



SHAWN HANEGAN

SELECT BOARD

Caucus Nominee: Yes

Email: shawnforbedford@gmail.com

YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjWKkCxXcv4Onkr0L5-BwVQ>

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

I am running for Select Board because I believe that I can make a positive difference in our town and for its residents. I have served our town for over ten years in various town government roles, starting within months after moving here with my wife and two now school-aged children. I thank you all for the opportunity I've had to serve you, and for electing me three times as Planning Board member. I thank my family for their support for the nights away I needed to attend meetings. I am passionate about making government work for its people. I believe I now have the experience and strong working relationships to be an effective member of the Select Board from day one.

I understand Bedford's government because of my involvement in it. In addition to the Planning Board, I've served on the Community Preservation Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee, and Housing Partnership. I'm proud of the things I have had a part in making happen, some of which are: the new neighborhood at Pine Hill Crossing, community preservation projects such as Fawn Lake Restoration, helping public housing residents with life management skills, and ensuring developments are more compatible with neighborhoods.

One thing I have always appreciated about Bedford is that we have people on our Boards and Committees from many different backgrounds and perspectives. We have held to a strong tradition of cordial discourse where disagreements are handled respectfully. Throughout my time in town government, I have worked well with people of different political beliefs and philosophies, and pledge to continue to do so. I have truly enjoyed getting to know many Bedford residents through my time in town government, and you have taught me so much from your stories and ideas.

One of my priorities as Select Board member will be to find ways to better incorporate the views of more of our residents. I learned from my time on the Planning Board, especially around difficult issues such as developments that are visible to one's house, that simple outreach and being available to answer questions can be powerful in helping residents feel included in the process. As Select Board member, I will continue this outreach and also find ways to allow new voices to be heard.

Many of us speak about Bedford's character. I feel it walking around town. It is something we take pride in but is also not static. Change in our town is inevitable due to many different factors. We can however affect the type of change that will happen by the actions we take

today. As Planning Board member, I have constantly engaged residents and have presented articles at Town Meeting to lay the foundation for the Bedford we want in the future. As Select Board member, I want to help execute this vision for an open, inclusive and vibrant Bedford.

I will support appropriate and sustainable developments that increase opportunities for downsizing seniors and those starting their careers to live in town. I will work with our representatives in state government to deal with regional issues such as transportation while addressing some areas of our infrastructure that are no longer serving us well. I will work to bring desirable businesses to town and to increase our in-town entertainment options. I will continue to be a strong advocate for sustainability. I will also not be afraid to admit when something I've worked on hasn't turned out as intended and be prepared to change it.

I want to serve you all as a Select Board member. I will continue to listen to you and be able to get things done for you because of my dedication, experience, and proven leadership. I will put my heart into the position and work hard for you. I ask for your support at the Town Election on March 12th. Thank you.

REPLIES TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS QUESTIONS

Q1—Please identify one thing about Town government that, if you could you change and how?

One of my priorities as a Select Board member will be to incorporate more viewpoints into Town Government activities. Many of us live busy lives and have commitments that limit the time we can spend on town matters. As a Select Board member, I will look for ways to hear more voices, especially of those who cannot join a board or committee and/or regularly make the time to come to meetings. During my time on the Planning Board, we held multiple public visioning sessions for the Comprehensive Plan and Great Road Zoning Project that were well-attended and allowed us to get community feedback. I also worked on the 2019 Bedford Housing Study, which incorporated feedback from 886 members of our community from both public sessions and survey responses. I will work to extend this model of gathering and incorporating feedback to more areas of Town government.

As a Select Board member, I plan to hold public sessions for feedback on major issues coming before the Board. I will also examine things like town-provided child care for parents attending Town Meeting, and using [Ranked Choice Voting](#) to encourage more candidates to run in local elections.

Q2—What is your assessment of Bedford's capacity to develop more economically diverse housing particularly in light of new State regulations that will tie future MBTA service to increasing low income housing options?

