



2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

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(A) Your Candidacy

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

Over the next two years, I'll focus my time on (1) implementing a real revenue plan to fund our city budget and build a new Medford High School, (2) passing policies to make housing more affordable and create more vibrant business districts, and (3) creating a more inclusive, accessible and democratic city government.

1. Implement a Real Revenue Plan to Fully Fund Our Schools and City Services, Fix Our Streets, and Build a New Medford High School

Two years ago, I promised to [pass the city's first-ever Budget Ordinance](#), establish the Financial Task Force to deliver major investments in our public schools and city services, and take urgent action to raise revenue. I'm so proud to say that we accomplished each of those goals and our city and schools are better off because of our successful efforts.

But I know we're all still fed up with broken streets and sidewalks, understaffed city services, and a beautiful Medford Public Library that doesn't have the funding or staffing to stay open on Sundays.

While the 2024 overrides stopped the bleeding of budget cuts and allowed for significant investments in our schools, Medford must enact and implement a

real plan to raise revenue through smart and transformative new growth and development. That's the work this Council has been focused on this term.

Now is the time for us to come together and move forward collaboratively to make the big decisions to fully fund the city budget and build a better future for Medford and all of its residents.

Over the next two years, I look forward to:

- Bringing together the city's development planning and revenue planning processes to ensure that the city raises the revenue necessary to provide basic services through new growth of our commercial and mixed-use tax base
- Demanding clear plans and timelines from the Mayor and City Administration for when and how we will fix our streets, update our water and sewer lines, and restore our public buildings by using the transparent budget process created by the new Budget Ordinance
- Working with residents, families, the Mayor as part of the Financial Task Force, and the Medford High School Building Committee to outline a plan to fund the construction of a new Medford High School with significant state funds from the Massachusetts School Building Authority

2. Pass Policies to Address the Housing Crisis and Revitalize Our Business Districts

My top reason for running for City Council in 2019 was housing affordability and preventing displacement. Six years later, I still haven't found a way to buy a home in the city I love, and I've seen even more friends and neighbors forced to leave the city they love because of skyrocketing housing costs. **We need to make sure Medford stays affordable for people who want to stay here, and is affordable enough to welcome in new neighbors.**

Updated zoning provisions and city ordinances we passed over the past two terms are starting to help, but we need to continue our work towards the goal of providing housing for all.

Over the next two years, I look forward to:

- Passing updates to the Zoning Ordinance to build more housing that fits our residential neighborhoods and revitalize our squares and

business districts through expanded mixed-use and commercial development

- Climate-focused city planning (including passing the new Green Building Code) and making streets, sidewalks, and open spaces more walkable, bikeable, and accessible for people using all forms of mobility devices
- Encouraging smart economic development that brings in new commercial and mixed-use projects on vacant or underutilized land in the city

3. More Inclusive, Accessible, and Democratic City Government

Medford needs to dedicate more funding to increase public engagement and collaboration with residents and expand great initiatives like the community liaisons program. Even more importantly, **we need real structural changes to our City Charter, ordinances, and daily practices to make city government more inclusive and more democratic.**

Over the next two years, I look forward to:

- Demanding major updates to our city's digital infrastructure and website so residents can easily access city services and find key information and metrics about our city budget and the performance of our city departments
- Increasing funding for community engagement and outreach to include more residents in the collaborative work of local government
- Advocating for more resources to expand Medford's community liaisons program and support the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Implementing the proposed new city charter if it passes in November and advocate for the passage of meaningful checks and balances that reduce the concentration of power in the Mayor's Office in future charter review processes
- Ensuring that Mayor-appointed city boards and commissions are more representative of the racial and economic diversity of our community

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

I have a strong record of delivering results for Medford residents over my previous three terms on the City Council.

We have accomplished so much together already, and I believe we can do even more if we work together and take action on the great opportunities that lie ahead for Medford.

