



2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

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(A) Your Candidacy

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

If elected, my top priorities will be rooted in building a Worcester where all of us—not just the wealthy or well-connected—can afford to live, raise families, and fully participate in shaping our city’s future.

1. Housing Justice & Anti-Displacement

Housing is a human right, yet too many Worcester residents are being priced out of their own neighborhoods. As a renter and someone with direct experience in housing policy, I will fight for tenant protections that prevent eviction and displacement, hold corporate landlords accountable, and ensure deeply affordable housing is built—not just luxury apartments. I’ll champion policies that put vacant and underused properties back into community use, protect small landlords who keep rents fair, and expand relief programs so no one has to choose between rent and other basic needs.

2. Public Health, Safety & Mobility

A healthy, thriving city invests in care, not criminalization. I will work to expand community-based mental health services, harm reduction resources, and crisis response teams that operate outside of law enforcement. We must address the root causes of instability—housing, healthcare, transit—rather than just the symptoms. I will fight for expanded bus routes, more bike lanes, and sidewalk repairs so that all folks can move safely and affordably through Worcester.

3. Transparency, Accountability & Real Community Power

Too often, decisions that shape our lives are made behind closed doors. I will fight to explore participatory budgeting, ensure proactive public communication, and implement policies that remove barriers to civic engagement—especially for renters, working people, and historically excluded communities. True democracy means shifting power into the hands of the people most impacted by policy, and ensuring City Hall is accountable to all of us, not just a select few.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

I bring both lived experience and a proven track record of service that directly connects to Worcester's most pressing challenges.

I've worked consistently since I was 14, putting myself through my master's program while working full-time. In my public health career, I've focused on connecting people to essential services, listening closely to community needs, and advocating for policies that improve health and well-being. This work has given me practical experience navigating complex systems and a clear view of where they fall short.

Currently, I chair the MetroWest Housing Coalition, bringing together diverse stakeholders to advocate for housing equity at the local, regional, and state levels. I also coordinate a regional resource hub that integrates care and services that might otherwise remain siloed—collaborating with municipalities, first responders, nonprofits, and grassroots groups to advance community-driven change.

I've also worked in service and retail, giving me firsthand insight into the challenges working people face—low wages, unpredictable schedules, and rising living costs. As a renter, I know the stress of escalating housing prices and the urgent need for stronger tenant protections.

I'm not a career politician—I'm a neighbor who has spent years working alongside the people I now hope to represent. My combination of policy knowledge, frontline experience, and deep community roots is what's needed to make Worcester's government transparent, inclusive, and truly accountable. I've seen how decisions at City Hall can either reinforce inequities or dismantle them—and I will always fight for the latter.

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

One policy I'd like to explore adopting locally is Louisville's Anti-Displacement Ordinance. This ordinance requires that any housing development receiving

city funding demonstrate that it will not contribute to the displacement of current residents. It also ensures public subsidies support projects serving residents earning 30% or less of the area median income.

To assess the risk of displacement, Louisville is using a data-driven screening tool developed in partnership with Boston University's Initiative on Cities. The tool analyzes proposed developments against neighborhood demographics, housing costs, and income levels to predict whether they could trigger gentrification or displacement. Only projects that pass this screening would be eligible for city funding.

I believe exploring a similar ordinance and data-driven screening tool for Worcester could help us safeguard vulnerable communities from displacement and promote equitable, inclusive growth.

(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?

One opportunity is revisiting the city's tax structure by exploring a land value tax, which would increase taxes on vacant and underutilized properties. This approach encourages productive use of land, deters speculation, and generates revenue without burdening working families. Additionally, with the adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Worcester has another powerful new tool to invest in affordable housing, open space, and historic preservation, key areas that strengthen our community. The City should explore creative ways to leverage CPA funds, including identifying opportunities for matching funds to maximize impact. I would also like to see Worcester explore increasing fines and strengthening enforcement against businesses that exploit workers and landlords who violate housing laws. This would both protect residents and create a fairer business environment, while also generating additional revenue to support essential city services.

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

1. Invest in Wraparound Supports: Worcester's schools must be fully funded to provide not only quality instruction but also wraparound services like mental health counseling, healthcare access, nutrition programs, and after-school supports. These services address barriers outside the classroom that impact learning and are essential for student success.

2. Address Educational Inequities Through Regular Evaluation: We must critically and regularly evaluate each school to ensure that a student's quality of education isn't determined by their neighborhood or ZIP code. This means assessing disparities in resources, outcomes, and opportunities, and targeting investments to close those gaps—particularly for students of color, English language learners, students with disabilities, LGBTQ+ students, and those from low-income families.

3. Strengthen Special Education Services: Worcester must expand and improve special education programs to ensure students with disabilities receive the support and accommodations they need to thrive academically and socially. This includes ensuring accessibility and appropriate support throughout the school day—from the classroom to transportation. Adequate funding, trained staff, and individualized plans are critical to fulfilling our commitment to inclusive education.

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

Protecting immigrant communities from ICE enforcement and ensuring genuine community safety requires action and accountability from city leadership.

Worcester must establish a civilian review board with real power to provide community input and oversight on police department policies and practices. This board would build trust, increase transparency, and ensure enforcement respects the rights and dignity of all residents.

