



2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

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(A) Your Candidacy

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

Housing (supply, subsidy, stabilization)

Education (equitable distribution of funding, especially for most vulnerable students)

Climate/environment/environmental equity and justice

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

I currently serve as the Chair of the Northampton Housing Partnership. During my time there, we pushed for the elimination of broker's fees to be charged to prospective tenants, supported funding via the Community Preservation Committee for Laurel Street low-income apartments, Prospect Place at Bridge Road, a SRO project for vulnerable prospective residents who have been homeless on Crafts Ave, to name a few. Across the state I have advocated for public housing tenants' rights to organize. I have been involved with policy working groups in conjunction with Mass Law Reform and Mass Union of Public Housing Tenants to clearly define the roles of Local Tenant Organizations and housing authorities, which were issued as Public Housing Notices by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

Over the past five years I have attended more than 60 housing authority meetings in Northampton, Hadley, Hatfield, and Hampshire County Regional. I have spoken about the dangers of mold and importance of healthy drinking

water, as well as tenants' rights to participate in hiring the people who work with them. Between 2022 and 2024 I worked with Western Mass Coalition Against Homelessness, Mass Union of Public Housing Tenants, and the Massachusetts Housing Coalition contributing feedback that resulted in the highest amount of money in the history of Massachusetts to update and preserve public housing. I attended seminars with Mel King Institute and Mass Union of Public Housing Tenants to understand the role of housing authority board members, especially tenant board members, and to understand the rights of public housing tenants.

Between 2020 and 2023 I worked with Western Mass Climate Action Now and Elders Climate Action Now to support the establishment of the Northampton Climate Action Project Administration and verbalized my support in public meetings for Northampton to pass a new fossil-free building code. I have also pushed for low-income residents to have a right to use the land they live on to create pollinator pathways and grow their own food and plant medicine.

During 2022-2023 I served on a Select Committee to Study Barriers to Serving on City Boards and Commissions. This study was supported by the City Council and requested by the Collaborative for Educational Services.

During 2020 I became involved with Shared Abundance Gardens via Abundance Farm to create shared gardens planted in different locations where I lived to provide vegetables and herbs for people who are hungry. During 2020 I became heavily involved with Grow Food Northampton, where I tend to two garden plots. During my first year, I committed 35 hours of volunteer community service. Through Abundance Farm and Grow Food Northampton, I take part in preparation for a yearly seed share event, share my gardening tips and wisdom with new gardeners, help fellow gardeners tend to their plots, and have taught classes on food insecurity and ancient irrigation methods (clay pot irrigation).

In my own low-income community, I engaged with tenant activities such as potluck dinners and have helped to build two community gardens at Hampshire Heights and Florence Heights. I later maintained the garden at Hampshire Heights by taking care of people's plots as needed and weeding the shared spaces.

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

The City of Northampton is very progressive in its efforts to combat climate change and food sovereignty/security. In terms of statewide changes, I would like to see TOPA (Tenants' Opportunity to Purchase Act), rent stabilization with incentives for low income landlords, and a Real Estate Transfer fee to fund development of more low/moderate income housing and to provide a revenue stream for Housing Trust Funds. I would like to see Northampton explore reviving the Housing Trust Fund with a reliable revenue stream.

(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?

From my position on the Northampton Housing Partnership, we need to see more family housing being built. Many families cannot stay in Northampton due to a shortage of four-bedroom apartments/homes. Due to rising rental costs, we must make Northampton affordable by creating more low/moderate income housing and housing ownership opportunities that allow for upward mobility so young people can stay and grow their families in our city. I also believe the formula for state funding of schools must be revised, which would allow for more money to go toward essential services. Another factor that could increase our tax base is to always support businesses and be inviting for more businesses to come to Northampton.

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

I will advocate for vulnerable students to have their IEPs fulfilled and for the city to support the identification of students who are struggling. As much as possible I will advocate for and inform parents who are vulnerable about Head Start and early intervention programming. Additionally, we must be sure to address bullying in schools, with follow-through and clear communication with parents regarding investigations. I believe bullying is something that can also be addressed at home, and that children are led by example. Thus, it is good to have members of school committee who do not bully each other during public meetings and personally attack each other.

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

Educating citizens to engage with the LUCE system and to know how to respond to the presence of ICE is crucial. That is why I will be attending an interfaith LUCE ICE Bystander Training seminar on September 17, 2025. In 2011 the City of Northampton passed “A Resolution of the Northampton City Council on the Secure Communities Program”. The City of Northampton will not use its resources to do the job of federal law enforcement.

