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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers  
—Format.....Opinions - Letters to the Editor - Special 2  
—Dateline.....Brattleboro  
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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Evans-Frantz and Mayo: a politics of care and  
2 consideration

####END HED####

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3

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4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 For the entire period of my life on this Earth,  
6 neoliberalism has been the dominant ideology in American  
7 society. We have watched for half a century as the politics of  
8 divide and conquer has hollowed out our nation, and our  
9 community here in Brattleboro is no exception.  
10 It is long past time for that to change. We in Brattleboro  
11 are on the precipice of crisis, and the politics of division and

12 dominance are the antithesis of a solution, a barrier to the future  
13 prosperity and well-being of our aging and crumbling town.

14 No one wants to think of their home in negative terms,  
15 but I learned through decades of professional experience advising  
16 business owners and governments as a technology and business  
17 consultant that failing to properly identify problems is the first  
18 blind step toward failure. Only when we properly recognize our  
19 current state are we able to plan our path to a better future on the  
20 horizon.

21 I support the candidacies of Isaac Evans-Frantz and Nell  
22 Mayo to the Brattleboro Selectboard, because they represent a  
23 politics of care and consideration for us, our neighbors, and our  
24 community. Isaac and Nell are literally the future of our town.

25 It has been my distinct pleasure these past two years to  
26 work with Isaac for his election and re-election, because he is  
27 willing to stand up for the values of inclusion and equity, for  
28 compassion, frugality, and forbearance. These are the guiding  
29 ethics of my life, and the record shows clearly that Isaac has been  
30 working in concert with them. He does not shy away from the  
31 difficult questions and is willing to consider new approaches.

32 I have personally gone door-to-door with Isaac and  
33 witnessed his desire to get to the heart of what our neighbors  
34 want and need. I have seen his undeniable dedication over the  
35 past year to affordability and equity for all the residents of  
36 Brattleboro.

37 I was proud to see Isaac was the sole dissenting vote  
38 against premature adoption of the highly deficient encampments  
39 removal policy without any of the changes recommended by the  
40 Vermont ACLU. We would do ourselves a disservice not to return  
41 Isaac Evans-Frantz to the Brattleboro Selectboard.

42 Nell Mayo immediately impressed me with their drive  
43 and interest when I began to involve myself more fully with  
44 municipal politics last year. That's why I leapt at the chance to  
45 nominate them to represent my district at Representative Town  
46 Meeting in 2025. I wanted to go on record as the one who

47 moved to nominate them to fill a vacant seat, when they showed  
48 up for our town, to become a part of coalition of the willing. I  
49 consider it a feather in my cap, and I'm sure that if you know  
50 Nell, you'll agree.

51 I am proud to support Nell's candidacy. This town needs  
52 people who have clear long-term vision, especially among the  
53 younger generations, who have so much to look forward to in this  
54 town. Nell takes a very keen interest in town finances and keeps  
55 in mind the fact that our town spending should serve the public.

56 Politics is applied morality. Elected and appointed  
57 officials have a sacred moral duty, legal obligation, and ethical  
58 responsibility to serve the best interests of all their constituents,  
59 not merely those who voted for them or those who agree with  
60 them, and certainly not only those who own real estate or  
61 otherwise possess wealth in their jurisdictions.

62 Last week, Selectboard Chairperson Elizabeth  
63 McLoughlin demonstrated exactly why I want to see her retire  
64 from politics. Her vision for this town is and has always been  
65 diametrically opposed to the investments in growth and equity I  
66 believe Brattleboro desperately needs.

67 She has shown over the course of multiple years that she  
68 lacks the temperament I expect from a political leader, and the  
69 very idea that the person holding the highest political office in  
70 our municipal government, the one who literally wields the gavel  
71 — and far too frequently — could ever be "silenced" is  
72 bewildering at best.

73 I agree with Liz that public safety is indeed an important  
74 goal. I disagree that policing and punishment are the best means  
75 of achieving public safety. I disagree that a high quality of life is  
76 the result of public safety; rather, I believe the converse — that  
77 public safety, public order, and public health are the result of a  
78 high and stable quality of life that comes about by public policy  
79 which lowers the cost of living to attract immigration and  
80 investment, not by threatening people with authoritarianism.

81 Liz could not have possibly provided a more stark  
82 contrast between her values and those I believe will actually  
83 obtain a higher quality of life for all in this town.

84 As a result, I am supporting the candidacy of Amanda  
85 Ellis-Thurber for the three-year seat. I believe that Amanda is a  
86 person who is willing to listen to others and to learn from them,  
87 and I think we can all agree that she and her family have as much  
88 or more of a stake in this town as any of us.

89 Nothing is more clear to me right now than that  
90 Brattleboro needs positive change rather than stasis. When our  
91 times pass into the history books, I am certain that it will become  
92 clear that these next few years were critical in either our recovery  
93 or our decline.

94 I know on which side of the arc of history I wish to be  
95 accounted.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

96 The writer represents District 8 as a member of  
97 Brattleboro's Representative Town Meeting. She also serves on the  
98 town Planning Commission.

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

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