



TOWN OF CALAIS

SPECIAL SELECTBOARD ELECTION – TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024 – CALAIS TOWN AHELL

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Running for Selectboard on Australian Ballot

Selectboard, remainder of two-year term ending March 3, 2026



William "Bill" Davis – 802-456-1432 – wkld@comcast.net

I grew up in Calais in the red house next to the Old West Church. My first two years of elementary school were in Maple Corner. Cows were everywhere back then, and it was a great place to be a kid. I was away for a time – college, work, and starting a business – but my dreams always took me to Calais. My wife, Lori, and I bought my grandparents' house in Gospel Hollow in 1991 and have made it our full-time home.

I retired a year ago from a career in computer software. I was traveling all over the Northeast and it has been nice to stay in one place for a time, especially Calais. A good friend thought I didn't have enough to do with my retirement Jeep tinkering and suggested that the Calais Road Crew could use some help as they were short-staffed. One thing led to another, and I now work a part-time job with the Road Crew.

I am also a current Selectboard member – recently appointed when the notice went out on Front Porch Forum for volunteers to serve. I had been going to meetings off-and-on for some time and thought it was time I answered the call. Town business is not the software business, so it takes a bit to get up to speed. I sense caring and patience from everyone involved, and that is helpful.

My job for 40 years was listening to folks and writing or adapting software to meet their needs. From what I know at this point, being on the Selectboard involves a lot of listening and it involves action. Decisions need to be made. A lot of them. Those decisions need to be made with the best information and judgment possible, and then you move on.

I think the next 10 years will be eye opening for Calais. School changes, climate change, and an aging population just to name a few. How do we harden our infrastructure to resist the shock of these torrential rains? How do we encourage young families to move to town? How does the potential loss of our local school affect all of us – now and into our future? Not easy things to deal with, but I would like the chance to help.

A town is about a lot of things but, in the end, it is about the people.

Jon Winston – 802-454-8591 – jonathandwinston@gmail.com

I've lived on Lightning Ridge Road in Adamant ever since graduating from college in 1970. Some of my volunteer experiences over the last 50+ years have included serving on the boards of the following organizations: Adamant Co-op, Adamant Credit Union, Montpelier on the Move, Vermont Safe Kids, and Vermont EMS District 6. I am a longtime member of the East Montpelier Fire Department, served as chief for several years, and was on the Calais Elementary School facilities committee, helping to design the additions to the school.



My work experience includes: owning the Drawing Board art supplies store; partner in Montpelier's Savoy Theater; project manager for the renovations and additions for U-32, a \$17 million project; and operating my own contracting business, Winston-Design/Build, for fifty years.

What I'd like to bring to the Selectboard:

- addressing climate change, specifically how it impacts our road maintenance and equipment,
- examine the existing housing stock in town and address the challenge of affordable housing for younger people,
- I'm concerned about our school and property taxes, and would like work on decoupling the cost of education from property taxes,
- regarding the discussion about school consolidation, it will be important to study the asbestos and PCB contamination of the building before any decisions are made. Would the town taking over the school result in an asset or a liability?

Selectboard, remainder of two-year term ending March 4, 2025

Christy Mihaly – 802-522-9710 – christy@mihaly.org

When the Selectboard solicited volunteers to fill vacated seats this spring, I raised my hand, and have enjoyed serving on the Selectboard since June. I'm asking for your vote to allow me to keep working for you. I want to help maintain the qualities – neighborliness, inclusion, and an appreciation for this rural place -- that make Calais special as we conduct the town's business and plan together for our future. In doing so, I'll listen and respond to your input.



The Selectboard will soon turn to drafting our next fiscal year town budget. We'll have to provide for needed infrastructure and services, while maintaining a reasonable tax rate. We also must plan for the town's future, facing a changing climate, a changing school landscape, and ongoing needs for affordable housing and environmental protections. That's a lot.

I have more than 25 years of experience as a lawyer, and currently I'm a children's author. I've written several non-fiction books about civics and democracy, seeking to get young people engaged in their communities. I'm ready to walk the talk.

I've lived in Calais for ten years. My husband, Marc, and I have three grown kids and 5 grandkids. I'm ready to pitch in on the Selectboard and I look forward to earning your trust and support.

James Wells – 802-249-4219 – srxcop@hotmail.com



I would like to take a moment and let folks know why I am running for a Selectboard position.

I was born and bred in Vermont. I am married to Lauren Wells, have 3 children and 8 grandchildren. I'm 54 years old, making me old enough to have some life experience as well as staying young at heart.

I am employed by the Washington County Sheriff's Department. I have served the community of Calais since 2005. On one occasion a citizen stopped at my residence on my day off as they had been broken into. I went to the residence and secured it, making it safe for the resident until Vermont State Police arrived. I am currently a commercial vehicle driver and have extensive experience with equipment.

I feel this gives me the knowledge and experience to help make Calais better. My points of interest are high taxes, spending money, speeds around the town, and roads. I believe my knowledge will be an asset to the town.

I am no nonsense. I speak the truth and don't sugar coat things to tell people what they want to hear. Sometimes people misinterpret this, but I feel it is more respectful to be blunt and honest. I believe my integrity and speaking honestly will help the residents of Calais and give everyone a voice, to include people that feel they don't have a voice.