



# **Voters' Guide**

## **2026**

**Town Election: Tuesday, April 28, 2026**

**Wayland Town Meeting: Monday, May 4 at 6:30 pm at the  
Wayland High School Field House**

**Click on the links to see the candidate information for the following offices:**

- Board of Assessors (2 seats)**
- Board of Health (2 seats)**
- Board of Library Trustees (2 seats)**
- Board of Public Works (1 seat)**
- Moderator (1 seat)**
- Planning Board (1 seat)**
- Recreation Commission (Full Term—1 seat)**
- Recreation Commission (Partial Term—1 seat)**
- Select Board (2 seats)**
- School Committee (2 seats)**
- Trust Fund Commission (1 seat)**
- Write-In Candidates**

Please note that candidates were limited to 2000 characters in their question answers.

## Board of Assessor (3-year term)

**Earl Zeligman**

(No response as of April 11, 2026)

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## Board of Health (3-year term)

**Jonathan Storer**

(No response as of April 11, 2026)

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## Board of Health (3-year term)

**Katie Stiff**

(No response as of April 11, 2026)

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## Board of Library Trustees (3-year term)

**Aida Gennis**

**ADDRESS:** 22 Wayland Hills Rd

**OCCUPATION AND/OR PREVIOUS SERVICE TO THE TOWN:** I serve as a Library Trustee, and member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. I am a practicing attorney.

**CAMPAIGN WEBSITE AND/OR SOCIAL MEDIA, IF ANY:** N/A

***What do you perceive as the most urgent issues for your Board in Wayland?***

Priorities are keeping the building and grounds in good repair as well as determining how to meet the space and information needs of our community now and in the future.

The library is in the later stages of a long overdue maintenance and repair project to provide accessibility into the building, to and within each interior level, the bathrooms and elevator. Safety repairs in the Children's Room are complete and the room has been updated. An HVAC project and new roof over the stacks on the main floor's North Wing are next in line for this project. Rain from recent storms came into the building closing portions of the North Wing over the book stacks and even penetrated into the Children's Room. Serious damage to our books and materials was avoided by our custodial staff's constant efforts and diligent attention.

Trustees continue to be concerned about the dangerous egress driving from the Library's parking lots into the traffic on Concord Road, and about the safety of pedestrians walking through the parking lots to enter the library building. A long ago plan, never realized, allocated funds for a pedestrian walkway from the parking lots to the library entrances,

Trustees may revisit this. Stairs may be considered between the upper and lower lots to provide safer and easier access to the rear of the library to our one fully accessible entry point which is through the Children’s Room.

Trustees have discussed reconfiguring the spaces within the building, possibly reorganizing and providing flexible-use spaces for small meetings and quiet study. Ideally, space for community events could be accommodated as well for the ongoing library sponsored events and programs. Engaging a space planning consultant would be useful to better consider options within the building. Trustees always search for grants to help defray such costs.

***What will you do to help your Board address the potential budget issues Wayland may face very soon?***

The funds for the ongoing maintenance and repair project are sufficient for ADA compliance and safety and may address energy use and efficiency issues in the building which will save funds by reducing future energy costs. Tightening the building envelope and providing climate control within the building are planned.

Trustees continue to work with the Facilities Department during the next phase of this project to replace the flat roof over the North Wing stacks, mentioned above. Installing a new energy-efficient HVAC system to provide steady temperatures on both the main floor, the lower level and staff areas will protect our materials, archives, provide patron and staff comfort while saving energy costs.

The current lighting fixtures on the main floor have been sturdy and estimate they are from the late 1980’s-early 1990’s. We remember an effort in the 2010’s to improve these fixtures for better lighting and efficiency. The Facilities Department is looking to possibly retrofit or replace these with more energy-efficient units which can provide better lighting and reduce costs. Energy rebates are also being sought for this lighting.

A long overdue project to replace the single paned windows on the mezzanines, the North Wing stacks, and the lower level may also occur and will assist in further reducing energy consumption and costs once the HVAC system is installed. Energy rebates will also be sought for this project.

