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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

—Line 528: Should that be FY26? In March they'd be working on the budget for following FY. I'm changing but please tell me if I screwed that up.



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Three vie for three-year Brattleboro Selectboard seat

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2 Another crowded field for pair of one-year seats on  
3 board

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 Voters in Brattleboro heading to the polls on Tuesday,  
6 March 3 will face a crowded field of Selectboard candidates for  
7 two open seats this year.

8 Current Selectboard Chair Elizabeth McLoughlin is being  
9 challenged for the three-year seat she now holds by current board

10 member Amanda Ellis-Thurber, who is completing her first one-  
11 year term on the board, and political outsider Ken Fay.

12 In a second race, incumbent first-year board member  
13 Isaac Evans-Frantz is running along with newcomers Randall  
14 “Randy” Blodgett, Deena Chadwick, William “Bill” Harvey, and  
15 Eleanor “Nell” Mayo for two one-year seats.

16 Town elections are held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the  
17 American Legion, 32 Linden St.

18 Following are profiles of the candidates for both seats.

## 19 Elizabeth “Liz” McLoughlin

20 In 2007, after 20 years of visiting relatives here,  
21 McLoughlin and her husband, Tom, moved to Brattleboro and  
22 raised their family. She has more than 40 years of experience and  
23 a master’s degree in town planning and writes reports  
24 demonstrating compliance with land use planning and  
25 environmental laws. She also prepares analyses of town budget  
26 impacts from housing and other actions.

27 “Weighing the pros and cons of a given issue is what I  
28 do,” she says.

29 McLoughlin has volunteered for Groundworks  
30 Collaborative’s Empty Bowls Dinner and the board of the former  
31 Brattleboro Area Drop-In Center.

32 She served on the town Planning Commission for eight  
33 years and was a Representative Town Meeting member for six  
34 years, as well as having served on the Finance Committee.

35 McLoughlin has also served on committees related to the  
36 Perseverance Skate Park, the Windham Regional Commission’s  
37 Aesthetic Evaluation Committee for the Interstate 91 bridge over  
38 the West River, and the New Hampshire/Vermont Connecticut  
39 River Joint Commissions.

40 She currently serves on the Vermont State Opioid  
41 Settlement Committee.

42 “Serving on this committee has allowed me to see the  
43 complexity of the opioid issue and the various ways that the state

44 finds solutions to this very difficult problem,” she says. “I support  
45 worthwhile statewide and local initiatives. Every day this  
46 knowledge and experience informs my work on the Brattleboro  
47 Selectboard. My goal is for the continued well-being of our  
48 townspeople. Listening to you, the public, my understanding of  
49 the town continues to grow.”

50           McLoughlin says she’s seeking another term “because I  
51 believe the town is at a critical juncture and the decisions we  
52 make now matter deeply to the people of Brattleboro.”

53           “I believe my experience and expertise is more valuable  
54 than ever — bringing the judgment needed to weigh what we  
55 might do with what we can afford, especially in light of  
56 diminishing resources from the state or federal government.”

57           The candidate says she would be honored to continue to  
58 serve and that she has chosen to run for the Selectboard in  
59 particular because service there “matters to all of us.”

60           “I will continue work to balance the needs in our  
61 community with good intentions and sound judgement,”  
62 McLoughlin says. “I want a thriving Brattleboro that provides  
63 services to meet everybody’s basic needs. I believe we all want a  
64 safe and compassionate community where our resources are  
65 allocated wisely to the benefit of all.”

66           If re-elected, “I will continue to keep the day-to-day  
67 needs of all residents top of mind. I have the understanding and  
68 insights necessary to address the challenges facing our town,” she  
69 says.

70           Calling Brattleboro “a great town,” McLoughlin says she’s  
71 “grateful that I have the privilege to live here and be of service to  
72 the community.”

73           “I want everyone who lives, works, visits to have a  
74 positive experience. Young, old, families, individuals: I see you.  
75 We have and need to maintain a civil society that allows us all to  
76 conduct our lives freely and safely. To make this happen, we have  
77 town government — people who work to keep us safe and  
78 provide the services to our roads, parks, library — all the things

79 we hold dear. And we have each other, pulling together to create  
80 the future we want for our town.”

81           Asked what she considers the greatest challenges for  
82 Brattleboro in the next three years and what she believes can and  
83 should be done in the short- and long-term to address those  
84 issues, McLoughlin says in the short term, she reviews the town  
85 budget “with the same attention I bring to my own checkbook  
86 and as I’m sure you do to yours.”

87           “I am always looking for additional efficiencies,” she  
88 says. “I believe in good government, efficiency, and good sense. I  
89 will continue to advocate for sound financial management and  
90 the efficient provision of basic services.”

