



2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

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(A) Your Candidacy

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

My top three priorities if elected are:

A. Housing affordability: While the housing crisis is not limited to Somerville, it is hitting Somerville especially hard. Because so much of Somerville has been gentrifying for years, the high cost of housing and the development of more and more luxury condos where naturally occurring affordable housing had been, has displaced many long-time residents, immigrant communities, young renters, working class families and so many others. My top priority will be to advance more affordable housing, make it easier for first-time homebuyers and support tenants. I will look at our inclusionary housing ordinance to consider a higher percentage of affordable units, to push to integrate housing in any large scale commercial development, and to allow for greater housing density/height near transit where appropriate. I would also advocate for and support home rule petitions to allow for rent stabilization in Somerville and to establish a small transfer fee on high-end real estate transactions to create dedicated funding for affordable housing production and preservation.

B. Safe streets: Somerville is a major “gateway” for commuters into Cambridge and Boston. We demand a lot from our streets to handle so many cars, trucks, bikes and pedestrians. We need to keep improving our infrastructure to slow cars down and make the streets safer for all forms of transportation and all residents, with the goal of zero traffic fatalities and major injuries.

C. Climate justice: We are already experiencing changes in our climate and marginalized communities are being impacted especially hard. The more prepared we are for climate changes, the more equitable the impacts will be, and the more resilient our city will be in the years to come.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

In my 20 years living in Somerville I have been an advocate in our city, working with grassroots groups such as Somerville Climate Action, Mothers Out Front, Jobs with Justice and the Healey School PTA on local issues from climate resilience to good jobs, from street safety to more inclusive schools. I have taught politics and policymaking at UMass Boston, directed a grassroots nonprofit organization for almost a decade, and was a union organizer. I have decades of experience bringing people together, building coalitions and finding practical solutions to collective problems.

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

I would like Somerville to move forward with democratic reforms to engage more people and make our democratic systems more relevant, responsive and accountable. I will work to advance ranked choice voting, allow non-citizen voting in municipal elections, and lower the voting age to 16. I would also like to look into programs such as introducing "democracy vouchers" as Seattle has done, allowing many more residents to engage in supporting campaigns of their choice with financial contributions. All of these measures not only increase the engagement of voters but also encourage a more diverse pool of candidates.

(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?

Last year Somerville voters approved doubling the CPA surcharge to 3%, which will help us raise more revenue starting in 2026. I was an advocate for this change and think this is a positive step forward. Another avenue is working out a PILOT agreement with Tufts for services or use of space for Somerville residents. I will also look carefully at our revenue from commercial

development and our expenditures to be sure we are bringing in what we should be and are being careful stewards of our resources.

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

As a parent to a 4th grader in the public schools and Co-President of the Healey School PTA, I have seen firsthand the challenges that our students and educators are facing. We currently don't have adequate buildings to meet the needs of our students. I will work to ensure that swift progress is being made to rebuild the Winter Hill school and Brown and ensure that the other buildings are receiving the maintenance and upgrades that they need. I will also work for increased funding for our schools and support for our educators and staff. Families in Somerville struggle with insufficient affordable after-school and summertime programming and early childhood education, and I will also work to address these needs.

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

We need to increase our efforts in educating people about their rights and increase legal services available to immigrants. We also need bystander training for allies so that everyone in the community is informed. I will also work to increase overall security in immigrants' lives, by offering other supports such as English classes, greater support to combat housing discrimination, and assistance with job training and placement. I will also work to form relationships with our police officers and ensure that Somerville's police continue to not assist ICE.

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?

My top three priorities are:

A. Upgrading our infrastructure, especially for stormwater management, including sewer separation work, as well as moving away from impermeable surfaces overall and planting more trees.

B. Providing more cooling infrastructure, including shade at bus stops, more water fountains and sprayparks or misting features at parks. I am also concerned about residents of public housing having clean and cool air inside their homes and will work for solutions for those residents.

C. Transitioning our energy grid. Moving away from gas and toward electrification and geothermal is better for residents' health, safer, more cost-effective in the long term, and better for our climate.

I am thrilled that the MAPC has just released a [Climate Resilience Playbook](#) to help municipalities respond more meaningfully and equitably to climate change. I will work to ensure that diverse stakeholders and marginalized communities are at the center of every step that Somerville takes on the path toward climate adaptation.

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?

I will make sure the city continues its efforts to create safe bike lanes, have abundant bike sharing programs, improve sidewalk accessibility and shoveling in the winter, and prioritize safe street crossings for pedestrians. I would also like to explore city-funded micro-transit, including if this service could be a part of the PILOT agreement with Tufts, as they already run a shuttle for Tufts students.

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 advocate for tax breaks for small landlords who keep rent below-market for seniors, as well as home modification grants for the installation of accessibility features. I will also work to fund the Council on Aging at sufficient levels to have staff to support seniors and make sure they are connected to the services they need. We also need to have adequate staff for home care services and ensure that these workers are paid living wages. I will also advocate whenever possible for policies to support homesharing and intergenerational living.

I will also work to ensure that affordable units that are built through the Inclusionary Housing program include a substantial number of 2, 3 and 4, bedroom units for families. With the housing affordability crisis, many families with young children are forced to leave the city for lack of affordable rentals and homes that can accommodate families.

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

I am pleased that Somerville's zoning was nearly compliant with the MBTA Communities Act and only required three small modifications to comply. I'm proud to live in a community that supports housing density, especially near transit.

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

I support the City's lawsuits against the Trump Administration. I will continue to use my voice, as I have been as a citizen, to speak out against the abuses of power by the Trump Administration and to keep advocating for vital services to not be cut. I will work with our state delegation on strategies to protect critical services and funding for residents.

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

I will keep my constituents informed about my work as Councilor through a regular newsletter and regular office hours. I have been focusing my campaign efforts on canvassing and meeting as many residents as I can. If I am elected, I will continue to focus on building relationships with my diverse constituents and listening to concerns from across the Ward, being an open and responsive Councilor. I will support efforts by the city to engage and inform residents, including workshops such as the recent Municipal Civics Academy.

(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** (I'm proud of Somerville for being very early adopter of the new specialized stretch code)
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.)