

# LOWELL RESIDENT GUIDE

A guide to who represents you, what they do, and how to contact them



**LOWELL  
VOTES**



**OTHER  
QUESTIONS?  
VOTING ISSUES?**

We can help.



Call 508-318-8587  
Español 978-856-6628  
Khmer 978-454-6200

Visit [LowellVotes.org](http://LowellVotes.org) for more information on local elections



# The Federal Level

## US President

Joe Biden is the President of the United States, including Puerto Rico. Presidents are elected every 4 years in a national election. The president is the leader of the entire country. They can only serve for eight years.

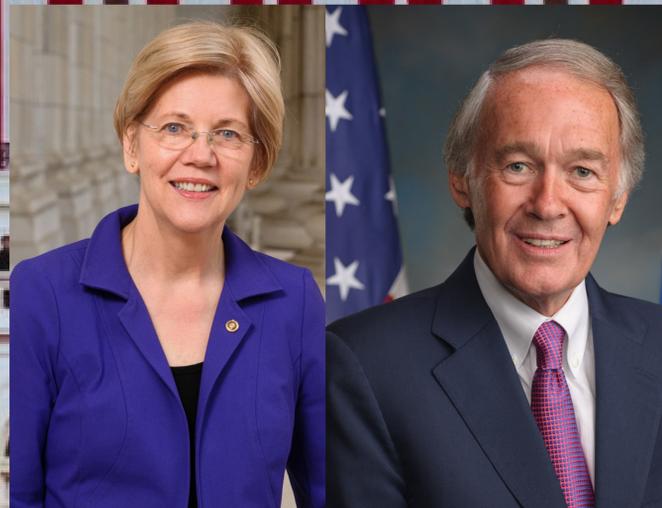


## What does the federal level do?

- Make laws for the whole country (immigration, drugs, gun laws)
- War and peace with other countries
- Lots of \$\$\$
- Federal programs and services (Section 8, Head Start, SNAP)
- National Parks and Highways
- All 3 must agree on new laws for them to happen.

## State Senators

Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey are the two senators for the state of Massachusetts. Senators are elected every six years. Two senators represent each state in the USA, no matter the size of the state. There are 100 Senators in the Senate.



## Contact:

### The President of the US

Phone: 202-456-1111  
Address: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington DC 20500

### Massachusetts U.S. Senators

**Elizabeth Warren**  
Address: 317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-4543

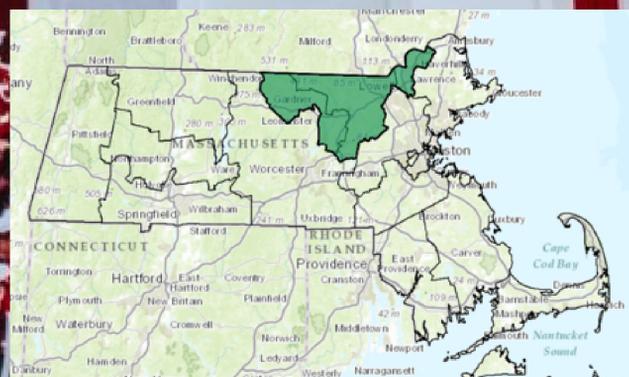
**Ed Markey**  
Address: 255 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-2742

**Massachusetts Third Congressional District Rep. Lori Trahan**  
Address: 126 John Street Suite 12, Lowell, MA 01852  
Phone: (978) 459-0101

## Congresspeople

Lori Trahan is the congresswoman for the Massachusetts third district, which includes Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill.

The Massachusetts third district is the darker green area of the map on the right. Congresspeople are elected every two years. They each represent a region of a state by population. There are 435 congresspeople in total.