91           For McLoughlin, key issues this year are the pay-as-you-  
92 throw (PAYT) trash program, economic development, public  
93 safety, the encampment policy, reforming the state motel  
94 program, and collaboration with the Legislature for state aid.

95           The candidate says she championed the PAYT system  
96 “because we expect a trash collection system to be there for us.”

97           “The way we’ve handled the removal of trash, recycling  
98 and compost for the past decade is our central sustainability  
99 accomplishment,” she says.

100           “In a town as diverse as ours, equity matters, as everyone  
101 does not have the same opportunity to haul their own trash,”  
102 McLoughlin continues. “A town-wide service is a public good.  
103 Moving the expense from tax to paying private haulers is no  
104 solution.”

105           While she says Brattleboro is a “compassionate, caring  
106 community,” McLoughlin says as a municipal government with  
107 limited resources, asking taxpayers to contribute more goes along  
108 with advocating for “responsible reforms” of the motel program  
109 because it doesn’t now take into account “the local impact of  
110 placing vulnerable people with complex needs in our midst.”

111           McLoughlin supports the town’s encampment policy,  
112 which advises town staff to connect unhoused people with social  
113 services and Groundworks personnel while removing personal

114 belongings that might pose a threat to health and safety, calling it  
115 “another example of Brattleboro’s kindness and decency.”

116 “As we help the individual, we help ourselves as a  
117 community,” she says. “This is clearly the way forward to address  
118 folks with complex needs, reduce first responder call volume,  
119 and provide public safety.”

120 In the long term, McLoughlin is working hard advocating  
121 to the Legislature for funding to help the town implement a 1-  
122 cent-per-gallon gasoline tax, using opioid settlement money for  
123 needle clean-up, motel program reforms, and revenue sharing for  
124 “hub” towns.

125 “In the years since the 1% [local-option] sales tax — that  
126 I encouraged as an RTM and Finance Committee member — we  
127 have reduced the percentage of the municipal budget that  
128 depends on taxes by 6.4%,” she says.

129 McLoughlin points out that when the Vermont  
130 Department of Transportation (VTrans) demanded triple the  
131 customary municipal contribution for a new bridge on Western  
132 Avenue, she persuaded Selectboard colleagues “to join me in  
133 saying ‘no,’” she says.

134 “After telling VTrans to come back with a new plan, that  
135 is just what they did. We worked with VTrans and Sen. [Peter]  
136 Welch’s office to get federal funds to reduce our town’s share  
137 from 10% to 5% of the total cost. I saved the town approximately  
138 \$750,000,” McLoughlin continues.

139 “Economic development begins with a vibrant  
140 community that is a place of trust and stability,” she says. “We  
141 must make living here affordable for all and attractive for people  
142 to come live and invest here.

143 “The Selectboard’s role in economic development is to  
144 assure a welcoming community, provide a safe and clean  
145 downtown, and maintain all the things we love about  
146 Brattleboro: our shops, our parks and recreations programs, our  
147 hiking and bike trails, our diverse creative community, and the  
148 neighborhoods we cherish.

149 “We must all come together, as pieces of a puzzle, to put  
150 forward the picture of a thriving Brattleboro,” McLoughlin says.

## 151 **Amanda Ellis-Thurber**

152 Ellis-Thurber is finishing her first one-year term as  
153 Selectboard member. She is co-owner with her husband, Ross, of  
154 Lilac Ridge Farm in West Brattleboro and she was a presidential  
155 appointee during the Obama administration to Vermont’s 10-  
156 member U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency  
157 board.

158 “I am deeply committed to the future of Brattleboro  
159 because my family and I are deeply rooted here,” she says of her  
160 30 years farming on the family’s fourth-generation organic farm.

161 Ellis-Thurber also worked as a mental health counsellor  
162 in Greenfield, Massachusetts, prior to the Covid pandemic, when  
163 she returned to the farm full-time.

164 She has served on the Brattleboro Farmers Market board,  
165 on the steering committee for the Vermont Farm to Plate initiative,  
166 and the Working Lands Enterprise Board. She is a past member of  
167 the Brattleboro Community Chorus and Blanche Moyse Chorale  
168 and currently volunteers at the Beloved Shelter.

169 At Lilac Ridge, she oversees growing vegetables, fruit,  
170 and flowers, and she hosts farm education programs for local  
171 schools in addition to managing the farm’s organic creamery  
172 stand, where she mentors many young people in their first jobs.  
173 She also helps with the farm’s sugaring operation and milks cows.

174 Her daughter and her fiancé have now joined the  
175 business, her elder son works for Diamondback Flyrods, and her  
176 younger son was recruited to play football at the University of  
177 Virginia, where he is currently a first-year student.

178 “Our emerging adult children love Brattleboro, and our  
179 children’s friends love Brattleboro, but the fact of the matter is, it  
180 is difficult to find a good paying job here,” Ellis-Thurber says.

