

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mayor's Newton Update

Dr. Anna Nolin: Newton's Next School Superintendent



It's official.

Dr. Anna Nolin this evening signed a three-year contract to become the next Superintendent of the Newton Public Schools. She will lead a team of 2,100 plus educators, staff and administrators and oversee the education of 11,700 plus students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

Her first official day on the job in Newton is Saturday, July 1. Until then, Interim Superintendent Kathy Smith will continue leading our schools through this critical transition period.

Dr. Nolin comes to Newton after spending twenty years in the Natick Public Schools, the past five as Superintendent. She has served as a teacher, middle school principal and Assistant Superintendent.

(Photo: With, from left, School Committee members Cove Johnstone Davis, Anping Shen, Christopher Brezski, Dr. Anna Nolin, School Committee Chair Tamika Olszewski, Vice Chair Kathleen Shields, and School Committee members Emily Prenner and Rajeev Parlikar. School Committee member Paul Levy attended the meeting virtually.)



I joined my colleagues on the School Committee in voting unanimously to hire Dr. Nolin after being impressed by her commitment to and deep experience with reinforcing high standards, providing support for diverse learners, nurturing deep respect, personalizing learning, using data to inform decisions, and engaging collaboratively with teachers and staff, parents/guardians and students, city colleagues and community members.

This is an exciting time for the Newton Public Schools. I look forward to working closely with Dr. Nolin to build on the excellence that is the hallmark of our schools.

Find Dr. Nolin's resume [here](#).

Override

Voting

Early In-Person Voting Starts This Friday, March 3

Early, in-person voting for the March 14 Override Election will begin at City Hall this Friday, March 3 and run through Tuesday, March 7.

Voters can cast their early, in-person ballots at City Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays: Friday, March 3, Monday, March 6, and Tuesday, March 7. Weekend early, in-person voting will be open 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on both Saturday, March 4 and Sunday, March 5.

Not Registered to Vote?

The last day to register to vote for the Override is this Saturday, March 4 at 5:00 p.m. You can register in-person at the Clerk's Office at City Hall or on-line [here](#).



Vote By Mail

Prefer to vote by mail? Mail in ballots can be requested through Tuesday, March 7 at 5:00 p.m. (As of yesterday afternoon, 11,711 mail-in ballots have been requested.)

After voting, place the mail-in ballot in the inner envelope and sign the envelope. Ballots can then be returned by mail (envelopes are addressed and postage is provided), placed in either of the two secure drop boxes at the front of City Hall, or dropped in person at the City Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Find more information on mail-in voting [here](#).

Vote on Election Day

Polls across the City will be open on election day, Tuesday, March 14 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Two Polling Location Changes

There is a change in two polling locations.

- Voters in Ward 2, Precinct 3 who had voted at the Senior Center will instead vote at Cabot School, 229 Cabot Street. (This is a temporary change while

the new Senior Center is constructed with a ribbon cutting anticipated late summer/early fall 2024.)

- Voters in Ward 3, Precinct 2 who had voted at the Peirce Elementary School will now permanently vote at Temple Shalom across Temple Street from Peirce.

Find your polling location [here](#). (Scroll down to the bottom of the page.)

Click on the video below for a concise primer on early voting in Newton from NewTV News Director Jenn Adams.



Know the Facts

With voting underway, we're getting a lot of inquiries for factual information about the override from people who are looking at mailers, social media, listserves, emails, texts, etc.

We encourage you to be well informed on the override tax impacts as well as the actual projects and programs to be funded. Please go to the City website at newtonma.gov for accurate information and questions to frequently asked questions, or click [here](#).

To see the financial impact for your address, please use the City's Override Calculator [here](#).

Next Year's School Budget

The NPS administration is providing the School Committee tonight with more information about the impacts in next year's school budget if the operating Override on March 14 is not passed by voters.

You can watch the meeting live on [NewTV](#) (if it's still in session when you open this Update) or watch a recording at vimeo.com/newtvgov.

Do You Have Questions About the Override Proposal?

We welcome questions.

Join us virtually for a Q & A this Thursday, March 2, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Join the zoom webinar at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85241769582>.

Join us in person at Horace Mann Elementary School, 225 Nevada St., next Wednesday, March 8 at 6:00 p.m.

You can also email us questions at override@newtonma.gov.

Al Fresco Dining Here to Stay

A silver lining of the pandemic was enjoying restaurant dining outdoors, so we have made it permanent in the City of Newton.

Our City Planning and Law staff, working with the City Council, created a new permanent ordinance because the COVID-era state emergency order that enabled us to convert on-street parking spaces into outdoor dining areas expires at the end of next month, April 2023.



Newton's new permanent outdoor dining ordinance supports our restaurants, with the added benefit of attracting more foot traffic to dining, shopping, and personal services in our villages. It codifies the City's authority. The ordinance also specifies how zoning regulations apply to outdoor dining areas in the public way. (By the way, the restaurants also pay a fee for using the parking spaces.)

From this year on, outdoor dining will begin in Newton on April 1.

