



Today is the first day of early voting, and we are just one week away from Election Day on March 16th. One more week of a campaign that has been full of incredible support, heartfelt moments, and discussions on the most important issues facing Newton. But also one more week of a campaign that has been trying and difficult.

From one of my first virtual events through just this weekend, this campaign, my integrity, and now even my family have been the target of everything from baseless attacks and slander, to outright lies and anti-semitic and anti-LGBTQ hate-speech.

Nevertheless, my campaign remains relentlessly positive and focused on the issues. The Newton I am fighting for is inclusive, welcoming, civil, and filled with people who are striving to build a more equitable world.

I'm asking you to stand with me and so many of our elected and community leaders with your vote. Stand against the lies, the misinformation, and the hatred, because we can't let this type of campaigning become the new normal.

My wife, Claudia, and I have lived in Newton for almost 10 years and have our first child on the way. The issues that matter for all of our families are deeply personal to me. I am asking you to put your trust in me and my extensive state and local experience to get the roads fixed, get our kids back in school, and to make good on the promises of environmental sustainability, affordable housing and racial justice. I am asking for your vote.

Sincerely,

Bryan Barash



In the last week of a campaign it is not unusual for tensions to run high. Last week a Newton resident sent a private email about one of my opponents which was hurtful. I have denounced the email and have spoken to this resident about why it was wrong. He is contrite.

I empathize with my opponent as I have received hateful emails during the course of this campaign. While these horrible acts are beyond our control, they motivate me to continue serving as a positive force against racism and intolerance in our community.

I believe we are better off engaging in dialogue, even with those who have hurt us, and come to a place where we are talking about the things that unite us, rather than divide us. At our most basic levels, we all want the same things - to be loved, and accepted, for who we are.

As someone whose ancestors include enslaved peoples, Indigenous Americans, and Russian Jews, I feel deep sympathy and kinship with all people who feel or have felt marginalized in our society. I am a strong supporter of LGBTQ+ rights and issues. I welcome the support from people who live in all eight of our wards. I welcome support from those who consider themselves progressive, moderate, or conservative. I welcome your support regardless of your views on policing, zoning, or bike lanes.

I have worked as a youth sports referee for over 20 years. In that time I have dealt with volatile tempers and even tears. I believe it has taught me to keep cool under pressure, and to be extremely fair minded.

I hope for the remainder of this campaign we can be focused on why each of us believes they would be the best candidate to serve Newton residents. Because at the end of the day, being in political office is really about service to others.

Thank you for your support.

Tarik Lucas



Over the course of this campaign, there have been multiple incidents of undue aggression, hate speech, and threats towards candidates. I denounce all these acts - this type of behavior has no place in society nor politics and we as a community should have zero tolerance for discrimination of any kind.

While hateful actions often make the headlines, I believe they are not reflective of the essence of the people of Newton, the type of community we are, and who we aspire to be. Despite strong disagreements, people involved in this election, from the candidates to supporters to residents making time to engage on the issues and vote, want the same thing - to make local government work better.

I'm hoping to earn your vote so I may have the privilege to contribute to that work and give back to a city that has given my family so much. Over the past few months I have tried to make the case that my balanced and independent approach on the issues along with my work experience in the private and non-profit sector gives me the qualities to be an effective City Councilor. That being said, Bryan and Tarik also have unique value, skills, and experiences they bring to the table. While the stakes are real and the results will have an impact, I am confident that any one of us would be fit to serve as one of the 24 City Councilors for the remaining eight months of Congressman Auchincloss' term.

As we step into the final week of the campaign let's take a step back and remember what this is about –making local government work better. Regardless of the results March 16th, I look forward to continuing to participate in that work.

Best,

David Micley