181 “Many, if not the majority, of our emerging adult young  
182 professionals are moving out of state or are going to Burlington

183 for jobs,” she continues. “I’d like to see those jobs in Brattleboro.  
184 I want to work toward getting more jobs and opportunities in  
185 Brattleboro.”

186 In her role on the Selectboard, she wants to put “an  
187 emphasis on economic development and increased and effective  
188 networking with our existing economic development agencies  
189 like [the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation] and the  
190 [Downtown Brattleboro Alliance].”

191 “I see our community growing in positive ways,” she  
192 says. “As I see it, the moment is now for Brattleboro to roll up our  
193 sleeves and get things done.”

194 From her farm work, Ellis-Thurber believes she brings not  
195 only “a rural perspective to the board, but also a “hands-on,  
196 humble, work ethic that so many of our neighbors who live and  
197 work in our community understand.”

198 Asked why she’s running again, Ellis-Thurber says she’s  
199 “committed to the future of Brattleboro” and believes in a  
200 “hopeful future for our community where we work together for  
201 and with one another.”

202 “In my first year on the board I’ve witnessed the  
203 engagement and passion of our citizens towards making our town  
204 a more affordable place to live while looking towards future  
205 economic development potential that benefits the whole town  
206 and region,” she says.

207 This year, she adds, “I have witnessed and been a part of  
208 our community getting out of their comfort zones to work  
209 together toward the betterment of Brattleboro.”

210 The candidate says her first year on the board  
211 “illuminated fully that there much more to do.”

212 “I bring a pragmatic, thoughtful approach to my role on  
213 the board. I listen to all members of our community. I hear  
214 unanimously the care and dedication that people bring to their  
215 work in and for our town,” Ellis-Thurber says.

216 “We here in Brattleboro are a community of workers. I  
217 am a worker, unafraid to roll up my sleeves to find creative

218 solutions to affordability, economic development, environmental  
219 stewardship and the betterment of the lives of our fellow citizens  
220 and those who care for our most vulnerable.”

221 Ellis-Thurber says she’s seeking a three-year seat “to bring  
222 a fresh voice to leadership on the board that will continue to  
223 work toward solutions for Brattleboro regarding affordability,  
224 economic development, and creative solutions to increase our  
225 Grand List.”

226 Several weeks after she joined the board last year,  
227 Representative Town Meeting (RTM) rejected the FY26 budget as  
228 recommended by the previous Selectboard.

229 “This firmly stated position from our RTM said it simply:  
230 ‘we cannot afford what the Selectboard has brought us, and we  
231 will no longer stand for the tax increases that we have endured  
232 over the past three years.’

233 “So from that point forward, creative solutions to  
234 affordability have been top of mind and I pledge to uphold that  
235 momentum moving forward,” she says.

236 She believes that to move forward, the community needs  
237 to “work together to join forces across the spectrum of policy  
238 opinions to create some perhaps surprising partnerships to care  
239 for our community and grow our future.”

240 Ellis-Thurber says the most important “leadership” for the  
241 town now and for the coming three years is “creating dialogue  
242 that is respectful, open, and focused on trying to work together.”

243 “I believe that we all share a love and dedication to  
244 Brattleboro, but there are factions in our community that are  
245 constantly cancelling each other out,” she says. “This is not  
246 healthy because no one will win, and the risk is too great.”

247 She adds: “We can listen to one another, even if we  
248 disagree. We can seek to find compromises, if we are willing to  
249 come to the table. We can seek to understand one another rather  
250 than be dismissive. And we can work together to increase  
251 affordability in our town, create opportunities for economic

252 growth, and lift up members of our community needing support  
253 and care.”

254 Ellis-Thurber says she’s had many conversations in the  
255 community and has found “a resounding cry for economic  
256 development — better paying jobs, quality infrastructure,  
257 increased efforts to have a town that people want to move to and  
258 build prosperity in.”

259 “I know that these efforts take work, time, and creativity.  
260 I will continue to bring these values to the board while also being  
261 kind and respectful,” she says, noting that residents’ holding  
262 differing views is good and that a common thread is caring for  
263 neighbors and prospering the town.

264 She pledges to continue to listen and find ways to  
265 connect those with different perspectives.

266 As to the budget, Ellis-Thurber points out Brattleboro isn’t  
267 “alone with our budget stress.”

268 “Every town in Vermont is struggling with budgets due to  
269 increased staff health insurance costs, materials costs, even the  
270 basics like heating and electricity,” she says. “Over the next three  
271 years, we need to put in the work to develop strategies for smart  
272 budgeting including short- and long-term planning for the future.”

