

WaylandeNews Q&A with the Board of Selectmen Candidates

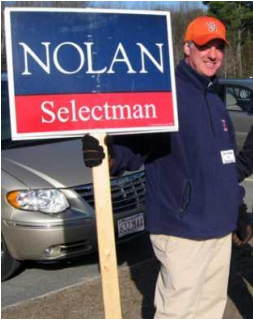

WaylandeNews has submitted the following set of questions to each of the candidates. Candidates were given 11 days to respond, and we requested that candidates adhere to a word-limit of 200 words per response, though indicated we would try not to truncate longer responses if the overall document remained of reasonable length.

On April 5 you will be voting for two out of three Selectman candidates. We received responses from candidates Joe Nolan and Steve Correia, which are listed below.

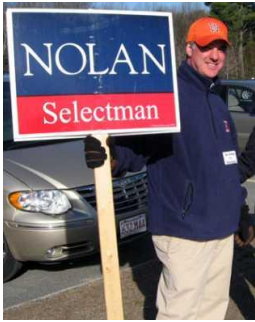


We did not receive a response from the third candidate, Don Bustin.

1. Why did you decide to run for the seat on the Board of Selectmen?

 <p>JOE NOLAN</p>	<p>Good question, Elizabeth asked the same thing. After serving two terms I feel invested in many projects that we have started. Particularly I would like to see the Town Center and associated downtown improvements completed, I would like to see a bike/walking path from Plain Road to Russell's completed with state funding to improve the walk ability of our downtown. I would like to see the new High School completed, and the new downtown wastewater plant completed. Further, I would like to see finally the repairs to the Public Safety building completed so that if we are faced with another emergency/flood our public safety officials are operating out of a safe building and are not part of the problem.</p>
 <p>STEVE CORREIA</p>	<p>Having nearly completed my first term as a Selectman, I understand the state of our town and the issues we face. I want to be a part of making progress on the projects we have underway, and helping to shape the future of Wayland. Specifically, I believe we need to streamline our operations and manage our debt strategies around new projects. We have a good financial plan and conservative budgeting practices, and I would like to see these practices maintained. I understand that we are all part of one community and that it is critical that the needs of all our citizens be served. Public safety, senior programs and our schools all need to be properly funded within reasonable financial parameters. I hope the residents of Wayland see that I have provided steady leadership in the last three years. I feel that I have a very balanced and pragmatic approach to solving problems and I am committed to constantly looking for ways to improve customer service for our residents.</p>

2. Why should a voter choose you over your opponent(s)?



JOE NOLAN

I believe my 10 years as an elected official leave me particularly well suited to understand the workings of our small town government. I really enjoy serving and am even tempered in my delivery. I am always willing to listen to alternate views and have no reservations about changing direction when a better path for the town is presented. I have learned not to react too quickly to the ups and downs that come with the position.

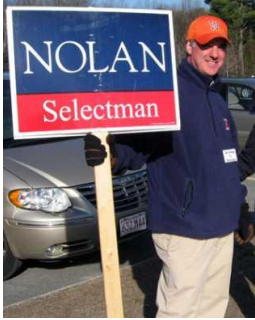


STEVE CORREIA

In addition to 30 years of Finance, Business and Management experience, I have gained a wealth of public service knowledge and experience with the issues facing our town by serving two years on the Finance Committee and three years as Selectman, most recently as the Chairman. In addition to my background and experience, I believe the following factors should be important to voters in Wayland:

- I have led our town through very challenging economic times. We met our town's goals for reducing expenses and seeking alternative economic development opportunities to avoid operational overrides for 3 years.
- I have strong negotiation and problem solving skills that enabled us to address and make progress on many open issues such as the Town Center, DPW consolidation, Public Safety building, and Cable agreements.
- I have established strong relationships with our neighboring towns and with the state as we continue collaborating on services, lobbying for reforms and expanding our commercial tax base.
- I have proven emergency management skills demonstrated during times of severe flooding of our town.
- I have also served on the Friends of the Council Aging, giving me first hand experience of the needs of our aging population.

3. If you are elected, is there anything specific you would like to encourage the Board to do that is currently not on their agenda?



JOE NOLAN

I think we should expand on our efforts to engage a wider base of the public in our dialog on the issues. Last year's community values forum was a good example. There is some element of bringing a horse to water on this one. The town government process for budgeting, town meeting articles, and capital projects already entail a lengthy public process. Some may criticize me for saying this but they are not often well attended by citizens, it's tough when we are all so busy with families, work, sports, etc. but that does not mean we should not continue to try to broaden our efforts to reach more citizens and improve the process.



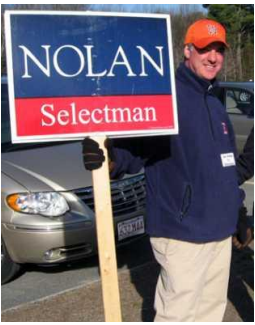

STEVE CORREIA

A new DPW facility, Library, Council on Aging and recreational space are all on the town's agenda, but these plans are not solidified. I would like to establish a process and form a committee to define the requirements and prioritize the needs, across these complex areas.

