

2016 Election Guide

Lowell Voting F.A.Q.

Where do I vote?

It depends on where you live and the voting precinct you live in. You can find your polling place by:

- Calling the Lowell Election Department: **978-674-4046**
- Entering your address online at:
www.wheredoivotema.com/bal/myelectioninfo.aspx
- Asking a neighbor who lives on the same side of your block.

Can I vote by mail?

Yes. If you will be out of town or can't go to the polls because of a health issue, you or a family member can fill out an application for an absentee ballot. You can do this anytime up to noon the day before the election. Get an application at:

- Lowell Election Office - 375 Merrimack Street
- Online at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleabsentee/absidx.htm

Can I vote early?

Starting this year, you can vote early. Any registered voter may vote at any early voting location, which includes Lowell City Hall. The official list of locations and dates/times they will be open is on the next page.

Can I have someone help me vote, can I get a ride?

Yes. If you need help with translation or marking the ballot (because English is your second language or you have disability), you can bring someone with you to help you vote. The election department can provide a ride to your voting place, just call: **(978) 674-4046**

Can I bring a voter guide into the voting booth?

Yes. You can bring a voter guide, notes, or anything else you need to help you remember who to vote for. Just make sure to not leave it in the booth when you leave!

Do I need an ID to vote?

Only people voting for the first time need an ID to vote in Massachusetts. We recommend every voter bring an ID with their current address on it, like a driver's license, passport or recent utility bill or bank statement.

Don't forget to vote!

Nov 8 - Polls open 7 am to 8 pm

Apply for absentee ballots before noon on Nov 7



Early Voting Community Calendar

	<u>Monday</u> October 24, 2016	<u>Tuesday</u> October 25, 2016	<u>Wednesday</u> October 26, 2016	<u>Thursday</u> October 27, 2016	<u>Friday</u> October 28, 2016	<u>Saturday</u> October 29, 2016
	Location: Temple Emanuel 101 W. Forest St. Time: 4PM – 8PM Host: Highlands Circle Neighborhood Group	Location: University Crossing 220 Pawtucket St. Time: 4PM- 8PM Host: UML Office of Community Relations	Location: St. Louis School 241 West Sixth St. Time: 4PM – 8PM Host: Centralville Community Coalition & CNAG	Location: LTC 246 Market St. Time: 4PM- 8PM Host: LTC & Lowell Downtown Neighborhood Association	Location: CBA 517 Moody St. Time: 4PM- 8PM Host: Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA)	Location: Lowell Senior Center 276 Broadway St. Time: 9AM – 5PM Host: Lowell Senior Center
	Location: Lowell City Hall 375 Merrimack St. Time: 8AM – 5PM	Location: Lowell City Hall 375 Merrimack St. Time: 8AM – 8PM	Location: Lowell City Hall 375 Merrimack St. Time: 8AM – 5PM	Location: Lowell City Hall 375 Merrimack St. Time: 8AM – 5PM	Location: Lowell City Hall 375 Merrimack St. Time: 8AM – 12PM	
<u>Sunday</u> October 30, 2016	<u>Monday</u> October 31, 2016	<u>Tuesday</u> November 1, 2016	<u>Wednesday</u> November 2, 2016	<u>Thursday</u> November 3, 2016	<u>Friday</u> November 4, 2016	
Location: Western Ave. Studios 122 Western Ave. Time: 10AM – 2PM Host: Western Ave. Studios	Location: CMAA 465 School St. Time: 10AM – 2PM Host: CMAA	Location: Wang School 365 W. Meadow Rd. Time: 4PM- 8PM Host: Pawtucketville Citizens Council	Location: UTEC 35 Warren St. Time: 4PM- 8PM Host: UTEC	Location: Bulter School 1140 Gorham St. Time: 4PM- 8PM Host: Sacred Heart Neighborhood Improvement Group	Location: Reilly School 115 Douglas Rd. Time: 4PM- 8PM Host: Belvidere Neighborhood Association	
	Location: Lowell City Hall 375 Merrimack St. Time: 8AM – 5PM	Location: Lowell City Hall 375 Merrimack St. Time: 8AM – 8PM	Location: Lowell City Hall 375 Merrimack St. Time: 8AM – 5PM	Location: Lowell City Hall 375 Merrimack St. Time: 8AM – 5PM	Location: Lowell City Hall 375 Merrimack St. Time: 8AM – 12PM	

Ballot Guide

Electors of President

The President is the head of state of the United States of America and is the Chief Executive Officer and is the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are described in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices and federal judges, subject to Senate approval. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.



