



# 2021 LWVS VOTERS GUIDE

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A GUIDE TO CANDIDATES IN THE  
SUDBURY ANNUAL TOWN  
ELECTION

## 2021 League of Women Voters of Sudbury Annual Town Election Voters' Guide

Each year, the League of Women Voters of Sudbury compiles this voters' guide to the local elections as a service to voters.

Please note that the Annual Town Election will be held on March 29. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters are encouraged to vote by mail, if you have applied for a mail-in ballot (the application deadline was March 23). Allow enough time (and 2 stamps) if you mail your ballot; otherwise drop your ballot in the dropbox outside the Town Clerk's office at the rear of Town Hall, available 24/7.

Ballots must be **received** by 8 p.m. on March 29. Ballots not received by the deadline will not be counted. More details at [www.lwvsudbury.org/electionfaqs](http://www.lwvsudbury.org/electionfaqs).

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The League sent questionnaires to all town and school committee candidates whose names were provided by the Town Clerk. Since there was an open seat for Planning Board after the formal candidate filing period, the League also invited write-in candidates who notified the Clerk by Feb. 23 to submit responses.

The League asked candidates to answer this question: **What are the first two issues you would address if elected, and how would you address them?** The candidates were asked to limit their responses to 100 words, and the responses in this guide are as the candidates wrote them.

We encourage you to also watch the recorded Candidates' Forum programs via SudburyTV. There are four separate one-hour programs: one for each of the three contested races--Select Board, Sudbury School Committee, and Goodnow Library Trustee-- and one featuring the uncontested candidates. Those programs will be broadcast frequently until the election on cable channels 8 and 31, and are also available online as video-on-demand at [www.sudburytv.org](http://www.sudburytv.org).

## **The Contested Races**

### **Select Board**

(Three-year term, vote for two)

**Name: Dan Carty**

ADDRESS: Stonebrook Road

OCCUPATION: Sr. Program Manager – Process Improvement

Website and/or Facebook page, if any: [www.cartyforsudbury.com](http://www.cartyforsudbury.com), [www.facebook.com/Carty-ForSudbury](http://www.facebook.com/Carty-ForSudbury)

Plan for Sudbury Post-Covid: Entering the pandemic put us in uncharted waters, so I conservatively led Sudbury for a financial worst-case scenario. We are in as good a financial position as I could have hoped, but the truth is Covid will leave behind a large wake. We need to assure Sudbury will remain serviced as we come out the other side.

Revisit the L-S Agreement: 37 years since last updated, and much has changed, including two changes to our form of government (Town Manager, 3 to 5 SB members), and withdrawal from Minuteman Regional, leaving our vocational students inequitably served.

**NAME: Janie Dretler**

ADDRESS: Goodman's Hill Road

OCCUPATION: Marketing and Operations professional

Website and/or Facebook page, if any: [JanieForSudbury.com](http://JanieForSudbury.com)

COVID-19 Recovery and Re-opening: There is no more pressing issue facing Sudbury. I support measures to assist our most vulnerable residents in getting vaccinated, including teachers and school employees. As an experienced Select member, I will work to ensure that essential town services can operate safely during this crisis. We must be innovative in how we support economic recovery and communicate our needs clearly to state representatives.

Getting Our Financial House in Order: I'm committed to defining our financial policies, prioritizing capital projects, and identifying funding sources that will help to offset the financial burden to taxpayers for the long-term.

**Name: Lisa V. Kouchakdjian**

ADDRESS: Meadowbrook Circle, Sudbury

OCCUPATION: Attorney

Website and/or Facebook page, if any: [www.GoLisa.org](http://www.GoLisa.org) and <https://www.facebook.com/golisa.org>

Improving Select Board governance practices is a priority for me, including acquiring significant professional development in the following areas: role and responsibility of the Select Board, role of the Town Manager and relationship between the two and Open Meeting Law. Doing this work will make the Select Board more focused, streamline agenda practice and improve functionality. The Select Board must improve processes regarding large capital items requiring debt by considering capital earlier in the year. Inefficiencies in process have caused undue delay in projects costing residents more money. Developing strong process is an area of great strength for me.

