

# 2020 State Primary Guide

Updated: 08/17/20



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Lowell Votes is a nonpartisan community group dedicated to increasing the number of people who vote in Lowell through education.  
[www.lowellvotes.org](http://www.lowellvotes.org)

This guide is presented without guarantee of accuracy. Answers are presented verbatim with minor editing for grammar/spelling. Answers were held to a strict 300-character limit.

If you notice any errors in this guide, please contact us immediately and we will issue a correction over our website.

Candidates appear in alphabetical order unless otherwise noted.

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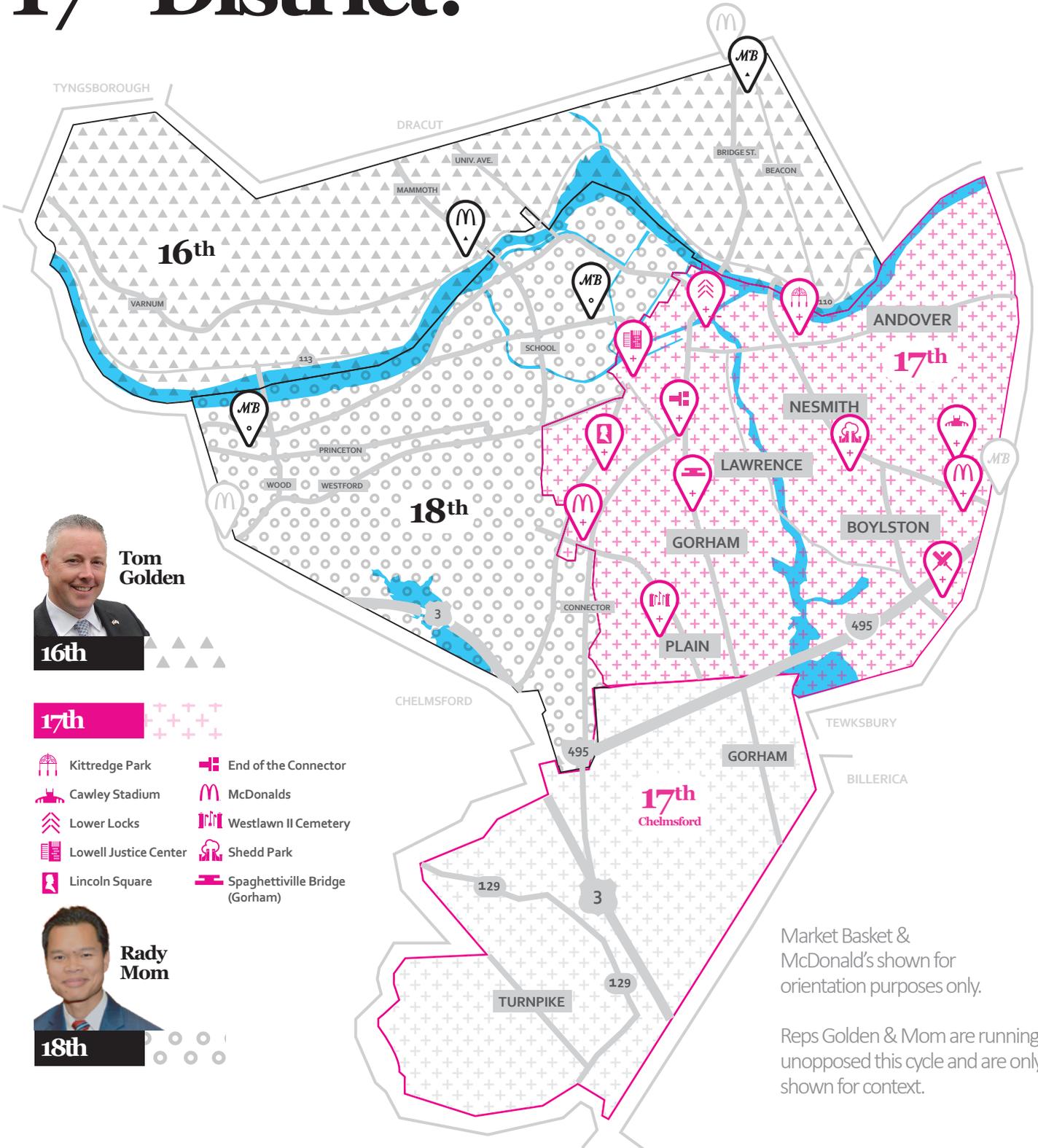
**Primary Election Sept 1st | 7am-8pm**

