

Lowell Resident Guide

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



**LOWELL
VOTES**

Other Questions? Voting Issues?

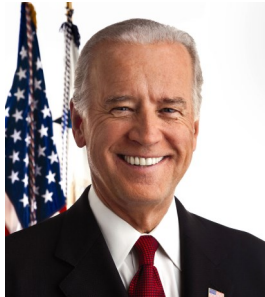
We can help!

Call 508-318-8587

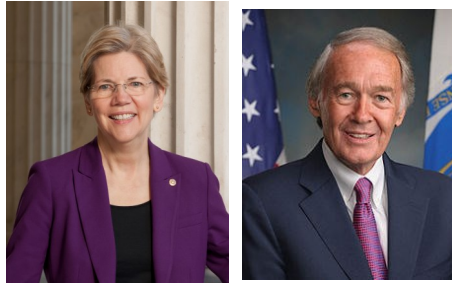
Español 978-856-6628

Khmer 978-454-6200

On the Federal Level, in Washington DC



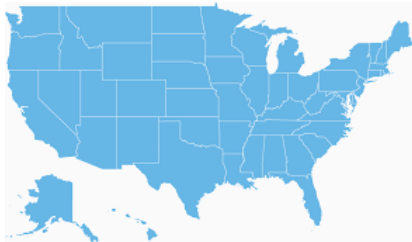
Joe Biden is the President of the whole United States, including Puerto Rico.



Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey are the 2 senators for the state of Massachusetts.



Lori Trahan is the Congresswoman for the Massachusetts 3rd district, which includes Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill.



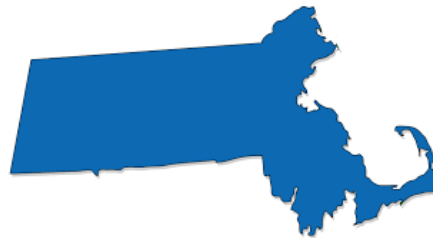
Presidents are elected every 4 years in a national election. The president is the leader of the entire country. They can only serve for 8 years total.

To contact:

Call 202-456-1111

Write

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500



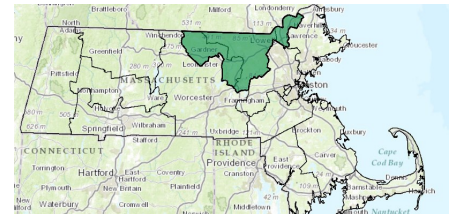
Senators are elected every 6 years. Two senators represent each state in the USA, no matter how big the state is. There are 100 Senators in the senate.

Elizabeth Warren

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

Ed Markey

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-2742



The Massachusetts 3rd is the dark area on this map. Congresspeople are elected every 2 years. They each represent a region of a state by population. There are 435 congresspeople.

126 John Street
Suite 12

Lowell, MA 01852
Phone: (978) 459-0101

What does the Federal Level do?

- 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.

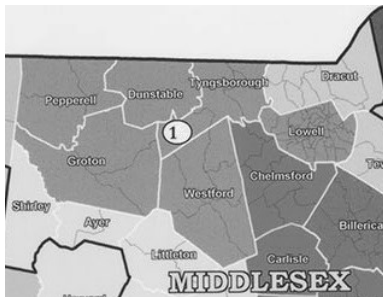
On the state level, at the Statehouse in Boston



State Senator Ed Kennedy represents the 1st Middlesex, which includes the whole city of Lowell and other towns to the west.



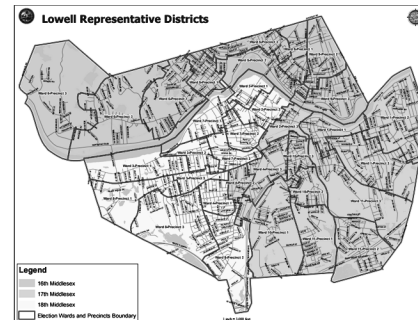
State Representative Tom Golden represents the 16th Middlesex, covering Pawtucketville and Centerville neighborhoods in Lowell. State Representative Vanna Howard represents the 17th Middlesex, which covers the Downtown, Belvidere, and South Lowell neighborhoods. State Representative Rady Mom represents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



1st Middlesex is the middle grey area on this map.

State Senators are elected every two years. They cover a larger region than representatives, and there are 40 in total.

edward.kennedy@masenate.gov
24 Beacon St.
Room 405
Boston, MA, 02133
617-722-1630



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

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

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

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

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)

At the local level, at Lowell's City Hall

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



From right to left, top row

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

Bottom row

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

Contact:

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

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)

At the local level, at Lowell's City Hall

The School Committee also represents the whole city.



Dominik Lay, Connie Martin, Mike Dillon Jr., Hilary Clark
Jacqueline Doherty Mayor John Leahy, Andre Descoteaux
Note: Dominik was sworn in in 2021 following a resignation.

Contact:

Email all: 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

BUT....IN 2021 LOWELL'S VOTING SYSTEM IS CHANGING!

