

This pamphlet was compiled by the Bedford Public Library's Reference Department in conjunction with the Town Clerk and the Town Manager.

All information contained in this packet was provided voluntarily by the candidates and the Town.

2025 Candidates for Town and School Offices

Town of Bedford

TOWN COUNCIL

(2 SEATS) (3 YEARS)

Kathleen Bemiss

David L. Gilbert

Gail Levesque

TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUNDS

(1 SEAT) (3 YEARS)

Ryan Callaghan

TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUNDS

(1 SEAT) (1 YEARS)

Mac McMahan

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

(1 SEAT) (3 YEARS)

Lauren Saidel-Baker

Bedford School District

SCHOOL BOARD

(1 SEATS) (3 YEARS)

Andrea Campbell

Beth Purcell

Russan Chester

SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER

(1 SEATS) (3 YEARS)

Tina Kozak

SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK

(1 SEATS) (3 YEARS)

Ashley P. Shailer

SCHOOL MODERATOR

(1 SEATS) (3 YEARS)

Michael J. Courtney

Information about the candidates was provided voluntarily by the candidates. We did not receive responses from the following candidates: Mac McMahan, Ashley Shailer.

Warrant Articles on the 2025 Town Ballot

- Article 1.** Election of Town Officers
- Article 2.** Zoning Amendments proposed by the Planning Board
- Article 3.** Issuance of Long Term Debt for Construction of a South River Road Fire Substation
- Article 4.** Issuance of Long Term Debt for Construction of Parks and Recreation Improvements & Related Infrastructure
- Article 5.** Sebbins Pond Watershed Management Plan
- Article 6.** 2025 Operating Budget
- Article 7.** Capital Reserve Fund—Projects and Equipment
- Article 8.** Greenfield Parkway Bridge Replacement
- Article 9.** Beals Road Bridge Replacement
- Article 10.** Old Bedford Road Sidewalk
- Article 11.** Additional Local Road Maintenance
- Article 12.** Capital Reserve Fund—Facilities Pool Complex Reserve
- Article 13.** Discontinuing Police Records Management System Capital Reserve
- Article 14.** Discontinuing BCTV Cablecast System Capital Reserve
- Article 15.** Community Power Aggregation

For more information about these warrant articles, pick up the Bedford Voter's Guide to Warrant Articles or visit bedfordnh.org and bedfordnhlibrary.org/Bedford-voters-guide-town-elections

CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

Kathleen Bemiss

Contact: bemissrehab@comcast.net

Profession: Speech-Language Pathologist

Organizations/Affiliations: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Alpha Xi Delta Fraternity

Local Boards/Relevant Experience:

Individual Participation: Wetlands Subcommittee (2007-2008), Telecommunications (2017-2022)

Town Council (2022-2025), BCTV - Primary (2022-2025), Historic District - Primary (2022-2025), Conservation Commission - Alternate (2022-2025), Facilities Committee - Chair - (2024- 2025), Student Senate - Alternate (2022-2025)

Incumbent? Yes

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

I am running for reelection to the Town Council for many reasons.

1. I understand how local government works - I attended many committee and council meetings over 15+ years prior to being elected to my current term. Rules and procedures are essential to the proper governance of a municipality. It is important that all meetings be conducted in public so that the residents can have faith in their elected officials.

2. I have started many projects during this last term, but some are not yet completed. Here are just a few examples:

A. Facilities: reviewing and determining the infrastructure (building/facility) needs; how do we bring forward an economically responsible plan.

B. BCTV: as cable franchise fees decrease, how do we ensure that BCTV continues to operate as an independent organization - currently they do not receive any Bedford Tax dollars.

C. Working with the Historic District Committee to review and update their Policies and Procedures and to better identify the concerns of homeowners in the district. (grant \$ received to assist with project).

3. Others say their reason for running is to "cut the budget." I look at individual line items to determine where we can find cost savings without adverse outcomes.

