

# 2018 Election Guide

Updated: 10/10/18



## How do I check my registration status?

You can still register to vote in the general election by 8pm on October 17<sup>th</sup>. We recommend checking your status to make sure there are no problems when you go to your polling place. Check this by:

- Visiting <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx>
- Calling the Lowell Election Department: 978-674-4046

## 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.

## 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 <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/e/e/eabsentee/absidx.htm>

## 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 help someone 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.

## Can I bring a guide into the 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!

**Polls Open Nov. 6 7am - 8pm**

**Candidates Appear  
in Alphabetical Order**

# U.S. Congress Survey Answers

**Three candidates,  
including an auto  
parts CEO, an IT  
professional, & the  
victor of a 10-way  
Democratic Primary  
(– & recount!), vie to  
to represent you in  
the U.S. Congress.**

**LCWELL  
VOTES**

# MA-3 District U.S. Congress



**Rick Green**  
Pepperell, MA

REPUBLICAN



**Mike Mullen**  
Maynard, MA

INDEPENDENT



**Lori Trahan**  
Westford, MA

DEMOCRAT

## Where can voters find you online?

RickGreenMA  
 RickGreenForCongress  
 RickGreenforMA  
[RickGreenforMA.com](http://RickGreenforMA.com)

Mullen2018  
 Mullen2018  
 Mullen\_2018  
[Mullen2018.com](http://Mullen2018.com)

LoriUSCongress  
 LoriforUSCongress  
 LoriforUSCongress  
[LoriTrahan.com](http://LoriTrahan.com)

## What makes you different from the other candidates in this race?

My opponents agree with one another on most every issue. In many cases, I am the only candidate that doesn't agree with the rest of the field. More importantly, I am the only candidate who will be able to work with the administration and the leadership in Congress to deliver real results for MA3.

I'm running as an independent because I think the political and electoral process is broken. I believe the fundamental challenges created by the divisiveness and focus on special interests prevent meaningful work on all the other issues that are important to the majority of citizens.

I was born & raised in Lowell and stayed in the district to raise my family. I've delivered results for this district as a congressional chief of staff. I've helped women into corporate leadership through my business. I will always stand up for working families, women, and the most vulnerable.

## How should our immigration system be reformed?

First we must all agree that we are a nation of laws and that the rule of law must be respected. We must reject "sanctuary" policies. Successful immigration policy requires both certainty and humanity. Citizens and immigrants alike benefit from a well-defined system that is not applied arbitrarily.

We need to modernize the system, provide a path to citizenship for those who are here and are contributing members of our communities as well provide support for a clear and compassionate enforcement policy going forward. I believe something like the 2013 "Gang of Eight" bill is a good model.

We need to:

- Create pathways to citizenship and support DREAMers
- Immediately reunite separated families and end inhumane ICE practices
- Provide smarter border security by focusing on technology - not a wall
- Do our part in the global community by providing refuge and foreign aid

## How will you ensure equitable funding and resources for public schools?

The appropriations formulas must be constantly reviewed to ensure equitable distribution of resources. I would eliminate unfunded mandates imposed on our local school districts. Any mandate enacted by federal or state governments must also be adequately funded.

The state legislature should update the foundation budget. I'm against voucher programs that drain resources from public systems. While it is good to see the innovation in many charter schools we need to pause to ensure there is the proper oversight in place before expanding further.

The federal government has a responsibility to help close gaps in opportunity for underserved students. We can reemphasize Title I funding and use standardized tests as one of many tools to identify and support schools in need, instead of using them to punish schools that are already struggling.

## What's your plan for creating more jobs in our state? How will you ensure that these jobs pay a living wage?

My brother and I built a business out of a garage into one of the largest online auto parts companies in the U.S. We created over 500 jobs with locations in Westford, Littleton, and Pepperell. I know what it takes to transform old mill economies into 21st-century economies because I've done it.

I support the recent "Grand Bargain" bill that works toward a \$15 minimum wage over the next few years. In addition I believe we should leverage our leadership in healthcare and education to attract businesses related to those industries.

