



Compiled by the Bedford Public Library's Reference Department in conjunction with Town Clerk Sally Kellar, the Planning & Zoning Department, and Assistant Town Manager/Director of Strategic Initiatives Jeanne Walker.

2024 Candidates for Town and School Offices

Town of Bedford

TOWN COUNCIL

(3 SEATS) (3 YEARS)

Phil Greazzo

Becky Soule

Michael Strand

William R. Granfield

TOWN MODERATOR

(1 SEAT) (2 YEARS)

Henry Veilleux

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

(1 SEAT) (3 YEARS)

Lauren Messina

Lee Joyce

TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUNDS

(1 SEAT) (3 YEARS)

Ken Peterson

SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST

(1 SEAT) (6 YEARS)

Hugh Donovan

Bedford School District

2024 Candidates for Town and School Offices

SCHOOL BOARD

(2 SEATS) (3 YEARS)

Melinda Bator

Kara LaMarche

Sheila MacDonald

Information about the candidates was provided voluntarily by the candidates.

We did not receive responses from the following candidates: Ken Peterson.

Articles on the Town Election Ballot

Article 2. Charter Revision Proposed by the Charter Commission

Article 3. Zoning Articles

Article 4. Issuance of Long Term Debt for Construction of South River Road Police and Fire Complex and Renovations at the Safety Complex and Town Office Building

Text of the articles on the town ballot was provided by the Town Clerk and Planning & Zoning Department. Additional information about Article 4 was provided by the Assistant Town Manager/Director of Strategic Initiatives.

CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

Phil Greazzo

Contact: I can be reached at 603-669-0494 with any questions or issues anyone would like to discuss.

Profession: Small Business Owner

Political Experience: Town Council - 5 years; Manchester Alderman - 4 years; State Representative - 2 years

Incumbent? Yes

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

I believe that in order to ensure the town operates effectively, efficiently, and transparently, it needs people who live by that to serve our community. Any given year we face increased taxes in order to pay for infrastructure issues, increased costs, and a number of unforeseen items. We must have residents on the council who look out for the needs of the community, the bottom line, and the impact an inflated and unfocused budget has on us all.

Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?

The biggest issue for this election is whether or not the voters choose to build a new safety complex. That is a multi year project with a multi million dollar cost. If that measure passes, I would like to remain on the council to ensure that it stays on budget, or under budget if possible.

The other issue we face is related to the need for expanded fire department services. Specifically ambulatory services related to the number of nursing homes, assisted living and care facilities we have in town. The calls for service from those facilities are overwhelming. I will work to require those facilities to provide their own ambulance service, just as they are required to provide doctors and nurses on staff. The taxpayers are carrying the undue burden of subsidizing these businesses and the safety of their customers.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?

I have served in various elected positions for many years and my focus has always been to focus on what is needed and how to responsibly achieve that for the taxpayer.

I take that same approach as a small business owner having to focus on needs versus wants to achieve the most efficient and effective results in order to be successful. I apply that principal along with being open and honest in handling the issues we face as a community.

CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

Becky Soule

Contact: <https://beckysoule.com>

Profession: Business Owner - Becky's Frame Studio on New Boston Rd

Organizations/Affiliations: Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Travel Soccer Coach, CCD Teacher, Bedford Residents Association, Volunteer for Bedford Cares

Political Experience: This is my second run for office. I monitor town issues closely and vote regularly.

Incumbent? No

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

I am running for Bedford Town Council because I love Bedford and care deeply for the town and its residents. My children grew up and were educated here and I currently run a business here.

Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?

Current issues include taxes, helping older people stay in their homes, improving town services, and most importantly maintaining local control with a goal of preserving our small town atmosphere.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?

I have run a successful business in Bedford and have volunteered with various groups over the years mentioned above. This has given me experience in dealing with people.

CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

Michael Strand

Contact: www.strandforbedford.com

Profession: Sales & HR Director for Staffing Firm

Organizations/Affiliations: BAC, BMBL, BMC, NAACP

Political Experience: Bedford Town Council, Bedford Citizen Rep. on PFAS Commission

Incumbent? Yes

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

I am running for Town Council again because I believe we have unfinished business on the Council, and in Bedford. Challenges range from compensation bonus programs for Town employees, including police, fire & DPW, to facilities and taxation issues we must address to keep our town safe, sustainable, and affordable for both working families and seniors.

I am running because I continue to believe we are the best Town in New Hampshire to raise kids; run a business; and live, work, & play. I also believe in equal representation.

