

Why should YOU Re-Elect Selectman Alan J. Reiss on April 8th, 2008?

I do work hard for YOU and take the job seriously.

Three years as a Selectman account for about 150 Selectman meetings, add another 100 for meeting with other boards, committees and town personnel, etc. And you have somewhere around 250 meetings, with an average of three to four hours per meeting. That plus doing my homework for such meetings comes to about 1,000 hours of volunteerism. I had a 99%+ attendance record and showed up even when I felt sick or tired after a long day's work. I take my responsibility to you and to our town very seriously.

I am a firm believer in using the tools of eGovernment.

I am the Selectman who uses a laptop computer. I am as paperless as possible in all aspects of my life. I use that technology for note taking, speech writing, document storage and retrieval and real time research. My background in Physics, Engineering and Education help me provide an independent and 'different' perspective to the many and varied debates that a Board of Selectmen tends to have. I make my decisions and votes based on the best data and logical arguments that are presented to me and I use technology to help me get there.

I have been involved in all aspects of helping to run a municipality within our Commonwealth.

It has been a wonderful experience, but one where I can apply my training and experience as a scientist and educator. I have participated in liquor control violation hearings, land usage discussions, personnel issues, contract negotiations with labor, disciplinary actions when required, and the sale and acquisition of town land. I was quite active in the "commercial vs. residential" real estate tax rate debates and a host of other important communications with the public. I believe I have grown nicely into this very important volunteer position, and I wish to continue on and build on these efforts for another term.

I played an important role in bringing robust cellular communications to Wayland.

As the technology leader and representative of our current board, I played an important leadership role in helping my board understand cellular technology and convincing some of them that Wayland needed to settle litigation and replace an antiquated lattice tower on Reeves Hill. I spoke at town meeting with a convincing argument to show that wireless facilities exist all over the United States and are even mounted upon many hospitals in New England. Wayland needed to come into the 21st century with robust cellular communication, and I played an important role in that, including bring Verizon into the mix.

I spent many hours interviewing and was the swing vote on hiring our Town Administrator.

To fulfill the wishes of a previous town meeting, I participated in the interviewing process of two excellent candidates, one from Canton, CT and one from Lexington, MA, to become our new Town Administrator. I was ultimately the swing vote in that decision.

I spent many hours participating in hammering out a Town Center Developer's Agreement

My role was to help get the best deal for Wayland that we could extract. I focused particularly on details such as wastewater, taxation, and gift and infrastructure mitigation.

I support affordable housing and was a constant driver in the redevelopment of the Nike parcel into affordable housing and parkland.

I was involved in the interviewing process of the 40B developers, moving forward the wishes of a previous town meeting to use CPA money to build up to 16 affordable units with the best materials and design that the funds and market could bare. State funding also eventually came through, and this project is a legacy that I will always be proud of.

I have listened to the concerns of Dudley Pond residents on milfoil weed infestation and have been an advocate of pursuing various solutions.

Knowing that the use of herbicides ultimately is a fall back position, I have supported funding for more environmentally friendly alternatives, such as the solar bee panel circulators, 'buck a bug', mechanical harvesting and FLIR to spot leaking or damaged septage systems. I am concerned about invasive weeds in

all of Wayland's ponds and stand ready to vote for funding to solve these problems with the best solutions we have at our disposal.

I took the lone position of seeking a Menu Override for Wayland's 2006 ballot question.

I was not in favor of a YES or NO ballot question in the 2006 override vote. Even **against all odds** and outvoted 4-1, I still remained firm that a Menu of line items for an operational override ballot question was the best way for Wayland to decide Proposition 2 ½ overrides in 2006. With that being turned down, I stood alone against that override and its resulting rising taxation. I believed passing the override would force softer union negotiating positions in the future that further threaten those who continue to struggle against ever increasing real estate tax burdens. Even the Wayland Town Crier, in the end, stated that it would have preferred a Menu override but was given no other choice, just like the voting residents of our town.

I successfully encouraged the Board of Assessors to provide more transparent tax increase metrics such as Median and Average.

So no resident can ever again be confused as to what the magnitude of tax increases have been since year 2000, I convinced the Board of Assessors to publish a web based chart on the town website which shows median and average property valuation and tax changes. This is available to you now at <http://www.wayland.ma.us/assessors/index.htm> under the link Tax/Assessment History

I was the Selectman to encourage a stronger effort on delinquent real estate tax collections - one of the more successful action steps taken to enhance revenues.

You pay your taxes; we all must contribute our share. I recommended the 'low hanging fruit' of delinquent tax collection efforts and frequent updates from our town Treasurer. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been collected because of those efforts.

