

Voter Information Night 2026

Candidate Questionnaire Responses

Town Of Stratham Candidates

- Diane Morgera, Cemetery Trustee (3 year)
- Terri Grijalva, Library Trustee (3 year)
- Judith Norton, Library Trustee (1 year)
- Tedd Tramaloni, Select Board (3 year)
- Cathy Warner, Supervisor of the Checklist (3 year)
- Deborah Bakie, Town Clerk (3 year)
- Mikki Deschaine, Trustee of the Trust Funds (3 year)

Stratham School District Candidates

- Sean Dempsey, SMS School Board
- Shane O'Brien, SMS School Board
- Kathleen Peck, SMS School Board
- Sophie Saltonstall, SMS School Board

ERCSD Candidates for School Board Member & Moderator

- Melissa Lyons, School Board Member from East Kingston
- Cameron Kittle, School Board Member from Exeter
- Eric Miller, School Board Member from Kensington
- Eric Garcia de Paredes, School Board Member from Stratham
- Katherine Miller, School District Moderator

ERCSD Budget Advisory Committee

- Roy Morrisette, Budget Advisory Committee from Exeter
- Al Brandino, Budget Advisory Committee from Kensington

Town of Stratham Candidates

Diane Morgera

Candidate for Cemetery Trustee

Professional background:

Thirty Plus years in accounting & financial management. Currently retired but I have an antiques business.

Do you have past political experience?

Spent 21 years as a Trustee of the Trust Funds for the Town of Stratham.

Are you an incumbent?

Not at this time.

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

I like helping out in the community, and in this position I could learn more about the history of our town and Cemetery management.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)

I have good administrative skills including budgeting and money management. Of course I also know how it is to work with the Trustees of the Trust funds, so that's a help. I think my appreciation for history will also help me get involved in the discussion of Cemetery management for the benefit of the town with continuing regard for the growth of the town and perpetual care.

Town of Stratham Candidates

Terri Grijalva

Candidate for Library Trustee

Professional background:

After spending 30 years with a Fortune 100 global insurance company, serving in both individual contributor and leadership roles, I made the decision in 2023 to dedicate my time fully to nonprofit work across New England. This transition has allowed me to focus on work that feels deeply meaningful — applying my professional experience and education in service to the communities that have given so much to me and my family.

I currently serve as Vice President of the Southern New Hampshire University Alumni Board, as a board member of The Iris Network, and as Secretary on the Executive Board of the Seacoast Science Center. Each of these roles reflects my commitment to strengthening organizations that educate, connect, and serve others.

Do you have past political experience? No

Are you an incumbent?

Yes, I was an alternate library trustee from 2024-2025, and an elected library trustee for a one year term from 2025-2026.

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

I am running for Library Trustee because I care deeply about this community and want to give back in a meaningful way. My three children were raised in Stratham, attended SAU 16 public schools, and grew up benefiting from the programs, resources, and welcoming space our library provides. The library was part of their childhood — and part of our family’s story.

At this stage in my life, I have both the time and the desire to serve. I believe the library is far more than a building with books — it is a gathering place, a trusted source of information, and a cornerstone of our town and the broader NH Seacoast community.

The library’s mission to “inspire readers, enrich lives, and create community” truly resonates with me. Reading expands horizons and builds empathy, and strong libraries help build strong communities. I am committed to working collaboratively to ensure our library continues to serve and welcome all residents.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)

Throughout my career, I have worked to build partnerships, develop new revenue opportunities, and improve organizational processes and technology. I led cross-functional teams focused on long-term strategy and future-focused solutions — experience that translates well to thoughtful board governance.

Town of Stratham Candidates

As a trustee, I see my role as one of support and stewardship. I will continue to work closely with our dedicated library staff, fellow trustees, and town leaders to encourage greater participation and engagement. I bring a marketing background and strong technology experience, which I hope to leverage to help promote library programs and strengthen communication with residents. Most importantly, I am committed to showing up — attending meetings, listening carefully, contributing thoughtfully, and supporting the long-term vitality of our library.