# State Rep. Survey Answers

**3 candidates.  
1 district.**



# Where exactly in Lowell is the 17<sup>th</sup> District?



**Tom Golden**  
 16<sup>th</sup>

**17<sup>th</sup>**

- Kittredge Park
- Cawley Stadium
- Lower Locks
- Lowell Justice Center
- Lincoln Square
- End of the Connector
- McDonald's
- Westlawn II Cemetery
- Shedd Park
- Spaghettilville Bridge (Gorham)

**Rady Mom**  
 18<sup>th</sup>

Market Basket & McDonald's shown for orientation purposes only.

Reps Golden & Mom are running unopposed this cycle and are only shown for context.

# 17th Middlesex State Representative Survey Answers



**Lisa Arnold**



**Vanna Howard**



**David Nangle**

INCUMBENT

**Where can voters find you on the web?**

LisaForStateRep  
 Lisa4StateRep  
 LisaForStateRep  
[lisaforstaterep.com](http://lisaforstaterep.com)

N/A  
 VoteforVanna  
 VoteforVanna  
[vannahoward.com](http://vannahoward.com)

N/A  
 Committee-to-Elect-Dave-Nangle-112418387171747  
 N/A  
 No Website

**How will you ensure that all students in the district get equal access to the education they deserve during these atypical times?**

COVID Testing/tracing, prioritize high-needs students & families without internet or childcare for onsite education. Assign high-risk teachers to remote instruction. Utilize curriculum developed/adapted by Lowell educators. Ensure students receive adequate nutrition while remote learning.

We need to equitably assess each student's particular needs with regard to technology, health, accessibility and provide the resources to maximize each student's attendance and success at school.

I will make sure that Lowell and Chelmsford receive all of the state and federal funding they have been allocated. I have long been an advocate for the increase in Chapter 70 / Education funding we have seen this past year and I will work tirelessly to ensure they receive everything they are due.

**Do you believe in a housing first approach to homelessness? What steps should we take?**

We need a Housing First approach for the homeless and to provide additional services so they can thrive. We also need eviction & foreclosure protections for the duration of the state of emergency + 12 months to help people stay in their homes & not make the housing crisis worse than it already is.

Yes I believe in a housing first approach, to get as many people in housing as possible. We need to increase the housing stock in our community. The intransigent cases require multiple approaches to address successfully.

Sadly, homelessness is tied closely to mental health and substance abuse. We need to hire more case workers and increase the number of beds both in shelters and mental health facilities. We can always improve our efforts and I look forward to increasing my participation in this worthy effort.

**Is racism a public health crisis? Why or why not?**

Racism is a public health crisis. People of color are 3 times more likely to have chronic diseases, even when we account for income and education. We need policies that address housing instability, low wages, neighborhood walk- and bikeability, food insecurity, and access to higher education.

Of course racism is a public health crisis. People of color everywhere have poorer medical outcomes, poorer educational opportunities, poorer housing opportunities, poorer economic opportunities. They've been hit hardest by this pandemic. That's been true forever, by the statistics.

Racism, in any form or expression, is abhorrent, criminal and has no place in Lowell, Massachusetts or anywhere in our country. I do think we have solid laws and regulations in place that prohibit such practices in our employment, public housing and health care sectors. We can, and must, do better.