I created an "Unofficial Wayland Tax Calculator" available on my website www.AJReiss.com

I am the first selectman to have created a zip code 01778 tax calculator history tool for all residential properties classes 100 – 132 which include all single-family residences. This is available with the latest real estate data for your home. It runs on a Windows PC, either from the site, or downloaded to your desktop. You can also email it to your friends and neighbors.

I became involved in issues surrounding wastewater disposal both at the former Raytheon property and in other possible future locations.

I have attended many wastewater and septage meetings and have become familiar with wastewater disposal technologies and their permitting issues. This is important to the future Town Center and other commercial and residential areas, which may receive wastewater treatment in the future.

I was the Board of Selectmen 'Point Person' in the Verizon Cable TV negotiations.

I met a number of times with representatives from Verizon, the Cable Advisory Board and WayCAM to 'hammer out' a 15-year contract, which brings Cable TV competition to Wayland for the first time. Wayland will receive \$300,000 in cash payments along with a royalty structure, which allows Verizon the latitude it needs initially to establish itself. Furthermore, the terms of this new contract prepare us for our re-negotiations with Comcast, whose contract renewal comes due in three years. In that re-negotiation, Wayland will be in excellent shape with a full and maximum allowable 5% royalty, which will set the benchmark for Comcast. Also as a result of my participation, Wayland will receive 2 public access channels from Verizon which will help increase governmental transparency by broadcasting more and varied meetings in real time and will help our schools by providing additional bandwidth and funding in these areas. I am proud to have been a significant part of that deal which was unanimously approved by our board and executed Jan 22nd, 2008.

I am the only selectman to have voted YES to protect Public Safety and the Council on Aging (CoA) even in the event that the April 2008 override was to fail.

On January 29th 2008, at a board meeting and during selectmen's reports and concerns, I made a motion to fund and protect Police, Fire (public safety) and the elderly via the Council on Aging (CoA) in the event that the April 2008 override fails. I was voted down 3 NO (Nolan, Tichnor, Whitney), 1 Abstain (Leard), and 1 YES (Reiss). Where would the money come from? Given that 69.1% of our budget is with the schools, lets say that the monies to protect public safety and the aging came from the schools. It makes sense.

Where is the prioritization? What is more important, a class that is 1 or 2 students larger or a student that is having a life threatening allergic reaction and has to wait an additional 10 minutes for an ambulance because the Conchituate Fire station is now closed 60% of the time and that ambulance is no longer as locally available as it should have been. Remember there are three schools in striking distance of Fire Station #2, Happy Hollow, the Middle School and the High School. The question becomes, is it possible to decide to be against an override and still be able to either make your own prioritization choices or are we to be forced to go for the entire override amount because you were given no other alternatives by your elected officials? Briefly stated; you are getting, once again an **all or nothing** without choices.

I am the selectman who believes in prioritization of taxation spending and not in the tactic of forcing an override vote because schools, public safety and the elderly cannot be differentiated. Different things in life have different levels of priority and your elected officials should recognize that.

I am the only selectman to have created his own website to communicate with you.

This website was created for you. It's a way for us to communicate, bilaterally. You know what I'm working on and you can tell me what you think, too. My website is both political and personal. You have the ability to know who I am as a fellow Wayland resident.

Last BUT not LEAST...

I am taking a definitive NO position on the upcoming 2008 operational override.

I anticipate that the April 2008 override will be in the vicinity of \$2.3M to \$1.9M dollars. The Finance Committee has told me that they expect BIENNIAL overrides for Wayland. Extrapolating from year 2002 to an anticipated \$2.6M override in 2008, overrides every other year would result in an almost \$5M override in 2020. Can you keep up with this increasing rate of taxation or do you think something has to be done to reverse this trend? This will require belt-tightening and budget changes NOW. There is a separate position paper I have written on the home page of this site, which provides you my thoughts on this critical issue.

Will there be a Menu override offered as a ballot question by my board?

I think not.

Will I be outvoted 4-1 again as I was in 2006 not have an override in 2008?

Most certainly.

Will the 2008 Wayland Override be defeated?

There is a very likely possibility but only if all of those who can vote do turn out and exercise their right to vote.

Will you vote on April 8th, 2008 to re-elect Alan J. Reiss for another 3-year term to the Wayland Board of Selectmen?

I hope so.

I appreciate your support and the time you have taken to have read this letter and browse my website.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. J. Reiss'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'A' being particularly large and stylized.

**Alan J Reiss
Member, Wayland Board of Selectmen**