



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2024 County Office
QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Julie Ruggiero

Office Sought: Bristol County Commissioner

Party: Democratic

Facebook: [Julie Ruggiero for Bristol County Commissioner](#)

About Your Candidacy

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

This position would allow me the opportunity to make an impact on a local level. I can connect and hear the needs and concerns of the public related to the budget within the commissioners office. As a Bristol county commissioner I would ensure necessary resources for Bristol Agricultural high school for the success of both faculty and students. I would enjoy overseeing fiscal responsibility while maintaining the 3 courthouse & 3 registry of deeds run by the county.

Top 3 priorities:

- Effective Communication and honesty with the public and within the offices & school we serve
- Awareness of the importance of the commissioners office and role it plays.
- Fiscal responsibility with the annual budget to address the most critical needs presented at each meeting

2. What prepares you to serve in this office?

I currently serve as a Case Manager and registered nurse for a local home health agency. I also own a real estate company with my family & am a real estate agent within our local community. This position would allow me to take the skills I have gained in both of my professions to serve effectively. Taking the care, compassion and communication from my nursing career as well as fiscal responsibility and a business mindset from my real estate career to serve our county and further my involvement in our community.

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

Lack of public knowledge of the duties of the commissioners office. I intend to bring more awareness to the position, enhance the website and meeting agendas to make them more user-friendly for the public.

Secondly I think it is important to know the meeting agendas in advance so the commissioners have adequate time and knowledge to research and make an informed decision on their vote.

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

This would need to be determined once elected and finding out the most pressing needs within our office's control. Regardless, I would like to ensure each building is being used to its optimal potential. For example, currently the old Fall River Courthouse is rented out by the children's museum, which has been a great success and source of revenue for the county, I would ensure all buildings in our control are used in the most cost-efficient and effective way possible.

5. (If not an incumbent) How do you see yourself as similar to or different from your predecessor in the office you are running for?

I would be the second woman in this position as well as the youngest person in over 300 years. I hope to bring a young and fresh perspective to the office, use effective communication to work within the office as well as throughout the county in the related offices and professions we serve.

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

Last year, the office's budget was approximately 23 million dollars. About half the budget is allocated to Bristol Agricultural High School. This school is one of the couple agricultural schools left in the state. A lot of students leave this school and become entrepreneurs and taxpayers within our local community. Ensuring themselves, as well as the faculty who selflessly work with these students have the resources necessary for success is critical for the future of our county. The other half of our budget is then split to maintain the courts and registry of deeds. The commissioners office also serve on the Bristol county retirement board and board of trustees, ensuring fiscal responsibility & seeking that the most essential needs are met. This election is important as we have a chance to break the mold of who has been in office for the last several decades.

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

We oversee financing for Bristol agricultural high school, maintenance and repairs on the courthouses and registry of deans that are county run the commissioners office also sits on the board of trustees as well as the Bristol county retirement board. They are responsible for various initiatives with the use of government funding such as programs for COVID-19 and opiate crisis.

8. (As Relevant) What do you view as the role of county government in Massachusetts? To what extent would you like to see it expanded or limited?

I believe County government is important as it allows local voices to be heard and needs to be met on a local level that larger governments, such as state or nationwide would not have the local knowledge or capacity to address at the same level. I think it is imperative to keep county government alive to best suite the needs and hear the concerns from the local tax payers.