

**Candidate Name:** Kevin Eldridge

**Office Seeking:** Town Selectman

**Contact Information (optional):**

**Campaign Website or Social Media (optional):**

**Submission Deadline:** April 14, 2026

**Please return completed questionnaires via email as received.**

## **Municipal Candidate Questionnaire**

Thank you for running for local office and for taking the time to share information with our community. This questionnaire is intended to help residents learn more about the candidates running in the upcoming municipal election.

*Please limit responses to 150–200 words per question. Responses may be shared on our website and social media to inform voters.*

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### **1. Tell us about yourself.**

***Please share a little about your background, your connection to the community, and what motivated you to run for this position.***

I grew up in the Lakes Region, spending my formative years with my father in the late 1970s and early 1980s. We lived on Brandy Pond in Naples, on what is now the property known as the Winsor Green Condominiums. My father served as a Naples Selectman during the 1970s, and I later rented the house next to his. Nearly forty years ago, I built the house where I still live today, maintaining the same mailing address since 1984 and the same Naples phone number for almost four decades.

Recently, I decided to run for town selectman after learning more about the town's financial challenges. I look forward to collaborating with fellow selectmen to find solutions that best serve our taxpayers.

### **2. Have you previously held a public office, board position, or community leadership role?**

***If yes, please describe the role(s), when you served, and what you learned from that experience. If not, please share other experiences that have prepared you for this position.***

While my son and daughters were growing up, I was actively involved in their extracurricular activities. I coached basketball and soccer for several years and later assisted with their baseball and softball teams. I also supported my son throughout his high school cross country career, where I had the privilege of watching many of his teammates achieve school and state records. During her senior year, my daughter's basketball team won the Western Maine State Championship for Lake Region High School. These experiences gave me a deep appreciation for the strong sense of community they created.

I was also involved in my son's scouting journey from the time he was a Tiger Cub and later served as an assistant Boy Scout leader with Pack 156. I had the honor of helping my son and several of his friends achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Through my involvement with youth sports and scouting, and through connections with families from both our teams and competing ones, I gained many valuable and humbling experiences.

### **3. Why are you the best candidate for this role?**

#### ***What skills, experience, or perspective do you bring that would help you serve effectively in this position?***

For over thirty years, I have owned and operated a remodeling business here in Naples. My clients have ranged from owners of multiple lakefront homes to retired families and individuals. Over the years, I have listened closely to their concerns, from the rising cost of heating oil to the challenges of paying property taxes. Through my work, I have had the opportunity to connect with individuals who manage budgets far exceeding that of the town of Naples, gaining valuable insight into business practices, including broader, global perspectives. Many have also shared their views on the state of our town and encouraged me to run for selectman. These conversations have been both enlightening and motivating. They have reinforced my belief that town issues should be approached with a business-minded perspective, with a focus on serving the best interests of the majority of taxpayers.

### **4. What do you believe are the top 2–3 issues currently facing our town?**

#### ***How would you work to address these issues if elected?***

My primary concern is the Town Budget and the overall functioning of our local government. I encourage Naples residents to watch the Selectboard and Budget Committee meeting held on **March 23, 2026**, particularly minutes **49 through 51**, for additional insight. Based on both that meeting and many conversations around town, I believe our new town manager has adapted well and is a strong fit for the town of Naples.

Our community is fortunate to have dedicated individuals serving in local government, and I am confident we have the talent needed to address our financial challenges. Moving forward, strong teamwork will be essential. Town leaders must be visible, engaged, and supportive of those who work diligently on our committees and boards. As a teenager, I remember someone describing my father's role as a selectman as "a thankless job." Recently, I have heard the same sentiment expressed about my own candidacy. That perception needs to change.

### **5. How will you engage with residents and ensure transparency in local government?**

#### ***What specific steps would you take to keep the community informed and involved?***

If elected, one of my first initiatives would be to mail the annual town report to every taxpayer's billing address. While this may seem old-school, I believe that if even one in ten reports ends up on a kitchen table or desk, it would be worthwhile. I haven't seen a town report in years, and I suspect that may be intentional - "out of sight, out of mind." I remember enjoying the opportunity to read about our town's history and the individuals who helped shape it. The report is more than just a budget document; it serves as a community record in many ways. If elected, I would also explore additional ways to better inform and engage residents.

### **6. What is one goal you would like to accomplish during your term if elected?**

#### ***Please describe what success would look like and how you would work toward it.***

My focus is on balancing the Naples budget and strengthening the town's overall financial position. After watching several town meeting recordings, I noticed that some key participants occasionally arrived unprepared, which affected the effectiveness of those meetings. While I do not believe this is intentional, it can have a significant impact. Clearer direction and better systems to support preparation would help improve outcomes.

At a recent budget committee meeting, I observed strong and dynamic participation, but one individual who stood out later resigned, which was discouraging. Committees are most effective when they include a diverse range of personalities and perspectives, allowing for thoughtful discussion and better decision making.

I would welcome the opportunity to serve the town of Naples as a selectman.