This question refers to proposed state requirements mandating zoning to support multifamily housing in designated areas without requiring a special permit from the town. This would apply to communities such as Bedford that are served by the MBTA. The proposed state requirements do not address deed restricted affordable housing that would fall under the

state's affordable housing law Chapter 40B. The state requirements are still in the comment phase, and are not yet firm. Town staff is looking first at what zoning we currently have that can apply to these proposed requirements. Existing zoning, such as around Depot Park, may be used toward fulfilling these requirements with some updates.

One of the key findings of the 2019 Housing Study is that Bedford lacks an adequate supply of moderate-income housing available for seniors and returning students looking to remain in Bedford while starting their careers and families. Any talk about maintaining our town's character should start with allowing deeply connected members of our community to afford to continue to live here. Creating multifamily housing in appropriate locations- taking into account neighborhood impact and traffic- can be an effective way to allow those who want to remain in Bedford to do so.

Q3—What are one or two sustainability projects that you identify will improve the quality of life for Bedford residents that you will champion and advocate for the Town to implement in the next two years?

I will continue to advocate for the creation of a department-level full-time Sustainability Director for our town. This is a key recommendation of the town's Net Zero plan, adopted by Town Meeting in 2017. The Select Board took a good first step in this direction in proposing an Energy Manager position as part of this year's budget, to be voted on at Town Meeting.

A Sustainability Director would advise our town's boards and committees about how best to take steps toward a carbon-free future with the help of grant funds. The Director would also help identify specific projects in town, propose changes to our zoning laws, advise residents and current and prospective businesses on resilient buildings, energy efficiency, and waste reduction, and work with other towns to advocate for changes in state laws making building codes more sustainable.

Besides the environmental benefits, hiring a Sustainability Director makes financial sense for Bedford's taxpayers. Experience from other towns shows that such an investment pays for itself many times over in grants, rebates, incentives, and energy savings that would not otherwise have been realized.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

While my significant experience in town government is a solid foundation for my candidacy, running for office in a highly visible, strongly contested election is new for me. I have found running for Select Board this year rewarding and enlightening. It reinforces my belief that open and respectful communication is essential, that vision matters, and that experience matters. I am humbled by the support I have received, especially those that have given their time and labor to help my campaign. I have learned a lot from the conversations I've had with residents and from listening to your thoughts and ideas about our town.

Voters need to know where candidates stand on issues. My ideas and plans for office are listed in detail on my website shawnforbedford.org. My website also describes my background and my work in town government. I encourage voters to look there and to ask me any questions they may have.

I have spent the last ten years serving you as a member of the Planning Board and now serve as Planning Board chair. I understand the workings of town government, the limits of authority of our elected Boards, and have learned from past experiences. By seeking to work collaboratively, I have earned the respect and trust of other Board members, professional staff, state government officials, and residents. Individual elected officials cannot act alone. Productive relationships with colleagues are crucial to getting things done.

Those who have worked with me can attest to my character and values. I am able to make tough decisions even if they do not make everyone happy. Even in emotional and frustrating meetings, I treat everyone with the respect and empathy that they deserve while seeking solutions which benefit the common good. At a time where there are sharp divisions in our society and angry rhetoric has become more commonplace, I will do my part to ensure that Bedford is a place where we maintain civil discourse, include people of all backgrounds, and respect each other, keeping Bedford the strong community we can all be proud of.

I want to serve you as a Select Board member and am prepared to do so. I have a passion for making town government work, the knowledge from my experiences, and the working relationships to be effective. As a Select Board member, I promise to work hard, listen, constructively engage all sides on controversial issues, and always serve with Bedford's best interests at heart. I ask for your vote on March 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[Anisha Aggarwal](#)

[Jacinda Barbehenn](#)

[Bob Bass](#)

[Renu Bostwick](#)

[Gyasi Burks-Abbott](#)

[Chris Gittins](#)

[Sandra Hackman](#)

[Amy Lloyd](#)

[Erin Sandler-Rathe](#)

[Ben Thomas](#)

[Lee Vorderer](#)

[Christina H. B. Wilgren](#)

[Elena Zorn](#)