**How can the state legislature be more transparent to citizens?**

The Mass legislature is one of the least transparent in the country and should not be exempt from public records laws. All committee votes, written testimony & reader-friendly summaries of bills should be available online. I will stand for a recorded vote on issues important to voters.

I believe in an open process where votes and roll calls on bills are published and I'll push for open hearings. Sunshine is the best disinfectant!

We have in Massachusetts a public website, [malegislator.gov](http://malegislator.gov), that lists every bill, sponsor, public hearing date, and legislator address and phone number. It also has a link to videos of every formal and informal debate in both the House of Representatives and State Senate. It also lists every vote.

**What are the three things that we can do to encourage recovery post pandemic?**

1. Invest in school & public transportation infrastructure projects, utilizing local union labor 2. Create a universal child care system that is accessible & affordable for working families 3. Provide low interest loan assistance to small, local businesses that were hit hardest during the crisis.

Move safely to open our schools and get everybody back to work. Build up our health systems to address the ongoing pandemic and address future crises. Avoid the foreclosure/eviction crises that is currently pending.

I believe we will need another federal relief package over the next several months. We need to be more vigilant to the restrictions of social distancing. Third, we have to further our partnerships with medical research facilities and hospitals in finding antidotes and vaccines to the Covid 19 Virus.

# 17th Middlesex State Representative Survey Answers Continued



Lisa Arnold



Vanna Howard



Dave Nangle

INCUMBENT

What's your favorite Lowell pizza place?



N/A

, but I love pizza in Lowell.

I must admit that I am a pizza lover (plain cheese is all I order) but there are too many great places I frequent to choose one over another.

What's your favorite TV series to binge while quarantining?



A spanish language show on Netflix because I've decided to learn Spanish during the quarantine.



N/A

Other than the local sports teams, I never watch much TV. Based on what my staff tells me, I should be watching **Yellowstone** or **The Ozarks**. I will have to check them out.

## There is no registered Republican challenger, so the winner of this race is presumed to be the State Rep-elect.

Are you running as write-in candidate and want to be included after the primary? Get in touch at [info@lowellvotes.org](mailto:info@lowellvotes.org)

# U.S. Senate Survey Answers

**4 candidates.  
2 parties.  
A few legacies.**

**LOWELL  
VOTES**

# U.S. Senate Democrat Survey Answers



**Joe Kennedy III**



**Ed Markey**

INCUMBENT

**Where can voters find you on the web?**

joekennedy  
 JoeKennedyIII  
 joekennedyiii  
 KennedyforMA.com

EdMarkey  
 EdMarkeyforMA  
 edmarkey  
 edmarkey.com

**What actions would you support to increase housing for vulnerable populations in cities like Lowell?**

I support a massive federal investment to build more housing units; more affordable and public housing; reforms to restrictive zoning laws; moratorium on evictions and foreclosures during the COVID-19 crisis; rent and mortgage assistance; and a guaranteed right to legal assistance in eviction cases.

Housing is a human right. But affordable housing is under attack, now more than ever. That's why this year I fought to secure over \$71 million in federal grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). I also secured hundreds of millions in Community Development Block Grants.

**How will you ensure no child is left behind as a result of the pandemic?**

I'm fighting for economic assistance for all families; universal child care; and robust funding for public education so that all children have internet, resources, and support systems in remote learning, while also guaranteeing robust safety measures are in place prior to resuming in-person learning.

The first thing we need to do is tackle the homework gap: a divide in learning progress between students who have access to broadband and students who don't. Justice for our students also means major reforms on issues from healthcare to the environment to our broken prison system.

**What is your priority in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Equitable access to testing, care, PPE, and a future vaccine for all communities, regardless of race or economic status; as well as equitable access to economic security, cash assistance, employment protections, and small business support for all Americans.

I'm fighting for \$2000 a month for working class individuals so they can pay their bills for the rest of the pandemic. I'm also fighting for \$500 million in support for Massachusetts fishers and to ensure gig economy workers receive unemployment benefits among other actions.

