



★ ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE ★

Deadline: September 25TH

Candidate Event: October 15TH, 5:30PM

Solidarity Lowell 2023 City Council Questionnaire

Name: Marty Hogan

Office Sought: District 2 Councilor

Website: <http://martyhogan4lowell.com/>

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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?

I feel that the police have gotten a bad rap over the last few years. Are there inherently going to be issues and biased people, of course. All of our systems are human systems and can always use continuous improvement, however I feel that our policing has been on par with many of the best policing agencies in the state.

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?

Above all other things we must make sure that we are hiring the best and most qualified people in their fields. If we just hire based upon your ethnicity or race rather than by the qualification of the person, I feel we will be doing a disservice to our community.

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)

I want the best for our city first and foremost. I would like to see more effort by our city to bring local developers and development from our neighborhoods. I absolutely want our city to be pursuing hiring practices that pay better and fair wages.

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?

All people deserve to live in safe places and we should ensure that all residents and visitors of Lowell are afforded equal protections. I want to be a councilor that works everyday to improve the quality and safety of our neighborhoods.

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?

I think we have a systematic problem of under-un employed residents, a suffering education system, homelessness, and not enough support from the municipality to bring all people. No matter what walk of life, what race, what ethnicity we are not doing enough and what we are doing is not effective.

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?

Personally, I worked to bring many different groups together in being the President of several community groups not only here in Lowell but also in my hometown of South Boston. I have 20 years of business management experience specifically in Information Technology. Bringing together many different people to work out communication and business processes in order to bring more to our customers and stakeholders. Most especially in the 10 years, I spent as the AVP of IT for a large Human Service Agency assisting the physically and mentally disabled. I know how to take an issue and work with people to make positive and lasting impacts.

One major step I would take to bring City Hall to the people would be to have regular meetings with my constituents. Open to the public, and often, where we can openly discuss and work together to affect real work and solutions. I have not seen any elected officials hold regular meetings with the people on their own, and it will begin with me in District 2.

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?

If there are people being marginalized and being wrongfully treated by their landlords then I would absolutely fight to protect those residents. However, I believe that we need to be vigilant about and in supporting Code Enforcement when there are legitimate issues.

I would like to have a regular audit done on the Code Enforcement to evaluate what are the real issues confronting our neighborhoods. We need to make sure that violations are identified and resolved in an efficient way. And if there is a need to increase the code enforcement personnel or equipment then I would like to advocate for that.

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

Development without displacement of established communities is the correct way to see our opportunity in Lowell. I can speak to what gentrification does and how a community can be quickly displaced by others, coming from South Boston.

I think our plan should be to evaluate all areas as being different. I know that in Centralville, we have very little open land left and in most locations, we have houses built on top of each other.. I want to bring affordable housing and market-level housing, however, I feel that we need to make sure that our streets are clean and safe to attract the correct developers. Additionally, I would like to see more developers from our neighborhoods, not from neighboring or distant communities.

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

We need comprehensive help and assistance for our homeless. For far too long we have been ""band-aid-ing"" this plight and we need to have a long term solution, comprised of temporary housing, job development, mental health, addiction recovery, amongst other services.

We cannot think of this as a one stop solution for all, we do not treat all types of cancer the same way, we need to do the same with this issue and try to heal person by person.

I would work with the already established programs from our community partners, hospitals, non-profits, and our city and state departments to create a new long term program to heal this disease on our city.

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)

NO.

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?

We need first to reduce the waste in our resources and become smarter through data and auditing the city services we already provide. Finding the inequities and waste will allow for more to be used to combat this issue. Everyone will say there is no area for trimming other areas, I believe that we could be doing our municipal business smarter and not harder, less expensive without reducing but increasing services.

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)

We already have labor laws that exist on the state level. I feel that creating another level of bureaucracy does not help to resolve these issues, the city properly enforcing the laws already on the books is the correct answer. I will work to make sure that our city holds these wage thieves accountable.

9. How would you fill the empty downtown storefronts?

I will bring resolutions to the council to clean the downtown and furthermore the main thoroughfare of Centralville, Bridge Street. We cannot attract good, long-lasting business partners to come to our city and invest in our areas if we do not make sure that our streets are clean, safe, and able to be well-traveled.

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?

I feel one area in which we could work to reduce and recycle would be to offer loans for entrepreneurship for local recycling, where many of our recycling offerings through our waste management have been throttled back over the past few years. Additionally, I would like to add more toxins/appliances drop off days for our residents.

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?

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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?

Bus terminals in downtown and the districts like were used in years past. More communication between the LRTA and the City.

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 think that as a modern city, we need to be able to traverse the city. However, I think we can do so much more with traffic patterns and traffic engineering than we currently do. I would like to work with the city and our neighbor to accomplish this.

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.

Thank you for this opportunity, I look forward to seeing you all soon! Marty

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?

Neighborhood sub-stations/Electronic event and agenda signs at well traversed locations.

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

A ticketing system much like those used in IT departments to track where your request has been and what I am doing on your behalf.

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?

I will work to make sure we communicate with all communities in Lowell.

4. What are your top three priorities if elected?

Fiscal Effectiveness, Improved Services, Improved Communication from the City to the Residents.