



2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

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(A) Your Candidacy

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

- Making Somerville affordable through rent stabilization, tenant protections, incentivization of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and other new housing, utility bill support, and increased transportation options.
- Supporting our kids by funding out-of-school time, teen spaces, and equity-based sports programming, and making sure parent and student voices are heard in school infrastructure decisions.
- Safeguarding Somerville residents from identity-based discrimination and federal status targeting, and protecting reproductive choice, bodily autonomy, and gender affirming care.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

As City Councilor, at-Large for three terms, my work has been focused on making residents' lives easier and safer. My top priority has been, and will continue to be, ensuring that resident's voices are heard.

I have a proven track record of responsive constituent services and advocacy. I have pushed for more affordable housing initiatives, tenant protections, and resident displacement prevention. I have introduced solutions to lower utility bills and property taxes, and to expand transportation access. I'm always

advocating for reproductive freedom and bodily autonomy. I have pushed for more climate change initiatives to improve our air quality and green spaces. I also hold firm that Somerville residents - pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers - deserve safe and accessible streets.

I understand the challenges of navigating a complex system and the need to make life in Somerville more affordable. I'm a single mom of two kids in the Somerville Public Schools. My family qualifies for, and lives in, subsidized housing. I envision Somerville as a place where you can thrive no matter your age or background.

I serve on the Legislative Matters Committee, and I chair the Housing and Community Development Committee and the Equity Committee.

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

In order to address the housing crisis, I'd like to expand and incentivize Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) production.

I would also like to double the stock of units for purchase for low income first time homeowners, and first generational homeowners in Somerville.

(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?

In lieu of being limited by taxing power, I think considering more public/private partnerships could be effective, if done correctly. For instance, we could get creative with public transportation and Community Benefit Agreements.

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

As a mom with two kids in the Somerville Public Schools, making sure there are no cuts in education is a top priority. I'm specifically concerned about making sure that funding for special education, support, and counseling services is stable and well funded.

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

I will continue to fight to safeguard Somerville residents from federal status targeting and identity-based targeting. I will continue to advocate for funding for our Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA), which has been on the ground for our residents. We must also continue to nurture our ongoing relationships with our community partners, as well, who we work side-by-side with.

Additionally, I have been actively engaged in protecting my constituents and ensuring that we are getting the information out including the “Know Your Rights” trainings, and staying current and proactive on recent presences of ICE within Somerville. I am listening closely to what my constituents tell me.

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?

Air quality along I-93 in Wards 1 and 4 is terrible and affects some of our lowest income residents who live along this part of the city. It is very much an environmental justice issue. Residents along this corridor have a higher rate of heart disease and asthma.

Massachusetts has not yet released the funding to put up sound barriers on this stretch of Somerville, but these barriers would help shield residents from PCBs. As a Councilor, I was proud to co-sponsor an Order exploring an ordinance requiring a CBA for developers to help fund the sound barriers. At the moment, that is one of the most viable actions towards improving air quality. This is a climate change, public health, transportation, and racial justice issue that must be addressed.

We can also retrofit and modernize subsidized housing units to make them more climate-forward, warmer, and equipped with cleaner energy appliances.

Replacing asphalt spread with permeable pavers which are designed to allow rainwater to drain through the surface and into the ground, reducing runoff, flooding, and replenishing groundwater is another change we must pursue in environmental justice regions.

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 want to encourage people to take many alternate paths to get to their destinations, to reduce the overall vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Multimodal

transportation is important. While it is of the utmost priority to reduce vehicular traffic, we cannot ignore the infrastructure improvements that have yet to be made.

As our city's roadmap, SomerVision, states, "if we can make walking, biking and public transportation reliable, convenient and pleasant, we can reduce vehicular transportation, improve the health of our residents and improve the environment." I completely agree. We must also plan our street design with the infrastructure we have in mind.

The SomerVision 2040 report acknowledges challenges and particularly equity challenges that we must transcend. For instance, the report states the backlog of ADA modernization was \$75 million (adopted 2021 version). I would like to get a current 2025 update of where the \$75 million ADA backlog stands and I would like updated progress on this.

Our community path is fabulous and it encourages Somerville residents to use it instead of relying on vehicles. It delights me that it is used by so many people. Still, there are some safety gaps where the path meets street intersections and we have to prioritize fixing them immediately. Central Street and the community path, for instance, and the infamous bend at the community path and School Street. I see fellow cyclists struggle to clear it constantly - we need to correct those crossings immediately.