**Are you concerned about climate change? What changes would you propose to address it?**

Climate change is an existential threat to our planet and future generations. We need to drastically cut carbon emissions, mobilize our economy around clean energy, create green jobs, and guarantee justice for frontline communities hit first and worst by environmental hazards and the climate crisis.

Of course I am concerned about climate change! It is the single greatest threat facing not just our country, but our world. That's why Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and I got together in 2019 and introduced the Green New Deal.

**How can we make the immigration system fair for everyone? What changes would you make?**

Comprehensive reform must include an achievable pathway to citizenship, protections for DREAMers and TPS recipients, compassion for refugees and asylum seekers, decriminalizing migration, equitable access to work visas, legal assistance and humanitarian aid, and systemic reform to ICE.

We need to put our immigrants on a path to citizenship. I am an original cosponsor of the Safe Environment from Countries Under Repression and in Emergency (SECURE) Act, which would allow qualified Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients to apply for lawful permanent residency.

**Should we have universal health care? What changes would you like to make to our current system?**

Healthcare is a right, not a privilege. I support universal coverage under Medicare for All. As we transition to that system, I'm fighting to end inequities in access to affordable care, robust mental and behavioral health coverage, and ironclad protections for patients with preexisting conditions.

I've always fought for policies that expand access to health care. I was an original co-sponsor of Medicare for All back in 2017. And after my mother died of Alzheimer's I fought to expand home and community based services so that seniors can receive primary care services within their homes.

**Keep going for the Republican candidates!**

# U.S. Senate Republican Survey Answers



Kevin O'Connor



Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai

**Where can voters find you on the web?**

kocforsenate  
 kocforsenate  
 kocforsenate  
 kocforsenate.com

va\_shiva  
 ShivaForSenate  
 va\_shiva  
 shiva4senate.com

**What actions would you support to increase housing for vulnerable populations in cities like Lowell?**

As Senator I would seek to increase housing options for vulnerable populations through expansion of section eight. Additionally I would support opportunity zones and deregulation efforts to provide incentives for investment into new construction which would include affordable housing.

**Did Not Respond :(**

**How will you ensure no child is left behind as a result of the pandemic?**

As a father of four kids I understand that the pandemic is affecting children especially hard. Schools must safely reopen this fall. Schools provide much needed meals, counseling, and socialization. By not having kids in the classroom we risk leaving those in the most vulnerable communities behind.

**What is your priority in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic?**

We need to be helping families, small businesses and communities like Lowell through this economic and health crisis. PPP loans and aid packages have and will continue to be a tremendous help to people devastated by the economic crisis that came along with the pandemic shut down.

**Are you concerned about climate change? What changes would you propose to address it?**

Clean air, clean water, and a healthy planet are crucial to our families. Federal policy must protect our natural resources. International agreements can be an important part of a clean earth strategy, but the agreements must not disadvantage our country.

**How can we make the immigration system fair for everyone? What changes would you make?**

We are a nation of laws, and it is the government's responsibility to enforce those laws. A fair immigration system is one that has clear rules that are enforced. We also need to take action on outstanding issues such as DACA that career politicians have failed to resolve.

**Should we have universal health care? What changes would you like to make to our current system?**

Every American deserves access to affordable health insurance. Socialized medicine, however, will increase costs and reduce the quality of care. I favor ensuring transparency in pricing for all health care providers. This will eliminate "middle men" who don't add value.



**But what is their favorite movie...?**

# U.S. Senate Democrat Survey Answers Continued



Joe Kennedy III



Ed Markey

INCUMBENT

What's your favorite TV show to binge while quarantining?



with my kids



Old Vintage Celtics Games

What's your favorite movie?



# U.S. Senate Republican Survey Answers Continued



Kevin O'Connor



Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai

What's your favorite TV show to binge while quarantining?



Did Not Respond :(

What's your favorite movie?



An O'Connor family holiday tradition!



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latest guide online!**  
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