

ALL THE LETTERS

Letters of Support for Terri Ackerman's Select Board Campaign

Including five that did not make it into the Concord Journal

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ALL THE LETTERS FROM CONCORD RESIDENTS

Tom Tarpey – Nominating speech at Town Caucus

Eight weeks from tomorrow, on March 26th, we will have our next town-wide election. Among other races and issues, we will be casting our ballots to fill two open seats on the Select Board. This will not be pro-forma. It seems we will have the good fortune to have three highly capable candidates running to fill those two seats. Because each of the candidates has a unique, personal perspective on Town government, this election cycle will, hopefully, be enriched by a well-informed discussion of the challenges the Town will face over the next ten years and how we should prepare ourselves to meet them.

I am happy to nominate Terri Ackerman, as candidate for the Select Board. I have known Terri as a neighbor, in Conantum, and as a fellow member of the Finance Committee, where we overlapped, for three years. Her good humor, thorough analysis and incisive questions, on every issue coming before the FinCom, were the ideal for FinCom participation. She has also served the Town well in her role as a member of the Community Preservation Committee, of which she is currently chair.

I recommend you all visit the website for Terri's campaign, found at ackermanforselectboard.com, and read her resume to see the depth of experience she has had in municipal government in Massachusetts. Once having done so, I believe you will agree that Terri Ackerman possesses the mixture of clear innovative thinking and experience in Town government that will make her an exemplary member of our Select Board.

It is a pleasure to nominate her, as candidate for the Select Board, and I urge you all to join me in electing Terri Ackerman.

Cynthia Rainey – Seconding speech at Town Caucus

At the Concord Town Caucus, I had the privilege to second the nomination of Terri Ackerman for the Concord Select Board. I want to emphasize one of the main reasons I am recommending a vote for Terri.

She will hit the ground running.

This sounds trite, but for anyone who has volunteered or been elected to a board or committee in town, there can be a steep learning curve.

Understanding state and local municipal process and policy are critical to performing your duties effectively. Understanding Open Meeting Law and why it is there to include the public, not to constrain the work of the board, is very important. Understanding how the Select Board works with other boards and committees in Concord is critical.

Finally, Terri understands how the town manager and Select Board work with the finance director and the Finance Committee which is so important in maintaining a sustainable town. Concord will have a new town manager this year, so these attributes are critical.

Bob Andrews

Terri Ackerman is, by any standards, qualified to be a member of the Select Board. She has a Master of Public Policy degree from the Harvard Kennedy School and many years of experience in local government management, including positions as Town Administrator in Sterling and Braintree, and Assistant Town Manager in Sudbury. In Concord, she served six years on the Finance Committee and two years on the Community Preservation Committee. Terri asks good questions and listens to the answers.

Terri has publicly stated that she is committed to environmental sustainability. I believe her on this because I have seen and enjoyed her wonderful nature photography and know that she truly appreciates our natural surroundings. While she has a solid sense of financial and management principles, I know that we can rely on her to honor Concord's sustainability principles and apply them to Town decision-making.

Dean Banfield

In a community as vibrant and diverse as Concord, the Select Board acts to guide the Town to achieve its highest aspirational objectives within the real constraints of budgetary responsibility. Some of those goals are achieved, some only hoped for. In Terri I see someone who will not overlook or ignore any of the objectives the Board is committed to. From my work with her on the FinCom, I know Terri to be someone who addresses things with a rare combination of frankness and sensitivity. On issues which divide constituencies, she listens and works to find a solution. Her experience as a Town Manager gives her a unique perspective on how policy direction by the Select Board can be realistically translated into results by our next Town Manager, whom she will be well suited to interview and vote to hire. In sum, Terri is the right person, at the right time, for Concord. Please join me in voting for Terri on March 26th.

Todd Benjamin

Terri Ackerman should receive one of your votes for Concord Select Board.

Terri's background in various town committees and her professional background with other communities in Massachusetts provides a relevant and balanced perspective for meeting the goals of residents and the town while understanding the nuances of town management. These attributes are particularly important as we look to hire a new Town Manager.

Terri supports the warrant articles for affordable homes at this year's town meeting. This will move Concord closer to enabling more affordable homes for town staff, teachers, fire fighters, police officers, employees in local businesses, first time homebuyers, and residents who want to downsize. The need for affordable homes is apparent - currently, only 9% of 277 Town employees live in Concord.

Together with Terri's focus on fiscal prudence and economic development, Concord residents will have more of a voice in the future of our town and we will be less susceptible to issues facing our neighbors such as the contentious land use discussions over affordable housing taking place just over Concord's borders in Sudbury, Acton, and Maynard.

A vote for Terri is a vote for someone who will ask important questions, who will take action, and who will be a leader in promoting a collaborative, civil, and caring town that is positioned for a future of which we can all be proud.