Overall, the goal of the Trustees is to deliver exceptional library information services and experiences to our Wayland community. This includes our research and recreational reading, listening and viewing materials, both online and in print which are selected and curated by our professional librarians. Our programming allows our community additional learning opportunities in person, remotely, and at their leisure.

Our resources, passive or interactive, allow each person to explore, learn, and engage, thereby enriching their lives.

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**Board of Library Trustees (3-year term)**

**Leah Hart**

(No response as of April 11, 2026)

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**Board of Public Works (3-year term)**

***No candidate listed***

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## Moderator

### Miranda Jones

**ADDRESS:** 23 Forty Acres Drive

**OCCUPATION AND/OR PREVIOUS SERVICE TO THE TOWN:** Attorney

**CAMPAIGN WEBSITE AND/OR SOCIAL MEDIA, IF ANY:** N/A

#### *What do you perceive as the most urgent issues for your Board in Wayland ?*

First, to fulfill the directive of the Wayland voters and get the state legislature to allow Wayland to utilize remote participation at Town Meeting, thereby allowing access to otherwise disenfranchised voters. Second, I always consider ways, and am open to suggestions, regarding how to improve the Town Meeting process so it runs in the most fair and efficient manner possible.

#### *What will you do to help your Board address the potential budget issues Wayland may face very soon?*

As Moderator, my role is to run Town Meeting efficiently, not to weigh in on the issues themselves.



## Planning Board (5-year term)

### William Sterling

**ADDRESS:** 14 Morse Rd.

**OCCUPATION AND/OR PREVIOUS SERVICE TO THE TOWN:** Retired Architect/Zoning Board of Appeals & Design Review Advisory Board

**CAMPAIGN WEBSITE AND/OR SOCIAL MEDIA, IF ANY:** career website-  
[www.sterlingarchitects.com](http://www.sterlingarchitects.com)

#### *What do you perceive as the most urgent issues for your Board in Wayland?*

Help facilitate community participation in defining Route 20 Master Plan vision for Wayland's future and expedite revisions to Wayland signage By-Laws.

#### *What will you do to help your Board address the potential budget issues Wayland may face very soon?*

I believe the Planning Board should help the Town achieve the Finance Committee's five year plan for fiscal survival. Fin Com has projected specific goals of expanded tax revenue necessary for the Town to remain solvent for the next five years. Fin Com's plan implies the Town boards should facilitate small cluster zoned housing development scattered throughout town. The Planning Board can help by holding public hearings in person, listening to public concerns that may occur, then mediating win/win resolutions among community members and new Town House developers in the various neighborhoods where such development may occur.

## Recreation Commission (Full 3-year term)

### Mark Norton

(No response as of April 11, 2026)

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## Recreation Commission (Partial term)

### Michael Grant

**ADDRESS:** 50 York Road

**OCCUPATION AND/OR PREVIOUS SERVICE TO THE TOWN:** Attorney. Recreation Commissioner.

**CAMPAIGN WEBSITE AND/OR SOCIAL MEDIA, IF ANY:** N/A

***What do you perceive as the most urgent issues for your Board in Wayland?***

Ensuring we optimize the recreation spaces so that all Wayland residents have the opportunity to take advantage of our amazing spaces. This includes maintaining trails, improving and developing athletic fields and other recreational spaces.

***What will you do to help your Board address the potential budget issues Wayland may face very soon?***

Collaborate with other commission members, committees, and the select board to make sure that we are thinking strategically about managing our short and long-term budget issues. The ongoing redevelopment of the Town center and Route 20 corridor is a positive step that we should continue building on as a community.

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### Select Board (3-year term)

### Willian D. Whitney (incumbent)

**ADDRESS:** 112 Woodridge Road

**OCCUPATION AND/OR PREVIOUS SERVICE TO THE TOWN:**

I am retired from a career in real estate planning and development. I am presently a Select Board member, and serve as the Select Board's appointee on the School Committee's Facilities Advisory Committee. I am a former member of the Planning Board and the Middle School Building Committee.

