

Brookline for Everyone 2024 Select Board Endorsement Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to complete the 2024 Brookline for Everyone Select Board endorsement questionnaire. Our goal is to better understand how you view issues related to housing affordability, and how you'd approach this policy area as an elected official.

If you aren't familiar with Brookline for Everyone, we are a grassroots organization of Brookline residents who want Brookline to be economically thriving, racially inclusive and environmentally sustainable; with a specific focus on housing affordability across the income spectrum.

Email*

Name

Email

Brookline, and the Boston region in general, suffers from a housing shortage, which contributes to high housing costs. Rents and home prices are high and rising, with negative consequences for our community. Creating more homes is a critical element necessary to solve the twin crises of shortage and unaffordability. What, if anything, should the Town of Brookline do to support the development of multifamily housing, whether deed-restricted affordable (reserved for low- to moderate-income households), “workforce,” or market-rate?

How do you see the dual crises of climate change and housing unaffordability interacting with one another?

As a Select Board member, how would you balance making progress on the Housing Production Plan recommendations and other long-standing initiatives, such as developing the Babcock Street parking lot and Kent/Station Street, while simultaneously moving forward with comprehensive planning?

As Brookline hovers around the “safe harbor” threshold under the state’s Chapter 40B statute, should Brookline continue to allow and/or encourage zoning flexibility for multi-family housing that exceeds our Inclusionary Zoning requirement of 15% of units being permanently affordable? Do you have any ideas of tools that could be utilized (current or potential) to achieve this?

As Brookline continues to change and grow, how can we make public transportation, cycling, walking, and other transit alternatives to personal vehicles viable for more residents?

Since the earliest zoning laws were implemented more than 100 year ago, they have exacerbated segregation and racial exclusion, both by design and inadvertently. And based on the recent research report from The Boston Foundation and researcher Amy Dain, [Exclusionary by Design: An Investigation of Zoning's Use as a Tool of Race, Class, and Family Exclusion in Boston's Suburbs, 1920 to Today](#), suburban Boston communities like Brookline doubled down on this approach in the 1970s and 1980s. How should Brookline zoning, planning, and housing policies consider racial justice and socio-economic diversity impacts?

Appointed boards and committees often over-represent home-owners and longtime residents of Brookline; yet nearly 50% of town residents are renters. How can you in your town wide role work toward increasing the voices of renters in decision making and advisory roles?

Anything else you'd like to add about housing production, affordability, and economic development in town?

Please indicate if you are seeking our endorsement and welcome publicity of our endorsement along with other endorsed candidates. (yes or no)

Yes

No

Do you give permission for us to publish your answers on the Brookline for Everyone website? (Your answer to this question will not influence our decision to endorse or not; this answer will not be shared with the committee ahead of determining whether or not to endorse)

Yes

No

A copy of your responses will be emailed to the address you provided.