



Photo by Eric Anderson

2023

Candidate Information Packet



All information contained in this packet was provided voluntarily by the candidates themselves, and the original Candidate Information forms are on file at the Baker Free Library.

Candidates

Selectman (1)

Eleana Colby
Bruce Marshall (incumbent)

Budget Committee (2)

Bill Knapp
Michael Standafer

Trustee of the Trust Funds

John Caron (incumbent)

Library Trustee (1)

Sabrina Costabile
Sheri Vincent-Crisp

School Board (2)

Bryce Larrabee (incumbent)
Martin Osterloh (incumbent)

School Moderator (1)

Nick Watson



Selectman Candidates

The Town of Bow is governed by a five member Board of Selectmen elected to staggered three year terms. Per the provisions of NH RSA 41:8, "the selectmen shall manage the prudential affairs of the town and perform the duties by law prescribed."

The Town operates under the traditional Town Meeting form of government, in that the legislative body is the annual Town Meeting held every March. The Board of Selectmen acts as the executive branch of Town Government and it carries out the policies and laws set forth by the legislative body. The Board also has other specifically assigned roles and powers as set out in State Statutes. The Board of Selectmen in August of 2021 revised the By Laws.



Eleana Colby

My name is Eleana Colby and I'm running for a seat on the Board of Selectmen. As a 20 year Bow resident who has been active in our community, serving in multiple volunteer roles including PTO President, raising a family here, and wanting to see our town thrive, I understand the need for respect for neighbors, transparency, balanced representation, and fiscal responsibility on the Board.

(Q) How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running to fill?

I have been fortunate to be a stay-at-home mom for the past four years. Previously, I worked in the automobile industry. My extensive experience in this industry taught me that to get the very best deal, you must do your research and ask questions. As a manager I worked by a code of Listen, Learn, and Lead. I look forward to incorporating this approach within the Board of Selectmen so we can ask the right questions and make educated, ethical decisions on Bow's behalf. Some of the most fulfilling work I have done has been serving the people of Bow. I have proudly served as Little League Coach and President, PTO President and Fundraising Coordinator, and a Paraprofessional in the Special Education Department at Bow High School. I currently serve as a member of the Bow Conservation Subcommittee to protect our natural spaces in town. Teamwork was essential for all of these organizations to run successfully. I have seen the good we can do when we come together as a community.



Eleana Colby (cont.)

(Q) If you are elected, what issues or projects are you most interested in addressing in your first year?

Transparency

- Require that all purchasing and leasing of Town land be done by competitive bidding.
- Video Record, and make available to the public, all public meetings of the Selectboard.
- Work with Town Hall to improve the process for responding to Right to Know Requests, within the time frame required by law.

Respect and Representation

- Welcome the community's input and questions.
- Ensure an equitable and inclusive meeting process for all citizens.
- Step up our communication to the public with updates regarding current projects.

Fiscal Responsibility

- Save taxpayers money, explore grant and rebate opportunities available to municipalities.
- Build initiatives with our residents and community priorities in mind.
- Coordinate timing of large projects between Town and School to not overburden the taxpayers.
- Explore the expansion opportunities of our available property tax credits for those over 65 years old, Armed Forces Veterans, and the deaf community.



Bruce Marshall

I am a New Hampshire native, born and raised in Hooksett and have resided in Bow for more than three decades where we have chosen to raise our four children. Our oldest two graduated from Bow High School and have gone on to enjoy successful professional careers following college. My youngest two are in the Elementary and Memorial Schools. I originally came to Bow for its neighborly qualities, good schools, and low taxes. As a dad I have had the privilege of coaching our children in various sports in town including basketball, football, soccer, and baseball and participating in numerous school events. As a citizen of Bow I have a long history of volunteering in town including everything from, the construction of school trails and sports facilities, maintenance of athletic facilities, being a member of the Planning Board, and participation on various committees. Professionally, I am a civil engineer and an attorney having my law office located in Bow.

(Q) How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running to fill?

My professional experience includes designing and constructing highways for the NHDOT, representing NHDOT, NHDES and various other agencies as a former assistant attorney general, former owner/operator of a gravel pit in Loudon, former residential contractor, a civil engineering practice and the practice of law. As an attorney practicing in New Hampshire since 1999 I have handled a wide variety of matters, including but not limited to, general litigation, business law, real estate development, administrative law, construction, as well as providing legal services to certain New Hampshire town boards from time to time.



Bruce Marshall (cont.)

