

## **2020 Brookline PAX Endorsement Questionnaire**

### **BROOKLINE PAX ACTIVELY SUPPORTS**

**Public Education** — We are strongly committed to public education, from early childhood through graduate school, including comprehensive curricula, fair and tax-based funding, supporting teachers and their unions, and high standards and testing without overly high stakes.

**Government Services** — We support sustained state and local investment in quality municipal services such as police, fire protection, public health, libraries, schools, parks, recreation, and public works, as well as state services such as social programs, transportation and environmental protection. PAX and its endorsed candidates pursue policies of support for basic human needs, including healthcare for all, affordable housing and services for both children and senior citizens.

**Public Employees and Organized Labor** — We stand up for fair labor practices and for policies that show respect for the dedicated people whose competence and commitment make Brookline and this Commonwealth work.

**Respect for the Environment** — PAX supports aggressive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other forms of toxic emissions into our air and water; energy policies that are “green,” sustainable and economically just; the maintenance and enhancement of green spaces everywhere; and sound environmental regulation to ensure that these goals will be achieved.

**Diversity, Social Justice and Peace** — We work to preserve ethnic and economic diversity and to increase social and economic justice for all, through affordable housing, universal healthcare, and all fundamental civil rights and liberties. We defend the human rights of all people—regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or location; and we support truly multilateral solutions to international affairs. We oppose the unilateral (or near-unilateral) use of force, with the exception of defensive force justified under international law by clear and convincing evidence of a serious and imminent threat of aggression—and then only to a degree commensurate with the magnitude of the threat.

---

### **BROOKLINE PAX BOARD MEMBERS**

CHAIR: Martin Rosenthal, TMM9 SECRETARY: Neil Gordon, TMM1

TREASURER: Gary Jones, TMM3 ASSISTANT TREASURER: Judith Vanderkay, TMM9

Catherine Anderson, TMM6	Susan Granoff, TMM7	Rita McNally, TMM2
John Bassett, TMM6	John Harris, TMM8	Puja Mehta, TMM16, LIB
Craig Bolon	Paul Harris, TMM9	Bob Miller, TMM8
Edith Brickman	Regina Healy, LIB	Lisa Sears
Stephanie Bruce, TMM12	Nancy Heller, SB	Frank Smizik
Michael Burstein, TMM12, LIB	Chobee Hoy	Diana Spiegel, TMM2
John Businger	Gilbert Hoy	Stanley Spiegel, TMM2
Susan Ellis, TMM7	Julia Johnson	Charles Terrell, TMM1
Marty Farlow, TMM4	David Klafter, TMM12	Dwain Tyndal, TMM9
Zoraida Fernandez	Bobbie Knable, TMM10	Kea van der Ziel, TMM15
Andrew Fischer, TMM13	Mark Levy, TMM7	Tommy Vitolo, State Rep
Phyllis Giller	Harry Margolis, TMM12	Steve Vogel
Jane Gilman, TMM3	Rebecca Mautner, TMM11	Bob Weintraub, TMM9
Koinonia Givens, LIB		Donald Weitzman, TMM8
Rachel Goodman		Sarah Wunsch

To learn more about PAX, see [www.BrooklinePAX.org](http://www.BrooklinePAX.org).

## **2020 Brookline PAX Endorsement Questionnaire**

(limit answers to an AVERAGE of **75 words**, (i.e., 2 total pages—including the questions)  
(AND, remember to re-name this document as asked in our delivery email)

Name: Marissa Vogt (she/her) Address: 12 Tabor Place 02445 Precinct: 4 Term: 3 yrs  
Phone: 617-686-1782 Email: marissav@alum.mit.edu  
Recent occupation(s): Research Scientist, Center for Space Physics, Boston University  
Elected/appointed gov't & public interest group offices held, especially local, and including committees: none

Do you: Own single family home Y; Own condominium   ; Rent apartment   ; Other   

Are you a Brookline school parent/ guardian? Which school(s): yes (son 2 ½ yrs, daughter 5 months), Pierce district

**1. Elections**— In recent contested races (including out of district Congressional races), what candidates or ballot questions (local, state, national) have you actively supported/opposed: While I am an active voter in local and national elections, this election is my first real foray into politics and I have not actively campaigned for many candidates/issues. I attended the 2017 March for Science and protested the Trump administration travel bans in early 2017. I was also active in campaigning and protesting against California proposition 8 in 2008 (I support equal rights for LGBTQ+).

**2. WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?** What major challenges do you see ahead? If elected, where will you focus?

I have been increasingly interested in getting involved with local politics and community activism in the past few years, inspired in part by national (the 2016 presidential election) and international (Brexit) events. I was a student journalist in college and I'm an avid NYT reader now, but I have tired of sitting on the sidelines – I want to go make my voice heard and have a positive impact on my community. I have lived in Brookline since 2014 but have only started to really feel connected to the town since having my son in 2017 (we started going to the library and playground a lot more!). I've read that the current membership of the town meeting is not representative of the town population, so I think I can bring a valuable perspective to the town meeting as a resident under the age of 50, and as someone who has lived in Brookline both before and after having children and as both a renter and property owner. One of the reasons I like living in Brookline is that the community is overall very progressive and the town meeting does fantastic things like becoming the first municipality in the U.S. to offer free tampons in town buildings. As a TMM I would support – and hope to lead! – more initiatives like this. Finally, two major initiatives that I would support would be to 1) implement universal pre-K by expanding BEEP to all residents at no cost; and 2) make school meals available for free to all students to de-stigmatize the free/reduced lunch program and ensure all children have access to food.

