

NEEDHAM ELECTION 2022

VOTE !!! APRIL 12, 2022

TOWN MEETING MEMBER CANDIDATE

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES (as of April 10, 2022 @ 7:04 AM)



PRECINCT A			
Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3
Erik J. Bailey	No	Yes	Your question is misleading and outrageously worded. Per https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/substandard "of a quality lower than that prescribed by law". Obviously our crossings are not substandard or they would be illegal. You hinder your cause by putting out inflammatory questions like that; of course I would have responded "Yes" had the question been worded neutrally, but I cannot support the question as worded. Furthermore, your URL requires a lowercase "tmm" while your letter references uppercase "TMM".
Lance R. Brown	No	No	I neither actively support nor actively oppose this measure.
Emily Rose Cooper			
Richard S. Creem			
John F. Diodato	Yes	Yes	
John D. Genova			
Walter D. Herrick			
Mary E. Keane-Hazzard			
Heather Krechmer		Yes ***	
Michael S. Miller			
Rachel B. Miller			
Norman F. O'Brien Jr.			
Elizabeth M. Sargent			
James F. Sargent			
Jennifer C. Scheck-Kahn			
Sharon P. Serinsky		Yes ***	
Karen Shapiro			
Irwin Silverstein			
Nicholas P. Sterling	Yes	No	I would want to study the issue more first.
Robert S. Dangel	Yes	No	
Brian M. Mackintosh			

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PRECINCT B			
Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3
Stuart B. Agler			
Kathleen Krey Alwart			
Marianna Borrelli			
Laura W. Dorfman			
Mark N. Dorfman			
John J. Frankenthaler			
Elizabeth J. Grimes			
Cifford Owen Hayden			
Thomas M. Jacob			
Catherine E. Kurkjian			
Christine A. Mawhinney			
Kim Marie Nicols			
Gerald C. Rovner			I fully support continuing study, but that study should be given the highest priority. The issue of safety is paramount, but costs play a role as well. Plus the Feds have requirements that may need amendment.
Sarah Ann Toran	Yes	No	
Peter B. Benfield			
Abby B. Bernstein			
Orr Y. Bernstein			
Wendy Z. Blom	Yes	Yes	
Jean W. Childs			
Joan M. Daya-Daly			
Judith Dernburg			
Cathy M. Freedberg	Yes	Yes	The letter I received from you (TMM candidate questionnaire) said your first mailing will be going out on April 3 and that we should respond by March 31. Just thought you should know about the discrepancy.
William B. King	Yes	Yes	I am aware that Supplemental Safety Measures will involve substantial cost to install. Do SQN supporters have info on such costs, the source of necessary funds, and the potential impact on town real estate taxes? Glad that Select Board has added to current capital program.
Sara R. Levy			
Eric G. Pressman			

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PRECINCT C			
Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3
Carlos Agualimpia			
Paul S. Alpert			
Peter A. Alpert			
Joseph P. Barnes			
Paula R. Callanan			
Andrea E. Longo Carter			
David R. Cox			
Gilbert W. Cox Jr.	Yes	No	Senior Town Meeting Member. Former elected member of the Massachusetts legislature representing the towns of Needham and Wellesley.
Mark J. Gluesing			
Lois R. Goldberg	Yes	No	I would have signed the petition if I saw it. I have 2 friends killed at railroad crossings and another losing legs (not in Needham). I am in favor of all safety.
John H. Haslip			
Paul David Isenberg			
R. Cynthia Landau			
Joshua W. Levy			
James D. Masterman			
Louise L. Miller			
Susan B. Neckes			
Michael E. O'Brien			
Ted Owens			
Paul B. Tillotson	Yes	Yes	
Joshua J. Vincent			
Rebecca Waber			
Lisa W. Zappala			
Edward M. Quinlan			