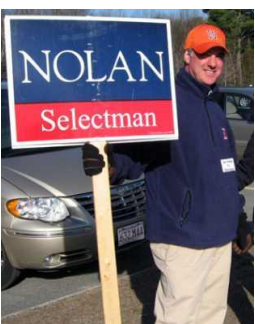
In terms of other areas I would like to see further addressed:

- We need to continue to work towards a successful Town Center and Cochituate Village.
- We need to review ways to protect our scenic and historical roads that are the jewels of our town including better guidelines on NStar pruning practices, and road maintenance in order for us to preserve that semi-rural feel so valued.
- I would look forward to leading a process to match alternative funding sources and community assets with capital projects to lessen the debt burden, and to developing community consensus prioritizing these capital projects.
- I resolve to pursue strategies to reduce the pressure for operational overrides and tax burden on our citizens.
- We have the lowest vacancy rate on open positions on town committees in years. My goal would be to fill all open committee positions, achieving a zero vacancy rate by year end.

4. Should cutting taxes or limiting tax increases be given priority over the preservation of services?

 <p>JOE NOLAN</p>	<p>Not without letting the voters decide what they want to cut or keep. Services have been cut judiciously over the last decade. Although we have not had an operational override over the last three years and do not expect one for next year, I think if we need to make cuts to the school or town budget that will seriously impact the level of services we have come to expect/need, I would support the issue be decided by the citizens of Wayland at the polls.</p>
 <p>STEVE CORREIA</p>	<p>Our role as elected officials is to establish a balance of these two important municipal goals. I believe the long-range financial plan established by the Finance Committee and Selectmen has shown great progress in controlling expenses and managing tax increases through fiscally prudent budget practices. This plan takes into consideration thorough reviews of all our services so that there are minimal impacts in meeting our stringent quality standards. There needs to be consistent reviews of these plans to identify opportunities for improvements of any sort that could reduce the tax burden on our residents. The preservation of our services is vital to the health of a strong, safe and educated community as well as maintaining our property values.</p>

5. Is there any elected official or other prominent person inside or outside of Wayland whose qualities you admire that you would like to bring to your role on the Board?

 <p>JOE NOLAN</p>	<p>I enjoyed and learned much from my former colleague on the BOS Bill Whitney, I found his demeanor fair if firm, his intellect all but unassailable, (except when I disagreed with him) and I enjoyed his timely sense of humor. I hope that I have some of the same qualities in my service on the BOS.</p>
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STEVE CORREIA

I have great respect for the many people serving our town, and I am grateful for their contribution. If I had to single out one person who personifies the best characteristic of our diligent and hardworking volunteers, it would be Lea Anderson, the Chairman of our High School Building Committee. Through the many years of leading Wayland's High School Project, Lea did not waiver in her vision for a new facility that would align with the high standards of Wayland's education. Her tireless energy, commitment and enthusiasm is something we could all learn from. She exemplifies our town's commitment to helping our community locally. She works with patience and tolerance, always willing to take the time to listen to varying viewpoints to make sure our best thinking is taken into consideration. She is astute and well balanced in addressing all issues and concerns of a project. She is an outstanding communicator whether speaking at the podium, or over a cup of coffee. Lea's efforts have earned Wayland a respected position at the state level. I admire Lea's vision, leadership and working style and believe she is a role model for volunteers in Wayland.

6. Please take this opportunity to state anything about yourself that you would like voters to know.



JOE NOLAN

I really enjoy serving Wayland in this capacity. Friends often ask me why I do it; they see critics' voices in blogs, newsletters, and email and wonder as the father of three young children how I find the time and why I bother. I do it because I really believe that it matters, most of my good friends are way too busy or have other interests so cannot contribute the time and efforts BOS service requires.

I enjoy the dialog and the process of governing and understand that this effort is a marathon not a sprint. There are no easy answers, despite constant arguments to the contrary. The town budget is a puzzle that requires recalibration constantly as the factors that effect it change.

It really is a great privilege to serve and I enjoy it. As such, I recognize the will of the voters on issues and in elections; if I am not re-elected I will enjoy having my Monday nights back and continue to contribute to our community in other ways. Don't ever let anyone try to convince you otherwise...Wayland is a great town, we should be, and I am very thankful that I am able to raise my family here.



STEVE CORREIA

Voters have had an opportunity to see my work over the last 3 years. In addition to my work, I would like voters to know the following 3` items:

- I believe in responsible environmental stewardship. I support proven, cost-effective initiatives to help preserve Wayland's conservation land. I was co-chairman of the Hazelbrook Watershed Association and worked to preserve the qualities of open space. Also, the development of alternative energy sources and efficiencies will continue to be one of my priorities.
- While we focus on balancing budgets at the town level, we cannot lose sight of the needs of individual families who may be negatively impacted by cuts, or struggling with increased property taxes. We need to continue researching and communicating the means to make our Town affordable to all. I also strongly believe that as we make decision around the future of Wayland, we cannot sacrifice all of that which makes this town special.
- As a Vice President at Hyperion Solutions, I specialized in operational reviews, budgeting and reporting redesign and process management. I can work with the latest operational review, once final, and can insure the benefits are attained to make Wayland a tighter municipal organization.

I want to thank Wayland eNews for the opportunity to address these important questions. Readers should feel free to call (508-868-2264) or e-mail me (stevencorreia@comcast.net) to discuss their questions, concerns and ideas.

Please come out and vote on April 5th and attend Town Meeting on April 7th.