

Opinions 

Editorial: Vote for Alan Reiss and Susan Pope

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WAYLAND - In a tight race for Board of Selectmen, our first endorsement goes to Alan Reiss, who will definitely bring a much needed opposing viewpoint to the board.

While Reiss may be the underdog, having come out against operating overrides in the past and having lost re-election last year, the town needs someone who is going to take a critical look at the budget during these challenging economic times.

In a period where many residents are getting no raises or taking pay cuts, the town must take a critical look at its current and future contracts with its teachers, town employees and administrators, just as other towns are doing. We feel that Reiss will keep a sharp eye on the budget, and as mentioned by former Selectman Brian O'Herlihy last week, we will also need an independent voice as the town considers a very expensive High School building project.

For those who think he is too radical, remember that Reiss has already served three years as a selectman, and did it quite well. He would bring a different and necessary skill set to the board as an engineer, having previously helped the board on issues like cell towers and cable contracts.

Our second endorsement goes to Susan Pope, whose volunteer commitment to this town is legendary, from School Committee to Board of Selectmen to state representative for five terms. When she lost re-election to Beacon Hill in 2006, she joined the Finance Committee, and became a corporator for Emerson Hospital.

Pope's knowledge of the state Legislature will be critical as the town fights for more state funding, especially reimbursement on its High School project.

Plus, with Douglas Leard departing, Pope will likely take over the reins of representing our seniors in town, as she currently serves as a member of the Friends of the Council on Aging. Besides the fact that it will be nice to add a female voice to the current "boys club."

Tom Fay is another great candidate, as we can attest by having worked with him on our Gifts of Hope series in December 2007 for Wayland to Waveland. His volunteer efforts are remarkable, and he will continue to serve the town well, whether elected next Tuesday, or in any other function which he chooses to take on.