Investing in infrastructure and clean energy creates skilled jobs, revitalizes our cities and towns, and helps combat climate change. We need to reinvest in trade and apprenticeship training to bridge the skills gap and to help more people find good paying jobs. I also support a \$15 minimum wage.

## How should we address climate change?

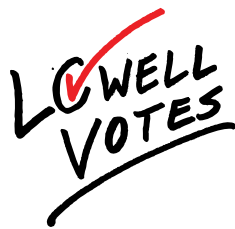
The market for renewables is expanding rapidly as production costs decline leading to rising demand. My warehouse in Littleton boasts one of the largest solar installations in the state. I've done, with my own money, what others only talk about.

To start we should rejoin the Paris accords. An area that needs added attention is a rework of our national electrical grid included adding long distance direct current (DC) capability to be able to take advantage of our renewable resources in an efficient manner.

We must continue President Obama's legacy of leadership. We must return to the Paris Agreement and the Clean Power Plan. We need to invest in renewables and the infrastructure needed to protect people from the consequences of our changing planet, and hold big polluters accountable.

# State Senate Survey Answers

**Two candidates,  
including a former  
Lowell Mayor,  
vie to represent you in  
the MA State Senate.**



# 1<sup>st</sup> Middlesex District State Senate



**John MacDonald** REPUBLICAN  
Lowell, MA



**Ed Kennedy** DEMOCRAT  
Lowell, MA

## Where can voters find you online?

JMac4StateSen1  
 MacDonald4StateSenate  
 N/A  
[VoteJohnMacDonald.com](http://VoteJohnMacDonald.com)

N/A  
 EdKennedyforStateSenate  
 N/A  
[EdKennedy.org](http://EdKennedy.org)

## Why are you running for State Senate?

I want to put the people of the 1st Middlesex... First Again. I'm going to fight for controlled state spending and taxes, state government reform and will fight for veterans and citizens in need. I will never support Massachusetts becoming a sanctuary state.

During my time as a city councilor and as mayor, I have become acutely aware of the impact that state government has on cities and towns. I will bring experience and tenacity to the State Senate and be a strong advocate for all six communities and those who need a louder voice on Beacon Hill.

## How will you ensure equitable funding and resources for public schools?

Teachers need more input to identify what works in the classroom. We should eliminate unnecessary programs and create a formula that doesn't penalize teachers and school administrations for saving money. Local aide in most towns has been frozen, we need to increase local aide, which can be found by eliminating \$10 billion in state entitlements fraud.

As the former mayor and chairman of the Lowell School Committee, I am a strong proponent for revamping the funding formula that the state uses to fund public schools. I am strongly committed to identifying a revenue source dedicated exclusively to funding public schools throughout the state.

## In addressing the opioid crisis, is it better to focus on treatment or criminal justice?

Both need to be better.

The primary focuses in combating the opioid crisis should be on treatment, education, and prescription drug monitoring programs. However, I would support stiffer penalties for people convicted of selling heroin and fentanyl.

## How should Massachusetts respond to recent and proposed changes in federal immigration policy?

We need to comply with federal law. I'm a law and order candidate and do not support illegal immigration. I support legal immigration. I support the legal immigration process. I do not support sanctuary state initiatives or Lowell becoming a sanctuary city.

The policy in Lowell is that the Lowell Police Department does not enforce federal immigration laws. I support that policy and believe the Commonwealth should have the same policy until the United States Congress comes up with a sensible policy for immigration.

## What major change to our transportation planning would you make to reduce traffic?

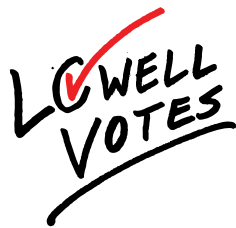
We need to invest in our transportation infrastructure. Roads and bridges (especially the Rourke Bridge) need dramatic attention and our commuter rail system needs modernization. The current commuter rail system is aged and costly to maintain. A modern commuter rail system would reduce traffic.