As a sitting Selectman since March of 2020, I have helped guide the Town through COVID, the purchase of the former Bow Youth Center, furthering the opportunity for the much needed improvements to local cell coverage, providing easier access to Town government, maintaining a near flat Town Budget, working with NHDOT to improve access along Rte. 3-A, maximizing the opportunities presented by the proposed I-89/I-93 interchange improvements, and assisting with improving the operation of our various Departments. More recently, as chair of the Board of Selectmen I have worked to fairly resolve local property issues that have arisen from the maintenance and preservation of Town recreational trails while trying to re-energize the neighborly qualities that first attracted me to Bow.

(Q) If you are elected, what issues or projects are you most interested in addressing in your first year?

Moving forward, should I be re-elected, I would like to maintain focus on improved access to town government, ensuring we maximize the potential opportunities the State's planned I-89/I-93 improvements present to Bow as well as further improving access to our Route 3-A Business Development District in order to improve business development and reduce property taxes, and finalizing a viable plan for the Community Center.



Budget Committee

Candidates

The Budget Committee consists of six elected members, one member of the Board of Selectmen, and one member of the School Board.

The Budget Committee reviews the annual budget submission of the Board of Selectmen and the School Board of SAU 67, makes adjustments as the committee sees fit, and presents a recommended annual budget for a vote at the annual Town Meeting every March.



Bill Knapp

(Q) How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running to fill?

Throughout my life I have faced many challenges and opportunities that have shaped me, and allowed me to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to become an effective Member of the Budget Committee. As a 9th generation resident of Bow I have seen first hand, and heard countless stories about what has and hasn't worked for our town and it's residents. Since it's incorporation in 1727 as a small town west of the "bow" in the Merrimack River, Bow has grown into a thriving town with a top rated school district and ample town-wide programs to foster a strong connection between all of it's people. I intend to use my votes if elected to continue that growth

As a former student of SAU 67, starting in kindergarten and graduating as a member of the class of 2014 I know first hand how crucial many of the programs offered by our schools, and our teachers are to shaping the next generation. Having children of my own currently enrolled in the district I have a personal stake in ensuring these programs stay in tact. As a Member of the Budget Committee I will use this close tie to the schools as an asset, being sure money is spent wisely and ensuring that every dollar spent is beneficial to our children.

Becoming a father at the young age of 20 I had to learn early and often what "balancing a budget" really means and how to cut wasteful spending. I have since been able to take these small household skills and extrapolate them, to use them effectively in my career path. I started out as a Forman for a small property management company in Pembroke, moving on to become the Store Manager of the Alltown on 3A which spring boarded me to my current career as the Chief Operating Officer for Let's Play Collectibles and Things, a small collectibles chain in the state.



Bill Knapp (cont.)

In this position I have been tasked with, finding and cutting wasteful spending, collaborating and negotiating with staff, vendors, and the owner to effectively run the company, and exploring ways to reach out and expand the company, successfully opening 2 brick and mortar stores and a nation wide online platform for selling our product. These skills are crucial to someone who has a vote to approve budgetary proposals passed by the School Board and Board of Selectman. I hope I can earn your vote and confidence to serve this town.

(Q) If you are elected, what issues or projects are you most interested in addressing in your first year?

If elected as a Member of the Budget Committee, the issues I will be most interested in addressing are simple and clear. On the Budget Committee my first concern will be ensuring any and all waste is eliminated from our budget, checking to make sure every dollar spent has good, solid reasoning and benefits as many residents and local businesses as possible. Another issue I look forward to addressing is making sure all money spent on our schools benefits the safety, well being and learning environment for our students and teachers, driving all of our schools back to being top rated public schools in NH. Taxes collected on a town level are a great resource ensuring an educated and thriving town, but if we are not willing and able to take a hard, critical look at every item line of the budget, examining every dollar spent, we are doing a disservice to the hard working tax payers of Bow. As an elected Member of YOUR Budget Committee I will work diligently to ensure budgets put forth to our town meetings are waste free and benefit the well being of Bow as a whole.



Michael Standafer

(Q) How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running to fill?

I have a background in project management and have been heavily involved in project budgeting for multi-million-dollar initiatives spanning multiple years in duration. Prior to working in project management, I served as a command and control systems officer in the U.S. Marine Corps for nine years. I have a great deal of experience evaluating complex problems, weighing risks and selecting the course of action with the most desirable tradeoffs and the best intended outcomes. I have been a Bow resident for nearly seven years and have two children presently enrolled at Bow Elementary school, and two younger children who will also be students in the district in the coming years.

(Q) If you are elected, what issues or projects are you most interested in addressing in your first year?

I have reviewed recent budget committee meeting minutes as well as the FY2023/24 Budget Committee Preliminary Budget. I chose to run to fulfill what I feel is my civic duty and to give back to the community. There isn't a primary or singular budget consideration that I am most interested in – I view the budget as a collection of tradeoffs rather than an opportunity to push forward a singular cause. I will remain committed to ensuring the town budget reflects the desires of the town's voters and that it serves our collective interests. I look forward to working with experienced elected officials to serve the people of Bow.