**Sudbury School Committee**

(Three-year term, vote for two)

**NAME: Silvia Nersessian**

ADDRESS: Dutton Road, Sudbury

OCCUPATION: Director of Development

Website and/or Facebook page, if any: [www.silvia4sudbury.org](http://www.silvia4sudbury.org); [www.facebook.com/silvia4sudbury](https://www.facebook.com/silvia4sudbury)

My highest priority is ensuring the District is prepared for a return to full in-person learning. Now more than ever we need experienced leadership to address the impacts of the pandemic on our students' academic and social emotional well-being. I am dedicated to providing students the educational experience they deserve.

I believe in meeting the needs of all students and providing them the appropriate level of challenge and opportunity for real growth. I will continue to support goals and policies that promote equity and inclusion. I am committed to advancing strategic educational initiatives, while balancing the impact on the taxpayers.

**NAME: Mandy Sim**

ADDRESS: Mossman Road, Sudbury

OCCUPATION: Business Owner

Website and/or Facebook page, if any: [www.mandysim.net](http://www.mandysim.net) and <https://www.facebook.com/MandySimSudbury>

As an early advocate for in-person learning, I'm excited there's a plan to bring our K-8 students fully back for in-person learning. As a business owner who must work with my local government officials, I understand the requirements and challenges our district must overcome in order to bring kids back full-time. I also understand the restraints of operating any facility during this time and worry about the economic impact the pandemic could have on future school budgets.

Using my business expertise, I am prepared to put forth balanced budgets while ensuring we're providing the best quality education for our students.

**NAME: Tyler Steffey**

ADDRESS: Checkerberry Circle, Sudbury

OCCUPATION: Middle-School Assistant Principal

Website and/or Facebook page, if any: [www.steffeyforsudbury.com](http://www.steffeyforsudbury.com), <https://www.facebook.com/SteffeyForSudbury>

My top two priorities are ensuring the safe return of students to school, and cementing the long-term commitment to and strength of diversity, equity, and inclusion district-wide.

Both of these priorities require a budget commitment; for example, to increase staff capacity through professional development in inclusive teaching practices and social/emotional development. I consider it my responsibility to work with our schools and Sudbury residents to accept this work will take time, participation, and patience.

I will draw from 20 years of school experience, and my commitment as the parent of a Kindergartener and second-grader, to bring these priorities to fruition.

**Goodnow Library Trustee**

(Three-year term, vote for two)

**NAME: Lily Gordon**

ADDRESS: Dutton Road

OCCUPATION: Lawyer

The first issue to address is re-opening the library. We are planning a limited re-opening in early April, and hope to increase access as conditions allow. The Trustees will work closely with the Town Manager and Board of Health in order to do this safely.

The second issue to address is renovating the Historical Room. We plan to begin renovation of the Historical Room starting this Spring. This is in part a response to patron requests for a quiet and comfortable study area. It will also provide more access to historical documents for research.

**NAME: Marie Royea**

ADDRESS: Blacksmith Drive

OCCUPATION: Serial Volunteer

My first priority is to reopen the Goodnow Library to the public as soon as possible, following a phased approach with guidance from our local Board of Health and Town Manager, which maintains the safety of both library staff and our patrons.

Another high priority is to implement policies and procedures which support our outstanding library staff in their creative and innovative dedication to the success of assuring the Goodnow Library's reputation as an invaluable and unique asset of our town.

**Name: Natalie Schlegel**

ADDRESS: Hemlock Road

OCCUPATION: University International Programs Director

Website and/or Facebook page, if any:

[www.schlegel4sudbury.org](http://www.schlegel4sudbury.org)

[www.facebook.com/schlegel4sudbury](http://www.facebook.com/schlegel4sudbury)

I will advocate for a reopening plan with clear targets that balances staff safety, community needs, and state guidelines. A safe reopening is possible now and vital to our community and democracy.

I will advocate for transparent definitions of roles between Trustees, Foundation, and Friends. Independent organizations that exist to benefit the library are priceless. Goodnow's long-term best interests will be served by rebuilding relations with Friends.

I will accomplish this with the listening and conflict resolution I'm known for in higher education and the diplomacy and mutual understanding I have achieved between my university and foreign partners.

