



★ ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE ★

Deadline: September 25TH

Candidate Event: October 15TH, 5:30PM

Solidarity Lowell 2023 City Council Questionnaire

Name: Amada Gregory

Office Sought: District 4 Councilor

Website: <https://amadagregory.poliengine.com/>

Facebook: [Amada Gregory](#)

Twitter: n/a

Instagram: n/a

Section 1: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

1. The city has more work to do in the area of fair, unbiased policing.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

Why or why not? How would you address this issue?

More representation of Minorities in the City Hall and more education of the City Hall staff and City-Officials.

2. The city needs to diversify its hiring practices so that City Hall proportionally represents the ethnic makeup of our city's residents.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree

4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

Why or why not? What are your proposals to address Lowell city hiring practices?

Because even though the City of Lowell is made up of different ethnic groups such as Anglo Americans, Asians, African Americans, Africans, Latins and so on, we see the City Hall representing on its majority, the Anglo American and Asian ethnic groups.

3. Would you support requiring developers in the city to sign community benefit agreements? These might include requirements that their workforce reflect Lowell's diversity, that a certain percentage of their workforce be local hires, and/or that pay be a living wage. (YES/NO)

YES.

4. The city needs to ensure that all marginalized communities are equally protected.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

Why or why not? What proposals do you have for ensuring equal protections for all Lowell residents and visitors?

Safety has no boundaries, therefore, it is our responsibilities to protect equally All Lowell residents and visitors.

5. Systemic racism is a public health crisis in Lowell.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

If so, why and how do you propose to respond to the crisis in Lowell-specific ways? If not, why not?

Educating and Providing Workshops to ALL on what is Systematic racism and together working on (Seniors, Students, Officials, Organizations, etc.)

6. What steps would you take, if elected, to engage all of the diverse communities of Lowell in policy-making, and what past actions of yours should give voters confidence that you will follow through?

I plan to be the voice of the community and the Liaison of the City Hall. Policy-making is very important to all in order to have change for the better, of my beloved Lowell. Firstable I will engage with City Officials in order to gather all their concerns and past proposals for the diverse communities in my district. Simultaneously, I will meet with the people of this community to understand their struggles and educate them on policy-making that can address these. I have been working as an Advocate in the City of Lowell for over 15 years and I believe it is my time to now be part of the change.

Section II: Housing, Labor, and Development

1. Lowell's code enforcement should do more to protect tenants from evictions and/or penalties for previous evictions.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

If so, why and how do you propose to strengthen tenant rights? If not, why not?

Educate both Landlords and tenants.

2. How would you expand affordable housing in Lowell and ensure development without displacement of established communities?

Work with the city on programs that could rehabilitate empty buildings. Working with organizations that provide fundings to prevent tenant's evictions. Provide landlords with MA rental standards and fair practice.

3. How would you address the needs of the unhoused population of Lowell?

Work with the city and organizations in order to find resources and solutions to address the unhoused population. We need to address the issue that caused this population to become unhouse.

4. Do you agree with a Housing First approach? (YES/NO)

NO.

5. Do you agree with the city's unhoused encampment sweeps? (YES/NO)

YES.

6. Would you agree with establishing legal camping areas for those unhoused persons for whom no other accommodations are available? (YES/NO)

YES.

7. How would you ensure there are adequate services for all unhoused persons?

If part of services will address the mental estate of each individual.

8. Would you support a city wage theft ordinance that would set up structures to protect workers from wage theft violations such as failure to make wage payments; failure to abide by minimum wage, prevailing wage and overtime laws; and independent contractor misclassification? (YES/NO)

YES.

9. How would you fill the empty downtown storefronts?

Make funding available to new businesses. Welcome new diverse business.

Section III: Environment and Transportation

1. Would you support programs to subsidize retrofitting the old housing stock in Lowell to be more energy efficient, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce energy costs for residents? (YES/NO)

YES.

2. Climate change is causing more days of extreme heat, flooding, damaging storms, and drought; just to name a few of the impacts. Lowell could do more to prepare for the impacts of climate change.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

What steps would you recommend that the city take to improve its preparedness?

Create awareness of climate change in different languages in order to reach the diverse population of Lowell.

3. In 2018, the Lowell City Council passed a resolution supporting a goal of 100% renewable energy use in Lowell-- including in buildings and transportation-- by 2035. This year, Massachusetts passed a new climate law that requires significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions across our economy by 2030. What steps would you recommend that Lowell take to accomplish these goals?

Continue working together towards that goal. Always educate and inform all the citizens in Lowell of the progress made and what are the needs to be addressed in order to achieve the planned goal.

4. The hours and reach of the LRTA need to be extended.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

Why or why not? If so, what would you recommend in order to reach this goal?

I recommend providing LRTA transportation until a later time the entire week because there are people that work until later time and rely on public transportation, for example restaurant staff, factory workers. In addition, there might be college students taking late evening classes who depend on public transportation.

5. Lowell should prioritize policies that make it easier to get around the city without depending on cars.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

Why or why not? What policy priorities do you support to achieve this goal?

Lowell welcomes a very diverse population, therefore, I support the Title VI Policy. I understand that the mission of this policy is to assure equality, inclusion, and aims to prevent discrimination.

Section IV: City Management/Council Relations

1. Do you agree that too much of our City Council meetings are spent on discussing items that could have been delegated to the City Manager or the appropriate department ahead of the meeting?

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

2. Do you support the five minute speaking time limit being extended to also cover City Council and School Committee members?

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

3. Do you agree that there should be a limit on the number of amendments a Councilor can propose on a given motion or ordinance?

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree

4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

Please share any additional thoughts on how our city meetings are run.

The city meetings are organized and well presented but the meetings tend to be too long and consequently many important people leave the meetings, some motions are not able to be presented. In addition, I noticed that the meetings lack translators.

Section V: Final Thoughts

1. Communication between the Lowell city government and the people of Lowell needs to be improved.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

If so, what ideas do you have to improve the communication between the Lowell city government and the people of Lowell? If not, why not?

We need to inform the community with materials written in their main language. We need to have city councilors that represent the diverse community of Lowell.

2. What will you do to maintain contact with your constituents while you are in office?

I plan to visit different organizations, local businesses, Senior Living, Educational facilities, Community Clinics, and so on. I plan to engage with the whole community.

3. Do you commit to ensuring that important city communications are accessible in the main languages (English, Spanish, Khmer) of the city's residents, including City Council meetings and minutes, policy and emergency announcements?

Yes, I commit to help and to support the city communications are accessible in the main language.

4. What are your top three priorities if elected?

My top priorities if elected are: The revival and safety of downtown Lowell, represent the Minorities, no matter their ethnicity, and motivate everyone to engage with decision making pertaining to their District. I plan to work in creating future pathways in Education and Advocate for Seniors and Family programs.