



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2024 County Office
QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Richard Staiti

Office Sought: Norfolk County Commissioner

Party: Democratic

Website: <https://www.votestaiticommissioner.com/>

Facebook: [Richard Staiti for Norfolk County Commissioner](#)

About Your Candidacy

1. Why are you running for this office? What are your top three priorities if elected?

It has been a privilege to serve as county commissioner for Norfolk County the past four years. During this time many changes, innovations and adaptations have taken place that have been both exciting and beneficial not only to the county but to the member towns as well. I would like to continue to serve the county and the member towns over the next four years and face the difficult challenges at the various levels of government together .

My top three priorities would be to maintain the high degree of excellence we have at the Norfolk County Agricultural School, maintain our current level of services to the public and explore and investigate alternative sources of revenue to allow us to continue to grow, expand and serve our communities.

2. What prepares you to serve in this office?

I have served four (4) years as Norfolk County Commissioner. I have also served as an elected member of the Canton Selectboard for nine years as well as serving as the Town Moderator for over 20 years. In addition, I served as the Town of Canton delegate to the Norfolk County Advisory board (Finance Board) for over twenty (20) years as well.

3. What do you think are the most significant challenges facing the office, and how do you intend to address those challenges?

A decline in home sales which results indirectly with a decline in registry revenue as well as increasing costs to maintain and operate our buildings and other programs.

We will need to re-examine all programs and services as well as alternative sources of revenue both from the state and federal government.

4. What progressive policies or programs will you implement if elected?

I will strive to maintain our transparency and aim to collaborate with our citizens and voters as much as possible. I take pride in the fact that I do enjoy traveling around the county and speaking and networking with many local elected and appointed officials. Those who know me are aware that I am unafraid to ask tough questions in an effort to get the honest and best possible result.

5. (If an incumbent) What are your proudest accomplishments in the office to date?

There are several important accomplishments that I share pride collectively with my board. Certainly the tremendous success of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan of Action) program has been a tremendous success. The county has provided aid for improvements to schools, playgrounds, fire stations, vaccines, water and sewer infrastructure improvements and many other programs. Norfolk County is the pride and the envy of all the counties in terms of our administration and distribution of close to \$120,000,000 to date.

Second, in my second year of office, I emphasized the need to examine our tuition rates at the Aggie school – they had not been reviewed or adjusted in over a decade. As a result with a reasonable adjustment we were able to provide a balanced budget for the Aggie school for the first time in many years. In addition a totally new Administrative team has been brought into the Aggie school- I would like to think with all humility my experience as an educator in Canton Public Schools has played a major role in reshaping and improving our school.

Third, we have implemented many of the recommendations of the Abraham report which outlined critical areas for county improvement. This is an ongoing process which is something I want to continue to work on in the term ahead.

6. Why should people care about this election and this office?

As a county commissioner we frequently work with local officials as well as state elected officials on important issues that directly or indirectly affect us all. Now more than ever we need to elect Democrats to office to continue the fine work that has been started.

7. If a voter asked you what this office does, how would you answer (in no more than 3 sentences)?

In many ways the county affects your life indirectly or directly whether it is the maintenance and improvements to all county courts, insuring excellence at the Aggie school, the administration of all county ways, or even something simple such as the newly created county Sealer of Weights and Measures – county government plays an important role in your everyday life working with local, state and federal officials on a constant regular basis .