

# Brookline PAX Campaign Committee

70 Francis Street, Brookline MA 02446

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

We commend you for standing as a 2017 candidate for office in Brookline! As you may know, since 1962 PAX has been an organization of progressives actively participating in town politics. (For information about our values, see our website and “Brookline PAX Actively Supports” on page 2 of this letter.)

We have long endorsed candidates for local (and sometimes statewide) office. Our list of endorsees is generally broadly mailed, to PAX supporters and frequent voters, and advertised in the Brookline TAB. It may also be distributed door-to-door and/or at the polls. And of course, word gets around.

If you seek a PAX endorsement, we must receive your completed questionnaire no later than **5:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 21**. We strongly prefer that you submit your questionnaire by e-mail. Put your name and office sought in the subject line (e.g., “Jane Doe, TMM-4”) and send it to [neil@nrgordon.com](mailto:neil@nrgordon.com), with a copy to [martyros@world.std.com](mailto:martyros@world.std.com). You can also mail your completed questionnaire to Neil Gordon, 87 Ivy Street, Brookline, MA 02446. For the last last-minuters, there’s a box on the porch of Gary Jones’ house, 70 Francis St. (near Lawrence school).

PAX endorsements require a 60% affirmative vote of Board members present at our endorsement meeting, based on questionnaire responses, and also known history of public affairs activity, including, for incumbents, recorded votes. We have no litmus tests. While we will not publicize your answers, if asked, the co-chairs may generalize as to our endorsement choices.; if we feel that a candidate misstates the thrust of her/his answers, we might disclose those inconsistencies.

Regardless of whether you receive a PAX endorsement, we appreciate your willingness to participate in Town government. For additional information about our process, you may email PAX Interim Co-chair Neil Gordon at [neil@nrgordon.com](mailto:neil@nrgordon.com), or call him at 508-265-1362. Finally, to learn more about Brookline PAX and meet informally with our members, Board members and fellow endorsees, please join us for our

## CAMPAIGN KICKOFF PARTY

**Sunday, April 2, 4:00-5:30**

[location to be determined]

Sincerely,

*Marty Rosenthal*, Co-chair,

*Neil Gordon*, Interim Co-chair

## 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](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 PAX, see the above website; to join our e-mail list, send an e-mail to [BrooklinePAX@yahoogroups.com](mailto:BrooklinePAX@yahoogroups.com), or send us your e-mail address on a membership application.

### Brookline PAX Board Members

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

**2017 Brookline PAX Endorsement Questionnaire**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Office sought: \_\_\_\_\_  
Precinct: \_\_ Term: \_\_ yrs Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Short answers encouraged. See cover letter explaining PAX's endorsement process.*

**Provide some background information:**

Recent occupation(s)/employer(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Elected/appointed gov't & public interest group offices held, especially Brookline & MA: \_\_\_\_\_

**Elections & voting** – Which electoral candidates (local, state, national) have you actively supported in the past 3 years:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>endorsed</u>	<u>campaigned</u>	<u>donated</u>
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____

**WHY ARE YOU RUNNING** for this office? What challenges do you see ahead for Brookline?

**Candidates for TOWN-WIDE office:** After completing the other questions, what is (a) your view of the specific challenges ahead for the office you seek, and (b) your approach & qualifications to address them? (Please respond in 250-300 words on a separate sheet).

**BUDGET PRIORITIES:** Please weight your priorities, by allocating a total of 100 points among the following:

Level or lower taxes	_____	Recreation programs	_____
Schools	_____	Police and fire	_____
Parks and conservation	_____	Libraries	_____
Public health	_____	Facilities and streets	_____

**LABOR/PUBLIC EMPLOYEES:**

- a. What is your opinion about, and past involvement (if any) with: (1) organized labor, (2) privatization, including replacing unionized employees with outside contractors using non-union labor; and (3) hiring part-time employees (presumably without benefits or job security)?

- b. Do you have an opinion about the current state of relations between the Town/Schools and its unions/employees? If so, please summarize.

**DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING**

a. What are your views on the trade-offs between encouraging commercial development for more tax revenue vs. more affordable housing?

b. What are your views on the current “40B” proposals & Town Hall’s approach?

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION** – Town Meeting has recently taken a number of steps to protect the environment, passing resolutions against oil and natural gas pipelines, expanding mandatory recycling to include commercial establishments, and voting to reduce the use disposable plastics. To what extent have you voted for – or against, or would you now support such measures, and why?

**OVERRIDE** – Did you support or oppose the 2015 operating budget override ballot question (not the debt exclusion question for Devotion School)? Why?

**TOWN DIVERSITY & RACISM:**

a. What is your opinion of current level of diversity among Brookline’s (i) elected officials, (ii) appointed officials (i.e., committees and commissions), (iii) Town Meeting Members, (iv) the Town workforce; (v) the Schools workforce, and (v) residents? (Note: Please do not address any current, pending legal cases)

b. What is your opinion of the manner in which the Town’s government treats its residents and visitors, and in particular with respect to race, religion, sexual orientation and expression, national origin, and immigration status?

**NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL ISSUES:** Are these issues (usually presented in the form of non-binding Town Meeting resolutions) proper subjects for Town Meeting? Please explain.

**I would like PAX's endorsement:**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_