

Sudbury community, below is a letter of candidate support for the upcoming Select Board election.

Vote for Continued Progress: Elect Lisa Kouchakdjian and Radha Gargeya

Sudbury has made tremendous strides in recent years, and we must continue this positive momentum. Investments in infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and inclusive community initiatives have strengthened our town and enhanced our quality of life.

After years of stagnation, the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is finally being built, connecting Sudbury to neighboring north-south communities. Soon, the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail will follow, creating east-west connections. These trails will intersect near Rte. 20, providing recreational opportunities, sustainable transit options, and economic development benefits for our town.

Additionally, the long-overdue Fairbank Community Center has been completed, replacing an aging facility and ensuring a modern, functional space for residents.

In 2022, Sudbury declared a climate emergency, paving the way for the hiring of our first Sustainability Coordinator and unlocking new environmental grant opportunities.

In 2020, the Sudbury Select Board created Sudbury's first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission. The goal is aiding the Town in identifying DEI-related challenges and solutions to help each resident and visitor feel a sense of inclusion and belonging.

Managing a complex town like Sudbury through inevitable challenges requires steady leadership. Fortunately, our strong employee team is working diligently and proactively to manage rising costs, inflation, and post-pandemic financial strains experienced by communities through Massachusetts. Fixed expenses—such as insurance and benefits—are consuming a larger share of our budget, putting pressure on other services and the ability to hire needed staff. Infrastructure maintenance, including the Atkinson Pool, must be addressed at a time when costs are high. However, I am confident that the current team will effectively address these challenges.

To ensure that Sudbury remains on this path of progress and can face challenges, we need experienced, principled leadership on the Select Board. That is why I am supporting Lisa Kouchakdjian and Radha Gargeya.

Both candidates bring a wealth of municipal experience—Lisa from her tenure on the SPS School Committee and her first term on the Select Board, and Radha from his leadership on the L-S School Committee and Sudbury's 250th Committee. Importantly, they embody the values that I believe most Sudbury residents want to see in our leaders.

Lisa and Radha will approach challenges thoughtfully, engage in honest and complex discussions, and listen to the diverse voices in our community. They will work collaboratively with our dedicated town staff, setting clear goals and fostering a respectful working environment. They will continue to champion environmental sustainability and ensure that Sudbury remains a town where every resident—regardless of race, disability, gender, LGBTQ2+ identity—feels included and supported.

In any election cycle, there may be calls for change. However, some recent criticisms of Sudbury's governance misrepresent the reality of our town's progress. The truth is that excellent work is being done by our staff, volunteers, and leaders.

Now more than ever, we must elect local leaders who reflect our values, preserve what makes Sudbury special, and guide us forward with experience and open minds. That is why I am voting for Lisa Kouchakdjian and Radha Gargeya for Select Board.

Municipal elections are often decided by a handful of votes, but their impact is significant. Your vote matters. Please join me in supporting Lisa Kouchakdjian and Radha Gargeya by casting your ballot on Monday, March 31.

Jennifer Roberts

I am an elected member of the Sudbury Select Board; however, I am writing this letter in my personal capacity. My views are my own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Select Board or the Town of Sudbury.