



2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

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(A) Your Candidacy

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

- A. Truly Affordable Housing/Cost of Living
- B. Good Schools/Public Health & Safety,
- C. Seniors/Quality of life

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

I have been a Master's Licensed clinical social worker for over 30 years practicing right here in Worcester and I have spent the past decade working as a Worcester City Councilor.

I am currently serving my first term as Vice Chairman of the Council and my fifth two-year term as Councilor-at-Large.

As a Social Worker I have proudly been conferred and earned the following;
Honorary
Doctorate of Law- LL.D, M.S.W., and L.C.S.W.

I am a first generation American born in Massachusetts to Leon and Glore King, who emigrated from the island of Bermuda. I have been a licensed social worker for the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families

approaching thirty years. I have worked tirelessly to protect, support and empower children and their families throughout the Worcester Area. I also humbly serve as Regional Vice President of SEIU Local 509's DCF Chapter.

I am a former member of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) where I formerly served as a Board Member for Central Massachusetts. I was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws conferred by Wheaton College in 2020, for advocacy for the empowerment of Worcester's children, youth and families, with particular consideration for LGBTQ children.

In 2016, I became the first African American man to serve as an elected official since 1936 and the first African American man to ever be elected city-wide. I am proud to have cofounded Black Families Together, a Worcester organization that addresses systematic racism. I am also a founding member of the Black and Latino Municipal Caucus, a collection of local electeds who are strategizing about how to build a coalition with the intention of generating and expending political impact/influence state wide.

I am an alum of both Holy Name and St. Peter-Marian high schools, a graduate from Wheaton College with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Psychology, and later earning my Masters of Social Work from Simmons College, along with a Masters of Public Administration certification (MPA)-in Public Management and Leadership from the Moakley Center for Public Management at Suffolk University.

I am married to Tatiana King M.S.W. / L.I.C.S.W. and has three beautiful daughters: Jailyn, Alexandra and Leiyani. My eldest daughter Jailyn is also a M.S.W. / L.C.S.W. clinician. The King family is a family of social workers in the City of Worcester.

These qualifications uniquely qualify me to lead the City of Worcester. Particularly. As we find our values, our values, our budgets, and our very beings under attack by the federal government my aforementioned leadership skills will help Worcester navigate in the political landscape.

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

I welcome working with the Massachusetts State Attorney General on a consent decree similar to the one achieved in Chicago where mandated reforms were formally reviewed and overseen via independent monitoring.

This has become necessary as the Trump administration has apparently detoured the DOJ in this matter.

As previously indicated I support rent stabilization by home rule petition. Including additional tenant rights in rent stabilized home such as rent freezing in NYC's Senior Rent Exemption and NYC's Disability Rent Exemptions.

(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?**

I support Massachusetts Corporate Fair share as I similarly supported the Millionaires tax.

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

Making sure our students are supported and have access to social workers for emotional needs, and in/after school programs and summer programs to keep students engaged. Additionally seeking to improve the health and infrastructure of Worcester Public Schools as a means to ensure school settings and environments are conducive to learning.

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

I have reached out to the Congressional Delegation for support and have stood in the face of unconstitutional ice rids that stripped citizens and bystanders of their constitutional rights. As Mayor I would ensure that the city is not complicit in assisting ICE's terror tactics. One additional thing we can do is to take efforts to ensure and pre-empt any attempt to initiate 287g and precluding any municipal agreement with regard to immigration matters.

- 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?**

Mitigation of heat islands in what were once red lined neighborhoods as a means to ensure equity in climate resilience, decarbonizing buildings, and investing in green infrastructure.

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?

Expansion of micro mobility options and supporting the permanent implementation of fare free transit, while expanding service and ensuring its reliability.

I have also introduced the following three measures as means to make Worcester safer and navigable:

A. Introduction of Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons, enhanced lighting, and improved pairing crosswalks.

B. Establishment of Pedestrian Focused Overlay Zones which changes traffic patterns in a way which focuses on pedestrian and vulnerable road users. While concurrently planning for street connectivity minimums in collaborations with Mass DOT when necessary.

C. Introduction of a Mid Block Crossing programming.

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?

To keep housing prices for our seniors low though lowering property taxes. I have led on lowering rents, and will continue to do so. I also support efforts to legislate rent stabilization.

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

N/A

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

As Mayor I would join other municipalities like Boston in pursuing litigation against the federal government to respond to and preempt such actions.

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

I would begin by ensuring that the DOJ investigation into the Worcester

Police Department is formally responded to in lieu of a consent decree through the office of the Attorney General. Further, I would support participatory budgeting with respect to both the school and city budgets.

(C) Yes/No Policy Questions

1. Do you oppose the expansion of charter schools? **YES/ 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/ NO**
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/ NO**
4. Do you support fare-free public transit? **YES / NO**
5. Do you support the expansion of the network of permanent, protected bike lanes in your city? **YES / 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 / NO**
7. Would you support a home rule petition to enable the city to stabilize rents? **YES / 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 / NO**

(D) Additional Comments

(Use this space to make any final comments you deem important for progressive voters assessing your candidacy.)

Additionally, over the past decade I have supported progressive measures statewide from being a signator on the Paid Family Leave Legislation, when the coalition was in

pursuit of a liveable wage I was arrested alongside Senator Eldridge and others in the attempt to secure increases in the state's minimum wage.

I have worked closely from a municipal level in the support of the Millionaire's tax along with other climate and otherwise related actions. I've led on accessory dwelling units, inclusionary zoning, police reform and accountability, LGBTQ plus policy and affairs by filing legislation creating the city first LGBTQ plus commission and its fits commission on Black affairs as well; these commission encourage promote and monitor city practices and policies to ensure that said communities enjoy equal protection of the law, equal access to all public services, and the full enjoyment and exercise of their civil rights. I stand in opposition to the criminalization of the homeless. I will continue to work towards ensuring reproductive justice via rights and gender affirming care by advocacy and by legislation.