

Name: Matthew Greene

Seeking Office of: Town Moderator

Address: 31 Wildcat Lane

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Experience:

I graduated from Boston College and Northeastern University School of Law. I am a partner at Boyle Shaughnessy, P.C., a law firm concentrating on civil litigation. I also currently sit on two boards for the Town of Norwell: Zoning Board of Appeals and Recreation Commission. I live in Norwell with my wife, who grew up in town and is a public school teacher, and our three children.

Major issues confronting our town today:

Given the nature of the Town Moderator position, identifying any issue as more important than another is contrary to the role I'm seeking. My goal is to concentrate on procedure to ensure that, regardless of the outcome, each citizen who desires to be heard on any issue feels that the process has acknowledged his/her respective viewpoint.

I am running for the office of Town Moderator because:

A French aristocrat traveling through Massachusetts in 1831 was moved to remark that "[t]own meetings are to liberty what primary schools are to science; they bring it within the people's reach, they teach men how to use and how to enjoy it. A nation may establish a free government, but without municipal institutions it cannot have the spirit of liberty." When he made this observation, Town Meetings had been the primary form of local government in Massachusetts for at least 200 years, and have remained so for nearly 200 years since. Were he to walk into a Town Meeting in 2021 he would instantly recognize the same conventions and civic spirit that he found so remarkable in his time.

The first law in Massachusetts requiring election of a Town Moderator to keep order was passed in 1715. The opportunity to contribute to this tradition is gratifying in and of itself. But framing the Town Meeting as simply the continuation of a historical tradition fails to give credence to the vital importance the exercise of democracy exerts on our present as well as our future. I am running for Town Moderator because to serve in that role, to contribute to an institution larger than any individual, is a worthwhile endeavor.