Additionally, as recommended by SomerVision, I wish for barriers between motor vehicles and cyclists to be made of sturdy materials, and I will continue to prioritize this. Pedestrian, cyclist and motor vehicle safety measures will increase the safety for all residents, and may encourage use of cycling to work.

Addressing safe routes to school will reduce the reliance on cars to get to school, and this should be prioritized. I have continuously focused on this. Achieving a safe number of regular crossing guards at intersections should be part of this safety plan, and it's something I've advocated for. In addition, I advocated for an increase to their pay and flexible possibilities for scheduling, which was successful.

As a city we can and should strive to achieve the goals of SomerVision 2040, while being mindful that there are infrastructure and equity considerations that also have to be addressed.

Currently, I have been exploring what public transportation tools we have at a municipal level, and I'm optimistic on what is possible outside of the MBTA, including enacting Community Benefit Agreements. In this term, I was able to confirm after quite a bit of research, that Somerville residents can ride any Tufts shuttle buses for free alongside the students (and should). I have been spreading the word to inform the community, and I encourage all Somerville residents and employees to utilize the Tufts shuttle buses.

And, we can go further. I advocated throughout the Somernova negotiation process that all Somerville residents be able to ride any employee shuttle bus that the Somernova project implemented, any time it is in motion. This was confirmed in the June 26, 2025 City Council meeting.

Foreseeing into the years ahead, I am also committed to working for ongoing permission for any Somerville resident to freely ride other employee shuttle buses servicing our community (and region) like Boynton Yards, MGB employee shuttle bus, Encore Casino (including the boat rides, for free; not just one way), CHA, Harvard and other large non-profit and corporate institution shuttle buses. In my vision, this ridership privilege could and should be negotiated into all CBAs and Neighboring Community Benefit Agreements.

I also think Somerville should negotiate into future CBAs free transportation services that the developer provides, such as one or two small 8-seater electric vehicles (such as Circuit shuttles which currently service communities such as Plymouth, Boston and Stoneham). These vehicles could run continuously east/west, north/south into the city (maybe Monday through Friday) and any Somerville resident could utilize them or we as a community could set the limitations. We could and should negotiate that into future CBAs. This is one way we could create our own municipal busing system outside of the MBTA and entice people out of car usage.

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?

I will continue the work to ensure that residents can thrive in Somerville and stay in their community. From young families, to students, to seniors.

- Accessible and expanded transit options (CBAs), etc. Safe and accessible streets.
- Rent stabilization and other cost lowering measures for utility bills and taxes.
- Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).
- Listening to our senior population and including them in our decision making, to ensure that aging in place is possible.

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

I'm proud to say that Somerville had already exceeded the requirements set forth by the MBTA Communities Act when it was initially passed. We'll continue pursuing the objective of expanding housing with access to public transit.

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

The city of Somerville is currently suing the Trump administration, which I support. Also noncompliance with ICE and intimidation tactics the Trump administration is trying to enact. To protect critical services and funding for residents, I am advocating for getting creative with funding streams and pursuing resources from a variety of sources.

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

I have always made it a priority to be accessible to all Somerville residents. It's an honor when someone entrusts their personal experiences to you. Trust is earned by listening to Somerville residents when they share their thoughts and concerns, and following through. Accountability starts with listening, and continuing to fight for constituents. These interactions put a face to the issue that needs solving, and will help guide and shape your decisions.

(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?

I'm willing to discuss this issue further and gather more information from your perspective. In my experience with talking with constituents and our service-based providers, a majority want their programs included in the police departments, even as civilians. The reasons, they tell me, is because sometimes mental health and behavior crisis calls sometimes turn violent fast.

Yes, I would like to expand the budget of the BEST team and Riverside, so they could expand. I would definitely call for more funding to support them. However, we must also recognize that sometimes a simple mental health or behavioral health crisis can turn violent fast.

I have spent a lot of years working to prevent domestic violence through awareness campaigns and advocacy.

That does not mean that we must always have armed officers, per se. But it does mean that seemingly benign calls turn violent on the responders quick.

Sometimes, a simple noise complaint may actually be a volatile domestic violence situation where children are present.

I have not yet heard a solution to address this point, to date.

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.)

I'm committed to progressive values and a progressive vision for Somerville and across the Commonwealth. I'd love to continue working alongside you.