

Fellow Democrats,

It is with great enthusiasm and a deep sense of commitment that I announce my candidacy for re-election as a member of Princeton Council.

Over the past two years, it has been a true privilege and honor to serve the residents of Princeton. Together, we have worked toward building a world-class town that values diversity, cares for its residents, and addresses critical issues in infrastructure, housing, affordability, human/social services, transportation, public safety, and sustainability. We have also featured engagement in our downtown walkability, art, and culture.

As Liaison to the Princeton Housing Authority (PHA) I have witnessed the transformative progress by the PHA Board, and Executive Director, in reorganizing the structure, communication, and delivery of services to constituents. The formation of the PHA Tenants Council has given residents more voice and allows for greater participation. A new direction is bringing about a cultural change that enhances the lives of residents.

Collaborating with Catholic Charities, we have expanded mental health and substance abuse services, reinforcing our commitment to the well-being of our community. We have also strengthened our drug awareness outreach and prevention programs at PMS and PHS.

Preserving the unique character and historic integrity of Princeton is a priority. In this regard, we have ensured the input of the Historic Preservation Commission in the Master Plan, aligning our Smart Growth plans and initiatives with the town's rich history.

In the face of challenges like affordability, climate change, gentrification, and social infrastructure, Princeton stands at a crossroads. It is crucial that our leadership reflects the diversity and values of our people. As a native son of Princeton, born and raised, I offer a unique perspective on our history; past, present, and future, and consistently bring that perspective into discussions with my colleagues, department heads, and municipal staff.

“Leighton Listens” is my commitment to being local, accessible, and engaged. On Wednesdays from 11-12:30, I show up at various locations around town to listen to constituent concerns, issues, and priorities because meeting people where they are is key to effective representation.

I want to emphasize that civil rights, human services, and affordable housing remain at the core of a more inclusive Princeton. Identifying and understanding the many areas of need for low-income families and seniors, has taught me that serving in local government requires genuine effort and a deep sense of responsibility.

Please join me on this journey. Let us continue to listen, question, and work together to ensure that our decisions are right for all the people and make sense for our community. Your support is invaluable, and together, we can create a Princeton filled with possibilities for all its neighbors. Let us dare to be great!

Thank you for your trust, and I look forward to your support.

With gratitude,

Leighton Newlin

“being good is easy, what is difficult is being just” –Victor Hugo