

SPECIAL: ELECTION EDITION

Town of Leverett Newsletter

- **Annual Town Meeting and elections: April 28, 9:00 AM Leverett Elementary School**
- **Budget Hearing April 10 and Candidate's Night April 24, 7:00 PM Town Hall**

Election time in Leverett is unlike any other place in the Commonwealth.

For starters we (and only we, of the 351 cities and towns in MA) elect from the floor of Town Meeting; translation: occasional chaos, hysterical bouts of laughter, bursts of applause, standing ovations, memorable quotes and speeches, unparalleled cooperation, unprepared candidates, and the rare election of those not present...

The candidates up for election, length of term, and intention to run (away) or not are listed below:

Assessors: Can smell new tiling. James Hicks; **Y** (3-year);

Assistant Moderator: Assists the Moderator at Town Meeting. Fay Zipkowitz; **Y** (1-year)

Board of Health: They deal with: beavers and flooding, housing issues, bites from various rabid animals. Sound fun? John Hillman; **Y**, Claudia Philips; **Y** (3-year);

Constable: Bounces the new babies in town while their parents vote. Brian Emond; **Y** (3-year);

Finance Committee: Assist the Select Board in planning the Town's financial future...tricky stuff. Greg Woodard **U** (3-year), Tom Powers; **Y** (3-year);

Library Trustees: Are building the first electric Bookmobile. Rachel Flint; **Y** (3-year), Lydia Peterson; **Y** (3-year);

School Committee: Plan on a few night meetings... Kip Fonsh; **Y** (3-year), Pam Stone; **N** (3-year);

Select Board: For campaign contributions, contact her Super Pac. Julie Shivley; **Y** (3-year);

Tree Warden: Tree-EMT since the October snow storm. Will Stratford; **Y** (1-year).

Y= yes; N= not again; U= undecided (could be convinced by the right person)

Candidate's Statements

Library Trustees

Lydia Peterson

I feel honored to have served as a Library Trustee for the past 6 years and I hope to remain so. The library is truly "Leverett's living room" and I'll continue to do my best supporting Linda and Sue, and the myriad of folks who love the library as I do (the Friends, the many volunteers, and, of course, the patrons). In these challenging economic times, I think that it's especially important that our library remains strong for its citizens... whether it's through the children's programs, the guest speakers, the Read It Leverett program, or just the day-to-day business of running the library. I have been committed to public service for many years and I hope to continue to do so for the benefit of the library and the community as a whole.

School Committee

Kip Fonsh

I have served as a member of the Leverett School Committee for four years and Leverett's representative to the Regional School Committee for the past two years. I am seeking reelection to a three year term in order to continue to work towards continuing to provide the best education we can from PreK-12. First, we must continue to provide a budget that allows us to reach and teach every youngster. We need to not only work with the local Select Board, but also our state legislators. Second, regionalization will continue to be a topic that the town residents must soon weigh in on. I want to help facilitate that conversation. Finally, at the Regional level I supported the appointment of Maria Geryk because I felt she had a vision that was realistic, but also encompassed substantial components that would transform the Regional School District into a model for 21st century public education. I want to continue to work with Maria to bring her vision to reality. I bring over thirty years of educational experience to these efforts. It has been a privilege to represent the Town of Leverett and its residents, particularly it's youngest.

Dear Leverett Voters:

We want to let you know that this may be the first year since 1999 that we may ask you to pass an override to cover town operating expenses. An override is an authorization for the town to tax more than the 2.5% allowed by Proposition 2^{1/2} for the town's and the school's operating expenses. An override must pass at a separate election to be in effect. Many of the towns around us have had to do this in recent years and we may be in the same situation this year. For several years, we have held town budgets as close to level as we can and given minimal raises to our employees to avoid an override; but this year, with no increase in state aid expected and many expenses, such as school and fuel costs, increasing, we may need to rely on an override to cover our expenses. As of March 1st, we are still reviewing budget requests and we do not have enough available funds to cover them. In the next month we plan to finalize requests and get updated numbers from the state, so that by the budget hearing planned for April 10th, we should know for sure. We invite you to come to the hearing at 7:00 pm on April 10th to hear the details of the budget and for a discussion of an override. The April 1st newsletter also will contain an update.

The Leverett Select Board

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ELECTION EDITION
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LEVERETT, MA 01054**

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