



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 to serve on the Worcester City Council at Large, my top three priorities will be:

- Education and Business: Investing in quality education to ensure every student in Worcester has access to excellent schools and resources, while simultaneously supporting local businesses to foster economic growth and job creation.
- Cost of Living and Quality of Life: Addressing the rising cost of living by implementing policies that stabilize rent and support affordable housing, so families can thrive without being priced out of their communities.
- Housing and Seniors: I will stop funneling your tax dollars to out-of-town developers and instead prioritize funding first-time homebuyer programs and rent stabilization initiatives that allow families to stay rooted in Worcester. To support our seniors, I will expand property tax work-off programs, provide heat and energy assistance, and simplify the process for homeowners to build Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) so seniors can comfortably downsize and remain close to loved ones.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

When my family and I came to Worcester from Liberia, my parents' hard work as direct care providers instilled in me the importance of service. This lesson has guided my career, from founding a children's foundation to teaching at various universities and serving on the Worcester School Committee from 2022-2024.

During my time on the School Committee, I was proud to be dedicated and present, serving as Vice Chair of Finance and Operations and on the Teaching, Learning, and Student Support Committees. I also served on the national superintendent search committee and supported the hiring of the previous superintendent, successfully pushed to raise educator, nurses, esps, and allied health workers salaries, voted for the School Liaison officers, and helped implement a holistic five-year school-based wellness plan that included new wellness rooms, to name a few. I worked with families to address bullying and built awareness on how to engage with the district. Oftentimes, I was the only Worcester School Committee member standing up for the essential needs of our district, such as voting against the use of cellphones in the classrooms which impacts learning and teachers time to teach, or voting for a safer school by banning students from carrying backpacks around the schools. I am proud to say that I rarely missed any meetings on the Worcester School Committee and added value to our district's education system.

I bring a deep commitment to community service combined with a strong understanding of Worcester's unique challenges and opportunities. My background in advocacy, community organizing, and local business has given me firsthand experience working with diverse groups to create meaningful change. I am dedicated to listening to residents, collaborating with stakeholders, and crafting practical solutions that improve the lives of everyone in Worcester.

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

I am inspired by the successful rent control and tenant protection programs implemented in cities like New York and Portland, which have helped stabilize housing costs and prevent displacement. Worcester should adopt similar rent stabilization policies paired with robust support for first-time homebuyers to keep our community inclusive and affordable for all residents.

(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?

While Massachusetts municipalities are limited in their taxing power, Worcester can also explore opportunities such as taxing high end luxury developments, creating more public-private partnerships, applying for state and federal grants, and expanding local business incentives that stimulate economic development and increase the city's tax base organically. Additionally, investing in workforce development will grow local employment and consumer spending, indirectly supporting city revenues without increasing the tax burden on residents. Finally, reducing tax giveaways to developers will allow more funds to be available for the city.

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

My priorities include increasing funding for public schools, supporting teachers with competitive pay and resources, expanding after-school and mentorship programs, and ensuring equitable access to technology and facilities. I also support stronger partnerships between schools and local businesses to provide students with real-world learning opportunities and career pathways.

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

Worcester must affirm itself as a welcoming sanctuary city by providing legal support services to immigrant residents, ensuring local law enforcement does not cooperate with ICE enforcement actions, and fostering community policing that builds trust. Protecting immigrant families is essential for genuine community safety and cohesion.

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?

- Expanding green infrastructure and stormwater management to prevent flooding in vulnerable neighborhoods.
- Investing in clean, affordable energy options accessible to all residents.

- Promoting equitable access to public parks and green spaces to improve health outcomes.

To center equity, all initiatives will be developed in partnership with affected communities to ensure benefits are shared fairly and marginalized voices are prioritized.

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 would advocate for expanded and improved public transit scheduling options, increased investment in safe bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly streets that do not put residents at risk, work with organizations and the city to launch walkability audits to improve sidewalks, and community programs that encourage carpooling and transit use. Enhancing walkability and connectivity will reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.

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 support rent stabilization, funding for affordable housing development, expanded property tax relief for seniors, and programs that help first-time homebuyers. I will also push for zoning reforms that encourage diverse housing options, including Accessory Dwelling Units, to meet the needs of residents at all life stages.

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

While progress has been made, more work is needed to ensure rezoning truly promotes affordable, transit-oriented development without displacing existing residents. I will push for transparent community involvement and equitable development standards moving forward.

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

I am very vocal in protecting Worcester residents first by denouncing how Trump's Administration is a threat to Worcester's economy and wellbeing. Also, I would work closely with state and federal representatives to advocate for Worcester's interests, build coalitions with other municipalities, and pursue legal avenues to challenge federal overreach. Protecting funding for essential services and upholding residents' rights will remain my top priority.

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

I commit to open communication by regularly engaging with constituents through town halls, social media, in-person drop ins, and newsletters. I will publish clear reports on city council activities, voting records, and project progress, ensuring residents are fully informed and have a voice in local government.

(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'm running because I believe in a Worcester where everyone belongs and everyone has a fair shot. Too many families here struggle just to keep a roof over their heads, to send their kids to good schools, or to feel safe in their neighborhoods. I've seen that struggle up close, and it drives me every day.

This isn't just about policies or politics for me. It's about real people with real lives. I want to fight for a city where no one has to choose between paying rent and putting food on the table, where our seniors can age with dignity in their own homes, and where our children have the chance to thrive.

If you share that vision of fairness, hope, and community, I'd be honored to have your trust and your vote. Let's build a better Worcester together.