The City and Worcester Police Department also need to make an explicit, formal commitment to not collaborate with ICE or participate in immigration enforcement. This includes refusing to detain or share information about undocumented residents except as required by law, and always verifying the identity of federal agents seeking access to city facilities or residents.

Additionally, Worcester should limit information gathering in city services to minimize risk for immigrant communities—for example, removing any requirements to sign in at City Hall or provide unnecessary personal data. This ensures residents can access services without fear of exposure.

The City should be leading proactive education campaigns to inform immigrant communities and their neighbors about their rights and how to support one another.

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?

1. Invest in Green Infrastructure and Flood Resilience: Worcester faces increasing risks from extreme weather, including flooding and heatwaves. Just a few months ago, I heard two residents pleading at City Council for something to be done about the flooding of their home during storms, stating that this is the fourth year they have asked for assistance. To me, this is unacceptable. I will work with environmental justice experts to ensure that the City prioritize expanding green infrastructure—such as rain gardens, permeable pavements, and urban tree canopy—to manage stormwater, reduce heat islands, and protect vulnerable neighborhoods. These investments not only build resilience but also improve public health and neighborhood quality of life.

2. Promote Equitable Access to Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency: I will work to ensure all Worcester residents, especially low-income communities and renters, can access affordable clean energy solutions— such as solar programs, energy-efficient appliances, and weatherization. Too many of our triple-deckers are inefficient, resulting in exorbitant utility bills and homes that are uncomfortable - too cold in the winter and sweltering in the summer.

3. Center Environmental Justice in Planning and Decision-Making: I will push for inclusive processes that meaningfully involve frontline communities in planning, budgeting, and monitoring progress. investments target those most impacted by climate change and environmental hazards. At every stage, I am committed to centering the voices and needs of the communities most impacted by climate change. All decisions should be made with community.

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?

To reduce dependence on cars and improve safe, accessible transportation in Worcester, I would prioritize expanding and enhancing public transit options. Worcester must expand bus routes and service hours, as well as improve the reliability and frequency of buses.

Investing in safe, connected bike lanes and fixing sidewalks is also essential to reducing dependence on cars. Worcester must continue to build protected bike paths, repair damaged sidewalks, and ensure crosswalks are safe and accessible for people of all ages and abilities.

Additionally, I will push for equitable transit planning that centers the needs of low-income communities and those who rely most on public transportation, so improvements address historic gaps in service and safety.

By combining expanded transit access with better walking and biking infrastructure, Worcester can reduce traffic congestion, lower emissions, and create healthier, more connected neighborhoods.

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?

Rent Stabilization: I will push for a home rule petition to enable Worcester to stabilize rents locally, providing renters with protections against rapid increases and displacement. Should the statewide ban be lifted, I would fight for Worcester to implement rent stabilization

Transfer Fee on High-End Real Estate: I support a home rule petition to establish a small transfer fee on high-end real estate transactions. This dedicated funding would be used exclusively for affordable housing production and preservation, ensuring new wealth in the city helps address housing needs.

Expanding Affordable Housing and Supporting Homeowners: I will advocate for increased investment in affordable housing development and preservation, including using Community Preservation Act funds and securing state and federal resources. Additionally, I support expanding programs that assist first-time homebuyers and provide tax relief for senior, disabled, and low-income homeowners to help them remain in their homes.

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

Worcester did not undertake new rezoning under the MBTA Communities Act because the city was already in compliance with its requirements. However, this existing compliance has had limited impact on alleviating the housing crisis.

To effectively address the urgent need for more affordable and diverse housing near transit, Worcester must go beyond the minimum standards. The city needs to increase minimum affordability requirements and actively encourage developments that prioritize affordability and accessibility. Without these stronger measures, the potential of the MBTA Communities Act to drive meaningful housing solutions will remain unrealized.

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

To resist federal overreach while protecting critical services and funding for Worcester residents, I would work closely and proactively with our state senators and representatives to stay informed, advocate for the city's needs, and push back against harmful federal policies.

I would also collaborate with other cities and municipalities that are actively protecting their communities, sharing strategies and building strong coalitions to amplify our collective voice. I believe we must remain strong in our resistance and creative in how we try to fill potential funding gaps.

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

I will lead with openness, clarity, and responsiveness. If elected, I will provide regular public updates, accessible forums, and plain-language explanations of decisions and policies so that residents understand not just *what* is happening, but *why*. I will push for city data, budgets, petitions, and each councilor's full voting record to be easily accessible.

Transparency is not just about sharing information—it's about making sure every resident, especially those historically excluded from decision-making, has a real voice in shaping policy. I will seek out that input, act on it, and make clear how it influenced outcomes.

When challenges or mistakes occur, I will address them directly, take responsibility, and work with the community on solutions. By setting a consistent standard of honesty, inclusion, and accountability, I hope to help rebuild public trust in city government.

(C) Yes/No Policy Questions

1. Do you oppose the expansion of charter schools? **YES/ NO**
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/ NO**
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/ NO** -N/A (already adopted)
4. Do you support fare-free public transit? **YES / NO**
5. Do you support the expansion of the network of permanent, protected bike lanes in your city? **YES / NO**
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 / NO**
7. Would you support a home rule petition to enable the city to stabilize rents? **YES / NO**

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 / NO**

(D) Additional Comments

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