



★ ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE ★

Deadline: September 25TH

Candidate Event: October 15TH, 5:30PM

Solidarity Lowell 2023 City Council Questionnaire

Name: Corey Belanger

Office Sought: Councilor At-Large

Website: n/a

Facebook: [Corey Belanger for Lowell City Council](#)

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?

Strong emphasis on community policing & outreach in all of our neighborhoods.

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?

It is extremely important to me that our Staff, Boards & Commissions highly reflect our diverse community and I want the voters to hold me to that! I will assure that our hiring practices are fair & equitable and that a supreme effort is made to achieve this.

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?

Strong community policing efforts in the neighborhoods and popular destinations that are adversely affected.

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?

Identify any and all barriers that may stand in our way to break the cycle of racism.

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?

As an at large candidate I will work very closely with the district councilors that are most affected. This will involve engagement in our neighborhoods to be at an all time high and I make a pledge to achieve this.

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?

I believe code enforcement cannot be compromised. The city would be put in a very precarious position. However, we can assist residents by working with our partners such as CTI.

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

At this time construction costs are astronomical as well as interest rates. The city must be aggressive in seeking out Gateway City grants to subsidize builders to defray costs in order to create more affordable housing. I am confident we can achieve this as well as other state programs that are available.

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

Enhance our COOP team with mental health clinicians and continue outreach.

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

YES.

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?

For starters, I think we are doing a fantastic job with the amount of available housing we currently have. It is a serious challenge due to the fact that we have a large state university and are on the commuter rail system. I will ensure the city administration actively is seeking more housing.

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)

More for our state delegation

9. How would you fill the empty downtown storefronts?

Work closely with our [partners such as the Lowell Plan to come up with economic assistance and incentives to jumpstart our downtown.

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?

Complete review of our Emergency Management Systems to ensure preparedness in the vent of a climate tragedy.

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?

I would assess where we are at currently then outline a path forward to achieve this.

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?

Communication with the LRTA is crucial. If we were to have the support of the outlining communities this would be achievable. I would spearhead this effort.

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?

I will focus on multi modal forms of transportation in particular form the Gallagher Terminal and the downtown to all parts throughout the city.

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.

I believe that there are far too many motions...well over double than when I last served in 2017. I would work on streamlining certain motions to the assistant CM for him/her to address with the proper department head.

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?

Identify where we are deficient and address accordingly.

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

I would be as accessible as possible to our residents to hear concerns in every neighborhood.

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?

Absolutely.

4. What are your top three priorities if elected?

Homeless Crisis/Economic Development,new tax growth/affordable housing