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

When I initially ran for Town Council in 2021, I wanted to improve engagement with the residents. Since my election, we have had more in-person residents participate. Residents, when appropriate, can now offer comment during agenda items versus only at the beginning of a Council meeting. I would continue to encourage increased participation. Additionally, I will continue to work with the Town Council and our Town Manager to explore options for a new 'Life Safety' Impact Fee. Such a fee may offset some of the increased expenses related to life safety on the South River Road Corridor. Zoning changes at the state level will be at the forefront of my discussions with our state legislators. It is important that our state level representatives know that their votes can negatively impact our community an usurp local control and governance. The other projects - mentioned above - reference my commitment to the residents of Bedford.

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

In both my personal and professional life, I am data driven and analytical. When there is an identified or perceived problem, I do my best to understand the background and offer solutions or work-arounds for that problem. I am organized, self-motivated, and dedicated to all of my pursuits. Town Council is no different.

CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

David L. Gilbert

Contact: gilbert.dave18@yahoo.com

Profession: Control Account Manager at Raytheon

Organizations/Affiliations: Current President of the Bedford Men's Club, Current member of the Bedford Dad's, Prior board member and Chairman of the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill, Prior board member and President of the Bedford High School Booster Club, Prior board member of the Girl Scouts of Swiftwater Council

Local Boards/Relevant Experience: Current 3 term member of the Town Council and prior Chairman, Current member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Current member and Vice-Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission

Prior member of the Conservation Commission, BCTV-WBNH Board, and Historic District Commission

Incumbent? Yes

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

I am running for a fourth term on the Town Council because I want to continue to represent the residents of Bedford and provide a common sense and conservative fiscal approach to the needs of the Council and the Bedford taxpayers. Over the past 9 years I have been involved in developing responsible town budgets. I believe the Town Council has provided a fair and equitable budget each year with the taxpayer's best interest in mind. I am proud to have been a part of that process and want to continue to provide my support and experience to better serve our town.

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

1-Town Facilities need to be addressed. Police, Fire, Public Works Highway Garage, & the Town Office need upgrades, improvements, and possibly new buildings. I am on a committee looking into these items. Warrant Article 3 addresses the Fire Substation. If passed, the first step of facilities committee will be completed.

2-Park & Recreation fields need to up upgraded & repaired. Warrant Article 4 addresses the last 2 items (Little League and Skatepark). If passed, we go into a maintenance mode similar to where we are going to be with addressing town roads. I view both of these items as needs and important to our town to continue to provide quality services to the community.

3-Maintaining a Capital Improvement plan that meets the needs of our community by addressing and saving money for future needed purchases. By doing so we do not get hit with big expenditures all in a particular year. Saving for the future is the right thing to do.

4-Upcoming Collective Bargaining for Police, Fire, and Public Works Union contracts are coming due this year.

5-Addressing ongoing PFAS issues.

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

As a member of the Town Council for the past 9 years, I believe I have the experience, knowledge, and desire to address the issues of the town moving forward. I will do my best to balance the needs vs the cost to the taxpayers. I feel it is important to perform what I call "preventative maintenance" on our town assets and provide citizens with the facilities & services they expect and make sure our taxpayer dollars are spent on what is truly needed.

CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

Gail Louise Levesque

Contact: levesg@gmail.com

Profession: Retired Consultant

Organizations/Affiliations: Bedford Republicans, Bedford Election Volunteers, Bethany Covenant Church

Local Boards/Relevant Experience: Volunteer for Bedford Elections since 2020

Incumbent? No

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

My husband Bill and I raised our family here, and we have 3 grandchildren in the Bedford schools. For 26 years, we have always considered Bedford as our forever town: low taxes, excellent schools and housing. The value of Bedford is worth protecting.

I recognize the challenges Bedford is facing. We are a growing community. With growth comes demands for services, infrastructure, and housing. Bedford spending has increased as have our taxes. Taxpayers have seen a 20% increase in spending over the last 3 years. My own taxes are up 23%. Friends and neighbors echo the same concerns. Residents should not be put in the position of having to consider leaving Bedford due to taxes.