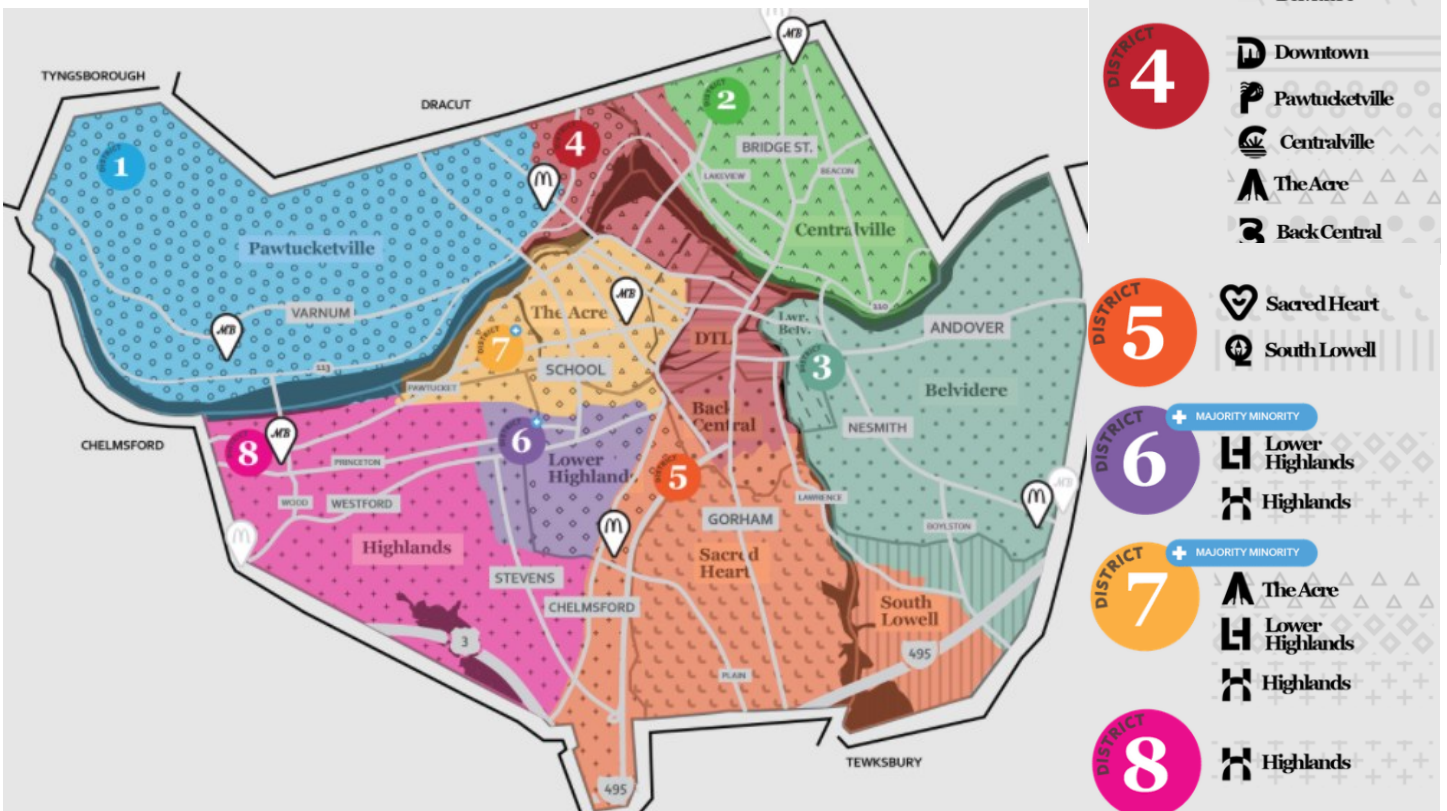
City Council: Voters will select a candidate from their neighborhood district to serve on City Council. Voters will also vote to elect three at-large candidates who can be from any part of the city .

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.

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.

To view a digital version of the map that is searchable by address visit:
yourlowellyourvote.org



At the local level, at Lowell's City Hall and the Kennedy Civic Center:



The City Manager is appointed by the City Council, and they can fire them. They are 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.

Neighborhood Issue Directory

ISSUES BY TELEPHONE



City Manager Eileen Donoghue

375 Merrimack Street
2nd Floor, Room 43
Lowell, MA 01852

Phone: 978-674-4400

Neighborhood Liaison Shauna Forcier

Phone: 978-674-4030

SForcier@LowellMA.Gov

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

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	2024

Top 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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!
- 9. Local government helps our economy!** Decisions that support a strong business community bring money, jobs and positive growth to the city.
- 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: [My Voter Registration Status: Search \(state.ma.us\)](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx?ref=voteusa) <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx?ref=voteusa>

Register online here, or go to the Lowell Election Department at City Hall [Online Voter Application \(state.ma.us\)](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/?ref=voteusa) <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
- 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 , call 508-318-8587, or scan this QR Code.

