



2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Nicole McClain
Office Sought: Councilor At Large
Website: www.nicoleforlynn.com
Facebook: @nforlynn
Twitter: none
BlueSky: none
Instagram: @councilwomanmcclain

(A) Your Candidacy

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

Co-governance: Lynn's strength is its people. I want to work more closely with community organization and residents to make better informed decisions

Youth & Young Adults: The City of Lynn does not have an office that specifically services our youth. We need to keep our young people engaged and make sure we are providing them with resources and pathways to positive growth.

Small Business Support: I have talked to many business owners in Lynn, some of them are ready to move out of the city. I would like to focus on ways to better support our small business owners by providing classes, better access to resources, and technical supports.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

Before holding office I founded a nonprofit that is still in existence today. I have been a business owner in the City of Lynn, I have experience leading a team through my time as an Army National Guard Sergeant and the previous positions mentioned. I was also born and raised in the City of Lynn.

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

Salem has the Salem Skipper, I would love to see an alternative transportation method implemented First in Lynn.

(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?

Lynn has businesses opening all the time. Continuing to bring new businesses to our community is a way to raise revenue through businesses taxes. I also support pursuing state and federal grants more aggressively—especially in areas like public health, housing, and infrastructure—so we can fund vital services while protecting local taxpayers.

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

Building a relationship with School Committee members is extremely important to tackle the issue of quality public education as a team. I have built a great working relationship during my first term and will continue to give voice the need for:

- Expanding after-school and enrichment programs, especially in underserved neighborhoods
- Supporting culturally responsive curriculum and trauma-informed practices
- More mental health and family support services within schools

We must also work to improve facilities, close the digital divide, and strengthen partnerships between schools and local employers to support career pathways.

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

The City Council of Lynn has displayed its loyalty to the residents by issuing an official public letter stating that we all are against the ICE Raids. I believe in investing in community-based alternatives to policing that make all

residents—regardless of immigration status—feel safe. That includes funding for language access, legal support services, and community health outreach.

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?**

Green infrastructure: Invest in tree planting, permeable surfaces, and coastal protection to guard against flooding and heat islands—prioritizing low-income neighborhoods first.

Affordable energy: Support solar incentives and weatherization programs that lower utility costs for renters and seniors.

Sustainable development: Incorporate climate resilience into zoning and development, especially near flood zones.

Equity must guide our climate response. That means involving frontline communities in planning, prioritizing funding for vulnerable residents, and avoiding green displacement.

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 have been in contact with my state delegation to improve MBTA service in my community, better bus frequency and safer bus shelters. I am researching alternative, low cost ways for residents to get around the city, such as Salem has with the Skipper, and I am also in favor of the complete streets initiative.

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 support And have advocated for:

- Expanding affordable and workforce housing options through inclusionary zoning
- Protecting renters from displacement through tenant protections and legal assistance
- Increasing housing for seniors and multigenerational households
- Supporting homeownership programs for first-time buyers and residents of color

Affordability also means access to quality schools, transit, childcare, and healthcare, which I will continue to prioritize across policies.

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

The Lynn City Council did vote in favor of adopting a comprehensive zoning overhaul that brings Lynn into compliance with the MBTA Communities Act. We are going in the right direction with our efforts.

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

I would work closely with legal advocacy groups, state lawmakers, and neighboring cities to coordinate resistance efforts while protecting federal funding. We can be proactive by investing in strong local safety nets and community-led solutions.

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

I'll listen to residents, show my work, and be accountable not just at election time—but every day I serve.

(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.)