



## 2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Name: John Rigal

Office Sought: Lawrence City Council At-Large

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### (A) Your Candidacy

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

Public Safety, Government Transparency, Empowering the Youth

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

In the last 23 years I have gained a lot of experience in several industries where I was in-charge of budget, personal and they're safety. I also have experience working as a team but the most important is that I want to serve my community and will do what ever it takes to make sure my city is in better position.

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

Better City hall service, placing quality personnel in every city position

### (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 can start enforcing noise infraction, illegal vehicle modification, trash dumping violation, illegal parking, and start a stronger traffic law enforcement.

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

I will start by making sure all funds intended for education reaches every student, I like to help to bring more trade job training for those student that wishes to go a different path other than college.

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

We need to start helping our community understanding they're right, also with not allowing our police department getting involved with ICE unless to go after dangerous criminals.

**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?**

1: Equitable investments in resilient infrastructure  
 . Targeted upgrades. Green infrastructure

2: Enhance public services and resource access  
 . Public transportation . Emergency response . Affordable energy

3: Community-led climate preparedness planing  
 . Inclusive planning . Data and mapping . Addressing systemic barriers  
 Ensuring equity is center  
 . Allocate funding based on need .Track impacts with equity metrics . Share decision-making power  
 . Build trust with community partners

**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?**

Invested in city own public transportation and increase the bus route. Increase community policing

**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?**

Advocating for affordable housing at every stage of life requires a multi-faceted approach, combining strategic land-use reform targeted financial assistance programs, and support for innovative housing models.

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

I don't have an answer at this moment but will look into it.

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

Legal and legislative strategies, Fiscal and funding protection, strategic alliance and public engagement, Civil service and institutional protections.

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

If elected, I will model transparency and accountability through a combination of enhanced digital access structural reform, proactive communication, and public participation to build trust with constituents.

**(C) Yes/No Policy Questions**

1. Do you oppose the expansion of charter schools? **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**
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? **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**
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.)*