273 Calling that work “creative and scrappy,” Ellis-Thurber  
274 says the town needs to “carefully address our needs and balance  
275 it with efforts to grow our Grand List, support small businesses,  
276 bring in businesses, and host visitors here to enjoy all that we  
277 have to offer in the arts, outdoor recreation, food and farms, and  
278 our incredible downtown.”

279 She notes the need for increased efficiencies within town  
280 offices “that are user-friendly and cost-effective.”

281 “This will take creativity, and I am thankful for the  
282 Brattleboro town staff in place to make steps towards the cost-  
283 savings happen while working to modernize our systems,” she  
284 adds.

285 Ellis-Thurber says she’s “hopeful and optimistic about  
286 Brattleboro’s future.”

287 “We are at an inflection point in our nation where our  
288 strength and lifeblood comes from our local community, where  
289 neighbors help one another and see each other eye-to-eye,” she  
290 says. “We can no longer spend our energy on fighting one  
291 another. We need to work towards a better future using the  
292 strength that we have in our abundant, caring community.”

## 293 **Ken Fay**

294 Fay grew up in Stamford, Connecticut, and attended  
295 public school before attending Northfield Mount Hermon School  
296 in Massachusetts for his junior and senior years of high school.  
297 He was nominated to the Air Force Academy, graduated from  
298 Duke University, and earned an MBA from the University of  
299 Connecticut.

300 Fay says he’s financed all his education but his freshman  
301 year through a combination of loans, a baseball scholarship, and  
302 earnings as a union construction laborer.

303 He started in public accounting and became a CPA,  
304 although didn’t maintain the certification since since he left  
305 public accounting. Over the course of his career, Fay says, he’s  
306 held 20 professional roles across 14 cities and boroughs.

307 “Most notably, I have served as a finance director for  
308 several nonprofit organizations and as assistant finance director  
309 and finance director for two different towns,” he says, noting he’s  
310 lived in 25 cities across five states and moved to Brattleboro  
311 nearly five years ago after spending about five years in Alaska and  
312 15 years in New York City.

313 “Needless to say, the contrast between New York City,  
314 remote Alaska, and Brattleboro has been profound,” Fay says.  
315 “I’ve worked in many organizations, seen a great deal, and met  
316 people from all walks of life.”

317 He says he has also “relied on the social safety net,”  
318 including welfare (the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families  
319 program), food stamps (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
320 Program), and unemployment benefits.

321 “Those experiences shaped my understanding of how  
322 policy decisions affect real people,” Fay says.

323 “I believe I am neurodiverse, and that perspective —  
324 along with effort and resilience — has shaped both my  
325 challenges and my strengths,” he says.

326 He cites his “wide range of professional and personal  
327 experiences” that has given him “both breadth and depth of  
328 knowledge.”

329 “I believe I can use that experience to serve the people of  
330 Brattleboro effectively as a member of the Selectboard,” Fay says.  
331 “At my core, I am running because I like helping people, and  
332 public office is one of the most direct ways to help the greatest  
333 number of people.”

334 Fay says the challenges facing Brattleboro “are not  
335 unique” and says that “unemployment, underemployment,  
336 addiction, mental health issues, and homelessness — especially  
337 visible in our downtown — are real and complex,” he says.

338 The political newcomer, advancing a “KISS (keep it  
339 simple, silly)” agenda, believes that by “increasing voter  
340 participation and modeling civility, we can differentiate  
341 Brattleboro and make it a sought-after destination for individuals,  
342 families, and businesses who want to put down long-term roots.”

343 Asking for voter support, Fay says, “I will hear you” if  
344 elected.

345 “Changing the narrative about our town won’t solve  
346 these problems overnight, but imagine if thousands more  
347 residents voted and engaged,” he says. “The Selectboard would  
348 gain thousands of additional perspectives to consider, beginning  
349 March 4.”

## 350 **Deena Chadwick**

351 Chadwick is a third-generation Vermonter who has lived  
352 in Brattleboro, Vernon, and Guilford. A Brattleboro Union High  
353 School graduate, Chadwick has two children who attended  
354 Green Street School and were graduated from her alma mater.

355 For 31 years, she has been a hair stylist in Brattleboro,  
356 working at the former Whitman’s Hair Design for 17 years before  
357 opening and operating her own business for more than 14 years  
358 now. For the past eight years, she has co-owned a cooperative  
359 hair salon. She also previously co-owned and operated a cycling  
360 studio downtown.

361 For the past decade she has rehabilitated older homes,  
362 renovating them into business spaces and affordable housing.

363 “Through all of this experience I’ve developed a deep  
364 understanding of our unique community and its dynamics,”  
365 Chadwick says. “I’ve seen our town go through many changes  
366 and challenges, and I’ve had to pivot in order to continue to live  
367 and work here.”