We will only achieve a government capable of representing the interests of working families when working families are reflected in the government.

Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?

Current Issues

- Long-term Planning, Property Taxes, & Infrastructure
- Staffing, Compensation, & Retention
- Public Safety & Facilities

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?

Experienced in Staffing, Contracts, & Personnel Management

- Managed Successful Start-Up Staffing Firm for 10+ years
- Led New Hampshire & New England companies through the worst labor shortage in 40 years
- Partnered with companies of all sizes across industries, including non-profit and public sector
- Proficient in drafting, analyzing, & reviewing labor and staffing contracts

Serves on the Bedford Town Council

- Believes in local governance and control
- Lower property taxes; Bedford is 3rd lowest tax rate in New Hampshire
- Local challenges municipalities face when costs are downshifted by the state
- Relationship between Federal and municipal funding
- Understands staffing & infrastructure challenges

Serves on the State PFAS Commission as Citizen Representative

- Saint Gobain announced pending closure
- No taxation on PFAS Remediation (work in progress)
- Expanded Clean Water Infrastructure
- Close Loopholes for multinational corporations to avoid responsibility
- Local, State, & Federal Advocacy

CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

William R. Granfield

Contact: billforbedfordnh@gmail.com

Profession: Contracting Officer, U.S. Air Force

Organizations/Affiliations: Member of the Massachusetts Bar,
Member of the National Contract Management Association

Political Experience: I served on the Historic District Commission in 2019. I have also served in various policy capacities at the Federal level and have a lot of experience with planning, budgeting negotiation, and bid and proposal review.

Incumbent? No

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

My wife and I have lived in Bedford for nearly a decade and my family has lived in Town for over 20 years. We have two young children who attend the School District. I love Bedford the way it is, but change is inevitable. As someone who will live in Town for the rest of my life, I want to ensure that we make smart choices for our future while preserving the Bedford we all cherish.

Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?

Bedford is at a turning point and on the cusp of a massive capital investment with a brand-new Police Station and Fire substation. If the voters so decide, I will ensure that every dollar spent under my watch provides the best value for the hardworking citizen taxpayers of our Town. I have had issues with how the Town conducts bids and proposals and while they do their best I wish to work with the Town Staff to ensure competitive bid processes are followed and multiple bids are obtained to the maximum extent possible.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?

As a public servant for close to a decade, I am in charge of the stewardship of millions of Federal tax dollars. It is my job to ensure that every dollar spent complies with the rigorous Federal procurement standards. I believe these skills will perfectly transfer to protect our tax dollars here in Bedford.

The Town Council has oversight of any award over \$100,000. I will ensure that any contract before the Council meets high standards and receives as much competition as possible. My professional job requires that I assist with budget planning and programming on multi-million dollar efforts. These skills will transfer to my role on the Town Council during budget planning and contract award reviews.

CANDIDATE FOR TOWN MODERATOR

Henry Veilleux

Contact: hveilleux@sheehan.com

Profession: Government Affairs Consultant

Organizations/Affiliations: Board of Directors - Granite YMCA;
Board of Directors - Crotched Mountain Foundation

Political Experience: none

Incumbent? No

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

I've served as an assistant moderator for several years now . The incumbent is not running again. Bedford has a great team of volunteers that help run our elections. I want to continue to help and take on a leadership role.

Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?

I want to make sure Bedford continues to have the best-run elections in the state! We are the largest polling place in the state. From checking voters in, to processing absentee ballots, to registering voters on election day, to answering questions, to counting up all the votes once the polls close... It requires a lot of organizing and training of volunteers! We have new poll pads to check people in quicker. We will soon be able to purchase new ballot counting devices. All of this to insure efficiency and accuracy.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?

I've been helping out with Bedford elections for several years and have learned all the different aspects of election day. I've also been to the NH Municipal Association moderator training days. I'm familiar with the election laws. I've been through training on how to run town meetings and deliberative sessions.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Lauren E. Messina

Contact: LaurenGagnonMessina@gmail.com

Profession: Cosmetologist, Home Educator, Farmer

Organizations/Affiliations: 4-H

Political Experience: limited

Incumbent? No

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

I believe if we are going to make suggestions, then we should be willing to be a part of the solution. This is why I would like to join the team of advisors in town.

When agricultural rights were threatened, my decision to stand outside the polls for twelve hours with five kids, a pet rooster, and numerous hand painted signs was spurred on by my desire to teach my kids firsthand that if they're willing to stand by truths and do the work, then even children can have a say in what happens in their lives.

