

VOTE

March 26th, 2019

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Board of Selectmen - 2 Positions Available



Dean A.
CHARTER



David D.
MARTIN



James F.
SNYDER-GRANT

Please refer to the brochure of candidates statements prepared by ACACS for details.

DEAN CHARTER FOR SELECTMAN

Acton will be facing many challenges in the coming years. Regional growth will impact Acton regardless of any changes in our population. The increasing demand for services could outstrip our ability to pay for them under Proposition 2 1/2. Long overdue projects such as the North Acton Fire Station will require a debt exclusion override. Many Open Space parcels may come on the market. Serious consideration must be given to the expansion of the sewer system into the developed area of West Acton to not only serve the proposed replacement school, but also to allow the continued growth and diversification of the commercial center of West Acton. All of these challenges require an experienced and fiscally prudent candidate.

I am pleased to announce my candidacy for Selectman for the Town of Acton. If I am elected, this will be the culmination of my over forty years of service to the Town.

I retired in 2015 after 40 years of paid service to the Town of Acton, serving for many years as Municipal Properties Director and Tree Warden. I was privileged to work on many exciting projects for the Town, including serving as project manager for the expansion of Town Hall, renovations and additions to the Memorial Library, the creation of the new Public Safety Facility, and the early stages of obtaining a new Senior Center, among other projects. During my career I had the opportunity to work in collaboration with town staff, committee members, and the general public, and I look back at those interactions as some of the high points of my career.

I believe that I have a unique set of qualifications for the post of Selectman. I have deep roots in the town, and I am the fifth generation of my family to live in West Acton. My wife Marcia and I raised our two sons on the last fragment of the family farm on Charter Road. I graduated from Acton Boxboro in 1968. I have watched Acton progress from a rural town of 3,500 to a full-service community of over 22,000. Acton has always been a welcoming community to new people, new ideas, and new challenges. Resilience, optimism, and tolerance are deeply held values in Acton that I grew up with and live my daily life with. I hold a BS in Education and an MA in Public Administration. During my career I became a Certified Arborist, and a Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official. And, I know from forty years "in the trenches" just what it takes to get public projects and programs accomplished.

After my retirement, I chaired the Senior Center Study Committee, and I made the successful presentation at the 2016 Town Meeting that resulted in the long sought for new Senior Center. I am presently serving as Clerk for the Community Preservation Committee, and in my three years on CPA I have worked with the committee to

Dean A. Charter

understand and deliver funding for a wide variety of Open Space, Historic Preservation, Affordable Housing, and Recreation projects. As Chair of Trustees of the West Acton Citizens' Library, I have worked with the committee to keep the library sustainable and relevant. In my recent service on the Kelley's Corner Steering Committee, I have worked with the committee, staff, and the public to find a way to right size this important project, and am currently very involved in the outreach efforts to explain this project to the citizens.

Please check out my campaign website at www.deancharter.com for more information about my experience and qualifications, and to preview my stand on some of the issues.

David D. Martin

Acton Chinese American Civic Society

David Martin, candidate for member of the Board of Selectmen

After a decade on the South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee (SATSAC), I'm ready to move on to new challenges, and would like to continue to participate in town government. My skills and experience will allow me to be an effective member of the Board of Selectmen.

My wife, Miriam Lezak, and I have lived in Acton for 30 years. Our 3 daughters graduated from ABRHS. Although I've always worked in the software industry, my degree is in Civil Engineering. Since the town's larger projects involve construction, that background can be an asset.

My job in recent years has been as a Release Architect and Technical Project Manager. In those positions, I've honed skills such as guiding teams to be efficient, tracking progress, and driving projects to completion -- making final trade-offs to complete projects on time, while maintaining quality, and coordinating the response to fix severe problems encountered by customers. These skills are similar to those needed when working on a municipal project.

As shown by my work on SATSAC, I am experienced with the public process and want to stay involved in Acton's government. SATSAC melded the needs of commuters, neighbors, people with disabilities, and the Historic District Commission, then worked with the MBTA to come up with a design that met everyone's needs. Initiatives often start with disparate opinions, so it's vital to solicit ideas from all sources. I can help steer the conversation to produce a common vision, and then drive the project to completion.

I support the new twin elementary school to replace a couple of aged school buildings. We're fortunate to have an excellent school system. The Board of Selectmen must work closely with the Regional School Committee to keep it that way.

I support the new Kelley's Corner plan, which is friendlier to cars, bicycles, and pedestrians alike. It has significant safety improvements, including for students from the nearby school campus. The 150 new trees will make it an attractive destination for the businesses there. About 85% of the costs are covered by the state and federal governments.

Other than those construction projects, I'm not running with any specific agenda. I will listen to all points of view in a fair and open-minded way. I'm good at building consensus and achieving results and want to use those skills to keep excellence thriving in Acton.

I appreciate your vote on Tuesday March 26th.

<http://www.martinforacton.com/>

Many people move to Acton to build a better future for their children. Acton's excellent schools, strong community connections, and beautiful woods, meadows, and streams all point to a future that we want for ourselves and future generations.

“Sustainability means allowing the needs of the present to be met in ways that don’t eclipse meeting the needs of future generations.”

— from the 2018 Acton Board of Selectmen policy on environmental sustainability

Strong resident support for the environment, and this 2018 town-wide policy — which includes a commitment to agreeing on measurable environmental goals — both underscore the importance of fiscal, social, and environmental sustainability to Acton's future. Sustainability has been a focus of my volunteer work since my 2003 early retirement, including the 2008 co-founding of Green Acton. I hope to use my knowledge and experience in this realm in service to our community as a member of the Board.

In my work as vice-chair of the “Acton 2020” committee, the group responsible for Acton's most recent comprehensive community plan, I ensured that we understood the connections among social, fiscal, and environmental sustainability, and worked to find agreement on action plans that supported multiple goals.

One of those goals was to help Kelley's Corner, near Rt. 111 and Rt. 27, become a busy, walkable Town center; I support the infrastructure funding warrant article that will come before April Town Meeting.

A key challenge to social sustainability for all ages is isolation. I support efforts for cross-cultural learning to prevent isolation, so that all residents feel welcome and included as part of the fabric of our community. I also believe that the Town needs to support more trainings for mental health first aid, such as the suicide prevention work of the AB Cares coalition, and trainings to recognize and address substance abuse. Depression, substance abuse, and suicide are all more likely when people feel isolated; connection helps everyone’s resilience.

It's especially important to keep drugs out of the schools, and our young people's developing brains. At the time of the Fall 2018 Town Meeting vote, I thought that the best approach was training and support to notice signs of drug problems and how to intervene. Since then, I have been talking to people as a candidate and learning how little we know about cannabis. I am now glad that democracy prevailed, so that other towns can figure out what happens when retail cannabis shops are allowed instead of Acton.

Water is our biggest local environmental challenge. We need to ensure that the Superfund cleanups at WR Grace and Nuclear Metals in southeast Acton achieve

James F. Snyder-Grant

optimal results for our water supply, and we need a regional agreement with Acton, Littleton, and Concord for the use of Nagog Pond water.

Climate change is our greatest global environmental challenge. An important local response will be moving to renewable energy, as fossil fuels (gas and oil) become scarce and expensive. Most urgently, we need to make sure that important, large projects, such as the proposed new twin elementary school and North Acton fire station, be designed to use as little energy as possible.

I'd be happy to hear from anyone with thoughts or questions about my campaign and about our community.

You can learn more at <https://JimForActon.info>. I hope you'll cast one of your votes for me on March 26. Thank you.