# The State Level

## At The Statehouse in Boston

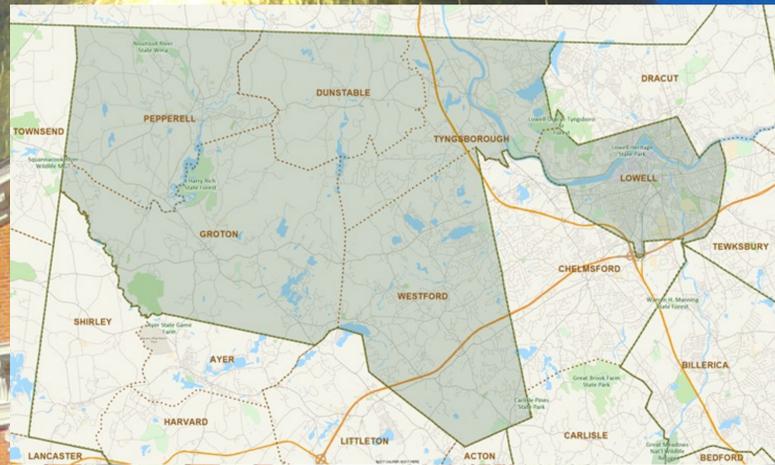
State Senator Ed Kennedy represents the 1st Middlesex, which includes the whole city of Lowell and other cities to the West



What does the State do?

- Statewide laws (examples: marijuana decriminalization, minimum wage)
- Get us \$\$\$ from the state budget
- Statewide programs and services (Department of Children and Families, MassHealth, housing, universities)

1st Middlesex is the darker area of the map on the right. State Senators are elected every two years. They cover a larger region than representatives, and there are 40 in total.



Contact:

**State Senator Ed Kennedy**  
 edward.kennedy@masenate.gov  
 24 Beacon St. Room 405  
 Boston, MA, 02133  
 Phone: 617-722-1630

State Representative Tom Golden represents the 16th Middlesex, covering Pawtuckteville and Centerville Neighborhoods in Lowell. State Representative Vanna Howard represents the 17th Middlesex, which covers the Downtown, Belvidere, and South Lowell neighborhoods. State Representative Rady Mom represents the 18th Middlesex, covering the Acre and Highlands neighborhoods in Lowell.



Tom Golden



Vanna Howard

**State Representative Tom Golden**  
 24 Beacon St. , Room 473B,  
 Boston, MA, 02133  
 Phone: 617-722-2263

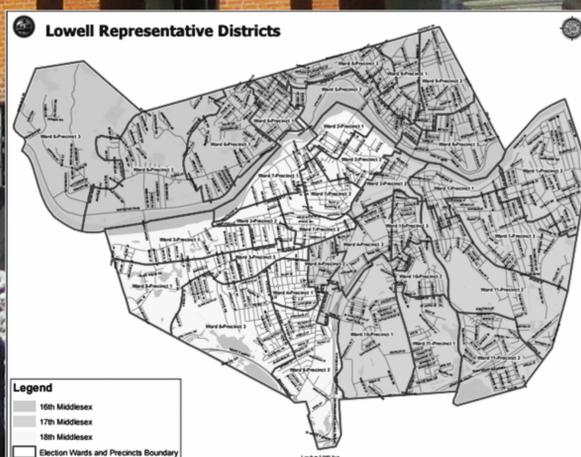
**State Representative Vanna Howard**  
 24 Beacon St. Boston, MA, 02133  
 Phone: (617) 722-2800 x7302

**State Representative Rady Mom**  
 24 Beacon St. , Room 443, Boston,  
 MA, 02133  
 Phone: 617-722-2460



Rady Mom

16th Middlesex is dark grey, 17th Middlesex is light grey, and 18th Middlesex is white on this map. State Representatives are elected every two years. They cover a smaller area, so there are more of them, 160 in total.



# The Local Level

At Lowell's City Hall

Your city councilors represent the whole city.  
Once elected, they pick a mayor to lead  
them.



2020

Lowell City Councilors

2021

**From left to right, back row:**

Dan Rourke, Sokhary Chau, David Conway, Vesna Nuon,  
William Samaras

**From left to right, front row:**

Rodney Eliot, Vice Mayor Rita Mercier, Mayor John Leahy,  
John Drinkwater

**Contact:**

375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Room 50 Lowell, MA 01852

Phone: 978-674-4040

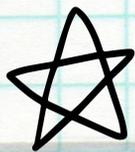
**What do city officials do?**

- Local laws (examples: parking, roads, trash, rules about who can build what where)
- Decide how local \$\$\$ is used
- City programs and services (police, firefighters, parks, library)

# The Local Level

At Lowell's City Hall

The School Committee also represents the whole city.