Please join me in voting for Terri on March 26.

Walter Birge

It is my pleasure to write in support of Terri Ackerman who is running for a seat on the Select Board. Terri and I served together on the Concord Finance Committee. During those years I came to observe her as a thoughtful and creative member of a committee that often has to deal with contentious issues. Terri is a wonderful listener, an attribute that will serve the Select Board well! Once all sides of an issue were clear, Terri would usually suggest a course of action which would serve the town well.

I encourage all in Concord to support Terri's candidacy. She will be a positive voice in the governance of our town.

Hester Brooks

In the more than 50 years I've lived in Concord, one of the things I cherish most is the spirit of volunteerism that inspires community members to participate in our public life.

I was especially happy to learn that Terri Ackerman has chosen to run for the Select Board. She would bring a wealth of wisdom and experience to that position. As a town administrator in four New England towns over a period of 25 years, she has developed expertise in all aspects of small town governance. In addition, she has come to know Concord well through her two years as a member of the Community Preservation Committee and six years on the Finance Committee. All of this background makes her uniquely qualified to be a member of the Concord Select Board.

Besides actively participating in the civic life of our town, Terri has given unstintingly to her local neighborhood as well, serving on the Conantum board of directors, including four years as president. As a neighbor, I can attest to her attention to detail, her thoughtfulness and her ability to listen proactively.

Terri's other contributions to the fabric of our town include participation as a member of the Concord-Carlisle League of Women Voters, Communities for Restorative Justice, the Domestic Violence Network, the Concord Land Conservation Trust, the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest and CCTV, where she hosted a program called "Who Cares?" That's an easy question to answer — Terri cares. I heartily endorse her for the Select Board.

Nancy Cronin

Terri Ackerman, as a candidate for the Select Board, brings the unique experience that a Select Board candidate seldom has. Terri has 25 years of administrative municipal management experience. She has served as Town Administrator in the towns of Braintree and Sterling and as Assistant Town Manager in Sudbury. She is aware of the difficult issues faced in running a town and creative ways of solving them.

In Concord she has served 6 years on the Finance Committee and 2 years on the Community Preservation Committee. Terri is concerned about preserving the special character of Concord, environmentally, historically and culturally, and working toward a balance between our town's excellent schools and town services and the need to keep property taxes reasonable enough to sustain a diverse population.

Terri is enthusiastic and involved in her work on Concord's town committees and willing to take on new responsibilities. I believe Terri will be a strong and effective Select Board member.

Holly Darzen

I am writing in support of Terri Ackerman's campaign for the Concord Select Board. Terri has been an active and energetic member of our Conantum community's board and has broad municipal experience that will serve her well on the Select Board. She has dedicated her professional life to public affairs. As an advocate of affordable housing in Concord, I have appreciated her support and advice regarding the best ways to make that happen in our town, in a process that is transparent and accountable. Thoughtful and open to new ideas, Terri works hard to understand all sides of town issues like affordable housing, and I feel this quality would contribute to her success on the Select Board.

CC King

I am writing to support Terri Ackerman for Select Board on March 26. Terri has 25 years of experience in state and local municipal process and policy. She knows how the Select Board works and has served on the Finance Committee and Community Preservation Committee. Terri used to host a CCTV program titled, "Who Cares!?". I state emphatically, "Terri Cares!" She is responsive, respectful and resourceful. She will work hard to listen to us and to work with other town representatives with clarity and compassion. Meet Terri Saturday March 16 2-4pm at Concord Greene and Sunday at the League Candidates Forum.

Gary Kleiman

I believe that Concord is an exceptionally well-run town with a very engaged and informed public and lucky to have a tremendous Town staff that has served it well. From my perspective as a co-chair of the Long-range Plan Committee that produced *Envision Concord: Bridge to 2030*, I can also see that Concord faces challenges that require careful planning and new approaches to address some of the issues and tensions that inevitably result from changing demographics and trends. Many of these issues stem from forces beyond the Town's control. For example shifts in technology (e.g. Waze) and lifestyle trends (e.g. more single-member households) are not necessarily things we need and or want to regulate, but they may have implications for the Town that require us to have vision, to plan for the unavoidable and to be proactive in creating the right conditions for our vibrant, livable, sustainable and resilient community to remain so into the future, while also preserving the unique qualities that have made Concord special for centuries.

Terri has experience with town management and understands the planning process. She also possesses a vision for the future of Concord and holds values that are aligned with the priorities identified in the *Envision Concord* plan. This vision and her values are demonstrated in her campaign platform focused on balancing amenities for the Town with rising tax rates, preserving Town character while pursuing the multiple dimensions of sustainability (environmental, fiscal and civil). I believe that Terri will serve the Town well in her role on the Select Board by listening to all perspectives and applying her vision and values to the task of planning for Concord's future. Please join me in voting for Terri.

