



2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Nilson Rosario

Office Sought: City Council At-Large in Lawrence Ma.

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(A) Your Candidacy

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

If elected my top three priorities are listed in my mission statement. Promote growth for everyone, support our youth, and ensure every resident's opinion is heard.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

I am a longtime resident of Lawrence, I have been involved in local government since my high school days by advocating, helping others, educating, as a former radio host on Power800 I have followed and promoted many campaigns, held leadership positions in the city as an administrator and football coach for LPS, and I have degree in Community Engagement from Merrimack College.

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

One thing I see that I really like is the Plan E form of Government that Lowell has. I could see Lawrence benefiting from a forum of government like Lowell's.

(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?**

The growth in Lawrence is tremendous right now, many investors are looking to invest in Lawrence. Such as hall of famer David Ortiz, all our surrounding cities currently have cannabis dispensaries and Lawrence does not. If we could come to agreements to accept the booming cannabis business in Lawrence we could make a lot of money in taxes without having to raise taxes on our residents.

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

Transparency in the three appointed School Committee members. We must put politics aside and appoint people who truly meet all requirements and that are capable of representing our students, families, and community in the right way.

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

Educate! We must educate our residents on what is legal vs illegal.

- 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?**

As a Dean of students I am big on positive reinforcements instead of consequences and punishments. Let's reward the residents who do the right thing such as recycle, clean, and who follow quality of life ordinances. Almost like car insurance the longer you drive safely the less your rate is.

- 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?**

Use social media to our advantage by creating reels and posts on public transportation. A big part of city living is public transportation and that is a weakness we are currently facing that could use a lot of attention.

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?

We have to give opportunities for everyone to have growth. With the current rent prices most residents could afford a mortgage. Let's educate our residents by bringing resources to have more home owners than renters. Also enforce our policy where X amount of apartments must be income based apartments for all new and current buildings in Lawrence.

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

Most of the time I get dropped off to not pay for parking.

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

We must budget correctly, look into details heavily and save as much as possible for a rainy day.

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

By creating the TPC (The Peoples Council). The TPC will be an extension of public participation held once a month where residents meet in a safe space to elaborate and discuss important issues and upcoming decisions for longer than 2.5 minutes. We must all be on the same page by learning to agree to disagree and understanding different points of thinkers. This could also help elected officials understand their constituents more.

(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

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