**Left to right back row:**

Dominik Lay , Connie Martin, Mike Dillon Jr., Hilary Clark

**Left to right front row:**

Jacqueline Doherty, Mayor John Leahy, Andre Descoteaux

**Note:** Dominik Lay was sworn in after a resignation in 2021

**Contact:**

Email all: [sc@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:sc@lowell.k12.ma.us)

Phones and emails for each at:

<https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/Page/131>

## What does the School Committee do?

- School budgeting
- Collective bargaining with the unions
- School Curriculums



# The Local Level

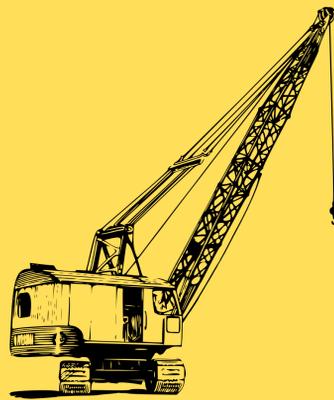
At City Hall and the Kennedy Civic Center



City Manager Eileen Donoghue



The City Manager is appointed by the City Council, and they can fire her. She is the head of all the people that work for the city, and it's her job to make sure that what the City Council wants is put into action.



City Staff are responsible for city roads, parks, sidewalks, streetlights, safety, schools, the Senior Center, recreation programs, and much more.

**Contact:**

City Manager Eileen Donoghue  
Phone: 978-674-4400  
375 Merrimack Street 2nd  
Floor, Room 43 Lowell, MA  
01852

Neighborhood Liaison Shauna  
Forcier  
Phone: 978-674-4030  
SForcier@LowellMA.Gov



## Neighborhood Issue Directory

### ISSUES BY TELEPHONE #

<u>Emergencies (Police, Fire, Medical)</u>	<u>9-1-1</u>
<u>Abandoned Cars</u>	<u>978-674-4144</u>
<u>Animal Control</u>	<u>978-674-4277</u>
<u>Appliance/Bulky Pick-up</u>	<u>800-972-4545</u>
<u>Building Code/Zoning Violations</u>	<u>978-674-4144</u>
<u>Career Center</u>	<u>978-970-3341</u>
<u>Graffiti</u>	<u>978-674-4035</u>
<u>Health Code Violations</u>	<u>978-674-4144</u>
<u>Housing Rehabilitation Programs</u>	<u>978-674-4252</u>
<u>Human Relations/Job Postings</u>	<u>978-674-4105</u>
<u>Hunger and Homelessness</u>	<u>978-674-4252</u>
<u>Inspectional Services</u>	<u>978-674-4144</u>
<u>Law Department</u>	<u>978-674-4050</u>
<u>Neighborhood Services</u>	<u>978-674-4030</u>
<u>Parking Facilities</u>	<u>978-446-7020</u>
<u>Parks and Recreation</u>	<u>978-970-4171</u>
<u>Pot Holes</u>	<u>978-674-4035</u>
<u>Recycling</u>	<u>978-674-4309</u>
<u>School Department</u>	<u>978-674-4320</u>
<u>Senior Citizens Referrals</u>	<u>978-674-1172</u>
<u>Sewers/Catch Basins Cleaned</u>	<u>978-674-4249</u>
<u>Sewer Emergency</u>	<u>978-674-4249</u>
<u>Snow Removal</u>	<u>978-674-4111</u>
<u>Special Events Office</u>	<u>978-674-4260</u>
<u>Street Sweeping</u>	<u>978-674-4111</u>
<u>Tobacco Control</u>	<u>978-674-4010</u>
<u>Traffic Lights</u>	<u>978-674-4111</u>
<u>Traffic Signs</u>	<u>978-674-4111</u>
<u>Trash/Recycling</u>	<u>978-674-4309</u>
<u>Trash (illegal dumping)</u>	<u>978-674-4030</u>
<u>Unregistered Cars</u>	<u>978-674-4144</u>
<u>Veteran's Affairs</u>	<u>978-674-4066</u>
<u>Water Emergency (24/7)</u>	<u>978-970-4242</u>
<u>Water Billing</u>	<u>978-970-4242</u>
<u>Voter Registration</u>	<u>978-674-4046</u>
<u>Syringe Collection Program</u>	<u>978-674-1049</u>
<u>Veotide Bike Share Reporting</u>	<u>855-836-2256</u>