**CAMPAIGN WEBSITE AND/OR SOCIAL MEDIA, IF ANY:** N/A

***What do you perceive as the most urgent issues for your Board in Wayland?***

Among the most pressing issues the Town of Wayland faces is maintaining the quality of our excellent public schools and other public services amid continuing, persistent financial pressures. Revenue growth is constrained by State law limiting property tax increases to 2 1/2 % of the prior year's levy, plus revenue from new development. Level service budgets

tend to exceed the 2 1/2% revenue growth limitation given the need to attract and retain quality School and Town staff and to meet collective bargaining obligations.

In addition to these operating budget questions, the need for long term capital investments in the Town's water supply system and our aging schools and selected other municipal buildings has been identified. This year's Town Meeting will be asked to authorize borrowing \$38.6 million to create a permanent connection to the MWRA water supply and to develop a replacement water treatment plant at the Happy Hollow wells. Future capital spending also may be proposed by the School Committee as it is developing a long term capital needs assessment of the Town's Preschool, Elementary and Middle School buildings.

As in other communities in the Commonwealth, there is demonstrated demand for new housing development in Wayland, particularly for people having lower and moderate incomes. This need is particularly acute for adults with disabilities, many of whom are living with aging parents who worry about finding long term placements for their loved ones. To that end, the Town, acting through the Select Board, is engaged in a pilot project seeking proposals from experienced providers of housing for people with disabilities on Town-owned land. In addition, a study is being proposed to identify reuse alternatives of an unimproved 13.7 acre Town-owned parcel.

***What will you do to help your Board address the potential budget issues Wayland may face very soon?***

The Select Board, working with the Town Manager, the Finance Director and the Finance Committee; is acutely aware of the financial challenges facing the Town. While the Town was able to prepare a level services budget for the coming fiscal year without resorting to asking the voters for an approval of an operating override, we almost certainly will be unable to do so for the following year. The voters then will have the choice of either agreeing to raise added operating revenue through a property increase or face cuts in school programs and services in the areas of Public Safety, Public Works, Recreation, the library and the rest.

With respect to the potential for substantial capital budget requests as described above, managing the timing and amount of future capital borrowing and spending will be closely monitored by the Select Board.

Rather than merely rely on future tax increases, however, the Select Board will continue to work to promote reasonable new development to enhance our tax base. An example of such an effort is the reuse of the former Whole Foods site on Route 20 as Terrain Gardens at Wayland Village. Scheduled to open in August of this year, the Terrain project will activate this long-moribund property, create new jobs and activity, and hopefully encourage new development. The Board likewise will work with the new owners of the Wayland Town Center in their efforts to enhance that property.

The Select Board also looks forward to supporting the efforts of the Planning Board as it prepares updated zoning for properties located along the westerly portion of Route 20. Among the concepts being discussed is permitting greater height and density to encourage new investment and increased tax revenue.

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## Select Board (3-year term)

### Christopher Reynolds

**ADDRESS:** 24 Shawmut Ave.

**OCCUPATION AND/OR PREVIOUS SERVICE TO THE TOWN:**

I work at Vascular SafeGuard, a medical device company. Previous service to the Town: I have been a political activist in Wayland for 21 years. I focus on measures that support our schools, carefully enhance our tax base, and strengthen our sense of community. I am an organizer. I have co-produced and emceed numerous events, most recently the 2025 Wayland Festival, which police estimate drew 6,000 attendees and became one of largest gatherings in Wayland's history. I have marshaled events of increasing size for 12 years. The planning, recruiting, permitting, and fundraising for these events has taught me a lot about how Wayland functions, as I worked with extraordinary volunteers and with expert managers in nearly every Town department.

I served as one of the core group of 4 people who led the campaign for the Town Center. This effort resulted in the one of the largest Town Meetings in Wayland's history (> 2,000 citizens) and culminated in today's mixed-use Town Center instead of an office complex.

I have coached 10 seasons of Wayland youth lacrosse, including field lacrosse, box lacrosse, and referee training.

