



Brookline PAX Campaign Committee

70 Francis Street, Brookline MA 02446

www.BrooklinePAX.org

March 2014

We commend you for standing as a 2014 candidate for office in Brookline. As you may know, for more than 50 years Brookline PAX has been an organization of progressives who actively participate in Town politics. For information concerning the issues we consider important, see the reverse side and our website.

We endorse candidates for local, and sometimes statewide, office. Our list of endorsees is mailed to more than 1,000 PAX supporters and frequent voters, and advertised in the Brookline TAB. In some precincts it is also distributed door-to-door and/or at the polls. And of course word gets passed around.

If you would like PAX endorsement, we must receive your completed questionnaire by **Thursday, MARCH 20**. The enclosed endorsement questionnaire is also available in digital form from our website or via e-mail by phoning Frank Farlow at 232-9654. **We strongly prefer that you submit it by e-mail.** Put your name and office (e.g., “Jane Doe, TMM-4”) in the subject line and send it to **both**:
frank.farlow@verizon.net and martyros@world.std.com.

If completing the questionnaire by hand, return it to **Gary Jones, 70 Francis Street, Brookline 02446** (near Lawrence School). Leave hand-delivered questionnaires in the basket on the front porch.

While we make endorsements based in large part on your responses, if you have a well-known history of public affairs activity it will also be given substantial weight. We have no litmus tests. **Candidates for Town-wide offices** are asked to respond on a separate sheet to Question #1 (Why are you running?), indicating (a) your view of the challenges ahead for the office you seek and (b) your approach to, and qualifications for, addressing them.

We know the questionnaire is lengthy; that’s because we take this process seriously. Note that we are interested, especially where noted, in your *history of involvement* regarding the various issues—not just your views. This might include membership in interest groups, past support for particular candidates, or any other pertinent activity here or elsewhere (e.g., past votes in Town Meeting). For information on Town affairs, we encourage you to become acquainted with www.brooklinema.gov/.

To encourage candor on your part and ours, we have longstanding policies: (a) only our co-chairs retain copies of completed questionnaires; (b) we keep our Board’s endorsement discussions private; and (c) only the co-chairs publicly explain the Board’s decisions (which require a 60% vote of those present). We do not recollect ever releasing anyone’s questionnaire, or even any excerpt, but we reserve the option to do so if somebody tries to misrepresent anyone’s answers, even their own.

Regardless whether you receive the PAX endorsement, we greatly appreciate your civic spirit and willingness to participate in Town affairs. For additional information about our process, you may call co-chair Frank Farlow at 617-232-9654 up to 10:00 p.m. Finally, to learn more about Brookline PAX and meet informally with some of our members, Board members and fellow endorsees, please join us for our

CAMPAIGN KICKOFF PARTY

Sunday, April 6, 4:00-5:30

at 63 Buckminster Road, the home of Judy Lieberman and Ed Greer

Gary Jones, Election Committee (617-731-1611)

Frank Farlow, Co-chair (617-232-9654)

BROOKLINE PAX ACTIVELY SUPPORTS

Public Education—We are strongly committed to public education, from early childhood through graduate school, including comprehensive curricula, fair and tax-based funding, supporting teachers and their unions, and high standards and testing without overly high stakes.

Government Services—We support sustained state and local investment in quality municipal services such as police, fire protection, public health, libraries, schools, parks, recreation, and public works, as well as state services such as social programs, transportation and environmental protection. PAX and its endorsed candidates pursue policies of support for basic human needs, including healthcare for all, affordable housing and services for both children and senior citizens.

Public Employees and Organized Labor—We stand up for fair labor practices and for policies that show respect for the dedicated people whose competence and commitment make Brookline and this Commonwealth work.

Respect for the Environment—PAX supports aggressive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other forms of toxic emissions into our air and water; energy policies that are “green”, sustainable and economically just; the maintenance and enhancement of green spaces everywhere; and sound environmental regulation to ensure that these goals will be achieved.

Diversity, Social Justice, and Peace—We work to preserve ethnic and economic diversity and to increase social and economic justice for all, through affordable housing, universal healthcare, and all fundamental civil rights and liberties. We defend the human rights of all people — regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or location; and we support truly multilateral solutions to international affairs. We oppose the unilateral (or near-unilateral) use of force, with the exception of defensive force justified under international law by clear and convincing evidence of a serious and imminent threat of aggression—and then only to a degree commensurate with the magnitude of the threat.

WEBSITE—To learn more about PAX’s history, principles and activities, including recent recommendations to Town Meeting on warrant articles and current public policy positions, visit:

www.BrooklinePAX.org

JOIN US & OUR E-MAIL LIST—We encourage you to join PAX, and to join our e-mail list to read and place announcements of events and to discuss current issues. To join, see the above website; then send an e-mail to [**brooklinepax@yahogroups.com**](mailto:brooklinepax@yahogroups.com), or send us your e-mail address on a membership application.

