

## 2020 VOTERS GUIDE: For the Swampscott selectman, Stephen Williams

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**Years in Swampscott:** I have lived in Swampscott for over fifty years. I attended the Swampscott school systems as my sister and four children did. My grandson will begin kindergarten shortly.

**Occupation/education:** I graduated Swampscott high School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Northeastern University. I ran my family's equipment business in Revere for over forty years. This allowed me to get a background on the nuances of all aspects of managing a business similar to running a municipality. I was able to oversee business operations, insurance, financing, budgeting, accounting, human resources, legal issues, tax requirements, D.E.P. regulations, water & sewer management, personnel, accounts payable and receivables. I also own and manage both commercial and residential real estate in the North Shore.

**Appointed positions and/or elected offices:** Town Meeting member. I had a rewarding but unsuccessful run last year for the Select Board. I have volunteered my business expertise to serve on the newly formed Swampscott Business Advisory Group. This group aims to help local businesses recover following the coronavirus pandemic. Cub Scout leader, little league softball coach

### **What are three reasons/issues why you're running for election?**

First I feel there is a need for some diversity on the board. I can bring that with a small business management background, lifelong knowledge of the people and environment and a need to have a more personal hands on approach to the residents.

Secondly, I see the need for more time and attention to long forgotten groups in town. This includes the fishing industry, veterans, seniors, and many of the condo owners and residents who are tenants.

Finally, a disconnect with the board in regards to transparency with the residents exists.

### **What areas of municipal government do you think selectmen could give more attention to?**

It is important to support and enhance the fine work of our police, fire and public works departments. Strong support to these areas of municipal government is the foundation of a strong community. Our schools are an important investment to the community. We must keep our school system strong to support our youth and keep our strong schooling tradition. We must support our teachers, administration and make the necessary investments in the infrastructure. While doing all this, there must be a feel for the importance of Swampscott's history and tradition.

**The Swampscott elementary school building project will be front and center over the next year – with a final vote on the multimillion dollar project's financing most likely taking place before the end of June 2021. Some residents have expressed concern the 2021 Swampscott Town Meeting members will exclusively make the school-building decision. Like most Massachusetts towns, the Swampscott electorate has traditionally decided whether to construct a new school on a referendum vote in a town-wide election.**

**As a resident and a voter, where do you stand on the final school-building vote? Who do you believe should make the final decision to construct a new school building?**

Based on the findings of the feasibility study by Hill International at its public forums it's the school that we, the residents, want. This would lean towards a referendum in a town election. Any plan must comply with the Massachusetts State Building Authority guidelines for as much state funding as allowable.

### **What do you feel will be the biggest issues facing the town in the coronavirus pandemic's wake?**

The biggest issues will be a safe and proper return to socialization and restoring the local economy. Having a sense of normalcy to be able to enjoy the company of our friends and neighbors without suspicion will be a key factor in returning us to a pre-pandemic society. Avoiding a ghost town in our commercial community is key to supporting our business community emotionally and economically.