Town of Stratham Candidates

Judith Norton

Candidate for Library Trustee

Professional background:

I am a retired teacher. I taught for 37 years. I graduated from the University of Oregon. I taught in Oregon, but moved here in 1979. I started teaching in SAU 50 in 1981. I taught physical education in Newington, New Castle and Greenland. I then taught full time in Greenland in 1991. I taught physical education and health for grades kindergarten through eighth grade. I was athletic director and coached most sports. I ran intramural programs and served on multiple committees. I retired in 2013 after 31 years there.

Do you have past political experience?

This is the first time I have run for office. I was asked to run for the board because of my great interest in the success of the library programs.

Are you an incumbent? No

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

I am running for the Board of Trustees because I want to support the fantastic programs the library provides. I want to make sure the staff gets the recognition it deserves for the work they do. We are ahead of most libraries in the number of diverse programs we offer to the community.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)

My background in teaching multiple grades each day, having to change equipment from class to class, and organizing athletic schedules from season to season and day to day makes me versatile in many areas.

I am a member of Friends of the Library which gives me insight to the needs of the library. I am a voracious reader and a member of Trisha's book group.

Town of Stratham Candidates

Tedd Tramaloni

Candidate for Select Board

Professional background:

I began my professional career in 1974 at a public television station in Binghamton, NY. Over the next 13 years, I moved to larger stations and took on new roles, including Executive Producer, Producer, Director, Technical Director and Editor. I worked on award-winning local and national programs and successfully managed creative talent and technical crews. In 1985, after four years at NHPTV in Durham, my career changed directions when I moved from full-time staff work to freelancing, first in Boston sports, then to national events for companies such as ESPN, ABC, Fox, and others. In early 2000, I formed Great Bay Teleproductions LLC and operated a commercial editing facility in Rye, NH while also performing contract work as a Demo Artist and Trainer for several major television equipment manufacturing companies. That work led to a full-time position in 2007. Over the next 17 years, I worked for several different manufacturers, including Ross Video where I began in Sales before being promoted to the position of Production Switcher Business Development Manager. At the end of 2024, my fifty-year broadcast television career ended when I retired from the industry to pursue other interests. Since then, I've earned an FAA Part 107 certificate which allows me to fly drones commercially and hope to begin offering aerial photography and videography services later this year.

Do you have past political experience?

Very little actual political experience but have served on the Stratham Budget Advisory Committee for the past three years.

Are you an incumbent? No.

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

I've long felt that the challenges facing small towns such as Stratham can be best addressed when citizens become more involved with the process of managing the Town's affairs and work cooperatively with Town officials to develop innovative solutions. That's one reason why it has been my privilege to serve on the Budget Advisory Committee for the past three years. That experience has not only allowed me to better understand the issues, but also to become more acquainted with the people who serve our community as Town employees, elected officials, and volunteers. After the Budget meetings concluded in January, I resolved to become more involved in our Town's governance. Therefore, when the current Select Board Chair opted not to run for reelection, I made the decision to seek a position on the Select Board.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)

Town of Stratham Candidates

Television productions are, by nature, collaborative endeavors. Assembling and managing a team of creative individuals, both in front of and behind the camera, requires patience, a willingness to listen to all viewpoints, and the ability to balance sometimes conflicting priorities. At the same time, addressing the enormous technical challenges requires a deep understanding of each step in the process and attention to even the smallest details to assure that as little as possible is left to chance. These skills and more, learned and honed over a lifetime in the industry, will help me make a positive contribution as a member of the Select Board.

Town of Stratham Candidates

Cathy Warner

Candidate for Supervisor of the Checklist

Professional background:

I have been a resident of Stratham since 1989 when I moved here from Chicago with my husband John and our two children. For twenty years I was a teacher at Stratham Memorial School.

Do you have past political experience?

Six years ago (after serving several months as interim supervisor) I was elected to the position of Supervisor of the Checklist for the town of Stratham. Prior to that I was a Ballot Clerk at numerous town, state and national elections.

Are you an incumbent? Yes

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

I am running for re-election because I feel the experience I have gained over the years will be an important asset as we enter what is predicted to be a busy election season. I cut my teeth as a supervisor during town, state and national election years that brought record numbers of voters to the polls, including the COVID years.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)

The knowledge and skills I have gained over the past six years will enable me to navigate through a complicated landscape of election changes... updated forms, redesigned data systems and new laws. It's a vital, important job, and not always an easy one. Elections are complicated and multifaceted and it takes many people, working as a coherent team, to keep them running smoothly. Over the years we have all worked hard to become a productive and organized team who trust, communicate and share in the goal of running the best election we can.

