



2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Name: John Mullady

Office Sought: Beverly City Council at Large

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(A) Your Candidacy

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

Healing: Beverly needs to have some tough conversations regarding the Teacher's strike. That means getting the BTA leadership team (who I know would want this to happen) have a retreat with the City Council and the School Committee. The only way forward is together. In addition to help with the healing and foster strong communication, I would like to create a Labor Relations Council. Invite members of the over 9 unions in our city to meet with some members of the City Council on a monthly basis to build a foundation of trust and empower the working men and women of our city.

Opportunity: Eliminate the loophole that allows developers to not put in affordable housing units. Prioritize a home rule petition that would allow us to have rent stabilization and create a first time home buyers program. I think we should also enact a progressive property tax that could lessen the burden for working families and members of our working class.

Education: "Think instead about children. People. Human beings. Feel for once that education is about people—not figures."

~ Pat Conroy, *The Water is Wide*

We have a moral obligation to make our schools the best they can be. People should want to move to Beverly because of the school system. To help achieve

this goal, we need to have a City Council that understands how to support fully funded schools.

As a teacher, I know all too well the impact budget cuts have on students. I pledge that, if elected to the City Council, I would not support a budget that takes away valuable staff and services from our children.

I believe that we have an obligation to help students who are interested in the trades be able to learn and master their craft and advocate for vocational programs at BHS.

We owe it to hundreds of families to call for an outside audit of the Special Education Department. Too many of our families have resorted to taking legal action in order to get services for their children. An audit would identify opportunities for improvement as well as strengthen the quality of the services we provide.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

I am the only candidate for At-Large that has the perspective of both a parent and an educator. I'm concerned that some of the current Beverly officials have had their empathy atrophied over the years. I have been consistently talking about income inequality in Beverly during my campaign.

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

Salem has recently received a state grant to plant 99 trees in public spaces. Beverly has acquired an old Girl Scouts Camp and I would love to see that space dedicated to more green space as well as playing fields. There are organizations like Green Beverly that could be a valued partner with this.

(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?

The City Council has a budget analyst that has consistently advocated for 19% of our budget to go into reserves. As a result our schools and other city services have been suffering. I would like us to get a new analyst, one that is not beholden to the whims of our mayor. We need to increase our trash fees

which have not been raised in years. We can also increase the mooring fee and boat excise tax.

The city owns the Carriage House at Lynch Park that is an underused revenue source for the city. Invest in improved siding and windows and increase the fee for weddings and corporate use.

In addition, we need an override. Our schools have faced devastating cuts and we need to form a study group of various parties to present how an override would benefit all of Beverly's residents.

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

Better funding of our schools and complete a special education audit. Those are two essential steps we need to take. We have a new superintendent in Beverly, and they need to know that elected officials will have his support in the budget process.

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

When I was on the School Committee I helped create a resolution where we became a Sanctuary School District and that meant our schools should also be a place where all of our students can be safe as well as their parents. Schools need to have plans on what a child should do if they come home and their parents are gone. We need to be sure to provide accurate and safe information to those who call Beverly home that are threatened.

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?

Increase our green spaces: The city should invest in transforming old parking lots into parks and playgrounds.

Electric vehicles for all of our city buses, cars, and trucks

Invest in more renewable energy sources for our municipal buildings.

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?

Beverly has the most train crossings in the Commonwealth. We need a T Stop at the Cummings Center to allow our commuters to use public transit as well as take more cars off the road. We should increase the excise tax on boats as well as cars while offering incentives to prove that you rely on biking, walking, or public transit for transportation.

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?

- ~ Rent Stabilization
- ~ Advocate for repurpose existing buildings (closed Catholic Schools) for more accessible housing units
- ~ A Progressive Property Tax

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

In October of 2024, Beverly's Zoning Ordinance incorporated Article XX which incorporated the Massachusetts Overlay District. Currently where the old Bowl O Mat is located is prime real estate for more mixed use housing. That plot of land is right by the Beverly Depot and could offer some real potential for the city. Beverly is in compliance with the state but broader plans have been paused. I know we can do better and need to ensure that the next developer that comes in is creating housing units that are accessible for all residents.

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

I would look at the programs that Los Angeles and Santa Barbara have done. Be sure to reach out to residents in ways that will not draw further attention on them. We have over 16 languages spoken in Beverly, having information translated into those languages on city websites and city sites that remind people of what their rights are as well as where they can turn to for help is important.

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

Create a long-term road map for maintenance programs such as roads, sidewalks, and buildings. Citizens should know and understand when projects are happening as well as their money. I do not plan to make this position be a long-term held one, I think other leaders should have a chance to run and would advocate for term limits. I can promise to respond to emails and phone calls as well as meeting residents where they are.

(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. 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.)

During my time on the School Committee in Beverly I played a very active role in advocating for progressive ideals. I helped eliminate our city's kindergarten fee as well as establishing our school district as a Sanctuary District to help our students who were threatened by the first Trump Administration.

In the past I have helped coordinate a March for Our Lives Rally as well as a Black Lives Matter Rally. I formed a working group to change our graduation requirement to include courses on the Holocaust, African American, and Indigenous studies. There are some other strong candidates running for At-Large and I appreciate the consideration.