Brookline PAX Board members

Co-Chairs	Edith Brickman	Jane Gilman	Bobbie Knable	Arthur Sneider
Frank Farlow	Nelson Brill	Rachel Goodman	Virginia LaPlante	Diana Spiegel
Martin Rosenthal	John Businger	John Harris	Mark Levy	Stanley Spiegel
Treasurer	Cathleen Cavell	Paul Harris	Rita McNally	Dwaign Tyndal
Gary Jones	Abram Chipman	Regina Healy	Carol Oldham	Kea van der Ziel
	Susan Chipman	Nancy Heller	John Reinstein	Donald Weitzman
Members	Susan Cohen	Chobee Hoy	Evelyn Roll	Sarah Wunsch
Catherine Anderson	Susan Ellis	Gilbert Hoy	Joshua Rubenstein	Ellen Zucker
John Bassett	Andrew Fischer	Julia Johnson	William Slotnick	
Craig Bolon	Phyllis Giller	David Klafter	Frank Smizik	

2014 PAX Endorsement Questionnaire

Name & office sought _____ Term ___yrs Precinct _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

*NOTES: A. Short answers are encouraged (but feel free to use additional sheets if necessary).
B. See cover letter explaining the questions and PAX’s endorsement process.*

1. WHY ARE YOU RUNNING for this office, and what challenges do you see ahead? Provide some information about your background—local/state/national political activity, positions held, occupation, education, and anything else relevant to your suitability for the office’s challenges. (**Candidates for TOWN-WIDE office: Please submit a separate sheet with a longer answer, of at least 250 words; see cover letter.**)

2A. BUDGET PRIORITIES regarding likely Town deficits: Rank 1-9 (1 highest), and briefly explain, including your tentative views of the looming but as yet undefined OVERRIDE vote.

Keep taxes level or lower	Recreation programs	Schools
Public safety (police/fire)	Parks &	Libraries
Public health, human	Facilities & streets	Affordable housing

2B. GAS TAX: In light of state revenue shortfalls and service cutbacks (e.g., transportation infrastructure & MBTA service, environmental needs), what are your views on leaving in place the gas tax with its inflation escalator (there is likely to soon be a ballot question to repeal it)—ideally with counterbalancing progressivity measures?

3. LABOR/PUBLIC EMPLOYEES: What is your opinion about, and past involvement (if any) in organized labor? Assuming they might save some money, at least in the short run, what is your opinion of (a) **privatization**, including replacing unionized employees with outside contractors using non-union labor; and (b) hiring more **part-time employees** (without benefits or job security)?

4. DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING

(a) **affordable housing** – The abolition of rent control in the ‘90’s caused a loss of 7,000 affordable units in Brookline. What should the Town be doing to develop or preserve affordable housing, and in what areas of Brookline? What is your history of involvement (if any) in housing issues?

(b) **development & its impact on neighborhoods:** What are your views on the trade-offs concerning encouraging development for more tax revenue and/or affordable housing and its impact on neighborhoods? Do you have a view on the current proposal for a “40B” development in Hancock Village?

5. CANDIDATES: Which electoral candidates (local, state or national) have you supported during the past two years—by endorsement, campaigning, or a campaign contribution?

6. SURVEILLANCE: What is your view on, and past involvement (if any) regarding, the surveillance cameras funded by the Department of Homeland Security, including: (a) how much the privacy intrusion bothers you, and

(b) your thoughts on the trade-offs between the loss of privacy (including for others who might care more than you) and the public safety benefits?

7A. DEATH PENALTY: What is your position on, and past involvement (if any), with this issue?

7B. INCARCERATION: The US has about 2.3 million inmates, China 1.5 million, and Russia 890K. With 5% of the world’s population, we have 25% of its prisoners, a rate ten times that of Western Europe and Japan. (1) Do you believe we over-incarcerate?

(2) With mandatory life sentences recently deemed unconstitutional for juvenile murder, do you support the Finegold-Tarr bill establishing a mandatory 35-year penalty for that crime? Please explain.

8. DIVERSITY: Aside from the crucial but complex issues of exactly how to increase the diversity of Town employees, especially supervisory ones, what are your overall views concerning Brookline’s diversity, inclusiveness, and tolerance; and in general, what if anything should we do about it?

9. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Article 17, Fall 2011 T/ M): Regardless of the final decision, was it appropriate for Town Meeting to debate our Public Schools’ requirement that the Pledge be recited at least weekly during principals’ announcements over the PA system in all classrooms, with kids told it’s “voluntary”—rather than Art. 17’s proposal for recitation only in assemblies? Why or why not? (See Combined Reports, www.brooklinema.gov/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=827&Itemid=654)

10. NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL ISSUES (usually the subject of non-binding “resolutions”): Are these issues sometimes proper for debate and votes in Town Meeting? Explain.

Would you like PAX’s endorsement? ___ Signature _____ Date