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?

Infrastructure/hazard mitigation: with the damaging floods that destroyed the local food supply during 2023, I saw that Northampton needs to build up the riparian borders around the rivers/tributaries. Northampton also must update its infrastructure and continue to focus on the issues we face with the use of pesticides, safe drinking water, and environmental degradation/decertification. Additionally, I support rooftop gardens and access to open space and private green space for all residents in Northampton.

Environmental justice: I believe that all people regardless of social class have a right to access green space. Low-income residents must be protected from actions such as food/medicinal apartheid in low-income communities. Low-income communities deserve to have their voices heard regarding noise pollution, pesticide use, access to clean air, and light pollution. As well, access to electric bikes and EV charging stations should be accessible to low-income residents. Most importantly our most vulnerable population deserve to live in housing that is aligned with the Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation and all state sanitary codes.

Local Tenant Organizations, local NGOs, honoring Native peoples/legislation: I will continue to advocate and support interactions between low-income housing communities and local non-government organizations in regards to food sovereignty. I will support local efforts for local Native groups to engage in discussions and actions around land and Land Back measures. I will continue to honor my own ancestors and the original inhabitants of this land to recognize that we live on land that was never ceded to colonial rule.

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?

Based upon a recent transportation report by Wayfinders, I will advocate for

more and better access to the PVTA. I have supported in city council meetings with the Planning and Sustainability department to bring back Valley Bike, which I will continue to support. I support the updating to Main Street for safety reasons as well as the increased accessibility these changes will provide for people who use mobility devices and bicycles. There are some intersections in Ward 1 that residents find concerning: Bridge Rd/Jackson Street intersection, located at a low-income community, should have clearly defined crosswalks and bright flags for pedestrians to use while crossing.

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?

Consistently over the past three years and continuing, I have advocated for low/moderate/workforce housing in conjunction with the Affordable Homes Care Act. Northampton needs housing at all income levels, and we have several projects in the pipeline by different developers. Additionally I support programs that support aging in place. This can involve tangential resources such as the PILOT program and adjusting tax rates for veterans and low income aging homeowners, and accessing resources for weatherization and updating appliances at low/no cost via Mass Save.

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

Although we are not an MBTA community, Northampton has produced 3.6% more affordable housing than the state requires, and we were recently awarded more grant funds in response to our efforts. I am proud to serve on the Northampton Housing Partnership as the chair, and to see these projects get off ground. The City of Northampton recently approved two-family and ADUs by-right and approved a new parking ordinance that reduced the requirement for two parking spaces/unit (of a specific size) to only one parking space. We also approved a required increase for bicycle parking.

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

This city is going to continue to stand for a clean environment, economic justice and equal opportunities for all, racial equity, health care for all (we recently supported Shield laws across the state), and continued advocacy for gender and sexual equity. Our city can create resolutions and home rule petitions to petition the state to ensure progressive values. I hope to inform

the people of Northampton that advocating for our public schools, public housing, and writing to our State Representative and Senator, as well as attending legislative hearings and writing testimony is crucial to continuing the progressive agenda.

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

All city councilors must adhere to Open Meeting Law and the state's Conflict of Interest standards. I believe it is important to get news out to voters and all residents that public meetings are going to be held on all matters that may be of interest to them. My newsletters will update residents regularly on public meetings, from Planning and Sustainability to Board of Health meetings, to City Council Meetings, just to name a few.

(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, however I also**
4. **support geothermal and wind**
5. Do you support fare-free public transit? **YES**
6. Do you support the expansion of the network of permanent, protected bike lanes in your city? **YES**
7. 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**
8. Would you support a home rule petition to enable the city to stabilize rents? **YES**
9. 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.)

A vote for me is a vote for progressive values. I am the lowest income candidate and have lived experience that causes me to relate to people across all demographics, including “non-voting” citizens who are homeless. It is because of Western Mass progressive values that I have been able to find affordable housing, return to college and get my BA with a focus on Native American and Indigenous Studies and regenerative agriculture. As a second-generation immigrant, I understand how cultural erasure causes harm, and I believe nobody should feel forced to erase their culture to survive in this state. I have met and worked with people from all over the world who speak multiple languages, and I support movements to restore Native languages and tell history from all perspectives. I believe in the dignity of every human and non-human living being and stand firmly by these principles.