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PRECINCT D			
Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3
Janet K. Baum			
Karen L. Calton			
Holly Anne Clarke			
Cynthia L. Conturie			
Kathryn L. D'Addesio	Yes	Yes	It is time!
Dorothy H. Desimone			
Ross M. Donald			
Bruce T. Eisenhut			
Reginald C. Foster			
Joseph J. Leghorn			<p>I am in receipt of your undated letter concerning a quiet zone for the MBTA trains, and you should consider this my response to it. The letter lacks any references to primary sources that support its assertions. When I was a practicing lawyer, all of my pleadings and filings contained references to evidence or primary sources, so that the reader would know the bases of my arguments. Both the undated letter and the on line information fail to cite the underling FRA document that you claim finds the collision risk at "Needham's road crossings" is 40% worse that the national average. If such a document exists, I would be happy to consider it.</p> <p>A quick Google search using the search terms, "federal railway administration needham ma," does not yield any specific FRA document even mentioning Needham. The search did reveal that in September, 2019, Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager, wrote the MBTA inquiring about quiet zones and rail crossing safety, copy attached. The MBTA responded on or about October 25, 2019, copy attached. In its letter, the MBTA reported that, nationally, the rate of accidents doubled in areas where train horns were banned. So, a fair conclusion, assuming your assertion about collision risk is correct, is that railroad crossings would become as much as 80% riskier than the national average. Why would I want to support that?</p>

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PRECINCT D (cont'd)

Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3
Joseph J. Leghorn (cont'd)			<p>In my opinion, Safer Quieter Needham (SQN) is engaging in a misinformation or disinformation campaign. Because SQN is not being transparent in what it claims are the "facts," each and everyone one of your signatories support is questionable. Would they still have signed after reading the letters below? I would not.</p> <p>What I can support is a Town funded study two determine two issues about a quiet zone. First, and foremost, "Would a quiet zone improve the safety of the current grade crossings?" Second, "What would be the initial projected capital cost when construction could occur, keeping mind municipal funding cycles, and what would be the annual maintenance costs?" Only after have facts and the appropriate expert opinions are gathered, could Town Meeting responsibly appropriate the necessary capital funds and annual maintenance expenditures for a quiet zone. I would happily sign a petition to request such a study and as a Town Meeting member, vote in favor of such an expenditure. Rather, I am being asked to sign a document that contains assertions that do not appear to be true. That I will not do.</p> <p>This May, I will have been a resident of Needham for 40 years. Since the trains returned to Needham in 1988, I am not aware of any serious accidents that occurred at railroad crossings. I am aware of two pedestrian deaths occurred while crossing Needham's street. Whatever the actual risk at Needham's crossings is, it has not resulted in any serious accident in 34 years, to the best of my knowledge. Hence, my final question, "Is the petition really about safety, or about some residents' dislike of the train whistles?"</p>
Richard J. Lunetta			

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PRECINCT D (cont'd)

Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3
Justin Douglas McCullen	Yes	Yes	I support the town to move forward with establishing an FRA Quiet Zone to improve the safety and quality of life for all Needham residents and businesses. As a member of the Transportation Committee, I helped vet the BETA Engineering feasibility report in 2015 and helped frame and pose some additional clarifying questions, which were answered in September 2016. The Transportation Committee voted to recommend an establishment of a Quiet Zone to the (then) "Board of Selectmen" in 2016.
Gary B. Mcneill			
Steven E. Mock			
Emma Navales			
Carol L. B. Patey	Yes	Yes	
Robert A. Petitt			
Aaron M. Pressman			
Evan F. Rauch			
Thomas F. Soisson			
Joseph Abruzese			
Margaret Abruzese			
Alexandra Rose Blauer			
Jeremy J. Chao	Yes	Yes	Quiet zones from train horns is one of key issues I am advocating as documented in the League of Women Voters guide
Anna Giraldo-Kerr			
Janis M. Soma	Yes	Yes	
Joshua Brian Tarsky			

