



2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Laurie Sawyer

Office Sought: City Council, At Large

Website: www.laurie4attleboro.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/laurie4attleboro

Twitter:

BlueSky:

Instagram: [laurie4attleboro](https://www.instagram.com/laurie4attleboro)

(A) Your Candidacy

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

- a. Truly affordable, high quality housing
- b. Keep Attleboro welcoming and affordable for everyone including our seniors, low income, and minority populations
- c. Protect our natural resources including green open space, clean water, and trees using sustainable policies for development and preservation

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

- a. I am a manager at Hasbro Children's so I know how to work with people
- b. I am a college graduate, homeowner, parent so I can relate to many of the struggles that Attleboro's residents have.
- c. I care about what is best for the residents and I want to help

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

- a. While it would take a lot of work, I would love to see Attleboro adopt a Sustainable Action Plan such as what Lexington, MA has done at this link:
<https://www.lexingtontmma.org/uploads/Main/LexingtonSustainablePlan.pdf>

(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?

- a. Provide incentives to reinvigorate the businesses throughout the city
- b. Redevelopment of buildings in disrepair into needed resources such as housing
- c. Reinvigorate the Arts scene - The Union Theatre is already being redeveloped but we need more, such as an outdoor stage for music, and leveraging our New England Sports complex to bring in area teams and broadcasting them on TV
- d. Hold more cultural and historical events in our parks
- e. Hold events that reinvigorate our local Zoo to bring more people in to the city

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

- a. Keep our strong, zero tolerance anti-bully policy
- b. Adequately staffed and funded schools
- c. Mental health services for every school

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

- a. Formalize "safe access" to city facilities - posting clear signage to ensure everyone can use schools, libraries, clinics, and shelters regardless of status; set a protocol if federal agents appear at city facilities, require warrants and direct them to legal representation.

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?

- a. Expand the Wetland Protection zone to at least 50'
- b. Plant Pocket Forests which are dense forests in urban spaces which improve air and water quality by reducing runoff and absorbing pollutants and create cooling and shade

- c. Leverage our Tree City USA designation by planting trees in needed areas, place prominent signage and hold educational events around tree protection.

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?

- a. Create an affordable city shuttle that runs on a frequent schedule for residents to go from one end of the city to the other or to shopping centers or parks, etc
- b. Create bike trails or maps with signage for bikers to get to their locations. If you want someone to go from South Attleboro to the city center, there should be safe roadways with lighting
- c. Ensure sidewalks, parks and entryways are ADA compliant for walkers and those who need to use mobility aids and create longer walk lights at crosswalks.

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?

- a. Expand affordable housing options
- b. Protect renters and stabilize costs from apartment buildings to mobile home parks
- c. Enable aging in place - make it accessible to retrofit homes so they are safer for older residents, have a lively Senior Center which can also be used for the public in the evenings

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

- a. We have created the required rezoned areas near the MBTA for housing in order to obtain state grants and to create more housing

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

- a. City leaders must walk a careful line as we can see what the federal administration will do - even if illegal - if states and cities go against his will.

- b. We should show our local authority, defend our constitutional rights, and ensure residents don't suffer due to political conflicts

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

- a. I was elected to this role in 2024 and I am accessible by phone or email to answer any questions about how or why I voted on any topic. I listen to both sides of all issues to decide what is the best for the residents and the city.

(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? **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

I believe that because I can relate to homeowners, taxpayers, parents, and nearly all residents in the city, including the marginalized community, as a member of the LGBTQ community, I can vote on city business with empathy and inclusion.