

Name: Ian McLeod
Office Sought: Ward 4 City Council
Website: in the process of being made
Facebook: Ian Michael McLeod, Running for Salem ward 4
Twitter:
Instagram:

PUBLIC SECTION

The public part of the questionnaire contains a mix of yes/no and open-ended questions. Please keep all answers to open-ended questions to no more than 150 words. A non-response to a yes/no question will be treated as a no.

(A) Your Candidacy

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

- 1) Supporting Ward 4. To bring the concerns to the city and the appropriate people. Having open means of communication so I can properly represent the Ward.
- 2) Work with the mayor and council to figure out these housing issues. How can we create more affordable housing in the city.
- 3) Preservation. Not only due to climate change, but also of our history and historical buildings

What qualifies you to hold this office?

I do however have years of managerial experience which has taught me to work with a variety of personalities, and to speak up for what I believe in.

What do you see as the role of the City Council in Salem?

I see each of us taking care of the concerns of our Wards, being the voice of our constituents. Working with the other councilors to determine what is best for the city.

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

When I lived in Iowa the minimum wage was \$7.25. However in Iowa City it was \$11.00 an hour. They had more people applying for jobs in that area, and we were able to hire better qualified people, therefore giving better service. If Salem were able to initiate something like this, Imagine how many more applicants the local businesses would have. Better paid

employees make better consumers. So now they are able to support local businesses more due to the increase in pay.

What does community service mean to you?

Community service is service you would do to better others than yourself. And It should be done because you want too, not because you are forced too. It's a way to help connect the community, and raise social awareness. Through this stronger communities are built.

(B) Civil Rights & Community Engagement

Name an accomplishment you're particularly proud of that helped to achieve and advance racial justice or equity.

As a retail manager, I try my best to hire as diverse a staff as possible. That way my customer base can see themselves reflected in the store environment. By doing that customers know they are seen and respected.

What steps would you take, if elected, to engage all the diverse communities of Salem in policymaking, and what past actions of yours should give voters confidence that you will follow through?

Getting to know the diverse communities and why they are not involved. Working in retail we often have to sell a program or get the associates to buy into it in order for the program to be successful. This is a daily occurrence in the retail world.

The future of democracy depends on robust youth engagement. Describe how you engage youth formally in your work as city councilor, or would plan to do so if elected.

I would want to get the students more excited. Get involved with educators where elected officials for the city come in and we are asked questions by the students. From there hold a mock election in the classes, so the students can ultimately see how an election can impact them.

What do you think it means to be an ally of the LGBTQ+ community?

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community what I look for in an ally is..

They show up.

They speak out.

They defend.

They love.

If a resolution had come before the council to support access to driver's licenses and extending in-state tuition rates & aid to undocumented residents how would you have voted and why?

I would have voted yes.

Once taught the rules of the road, we have more qualified drivers. Making it safer for everyone.

As far as education the children are going to public schools already. They should be allowed to go to state schools. Many of their families came here for a better life. If the student wants to go on to a state school let them. At that point they are trying to bring them and their family from one level of wealth to another.

(C) Budget & Revenue

What opportunities do you see for the city to raise revenue?

Have more events and festivals. Create other attractions that will drive people to the city. Consider bringing back the full Carnival experience. We focus on the history of the witch trials, why not have a week long Pirate celebration.

Downtown mostly closes down by 6pm with the exception of the restaurants. What can we do to keep people downtown and spend more money.

Could we create a fire water event like in Rhode Island. Could we get a theater in the city where live productions are done.

(D) Education

What are your top priorities for reducing persistent racial and economic achievement gaps in the Salem Public Schools?

We need to make sure the students are aware of all opportunities for them, and encourage them to achieve their goals. If the students have role models to look up to that look like them. That also makes a difference

Do you oppose the expansion of charter schools in Salem? YES/ NO

NO I DON'T

What steps would you take to raise the school rating for the Salem Public School System as a whole?

The school ratings for 2023 have Salem in the bottom 50% of our state. I would want to talk to educators and hear their concerns. Are we behind in technology? Do we have older school books? Do we have teachers that are not experienced enough? Do we have teachers counting down the days to retirement? Do we have parents who dont have time?

After listening work with the school committee and the city council and make it a priority to get whatever the end goal is to raise the school ratings.

(E) Public Safety

Would you advocate for the reallocation of money from the Salem Police Department budget to be reinvested in communities? YES/ NO

If Yes, how would you "refund" the police and reallocate resources?

My answer would be No

Do you support the legalization of overdose prevention centers? YES/ NO

My answer would be yes

What steps would you take to address homelessness in Salem?

Talk with the homeless find out what we as a city can do. Perhaps they fell on hard times and dont know how to get back on their feet. Perhaps it is due to mental health issues. Perhaps they just want to life off the grid. But we will not know unless we sit down and talk. Make sure they are aware of all the services the city offers. Again it all starts with communication.

What steps can the city take to address pedestrian safety?

Change the street lights to a brighter LED. Have you driven down Boston st. lately?

Over by Essex st put an additional stop light for pedestrians to cross at a proper time vs running infront of traffic.

Add more sidewalks over by the schools, and add the ramps so handicapped can get on the sidewalks easier.

(Did you) Would you have voted in favor of the sanctuary for peace ordinance? YES/NO

Yes I would have

(F) Environment & Transportation

What steps would you take to reduce dependence on cars and better facilitate the ability of Salemites to get around by walking, biking, or using public transit?