Low taxes are the result of low spending. This year's multiple warrant articles are asking for funds in addition to the town and school budgets. Also, long term debt to minimize tax impact should be used sparingly. It mortgages our future.

Our growth needs to be balanced with affordability. I stand for small government, low taxes, being business friendly and putting our residents first. I am an advocate for transparency and accountability, taxpayers having a strong voice in local governance, and am against government overreach.

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

My priority will be addressing managed growth to ensure balancing needs with affordability. Bedford faces challenges right now in multiple areas. Services such as police and fire services will need to expand as Bedford population increases. Bedford, like other towns has a housing shortage and is looking to make zoning changes to address this. However, I also don't think residents want the S. River Corridor lined with hi-rise apartments. Bedford's challenges are complex and interconnected. They cannot be solved in silos. There needs to be collaboration and problem solving across all of the groups in Bedford to best understand the short term and long-term ramifications of the solutions put forth. Additionally, we need to partner more with the Bedford taxpayers. I want to see them engage - and be engaged more. Our growth should protect our sense of community and not allow it to be fractured as we step into alternative housing options. The Town Council plays a pivotal role in protecting the history and heritage of Bedford while also ensuring it has the necessary pieces in place to grow.

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

I have a degree in Business and MBA. As a partner at IBM I managed a services group delivering solutions for system implementations, often coupled with M&A's, or Divestitures. I was responsible for developing budgets, pricing proposals, project plans, staffing, and overall strategies for successfully delivering these initiatives. I was also responsible managing issues and risks, across both business and technical issues. Client satisfaction was a priority for me. This was achieved by daily interactions with people across and organization from the operation working roles up to the C-Level executives to make sure they were engaged and saw value in the solutions and how they were being implemented. Creating cohesive teams and facilitating discussions and actions to solve complex issues was the fun part! Often that meant thinking outside the box and helping people see the value and then adopt a change in how things work. I've learned to lead, and I've learned to follow. I believe my skills and my experience will bring value to the Town Council.

CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUNDS

Ryan Callaghan

Profession: Partner & Chief Investment Officer, Harbor Group

Organizations/Affiliations: Chartered Financial Analyst®
Charterholder, Certificate in Investment Performance Measurement™
Certificant, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® Professional,
Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst Association® Member

Local Boards/ Relevant Experience: Bedford, NH Trustees of the
Trust Funds: 2024-Present; Manchester, NH Trustees of the Trust Funds:
2020-2024

Incumbent? Yes

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

To provide my skills and expertise in helping to manage the town's capital reserves and permanent trust funds in a fiduciary capacity.

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

I am a Partner and the Chief Investment Officer at Harbor Group, a wealth management and financial planning firm based in Bedford. In this role, I oversee the management of over \$1.7 billion in assets for our clients. I hold some of the most respected designations in the wealth management industry and bring several years of experience to this position.

CANDIDATE FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Lauren Saidel-Baker

Contact: Lauren.SaidelBaker@gmail.com

Profession: Economist

Organizations/Affiliations: Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)

Local Boards/ Relevant Experience: Friends of the Bedford Public Library (member/volunteer)

Incumbent? No

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

Quite simply: I love this library.

I am a lifelong patron of the Bedford library and I'm thrilled to now be able to bring my own daughter. From story times and reading programs to fiber arts club and special events, we're often at the library multiple times a week. The diversity of programming and quality of library services speaks to the exceptionality of our library.

It would be an honor to serve in the role of trustee and give back to this wonderful institution.

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

I believe that the Bedford Public Library is remarkably well-run, with an incredible staff and library director. I wish only to support the ongoing efficient operation of the library.

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

In my career as an economist, I am responsible for providing consulting services to businesses and trade associations that help them navigate the complex economic landscape. My first job, however, was working in the children's room of the Bedford Library. This combination of an inside look at the functioning of the library and real-world business acumen will enable me to help position the library for long-term success. I view the trustee role as that of a caretaker, entrusted to make decisions that support the library's mission while remaining accountable to Bedford taxpayers.