368 She says she’s “always rooted for our town to succeed —  
369 and I strongly believe it can.”

370 “We live in a geographic area with tremendous  
371 opportunity for sustainable growth. In the various neighborhoods  
372 I’ve lived in, I’ve been grateful to meet countless different people  
373 in our community and to see the multiple skills, perspectives, and  
374 experiences they bring,” she adds. “I’ve also had the opportunity  
375 to meet diverse people through my outdoor activities and  
376 marathon training.”

377 Chadwick says she’s running for the Selectboard seat  
378 because, “as a lifelong resident of Brattleboro, I care deeply  
379 about this community and its future.”

380 “My priority is to help keep Brattleboro an affordable,  
381 safe, and welcoming place to live, work, and raise a family, while  
382 supporting thoughtful, sustainable growth,” the candidate says. “I  
383 value transparency, fiscal responsibility, and open  
384 communication, and I bring a practical, common-sense,  
385 community-focused perspective to decisions about town services,  
386 spending, and long-term planning.”

387 Chadwick counts her “ability to listen” as one of her  
388 greatest strengths.

389 “Over the years as a hair stylist, I’ve learned to truly hear  
390 the individual challenges and needs of my clients,” she says. “I’ve  
391 had thousands of conversations at my chair, helping people think  
392 through problems and improve communication. Through my  
393 business experience, I’ve gained management, leadership,  
394 organizational, and conflict-resolution skills.”

395 Chadwick says those experiences strengthened her  
396 “active listening and empathy,” qualities she says she’ll bring to  
397 the board “to find practical solutions to our town’s challenges.”

398 Saying she looks forward to “engaging with the  
399 community in the months to come,” Chadwick says she enjoys  
400 collaborating and speaking with people from all walks of life.

401 “I value gathering ideas from everyone to find common  
402 ground,” she says. “Our community needs to look ahead, plan for  
403 future needs, and pursue creative ways to generate additional  
404 revenue and grow our tax base, while continuing to support and  
405 expand affordable housing.”

## 406 **Isaac Evans-Frantz**

407 Evans-Frantz is completing his first one-year term on the  
408 Selectboard and serves as clerk. A political activist who has been  
409 involved in community health and LGBTQ+ advocacy, Evans-  
410 Frantz was appointed by then-Gov. Howard Dean as the first  
411 Vermont high school student with a vote on the Vermont Board of  
412 Education, where he helped oversee an \$886 million budget.

413 He says growing up in a low-income West Brattleboro  
414 family taught him “the value of neighbors.”

415 “My father had various jobs, grew much of our own  
416 food, and my mother cleaned houses and worked as a child care  
417 provider,” says Evans-Frantz, noting at one time his family relied  
418 on the federal WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) nutrition  
419 program.

420 “We also depended on our neighbors when we needed  
421 support,” he says. “I have traveled far, but I have never forgotten  
422 where I come from,” says Evans-Frantz, who holds a master’s

423 degree in public administration from the City University of New  
424 York.

425 The candidate says he's running for re-election "because  
426 Brattleboro is at a crossroads and I want to keep doing the work it  
427 takes to move us in a better direction."

428 "Over the past year serving on the Selectboard, I've  
429 gained first-hand experience with how decisions are made and  
430 where we can do better," he says. "I've spent that time listening to  
431 residents, asking hard questions, and pushing for practical  
432 solutions."

433 Evans-Frantz says he's "motivated to continue that work  
434 and to help ensure Brattleboro remains an affordable, inclusive  
435 community where people are heard and supported."

436 Asked to list the greatest challenges facing the town in  
437 the next three years and how they should be addressed, Evans-  
438 Frantz says one of the biggest is that "incomes aren't keeping up  
439 with costs, which include rising property taxes, and the pressure  
440 they place on residents."

441 "We need responsible budgeting in the short term and  
442 long-term financial planning that keeps costs predictable while  
443 still maintaining essential services," he says.

444 Another major issue for Evans-Frantz is infrastructure.

445 "Neglected sidewalks, roads, retaining walls, and basic  
446 maintenance affect safety and quality of life," he says. "In the  
447 near term, we should prioritize repairs that have the greatest  
448 impact on accessibility and public safety, while developing a  
449 long-term plan that prevents deferred maintenance from  
450 continuing to pile up."

451 The candidate notes housing insecurity also as "a  
452 pressing concern."

453 "We need practical, compassionate responses," he says.  
454 "That means making sure we bring different voices to the table,  
455 listen to service providers and people struggling to find and afford  
456 housing, and invest in sustainable housing solutions over time."

457 Finally, he cites the issues of parking and downtown  
458 vitality, which he says are closely connected.

459 “The current paid parking system can make it harder for  
460 businesses and residents to thrive,” says Evans-Frantz. “We should  
461 evaluate the system now and work toward solutions that support  
462 a healthy downtown.”

