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[Lex-Wiki.Org](http://Lex-Wiki.Org) is a local Wikipedia for Lexington, MA. [Lex-wiki.Org](http://Lex-wiki.Org) covers Arts and Entertainment, Local Flora and Fauna, Local History, City Life as well as Town Government and other issues of public interest in Lexington.

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## Biographical Question

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1. *Please include a brief biography outlining your relevant experience, including public offices held and other volunteer service.*

I was elected to the Board of Selectmen in November 2014 to fill the balance of Chairman Deb Mauger's term (16 months). I currently serve as Selectman liaison to the following boards/committees: Board of Health, Communications Advisory Committee, Lexington Council for the Arts, LexHab (Lexington Housing Assistance Board), Lexington Housing Partnership, Monuments & Memorials Committee, Recreation Committee, Town Report Committee, Town Seal Committee and Tree Committee. In addition I am a Cary Memorial Library Trustee and am Chair of the Nominating Committee for the Cary Memorial Library Trustees Executive Committee. I am also a member of the steering committee for the Lexington Community Coalition and a volunteer at Lex Eat Together. I am a former member of: the Town Celebrations Committee, 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Sub Committee, Sidewalk Committee, Commission 2000 and Town Meeting Member from Precinct Six. I grew up in Lexington and attended Pilgrim Nursery School, Estabrook Elementary School, Diamond Junior High and graduated Lexington High School in 1984. I hold an undergraduate degree in Accounting with a minor in Management from Bentley University. I work as a Church Administrator for the Congregational Church in Bedford, MA. I am married with two sons, a dog, two cats and a fish!

## Policy Questions

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2. *Is Lexington on the right track regarding school construction plans to address overcrowding? Would you like to see any changes to the current school capital construction plan?*

The School Committee and the Superintendent have been working very hard over the last few years on the School Department Master Plan and looking at the rising school enrollments. There is not an easy answer to a very complex issue that will please everyone. However through the use of modulars, redistricting, renovating and rebuilding, the issue can be managed as we try to grapple with the ongoing uncertainty of what updated enrollment numbers will be and how to plan for that capacity not only with increased capital costs but with increased operating costs as well.

3. *What measures would you consider to offset the anticipated increase in property tax needed to pay for school spending?*

We should continue to work diligently to scrub budgets and to allocate all available resources into our stabilization funds to help mitigate tax increases while continuing to refine and adjust our capital plans. We must remember that today's plans are not carved in stone given uncertainties about the future. Above all we need to remember that Lexington is one community and do our best to balance needs so that all issues are treated equally in the process and the impact on taxpayers is contained.

4. *What is the appropriate trade-off between retaining an historic aesthetic and safety and accessibility for the disabled, pedestrians and cyclists when it comes to choice of sidewalk materials and traffic lights at the Woburn Street intersection?*

Safety should be at the top of the list no matter how you travel (walk, bike, drive) or how able you are. Historic aesthetic would be on the list as well once safety issues have been addressed. Safety and historical aesthetic can co-exist together with the proper amount of clear dialogue leading ultimately to consensus.

- 5. *After the school overcrowding issues and road projects are resolved, what should be, in your view, Lexington’s next priority?*

A great community is made up of dedicated citizens and staff, but also a public infrastructure that helps us deliver efficient and effective services given today’s requirements. We need to renovate or replace buildings when they have outlived their functionality as well as continue to budget for maintenance to prolong the life of our capital assets. Capital project decisions must be made based on the priority of infrastructure renewal that is balanced against our ability to afford the cost. The tension between need and affordability is not always easy to address. For our municipal buildings, I believe our fire station followed by the police station are the buildings that are most urgently in need of renovation or replacement. Complicating the design of modern public safety buildings is the importance of siting them in suitable locations. We must keep in mind, though, that we do not yet have accurate cost estimates for these projects. As those estimates are developed, we will need to take a hard look at whether or not we can fund these projects via a request to the voters for a debt exclusion.

- 6. *The Planning Board is bringing forward a number of proposals that address the issues of new construction size, housing affordability and neighborhood preservation. What are your views on these proposals?*

I frequently hear from residents who have concerns over the size of new housing construction in their neighborhood and the lack of housing affordability. The potential impact that these Planning Board articles could have on residents as well as the Town needs to be thoroughly analyzed and understood as they will potentially have a long lasting effect on not only the town but homeowners as well.

- 7. *Could you describe one issue that the Board of Selectmen handled very effectively over the last year? And one issue that could have been addressed better?*

Communication is an area where we made some gains but also missed the mark. It’s hard to know if the message is really getting out to the community and then it is even harder to know how it’s being interpreted. Part of being a public servant is hearing from your constituents on matters that they are concerned about. Last May for the first time, the Board of Selectmen hosted a booth at Discovery Day where we heard directly from residents, it was a very productive and informative day. The Board communicates with residents in a number of ways but doesn’t have any one particular guaranteed way where people could go to get a snapshot update on

issues before the Board. One way to help improve our communication would be to develop and maintain such a communication vehicle whether it be email updates, website postings or a column in the local newspaper.

8. *What is your vision of Lexington ten years from now, or even beyond?*

My vision is that Lexington will continue to expand on its diverse culture while making great gains in attracting new businesses to not only our center retail district but to our commercial/industrial base as well . We will continue to be a community that is attractive to young families but will need to work hard to remain a community that can retain longer term residents as well. We will continue to be a community that is fiscally responsible and environmentally aware.

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*All candidates are asked to limit the response to each question to at most two or three paragraphs, and to provide the questionnaire responses by Sunday, Feb 7th, 2015. Responses will not be edited, and will run as submitted. They will be posted on [lex-wiki.org](http://lex-wiki.org) in PDF format and announced through other town media. Questionnaire reviewer Vicki Blier. Questionnaire coordinator Andrei Radulescu-Banu ([bitdribble@gmail.com](mailto:bitdribble@gmail.com), 617-216-8509).*

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