**3. BUDGET PRIORITIES:** Please rank the following, with your highest priority as #1, etc.: Affordable housing 4; Facilities and Streets Libraries 2; Low Taxes 9; Parks 7; Police and Fire 5; Public Health 6; Recreation programs 8; Schools 1; Transportation Alternatives 3

**4. LABOR/PUBLIC EMPLOYEES:** (A) What is the appropriate role of the Town/Schools in their relationship with both employees and their unions; and (B) How do you perceive current relations between the Town and Schools and the unions/employees? I fully support providing public employees with competitive salaries and benefits. Brookline town employees should be compensated at a level at which they can afford to live in this community. My father is a retired New Hampshire state employee (20+ years of service) and my mother taught adult education classes in our town so I have great respect for public employees. Unions can have an important role in securing good work conditions and in mediating conflict between employees and employers, though I would hope that the town would support its employees just because it's the right thing to do and not because of pressure from the public employee unions.

**5. AFFORDABLE HOUSING** – What are your views on: (1) in general & very briefly, whether Brookline needs more affordable housing options, and if so, why & how urgently?; and (2) some possible suggestions, including but not limited to increased density/development in commercial districts? in single-family zoning districts?; what else? Yes, Brookline (and Boston/MA in general) needs more affordable housing options. We should address the needs of low-income residents by providing safe, quality public housing. I am also concerned that many people in the area with middle class

incomes are still “rent burdened”. We need to revisit or relax zoning restrictions to allow for more housing – I think it’s hard to justify having any single-family zoning in north Brookline (north of the D line / north of route 9). I think this can be done while still addressing any neighborhood concerns by implementing other restrictions, for example how any external modifications to buildings in Brookline’s local historic districts require review by the town.

**6. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION** – Town Meeting has taken many steps -- e.g., restricting plastic bags & Styrofoam containers; and encouraging alternative transportation, net-zero building, electric vehicles, To what extent did/would you support such efforts, why, & any ideas on what to do next? I support these efforts. I would like to see Brookline implement a town-wide composting program and I would like to see increased public transit options. For example, it would be great to make the Larz Andersen park more accessible to north Brookline residents without cars. I would support measures to discourage vehicle ownership and encourage more zipcar/ride sharing initiatives. So much land in north Brookline is wasted on parking and could be better used for housing or parks.

**7. OVERRIDES and DEBT EXCLUSIONS** – Generally, how might Brookline balance the needs for expanded school capacity, increased Town services, open space and more, while striving to avoid making Brookline less affordable? On the revenue side, I’d love to see Brookline implement a more progressive property tax to relieve some of the burden on middle class families. We should also make sure that we receive a fair amount in PILOT funds – the Globe reports that Boston is aggressively renegotiating some of its payments, and Brookline should follow suit. On the spending side, the town should ensure it takes advantage of state/federal funding, i.e. using state funds for the Pierce school renovations.

**8. RACIAL CLIMATE:** How do you perceive Brookline’s racial climate (i) in the Town workforce, (ii) in our schools, and (iii) in town, generally – especially, please speculate comparing us with elsewhere in MA (& USA if you want) I have personally not experienced or witnessed a negative climate in Brookline, but I understand that many people of color (residents, town employees, etc.) have had different experiences. I am also aware that the Boston area in general has extreme wealth inequities by race (e.g. the median net worth of black households is \$8, according to the 2017 Boston Globe spotlight team) and that students of color are seriously underrepresented at Boston Latin School and in AP (advanced placement) classes in Cambridge. This “AP gap” is a problem in Brookline too (only 2% of AP test takers are black, compared to 6% of all Brookline students, according to the Globe) – so clearly we have work to do.

**9. MARIJUANA RESTRICTIONS:** November’s Special TM3 had a vigorous debate before rejecting an appointment-only business model. If an incumbent, explain the basis for your vote? If not an incumbent, see (a) [brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/20736/Combined-Reports-November-2019-Third-Special-Town-Meeting-With-Supplements](http://brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/20736/Combined-Reports-November-2019-Third-Special-Town-Meeting-With-Supplements); & (b) <http://brooklinepax.org/Nov2019TMPAXRECOMMENDATIONS.pdf> (see “STM3 Art 2”), and explain your current opinion on the appointment-only model. NETA’s location means that many of the residents who are most affected by their business live in my precinct, so I would have consulted with them and listened carefully to their concerns before making a decision. Personally, I would probably have voted against the appointment-only model because it seems like the current issues are likely to be temporary and may be relieved as new policies are implemented and other dispensaries are opened. However, I think it will be appropriate to periodically revisit this and it may make sense to move to an appointment-only model in the future. I am in general very concerned about privacy issues (for example, I support Brookline’s banning the use of facial recognition technology), though I don’t think that applies here since NETA verifies the ID/age of its customers – so they don’t have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

**10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Briefly, and optional, anything else we should consider ? I have created a campaign website - <https://marissav06.wixsite.com/mysite> and twitter account - @vogt4brookline for more about me

**11. NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL ISSUES:** Are these issues (usually presented in the form of non-binding resolutions) proper subjects for Brookline Town Meeting? Yes ☒ No ☐  
Yes, but only if they have some relevance to Brookline or if the town meeting’s actions might spur action on the national/international level. Otherwise, I think we need to be aware that lengthy town meetings could deter participation from folks who need to arrange childcare or work the night shift, etc., which would be antithetical to the idea of having a more diverse, representative town meeting.

**I would like PAX’s endorsement:** Signed electronically: \_\_Marissa F. Vogt\_\_ Date: \_\_March 12, 2020\_\_