



I want to thank BrooklineCAN and the Livable Community Advocacy Committee for this opportunity to introduce myself and explain why I am running for Select Board.

Older residents constitute a growing percentage of Brookline's population; over 20% of Brookline's population is 60 years old or older. Here are two issues of particular concern to older residents that I will focus on as a Select Board member.

Housing: Older Brookline residents face many housing challenges:

- Finding and retaining affordable housing close to the community they rely on.
- Paying property taxes, maintenance and rental fees that are rising faster than their fixed incomes.
- For older residents below or near the poverty line, having to devote too much of their income to housing costs, leaving little for other necessities.

More housing for older residents will provide many benefits. More housing near our small businesses will improve access to goods and services that older residents need. More housing will also provide more affordable options for older residents who want to downsize while remaining in Brookline. New housing that complies with fossil free fuel requirements will make our environment cleaner, and provide health and safety benefits to older residents who are especially vulnerable to excessive heat.

Transportation: Good transportation is key to ensuring that older residents remain a vibrant part of our community. Whether depending on public transportation, services provided by the town or their own means of transportation, we must accommodate various modes of transportation while keeping everyone safe. For example, streets that must support pedestrians, bicycles and motor vehicles need clearer separation of the different modes to ensure the safety of everyone.

Brookline faces numerous, interrelated, and complex challenges. Addressing those challenges boils down to a single question: How can we afford all that we need while retaining the qualities that make Brookline wonderful?

- **Fiscal constraints** limit our ability to maintain and enhance the services used by seniors in Brookline, including transportation, basic needs such as food and housing, and community enrichment.

- **Rising property taxes and unaffordable housing costs** squeeze residents at all stages of life, including seniors living on fixed incomes.
- **Climate change and environmental degradation** require us to improve infrastructure to mitigate damage and adapt to new realities.

I believe that these challenges, difficult as they are, also present an opportunity for us. Together, we can realize a vision of Brookline that I believe we all share: **a vibrant and diverse community with thriving small businesses and homes for every stage of life, tightly interwoven with the natural world**. We have the knowledge, experience and resources to overcome even extreme difficulties, and I have the skills to help.

In 1985 I moved to Boston and founded CambridgeSoft with my brother. We provided software for pharmaceutical, biotechnology and chemical industries to help them innovate and communicate efficiently. Over the next 25 years we grew our two-person startup into a thriving software business providing work for almost 400 people.

After selling CambridgeSoft in 2011, I dedicated myself to making a positive impact by joining organizations committed to fostering the public good:

- As a leader in the **Greater Boston Interfaith Organization** and Co-Chair of its Health Care Campaign, I helped to lower hospital and MassHealth prescription drug costs and improve access to affordable mental health care.
- Simultaneously, I ran the **Governance and Facilities Committees** on two boards of schools serving under-resourced students.
- Currently, I represent Precinct 13 in Brookline's Town Meeting. In that role I helped **organize the coalition** that passed the MBTA-Communities Act Consensus Warrant Article in November 2023.

In all of these roles, I uncovered opportunities to **build consensus and drive transformative change** by analyzing complex systems and developing strong interpersonal relationships. I look forward to working with you so that we can enjoy a sustainable and thriving Brookline.

[Click here to learn more about my experience and background >](#)

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