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PRECINCT E			
Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3
Constance S. Barr			
Robert R. Braman			
Philip Edward Brandish			
Cynthia J. Chaston			
Peter Robert Cohenno			
Ann M. Cosgrove			
Edward V. Cosgrove Iii			
Theodore M. Crowell			
Carol A. Fachetti			
Amy Hurley			
Keith M. Laface	Yes	Yes	I am honored to be the Chair of the Government Affairs Committee at Safer Quieter Needham. Please see me at: https://saferquieterneedham.com/leadership
Bonnie L. Mclellan			
Philip R. Murray			
William J. Paulson		Yes ***	
Ford H. Peckham	Yes	No	How much? Who pays? Who says safety is substandard? What collisions? What mental health problems?
Philip V. Robey			
Ronald W. Ruth	Yes	Yes	
Victor Paul Seidel			
Paul A. Siegenthaler			
Cynthia J. Wolfe			
Adam J. Block			
Julia Dale Mahr			
Michael L. Niden			
Peter J. O'Neil	Yes	Yes	I support pursuing a solution that improves safety while lessening the negative impact of train horns. I do not agree with those who describe this as somehow trivial. That said, a Town expenditure in the \$4 million range would ultimately need to be considered in context with other Town needs. That number would be a very tough sell.
Yasodhara Paruchuru	Yes	Yes	

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Robert D. Vecchi	No	No	I would consider this when I get clear information about cost to the town. Also I would need to know what help state and federal authorities offer.
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PRECINCT E (cont'd)

Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3
Kate Ellen Weinograd	Yes	Yes	I fully support the effort to take the steps needed to bring Needham into alignment with our neighbors and become a quiet zone. Rail infrastructure technology has not been upgraded in decades and our system is less safe than it should be, while causing significant quality of life issues for countless residents and businesses. As a Town Meeting Member, I look forward to supporting projects like this that provide common sense solutions and a positive net impact for the community.
Andrea J. Wizer	No	No	My response to the first question is qualified by the fact that I don't have enough information to accurately respond. I'm aware that the federal regulations require upgraded crossings in order to reduce the volume of our train horns. I am also aware that this is very expensive. I am not supportive of changing our crossings until we have exhausted all possible avenues for appeal. As I understand it, the vast majority of railroad crossings in this country are in a much more rural areas. This means that the data provided are not comparable to Needham. While I would never equate any amount of money to an individual life, I need more information about what harms have occurred to our citizens at the railroad crossings in town. So, until we have more information I can't accurately answer the first question.
Jill Yanofsky			

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PRECINCT F			
Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3
Alison S. Borrelli			
Barry J. Coffman			
Lawrence J. Cohen			
John P. Connelly			
Gail E. Davis	Yes	No	I support improving the safety of Needham crossings, but not instituting a Quiet Zone. There are times at the May St. crossing, when sun shines directly into the eyes of the driver, where a sound warning is important. I am a senior, who lives within 4 blocks of the train. I can certainly hear the horn, but I am not at all bothered by it.
Richard W. Davis			<p>I am unaware that our rail crossings have been deemed to be unsafe and I have no sense of what “current safety measures” would entail, but I am willing to learn. I would favor improved safety. if it can be achieved.</p> <p>I am reluctant to endorse a Quiet Zone as I think that poses a safety risk at several Needham rail crossings. I might add that I live close enough to the rail crossing that I hear the trains on a regular basis and do not find the noise “punishing”. It would be my sense that in the current situation the horn improves safety.</p> <p>In summary, if there is a better way to improve safety and resident satisfaction I would be interested in learning about it and open to supporting such a system.</p>
Doug H. Fox			
Jeffrey M. Friedman			
Rochelle E. Goldin			
Jeffrey D. Heller			
Leslie A. Kalish			
Elizabeth Anne Lee			
Mary Anne Macmahon			
Joseph Mccabe	Yes	Yes	
Dennis Francis Mccafferty			

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Jeanne S. Mcknight	Yes	Yes	Sites in town that are suitable for multifamily or mixed-use housing would be more attractive for development if we were a quiet town.
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PRECINCT F (cont'd)

Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3
Karen N. Price			
Jennifer S. Sexton			
Adam S. Zaff			
William A. Zoppo	Yes	No	Living near the Needham Center rail station, I can fully support the need to abate non-emergency train horn pollution, especially early morning and late night trains. I welcome a full debate of the issue at Town Meeting.
Gary Robert Ajamian			As a lifetime Needham resident, my goals are to improve the town we all love, and represent precinct F, within available budgets. I recall in my youth, that residents were injured walking across the tracks, unaware of an oncoming train. These safety and noise concerns, as well as budget and aesthetic concerns are all a top priority. Thank you for your service in bringing this to everyone's attention.
Stephen L. Dornbusch			
Robyn E. Glazier			