Clinton and Kaine
 *Democrat*

<https://www.hillaryclinton.com/>



Johnson and Weld
 *Libertarian*

<http://www.johnsonweld.com>



Stein and Baraka
 *Green-Rainbow*

<http://jill2016.com>



Trump and Pence
 *Republican*

<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/>

Representative in Congress

Massachusetts has 9 representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives, and Lowell is in the 3rd district. Each district is around 710,000 people and elects a representative for a two-year term. Representatives are also called congressmen/congresswomen. Republican Ann Wofford is challenging incumbent Democrat Niki Tsongas.



Nicola "Niki" Tsongas

 Democrat Incumbent

<http://nikitsongas.com/>



Ann Wofford

 Republican

<http://www.woffordforcongress.com/>

What is the primary difference between you and your opponent?

It has been a privilege to serve the people of the 3rd District and I've worked to improve the quality of the lives of my fellow residents and the lives of countless people like them across our state and nation over the past nine years. I'm running for re-election to continue that work.

The candidate refers voters to the "issues" page of her website.

Do you think climate change is a serious threat to Massachusetts' future? What policies would you promote to address this?

Climate change is a real crisis that, if left untouched, will cause irreparable harm for generations. We need modern policies to cut emissions, keep energy affordable and reliable, and develop innovative green energy technologies. The economic, security and environmental benefits would be significant.

How can we strengthen healthcare in the US, and would you support a Medicare for All approach?

The ACA isn't perfect but it is working: young people can stay on their parent's plans, pre-existing conditions don't prevent coverage, and women can't be charged more than men. GOP leadership must allow Congress to strengthen the law and support those still struggling with costly health insurance.

Does the Federal debt impact Lowell and Massachusetts, and if so, howso and what can we do to improve the situation?

Crafting a budget for the nation must be done responsibly and with an understanding of the long term consequences. I support a balanced approach to cut the deficit that raises new revenue from the wealthiest 1%, closes tax loopholes, and cuts spending – an approach recommended by economic experts.

Candidates and ballot questions appear in ballot order. Questions were submitted for each competitive race by residents of Lowell and chosen by Lowell Votes. The candidates were asked to limit responses to 300 characters, and were edited for length if they were longer. They otherwise appear verbatim.

Councillor

The Governor's Council is composed of 8 people, and Lowell is in the 5th district. The councillors are elected every 2 years. The Council meets weekly to confirm warrants for the state treasury, pardons and commutations, and confirming governor's appointments such as judges, clerk-magistrates, public administrators, members of the Parole Board, Appellate Tax Board, Industrial Accident Board and Industrial Accident Reviewing Board, notaries, and justices of the peace. Republican Rich Baker is challenging incumbent Democrat Eileen Duff.



Eileen R. Duff
 Democrat Incumbent

<http://www.voteduff.com/>



Richard A. Baker
 Republican

<http://www.richbaker.us/>

What makes you want to run for Governor's Council?

I am a candidate for re-election. I love this work and have been able to make an important positive impact in the Fifth District in a very short time. For example, I brought the first Public Testimony Hearing outside of Boston to the people I serve. This gives people an opportunity to participate and see what we do.

I have a longstanding history of public service. Currently I am a member of the West Newbury Board of Assessors and have served on the Pentucket School Committee. I have also volunteered for other boards and positions within my community. My background is well-suited to serve on the Governor's Council.

Why is it important who is on the Governor's Council?

Diversity is very important - having Councillors from different backgrounds and genders, but also those who have some experience in public policy and vetting people. Today having some experience with addiction and underserved communities is becoming critical.

Governor's Councillors are the citizens' input to the judiciary. We need experienced, discerning councillors to vet nominees in order to put the best judges on the bench. Judges who decide cases with integrity, fairness and commitment to the rule of law are critical to an orderly society.

What are your criteria for approving judges?

I look for lawyers who have a depth of experience not just as lawyers, but also in life. Understanding of underserved communities, our Veterans and the unique challenges they face, folks on the Autism Spectrum, as well as addicts and folks in the LGBTQ community.

I look for judges who strictly follow the rule of law, who put aside their personal biases, and who issue decisions based on the language of the law. I also look for judges who are respectful and who take seriously that they are leaders in the community.

Do you think it's better if judges are appointed, elected, or a combination of the two? Why?

I think it is best they are appointed and feel the system we employ in the Commonwealth works fairly well. Other States are now examining using an Executive Council such as ours instead of electing or having their State Senates make Judicial appointments.

The Massachusetts Governor's Council system is the best way to select judges. Elections subject judges to campaign funding requirements, which can lead to the appearance of bias. Direct gubernatorial appointments give too much power to the Governor. The council system avoids these drawbacks.