We have the MBTA, what if we had our own bus system in Salem that hit the major roads and the side roads. To bring the residents to where they need to go in the city.

Adding extra trollys, and have certain ones travel the city. Just for the residents

Encourage the blue bikes more, (but have more consistency with the bike lanes)

What are your plans long term to address the city's aging water pipe infrastructure?

I think this needs to be addressed right away. I am no expert in this, but if we start to fix one section at a time. Look at where the breaks have been occuring and start planning in the budget for the modifications.

What are your top three policy priorities for making Salem a climate-resilient city, and how would you ensure that equity is at the center of any such efforts?

Energy, transportation, infrastructure. The 3 of these all have effect eachother so when we improve on one we ultimately improve on all.

Do you oppose the creation of new fossil fuel infrastructure in Salem? YES/ NO

Yes I do

Do you support the fare-free trolly program? YES/ NO

Yes I do

Do you support the expansion of the City's curbside composting pickup program? YES/ NO

Yes I do

Do you support the offshore wind project? YES/NO

Yes I do

Do you support continuing the existing Blue Bikes program? Maintain / Expand / Eliminate

Yes I do

Do you support the City's partnership with Boston Harbor Cruises offering ferry service to and from Boston? YES / NO

Yes I do

Do you support Salem adopting Vision Zero, which guides our transportation policy towards eliminating all traffic fatalities and making our roads safer for all users? YES / NO

Yes I do

(G) Housing

Do you agree or disagree that Salem should do more to encourage housing production of all types, including both market rate and income-restricted? If so, how can the City encourage housing production?

The contracts with these developers needs to be written differently. They need to benefit the city and our residents.

What opportunities do you see for leveraging city-owned land for expanding market rate and Affordable housing?

If this is a possibility we should look into it.

Do you support rent stabilization? YES/ NO if yes how would you help stabilize it?

Yes I do.

Perhaps offer the apartment owners a kick back.

How do you plan to address the intersection of homelessness and soaring housing prices?

We need to help protect our residents make sure all programs are available to residents to help in any way possible. Make sure the residents are aware of these programs. As far as housing prices and what can be done. The city is taking steps. In regards to houses, but what about apartments? Where rent goes up every year. If there was a grant where money can go to the landlords to offset rent cost

Do you support a Tenant Opportunity to Purchase ordinance, enabling tenants to purchase a building if the owner seeks to put it on the market? YES/ NO

Yes I do

Do you support implementing an inclusionary development policy (IDP) in Salem at 10% as has been discussed to date? Yes at 10% / Higher % / Lower % / Not at all

Yes at 10%

Do you Support the ending of mandatory minimum parking requirements for new construction?
YES/NO

No I don't

Do you support requiring that a majority of new affordable units be built on-site, in order to ensure communities are diverse and integrated? YES/ NO

Yes I do

Across the city, there are projects for large-scale supportive housing that are being fought by local communities, such as Lee Fort Terrace, Lifebridge, etc. Do you support pushing forward with these specific projects and others like them? YES/ NO

Yes I do

(H) Economic Opportunity

What steps would you propose to reduce Salem's income and wealth inequality, especially the racial wealth gap?

Make sure residents are aware of all programs available to help people learn skills weather it be a trade, computers, office skills etc. By learning the basics other job possibilities can expand for them.

Find a way to lower the cost day care. When parents have to decide to return to work or stay at home due to cost of daycare. That brings the parent out of their field for a few years, and then its as if they have to start all over again.

Do you support requiring city contractors to give their employees at least two weeks' notice before changing their schedules and to compensate workers for late schedule changes? YES/ NO

Yes I do

What steps can the Council take to achieve greater diversity in City contracting?

Opening the bids to other and or new locations.

The cannabis industry is expected to grow in Salem in the coming years. What steps should the City take to make sure that it grows in an equitable way, in which the communities most impacted by the drug war are able to benefit?

Do not open them all at once.

And as far as communities most impacted.

If anyone from Salem is still in jail for posession or intent to sell of pot they should be released. Extra money should be put aside to help people in the community most impacted to get their GED learn a trade. Find jobs

(I) Democracy

How can Salem increase turnout in municipal elections?

Excite the voters. Open the discussion of term limits. If people see the same name year after year they feel their vote does not count, or that it does not matter if people vote or not.

How can the council increase transparency?

Communication!!!

Access to email, phone or meeting in person.

I think having specific ward Social Media pages that roll over from election to election. Where the councilor takes it over when sworn in. Have set rules where the councilor has so many hours to answer questions. But this way all residents of that ward know where to go for all information.

What are you personally doing to increase turnout in this upcoming election?

I have reached out to the High School to see if they offer voter registrations for the students turn 18. Trying to get people not normally involved, involved. Talking to my apartment complex if we can offer a sign up day to get new residents registered.

Do you support allowing non-citizens with legal status the right to vote in municipal elections?
YES/ NO

YES I do

Do you support allowing 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote in municipal elections? YES/ NO

No I don't

Would you support Charter Change to allow for Ranked Choice Voting in Salem? YES/ NO
YES I would.

Do you support making hybrid access to public meetings permanent? YES/ NO

Yes I do

(J) Additional Comments

I may not be the most polished speaker, and I often speak from my heart. I do not have answers to solve everything yet, but eventually I will. I'll learn the proper people to speak to. I'll learn what was tried or talked about in the past. And I'll hear ideas from other council members.

I want to see Salem grow and flourish and that will only happen if everyone gets involved. That involvement starts with getting registered and Voting on Tuesday November 7th.