

Caucus 2019 Statement  
Elizabeth Hacala

I would like to thank Emily Mitchell for nominating me as a candidate for the Board of Library Trustees. As Emily said, she and I have worked together on the board over the past several years and I am very excited to once again be a candidate for trustee.

I grew up in Bedford, and in many ways, grew up at the Bedford Free Public Library. It was a place to be greeted by a friendly face as well as a place to find information. Even with all the changes over the years at its core, it is the same place today. The library is bigger, the card catalogs were replaced by computer terminals, and there are now online databases and e-books, yet it is still a place to find both information and community.

In this era of Internet connectivity, libraries are more critical than ever. The sheer volume of information available requires trained professionals to help sift through the noise. The ability to find, use and evaluate information is a critical skill for all of us. In addition, libraries provide access to vital resources for all our residents. From applying for a new job to applying to grad school, the library is often the first place we go.

I began my career as a software engineer first at Lotus Development and later on the west coast at Hewlett Packard. When my husband and I were looking to relocate to Massachusetts I had three criteria: good schools, a good library, and open town meeting. Here we are. We have now been in Bedford for over 20 years.

Since returning to Bedford, I shifted from a career in software, to work in non-profits. From 2003 – 2013 I worked with the Massachusetts Library Association. My time with MLA gave me an opportunity to become familiar with the modern challenges of libraries at the state, local and federal level.

Bedford Free Public Library has had a long history of providing excellent service to the town and with the support of the voters of Bedford look to continuing to play my small part in that success.