

Candidate Statement – Jennifer Flanagan – Board of Health

Hello Hopkinton! I'm Jennifer Flanagan and I have lived in Hopkinton for 17 years. I live with my husband Jay, and my two middle schoolers, Owen and Grace. I have always made volunteering in Hopkinton a priority. I have volunteered in the school system and in Parks and Recreation ever since my children were very young. I also volunteered in Hopkinton long before I lived here, working with Bill and Rose Abbott at Elmwood Farm on Ash Street. I helped their "Food for the Needy" initiative by helping to coordinate their volunteer and fundraising efforts over 20 years ago. It was then that I knew that I would one day call Hopkinton my home. It's a decision I am grateful for every day.

I believe the most important part of serving on any municipal board is flexibility. This means having the ability to balance the needs of the Town with the directives of the State. We need to be able to listen and respond appropriately to both entities appropriately. I am adept at coming to solutions that satisfy all parties involved in any given situation.

I have been a Relationship Manager and Project Manager for large Risk Management companies for over 20 years. As a Relationship Manager, I build trust, manage expectations and maintain loyalty by being a trusted resource and ally to both my colleagues and my clients. In the case of the Board of Health, this would translate to the people of Hopkinton. Over my 17 years here I have formed strong relationships with countless people in town, through our children, common interests and volunteering. As a Project Manager, I am tasked with garnering all the necessary resources from cross-functional teams to deliver what I have promised, on-time and as expected. This skill-set will be extremely helpful when working with the various Boards in our Municipal Government. The Board of Health needs to be able to work in collaboration with the Board of Selectmen, Parks and Recreation, Planning Board and the DPW, to name a few.

Additionally, I worked for a large insurance company for a number of years where I was responsible for visiting and training our clients; which included hospital, nursing home and school cafeterias as well as many large restaurant chains. These visits were to insure that our clients were in compliance with all worksite safety and Health Department Regulations, with the intent of circumventing any need for OSHA or Board of Health involvement. I believe that this experience brings a very unique skill-set to this position. The importance of guaranteeing safe places for our families to play, eat and experience small town living is paramount to the health and happiness of our community.

Hopkinton is inherently a very healthy community. We are a town that is very cognizant of our wonderful natural resources; clean water, clean air and open spaces we can all enjoy. We know that we are lucky to live in a town that is so in tune with our overall health - our children's especially. The fact that the Boston Marathon starts here is a testament to our commitment to healthy living! My goal as a member of the Board of Health will be to handle our current obstacles (mosquito-borne illness, lake weeds, etc.) in the least obtrusive way and keep Hopkinton the wonderful safe and healthy town we all love.

I would sincerely appreciate your vote on Monday, May 16th – I believe I am the best candidate for this position and I promise to listen, learn and assist in any way that I can to keep Hopkinton healthy!

See you at the polls!!

Best,

Jen