# The city of Lowell has put in place a new election system that will take effect in 2021.

Lowell's new voting system taking effect in 2021 is the result of a Voting Rights Act lawsuit filed against the city. The lawsuit which was settled in 2019 claimed that the city's at-large voting system was unfair to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) voters and created inequality within the city of Lowell.

## Lowell's New "Hybrid" Voting System

**City Council:** Voters will select a candidate from their neighborhood district to serve on City Council. Voters will also vote to elect three at-large candidates who can be from any part of the city.

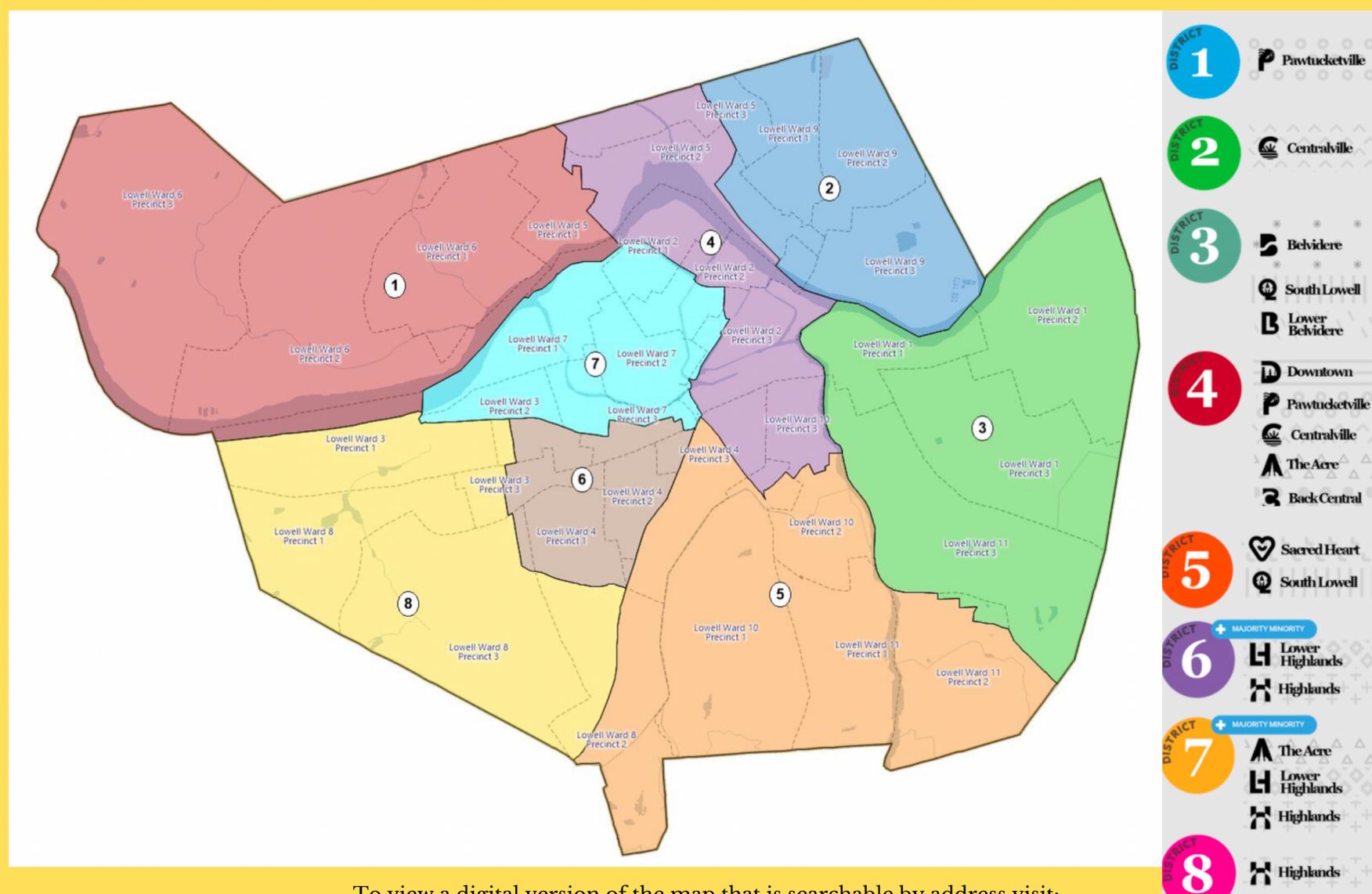
**School Committee:** Voters will select one candidate from their district and two at-large candidates. These voting districts are formed by combining pairs of the eight new City Council districts.

