

# Candidates

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everything we have been blessed with.”

She ran for the council in 2005 and tied with David Long for the most number of votes.

## Bob Sutton — Democrat



Challenger Bob Sutton looks through the lens of sustainability. From maintaining a fiscally responsible budget to

developing a comprehensive plan for protecting and utilizing the island's natural resources, the former town administrator-turned council candidate is running on a platform of “sensible government and a sustainable economy.” On managing a fiscally responsible budget, Sutton cautioned “the state can't provide financial support in the future. People have reached their limit on what to pay in local taxes.” Sutton said that the challenge for councilors going forward lies in “both maintaining and creating a higher level of service without overburdening the taxpayer.” Among Sutton's hang-ups with the town over the last several years is the pace at which government moves. “Things don't seem to get done in a timely manner,” Sutton said. When asked why voters should vote for him, Sutton was low-key. “I don't feel like I should tell people how to vote,” he said. “What I will say is that I am committed to Jamestown...and I feel I have experience that could be helpful to the people.

“Follow what's going on. Have a sense of how Jamestown works. Things don't seem to get done in a

timely way. The community has to start thinking about future work in the community that moves us into the future. We have to actively look for ways to be part of the solution,” Sutton concluded.

As to what he hopes to accomplish should he be elected, Sutton urged that consensus be achieved earlier. “Whoever the five are,” Sutton said, “we would need to sit down and quickly determine what should get done... If we don't have a lot of agreement, very little gets done.”

Regarding the budget, Sutton didn't see much overspending, however saw some potential savings coming from a decline in the school-age population. “As the school population goes down, there should be some savings to be had. I believe the most important thing is to fund education, but when the population drops, you have to look at funding.”

## Michael Schnack — Democrat



“Jamestown is becoming a community of million dollar homes and absentee landlords.” And that's the most pressing challenge island residents will have to face in the long-run according to incumbent council candidate Michael Schnack. “We have to address growth and development on the island,” Schnack said.

In the short term Schnack said he sees the most pressing need for council action in tackling the island's water rates. “It's definitely on the water side,” he responded. “We need to figure out a way to spread the cost around more... possibly take a look at our regula-

tions.”

Schnack sees improvements to the town infrastructure, including the construction of the island's water pipeline, second water tower, and renovations to the town's treatment plant as an added, however valuable expense. “The whole water equation has changed,” Schnack continued.

Also on the councilor's mind: tackling Jamestown's affordable housing issue and what he described as the “issue of the day.” As for why Jamestown voters should give him a second term, Schnack responded that he felt his approach to issues was a valuable asset for town government. “I think I try to come to the table without preconceived notions, or biased opinions,” Schnack said. “That's what people are looking for...I'm not locked into political solutions.” Schnack noted that while he doesn't shy away from speaking his mind, at the same time he said “you can't go out and make enemies... It's a small island.” Touching on what he hopes to accomplish in the next two years, Schnack focused on continuing the work of the present council. For instance, “working through the downtown vision process” in order to manage the island's future growth will be at the forefront of the next few years Schnack said. Along with that process, Schnack said that the town's zoning ordinances need to be fixed in order to meet the comprehensive plan. And finally, the town water rates will also need to be addressed.

Speaking about the budget, Schnack noted that the council has been “taking care of things that need to be taken care of.” From addressing failing highway equipment to building the new Town Hall and approving the location of the town's highway garage. While “there are always going to be ex-

penses,” Schnack said. “Can it be trimmed? Yes; there's always ways we can trim.” As for specifics, Schnack deferred to the expertise of the town's full-time administration. “That's why we have a professional town administrator...I don't want to micromanage the process. I don't think that's the council's role.” Schnack, who views good government as a government that listens, is open, honest, responsive, and responsible has enjoyed his first term on the council. “I've met a lot of good people” he said. “I like the activity of working to make the town run better...and I've been able to see the process differently to get some jobs done.”

## Sav Rebecchi — Independent

Water is on the mind of Independent council candidate Sav Rebecchi.



Rebecchi, running for the third time for council, stressed that Jamestown's

most important issue centers around getting a grip on the town's water and sewer rate structure.

According to Rebecchi, the town council doesn't spend enough time on water and sewer matters. “It's a huge problem,” he said. Rebecchi said that he wants to create a users' task force which would be attached to the Water and Sewer Commission to meet weekly or as needed in order to come up with solutions for the town's rising water rates and declining revenues. Rebecchi, a Shores resident, notes that the issue does not just impact municipal water customers. “The financial stress affects everyone on the island,” he said.

Other challenges Rebecchi sees on the island: making Jamestown more affordable through alternate means other than solely mandated affordable housing. According to Rebecchi, “the town needs to promote ‘little a’ affordable housing.” Rebecchi, a fixture at Jamestown town meetings, says that he has “been training for the job for the last six years,” through his experience on the Board of Directors of the Quonset Development Corporation and the over 250 town meetings he estimates that he's attended over the last six years.

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We all know why we like living in Jamestown: Narragansett Bay down the street, the view of those farms as you drive over the bridge, a small town where people really do know your name. We have made great strides in preserving some of the things we all love so much. But over the next two years, Jamestown's Town Council and School Committee will make decisions

that will have consequences in our lives for years to come. So we need to elect leaders who have an understanding of the character of this island, qualified people with roots here, who have shown their commitment to our town. We need leaders who bring intelligence and experience to the table. We need leaders with the wisdom to listen and work together to solve the problems before us.



Vote Democrat Nov. 6

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