Special thanks go to the City Council which unanimously approved the updates last week, Planning Director Barney Health and his team, Assistant City Solicitor Andrew Lee, Councilor Andreae Downs, Chair of the Public Safety & Transportation Committee, and Councilor Deb Crossley, Chair of the Zoning and Planning Committee.

As the leader of Newton Police Department's Problem Oriented Policing (POP) unit, Sgt. Melanie Rooney is responding to crises with POP unit member Sarah Eknaian, the Police Department clinician. Together they do the critical follow up work to understand underlying problems and develop solutions to help our residents. Today, as she nears her 23rd anniversary as a Newton Police Officer,



Sgt. Rooney received a commendation from the Metro Boston Crisis Intervention Team Training and Technical Assistance Center for this important work. Congratulations and thank you, Sgt. Rooney.

(Photo: With, from left, Police Chief John Carmichael, Department Clinician Sarah Eknaian and Sgt. Melanie Rooney.)

Need Help with Green Home Energy Projects?

We Can Help:

- The Energy Coaching Program: The City's Energy Coach manages the energy coaching volunteer program in which Newton residents sign up for free 1-to-1 consultations on their home and transportation energy/climate questions with either City staff or a volunteer Energy Coach. Consultations are held via phone or zoom, and range in topics such as reducing electricity bills, installing heat pumps or solar panels, and undertaking large-scale green renovations. There have been over 470 consultations since the program launched in early 2021.
- A Vetted Partner Mass Save Home Performance Contractor: In early 2022, the Climate and Sustainability Team issued an RFQ to partner with a Mass Save-approved Home Performance Contractor to provide high quality and expanded home energy assessments as well as promote the other 4 Our Future measures. As a result of this effort, the City contracted with Endless Energy. Since the signing of our contract in summer 2022, Endless Energy has provided Mass Save home energy assessments that include reference and material relating to further 4 Our Future actions, and has delivered a variety of home energy marketing materials to Newton residents.
- Vetted Partner Heat Pump Installers: As a continuation of our participation in the Mass Clean Energy Center HeatSmart program, the City has maintained relationships with two heat pump installation companies, New England Ductless and Muirfield Mechanical. Over 160 heat pumps have been installed by our partner installers since the launch of the HeatSmart program, and many more residents have learned about this technology for future application or have chosen to install heat pumps with other contractors.

Find information about all these programs at newtonma.gov/4ourfuture.

The Festival of Color

Happy Holi to our Hindu neighbors.

Join the Newton festivities:

- A Holi festival of color to welcome spring with artmaking, performances, food, dancing, and music this Sunday, March 5 from noon to 4:00 p.m. hosted by the New Art Center, 61 Washington Park, Newtonville
- A Holi festival of dance, art and music and Holi colors in front of Newton City Hall on Saturday, March 11 from noon to 1:00 p.m. hosted by students from Newton South and Newton North High Schools. (Their recommendation is to play Holi colors safely by wearing protective eyewear and bringing towels to wipe color powder.)



Heartbreaking News from Syria and Turkey

The news from Syria and Turkey continues to be heartbreaking with more than 47,000 people killed under rubble felled by powerful earthquakes.

I want to lift up the message from the Newtonians who stood vigil in Newton Centre for the thousands lost and those left broken hearted and those organizing and contributing to **relief efforts in Syria and Turkey**.

If you want to help, WCVB-TV put together a list of organizations to consider at WCVB.com/TurkeySyria.

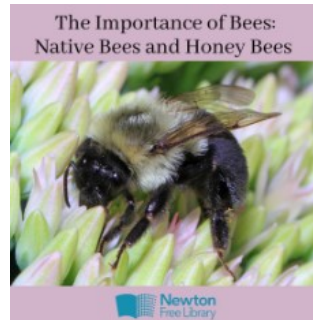
Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. Join the **League of Women Voters of Newton for a conversation with Newton's State Legislators** – Sen. Cynthia Creem and State Representatives Ruth Balsler, Kay Khan and John Lawn. The free, virtual discussion about legislation the delegation is following and efforts they are spearheading is on Monday, March 6 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Register for the event [here](#) and find more information at LWVN.org.

P.P.S. Have you filled out the **Annual City Census**? Responding to the Annual Census keeps your voting status active and ensures that the City Clerk's Office

can provide you with proof of residency. Census forms were mailed to every residential household in Newton as required by State law. Complete the form and return it to the Newton City Clerk's Office, 1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton, 02459, or respond online using your Unique ID found under the barcode at the top right corner of your Census. Questions? Find more information at newtonma.gov/census.



P.P.P.S. Learn **why bees are important**, what challenges they face, how we can enhance their environment with pollinator gardens and much more. Join Lindsay Miller Barranco from the van Englesdorp Bee Lab at the University of Maryland on Wednesday, March 8 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for a virtual discussion cosponsored by Green Newton and Newton Conservators. Register for the program [here](#).

P.P.P.S. **Porchfest**, the annual music festival on porches and yards in Auburndale, Lower Falls and Waban, is returning this spring on Saturday, June 3. Interested in performing or volunteering the use of your property? Sign up at newton.porchfest.info.



Mayor Ruthanne Fuller | 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459

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