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

I would like to see cities implement a Budget Ordinance similar to our 2024 ordinance to make the budget process more open and transparent. I also think our approach of developing a comprehensive Governing Agenda that outlines our plans for an entire council term would benefit many communities.

(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?

While we passed Medford's first ever Prop 2.5 overrides in 2024 to fund our schools and DPW, regular overrides are not an ideal option for communities like Medford. I would advocate for changes to state law to make Prop 2.5 reflect the fiscal reality that city's face of costs going up much faster than revenue. I also want to bring together the city's development planning and revenue planning processes to ensure that the city raises the revenue necessary to provide basic services through new growth of our commercial and mixed-use tax base.

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

Thanks to the 2024 Prop 2.5 overrides, we have made historic investments in our public schools and secured the best educator union contracts in city history. My priority over the next term is to work with residents, families, the Mayor to outline a plan to fund the construction of a new Medford High School with significant state funds from the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

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

We passed a Welcoming City Ordinance that codified our existing non-cooperation policy into law. I also believe the City needs to actively share information about ICE activity in Medford with residents so they can be informed and work to protect our immigrant neighbors.

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?

I support creating a net-zero or carbon-neutral requirement for new developers (including City and school projects), expanding solar and renewable energy, phasing out reliance on fossil fuels, promoting green renovations of existing structures, incentivizing residents and landlords to reduce home energy costs, and expanding the Medford Resilience Hubs project.

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?

It's essential that everyone is able to get to where they need and want to go, especially our neighbors without access to a car. I will work to make sure that residents who rely on public transportation have access to basic amenities, like benches to sit on, bus shelters to protect from the weather, and real-time information on when the next train or bus arrives. I have led the effort to pass an updated Snow Removal Ordinance and will work further to maintain sidewalks all year, including snow removal in the winter and fixing or replacing broken sidewalks affected by tree roots and other wear and tear.

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?

Living in Medford should be affordable to everyone. A city-wide affordable housing waitlist will make access easier for tenants, developers, and landlords. New zoning must support subsidized housing through incentives and an Affordable Housing Overlay. City funds, including Community Preservation Act funds, should financially support affordable housing development. We support social housing, ground leases, and land trusts. I support efforts to redevelop public housing properties more densely.

I support rent stabilization that still makes it easy to build new housing, while preventing unreasonable and sudden rent increases that tenants can't plan

for. I would also work to create an Office of Housing Stability to coordinate the efforts of existing city staff and better protect residents. The office will support tenant unions, ensure tenants know their rights, and increase outreach to the most vulnerable residents in the city.

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

Our MBTA Communities Act rezoning efforts were strong, and we are focused on updating our zoning to encourage affordability for residents, hold developers accountable to community needs, and protect our neighbors from displacement.

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

I believe that we need to stand up to bullies and protect our neighbors. That's why I've supported passing the Welcoming City Ordinance, Gender Affirming Care and Reproductive Health Ordinance, and the Values-Aligned Local Investments Ordinance to stand up for our values. Next term, I will work to ensure the Mayor and city administration enforce these ordinances and stand up to federal attacks on our neighbors.

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

I have been incredibly active in expanding transparency and communications between the City Council and residents. In my first and second term, I fought for and secured hybrid meetings during the pandemic, the city's first-ever translation services line-item to translate materials into multiple languages, a redesign of the city website, consistent outreach to local and state media outlets (including significant coverage of the FY23 city budget debacle through [my data analysis and presentations to the community](#)) and provided regular updates to residents on my website, email, and digital outreach.

During the 2024-2025 term, the City Council has further expanded our engagement with residents. The Council initiated a process and published the first ever Governing Agenda to [outline our goals and what we would be working on for the full two-year term](#) – no other City Council in Massachusetts has a more clear and transparent planning document like this. We updated the Committee structure to create clear policy areas and hold dozens more meetings than previous Councils to address substantive issues. In partnership

with my fellow councilors, the Council established and published a monthly newsletter, began streaming all meetings live on YouTube, and set monthly listening sessions in the community to hear from our neighbors.

(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.)