I cut my teeth as an activist organizing a group that "rescued" large, expensive white boards and plumbing fittings from the old Raytheon buildings for donation to our schools. The buildings were about to be razed, and this effort taught me the value of trust in community relations so that one can act quickly when opportunities pop up.

**CAMPAIGN WEBSITE AND/OR SOCIAL MEDIA, IF ANY:** LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/christopher-h-reynolds-8146993/>

***What do you perceive as the most urgent issues for your Board in Wayland?***

My top 4 issues are: (1) Cohering a sound plan to provide long-term financial support for our schools. (2) Ensuring abutters have genuine access to municipal processes that affect neighborhoods. Abutters to major renovations and new developments cannot always win everything they want, but they should never feel left out of the process. (3) Expanding our tax base thoughtfully. (4) Continue our Town Manager's efforts to make Town government more user-friendly, especially for volunteers with special expertise. Too often, government committees and procedures seem byzantine and off-putting. We urge people to get involved and serve, but rigamarole confounds us all and promising people retreat from perceived chaos. I want to support the current operating tone that favors confronting good and bad news in a straightforward, no-nonsense manner and debating terms congenially. This will help us address issues better and attract more people to run and volunteer. I am encouraged that today we are much better at this than we were 10 years ago, but more needs to be done. This issue is under-discussed, and it is damaging to Wayland.

***What will you do to help your Board address the potential budget issues Wayland may face very soon?***

(1) Recognize that Wayland and many other towns in Massachusetts have been forced to kick the can down the road on some major economic issues. Let's team up with peer towns to take our economic concerns to the state level together. (2) Study towns that are ahead of us in successful long-term planning. Recognize that some towns are more nimble and modern than we are, and some of them have secured outstanding results that we should pursue. (3) Listen to our FinComm, which has a good track record of communicating challenging news and painful realities clearly and early. It is convenient to ignore dire reports, but financial crises are like cancer in the sense that early detection and action always beats a late start.

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## **School Committee (3-year term)**

**Jessica Greher Traue**

**ADDRESS:** 10 Adams Lane

**OCCUPATION AND/OR PREVIOUS SERVICE TO THE TOWN:** I'm currently a consultant focused on college student health and wellbeing and I work with WellSort, a digital card sort tool and holistic wellbeing platform, supporting institutions with implementation and helping them use data to support student wellbeing and early intervention. Prior to this, I directed health promotion and prevention programs on university campuses for 20 years. I am an active leader in my professional community, with board and executive experience spanning both national and regional organizations. I served on the Board of Directors for the American College Health Association and currently serve as Treasurer for the New England College Health Association. Recently, I was honored with the New England College Health Association's President's Award, the organization's highest recognition for service to college health.

In Wayland, I've been an active PTO volunteer leader. Previously, I co-chaired the Backpack Auction for six years and currently serve as Caregiver Enrichment Chair at WMS, where I work with the Principal to plan and co-facilitate programs for families focused on child development and social-emotional learning needs of middle schoolers. I also contribute to an ad-hoc committee working to strengthen community resilience through a preventative lens and serve on the dog park committee. I've lived in Wayland for 10 years and have a child in the Wayland public schools.

**CAMPAIGN WEBSITE AND/OR SOCIAL MEDIA, IF ANY:** N/A

### ***What do you perceive as the most urgent issues for your Board in Wayland?***

Our schools are navigating a number of challenges. Expectations are high, resources are constrained, and technology is changing in remarkable ways. I see three priorities.

**Fiscal Stewardship.** Our facilities need attention and important decisions are imminent. Deferred maintenance, pedagogical shifts, and changing learning needs have outpaced what many of our current buildings can support in the long term. Every budget decision is a values decision, and I would bring transparent, solution-oriented thinking that keeps student and community need at the center of every financial conversation.

**Student Success.** For 25 years, I've worked at the intersection of wellbeing and academic success in higher education. That experience taught me that wellbeing is upstream of academic success. Social-emotional learning is fundamental, not supplemental. Every student deserves access to academic and social-emotional support that makes learning possible. Emerging technologies are powerful tools and resources, but they pose real threats to education and wellbeing. Research confirms that screen time, social media, and AI use pose real risks to wellbeing and academic integrity. Our learners and educators need us to meet this moment. How we respond with policy, curriculum, and programming will define outcomes for generations of learners.

