



2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Name: John Stefanini

Office Sought: Framingham District 8 Councilor

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(A) Your Candidacy

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

- a. Addressing the inequity in elementary education by constructing a new southside elementary school with universal early childhood education for all 4-year olds;
- b. Creating environmental justice by properly capping the long-overdue and DEP mandated cleanup of the Mt. Wayte Landfill; and,
- c. Establishing genuine transparency and strategic planning to enable all residents to participate in municipal decisionmaking.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

I am an active and engaged member of my community with the energy, knowledge, networks, and ability to fully engage and impact our decision-making process.

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

I authored Framingham's comprehensive transparency ordinance, welcoming ordinance, and sustainability directive; I would like to see all three fully implemented.

(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?**

Framingham needs to empower its new Economic Development Committee to become competitive with Marlboro, Natick and Waltham. If we do so, we should reasonably be able to double or triple our annual new growth.

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

Immediately expand universal early childhood education to ensure that all children have the same opportunities in life and construct a new southside elementary school.

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

We need to fully implement the welcoming ordinance and be present each and every day for our neighbors.

- 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?**

It starts with a strategic plan. Convene all major players and get it done. Look a Greenfield as a model. Two, create and hire a cabinet level sustainability officer. Three, advance stalled climate ready projects, such as solar roof installations, universal curbside composting, and electrification of municipal fleet.

- 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 proposed the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Trails Committee so all interested parties could develop just such a plan. We need to invest in their work.

- 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?**

Keeping Framingham affordable is critical to maintaining the diverse fabric of our community that we so cherish. It requires constant vigilance and application to budgets and policies to be maintained.

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

Poor. The Council, after two years of debate, did not have a single vote on a single proposal. The Mayor submitted a 2015 Town Meeting zone for compliance. We completely missed this opportunity.

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

We need to work with the leaders of our Commonwealth to resist unlawful acts through legal channels.

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

In all of my previous public roles and in this one if I am fortunate to be elected, I will be open, transparent, and accessible to my 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? **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? **NO**

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.)

Please take a moment to review my website to learn about my political, policy and professional activities to advance progressive values: www.JohnStefanini.org