

My name is Mary Jo LaFreniere and I am running for re-election to the Select Board.

In Hopkinton, we face many challenges as we struggle to accommodate our town's growth. That's why I believe that a strong financial and municipal background is so important for a Select Board candidate. In addition to serving on the Select Board, I served for many years on the Board of Assessors. I am a former Massachusetts Accredited Assessor and have served as a professional assessor for the towns of Holliston and Plainville. Here in Hopkinton, I have served as a Commissioner of Trust Funds and on the Tax Relief Committee. I have also had the opportunity to advocate for the town through many years of service on the Marathon Committee.

As a Select Board member, I have been honored to serve as liaison to the Board of Health, Parks & Recreation, Board of Assessors, Sustainable Green Committee, Cemetery Commission, Council on Aging, Tax Relief Committee, and Marathon Committee. As liaison to the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority, I was delighted to help bring a wheelchair accessible bus route to the Hopkinton Senior Center.

However, the accomplishments of which I am most proud are those that we have achieved together, as the Select Board and as a town. Although our community has suffered losses, I believe that we should be proud of the hard work we put in during the pandemic. I wish to thank in particular the School Committee, Board of Health, and our Hopkinton Police and Fire Departments. I am a firm believer in the concept of "one town, one team," and believe that the differing viewpoints expressed by members of the Select Board have led us to a richer discussion and ultimately better outcomes.

If reelected I will focus on:

- Helping to push completion of the Downtown Corridor Project so that our residents and businesses can finally enjoy its benefits
- Successful resolution of the dangerous traffic situation at Cumberland Farms
- Continuing to attract business and industry to South Street and other commercial areas
- Keeping our school rankings high as we all recover together from the challenges of the pandemic
- Preserving Hopkinton's natural resources with a special focus on promoting local climate action strategies and helping to resolve the PFAS issue in our water
- Promoting the wonderful programs and resources at the Senior Center

Our family moved to Hopkinton when our boys were three years old and three months old. Over the years I came to love our friendly town with its strong school system and beautiful natural environment. Now as the town grows, I hope to continue to serve all of our residents, old and new alike, and foster a sense of community so that we can all share the same wonderful Hopkinton experience that my family and I have enjoyed.

I respectfully ask for your vote on Monday, May 16, 2022.