For the past six months, I have been attending library trustee meetings as a member of the public. Seeing these meeting in person has enabled me to both know what I'm getting into, and be ready to hit the ground running!

CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Andrea Campbell

Contact: <https://andreacampbellfors.wixsite.com/bedfordschoolboard>

Profession: Teacher

Organizations/Affiliations: Member of: ASCD - Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, NASUP - National Association for School and University Partnerships

Local Board/ Relevant Experience: 3 Year term on Bedford School Board 2022-2025, 16 years teaching in Bedford School District, Previously served on SEE Science Center Board of Directors, Co-Chair of the Goulder Center for Innovative Practices in Education at SNHU

Incumbent? Yes

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

I am running for elected office in Bedford because I am passionate about maintaining and enhancing the quality of our public schools, which are among the best in the state. Having served a three-year term on the Bedford School Board, I have gained invaluable insights into the educational needs and challenges we face. As a resident, former Bedford teacher, and parent of two children currently attending public schools in Bedford, I am deeply committed to ensuring that our schools continue to provide exceptional education and opportunities for all students.

Our public schools are a cornerstone of our community, and it is vital that we preserve their excellence. I believe my experience as a teacher and now working in Higher Education in the field of Teacher Preparation and dedication to our schools will allow me to effectively advocate for policies that support educators, students, and families. By running for office, I aim to continue contributing positively to our community and help safeguard the educational standards and achievements that make Bedford a great place to live and learn.

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

As an elected official, my primary focus will be to address key issues within the scope of the school board's authority, particularly in policy-making and budgeting. The role of the school board is not to run the schools, but be sure the schools are run well. I plan to work collaboratively with the board and district office to develop a fair and balanced budget that ensures our schools and teachers have the necessary resources to maintain the high-quality education we value, while also being mindful of the impact on taxpayers.

A critical part of this role is to meticulously read and review new and existing policies, ensuring they effectively serve our community's needs and uphold our educational standards. Additionally, I am committed to advocating for full-day kindergarten, recognizing its importance in laying a strong educational foundation for our children. While it is on the ballot this year, should it not pass, I will continue to champion this initiative as a priority for our town. Through these efforts, I aim to contribute to the overall improvement and success of our community.

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

My extensive background in education equips me uniquely for the position I am running for. As a dual certified teacher in Elementary Education and Special Education, I have 16+ years of experience teaching in public schools, which has provided me with a deep understanding of the classroom environment and the challenges educators and school districts face.

Currently, I have been teaching and working in Higher Education at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) for almost seven years, specifically in a teacher preparation program. This role has afforded me an inside look at the New Hampshire Department of Education's administrative rules and how they impact our local schools, local town budgets, and local policies.

Moreover, as a parent of two children in Bedford's schools, I have firsthand experience with the educational landscape and day-to-day realities our students and families encounter. This combination of professional and personal experience enables me to bring a well-rounded perspective to the position, ensuring that I can effectively address the needs of educators, students, and parents alike.

CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Beth Purcell

Contact: PurcellforBedfordSB@gmail.com

Profession: Education, Special Education, School Administration

Organizations/Affiliations: NH Association of Special Education Administrators, NH Department of Education: Certifications - Principal and Special Education

Local Boards/ Relevant Experience: Assistant Principal/Special Education Facilitator - Memorial Elementary School (2018-2024), Special Education Coordinator - McKelvie Intermediate School (2016-2018), Special Education Coordinator: Intensive Needs Program - Riddle Brook School & McKelvie Intermediate School (2016-2018)

Incumbent? No

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

I'm running for elected office in Bedford because I believe in the power of education to transform lives, and I'm committed to ensuring every student receives the programming they need. As an experienced educator and administrator, I've seen firsthand how vital it is to understand and provide opportunities for all students. In order to provide improved educational experiences for our children, the Bedford School Board must appreciate our students strengths, challenges and backgrounds.

As the mother of four children in Bedford schools, I understand the concerns of parents and the importance of maximizing value in our schools. I am focused on ensuring that our resources are used wisely, delivering the best educational experience without wasting taxpayer dollars.