Town of Stratham Candidates

Deborah Bakie

Candidate for Town Clerk

Professional background:

Do you have past political experience?

Are you an incumbent?

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)

Town of Stratham Candidates

Mikki Deschaine

Candidate for Trustee of the Trust Funds

Professional background:

I have a B.S. In Public Administration and a J.D. I pursued my law degree at Suffolk in Boston as a full-time commuter student just as my youngest child entered first grade at Stratham Memorial School - I'm no stranger to challenges! Over the last 45 years I've worked in law, finance, and administration in both the private sector and at educational institutions until my recent retirement.

Do you have past political experience?

I was the Clerk of the Stratham School District for nine years until 2021. I was elected as a write-in candidate in 2014 after a Select Board member asked me if I'd be willing to take the role on since no one was running, and I've served as a Trustee of the Trust Funds ever since. I've been the chair since 2021.

Are you an incumbent? Yes.

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

I feel that it is important to give back to my community. I've lived in Stratham since 1988, raised my two children here, and I truly love this town and the many wonderful people that live here.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)

My education in public administration and law have been invaluable in understanding the fiduciary responsibilities of the Trustees of the Trust Funds, and the statutory and judicial framework that govern trusts, investments, right-to-know, and other important aspects pertaining to this role.

Stratham School District Candidates

Sean Dempsey

Candidate for SMS School Board

Professional background:

I am an entrepreneur, real estate investor, and managing partner of multiple operating companies focused on housing, finance, and asset management. My professional background spans business formation, budgeting, capital allocation, contract negotiation, and long-term strategic planning. I regularly work with attorneys, CPAs, lenders, and business leaders to create win/wins. In parallel, I am also a published author and communicator, which has strengthened my ability to explain complex topics clearly and advocate effectively for stakeholders.

Do you have past political experience?

No, I have not held elected office. However, I have extensive experience working with regulatory frameworks, non profit boards (serving on several), and compliance bodies, and I am deeply familiar with how policy decisions translate into real-world outcomes for families, taxpayers, and institutions.

Are you an incumbent? No.

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

I am running for school board because I believe schools should be governed with clarity, accountability, and a deep respect for parents and taxpayers. Education is too important to be managed by vague goals, unmeasured outcomes, or ideological drift. Our schools exist to educate children, not to experiment on them.

As a parent and community member, I want to ensure that academic excellence, fiscal responsibility, and transparency are non-negotiable priorities. Students deserve rigorous instruction! Teachers deserve support and respect! Families deserve honesty about what is being taught and how money is spent!

I am running to bring common sense, measurable standards, and long-term thinking back into school governance. Strong schools build strong communities, and that requires leadership willing to ask hard questions, challenge assumptions, and make decisions based on results rather than politics.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)

My background is centered on governance, finance, and accountability. I manage organizations where budgets matter, incentives matter, and decisions have real consequences. Those same disciplines are essential for effective school board leadership.

I bring experience in reading and questioning financial statements, evaluating contracts, managing risk and planning for sustainability rather than short-term optics. I am

Stratham School District Candidates

comfortable asking direct and often brutal questions, insisting on clear metrics, and making decisions grounded in data rather than pressure or ideological bias.

Equally important, I value transparency and communication. Boards exist to serve the public, not to shield decisions from it. I will advocate for clear policies, open dialogue with parents and teachers, and straightforward explanations of board decisions.

Above all, I bring an independent mindset. I am not beholden to political machines, vendors, or special interests. My sole obligation is to students, families, and, above all, the Stratham taxpayer, and I will approach this role with seriousness, humility, and an unwavering focus on educational outcomes.

Stratham School District Candidates

Shane O'Brien

Candidate for SMS School Board

Professional background:

I bring more than 20 years of experience in the technology industry, with a career spanning engineering, sales, leadership, and executive leadership roles. My work has focused on building teams, driving strategic initiatives, and delivering results across both technical and business functions. Prior to my career in technology, I served in the U.S. Army, and experience that shaped my commitment to leadership, discipline, and service.

Do you have past political experience?

No, I have no past political experience. I have recently served on the Financial Advisory Committee for the SMS School Board.

