



*The Bummer City Historical Society's Civic Engagement Coalition
presents...*

A Voting Guide for the Somerville Municipal Election, 2017

The following is an informal guide to help Somerville voters who do not feel confident about who to support at the polls this Tuesday.

We, The Bummer City Civic Engagement Coalition (BC.CEC), composed an ideal platform against which we scrutinized each candidate running for the Board of Aldermen in the city of Somerville. Based on our research and deliberation, we are prepared to endorse candidates in each of the races. [*Note that several ward Aldermen are running unopposed so our list excludes those wards.*]

That said, we encourage all voters to put pressure on these candidates to take stronger stances on the issues that matter most to you. None of these candidates have fully backed all of the core elements of our platform so we intend to follow up these endorsements, and our votes, with consistent engagement to press our representatives to do better for the city of Somerville.

We hope you do too.

— The BC.CEC Team

Alderman-at-large

While there are four alderman-at-large positions, our team only felt strongly about three of the seven candidates.

We strongly endorse **Stephanie Hirsch**. While she has not served on the BOA previously, she has been involved in Somerville's government for over 10 years. Stephanie's approach to issues is data-driven, but with heart. Her commitment to affordable housing aligns with our platform, and as a member of a car-free household she has a deep understanding of our transit concerns as well. We also love her community-building goals!

We strongly endorse **Will Mbah**. As an immigrant and a renter, we feel he'll be able to add a unique and valuable perspective to the board. His views on affordable housing align with our platform, and he has strong history of activism in this area. His commitment to community-led development also appeals.

We also endorse **Bill White**. He has been president of the BOA for several years, and his fellow board members speak highly of his work. He has a solid track record of supporting affordable housing issues, and is committed to the continued creation of more housing units. He also has a strong track record on expanding public transit access as well as bike infrastructure, and has emphasized the importance of public safety education in conjunction with new bike infrastructure.

Ward Aldermen

Ward 1: We prefer **Matt McLaughlin** for Ward. He has been a strong advocate for affordable housing measures, as well as supporting bike- and pedestrian- friendly traffic measures. His track record as an alderman is in keeping with our platform.

Ward 2: Both of the candidates for Ward 2 are strong, and have expressed values and goals in keeping with our platform. We feel that either of them would be an excellent choice. We are particularly impressed by Maryann's work on bicycle safety and JT's history of involvement in housing-related community groups.

Ward 3: We prefer **Ben Ewen-Campen** for Ward 3. His emphasis on affordable housing as a priority and the specific changes he aims to make align well with our platform. As a bicycling commuter, he is also very committed to supporting cycle-friendly infrastructure.

Ward 4: We strongly endorse **Jesse Clingan** for Ward 4 of Somerville as he is a strong advocate for all residents of the city, and his activism demonstrates his commitment to affordable housing, and safer transportation with less of an emphasis on cars. He is endorsed by several unions in Somerville, and his values are in keeping with our platform.

Wards 5, 6, and 7 are uncontested races.