Clarity, value and development are central to my vision for Bedford. I want to ensure that all decisions made at the school board level reflect the needs and aspirations of our students, families, and community. I am committed to fostering an environment where every voice is heard, and every student is supported in reaching their full potential.

With my background, passion, and dedication, I'm ready to help lead Bedford schools to great success.

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

Clarity: Parents should have an understanding of our children's learning and overall school experiences. Our community will know our school district's vision for budgeting, decision-making, and policy creation. I

would advocate for open lines of communication with the community, ensuring that parents, teachers, and students have access to clear information. Our schools can focus on their core mission of education while acknowledging the need for clear communication about education opportunities and our students' performance.

Value: It's essential to ensure that taxpayer funds are used efficiently to create exceptional education opportunities for our students. Maximizing value means finding ways to provide the highest quality education without unnecessary spending, building course availability for our students and focusing on resources that directly benefit our students.

Development: I would hold myself responsible for ensuring high quality educational outcomes for our students. Bedford schools have the capability to create academic success while aiding in the development of well-rounded individuals who can thrive in various aspects of life, contribute to society and their communities. Our schools should further develop educational experiences which include well designed, well articulated curriculum pathways and thoughtful incorporation of emerging technology while focusing on cultivating learning experiences to achieve these outcomes.

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

My background in education and leadership uniquely positions me to contribute to the Bedford School Board. With experience across three schools within the Bedford School District and several other New Hampshire school districts, as an educator and administrator, I have a deep understanding of the complexities and individual needs of students in diverse learning environments within our schools. Holding certifications in both school administration and special education, as well as a Master's in Education, I bring the knowledge and skills necessary to advocate for and support every student's success.

My roles within schools and work within multiple New Hampshire districts have honed my ability to create collaborative, effective solutions to strategically improve educational outcomes for our students. I am committed to smart spending and ensuring resources are allocated efficiently to maximize student outcomes while maintaining fiscal responsibility. As a parent and active community member, I prioritize open communication and building strong relationships with families and staff. My focus on inclusive, data-driven decision-making ensures that every student has the resources and support they need to thrive, while maintaining high standards of academic excellence and growth. I am committed to making Bedford schools a welcoming, empowering space for all students and staff.

CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Russan Chester

Contact: 603-714-5381; RussanForNH@gmail.com; RussanForNH.org

Incumbent? No

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

My goal is to ensure that every student has the tools and opportunities they need to be the most successful in their time within our school system here in Bedford. I believe that I have the ability to work with all the stakeholders in our children's lives to foster an environment of academic excellence and a strong foundation in core subjects, without sacrificing the development of critical thinking and creativity.

The most memorable folks are not the ones who make our students' lives the easiest, but the ones that cared enough to set appropriate boundaries, provide modeling and can demonstrate a level of respect for the student, their family and each team member for their personal contributions during that educational journey.

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

Here in Bedford, so many stakeholders are invested (and investing) in the development of our students, and it is crucial for true success to recognize EVERY incredible individual who walks with them on this journey and for them to be able to see the value of each of these team members. I want to help with open communication, help align our efforts, and apply my talents to bringing us together in reaching that goal of developing a Bedford graduate who loves their experience and is able to achieve every one of their goals. I want to work with all team members to develop a bridge of communication and transparency that will allow every stakeholder involved in the student's life to feel confident and comfortable that we are not only sending our children out into the world with a quality education, but also the preparedness that comes from years of observing, (and in many instances) taking part in

the process of practicing the key elements that are necessary for true success in every opportunity and challenge that will come their ways as adults.