463 He adds: “Across all of these challenges, my focus is on  
464 affordability, fiscal responsibility, and inclusion — values I  
465 believe are essential to Brattleboro’s future.”

466 Also on the candidate’s mind these days is the need for  
467 community advocates.

468 “With potential future funding gaps to the tune of tens of  
469 millions of federal dollars in Vermont and the federal government  
470 persecuting some of the most vulnerable Americans, we need  
471 leaders who will stand up and fight for families in our  
472 communities,” he says.

473 “With a Selectboard that voted to eliminate every last  
474 dollar for human services organizations [in its recommended  
475 FY2026 budget], we need leaders who will speak up for the  
476 social safety net in our community,” he adds.

477 Evans-Frantz notes that in other towns in Vermont,  
478 residents have been illegally detained by federal agents.  
479 “Brattleboro neighbors have told me they are worried that ICE  
480 will come here next,” he says. (Local groups monitoring the  
481 activities of federal immigration enforcement officers have  
482 underscored that to date, there is no evidence of such activity in  
483 the area.)

484 He added that some constituents have asked him if  
485 Brattleboro Police Department surveillance footage is or would  
486 be shared with federal agencies.

487 “Lifelong American citizens are making contingency  
488 plans for what they will do if they are separated from their  
489 children,” he says. “Seeing activists killed in the streets of  
490 Minneapolis while exercising their First and Second Amendment

491 rights, some Brattleboro residents are asking themselves what  
492 might be the price for standing up their neighbors.”

493           With these realities in the United States, “we need  
494 leaders willing to ask hard questions and stand up for everyone’s  
495 rights,” Evans-Frantz says. “We need leaders with integrity who  
496 will work to protect all residents, no matter where they or their  
497 families are from.

498           “We need a moral compass at this moment, and to  
499 recognize that we are one community, and an injury to one is an  
500 injury to all.”

## 501           **Eleanor “Nell” Mayo**

502           Mayo grew up in Ottawa, Ontario, visiting Norwich,  
503 Vermont, for Christmas and summer vacations to stay with  
504 cousins.

505           “Growing up in Ottawa, the national capital, I was  
506 exposed to politics and community organizing at a young age,”  
507 says Mayo, who joined the New Democratic Party in Canada as a  
508 neighborhood canvasser at age 14 and, at 16, joined the Carleton  
509 Food Collective, a volunteer group that diverts viable food from  
510 waste streams and creates healthy and free meals.

511           In 2018, she started a weekly free market in a local park  
512 to provide groceries directly to the low-income community she  
513 had grown up in — a neighborhood that was being rapidly  
514 gentrified. After she worked at the food collective, Mayo worked  
515 for Michael Goetinck of Snowdog Construction in Norwich.

516           After graduation from Algonquin College’s heritage  
517 carpentry and joinery program in 2023, she moved to Vermont  
518 and, ultimately, to Brattleboro.

519           “As I made my home in Brattleboro, I was introduced to  
520 town governance and politics,” Mayo says. “I was surprised and  
521 impressed with the level of community participation in  
522 Selectboard meetings compared to Ottawa, where I had  
523 experienced citizen input as being stifled.”

524 In March 2025, she joined the Finance Committee,  
525 “wanting to more deeply understand the solution to the rejected  
526 FY26 budget. The experience on the Finance Committee has  
527 provided a framework to analyze our financial structures through  
528 and has connected me to a network of diligent and committed  
529 townspeople,” she says.

530 Mayo says she wants to serve “because we need more  
531 members who are committed to further improving our long-term  
532 financial planning.”

533 “There is continuous controversy surrounding our  
534 municipal budget amidst an overall rise in cost of living,” she  
535 says. “I believe the board must work to ensure we confidently  
536 know our costs for basic infrastructure and municipal services.  
537 When we discuss budget cuts, we need to be able to compare  
538 what any services lost would cost residents in the private sector.”

539 And Mayo believes the board would be better served if it  
540 were more diverse.

541 “As a young person, and a tradesperson, working to  
542 support myself, I bring an understanding and experience that our  
543 board is currently lacking, and one that is representative of a  
544 large and vital portion of our town,” she says.

545 Mayo would prioritize returning to a structurally  
546 balanced budget, further investing in realistic long-term financial  
547 planning, creating an accessible way for residents to understand  
548 town finances, creating new/retrofitted housing, maintaining  
549 essential infrastructure and promoting pedestrian accessibility  
550 and bicycle infrastructure, contributing to “a less divisive  
551 conversation surrounding our downtown,” supporting business,  
552 installing public restrooms, and encouraging government  
553 participation.

