



## 2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Kyle Davis

Office Sought: Salem City Councilor At Large

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### (A) Your Candidacy

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

Housing Affordability

Worker's Rights

Bold Climate Action

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

My first term has been an incredible learning experience serving on three committees and going through the process of ideas becoming laws. Before my time on the council, I was a community organizer fighting for Medicare For All. I believe that my lived experience as the only renter on the council and as a waiter and Uber driver provides me with a unique and crucial perspective.

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

The Boston City Council has passed a Living Wage Ordinance which I am working to pass in Salem as well. We have over 100 city employees earning under \$19 an hour, a wage no one can afford to live in Salem on.

### (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'm supportive of the mayor's efforts to urge the state to allow us to implement a local sales tax. To see millions of tourists visit Salem annually and not be able to capture much-needed revenue from that for our schools and infrastructure is a shame. I'd also like to see us raise the cost of parking in the Halloween season to both increase revenue and discourage travel by car to our city.

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

We need to evolve in our understanding of what the most crucial positions are in our schools. When we had to lay off a few dozen of our school staff recently, I was frustrated that administrators seemed to be deemed more valuable than aids and counselors. Language justice is also of the utmost importance in a diverse city like Salem and we need to continue to attract bilingual educators. I'd also like for us to expand our early-learning program.

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

I commend the city for providing "Know Your Rights," materials to our immigrant families. I've also organized trainings on the matter. In the next council, I plan to introduce an ordinance to make Salem a full-fledged sanctuary city.

**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. As an environmental justice community, we are absolutely at risk of flooding. While the Salem Willows area has been very effective at vocally demanding a better sea wall (and they deserve one,) it is equally important to improve our climate resiliency in neighborhoods like El Punto as well which is less organized due to language barriers.
2. Moving our city away from car dependency is critical in this fight. We need streets that are safe for all modes of transportation, improved public transit, and zoning changes to allow small businesses in every

neighborhood to increase walkability. Not only will this lower our carbon emissions but will bring us closer to economic justice.

3. We've been planting trees but we need to increase our efforts and again, not let the most vocal and wealthy neighborhoods receive all of our attention.

**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 spoke to this a bit already but there is no reason for us to be making it illegal for grocery stores, coffee shops, childcare centers etc to coexist with neighborhoods. We also need to do a better job protecting the ones that do from funding cut attacks from the federal administration, leaving us with food deserts. Sidewalk connectivity, particularly around school zones is a top priority for me as well. Our bike infrastructure has certainly improved but not our bike parking.

**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'm introducing an ordinance to allow for multi-family housing city-wide by-right. Currently, only 13% of the city allows for multi-family housing which is incredibly detrimental to our goal of right-sizing our housing supply. I will continue to be vocal in demanding a higher affordability percentage in new construction, the creation of a Neighborhood Stability office (we currently have 1 employee working as the neighborhood stability coordinator,) a Right To Counsel for Tenants and a Just Cause ordinance for evictions.

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

We were the first community to comply!

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

I was proud to support the Trans and Non-Binary Sanctuary City Resolution and am introducing a resolution that criticizes this overreach and calls on our congressional delegation to stand up for democracy and the services our

residents depend on. In the meantime I'm supportive of the mayor's creative efforts to fill in funding gaps.

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

I've been big on inviting residents to council meetings through my newsletter and social media and directing them to our agenda, minutes and recordings as well as recapping major legislation. I pride myself on being incredibly responsive to residents that reach out with questions/ concerns.

### (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? **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? **We already have**
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? **We already have submitted one, which I voted for**
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.)*