

To the hard working citizens of Allenstown,

My name is Scott McDonald and I'm asking for your vote for Selectman on town election day. My wife Cheryl and I have lived in Allenstown for forty years. Our children were all raised and educated here. I am a former member of the Allenstown Fire Department, coached the ARD baseball team for several years, and was a soccer referee in the area for many years as well. Cheryl was a Girl Scout leader when the kids were younger. I'm currently serving on our town's Economic Development Committee. In short my wife and I have been invested in this community for many years.

Unfortunately, over these last 40 years our property taxes have risen almost 1000%. We have done little to help increase our commercial/industrial tax base and with current state tax structure and the lack of alternative funding mechanisms available, we're rapidly approaching a financial cliff. The Economic Development Committee has made great strides in attracting business since it was recreated in 2017. The EDC-sponsored and voter-approved Business Tax Exemption has helped attract four new businesses and encouraged expansion of two others, and has put out the message loud and clear that Allenstown is a business friendly town. But building a solid commercial/industrial base takes time. In addition, there are several challenges to building our tax base that are unique to our town. Half of our land mass is comprised of Bear Brook State Park where development is limited. Our two busiest roads are Routes 3 and 28, both state roads with limited access.

My wife and I have crossed paths with so many wonderful folks over the last 40 years. Our town has so much potential. EDC sponsored events like the Spring and Fall Concerts and our first Christmas Light Contest have brought folks together again and helped make us a more closely knit community. Those and more events will continue.

But to realize our full potential and keep our tax rate from skyrocketing we have to make sure we make intelligent informed decisions regarding the development of our remaining taxable property. Twenty years after the Claremont lawsuit decision gave us hope that help was on the way, we still struggle to fund our schools. The Education Stabilization Grants we've counted on for so many years will be gone shortly leaving us to fund our schools solely with our local tax revenue. We can no longer count on the NH Legislature for help. Decisions made by town officials in the next few years will affect the town for generations to come. I'd like to be there to help make the right decisions for the taxpayers of Allenstown. I'd very much appreciate your vote. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Scott W. McDonald