Are you an incumbent? No.

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

I am running for this school board seat because I care deeply about our town, our school, and the families who call this community home. As a parent with children in the elementary school, I experience firsthand the impact our educators, staff, and administrators have on students every day. I want to play a more active role in supporting that work and helping our school continue to thrive.

Our school is more than a building, it is a gathering place, a foundation for lifelong learning, and a reflection of our community's values. I believe strong schools are built through collaboration, open communication, and mutual respect among parents, teachers, and community members. I am committed to listening to diverse perspectives and helping ensure decisions reflect what is best for all students.

I am running to serve my community, to strengthen the partnership between families and the school, and to help maintain a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where every child is empowered to reach their full potential.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)

As a parent of children who attend SMS, I am deeply invested in its success and the well-being of every student. I believe strong schools are built through thoughtful leadership, collaboration, and a clear focus on student outcomes.

Stratham School District Candidates

I bring more than 20 years of professional experience in technology, spanning individual contributor and leadership roles. This background has strengthened my ability to analyze complex issues, manage budgets responsibly, make data driven decisions, and work effectively with diverse stakeholders. I value transparency, accountability, and clear communication, qualities essential for effective school board governance.

As technology continues to shape education, I am committed to supporting its responsible and equitable use while protecting student privacy and ensuring resources are accessible to all families.

Above all, I believe the school board should reflect the voices of parents, educators, and the broader community. I am committed to listening, learning, and working collaboratively to help ensure our school remains a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Stratham School District Candidates

Kathleen Peck

Candidate for SMS School Board

Professional background:

I graduated from Boston College in 2008. During my time at BC I studied nursing and was a member of the Army ROTC program. I earned many accolades during my time at Boston College, including graduating with cum laude honors and as a national Distinguished Military Graduate.

Upon graduation, I was commissioned as an Army officer and began my time on active duty. I spent four years on active duty as an Army Nurse Corps officer ultimately specializing in Emergency and Critical Care Nursing. At the conclusion of my time on active duty, I transitioned to the Army Reserves. During my time in the military, I earned multiple leadership positions including nursing preceptor, charge nurse, Advanced Cardiac Life Support Instructor, clinical skills instructor for new physician residents, and finally Assistant Head Nurse of the Fort Hood Emergency Department. I was honored to receive two Army Commendation Medals from my time on active duty.

At the conclusion of my time on active duty, I transitioned to civilian nursing. I spent five years working on the Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. During my time in the CV Surgery ICU, I completed additional training in congenital cardiac anomalies to provide ICU nursing for neonate and pediatric patients undergoing cardiac surgery.

In 2017 our family moved back to New Hampshire. From 2017 to 2020 I completed a Masters in Nurse Anesthesia at Northeastern University. Since graduation I have been a member of Portsmouth Anesthesia Associates. I provide anesthesia at Portsmouth Hospital for a variety of surgical cases.

Do you have past political experience?

I do. I was elected to be the Stratham School District Clerk in 2024. I also participated as a member of the Financial Advisory Committee for the Stratham School Budget the same year. In 2025 I was appointed to the Stratham School Board to fulfill a board vacancy.

Are you an incumbent?

As stated above, I have spent the last year on the Stratham School Board. I was appointed by the board to fill in a vacancy. During my year on the school board, I have served on the Superintendent Evaluation Committee and as a secondary member on the Safety and Security Committee.

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

First, I am running because I believe I have a duty to be involved in our town and community as a resident. Second, both of our children were lucky to attend Stratham

Stratham School District Candidates

Memorial School since kindergarten. Since so much was given to my children by the school, I am gladly volunteering for this position. I believe that strong schools make strong communities. An effective school board works as a liaison between a community and the school to facilitate communication, collaboration, and oversight. A strong school board also needs members to help create an appropriate school budget that allows our educators to provide high quality instruction to the children in our town. Finally, as a parent I have witnessed the amount of work that our educators put in daily. I was impressed with the gains that our children made on the state testing last year. I believe it is imperative to continue to support our educators so that our children can continue to reap the benefits of professional and skilled teachers.

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)

Throughout my career in the military and healthcare I have had to navigate a variety of personalities in my coworkers. I feel that I am an effective communicator and treat individuals with respect. I also feel that I am mindful of different opinions and willing to compromise when it is appropriate.

