



2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Devan Ferreira

Office Sought: Ward 3 City Councilor

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(A) Your Candidacy

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

Housing, climate resiliency and sustainability efforts, education

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

I have been interested in the intersectionality of public and community service since college. I am an organizer at heart, and work towards solutions rooted in social justice. I am an advocate for the unhoused and food insecure, for public education, for community economic development and for meaningful, creative approaches to providing housing for everyone in our city.

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

I'd love to minimize or eliminate entirely our parking requirements required by zoning.

(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?

Allowing development in general is the key to expanding our tax base. Additionally, I would like Haverhill to invest in improvements to our numerous public parks and sports facilities locations to in turn, increase fees collected from users. With a split tax rate, we also have the opportunity to shift our tax burden as needed, and make adjustments according to trends in residential, commercial and industrial property valuations.

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

Supporting a consistent increase in city spending for our public schools instead of relying on increases in state aid. Extending the school day and providing more wrap around services. Fully staffing our schools with the social workers and guidance counselors needed to support our students and families.

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

Our local police department does not coordinate with ICE regarding immigration investigations; Police leadership has worked closely with community leaders to provide know your rights trainings for residents. We can continue to support these important conversations by showing up and learning what to do to keep our friends, neighbors and co-workers safe.

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?

Haverhill is a designated Green Community by the state already; I would like to see the city apply for the Climate Leader Community designation to take steps towards decarbonization, lessening the municipalities reliance on fossil fuels, etc. Additionally, seeking funding towards re-planting the tree canopy in our most densely populated neighborhoods is a priority-we know that these neighborhoods tend to be most affected by heat or cold islands, and incur higher energy costs. I would like to see zoning requirements for large developments to use sustainable building practices as well as environmentally conscious designs.

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?

Haverhill needs major help in making our streets more safe for those who walk, bike and use public transit-we are lacking in crosswalks, ADA compliant sidewalks, illuminated pedestrian crossing signs, etc. I would like to see protected bike lanes, the installation of bollards near crosswalks, and cones at intersections where vehicles should expect to see pedestrian activity.

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?

I will continue to advocate for a Housing Production plan that aggressively includes production of all types of housing. I want to see our Affordable Housing Trust activated and funded to help with these efforts.

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

Haverhill currently meets the MBTA Communities Act in our zoning.

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

I hope that our local service agencies that offer housing and fuel assistance to residents will be able to be financially supported by municipal funds if their funding continues to be cut.

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

I am running for re-election as the Ward 3 City Councilor, and work tirelessly to provide information about how our city works every day. I make sure to respond to emails and phone calls in a timely manner, and have yet to miss a city council meeting. I have asked for improvements in our constituent services system (311), the reinstatement of the 311 app, and for more regular updates regarding infrastructure repairs or improvements that impact our day to day life.

(C) Yes/No Policy Questions

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