

Colchester Selectboard

Ralph Perkins • Candidate for Selectboard, Colchester

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Good Afternoon.

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Ralph Perkins. I am one of 4 candidates running for the open seat on the Colchester Selectboard.

I have been a Colchester resident for 23 years and have lived with my wife Jeannie in the Clay Point neighborhood since 2006.

From volunteering at UMS to building the Tuberville Project – a small non-profit that grows and donates food to local shelves, I have always been proud to be a part of a community that cares for one another. Even over the past few years with the uncertainties during covid, as a board member at the Colchester Community Food Shelf, I saw the outpouring of support for neighbors by neighbors stepping up to address the situation.

Colchester is a great place to live and much of that is owed to the Town Manager, his staff, volunteers and the current Selectboard for the work they do to meet the challenges.

Over the years, the landscape has been slowly changing: the Circ Highway is not coming, we are in a post-covid world, and weather patterns continue to change. We have the uncertainty of what future financial support from the State and Federal governments will look like and the ongoing crisis to fund education in Vermont. All this brings me to believe we need to continue to make smart decisions with every dollar and every opportunity. Our Town and the Schools may be two separate entities but the money to fund them comes out of the same pants pocket.

In Colchester we have a Town Manager form of government. The Selectboard advises and approves of the work carried out by the Manager and his team of close to 100 employees. If elected to the Selectboard I would support the work of the board.

Three issues that are important to me are that: no Colchester resident is forced out of their home because of taxes, voters must feel connected to their local government, and Police, Fire and Public Works have the human and capital resources they need.

Thank you for your time,
-Ralph Perkins