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

As an accountant and business owner I possess strong management skills, understand the importance of budgets, tracking expenses and development of a strong successful business model. I have had to adapt, adjust and change this model quickly to ensure the best possible outcome for the changing environment. There are decades of child development research, and outcome based learning models that refer to the importance of allowing opportunities to develop and demonstrate appropriate communication being as critically important as the mastery of the core subjects in the education process. Studies also indicate that “best outcomes” are achieved by observing, modeling and practicing these behaviors with one another individually and collectively in a controlled, monitored setting. I have had the opportunity to develop, implement, and monitor outcome based “wrap team models” as a result of ASFA & NCLB on a local, state and federal level to ensure that the most vulnerable population’s needs were being appropriately met. Throughout my time working in the public and private non-profit sectors, I have developed the ability to be a strong fiscally responsible, outcome based leader, as well as have strengths with limit setting, appropriate boundaries, empathy, problem solving and advocacy for all identified stakeholders.

CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER

Tina Kozak

Contact: Tina Kozak for School District Treasurer on Facebook

Profession: Senior Analyst at NH Public Utilities Commission

Local Board/ Relevant Experience: I have a bachelor's degree in business and economics from Lehigh University and about 15 years of experience as a financial analyst, primarily in the wholesale energy industry. Also, as the incumbent, I have three years of experience as School District Treasurer.

Incumbent? Yes

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

I have enjoyed serving as School District Treasurer and wish to continue to offer the Bedford School District my services and insights gleaned from my professional experience as a financial analyst.

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

I wish to continue to assist the Bedford School District with finding ways to keep costs down, and with finding ways to maximize returns on cash kept in bank accounts. Over the past three years, rising interest rates have increased the School District's returns on spare cash kept in bank accounts. I plan to keep working with administrators to explore the district's best options for maximizing returns on cash kept in bank accounts.

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

I have extensive experience analyzing financial data using various tools in Microsoft Excel to find patterns, trends, and outliers. I am also personally a huge fan of following business and economic news.

SCHOOL MODERATOR

Michael J. Courtney

Profession: Executive Director, Home Tomorrow, Inc. (Home Tomorrow, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which partners with social service agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide free home furnishings to families and individuals in need.)

Organizations/Affiliations: Home Tomorrow, Greater Manchester Habitat for Humanity, American Heart Association, Duke University, Bedford Little League, NH Little League District-1, Bedford Election Volunteer, Knights of Columbus

Local Boards/ Relevant Experience: Home Tomorrow, Inc., Greater Manchester Habitat for Humanity, American Heart Association-NH-MA-VT, NH Little League District-1

Incumbent? No

Why are you running for elected office in Bedford?

Public service has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. For over a decade, I have led nonprofit organizations, including the American Heart Association of New Hampshire, Greater Manchester Habitat for Humanity, and Home Tomorrow, Inc., helping families transition from homelessness.

For 25 years, I have volunteered as a Little League umpire—most of it for Bedford’s kids—while also serving as umpire in chief and board member for New Hampshire Little League District-1. Mentoring youth through sports has been a privilege as well as an opportunity to instill in our children values important to family, relationships and community.

For two decades, I have also served Bedford as an election clerk and assistant moderator. I deeply respect the integrity of our electoral process, which I consider sacrosanct to the freedoms of democracy.

When I was invited by our town and school moderators to serve as the next Bedford School District Moderator, I saw it as another meaningful way to give back to my community. The Bedford School District has prepared my children well for a world-class college education, and I would consider it a privilege to serve our community in this role—if it so pleases Bedford’s voters.

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

The primary responsibility of School District Moderator is to ensure a fair, orderly, and adequate deliberative process—a responsibility I am committed to upholding.

One challenge facing voters today is the overwhelming flood of information - both, accurate and inaccurate - competing for their attention, making it harder to access clear, relevant details needed for informed decision-making. While the SB2 form of government was designed to increase voter participation, fewer residents attend deliberative sessions where warrant articles and budget details are debated, leading to potential gaps in understanding at the ballot box.

As School District Moderator, I aim to leverage today's technology to provide Bedford voters with additional channels of convenient, objective, and accessible information with respect to proposed articles. By leveraging various channels of information that allows voters to more conveniently and efficiently review key ballot issues, increased engagement and more informed decision-making at the ballot box will be better ensured.

