



2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Mark Vital

Office Sought: Ward 1 City Councilor

Website: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mark-vital-7598143a/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100092732820261>

Twitter:

BlueSky:

Instagram:

(A) Your Candidacy

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

1. Create the city's strategic plan.
2. Provide initiatives that give dignity to the homeless.
3. Explore all the federal affordable housing programs, especially for seniors.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

1. Born and bred here in Marlborough, so I have first hand knowledge of the city's history.
2. Work experience in human resource executive positions, and leadership positions in both education non-profits.
3. Three advanced degrees
4. A great passion to serve the people of Marlborough.

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

A master plan that includes a mission and vision statement, values, goals, and objectives

(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 believe there are many opportunities to establish partnerships with foundations, governmental agencies, and private corporations. I would not suggest any other fees or taxes to burden our residents.

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

1. More public engagement, particularly with the Brazilian and Hispanic communities.
2. Look at a school calendar that is best for the students and families.
3. Explore merit pay initiatives that reward top teachers

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

Create partnerships with local and state police and ICE, so that procedures can be created that ensure safety and dignity for all involved.

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. Continue to purchase electric vehicles for city departments when it makes sense.
2. Place solar panels above the parking lots at the high school and middle schools.
3. Partner with other communities in the exploration of using food waste in bio fuel production.

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?

1. Marketing campaign that highlights the community busing program we already have now in the city.
2. Purchase property near the Route 495 entrance as a parking lot to be used for commuters sharing rides.
3. Create bus lanes on roads that allow the space to do so with safety in mind.

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?

This might be the most difficult problem to address. We have many developers, however, their low-cost apartments/condos that they have are still too expensive for most people.

1. I would partner with both state (EOHLC) and federal organizations (HUD) to see if they would be willing to fund low-cost housing.

2. I would create large and creative tax incentives for developers who would build low-cost housing.

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

Our city has already met. The standard is expected for MBTA communities. However, there are two additional housing projects that are new and would meet the standard as well.

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

It is time to stop the politics! I would proactively work with all levels of government to ensure the best and safest community is Marlborough.

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

Beyond the community videos of our committees in the city council, I will continue to have a quarterly newsletter and an updated Facebook group.

(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? **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? **NO**
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? **NO**
7. Would you support a home rule petition to enable the city to stabilize rents? **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? **NO**

(D) Additional Comments

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

Marlborough is a great city to be employed, have fun with family and friends, and to live. I am extremely proud to be the Ward 1 Councilor and I will do my very best to represent my constituents.