

Statement from Ward 6 At-Large City Councilor Alicia Bowman

I am grateful to everyone who believed in me and helped me get elected in 2019 to serve the city we love.

While yesterday's election results were not what I had hoped for, I am proud of what I have accomplished in the last four years.

I ran for city council because I knew my years of local advocacy would enable me to be an effective force for positive change. My work as a councilor has resulted in tangible improvements, including safer streets and housing that is more affordable, accessible and greener. I am especially proud to have played an important part in supporting our restaurants during COVID and making outdoor dining permanent. I improved communication with residents through regular newsletters and by attending important city committees like the Commission on Disability and The Fair Housing Committee to better inform my work.

While I won't miss the many long hours in the Chamber, I will miss many of my colleagues on the Council and working with them to make Newton a better place to live. I am disappointed I won't be on the Council to see several important projects I advocated for come to fruition, including the Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan (I had been advocating for this for more than ten years), the upcoming MassDOT project on Commonwealth Avenue and the DCR project on Hammond Pond Parkway.

I am most grateful to my dedicated campaign team, Rhanna Kidwell, Liz Hiser, Lynn Weissberg, Andrea Steenstrup, Jen Abbott, Frieda Dweck, Laura Holt, Marcia Tabenken, and Theresa Fitzpatrick. They were there from the very beginning and I could not have done it without their guidance and support.

And most especially a special shout out to my number one volunteer, my husband Jeff. He has spent countless weekends at events, canvassing residents, and placing lawn signs. He and our children Camille, Spencer and Meredyth have been such enthusiastic supporters.

Lastly, I know that Newton is a community filled with thoughtful residents, caring leaders and passionate advocates, and that we want what is best for Newton. The rhetoric of the past four years has challenged this, but I believe it is important to continue to try to work together to strengthen our city now and for generations to come.

Thank you again for your support and for giving me the opportunity to serve.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alicia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alicia Bowman (she/her/hers)

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