My goal as School District Moderator would be to simplify the process for every voter to “separate the wheat from the chaff” by offering ballot issues and their considerations at graduated levels in order that each citizen's vote may be cast with confidence.

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

Effective leadership means surrounding oneself with people of diverse skills and expertise. Throughout my career leading nonprofit organizations, I have relied on collaboration and diversity of perspectives to make well-informed decisions.

When invited to serve as School Moderator, I asked, “Why me?” The response: my 25 years as a Little League umpire. The comparison made me laugh at myself despite its truth—both roles require fairness, preparation, and the ability to manage passionate participants while remaining impartial.

The beloved late Joe Sullivan, long-time teacher, coach and Union Leader columnist, once told me, “The best umpires are the ones whose names you do not know.” If, after a game, both teams and parents tell me, “Good game, blue. Thanks,” I know I've done my job well. Moderating a deliberative session is no different. By knowing the rules, understanding the concerns of stakeholders, and treating everyone with dignity and respect, I aim to facilitate a fair, orderly and adequate deliberative process without drawing attention to myself.

With my background in nonprofit leadership, election oversight, and years of experience managing high-energy environments, I am confident in my ability to serve Bedford as School Moderator with the integrity and professionalism the position requires and deserves.


★ ★ ★
**BEDFORD
VOTER
REGISTRATION**

New Hampshire boasts one of the highest voter turnout rates in the country.

Registering to vote and casting your ballot in the Granite State is easy.

Avoid time in line, register **BEFORE** election day.

★ ★ ★


For more information:
www.bedfordnh.org

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING? (EXAMPLES)

US CITIZENSHIP: birth certificate
US Passport
naturalization certificate

IDENTITY & AGE: drivers license
US Passport
government issued photo ID

NH DOMICILE: drivers license
government issued photo ID
lease agreement
utility bill

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Before Election Day
Bedford Town Offices - 24 N. Amherst Rd.

Early Registration will close
7-10 days before Election Day to prepare the checklist for the election.

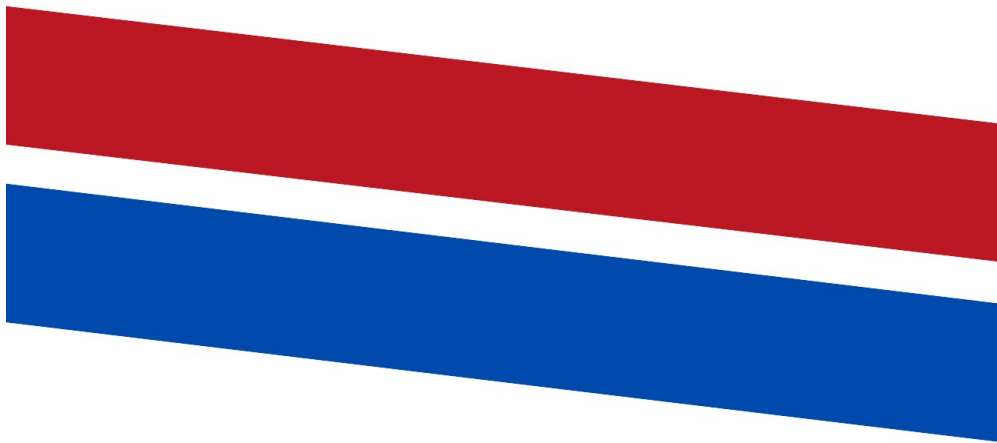
On Election Day
Bedford High School - 15 Nashua Rd.
7:00am-7:00pm

Infographic from the Town Clerk's webpage (bedfordnh.org/240/Town-Clerk)

Register to vote before Saturday, March 1.

On Saturday, March 1 from 3:00 to 3:30 PM the Supervisors of the Checklist will meet at Bedford Town Offices, 24 North Amherst Road. This is the last opportunity to register to vote before the town election. It is possible to register at the election. (Information from Supervisors of the Checklist meeting notice at bedfordnh.org)

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.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Election Day

Tuesday, March 11
7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Bedford High School
47 Nashua Road