554 The biggest challenge Mayo sees is “affordability.” She  
555 finds this expressed in many different ways, notably “a need to  
556 reexamine costs in our municipal budget, to support local and  
557 small businesses, to ensure that those who work here can afford  
558 to live here and that our elders can afford to stay in their homes.”

559 “I believe affordability is hurting morale on an individual  
560 and town-wide basis,” says the candidate. “I see this exacerbated  
561 in my attendance at Selectboard meetings, present in a sentiment  
562 across viewpoints that people do not feel their participation is  
563 welcomed.”

564 She continues: “One could cite this as a driving force  
565 behind the movement to adopt Australian ballot and rescind town  
566 meeting.”

567 “As a government and as townspeople, we must foster an  
568 environment that respects and cares for all of our neighbors, as  
569 well as protect constituents’ right to ask questions, and our  
570 government’s obligation to answer transparently,” she says.

571 “We are lucky to have an immense amount of  
572 community organizing to support and grow Brattleboro,” she  
573 says, citing “the push to develop our waterfront, the recent  
574 Festival of Miniatures, artisan markets, parades, and nightly  
575 music.”

576 “Brattleboro is brimming with art and ingenuity and does  
577 best when this is held up and shown,” Mayo says. “And it is  
578 crucial that the people who create this culture can afford to stay  
579 here. We need elected officials who understand and share these  
580 realities as I do.”

## 581 **Randall “Randy” Blodgett**

582 Blodgett hails from Pennsylvania and holds a bachelor’s  
583 degree in liberal arts with a concentration in marketing from  
584 Albright College. He says his career “has consistently focused on  
585 finance, entrepreneurship, and business development,” and  
586 started with New York Life Insurance Company, where he earned  
587 licenses in life, health, and securities.

588 He later founded and operated a successful photography  
589 studio for 22 years while also consulting within the studio  
590 industry on finance and marketing strategy. In 2011, he entered  
591 the agricultural publishing industry with *HolsteinWorld*, a  
592 publication founded in 1904 and long regarded as the

593 international standard for Holstein dairy cattle breeders, and  
594 *DairyBusiness* magazines. He also developed a real-time online  
595 auction platform and webcasting service.

596 He was later promoted to publisher of *HolsteinWorld*.  
597 *He says his professional work in the industry reflects his family's*  
598 *multigenerational involvement in dairy farming and Holstein*  
599 *genetics.*

600 Since 2017, Blodgett has worked as a consultant,  
601 focusing on business strategy, finance, and growth development.  
602 He has lived here since 2018, after marrying his wife, Lindsey,  
603 who has lived here since 2007 and works at Holstein Association  
604 USA.

605 Blodgett says one of the proudest moments of his life was  
606 earning the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America.

607 "Throughout my career, I have served and volunteered in  
608 support of various organizations," he says.

609 Asked why he's running for Selectboard, Blodgett says he  
610 cares deeply about the town and wants "to help the town during  
611 an important time."

612 "The one-year term allows me to step in right away and  
613 work on current issues," says the candidate, who says he wants to  
614 "bring a steady, practical voice to the board."

615 "I don't pretend to have all the answers, but like many  
616 residents, I think a lot about whether Brattleboro will remain a  
617 place where people can afford to live, work, and build a future,"  
618 he says.

619 Blodgett says he's especially motivated "to improve  
620 openness in town government, ensure everyone has a fair chance  
621 to be heard, rebuild trust with residents, and focus on decisions  
622 that are good for the town in the long term — not just quick fixes.  
623 The current pattern of rising spending while pushing  
624 infrastructure needs into the future needs to change."

625 What impresses Blodgett most about Brattleboro are "its  
626 people."

627            “They bring a culture and commitment to the arts that  
628 most places can only dream of, all while living in a town  
629 beautifully situated where mountains and rivers meet,” he says.

630            What gives him the most worry? “A lack of economic  
631 development, a shortage of housing, and the absence of a clear  
632 plan for a balanced housing mix in the future, and a budget that  
633 all residents can truly afford,” says the candidate.

634            The three essential services/departments in the town, in  
635 his estimation, are Fire/EMS, the Department of Public Works,  
636 and the Police Department.

637            “All departments are important to the town as we know  
638 it, but these three are services we cannot exist without,” says  
639 Blodgett, who has also been an outspoken advocate for  
640 conducting Town Meeting by Australian ballot, one of several  
641 citizen referendum questions on the March 3 ballot that address  
642 the future of Representative Town Meeting.

643            “I believe all voters should have a say on financial  
644 matters, officer elections, and bond issues,” he says. “We will  
645 hear what voters decide on March 3 and then we will work to  
646 make whichever form of governance they choose the best it can  
647 be for Brattleboro.”

648            Asked what the biggest challenges facing the town are  
649 and what steps should be taken to ameliorate and/or fix them,  
650 Blodgett says his priorities are “responsible budgeting,  
651 transparency, and fairness.”