I support the North-South Rail Link that has been proposed by many transportation leaders as a way of increasing commuter rail ridership and decreasing the number of commuters traveling in motor vehicles on interstate highways. I also support increased funding for regional transit systems.

**Turn the page for  
ballot question info,  
Register of Deeds, &  
Governor's Council!**

# State Ballot Questions

**This election cycle,  
there are three separate  
ballot questions.  
These address nurse-  
patient assignments,  
Money in politics,  
& gender identity anti-  
discrimination.**



# Ballot Questions

## What Does Yes/No Mean?

	Yes	No
<b>Question 1:</b> <b>Nurse-Patient Assignment Limits Initiative</b>	A Yes Vote would establish patient assignment limits for registered nurses working in hospitals.	A No Vote would make no change to state laws that currently only limit nurse-to-patient ratios for intensive care units but not other medical units in hospitals.
<b>Question 2:</b> <b>Advisory Commission for Amendments to the U.S. Constitution Regarding Money in Politics</b>	A Yes Vote would create a 15-person volunteer citizens commission to advocate for a new 28th Amendment regarding political spending and corporate personhood, specifically to overturn Citizens United.	A No Vote would not create this commission.
<b>Question 3:</b> <b>Gender Identity Anti- Discrimination</b>	A Yes Vote would uphold a 2016 law that prohibits discrimination against transgender people in public places, such as restaurants, malls, and hospitals.	A No Vote would repeal the law prohibiting discrimination against transgender people in public places.

## State Senate

# State Ballot Questions



**John MacDonald** REPUBLICAN  
Lowell, MA



**Ed Kennedy** DEMOCRAT  
Lowell, MA

**Will you vote yes or no on Ballot Question 1, to limit the number of patients that can be assigned to nurses at hospitals and some other health care facilities? Why?**

No	Leaning Yes
No. Most practicing nurses are against this. Government mandating nurse assignments will only increase costs unnecessarily. This is an issue that requires more thought and more alternatives for patients, nurses and our health care system.	I believe that patients should always take priority over profits. The state Health Policy Commission indicates that the financial impact might be as high as \$900 million annually. Based on that report, I am undecided, but leaning towards yes on Question-1 at this time.

**Will you vote yes or no on Ballot Question 2, to create a citizen commission to advocate for a new Constitutional Amendment to limit the influence of corporate money in elections? Why?**

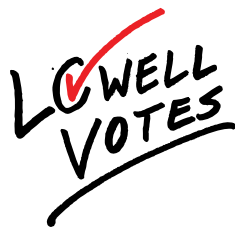
Yes	Yes
Yes. We need to start somewhere when it comes to limiting the influence of corporate money into politics. It's not perfect idea, but it starts the process of potentially cleaning up our political system.	I am voting yes on Question-2. Corporate money has too much influence on the electoral process and corporate interests are almost always based on money and profits rather than what is best for all.

**Will you vote yes or no on Ballot Question 3, to keep in place the current law prohibiting discrimination against transgender people in public places like restaurants, stores, and hospitals? Why?**

Yes	Yes
Yes. Most public bathrooms are now designated unisex or are being built and designated as unisex, which resolves the issue of discrimination, relative to use of public restrooms.	I am voting yes on Question-3. I supported the current law prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity back in 2016 and since that time there have not been any events that would cause me to change my mind.

# Register of Deeds Survey Answers

It's employee vs. the  
incumbent boss,  
vying to serve you in  
the Registry of Deeds.

LCWELL  
VOTES



# Middlesex Northern District Register of Deeds



**Karen Cassella**  
Lowell, MA

INDEPENDENT



**Richard P. Howe**  
Lowell, MA

DEMOCRAT  
INCUMBENT

## Where can voters find you online?

N/A  
 Elect-Karen-Cassella-for-Register-of-Deeds-1938269049816719  
 N/A  
[CommitteetoElectKarenCassella.com](http://CommitteetoElectKarenCassella.com)

DickHowe  
 RichardPHowe  
 DickHoweJr  
[RichardHowe.com](http://RichardHowe.com)

## Why are you running for this office?

I am running for Register of Deeds to help people better utilize this office. With my 26 years experience it's time for the public to have more options with legal real estate questions and implement more programs to help people. Time to focus our office on giving back to the public. New Vision!

