



## 2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

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### **(A) Your Candidacy**

#### **1. What would be your top three priorities if elected to serve?**

- a. Environment/Climate change: It's both important to me and also I'm the person on city council who is most willing to lead on this. I'm shepherding three tree ordinances through city council now.
- b. Affordable Housing: it's also a priority for most other city councilors. My take on it is a bit different, I want us to get more density per unit/bedroom (we have many 4-bedroom houses with only one person).
- c. Roads: We waste a lot of money by having dilapidated roads, so this is a budget item as well as a safety/equity item.

#### **2. What qualifies you to hold this office?**

- a. Starting in 2017 I trained people around the country to run progressive slates of candidates for city council. I have a good perspective that includes policies from other cities.

#### **3. What is the one policy you've seen pioneered in another city that you'd most like to adopt locally?**

- a. Volunteer tree planting – we lose 3x as many trees each year as we plant, and the primary cost is labor.

- b. Home sharing – a match-making service to seniors who have extra rooms with younger people who can pay rent, help around the house, or both, allowing seniors to age in place.

## **(B) Open-Ended Policy Questions**

### **1. Given state law, municipalities in Massachusetts are limited in their taxing power. What opportunities do you see for the city to raise revenue to support essential city services?**

- a. We just passed our first ever Prop 2 ½ Override (yay!).
- b. We now hope to zone for considerably more commercial and mixed use in commercial corridors.

### **2. What are your top priorities for ensuring that all students in your city can receive a high-quality public education?**

- a. Elect ORM School Committee Members
- b. The Prop 2 ½ Override (already done)

### **3. What can your city do to help protect immigrant communities under attack from ICE and ensure genuine community safety?**

- a. We already passed a Welcoming City Ordinance.
- b. We have asked our Police Chief to report any known ICE interactions in the city to the City Council every two weeks

### **4. What are your top three policy priorities for making your city climate-resilient, and how would you ensure that equity is at the center of any such efforts?**

- a. Net-zero for public buildings and new developments
- b. Encourage green renovation of all homes
- c. Phase out fossil fuels
- d. Electrify city vehicles & more infrastructure for private EVs
- e. Expand solar and other renewables for public and private use
- f. Plan with environmental justice lens

### **5. What steps would you take to reduce dependence on cars and better facilitate the ability of city residents to safely get around by walking, biking, or public transit?**

- a. One of my top priorities in zoning is “neighborhood nodes” – every home in Medford would be a five-minute walk from locally-owned ice cream, co-working, child care, coffee shop, and/or bookstore.
- b. We’re working on more bike lanes, speed bumps, crosswalks, etc.
- c. Mixed use and generally better zoning so retail is closer to residential

**6. What policies will you advocate for to ensure that your city can be a place that is affordable for residents to live at any stage of life?**

- a. Affordable Housing Trust
- b. CLT and Social Housing
- c. Office of Housing Stability; rent stabilization (state level)
- d. We have maxed out the exemptions for low-income homeowners to defer/reduce property taxes
- e. Paying teachers, administrative staff, and other city workers a living wage
- f. More after-school care

**7. [If relevant] How would you assess your city's MBTA Communities Act rezoning efforts so far?**

- a. We were rezoning the whole city until the Mayor put a wrench in the works. Hopefully we’ll get it through.

**8. What strategies would you employ to resist federal overreach from the Trump Administration while protecting critical services and funding for residents?**

- a. We have been pretty early to pass things like Welcoming City, Gender Affirming/Reproductive Healthcare, and divestment ordinances.

**9. How would you model transparency and accountability if elected?**

- a. Engaging people in the political process is my jam. I run five teams of volunteers – one meets with me before every city council meeting to provide advice & research, one helps me set up listening sessions in the community, and the other three are policy related. Listening sessions keep me very grounded in what residents are experiencing & thinking.

**(C) Yes/No Policy Questions**

- 1. Do you oppose the expansion of charter schools? **YES**

2. Do you support the creation of an unarmed, community-based emergency response program, separate from the Police Department, to respond to mental and behavioral health crises? **YES**
3. If your community has not already, do you support adopting the new specialized stretch code, which would require new construction and major renovations to be built to a very high-efficiency standard with all-electric (as opposed to fossil fuel) heating and cooling systems? **YES**
4. Do you support fare-free public transit? **YES**
5. Do you support the expansion of the network of permanent, protected bike lanes in your city? **YES**
6. Would you support a home rule petition to establish a small transfer fee on high-end real estate transactions to create dedicated funding for affordable housing production and preservation? **YES**
7. Would you support a home rule petition to enable the city to stabilize rents? **YES**
8. According to the American Library Association, in 2022 there were at least 45 attempts to restrict access to books in MA schools, disproportionately books that speak to the experiences of LGBTQ students and students of color. Would you oppose such book-banning efforts if they occurred in your city? **YES**

**(D) Additional Comments**

*(Use this space to make any final comments you deem important for progressive voters assessing your candidacy.)*