

**STATEMENT FOR COMMUNITY AGING NETWORK**  
**[BernardGreene.Org](http://BernardGreene.Org)**



**Bernard Greene**

**ABOUT ME**

I have been in Town government since 2006 when the late Emily Novick urged me to run for Town Meeting and with the help of the late Marvin Feinman and Ponnice Katz and other Precinct 7 Town Meeting Members I won election to Town Meeting. Over the years I have served on many committees for the Town. They include committees that created the Diversity Commission, that wrote the Police Complaint Policy, that produced the Police Commissioners Advisory Committee, and I Chaired the Audit Committee for seven years. I served on committees for the hiring of Town Administrator Mel Kleckner, Fire Chief John Sullivan, and Police Chief Andy Lipson. I also served on the Advisory Committee before running for and winning a seat on the Select Board in 2016.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

I have served on the Select Board for nearly nine years, and more than three years as Chair. During this time, I have helped to navigate the Town through several challenging times.

I was Chair during the difficult period of national anger around the killing of George Floyd when I lead the Board to resist calls to defund the police and efforts by some to disparage the Brookline police department for things that happened in a small number of the more than 16,000 local law enforcement agencies in the country. Since becoming Chair of the Select Board for the second time in February of 2023, I successfully led the effort to appoint Police Chief Jen Paster and fill the top leadership positions in the Police Department that were vacant for many months. These vacancies caused dangerous gaps in the leadership of the Police Department putting the Town and its residents at risk.

As Chair, during the period 2019 to 2021, I worked to ensure the continued operation of the Town and the provision of critical Town services during the COVID-19 pandemic that closed everything down.

Most recently, I have been leading the Select Board to operate more collaboratively and efficiently. This resulted, among many other things, in the creation and overwhelming support at Town Meeting for the Consensus Plan that brought Brookline into compliance with the MBTA Communities Act.

## **THE FUTURE**

We have a lot of work left to do. Some of my goals for my next term are:

**MBTA Communities Act.** We are not finished with the MBTA Communities Act. Going forward, I will work on the Select Board to implement and monitor the new zoning to ensure that:

- Existing local businesses are protected, and new first floor commercial spaces are developed.
- Affordable senior, low-income, and workforce housing is not squeezed out by high-priced luxury housing.
- The essential infrastructure for any new development is built, including parks, walkable neighborhoods, and safe roads.
- We don't lose important grocery and other stores used by seniors, such as Stop and Shop.
- We engage in a smart comprehensive planning process to achieve these and other goals.

**Economic and Fiscal Stability.** I will work to ensure long term fiscal stability, which is necessary to keep taxes under control and ensure the revenues needed to provide the services and critical infrastructure that we need to create a livable community.

**The Voices of Seniors Will be Heard.** I will fight to add strong advocates for Seniors on Town committees and projects to ensure that the unique needs of Seniors are not ignored but included in the planning and implementation of projects and programs from the start.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.** At a time when the very idea of equity is under attack nationally, I will continue to strengthen the Town's commitment to the central principle of treating all people fairly and equitably in all the services and opportunities that the Town provides.

**Sustainable Climate Action.** I will continue to help do our part to address the climate crisis with effective and sustainable policies and practices that engage and are supported by the full range of residents of Brookline, especially Seniors. I will help ensure that our children and grandchildren will be proud of what we did to protect their planet and their futures.

## **GETTING TO THE FUTURE**

Brookline needs a leader who is open-minded, collaborative, and capable of guiding other members of the SB and Town bodies to good and prudent solutions to Town problems. I believe my nine years on the SB and 18 years in Town government have demonstrated that I can provide that leadership in my next term on the Select Board. I have great hope for our future.

I ask for your vote in the May 7 local election and ask that you urge your friends, neighbors, and family members in Brookline to vote for Bernard Greene.

Thank you,

*Bernard*