I love the job and want to keep doing it. Being Register of Deeds requires knowledge of law, history and technology, three of my passions. I have used these skills to make the registry a model of efficiency and customer service. But much remains to be done so I seek re-election.

## Why should voters care who is running for Register of Deeds?

This office should give people the help they deserve! My changes will give the public a program for FREE legal advice. I will bring the Registry to the 21st Century in technology. I am not a career politician. I am a new voice for change. I will be the first WOMAN Register of Deeds in MNRD!

Every day the Register of Deeds passes judgment on documents that affect the ownership of real estate. Having an experienced lawyer hold the job ensures that the records will be properly kept and will not jeopardize the title to your home.

## What are the biggest challenges the Middlesex North Registry of Deeds office is facing?

The biggest challenge is getting Registered Land dept. up to date in writing certificates of title, getting old certificates scanned, and upgrading technology all around. Following indexing standards with all Registries and moving all equipment, books, plans etc. to the new courthouse.

In 2019 the registry will (1) move into the new Lowell Judicial Center and (2) install an all-new computer system. Having someone with demonstrated leadership and management skills in charge will be critical to meeting both challenges.

## What new systems or programs would you like to put in place?

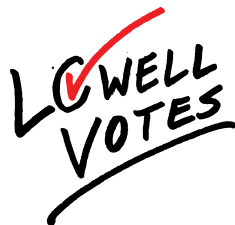
My ideas are endless. I am focused on helping the public. My first program is "Lawyer of the Day" for FREE legal advice for real estate questions. I want to re-open the Middlesex South Satellite office. Have weekly seminars for internet training and guest speakers for real estate issues.

The future of land records is all digital. When you buy your next house, the closing will be all-electronic with no paper documents. My background in law and technology will allow me to develop and implement such a system in a legal and secure way.

**Turn the page for  
Governor's Council!**

# Governor's Council Survey Answers

Three candidates vie to represent the fifth district on the Governor's Council, which advises the Governor on judicial nominations, pardons, and commutations.

The logo features the text "LEWELL VOTES" in a stylized, handwritten font. A red checkmark is positioned above the word "LEWELL". The entire text is underlined with a black line.

# 5<sup>th</sup> District Governor's Council



**Rich Baker**  
West Newbury, MA

REPUBLICAN



**Eileen Duff**  
Peabody, MA

DEMOCRAT  
INCUMBENT



**Marc Mercier**  
Boxford, MA

LIBERTARIAN

## Where can voters find you online?

N/A  
 Baker4Councillor  
 N/A  
[RichBaker.us](http://RichBaker.us)

EileenDuff  
 VoteEileenDuff  
 N/A  
[VoteDuff.com](http://VoteDuff.com)

N/A  
 Mercier4GC  
 N/A  
[ImproveOurCourts.com](http://ImproveOurCourts.com)

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

I work with the Federal Courts on patent cases, and I see a number of top quality judges. I am running for Governor's Council to make sure that we have the same quality judges at the state level.

A lifelong interest in government and justice.

I decided to run when I became aware of the partisanship and unprofessional behavior of our existing councillors. With my background in law and finance, gained at Suffolk Law and some of the world's best consulting firms, I knew my presence would improve the Council.

## Why should voters care who is on the Governor's Council?

We do not vote for judges in Massachusetts; instead we elect Governor's Councillors to represent us in the approval of Massachusetts judges. If our Councillor is not selecting the best judges, there will be no justice in the state.

The day you appear in court, no matter the reason or charge is the most important day of your life in that moment. All citizens are entitled to Justice and a fair hearing.

Voters care about the bad judges that have been in the news recently. To get better judges, you need better Councillors. Citizens should care to have the best objective judges to uphold justice and protect rights. I am best qualified candidate and the only one to pledge to serve without a salary.

