



Hello Danville Voter, I'm Kellie Merrell, a Danville resident since 1999 and a Danville selectboard member since 2016. I'm running for one of the two open one-year seats this year. One of the biggest eye openers for me when I first joined the board was the sticker shock at just how much town level capital projects cost. Over the last six years of my tenure, several big-ticket town infrastructure improvements have been discussed at the selectboard level. We've had estimates to connect the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) to town businesses with a sidewalk, to finish off the parking lot next to the town hall to provide much needed village parking, to treat the stormwater that is negatively impacting Hill Street, and to restore and repurpose the historic train station. We've got a fire station that needs to be modernized so today's and tomorrow's fire trucks can fit in it; we've got the North Danville Community Center that would benefit from additional capital investment; many of our residents lack reliable high-speed internet; and I'd like to see us conduct an engineering study on the sewage treatment plant to ensure it has the capacity needed to treat demand from future village development plans. Just how these projects make it to the finish line without significantly increasing the property tax burden to our residents and property owners has been something I've been looking for a solution to for some time.

As a result of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, Danville will be receiving over \$600,000 that comes with surprisingly few strings attached. Our town has until December 31, 2026, to spend this money or it goes back to the US Treasury. This represents an unprecedented opportunity for our community. We have the chance to use these one-time ARPA funds as matching funds to compete for grants that will allow the town to accomplish several of the town capital projects currently in limbo. It will take careful logistical planning to find the appropriate grants, successfully compete for them and get projects cued up before the 2026 deadline. This year will be critical to that effort, and it is for that reason I'd like to continue to serve on the selectboard to help the town maximize the benefit it receives from these one-time funds. I enjoy logistical challenges and feel this is an effort for which I can use my skills to serve our community. Last year, the town voted to spend up to \$100,000 to build a new recycling center at the Town Garage. Last year I helped the town apply for and receive a Material Management Grant that will pay for \$39,000 of that cost. Because the town had existing capital funds in its budget, we were able to use that as match. Our town will soon have ARPA funds to use as match for grants for those other capital expenditures currently in limbo. As your selectboard member, I'd like to spend this year taking the advice of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to "take time, be patient, and think bigger" and involve townspeople in the planning process for the expenditure of these one-time ARPA funds. I am grateful for the opportunity you have given me to serve our town for three one-year terms and one three-year term and would consider it an honor if you elected me for another one-year term.