Trustee of the Trust Funds Candidate

Trustees of Trust Funds are the custodian of the town's perpetual care funds, charitable trusts, and capital reserve/expendable trust funds.

The Trustees of Trust Funds make the decisions regarding expenditure from these funds based on the wishes of the donor in the case of privately donated funds and release capital reserve funds and expendable trust funds to the appropriate government officials upon request.

The Trustees of Trust Funds make the decisions on how these funds are to be invested based on the investment policy adopted by the Trustees.



John Caron

(Q) How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running to fill?

I have been a Trustee of the Trust Funds for 12 years.

(Q) If you are elected, what issues or projects are you most interested in addressing in your first year?

I would like to continue to educate the voters on what we do.



Library Trustee Candidates

The Library's five-member Board of Trustees are elected by the Town of Bow. Per New Hampshire library statutes and the will of Colonel Henry Baker, the Board consists of an odd number of members. Each Trustee is elected to serve a five year term. Duties include broad oversight of library management, including budget, long range planning, and staffing. The Trustees work closely with the Library Director to meet the needs and interests of Bow residents.

Robert's Rules of Order is used as the parliamentary proceedings for meetings. The Library has a physical copy (call number 060.42 Robert), and digital copy located on their website, www.bowbakerfreelibrary.org



Sabrina Costabile

(Q) How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running to fill?

As the owner and principal consultant of a Bow-based consulting firm, I am responsible for managing multi-faceted projects designed to help businesses throughout our state and across the country reach their goals. Developing large scale plans, delivering them on-time and within budget, improving operations, eliminating inefficiencies, and solving problems are skills that I utilize daily to support my clients in achieving their objectives. This background will support the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, vested with the entire custody and management of the library.

(Q) If you are elected, what issues or projects are you most interested in addressing in your first year?

Nothing excites me more than the execution of a good plan! I am most interested in supporting the long-term planning and the pursuit of opportunities that will enrich Baker Free Library's service to our community. Whether it be generator installation or book sales, I am equally motivated to support the planning needed to execute these projects responsibly and successfully.



Sheri Vincent-Crisp

(Q) How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running to fill?

For ten years I served on the Board and Executive Board of the Friends Program in Concord, New Hampshire, during which time we worked with the Executive Director and staff in all areas of the Program management. This included overseeing annual budgets, vigorous fundraising, addressing staffing and employment issues within the Program, building and maintenance decisions, and oversight of the individual programs offered to the community through the organization.

Serving on the Friends Program Board taught me that a successful board is the result of patience, respect, open-mindedness and meaningful debate - and hard work.

On a personal level, I have a unique connection to the Bow Library as I created the mural in the children's area. I spent many hours one summer working both alone in the early mornings, and other times surrounded by inquisitive children - often one or more of our four now adult daughters.

(Q) If you are elected, what issues or projects are you most interested in addressing in your first year?

If elected, in my first year I will be interested in becoming familiar with all aspects of the library's finances. Additionally, I would look forward to exploring the various programs and opportunities currently available to the Bow community and how we can create more interest in the use of the many resources offered by our Library. This includes cooperation with, and additional outreach to our school libraries. I am particularly interested in the children's reading programs and other potential creative-based opportunities, including learning more about the outdoor patio plan.



School Board Candidates

The Bow School Board is comprised of 5 members. Each member term is set at 3 years.

The School Board meets once a month. All residents are welcome to attend.

In addition to monthly School Board meetings, Board members also sit on various sub-committees. Standing sub-committees such as Policy, Technology, Transportation, Wellness, and Budget are some examples on which Board members will participate.



Bryce Larrabee***(Q) How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running to fill?***

I am running for re-election to the Bow High School Board as I continue to believe that I have something to offer. In the past few years my background in contracts and negotiations has greatly assisted the Bow School Board in drafting new policies and negotiating new teacher contracts. My experience with Bow Athletic Club has also helped with my interaction with the various school athletic programs. Finally, simply my experience as a parent of three children working their way through the three schools have also given me a perspective to the Board that has proven invaluable.

(Q) If you are elected, what issues or projects are you most interested in addressing in your first year?

I am interested in continuing to work with the Bow School Administration to try and create the best possible educational system and opportunities for the children of Bow, while balancing the fiscal needs of the community.



Martin Osterloh

(Q) How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running to fill?