652            “Town government should be easy to understand, guided  
653 by facts, and open to meaningful input from residents,” he says.

654            “I believe in respectful collaboration, clear communication, and  
655 balancing the needs of taxpayers, town employees, and the  
656 broader community. We must protect essential services while  
657 being honest about what the town can — and cannot — afford.”

658            He also counts “economic development that creates  
659 living-wage jobs” and expanding affordable housing as top  
660 priorities.

661 “We must plan thoughtfully for growth while maintaining  
662 the character of our community,” he says.

663 Blodgett also thinks the town needs a “sustainable  
664 government structure that promotes better work-life balance for  
665 employees, preserves institutional knowledge, and encourages  
666 cross-training across departments to ensure continuity of  
667 services.”

668 Brattleboro’s financial challenges, he says, “require  
669 careful, long-term planning,” including a clear five-year financial  
670 plan and “better distinction between one-time expenses and  
671 ongoing obligations.”

672 “The budget process should begin earlier, allowing more  
673 transparency and public engagement before final decisions are  
674 made,” he says. “Even small tax increases can significantly affect  
675 households already under financial strain.”

676 For Blodgett, most of those challenges are  
677 interconnected.

678 “Solving them will require disciplined financial  
679 management and steady, community-focused leadership,” he  
680 says.

## 681 **William “Bill” Harvey**

682 Harvey is a Brattleboro native and who has “enjoyed  
683 living my entire life” in his hometown. A graduate of Brattleboro  
684 Union High School, Harvey has since attended many other work-  
685 related study programs.

686 After graduation, he became a pressman and then  
687 entered the sales force with a beverage company, where he  
688 worked 34 years while running three side businesses — mobile  
689 home skirting, painting industrial equipment, and line-striping  
690 parking lots.

691 Harvey has served on several boards, including that of a  
692 church, a credit union, and a political party. He is a Justice of the  
693 Peace.

694 Harvey's reasons for seeking a seat on the board include  
695 "to focus on our fiscal responsibility to the town's taxpayers."

696 "I believe we need to bring about job growth in our  
697 area," he says. "We need to bring in more trade and skilled  
698 manufacturing jobs where people can learn a trade to make a  
699 living wage. Bringing in jobs would increase our tax base as well  
700 as provide personal freedom to employees who could then live in  
701 our town on their own without government subsidies."

702 He says that "it's truly a beautiful thing to live the  
703 American dream."

704 "It takes effort, self-discipline, education, and a place to  
705 work," he says. "Despite the challenges, the traditional American  
706 lifestyle is worth it: a job, a car, a home, and a family."

707 His second reason for running is "the issue of  
708 affordability."

709 "There are only so many taxpayers in the Brattleboro and  
710 Windham County area, which means there is a limited amount of  
711 money to spend," Harvey says. "I believe we should live within  
712 our means. That means we consider how much money we have  
713 to spend before we spend it."

714 To clarify, "that means we don't spend money we don't  
715 have," he says. "Granted, we all want more amenities, more  
716 services, and more help. However if we ran our household the  
717 way we run our government, we'd all be broke."

718 "Fiscal accountability" is Harvey's third reason for  
719 seeking election.

720 "This requires result-based tax spending," the candidate  
721 says. "Are we getting our money's worth from the organizations  
722 [and] the people, administration, and the outside contractors we  
723 pay? Is there a way we could do it better?"

724 Harvey says he loves his town. "I love where it is in the  
725 heart of the Connecticut River Valley area. I love the many  
726 opportunities for young and old.

727 "To me, a centerpiece of our town is [Living] Memorial  
728 Park. The park was my second home growing up. I also spent a

729 lot of time at the recreation center. The Connecticut River that  
730 flows along our east side has been cleaned up in my lifetime to  
731 the point where water sports and fishing have become  
732 enjoyable.”

733           Still, he’d like to see a few changes. They include “a  
734 more friendly industrial jobs outlook.”

735           “Our arts and entertainment segment is doing well. We  
736 need to continue to keep and develop our talented artists and  
737 performers. However, we also need the money to buy the art and  
738 see the performances. To think that all the money is going to be  
739 generated by tourists isn’t realistic.”

740           Harvey says bringing in new businesses “will probably  
741 involve an incentive for them to come.”

742           “I know we don’t want our air or water to be polluted,  
743 but we can find a good balance and welcome additional  
744 businesses that would be beneficial to our community,” he says.  
745 “I believe we can find businesses that are like C&S Wholesale  
746 Grocers: boxes in, boxes sorted, and boxes out.”

747           None of these things can be done alone, he says.

748           “I’m hoping to be able to express my views and work  
749 with a team that would make Brattleboro a more affordable place  
750 to live,” Harvey says.

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