With Edmund Burke's quote, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing," ringing through my head, we jumped head first into town politics!

Farming has taught us that our wellbeing is directly related to the quality of what we consume, and my children eat up books like my goats devour your Christmas trees! We are transformed by what we read like travelers picking up accents.

If given the chance, I'd be honored to join those making decisions on what we deem of value to feed our minds each time we settle into a new book.

Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?

As library trustee, I would encourage transparency while upholding our First Amendment rights. Our community has a variety of cultures and beliefs, and while the diversity in our library provides a place where we feel welcome to read about what is familiar to us and gives us the opportunity to experience life from the viewpoints of others, the visibility of themes and language inside each book is lacking. No one should have to get halfway through a book before realizing that it contains triggering speech or concepts that conflict with their personal belief systems.

In an age where so much information is thrown at us uninvited, I'd suggest we give people better tools to make more informed decisions on what they checkout. This could be achieved by attaching themed labels inside the cover of each book to highlight potential trigger warnings and other specific subject matter while still providing anonymity for the patron. The system could function by alerting patrons to any number of subcategories, in much the same way as hashtags do. It would offer a quick glimpse of the item's content, quite different from a synopsis on the back of a book or film.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?

My husband Tim and I were born and raised in Bedford, and have always considered the Bedford Public Library one of our town's most valuable treasures. Aside from the Dump, it's certainly our most frequented stop in town! The library has forever been my happy place, and now that we're raising five avid readers, we spend hours at a time there nearly every week.

As a home educator, I have been thrilled to see how advanced and comprehensive our library has become. After ten years of regularly supplementing our kids' education with the library's numerous resources, I am especially aware of what our library offers from the perspective of a teacher, reader, and parent. In each of these roles, I've seen firsthand how the knowledge contained in books can transform a child's life. Children are our greatest resource, and in a world enthralled by fast-paced technology, I would hope to help my community access the books that are right for where they are in life's journey, learn deeply from them, and keep the joy of reading alive.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Lee Joyce

Contact: I can be reached at leejoycelibrary@gmail.com

Profession: Associate Director of Admission at Saint Anselm College

Organizations/Affiliations: Bedford Public Library, NH Library Trustees Association, New England Association for College Admission Counseling, National Association for College Admission Counseling, Saint Anselm College

Political Experience: None

Incumbent? Yes

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

I am running for Trustee of the Library because I wish to help make sure the library is well-run for years to come. In the almost 25 years my family has lived in Bedford, we have been plugged into the schools through my husband Ed's jobs at McKelvie and then Lurgio Middle Schools. But our other love has been the library. It has been a wonderful source of story-time sessions, study spaces, museum passes, online resources, a place to connect with friends, and lots and lots of books. It is an incredible asset in our community and I like to imagine future generations using the library as a resource for community, education, and enjoyment.

Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?

As a Trustee of the Library, I will continue supporting its efficient and intentional operation. The library has a long standing history of good management; I will work to see it continues that way. As current Interim Library Trustee, I understand that much of what makes a good library is its director and staff - ours are wonderful! I am committed to keeping the library on budget, ensuring that our shared resources are excellent, and being attentive to patrons' good experiences. Currently, one of the most frequent requests made by patrons of the library is a private, sound-proof space for online meetings. The director and trustees are working to make that happen.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?

Before returning to work as a full-time college admission counselor, I worked part-time as a circulation clerk and book-shelver at the Bedford Library. I loved the job! There was a sense of cheery camaraderie among the staff and a drive to keep the library functioning like a well-oiled machine. Those years gave me an insider's view of all the little things done to keep a library running smoothly. My experience as a Trustee of the library provides a different view - one which supports the work of the library so that it is intentional and effective. Both experiences gave me a deep appreciation of the importance of having an excellent library director in place. My full-time job involves helping enroll a freshman class at Saint Anselm College. I read and assess college applications and oversee the college's student tour guides. I visit high schools all over New England to meet with guidance counselors and students, often in school libraries, to talk about college opportunities. I am committed to institutions such as libraries and schools because they are important parts of society, ones that build community and good citizens.

SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST

Hugh Donovan

Contact: 6038587351, hugh.donovan@juno.com

Profession: Retired

Organizations/Affiliations: Society for Clinical Data Management (former chair), Extra Miler Club

Political Experience:

None. I have been a Supervisor of the Checklist for the past four years but it is not a political position. It is critical that SOC's perform their duties without any political bias and work to ensure that everyone who is qualified to register to vote can do so if they wish. This is definitely the case within Bedford.