My background in Computer Science is unique to the board. I am currently the only member with such a background. As we all know, technology permeates into everything we do in every aspect of our lives. Over the past three years on the board, I have been a constant advocate for sensible actions to ensure the safety of not just our kids but also employees. If elected, I will continue to shepherd the district as I have in the past with the same level of attention to detail.

(Q) If you are elected, what issues or projects are you most interested in addressing in your first year?

If elected, my first year goal is to finish our world language proposal that I have worked diligently over the past two years. I also have enjoyed working on improving the communication of the board with the town. I would like to continue working on making information consumption easier for our citizens.



School Moderator Candidate

The moderator is the person who runs the meeting. He or she stands at the front of the room, welcomes voters, and explains the meeting protocols. A moderator should understand the issues to be discussed but is most effective when he or she has done a thorough job of preparing for the meeting.

via <https://www.nhmunicipal.org>



Nick Watson

(Q) How will your skills/background contribute to the position you are running to fill?

My name is Nick Watson and I am running for the position of SAU 67 Moderator. I have served as moderator from a very young age. I developed the mantra of communication and transparency. First, within my own family, then as I grew, I realized I truly possessed the diplomatic skills needed to propel conversations and progress forward. I grew up in the hospitality business where it was necessary to connect with individuals from all backgrounds. I have drastically built upon these skills as a teacher, because at the end of the day, teaching is a customer service industry as well.

Growing up, I worked for L.A. Burdick Chocolate, where my mom would serve as the COO for close to 17 years before her retirement. Eventually, I would become Retail Coordinator. I was responsible for establishing new retail locations where I would take care of all licensing, hire new employees, and manage the new space for a certain amount of time before we would open a new location. I was responsible for opening a location in the Back Bay of Boston on Clarendon Street between Newbury and Boylston Street, as well as locations in Manhattan. I provide this information because it was this job that helped me to realize that I truly loved interacting with people, and building connections and bridges that benefit all involved. This realization eventually led me to discover teaching. While working as Retail Coordinator, I went back to school for my Masters in Education, and have not looked back since. I have always been in the business of people in one way or another. I am a New Hampshire resident who grew up in the small town of Westmoreland, just north of Keene. This is a place similar to Bow in that relationships with neighbors meant everything.



Nick Watson (cont.)

You may have noticed that I mentioned education. I am in my eighth year of teaching social studies at Bow High School. My son is a second grader at Bow Elementary School and my daughter is in her last year at Celebrating Children before entering Kindergarten. My wife is a nurse at Concord Hospital. We moved to Bow in 2018 because we fell in love with the people of Bow. To me, it reminds me of my home and this is why I now call it home.

I felt I needed to outline my background to allow a bit of insight into who I am, what skills I have to offer and what motivates me. The skills I have developed as a communicator have brought me so many successful and amazing experiences. This is why I feel I truly am a great candidate for the SAU 67 Moderator position. I possess the ability to be an active listener and a meaningful communicator; I have experience working complex issues that can and often do arise. As the SAU 67 Moderator, it is my responsibility to bring meaningful conversation, with procedural efficiency. This is where being a social studies teacher is truly a benefit, as I advise Model United Nations which is truly built off of communication, networking, and parliamentary procedure. Without following this process, unfortunately, nothing would be accomplished. Lastly, objectivity is extremely important to me. When analyzing issues pertaining to both district and town, an objective, non-partisan moderator is needed to propel the process forward.



Nick Watson (cont.)

(Q) If you are elected, what issues or projects are you most interested in addressing in your first year?

In my opinion, the job of the SAU 67 Moderator is to create a moderated system of both comfort and equality for all stakeholders. The following procedures are of the utmost importance when discussing the responsibilities of the SAU 67 Moderator. Therefore, my main concern will be to create a platform of civil equality where residents are allowed to voice their feelings, but also understand that everyone receives the same treatment and the same time allotment; this understanding is important to both the preservation of the civic rights and responsibilities we have as a town, the need for efficiency to respect everyone's time and lastly, the significance of all voices, instead of a few. This is a non-partisan position and that is why I chose to run for this position. I like to stay objective, but also want to become involved with my community. What better way to teach Civics, then to become an active and engaged citizen. It may also present a wonderful teaching opportunity for students when the time comes for the SAU 67 Town Meeting.



Important Dates:

Meet the Candidates Night
Wednesday, February 22 | 6:30pm
Baker Free Library
509 South Street
Bow, NH

Election Day
Tuesday, March 14 | 7am-7pm
Bow Community Building
3 Bow Center Road
Bow, NH

Town Meeting
Wednesday, March 15 | 6:30pm
Bow High School
55 Falcon Way
Bow, NH

School Meeting
Thursday, March 16 | 6:00pm
Bow High School
55 Falcon Way
Bow, NH

