



2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Kenneth Weiss

Office Sought: Framingham City council District 3

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(A) Your Candidacy

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

- a. No to rezoning: Stop overdevelopment that threatens our green spaces and quality of life. High-density housing projects in places like Nobscot put unsustainable pressure on our roads, schools, and infrastructure.
- b. Protect Our Environment: Expand municipal solar, strengthen composting and recycling programs, and preserve open space and farmland.
- c. Affordable, Equitable Housing: Support mixed-income developments with sliding-scale rents to make Framingham livable for everyone.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

- a. 2013 elected as town meeting member representing my precinct
- b. Spearheaded Framingham's plastic bag ban (2016)
- c. Championed fossil fuel divestment legislation (2013)
- d. Active volunteer with Keep Framingham Beautiful and Energize Framingham
- e. Senior Engineering Manager with real-world leadership experience

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

- a. I would like to create equitable housing opportunities in all the new apartment buildings as part of the permitting process.

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/housing/inclusionaryhousing>

(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 must be creative in raising revenue while respecting residents' financial limits. We can pursue state and federal grants more aggressively, especially for infrastructure, climate resilience, and education. We should explore partnerships with local businesses and institutions, ensuring they contribute fairly to city services. I also believe in smart development near transit hubs that grows the tax base without overburdening schools and infrastructure. Most importantly, we should ensure fiscal responsibility—making sure every dollar is used effectively for residents.

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

Every child deserves the chance to thrive. My top priorities are:

- Ensuring schools are equitably funded so that resources reach students who need them most.
- Reducing class sizes and supporting teachers with the tools and training they need.
- Expanding after-school and enrichment programs so students have safe, constructive opportunities outside the classroom.
- Building stronger partnerships between schools, families, and the community to support the whole child.

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

Framingham should continue to be a welcoming city where families feel safe accessing city services without fear. We must ensure local resources are not used to aid ICE enforcement. Community policing should focus on building trust, not intimidation. I also support expanding language access in city

government, legal aid partnerships, and outreach programs so immigrant families can participate fully in civic life.

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. **Expand renewable energy**—more solar on public buildings, and incentives for residents and businesses to adopt clean energy.

2. **Build green infrastructure**—invest in tree planting, stormwater management, and cooling solutions to prepare for extreme weather.

3. **Reduce emissions through better transit and housing policy**—encourage walkable, transit-connected neighborhoods and energy-efficient homes.

Equity must be central: low-income and historically marginalized neighborhoods often feel the greatest impact of climate change. Our investments must prioritize those areas first, ensuring no community is left behind.

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?

We should expand safe sidewalks, bike lanes, and crosswalks, especially near schools and transit stops. Framingham needs better bus frequency and reliability, and I support regional collaboration to make the commuter rail more affordable and accessible. Transit-oriented development should be prioritized near train stations, not in car-dependent parts of the city. These steps will reduce traffic, improve safety, and cut emissions.

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?

We must protect and expand affordable housing options—both for young families and seniors on fixed incomes. This means supporting accessory dwelling units (ADUs), preserving existing affordable housing, and ensuring that new development includes truly affordable units. I will also push for stronger tenant protections, energy efficiency programs that lower utility bills, and investments in senior services that allow residents to age in place.

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

Framingham has made progress, but rezoning must be done thoughtfully.

Development should be concentrated near train stations and transit corridors where it makes sense, not in neighborhoods already stressed by traffic and limited infrastructure. We need to balance the state mandate with local priorities—protecting green space and neighborhood character while still meeting our housing obligations.

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

We must stand up firmly for our community's values. I would work with fellow local leaders to ensure no federal rollbacks threaten our residents' rights, whether on healthcare, education, immigration, or climate policy. At the same time, we need to be strategic in protecting funding streams by leveraging state partnerships and seeking federal grants that align with our priorities.

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

I will hold regular open office hours and maintain a clear, accessible channel for residents to reach me. I will push for city government to publish more data—on budgets, development, and environmental impact—so residents can see how decisions are made. I also pledge to keep my campaign grassroots and not accept donations, so residents know my decisions are for the community, not special interests.

(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? **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.)