnson and I am running for Area Council because I think we are ready for Newtonville to enter a great new phase of vibrant community life if we can all work together to make it happen. My wife and I are deeply invested in Newtonville: we've lived in the same house on Bemis St for 36 years, raised our 2 children here and put them through Newton's great schools, and hope to downsize and spend the rest of our lives in Newton.

The area council can play a vital role in helping focus everyone's efforts on building community and seizing the positive opportunities that are emerging in Newton. The soul of a neighborhood is its people — our neighbors, not buildings. To realize this great potential, not just Newtonville, but all of Newton will have to work together. I'd like to do what I can to help.

VOTE for me and the "Pick-6" for a vibrant Newtonville!

SUSAN REISLER



I have been a member of the council since 2015 and ask for your vote for a third term.

Developments that are out-of-scale threaten our village with excessive density, traffic and parking problems, and higher rents and taxes. To find out what residents really want

for Newtonville, the NAC held a charrette, designed the Envisioning Washington Street survey, reached out to nearly 11,000 households, wrote a detailed report about the results, held a public meeting, and presented our findings to the City Council. I'm proud to say that I was a key participant in this two-year effort.

Going forward, I anticipate that residents want to shape the Washington Street vision plan, the proposed new zoning ordinance (which will greatly densify Newton), the issues around the Senior Center, and the likelihood of an override. I hope you will let me be your voice for another term.

PAM SHUFRO



I have been a Newtonville resident since 1976. At that time, I was a teacher and my husband worked in state government. With modest incomes, we managed to buy a "fixer upper" in Newtonville. Sad to say, that is no longer possible, as homes are currently unaffordable to people with middle-class incomes, let alone

those with less. While developers and some city officials have promised "affordability" and "diversity of housing options," the result has been very little net gain in affordability, as teardowns displace residents who cannot afford rents of \$3000 and \$4000 (or more) per month. I will continue to advocate for housing that welcomes residents of ALL income levels, prioritizing middle and low income families and seniors.

I am a founding board member of the Claflin/Cabot After School Program and a past PTO leader. Now a retired educator, I hold degrees from Columbia and Harvard Universities.

NIELS STEENSTRUP



I have been a Newtonville resident for 13-years with my wife Andrea, four kids (all Newton Public Schools) and a plethora of dogs. Prior to Newton, we lived in towns surrounding major cities in the US and Europe — inspiring what I feel we should expect from Newton-

ville.

We could have more. People spend time and socialize in an environment that is easy to access and aesthetically pleasing. A Newtonville that is more pedestrian and bike friendly, has more outdoor space and diverse retail and restaurants will attract more people and enhance this thriving community. Possibilities include wider sidewalks, farmers markets, pedestrian days, outdoor cafés, food trucks, benches, a playground, trees, green space and enhanced cross walks.

I work in aviation with a keen interest in urban planning, architecture, and design. VOTE for me and the “Pick-6” for a vibrant Newtonville!

KARTIKEY TRIVEDI



I’ve lived in Newtonville with my wife and two kids (16 and 13) for 15 years. As an immigrant, the Newtonville Community’s welcoming village characteristics and progressive mindset have made us feel at home away from home. I’m an engineer from Mumbai University and presently work

as Deputy COO at MassHealth.

Newton faces some fundamental challenges, such as cultural change, antiquated infrastructure, asymmetric population density (Northside vs Southside), and affordable housing for the middle class. While there is no silver bullet to solve all of the challenges at once, we as a community need to work together with the City Administration to address these challenges.

If elected, I will work with my NAC colleagues to voice the concerns of the Newtonville Community at City Hall on the following:

- Urbanization — preserving village characteristics with reasonable development;
- Antiquated infrastructure — NewCAL center for active seniors;
- Traffic and transportation.