Senator in General Court

The State Senate has 40 Senators, and Lowell is in the 1st Middlesex district. Each district is about 159,000 people and elects a Senator for a 2-year term. As required by the Massachusetts Constitution, the Senate meets year-round in either formal or informal session to consider state laws. It also votes on budget items. The Massachusetts Senate is led by the President of the Senate who is elected by the members at the beginning of each two-year session.

Democrat Eileen Donoghue is running unopposed, so we did not send her any questions.



Eileen M. Donoghue
 Democrat Incumbent

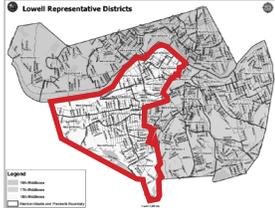
<http://eileendonoghue.com/>

Representative in General Court

The State House of Representatives has 160 members. Each district has about 40,000 people and elects a representative for a 2-year term. As required by the Massachusetts Constitution, the House meets year-round in either formal or informal session to consider state laws. It also votes on budget items. The Massachusetts House is led by the Speaker of the House who is elected by the members at the beginning of each 2-year session.

Lowell has 3 districts. Depending on where you live, you'll vote for the 16th, 17th, or 18th Middlesex District. Only the 18th is contested (Republican Kam Kay is challenging Democrat incumbent Rady Mom), so we sent only Mr. Kay and Rep. Mom questions.

18th District



Rady Mom

 Democrat Incumbent

<http://www.radymom.com/>



Kamara "Kam" Kay

 Republican

<http://www.kamarakay.com/>

What would be the first thing you'd push to accomplish if elected?

The first thing I would work to accomplish is getting my bill making firing into a dwelling home a felony illegal, I came very close last session to getting it passed and want to push it over the finish line.

I want to ensure that the charter school cap will be lifted. Furthermore, I want to give school voucher or tax deductible to all parents who enrolled their children in parochial schools. I will propose to give at least ¼ back to the parents. This will not be a form of taxable income for them.

Do cities like Lowell get enough funding to help resettle refugees and give them the best educational opportunities, and if not, how would you change it?

Lowell has a history as a first new American home to refugees, & has long faced challenges in providing education to them. Refugee resettlement is handled at the federal level necessitating strong working relationships with them. At the state level I will work to get us the resources we need for our kids.

I do not believe that Lowell has received enough money to help resettle refugees. We need to understand that, whether these refugees are being sponsored into the United States by the federal government, non-profit organizations, or individual families and friends.

What changes to State Legislation would you recommend to reduce the amount of traffic in the City?

I believe the best way to reduce traffic in the city is to make sure there are enough funds to repair and maintain our current roads, bridges, and sidewalks. We should also properly support public transit & walkability so people aren't forced to drive when walking or public transit would be just as good.

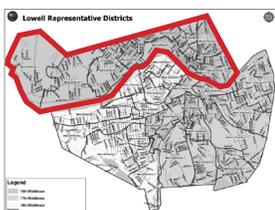
Lowell roads were built to accommodate horse carriages during the Industrial Revolution in the early 1900s. Today, cars are bigger, which make roads become inaccessible with a two-way. Many of these roads may be made into a one-way street. We must develop a better public transportation to accommodate millennial generations.

How big a problem are housing costs in Massachusetts, in Lowell, and in your district--what would you do to lower them?

Housing costs in Mass. are some of the highest in the country & place a large burden on families trying to make ends meet. I see it in my district, city, & state. As state rep. I would work collaboratively with my colleagues to find innovative solutions that will help statewide & also Lowell.

We must primarily subsidize the construction of affordable housing through bond funds, tax credits, & other resources. The Legislature must consider how targeted programs that assist those with limited access to market-rate housing could supplement broader changes that facilitate more private housing construction.

16th District

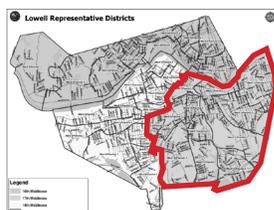


Thomas A. Golden Jr.

 Democrat Incumbent

<http://reptomgolden.blogspot.com/>

17th District



David M. Nangle

 Democrat Incumbent

No website

Sheriff

Each Massachusetts county elects its own sheriff to a six-year term. The duties of a sheriff, specified in Article 37 of the Massachusetts General Laws, include the following: to primarily maintain custody of a county jail and house of correction, to serve civil process, and to transport inmates to and from courts and other facilities. They support local law enforcement.

Democrat Peter Koutoujian is running unopposed, so we did not send him any questions.



Peter J. Koutoujian



*Democrat
Incumbent*

<http://sheriffkoutoujian.com/>

Ballot Questions

Question 1

One additional Slot-Machine Gaming license for any location near an existing race track

A **YES** vote would allow a second slot parlor to exist in Massachusetts.

