

# CANDIDATES ROUNDTABLE - SELECTMAN / SCHOOL BOARD

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ple want conserved should be, because you're losing money on it.

**DG:** It's a matter of balancing what's good for the community. Our friends and neighbors get recreation on our land. It's important to have places for that, but I'm concerned about putting the burden for that on the community.

I think we should look at a lot of private resources for these projects. It still opens up the land for public use, and that's great. I wouldn't want to see Andover become a city, but there's a balance to be struck.

**ML:** I don't believe the town should buy conservation land. Let the private sector purchase it by donations or any other way that's not a burden on the taxpayer. There's a lot of conservation land in town that makes taxes go up for the other taxpayers. Conservation land is wonderful for future generations of this town. But it's probably for when times are better.

**HW:** Whether it's a good time or not, I oppose the idea of the town owning land beyond anything that's absolutely necessary. You take land out of productive use for future generations... but for whose benefit? Taxes will rise. There's no solution to it unless you get rid of the mandates to saving tax dollars.

**Charlie McCrave:** What is your position on semi-annual tax bills for Andover, which is on this year's warrant?

**JD:** I pay a semi-annual tax bill in Franklin, and I like it. I don't have to come up with that big lump sum once a year. I'm in favor of it.

**DG:** One of the things I like about towns like Andover is that we get to vote on things like this.

I'm concerned about people on fixed incomes who have to pay that big bill once a year. I think breaking it in half is a great idea. It will cost the town a little more to mail bills twice a year. There's no benefit to the town any more to have the money coming in all at one time.

**ML:** Paying your tax bill in Decem-

ber makes it one of the most difficult months. Cutting them in half or even quarterly would probably help out a lot of people. You just have to be very careful because that tax bill will look a lot smaller, which could be used to raise taxes a little.

**HW:** There's also the benefit to the town govt that it smoothes out the cash flow. I see nothing wrong with this.

**JJ:** I agree fully with a twice-a-year tax bill. I escrow my taxes monthly so it's easy, but if I had to come up with one lump sum, twice a year would be easier. If the town has to borrow money under the current system, that's bad business.

the current budget. I can't imagine cutting it any thinner.

**JD:** This falls under accepting responsibility for what one does. The Selectmen have a history of not putting all the money they need into the budget, and then they take it out of the Road Agent's budget.

## School Board Candidates Roundtable Sunday, February 15, 2:30 PM

**Charlie McCrave:** Why did you decide to run for School Board? What special strengths do you bring to the Board?

I face curriculum standards every day. I also work with special education teachers and implement special education plans. I think I have a well-rounded approach

**Sean Cox:** I, too, have a third grader at AE/MS and one in kindergarten next year. My wife and I are both trained engineers and understand the value of education. We understand numbers and analysis. We also understand that in a well-run meeting it's about solving problems, not about any of the people at the table.

I have an MBA in Marketing & Finance, so I understand math and finance. I think most issues before the Board are financial. Being able to break down issues, analyze them, figure out how to fund them is fundamentals. I've taught students at Ragged Mountain, where I'm a snowboard instructor. I think my skills are sorely needed.

**Don Gould:** I decided to run after walking into a School Board meeting. The chair spurred me on by saying that he hadn't seen the public at Board meetings for so long that they were not prepared for public input.

I was disturbed about leaving off year three of the maintenance plan, especially the asbestos remediation. I've spent most of my career interfacing with the public on hazardous materials. I've created budgets in a big corporation. I've proposed projects. I've done a lot of research projects. I'm thorough and I think it's time I extended my experience as chair of the East Andover Village Preschool board and move on to older kids.

**Kathy Benefit Hildebrand:** All four of our children have been raised in a diverse manner. The youngest was a special education student. All four have roots in Andover and wonderful relations with teachers. I've been here more than 20 years, and that's why I run.

I come in with a different agenda - a focus on children and their needs. My passion is for neutrality. If this were a political situation, the word would be

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### SEE THE COMPLETE ROUNDTABLES ON CABLE CHANNEL 8 OR ON DVD!

The complete Candidate Roundtables are available from your Andover Libraries on DVD or on Cable Channel 8 on the following schedule.

Through 8 PM, March 5: Selectman Roundtable - 8 AM and 3 PM  
School Board Roundtable - 9:15 AM and 4:45 PM

8 PM, March 5 through March 11: Selectman Roundtable - 9:45 PM  
School Board Roundtable - 8 PM

Cable Channel 8 is available in the Town Hall. If you can't watch it at home, please call the Town Office at 735-5332 to arrange to watch it there.

**Charlie McCrave:** About half the Town budget is roads and bridges. That's always an attractive target when budgets need to be cut. Do you think that's a good idea?

**DG:** I think our Road Agent has a very important job. Because of water problems over the last few years, we've had to spend money that should have been spent on keeping the roads up. We've had a couple of difficult winters and springs. Cutting back scares me.

**ML:** I'd look at it line by line to see if things could be changed or delayed.

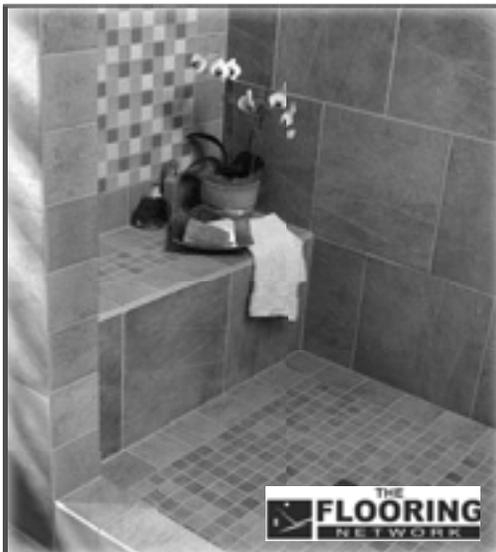
**HW:** I'd put off or slow down road improvements. Much as I dislike driving over muddy roads, it's something to be considered.

**JJ:** We have a lot of roads. I don't see how the Road Agent gets by with

**Erik Anderson:** I have a balanced approach to things. I'm a parent with a child in school now and one entering in a couple of years. I'm a teacher in the Kearsarge district, and a taxpayer. That gives me a balanced approach. As far as public service, I don't think there's anything more important than education.

I feel the School Board has not been making good decisions. The Hamp House was the real spark for me running this time.

I know there's plenty of wasteful spending in education. I want to get away from issues like the Hamp House and focus on education. I'm a public school teacher 188 days a year and that makes me familiar with the needs of kids, teachers, mandates from the federal government, school safety issues.



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