

Why I Support Amy Sangiolo for Mayor Fred Arnstein

In case you haven't heard, *the preliminary Mayoral Election will be September 12*. It's the elimination round: seven people will be on the ballot; only two will be left standing for the final election, November 7. *So September 12 is important.*

Three most-likely-to win candidates

Seven people are running for mayor, but only three of them have any real chance of winning: Amy Sangiolo, Scott Lennon and Ruthanne Fuller. All three are current city councilors with a good deal of experience, and they all have significant name recognition in the city.

Why Amy is my candidate

When it comes to taking resident input seriously and discouraging bloated real estate developments, Amy stands out. When you try to find out how the other two candidates think about these issues or many other issues, you end up with very little to hold onto.

Scott Lennon and Ruthanne Fuller are trying to be everybody's friend. Both of them say that they will encourage community input; that they will be thoughtful and balanced about how they approach development. But I have not seen them articulate specific positions. So you have to judge by their actions, and by that criterion they are not in my camp. By contrast, Amy says where she stands. Even if you don't like all of her positions, you will probably like the fact that she's out front about what she believes. You actually know what you are voting for.

Some specifics

Here is a list I created of eight important differences, to my best current knowledge, between Amy's positions and those of Scott and Ruthanne.

	Amy Sangiolo	Scott Lennon and Ruthanne Fuller
Ward Representation	Supports current City Charter, which <i>PRESERVES</i> local (ward) representation	Want new charter that would <i>ELIMINATE</i> all ward-elected councilors
Teardowns and McMansions	<i>VOTED FOR TEMPORARY MORATORIUM</i> on demolitions of small and moderately sized homes in order to address proliferation of McMansions and loss of affordable stock	<i>VOTED AGAINST</i> the proposed temporary moratorium Have not proposed other solutions

Massive New, Buildings in Village Centers	<i>VOTED AGAINST</i> an oversized 5-story building in Newtonville Center — too dense and out of scale — and will question such buildings in other villages	<i>VOTED FOR</i> the oversized building
Affordable Housing Action	<i>SOUGHT AND OBTAINED</i> additional affordable housing units in the Austin Street development	Have <i>NOT TAKEN</i> comparable concrete actions
Affordable Housing -- Increase Amount Required by Law	<i>PROPOSED INCREASING</i> the Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance requirement from 15% to 25% affordable housing	Have <i>NOT INDICATED SUPPORT</i> for this extremely significant change
Environmental Experience	<i>EXTENSIVE INVOLVEMENT</i> with national environmental organizations — including National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club Legal Defense & Education Fund, and U.S. Department of Interior	<i>NEITHER</i> has anywhere near Amy's extensive environmental experience or involvement
Education — Fees	<i>VOCAL OPPONENT OF FEES</i> , like bus fees and student activity fees — which are discriminatory barriers to participation	<i>HAVE NOT BEEN OUT FRONT</i> on this issue — and not mentioned in either website
Education — Cuts to Music and Arts Programs	<i>VOCAL ADVOCATE FOR MUSIC AND ARTS PROGRAMS</i> — she emphasizes educating the whole child	<i>NOT EMPHASIZED</i> by either candidate as a priority, though Ruthanne mentions it on her website

To contribute

If you already agree with me that Amy is worth your support, you can contribute at <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/sangiolo>.

To vote

Go to your polling place on Tuesday September 12. This is the first round of voting. The two winners will then face off in the general election on Tuesday, November 7.