

# Brookline PAX Campaign Committee

70 Francis Street, Brookline MA 02446

[www.BrooklinePAX.org](http://www.BrooklinePAX.org)

March 16, 2015

We commend you for standing as a 2015 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 our website and “Brookline PAX Actively Supports” on the reverse.

We endorse candidates for local, and sometimes statewide, office. Our list of endorsees is mailed to about 2,000 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 27**. The enclosed endorsement questionnaire is also available in digital form on 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 sought in the subject line (e.g., “Jane Doe, TMM-4”) and send it to:

[frank.farlow@verizon.net](mailto:frank.farlow@verizon.net) and [martyros@world.std.com](mailto: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 OFFICE** are asked to respond in greater depth 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/](http://www.brooklinema.gov/).

Our longstanding practice is to keep our Board’s endorsement discussions private. Only the co-chairs publicly explain the Board’s decisions (which require a 60% vote of those present). Although in the past we held candidates’ questionnaire responses in confidence, after recent debate the Board decided to discontinue that, to “let the sun shine in.” We will not publicize this information on our own initiative, but if asked, we shall provide the answers; and if we feel that any candidate has publicly misstated the thrust of her/his answers, we might disclose them of our own accord.

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 12, 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.

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**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](http://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 progressive events and to discuss current issues. To join, see the above website; then send an e-mail to [brooklinepax@yahoogroups.com](mailto:brooklinepax@yahoogroups.com), or send us your e-mail address on a membership application.

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### Brookline PAX Board Members

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

# 2015 PAX Endorsement Questionnaire

Name/office sought/precinct \_\_\_\_\_ Term \_\_\_\_ yrs

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 respond in at least 250 words**, indicating (a) your view of the challenges ahead for the office you seek and (b) your approach to and qualifications for addressing them.

**2. BUDGET PRIORITIES** regarding possible 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 & conservation	Libraries
Public health, human services	Facilities & streets	Affordable housing

**3. GAS TAX** – In light of state revenue shortfalls and service cutbacks (e.g., transportation infrastructure, MBTA service, environmental needs), what were your views on leaving in place the gas tax's annual inflation escalator (which the 2014 ballot question repealed)?

**4. 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 concerning (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)?

**5. 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 preserve or develop more 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? [See <http://brookline.wickedlocal.com/article/20150313/NEWS/150317964>, "Selectmen may fight Hancock Village approval," TAB, 3/13/15)

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

**7. 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) the trade-offs between the loss of privacy (including for others who might care more than you) and the public safety benefits?

**8. OVERRIDE** – What are your current thoughts about May's "operating override" ballot question? (Not the "debt exclusion," which would fund the Devotion renovation.)

**9. OLYMPICS** – A warrant article for May is a "Resolution opposing Boston2024's Olympics bid as a misguided civic priority." What are your current thoughts on that general issue?

**10. DIVERSITY:** What are your views concerning Brookline’s diversity, especially regarding Police issues, and thoughts you have concerning the future role(s) of the new *Commission for Diversity, Inclusion, & Community Relations*? (We’re asking less about the crucial but complex issue of how to increase the diversity of the Town’s workforce, especially supervisors, but any ideas are welcome.)

**11. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** (Article 17, Fall 2011 Town Meeting): Very briefly, and regardless of the final Town Meeting decision, how did/do you feel about our 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*? (For more, see Combined Reports, <http://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/4591>)

**12. 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 \_\_\_\_\_