Chris Nicholson

I support Terri Ackerman for the Concord Select Board. Having worked with her when she was President of the Kalmia Woods Corporation (I have succeeded her in this role), I can state unequivocally that she is a person of unshakable integrity. This is perhaps the most important quality to look for in someone running for public office. She is also experienced, energetic, fair, and generous to others. She carries out her responsibilities with good humor. Our town will be well served to be able to count on her leadership in this role.

Karle Packard

Terri Ackerman is very well qualified to take on the responsibilities of a Select Board member. She holds a Master of Public Policy degree from the Harvard Kennedy School and has 25 years experience as a local government manager in Massachusetts serving as the Town Administrator in Sterling and Braintree, Assistant Town Manager in Sudbury, and Interim Town Manager in North Andover.

She has been deeply involved in the Concord community. Currently serving her second year on the Community Preservation Committee, she previously served 6 years on the Finance Committee. Her child has attended Concord schools, she is a member of the League of Women Voters and the Concord Land Conservation Trust. She is also an accomplished photographer of nature, by the way.

Her positions on the issues facing Concord are sound, well thought out, and attentive to future needs. For example, Terri supports a process that involves Concord citizens with Town officials in long term capital planning and the creation of an established capital plan for major projects requiring authorization of debt that is excluded from Proposition 2-1/2 limits. Concord's recently completed Comprehensive Long Range Plan includes this as part of its goals (Section 4.8 FISCAL PLANNING Goal 1). Terri served on capital planning committees in 2 towns and saw them work first-hand. In one town, where passing a debt exclusion was unprecedented, unified leadership made all the difference.

In order to learn more about Terri, her positions on the issues that are important to Concord and the capabilities she would apply as a member of the Select Board, I suggest looking at the campaign website ackermanforselectboard.com.

I support Terri Ackerman for election as a new Select Board member. I will vote for her on March 26 and I urge others to vote for her as well.

Regine Ryder

I have known Terri Ackerman as a neighbor for many years. Since she moved into our neighborhood she has joined the Conantum or Kalmia Woods Board and served in several duties including as President for several years. She is enthusiastic as well as knowledgeable, kind, and professional. Terri also cares deeply about the environment. Her background of serving in administration in five towns for over 25 years gives her the experience to understand processes in government. She is going to be able to fulfill her duties as select board member efficiently and professionally.

Sallie Satterthwaite

This election matters. I encourage voters who don't know Terri Ackerman to visit ackermanforselectboard.com and to attend at least one meet-Terri event where they can ask questions, express concerns, and simply converse. I believe that they will come away impressed and be glad that they took the time.

Here is why Terri's candidacy stands out for me as an opportunity for Concord to benefit from her unique combination of strengths:

Terri's education, her career, and her volunteer work for the Town clearly demonstrate her life-long commitment to the challenge of demanding, public-facing roles that serve the community. Strong analytical skills help her home in on the heart of complicated issues; she is blessed with a sharp memory; and she possesses the courage to speak frankly and ask hard questions. Combine these abilities with her discretion, her pragmatism, her down-to-earth manner, and a collaborative approach that holds up well in divisive situations involving diverse stakeholder goals, and you have a valuable addition to the Select Board.

And a timely one: As the Board will be choosing a new Town Manager, and having been a town manager herself, Terri is superbly qualified to evaluate the finalists, to help our next Manager get up to speed, and to make insightful contributions as the Board and the Manager establish ways of working together that will serve the Town well.

PROFESSIONAL REVIEWS OF TERRI'S WORK IN MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT

"I want to express appreciation to you for your interest, help, time and assistance to our board during your tenure as Sterling Town Administrator. You always found time to assist town citizens, dealing with difficult situations and people with aplomb and interest while always looking out for the community's interest... You were always friendly and personable to deal with. You thought through and coordinated actions with all departments. We commend you on a job well done."

William W. Bird, Chairman, Board of Appeals, Sterling

"Terri...I just wanted to say Thank You for your help and support. I must tell you that I am impressed how you move forward. I, for one, appreciate your efforts and tenacity."

Maureen Cranston, Selectman, Town of Sterling

"Terri Ackerman has done an outstanding job...Terri has supplied countless insightful ideas of the efficient management of Sudbury's finances. Her dedication to her job is apparent. Terri is congenial, has a success-driven personality type and pitches in unselfishly to ensure that tasks are both initiated and completed...an invaluable resource to the town...In short, Terri is just a charm to work with. My highest recommendations go to her for her continued exemplary performance."

Roy Sanford, Chairman, Sudbury Finance Committee

"We're very appreciative of the efforts you put into the town. You've been up front, inventive, and ingenious."

John Drobinski and Judith Cope, Selectmen, Town of Sudbury

"Your enthusiasm is contagious...a talented and intelligent woman. You can do this job better than most."

Christine Liebke, HR Director, Town of North Andover