

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Amherst Forward Releases 2021 Campaign Finance Year-End Report**

PAC's End of Year Report Highlights Small Local Contributions,  
Emphasizes the Need for Transparency in Political Campaigns

AMHERST, Mass. – Amherst Forward today released its year-end campaign finance report, which is the final of two annual campaign finance reports required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for political action organizations registered in the state. Both reports were filed with the Town Clerk's office and highlighted 128 small contributions made by local Amherst residents in 2021 to help educate Amherst voters about the town-wide election. Amherst Forward does not accept contributions from businesses or out-of-town residents.

The final report shares details of Amherst Forward's campaign expenditures, which include producing voter education materials about the ballot initiative to renovate and expand the Jones Library; also, materials shared information about Amherst Forward's endorsed candidates for Town Council and School Committee. As always, Amherst Forward does not make donations to directly support any endorsed candidate.

"We have a responsibility to our community and our elected officials to uphold the democratic process both through our campaigning and in our management of campaign contributions," said chair Katherine Appy. "From our inception, we have identified transparency as one of our top organizational values, so we work very hard to ensure that every dollar we raise is accounted for throughout the year. We are grateful for the faith that Amherst voters put in us and for supporting our volunteer-led efforts."

The overwhelming majority of contributions stayed at or below the organization's requested cap of \$52 per year per Amherst voter; there were no contributions over \$104. Campaign contributions for the 2021 year totaled \$5,898 and expenses totaled \$3,916.46, with a remaining balance of \$3,345.44.

"Our support for candidates that we endorse includes providing them with the information they need to disclose their campaign contributions, even if they're in-kind," said MaryAnn Grim, treasurer for Amherst Forward. "It is critically important that Amherst voters know where their money is going when they contribute to a political organization or candidate."

All campaign finance reports filed with the Amherst Town Clerk's office can be found on the town's website at <https://www.amherstma.gov/1327/Campaign-Finance-Reports>.

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### **About Amherst Forward**

Amherst Forward is a political action organization that advocates for and educates Amherst voters about the public decisions that impact their future. We believe in making forward progress on foundational infrastructure needs, creating a vibrant downtown, expanding affordable housing opportunities, broadening our tax base to normalize residential property

taxes, and continuing to protect our open spaces. We are proudly volunteer-led, cap our donations at \$52 per person, and do not accept donations from special interests, private businesses, or any individuals outside of Amherst. Learn more at [www.AmherstForward.org](http://www.AmherstForward.org).