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PRECINCT G			
Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3
Peter W. Beacham Jr.		No	Unsure -I would like to understand more details of the tradeoffs.
Jennifer Lewis Buell			
Michael J. Crawford			
John D. Crimmings	Yes	Yes	This is a complex issue, involving local, state, and primarily federal obstacles. I look forward to the debate at Town Meeting and hope we can resolve both the safety concerns as well as eliminating the obnoxious nightly "sound blasts".
Robert J. Dermody			
David Dirks			
Michael A. Distler	Yes		
Catherine Reid Dowd	Yes	Yes	
Robert John Fernandez	Yes	Yes	We have to do something. The trains are so loud!
Stephen Anthony Frail			
Kenneth B. Freundlich			
Thomas M. Harkins		Yes ***	
Abigail Jones Hays			
Jessica Zaplin Karlin	Yes	No	
Maureen T. Mccaffrey			
Susan B. Mccarvey			
Josephine Luppino Ochalla			
Alisa M. Skatrud			
Robert T. Smart Jr.			
Patrick Weston Tacelli			
Christopher G. Thomas			
Susan Welby			
Richard Demeis	Yes	Yes	Thanks for leading on this issue. Now that we, thankfully, have frequent train service seven days a week, it is more important than ever.
James D. Flanagan	Yes	Yes	
Karen Walker			

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PRECINCT H			
Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3
Ilan Barzilay			
Heinz R. Brinkhaus			
Hilary Hanson Bruel			
John A. Bulian	Yes	No	I would like to understand why the mbta says that train horns save lives and reconcile that to your statement above.
Molly Kastory Carter			
Julia Satti Cosentino			
M. Patricia Cruickshank			
Michael A. Diener			
Lynn Sara Feigenbaum			
Thomas Edward Gillogley			
Karen Eckstein Han			
Elizabeth P. Handler			
Michael C. Kardok			
John A. Kingston			
Kimberly Knickle-Tierney			
Nancy E. Mccarthy			
Eileen M. Mullen			
Peter R. Olive			
Eileen K. Orscheln			
Richard M. Reilly			
Kevin F. Tierney			
Amy M. Wixon			
Richard A. Zimbone			
Kimrae Helbig Lee			

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PRECINCT I			
Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3
Peter D. Atallah			
James S. Bonasia			
Michael Centola			
Lisa Cherbuliez			
Artie R. Crocker		Yes ***	
Claire Dee Ecsedy			
David J. Ecsedy			
David J. Escalante			
Joel S. Golden			
Jill C. Kahn-Boesel			
William Christopher Kent			
Joseph S. Matthews			
Catherine W. Mertz		Yes ***	
Kristin L. Mollerus			
Glenn Alan Mulno		Yes ***	
Lorraine M. Murphy			
Peter J. Pingitore			
Paul Robey Iii			
Lois F. Sockol	Yes	Yes	
David Paul Supple	Yes	No	
Anne W. Weinstein			
Rachel Ann Weinstock			
Kathleen D. Whitney			
Rebecca A. Young	Yes	No	I live close to the train and have been in discussion with many supportive neighbors.
Maurice Handel	Yes	Yes	We should have quiet zones at our crossings
Lynda Michelle Hughes			
William D. Mahoney			
Daniel P. Matthews			I support establishing a Quiet Zone and have worked to accomplish that as a member of the Select Board.
Oscar E. Mertz III		Yes ***	

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PRECINCT J			
Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3
Stuart B. Chandler			
William R. Dermody			
Robert E. Deutsch			
Janice S. Epstein			
Michael J. Greis			
Elizabeth Nicole Kaponya			
George F. Kent			
Michael M. Mathias			
Christine S. Mccourt			
David P. Montgomery			
Donna M. Mullin	Yes	No	
Jane B. Murphy			
Barry S. Pollack		Yes ***	
Lauren Soper		Yes ***	
Carol I. Urwitz			
Debra A. Whitney			
Holly Charbonnier			
Paula E. Dickerman	Yes	Yes	
Priya Gore	Yes	Yes	All facets of this initiative are overdue and common sense. Increase the safety for all (residents, visitors), increased quality of life for all effected by the loud train horns and increase the value of experiences and property values across Needham with this effort.
Frederica S. Lalonde			