

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Board of Selectmen
Canton, Connecticut
2024-2027

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Board of Selectmen to promote a Town government that provides quality and efficient services; keeps the public informed through multiple forms of communication; encourages a safe, secure and respectful environment for the exchange of ideas; promotes economic development that expands the tax base while supporting and protecting Canton's rich cultural and historical heritage; and celebrates all the unique qualities that makes Canton special.

COMMUNICATION

It shall be the goal of the Board of Selectmen to keep citizens informed and create opportunities for the public to participate in the town's decision making process.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide frequent, short updates from Town agencies on current issues so that citizens have access to facts and can be informed.
2. Make use of a broad range of communication platforms, including social media and written communications to ensure the broadest opportunity to reach citizens and make municipal operations more transparent.
3. Foster a safe, secure and respectful environment where citizens can exchange ideas and freely participate in the democratic process.
4. Create an informational packet to welcome new residents to Canton.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Through collaboration and partnership with other public and private entities, it shall be the goal of the Board of Selectmen to expand the town's tax base, employment opportunities and overall economic resilience.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Work with the owners and developers of the Collinsville Axe Factory to successfully redevelop the property.
2. Encourage responsible development of underutilized commercial properties by identifying and resolving impediments to development.
3. Promote Canton to non-residents as a place to live, work, visit and establish a business.
4. Promote Canton by supporting local organizations and events such as the Halloween Parade, Memorial Day Parade and Christmas in Collinsville.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

It shall be the goal of the Board of Selectmen to provide quality, efficient government services and utilize nonlocal tax revenue sources including state and federal grants to offset the financial tax burden on local property owners.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Budget funds that can be used as a match for state and federal grants.
2. Expand access to the Transfer Station to local businesses and utilize the revenue to offset Public Works' expenses.
3. Look to regionalize services that reduce costs but maintain quality.
4. Create an employee survey that will utilize one of the Town's greatest resources, its staff, to come up with creative ideas to improve Town operations.
5. Reduce membership on Town Agencies and eliminate redundancies by combining Agencies where appropriate.
6. Expand services that directly benefit residents such as having the Department of Public Works pick up Christmas Trees.
7. Expand the use of renewable energy in government operations for both financial and environmental benefits.
8. Expand services and improve the facilities at the Canton Senior Center.

RECREATION

The Board of Selectmen shall support a variety of recreational opportunities, including both organized team sports and passive recreation that utilize the varied environmental attributes of Canton.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Support recreational facilities, including the facilities at Mills Pond Park and other recreational fields located in Canton.
2. Support expansion of the Farmington River Bike Trail, pursue grant opportunities for the replacement of the trestle bridge and maintain the Town's continued status as a bike friendly community.
3. Consider expansion of recreational opportunities on Town land located on Lawton Road.
4. Support citizen-based community projects.

ROAD SAFETY

The Board of Selectmen will strive to support safe transportation including vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide the Police Department with the resources to enforce the rules of the road, including speed limits, red lights and stop signs.
2. Support the complete street policy and the development of a complete street plan.
3. Support traffic calming measures that reduce speed and create a safer driving environment.
4. Create a Board of Selectmen Safety Subcommittee to provide oversight of public safety operations and review of road safety opportunities.