## **The Uncontested Races**

### **Board of Assessors**

(Three-year term, vote for one)

**NAME: Joshua Fox**

ADDRESS: Brimstone Lane

OCCUPATION: Attorney

The Board of Assessors implements the Senior Means-Tested Real Estate Tax Exemption. The Board is required to review exemption applications and conduct an asset analysis to determine whether applicants have “excessive assets that place them outside of the intended recipients.” I will continue to implement this program as intended by our voters, and will ensure that our seniors are educated about the availability of this exemption.

Another important responsibility of the Board of Assessors is to review discretionary needs-based abatements. I will always ensure that our citizens most in need are granted discretionary abatements on a fundamentally fair basis.

**Board of Health**

(Three-year term, vote for one)

**NAME: Linda Huet-Clayton**

**ADDRESS:** Pineridge Road

**OCCUPATION:** Perioperative RN

The Board needs to continue closely following updated CDC recommendations for Covid. As a community we appear to be trending towards fewer cases, but we need to maintain vigilance in masking so that we can keep the momentum headed in the right direction. As a Board member, I will use the most updated data in guiding my decisions for the residents of Sudbury.

Another issue to address is the hiring of a candidate to fill the BOH nursing role who exhibits exemplary nursing skills, so that health screenings, clinics, and health and wellness programs can continue uninterrupted for Sudbury residents.

**Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Committee**

(Three-year term, vote for two)

**NAME: Mary D. Warzynski**

**ADDRESS:** Old Garrison Rd, Sudbury

**OCCUPATION:** Nurse Practitioner

Website and/or Facebook page, if any: <https://www.facebook.com/mary4lssc>

First and foremost, I would like to see our LS high school students back in the classroom with their teachers. As we transition to fall 2021, I look forward to working collaboratively with the other school committee members, the LS teachers and administration and the LS parents I serve to make certain the quality of student’s education is robust and that students are prepared for life after graduation.

**NAME: Heather Cowap**

ADDRESS: Ridge Road, Lincoln

OCCUPATION: retired educator

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Heather-Cowap-102780395223841/>

Linked In: [www.linkedin.com/in/heathercowap](http://www.linkedin.com/in/heathercowap)

My first objective is to ensure faculty and students are supported in continuing new best educational practices learned this past year. The second objective would be to support many of the excellent initiatives that already exist, such as the 8th grade to 9th transition program, in Lincoln, and the ongoing work on equity, with a particular interest in meeting the needs of all students to achieve the LS Portrait of our Graduates.

### **Moderator**

(Three-year term, vote for one)

**NAME: Catharine V. Blake**

ADDRESS: Peakham Road

*No response submitted*

### **Park & Recreation**

(Three-year term, vote for two)

**NAME: Laurie Eliason**

ADDRESS: Concord Rd.

OCCUPATION: Director of Oncology Patient Centered Outcomes

The building of a new Fairbank Community Center is a critical undertaking for Park and Recreation. I will seek to provide valuable input on the design and features of the building, based on personal experience with programs. The center should support activities and programs that are affordable and accessible to a range of Sudbury residents.

I will aim to ensure our community athletic and recreation needs are met in a way that is financially sustainable for the department. With this, I will explore uses of recent property acquisitions and how the land can support existing and future programs.

**NAME: Robert C. Beagan**

ADDRESS: Pine Street

*No response submitted*

### **Planning Board**

(Three-year term, vote for two)

**NAME: Stephen R. Garvin**

ADDRESS: Bowditch Rd

OCCUPATION: Civil Engineer

If re-elected, I hope to work on completing and implementing the Master Plan. Having worked as a Board to secure funds, gain approval at Town Meeting, select a consultant, and set up the parameters for the Steering Committee and the Master Plan itself, I look forward to this most important planning exercise to come to fruition. I also hope to work on new bylaws, in particular the cell tower regulations and how we can improve its effectiveness.

**NAME: John Sugrue (write-in candidate)**

ADDRESS: Kay Street

OCCUPATION: Urban Designer / Architect

As a current member of the Planning Board, I will continue to do the important work that we do now. One of the most important things that the Board does is to ensure that new development fits within the character of Sudbury and is designed to protect our wetlands, landscape, and water bodies. The other major thing happening on the Board that I have been deeply involved in and will continue to move forward is the Town Master Plan which we will hopefully adopt in the near future and then begin to implement over time.

**Sudbury Housing Authority**

(Three-year term, vote for one)

**NAME: Janet Cowan**

ADDRESS: Adams Road

*No response submitted*