

# Steve Martins not running ... Debora Coelho breathes a sigh of relief

If you are a New Bedford political junkie like me, you know that Steven Martins running for at-Large city council would have likely knocked out current at-Large Debora Coelho.

**After pulling nomination papers and getting 50 signatures in 30 minutes two weeks ago,** Former Ward 2 City Councilor Steven Martins decided not to file officially for New Bedford's October 1st at-Large City Council race. Coelho's chances of finishing in the top 5 went from not likely to more than likely. She can breathe a sigh of relief.

For at-Large City Council the top 5 vote-getters are elected to office. In 2017, Coelho finished at the bottom of the elected pack.

## COUNCILLOR-AT-LARGE (VOTE FOR) 5

IAN ABREU . . . . .	7,468	18.02
NAOMI R. A. CARNEY . . . . .	5,959	14.38
DEBORA COELHO . . . . .	5,893	14.22
BRIAN K. GOMES. . . . .	7,510	18.12
LINDA M. MORAD. . . . .	7,020	16.94
CHRISTOPHER W. BOERL. . . . .	4,217	10.17
MICHAEL JANSON. . . . .	3,260	7.87
WRITE-IN. . . . .	119	.29

Finishing in the 5th spot makes your the "bubble" candidate – the one most likely to have been replaced if a stronger, well-known candidate had entered the race.

This year, Ian Abreu, Linda Morad, and Brian Gomes will finish

significantly higher than Coelho. While Naomi Carney had a less than 100 vote advantage on Coelho in 2017, her son **Sean Carney is running for Ward 4 City Council** and will likely help the turn out for his mom. That makes Coelho the most vulnerable at-Large incumbent in 2019.

While Martins is out, there are **six non-incumbents vying for a spot on the City Council as an at-Large candidate**; Russell Dearing, Leo Choquette Jr., Paul Chasse, Carlos Felix, Lisa White, and Michael Janson. It's a much stronger field this year than in 2017 when only two non-incumbents ran. Let's see who emerges from the non-incumbent to challenge the bubble candidate Debora Coelho.