Support for this measure comes from Eugene McCain, a real estate broker and developer. McCain has an agreement to buy the mobile-home property down the parkway from Suffolk Downs, racetrack in Revere, MA. McCain has stated he is considering a hotel, mix-use development and slot casino as part of the development proposal for this site.

A **NO** vote would maintain the current law allowing 1 slot parlor in Massachusetts.

Opposition states that the only sites for a slot casino in Massachusetts, that fit the State language, are Plainridge Park (which is already a slot casino), Brockton Fairgrounds (which is applying to be a resort casino) and Suffolk Downs, in Revere MA. Opponents include No East Casino, a group formed in 2012 to oppose a casino at Suffolk Downs.

Question 2

Expanding Charter School Approvals

A **YES** vote would allow the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to approve up to 12 new charter schools or enrollment expansions in existing charter schools each year.

Supporters say that charter schools are 1) public schools that have a proven track record of closing the achievement gap – longer school days, more personal attention and great teaching; 2) almost 33,000 students are on wait lists; 3) charter schools do no harm to school districts. Education funding is assigned to a student, not to a school. Supporters and funders include Gov. Baker, John Kerry – US Secretary of State -, Families for Excellent Schools, Alliance for Business Leadership, Democrats for Education Reform, executives at Bain Capital, Fidelity Investments, Baupost Group hedge fund and private equity companies.

A **NO** vote would make no change to the number of charter schools allowed by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Opponents say that 1) charter schools take funding from public schools because operating costs – transportation, utilities, etc - remain the same for a district. Opponents say that \$400 million was siphoned from public schools in 2016. This would grow by an additional \$100M if measure passes. 2) Suspension rates for charter schools are highest in the state with charters schools not taking on new students. 3) Charter schools do not enroll as many English language learners or special needs students. Save Our Public School's supporters include Massachusetts Teachers Association, NAACP, Jewish Labor Committee, AFL-CIO, Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance and Citizens for Public Schools.

Question 3

Prohibit sale of eggs, veal, or pork of animals in cages too small to stand or turn around.

A **YES** vote would prohibit the sale of eggs, veal, or pork of a farm animal “confined in a cruel manner.”

Supporters say the law will 1) prevent farm animals from being crammed into small cages; 2) will not affect liquid eggs (eggs out of the shell) and it will not affect food that includes eggs, veal, or pork as one of the ingredients. Supporters also state that cramming tens of thousands of animals into tiny cages promotes the spread of diseases. Supporters include organizations such as Humane Society, MA Sierra Club, MSPCA, Zoo New England, small farms and individual veterinarians.

A **NO** vote would make no changes to the sale of eggs, veal or pork.

Opponents say that Massachusetts is an expensive place to farm due to land costs, regulations and high costs of diesel fuel. The egg industry insists that cages are not cruel and disputes that there is an increased food safety risk in eggs from non-cage-free environments. Farmers emphasize that they're not opposed to cage-free eggs, just against mandating that all eggs sold be cage-free. Opponents include United Egg Producers, Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation and Retailers Association of Massachusetts.

Question 4

Legalizing Recreational Marijuana

A **YES** vote would legalize marijuana for recreational use for those 21 years and older.

Supporters say that legalizing marijuana would 1) phase out illegal marijuana sales; 2) end a system that they say has criminalized otherwise law-abiding citizens; 3) create more revenue through taxes; and 4) move marijuana sales from the streets. The proposed law would create a “Cannabis Control Commission” appointed by the State Treasurer to oversee sales, cultivation and products. Supporters include the Marijuana Policy Project, a national group that has funded similar initiatives.

A **NO** vote would make no change to current state laws on sale, cultivation or possession of marijuana.

Opponents say that if legalized, 1) kids will end up with greater access to marijuana; 2) that MA already legalized marijuana for medicinal use and replaced penalties for possession for 1 ounce or less with civil penalties. Opposition is led by the Campaign for Safe & Healthy Massachusetts, Governor Charlie Baker, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, and House Speaker DeLeo.



Special thanks...

Descriptions of offices were adapted from League of Women Voters' Vote 411 guide.
Images of candidates were taken from respective candidates' websites or social media accounts.
Frequently Asked Questions were adapted from NonprofitVOTE 2015 voter guide.
Early Voting Community Calendar was taken from the City of Lowell Election and Census Office.
"I Voted" image from www.richardhowe.com

Additional Special Thanks:

League of Women Voters Concord Carlisle
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
Coalition for a Better Acre
Lowell Alliance for Families and Neighborhoods