Incumbent? Yes

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

I have decided to run for re-election in order to continue to giving back to the Bedford community and to build upon the foundation that we have built within the past four years. We ensure that everyone who wishes to vote should be able to, provided they meet the statutory requirements. Beyond that I see it as our role to facilitate residents registering and voting. We have re-instituted visits to nursing homes and visited seven facilities in February, 2024 to register residents and assist them in the completion of a ballot. We have also introduced registration sessions at the Bedford High School, something that other New Hampshire jurisdictions are now introducing. Before the Presidential Primary over 30 students were registered at a two-hour session. I wish to expand this type of outreach in my second term of office.

Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?

Continuing to ensure that all qualified residents are given the opportunity to register to vote and that all legal requirements are met.

Continuing to ensure that the voter Checklist is kept current.

Continuing to keep up to date on the ever changing laws related to voter registration.

Newly qualified residents should be made more aware of the voter registration process here in Bedford. We have accomplished that to some extent with nursing home and high school visits. We plan to reach out to those moving in to Bedford through efforts such as working with apartment complexes, realtors and the Greet Bedford magazine to increase awareness.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?

Four years of previous experience in the position and over 40 years of collecting, managing and analyzing data from global clinical trials.

CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Melinda Bator

Contact: 603-540-0542; melindabator@gmail.com

Profession: Commercial Lending (Banking w. US Small Business Administration)

Organizations/Affiliations: Bedford School Board

Political Experience: I have been a member of the Bedford School Board for the past 3 years. I understand the requirements of the role and how we interact with our teachers, students, staff and community as a whole. I know what the Board is tasked with and what is outside the scope of our authority.

With that said, I believe the School Board position / seat is a non-partisan and non-political position that should be focused on the support of our public school system, through our professionals, students and taxpayers.

Incumbent? Yes

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

I would be honored to be able to continue to serve the Bedford School District with its mission and goals of developing a community of learners who are intellectually curious, resourceful, and respectful of self and others.

Over the past three years, I have been involved in the district as not only a school board member, but a parent, having five children in various stages of their academic career. This holistic view, with children who are either in or have gone through 5 of our 6 schools, provides me a unique perspective that I believe is valuable for our community. In addition to my own children's involvement in the schools, I have been a supporter of our district and schools through various activities and supportive groups and events, such as the Bedford PTG, McKelvie Move -A-Thon and Stand by Me . This has allowed me to gain insight on each school and their unique attributes that they bring to the community as a whole.

At this time, I would like to be able to continue the good, yet challenging work of the Bedford School Board.

Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?

The Bedford School District has a well defined set of Goals. Those include, but are not limited to, increasing student achievement, supporting mental health in our district and community, school safety, attraction and retention of high-quality personnel, homework assessment, and ROTC development and acceptance.

One of the activities of the school board is to assess how the administration is doing in regards to those goals. This is very important to me and was a focus of my first 3 years on the board and will continue to be a focus of my time on the board if I am re-elected.

Additionally, as a Bedford School Board Member, it is my commitment to continue to identify areas of strength and weakness in our district and to address those areas as needed to create the best outcomes for our students, staff and community.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?

As a Banker, my background is in financial assessment, analytics and management. A great strength of mine is in the development, implementation and analysis of detailed municipal financing, from budget development to analysis of the budget versus actual financial performance of our schools.

A primary role of the school board is the development and implementation of a detailed financial plan, both short and long term, that provides for staff hiring and retention, while providing for the continued growth of our students and district goals through a wide variety of academic and extra-curricular programming.

A detailed understanding of the budget and our school financial needs, along with being conservative in implementation of a complex financial structure, is paramount to the success of our district and our town. The ability to provide a strong public education while limiting the tax burden on our community is critical to both our school and community. During my first term on the Board, I feel that I have demonstrated a commitment to these principals.

CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Kara LaMarche

Contact: lamarchek@sau25.net

Profession: Marketing, TCB Agency

Organizations/Affiliations: Creator, Connect the Dots NH
www.ConnecttheDotsNH.com; Board Member, The Benny Fund
www.BennyFund.org; Volunteer, NH4Ukraine www.NH4Ukraine.org;
Mental Health First Aid Trainer, Makin' It Happen
www.MakinItHappen.org

Political Experience: Current School Board Member, 1 year term
March 2023-2024

Ran for State Representative in November 2022, finished 9th of 14
candidates

Incumbent? Yes

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

Bedford is an amazing town of parents and community members who are highly engaged in our public education system. It would be my honor to represent the public for a term of three years so I can continue to learn and grow in this role. I have learned a tremendous amount in my one year term but feel I have only touched the surface of what I can both learn and accomplish for the people of Bedford.

Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?

I hope to continue my journey on the School Board to:

- Further address the social emotional needs of our students while balancing and prioritizing academic standards
- Maintain responsible budgetary decisions while also getting creative with funding opportunities to stretch our resources and opportunities
- Provide honest and transparent communication with the public (whenever possible given applicable laws)

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?

My experiences in both marketing and mental health significantly shape my outlook on various matters, with a particular emphasis on our mental health goals and the way we convey information to the public on a variety of issues. I hope to further my contributions in these areas.

CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Sheila MacDonald

Contact: sheila-macdonald@comcast.net/617-694-7298/
www.sheilamacdonald.com

Profession: Information Technology Consultant

Organizations/Affiliations: Bedford Bulldogs Athletic Booster Club,
Project Management Institute, Women In Technology International,
Women In Sports Technology, St. Elizabeth Seton

Political Experience: None

Incumbent? No

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

I'm running for the school board with a clear goal: to ensure Bedford's children, including my own, receive the highest quality education possible. My connection to Bedford is lifelong; it's where I was raised, educated through the local schools from first to eighth grade, and where I've chosen to raise my children. Education runs in my family; my father dedicated thirty years as a principal here, showing me the impact committed educators can have on a community. This personal and family legacy fuels my belief in the strength of Bedford Public Schools.

I am running for school board in Bedford because I deeply care about the future of our public schools, which are at a critical juncture. My commitment to our community's education system has led me to actively speak before the board and advocate for the introduction of new and updated policies. I believe public education is a cornerstone of our community, and I want to play a more significant role in shaping its direction. By joining the board, I aim to leverage my experience and passion to advocate more effectively for public education, ensuring it receives the support and resources necessary to thrive.

Within your authority as an elected official, what issues do you plan to address in order to improve our community?

Individual board members have no individual authority. School board authority can only be exercised by the board as a whole. I recognize that the true power of a school board member comes from working together with the entire board. While we each have our own views, it's important for us to discuss, question, and debate issues respectfully to drive

improvement. This kind of teamwork is what makes us strong. Bedford Public Schools are doing a lot of great things, but there's always room to do even better.

As a parent and community member, I recognize that the district's vision of where we are and where we want to be can sometimes be vague. I am keen to help clarify our goals, making them specific, measurable, and backed by a detailed plan for achievement. I believe in building on the good work already happening in Bedford Public Schools and adopting a mindset of continuous improvement. This means being open, holding ourselves accountable, setting and following through on our goals, and using data to guide our decisions. This way, we can ensure that our schools not only maintain their high standards but also keep getting better.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for?

With a diverse background as a former teacher and technologist specializing in data analysis, I bring a wealth of experience to the school board. In my role as a teacher, I gained firsthand insight into the daily challenges and triumphs of students and educators. As a technologist, I've worked extensively with data and metrics to help organizations harness their data effectively, enabling them to set and measure goals and make informed, data-driven decisions.

As a parent of three children, I intimately understand the importance of ensuring that every voice is heard in the educational process, particularly those that are often overlooked or marginalized. My personal experiences navigating the educational system, from preparing for college to advocating for my children's needs through 504 and IEP processes, have deeply shaped my commitment to promoting parental involvement and advocacy within our schools.

As a prospective school board member, I understand the importance of listening to truly understand, not just to respond. Learning this throughout my career, I am committed to answering every email and phone call promptly, ensuring that the concerns and perspectives of all stakeholders are heard and considered in decision-making processes. I aim to foster collaboration for continuous improvement.

If you would like to learn more, you may watch interviews with the candidates on BCTV on their program "Candidates Corner", as well as the Bedford Men's Club sponsored forums with the Town Council and School Board Candidates. Visit BCTV's website, www.bedfordtv.com to find the program schedule of candidate interviews and the debate or to view them on demand. You may also watch Charter Commission meetings and informational videos about the South River Road Police & Fire Complex on BCTV. Sample ballots and more information are available at bedfordnh.org.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Election Day

Tuesday, March 12
7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Bedford High School
47 Nashua Road

Budgetary Town Meeting

Wednesday, March 13 at 7:00 PM
Bedford High School Theater
47 Nashua Road