School Committee District 1 is comprised of Council Districts 1 and 8

School Committee District 2 is comprised of Council Districts 4 and 2

School Committee District 3 is comprised of Council Districts 3 and 5

School Committee District 4 is comprised of Council Districts 6 and 7.



To view a digital version of the map that is searchable by address visit:  
[yourlowellyourvote.org](http://yourlowellyourvote.org)

Office	How Long is the term?	When's the next election?
City Council and School Committee	2 years	November 2021
State Senate and State Rep	2 years	November 2022
US Congress	2 years	November 2022
US Senate	6 years	Staggered  (2024 for Warren, 2026 for Markey)
President	4 years	November 2024

## 10 REASONS TO VOTE LOCAL

1. It's your right! There are people still fighting for the right to vote and influence their government. Use your right and make your voice heard.

3. Your vote has a big impact! There are 58,000 registered voters in Lowell but only about 1 in 8 vote locally. Since smaller numbers of people vote in local elections, your vote could be the difference between someone winning or losing.

5. Not voting sends a message, too. If not many people vote, people think that everyone is happy with the way things are, and they might not work toward making things better.

7. Even if you rent a home, local elections are important! Costs of taxes are often passed on to renters and customers as higher rent and prices, and the local officials make decisions about roads, schools, and many other services.

9. Local government helps our economy! Decisions that support a strong business community bring money, jobs and positive growth to the city.

2. Local elections have a local effect. Electing representatives that you respect and making sure they follow through on promises will lead to a better city.

4. Elected officials listen to people that vote. Send a message about what matters most to you by voting and speaking with your elected officials.

6. Your tax dollars are at stake. City councilors and school committee members vote and make decisions on how money will be spent in Lowell and in the public school system. You can vote to make sure those you trust are in charge.

8. Even if you don't have kids, the school committee is important! A strong school system creates a strong community, influences property values, and impacts your neighbors. Make sure people you trust are in charge!

10. Voting is good for you! Having a say in the local government has been shown to make people feel more connected to their community and healthier!

# Voting FAQ

---

## "When is Election Day this year?"

Lowell has a local election for City Council and School Committee Tuesday, November 2 2021 from 7 AM - 8 PM (If needed, there might be a preliminary September 21 2021)

## "Am I registered to vote? How do I register?"

Check your status here:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx?ref=voteusa>

Register online here, or go to the Lowell Election Department at City Hall:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/?ref=voteusa>

## "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](http://www.wheredoivotema.com/bal/myelectioninfo.aspx)
- Asking a neighbor who lives on the same side of your block.

## "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.

## "Can I have someone help me vote?"

- Yes. If you need help with translation or marking the ballot (because English is your second language or you have a disability), you can bring someone with you to help you vote. If what you need is a ride, get in touch with the Election Department: 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!

## "Who made this guide? Who do I reach out to with more questions?"

- Lowell Votes! Lowell Votes is a nonpartisan effort to encourage and support all citizens of the City of Lowell to shape their community through voting with a special emphasis on those who face barriers to voting or have historically low turnout rates.
- If you're interested in helping us, or you have questions, get in touch! please contact us by email at [info@lowellvotes.org](mailto:info@lowellvotes.org), call 508-318-8587, or scan the QR Code on the front page.

