



## 2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Hong Net

Office Sought: Councilor-At-Large

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

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

I will be focusing on: 1. Public safety by advocating funding to combat gang and drug activities and police and fire departments for adequate amounts of staff and equipment. 2. Public education by advocating for funding to build new schools and support the educational programs that encourage careers like engineering, biotech, robotics, and medicine. 3. Business development by ensuring that businesses have the tools, equipment, and grant dollars to be successful.

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

I have 14 years of experience as an elected official and 30 years in human rights activism, social work, education, and government leadership to continue my work for all residents of Lynn.

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

A policy that I would like to adopt that other cities have implemented, is to make affordable housing to 20% instead of the 10% the city is currently at.

### **(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?**

I have brought small businesses to Lynn such as restaurants, grocery stores, doctor facilities, adult day healthcare centers, and organized events to raise revenue to support essential city services. My plan is to organize a restaurant month to promote restaurant business to attract visitors to the city.

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

I taught ESL to new immigrant students in Chicopee School Systems, citizenship to Southeast Asian students in Lowell, and coordinated meetings between public, charter, and religious schools working on improving SAT scores to ensure that students in Lynn receive a high-quality education. One of my priorities is that I will work to help reduce class size and hire more bilingual teachers. As chairman of the ways and means committee, I will continue to work with my colleagues at the council, the mayor, school committee, and state legislature to find funding to build more new schools to accommodate the growing number of our public school students.

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

We want Lynn to be a welcoming city for everyone. The presence of ICE makes Lynn residents scared and feel unsafe. Unfortunately, elected officials like myself do not have the authority to stop them from entering our city however, we have the right to educate our residents to not cooperate with them and prevent them from entering the city's buildings and schools. We are happy to know that the LPD is not collaborating with ICE to make it harder for them to take our residents away.

**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 policies to make Lynn climate-resilient: 1. Enhance policies to protect the environment with green energy project incentives. 2. Reduce emissions by sustainable transportation, encouraging residents to use more public transportation or bicycles in the city. 3. Improve infrastructure such as flood protection and hazard mitigation planning.

**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 or get around safely, we must increase police officers on bicycles, improve our road conditions and traffic flows, and more street lights. I am happy to see that our bike lanes are being worked on across the city.

**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 work alongside elected officials, city and state officials, and all parties are involved to address the immediate need of housing in our city. I also will continue to work with residents and media outlets to pressure the developers and landlords to come to a negotiation table.

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

I support the city's MBTA Communities Act efforts. A plan to allow multi-family establishments in the central business district will allow the city to increase the city's housing shortage as well as within walkable neighborhoods near public transit.

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

We the policy makers for our city will have to work with our federal legislature to find ways to work with the current administration which will protect our critical services that benefit our residents. I believe that any policies that benefit our city, we will work with the administration. I believe policy makers must put politics aside and do what is right for the communities they represent.

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

For the past 14 years as a city councilor at large, I have served the city of Lynn and its residents with honesty and integrity. I have always put my belief into action and am a fair advocate with a proven ability to build consensus. If re-elected, my belief in accountability and action will remain unchanged.

**(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.)*

I have 14 years of experience as an elected official and 30 years in human rights activism, social work, education, and government leadership to continue my work for all residents of Lynn. I am the candidate with a vision and experience to ensure that the opportunity of tomorrow benefits everyone in Lynn. I came to America from a refugee camp in Thailand with only a plastic bag with an x-ray in it and a broken arm, but dreamed of building a better life for myself. Now my dream is to help build a better life for every family.