**Community Trust.** Community trust requires a School Committee that communicates not just decisions and policy but also the reasoning behind them. That means engaging the community before decisions are made and remaining accountable throughout the process. When people feel informed and valued, they are more likely to stand behind the decisions that follow. Educators and students thrive when they feel genuinely valued and supported too. Attending to the culture and climate at every level is essential to earning the trust of our entire community.

### ***What will you do to help your Board address the potential budget issues Wayland may face very soon?***

Between a potential budget override and financing of new facilities, Wayland faces generational budget decisions in the near term. These will require difficult choices and community support. Here is how I would approach these issues:



First, I would advocate for honest, proactive communication with the community. That means presenting clear data, discussing tradeoffs openly, and building on the community engagement initiatives that are already in place. We need to offer multiple pathways for participation and engagement and to seek out input rather than passively expecting stakeholders to participate in the process.

Second, I would build on the foundation our Superintendent and current School Committee have established. They have already invited the community into the conversation about facility needs. The next step is a clear capital planning process tied to realistic timelines and explicit priorities, helping the community understand the full picture of the required investment and the cost of delay.

Third, I would bring a prevention-focused mindset to every budget conversation. A proactive approach to early-stage problems is always less costly than reactive crisis management. Our Superintendent and School Committee have done a remarkable job keeping the budget flat while preserving academic reputation and honoring our obligations to students, educators and the town. I would work to build the community trust needed to plan for what comes next.

My background prepares me well. Across roles in higher education administration that also included oversight of a federal grant, and nonprofit board leadership, I have managed budgets, developed policy, and made fiscally sound decisions with dollars entrusted to me by taxpayers, members, and the institutions I served. The decisions ahead deserve that level of experience and commitment. Wayland's schools strengthen the whole community, and every resident deserves to understand our collective investment in public education.

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## School Committee (3-year term)

### Prashant Shukla

(No response as of April 11, 2026)

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## Trust Fund Commission (3-year term)

### Robert Fox

**ADDRESS:** 12 Forty Acres Drive

**OCCUPATION AND/OR PREVIOUS SERVICE TO THE TOWN:** Currently serving on the Trust Fund Commission, since 2024

**CAMPAIGN WEBSITE AND/OR SOCIAL MEDIA, IF ANY:** N/A

### *What do you perceive as the most urgent issues for your Board in Wayland?*

1) Compliance of fund distributions to the fund guidelines / donor wishes; 2) Investment returns to support fund distributions in perpetuity; 3) Awareness of the funds to town residents to ensure appropriate distribution requests come in.

***What will you do to help your Board address the potential budget issues Wayland may face very soon?***

The Trust Fund Commission manages funds from private donations with specific usage guidelines and is not relevant to town budget issues.

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**Write-In Candidate (for Board of Assessor)**

**Board of Assessors (3-year term)**

**Yiji Starr Brennan**

**ADDRESS:** 1402 Wisteria Way

**OCCUPATION AND/OR PREVIOUS SERVICE TO THE TOWN:**

Head of Finance, Strategic Planning & Delivery Department at a large Financial Services company with \$250B+ assets

**CAMPAIGN WEBSITE AND/OR SOCIAL MEDIA, IF ANY:** If you would like to support my candidacy, please visit the Wayland Town Building on April 28 and write my name, Yiji Starr Brennan, in the Board of Assessor section of the ballot.

***What do you perceive as the most urgent issues for your Board in Wayland?***

Serving on the board of assessor presents an ideal opportunity for me to give back to our community. The primary responsibility of this position is to ensure fair property assessments for Wayland residents. My experiences from senior finance roles in Fortune 500 companies qualifies me to evaluate financial matters objectively.

***What will you do to help your Board address the potential budget issues Wayland may face very soon?***

It is important to note that the role does not involve setting tax rates which aligns with my desire to remain outside of political matters.

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