Secondly, I have spent my career as a leader. I understand how to identify my own weaknesses and when to rely on others. I also am skillful at identifying my own strengths (such as the ability to learn new skills quickly and efficiently) and identifying where I will be the most effective in a group setting. Finally, I understand how to utilize the strengths of individuals to ensure a goal can be achieved

I have been fortunate to gain experience concerning the town and school board over the last two years. I have worked hard to educate myself on school policies and budgets in my personal time to be an effective school board member. I would like to continue utilizing my knowledge and gain additional experience for the next three years as a member of the Stratham School Board.

Stratham School District Candidates

Sophie Saltonstall

Candidate for SMS School Board

Professional background:

I am the co-owner of the Saltonstall Farm which has a barn venue, a farm stay, and organic fruit farm. I have my bachelors in Psychology from Williams College, my masters in Environmental Management from Harvard and am an Emmy nominated filmmaker. I have an extensive background in communications from nonprofits, filmmaking, and our farm.

Do you have past political experience?

I was elected to the SMS school board in 2023.

Are you an incumbent? Yes.

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

I believe in public education and want to see the prosperity of our public schools continue. I have three little kids who are about to start at SMS and I am an SMS alum myself, so I really care about the long term health of the school. I believe in a balanced approach which means that while I prioritize the health of the school, I am also as fiscally conservative as possible. I have a lot to offer the board and the community and would love the opportunity to serve another 3 years

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)

My communication skills are a major benefit to the board and to the community- I started summarizing each meeting and sending the notes to the town newsletter, the PTO newsletter and the SMS newsletter so that folks could know what is going on, and I have organized multiple fireside chats for the public when I sense a topic is controversial. I also have saved taxpayers on average \$12,000 by co-chairing a committee that brought the renovation bond from \$50M down to \$12M. I try to find the balance between what the school needs and what taxpayers can afford.

ERCSD SCHOOL BOARD, MODERATOR & BAC CANDIDATES

Melissa Lyons

Candidate for School Board Member from East Kingson

Professional background:

Do you have past political experience?

Are you an incumbent?

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)

ERCSD SCHOOL BOARD, MODERATOR & BAC CANDIDATES

Cameron Kittle

Candidate for School Board Member from Exeter

Professional background:

Do you have past political experience?

Are you an incumbent?

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)

ERCSD SCHOOL BOARD, MODERATOR & BAC CANDIDATES

Eric Miller

Candidate for School Board Member from Kensington

Professional background:

Do you have past political experience?

Are you an incumbent?

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)

ERCSD SCHOOL BOARD, MODERATOR & BAC CANDIDATES

Eric Garcia de Paredes

Candidate for School Board Member from Stratham

Professional background:

Do you have past political experience?

Are you an incumbent?

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)

ERCSD SCHOOL BOARD, MODERATOR & BAC CANDIDATES

Katherine Miller

Candidate for School District Moderator

Submitted statement to be read at Voter Information Night

If re-elected as Moderator of the Exeter Region Cooperative School District, I will continue my efforts to run the Deliberative and Balloting sessions of the District fairly and efficiently. Participating in local government is an important part of our responsibilities as citizens. I pledge to do my best to ensure that eligible voters who want to participate in the process can do so.

I have lived in Exeter since 1999. I have an undergraduate degree from Brown University and a law degree from Northeastern University. I am a partner with the law firm of Donahue, Tucker and Ciandella, in Exeter. My practice areas include telecommunications law, advising non-profit organizations and representing individuals, especially in the area of trusts and estate planning. I previously served two terms on the Exeter Elementary School Board and one term on the Coop School Board. I also serve as Moderator for the Town of Exeter.

Thank you for your consideration!

ERCSD SCHOOL BOARD, MODERATOR & BAC CANDIDATES

Roy Morrisette

Candidate for ERCSD Budget Advisory Committee from Exeter

Professional background:

Do you have past political experience?

Are you an incumbent?

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)

ERCSD BAC Candidates

Al Brandino

Candidate for ERCSD Budget Advisory Committee from Kensington

Professional background:

Do you have past political experience?

Are you an incumbent?

Why are you running for elected office (200 words or less)

How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running for (200 words or less)