

Candidate for Councillor At Large
Kathleen B. McMenimen

1. Please tell us about yourself and why you are running for office.

As the current “Dean” of the Waltham City Council, I bring a unique set of skills and a peripheral perspective to the City Council.

Many of our Waltham residents have told me that I often bring information into the debate/discussion which otherwise would have been lost, had I not been a member!

My public service longevity coupled with my professional work experience include;

Ward 3 Councillor
Waltham Housing Authority Commissioner
Waltham City Councillor at large

Boston Public School Educator – 35 years
B.S and M.Ed. Boston College

Teacher – Supervisor – Author – Charlestown Headstart Program

President – Waltham City Council
President – Boston College Alumni/ae Association
President – Waltham College Club
Trustee – Fernald Developmental Facility
Trustee – Waltham Hospital
Member – Waltham Visiting Nurses

Additionally, over the years, I have also been a member of:

Waltham Business and Professional Women’s Organization
Waltham Jaycees
Waltham Land Trust
Friends of the Waltham Public Library
French-American Victory Club
Waltham Garden Club
Waltham Historical Society
Waltham Museum

Producer-Creator – WCAC-TV – Tick Talk

I am a mother and grandmother.

I am fortunate to live in, and serve a City I love.

2. What are the two most important issues in Waltham, and how will you address those issues if you are elected to City Council?

2A - The first year I served on the Council, I was appointed as a member of the Finance Committee. The City of Waltham's operating budget was in the vicinity of \$80 million. The current FY26 Budget is \$378,037,187.

I knew then, as I understand now, that **fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency** is the foremost issue and responsibility of each and every one of 15 City Councillors.

Moving forward, the Fiscal well-being of our City will continue to be my primary focus.

2B – Ongoing strategies for the improvement of the Quality of Life for all of Waltham's 65,000 multicultural residents.

Each of the decades that I have served Waltham has come with its own set of problems. Among them:

Proposition 2 ½

Waltham Hospital closing

Fernald, Metropolitan State Hospital, Middlesex TB facility closing

Major manufacturing workplaces closing, Raytheon, Polaroid,

Waltham Watch Factory, Standard Thompson

Agricultural workplaces closing: DeVincent Farms, Ricci Farms,

Casella Farm, Pizzi Farm and now Pizzi Farmstand

Downtown Waltham shops and restaurants closing, including

Grover Cronins, Jordan's Furniture and small businesses

The list is long; however, Waltham has resiliently emerged with hundreds of acres of open space and playgrounds; new businesses including Costco, BJ's, Market Basket, hotels, restaurants, research and development offices, a satellite for Boston Children's Hospital and MGH and a soon-to-be state of the art Orthopedic Surgical Center, and many Rte. 128 businesses connected to the emerging Tech Industry

Additionally, we are the only community in the Commonwealth of Mass to have built 6 new elementary schools; 2 middle schools and one state-of-the-art comprehensive high school, with all schools, except the high school paid for; and not once have we asked Waltham's taxpayers for a Prop 2/12 Override!

Sustainable and compatible Land Use based on the rubrics found in our Zoning Code.

We are moving forward on this issue.

Two years have been spent listening and gathering information, opinions, and data through the medium that I hope will soon emerge as Waltham's Master Plan. Hundreds of people, and thousands of ideas have contributed to this.

Our City Council is now tasked with integrating this information into reviewing, renewing and updating a zoning code. This will help Waltham formulate a land-use policy that maintains Waltham's historical value; and preserve the "nuts and bolts" integrity that has helped Waltham grow into the livable, sustainable community we have become.

It will also provide a framework of strategies to help us improve as we move forward.

My intention, if re-elected, is to continue working on these issues to keep Waltham moving forward