

## MEET THE CANDIDATES



**Kelly Dooner (R)** is a Taunton City Councilor, Planning Board member, paralegal, real estate entrepreneur, hard-working taxpayer, and devoted wife. In 2021, Kelly was elected to the Taunton City Council with the second highest vote becoming the youngest woman ever to serve on the Council. The following year, Kelly was selected to serve as the President of the City Council. During her tenure on the Council, she has led initiatives such as having Taunton designated a Purple Heart City. Kelly has worked with Mayor Shaunna O'Connell to help lower taxes on seniors, improve the city's bond rating, increase road maintenance, and bring more businesses to Taunton.

In 2023, Kelly was not only resoundingly re-elected to the City Council, but she was also elected to the Taunton Planning Board.

Dooner is a lifelong resident of Massachusetts. She earned her paralegal certificate in applied legal studies at Boston University. Dooner has been actively involved in the Massachusetts Young Republicans and serves on their Executive Board as the National State Committeewoman. Kelly was married in June to Louis Picardi and they have two adorable dogs.



**Jim Dupont (U)** was twice elected Selectman in Raynham and won six consecutive terms on the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School Committee. He won election to the BR Committee in 1978 becoming the first BR graduate to serve on the BR Regional Committee.

During his 18-year tenure on the BR School Committee Jim successfully negotiated contract agreements with the district's teachers and staff. The BR High School athletic complex was another project he played a leading role in as well as the

establishment of an academic Hall of Fame.

Prior to becoming a Selectman Jim was chair of the Committee on Regional School Expansion which added the pre-kindergarten to 8th grades of both Raynham and Bridgewater to the then-regional high school (grades 9-12) district.

During his tenure as Selectman he led the Town's effort that stopped a proposed nude dancing 'strip' club in Raynham. An outbreak of salmonella was successfully contained one year (the Selectmen are also the Board of Health in Raynham) and the town approved the first town-wide comprehensive plan for sewerage with near 98% of the residents and businesses now served by town sewerage replacing the aging in-ground septic systems.

Long a presence in local and area politics, Jim was elected to the MA Republican State Committee five times (75-88, 96-00) and twice was the GOP nominee for state representative (74 & 80).

He has also sponsored and championed many articles at Town Meeting including the new town public safety project. He was the first resident to propose expanding the current three-member Board of Selectmen to five members.

Jim earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science & History from Bridgewater State College and completed a post-graduate program at BSC in Teaching Social Studies & History at the Secondary (high school) Level during which he taught at Taunton High School.

After graduating from BSC Jim worked in local law firms doing case research and civil process after which he began a 19-year career with the MA Department of Revenue where he was a supervisor in the Litigation Bureau's Bankruptcy Unit overseeing corporate bankruptcy cases.

Jim was a beloved figure as the host of a widely listened to morning radio show in Taunton, MA. For four years, he brought joy and entertainment to countless loyal fans through his engaging and lively broadcasts. His time at WVBF-1530 AM left a lasting impact on the community, and his energy and charisma resonated with listeners day after day. His dedication to providing quality content and creating a positive start to the day for his audience was evident in the strong following he cultivated during his tenure. Jim's contribution to the radio station and the local culture will not be forgotten, and his legacy as a cherished radio personality lives on in the hearts of those who tuned in to his show.



**Barry Sanders** ( D) grew up in Raynham and attended Raynham public schools and Bridgewater-Raynham. In his first job, Barry delivered the Brockton Enterprise before taking jobs at a gas station, Ashmont Discount, Olson's Greenhouse and as a summer camp counselor for children with physical and cognitive challenges.

Barry's life-long drive for service began when he was a student in Raynham, volunteering to tutor deaf students in math. Barry has coached softball, baseball and soccer, co-founded the Taunton Opiate and Substance Use Task Force and led Learn to Cope support groups with his wife, Kristie.

Barry has been a social worker for over 35 years, helping families treat challenges like substance use and domestic violence. After earning a Master's degree in social work, Barry returned to Bridgewater State University to teach social work graduate students.

As a Taunton City Councilor serving in his 4<sup>th</sup> term, Barry has been an effective public servant putting people over politics. He has championed public input, transparency and accountability in government. Barry has testified several times before the Department of Public Health and joined with hospital staff to push back against Steward Health Care's dismantling of essential services at Morton Hospital.

Barry and Kristie raised two children – Matthew and Jaden - both of whom graduated from Taunton High School. Kristie teaches 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Friedman Middle School.



**Selectman Joseph R. Pacheco** (D) is a lifelong Raynham, Massachusetts resident who is continuing a family tradition of public service that has extended over one hundred years and four generations.

Pacheco has served at the local, county and state government levels over his career. A former staff director in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and later an administrator in the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Pacheco has served in local government since 2005.

At age 19, Joe was appointed to his first office as a Commissioner for Economic & Business Development. In that role Joe worked aggressively with his colleagues to ensure Raynham stays competitive in attracting new businesses. As commissioner, Joe initiated Raynham's pioneering Project GREEN (Growing Raynham Environmentally Efficient Now) which promotes smart-growth developments within Raynham's borders.

Six months after his appointment as a Raynham Economic Development Commissioner, Joe joined the town's Capital Planning Committee. From this post he worked with other town leaders to maintain quality services through prudent fiscal planning. In 2007, Joe won 73% of the vote and was elected to his first term as Selectman. At age 21, he became the youngest selectman in Raynham history. Joe is presently serving in his sixth term and is Dean of the board by virtue of his status as being the longest tenured member.

It was on Joe's motion that Raynham adopted the fundamental speed law, another tool the police have in maintaining safe highways. And after twenty years of delays, it was Joe who worked with state and federal highway officials to re-construct the intersections of Route 138 and Interstate Route 495, one of the busiest and most accident prone interchanges in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Joe is a graduate of Bridgewater State University with a Bachelor of Science (Magna Cum Laude). Joe and his fiance Jacqueline reside in Raynham. In addition to his activities on behalf of Raynham, Joe maintains membership in a number of civic organizations including the Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Committee and the Bristol-Plymouth Alumni Foundation.