## What are your criteria for approving judges?

I look for judges who will follow the rule of law. The legislature sets policy for the state, I seek judges who simply apply the law to the facts, judges with integrity, fairness, and compassion for all parties.

Temperment, court room experience as well as an understanding of the human condition and a willingness to listen and learn.

Judges ensure justice by applying law objectively. Their understanding of law drives their decision making. It's the most important criteria to screen candidates. To assess this, I can rely on my experience and education. Our current Councillor has no professional legal education or experience.

## How can you insure that we have judges who will treat everyone fairly?

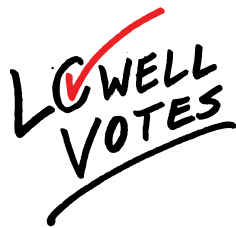
Judges who follow the law as written treat everyone fairly. If a judge puts his personal opinion on the law into his decision, then the rulings will be different depending on the judge. This leads to different treatment depending on which judge hears the case.

We try our very best, however, since we are all human, there is no way of knowing what someone will do once they don the robe. Hopefully a full vetting process ensures full understanding of the law and implementing justice.

Judges are appointed for essentially a lifetime, making it hard to hold them accountable. When elected, I will work with legislators to amend the law and require a re-confirmation process, before the Council, every 10 years. I will also only confirm judges who respect our Constitution.

# Web Bonus Questions

**In addition to the questions in our print guide, we asked the candidates from all three races about wealth inequality, Medicare for all, and other topics suggested by you.**



# Web Bonus: What is your very favorite movie?

## U.S. Congress



**Rick Green**  
**Cars**  
(2006)

**74%** Rotten Tomatoes Score

“My very favorite movie these days would have to be either Cars or Moana, depending on which one of my kids gets their way on that particular day.”



**Mike Mullen**  
**Spotlight**  
(2015)

**97%** Rotten Tomatoes Score



**Lori Trahan**  
**Good Will Hunting**  
(1997)

**97%** Rotten Tomatoes Score

## State Senate



**John MacDonald**  
**The Godfather**  
(1972)

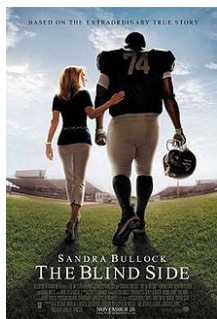
**98%** Rotten Tomatoes Score



**Ed Kennedy**  
**The Shawshank Redemption**  
(1993)

**93%** Rotten Tomatoes Score

## Register of Deeds



**Karen Cassella**  
**The Blind Side**  
(2009)

**66%** Rotten Tomatoes Score



**Richard P. Howe**  
**Saving Private Ryan**  
(1998)

**93%** Rotten Tomatoes Score

## Governor's Council



**Rich Baker**  
**Airplane**  
(1980)

**97%** Rotten Tomatoes Score



**Eileen Duff**  
**Chariots of Fire**  
(1981)

**83%** Rotten Tomatoes Score



**Marc Mercier**  
**Cool Hand Luke**  
(1967)

**100%** Rotten Tomatoes Score

“It is a classic man vs. society movie. The themes of it speak to the principles of libertarianism. Ultimately it re-enforces the idea that man's freedoms are often unjustly restrained by society and that society's only means of restraining/controlling him is force, not cooperation.”

Web Bonus:

# What is your favorite pizza place in Lowell?

Take the Lowell Votes  
Democracy-Lovers  
Pizza Challenge –  
visit all six of the pizza  
places shown & dine  
like a candidate!

## U.S. Congress

Rick Green

“Anyone following our campaign will know that we are out there every day trying to hit every possible stop, not just in Lowell but across the district, so we will have to get back to you on this when we complete the tour.”



Mike Mullen

**BROTHERS PIZZA**

Yelp Score



688 Merrimack St.

Lori Trahan

**ESPRESSO PIZZA**

Yelp Score



220 Central St.

## State Senate

John  
MacDonald

**ESPRESSO PIZZA**

Yelp Score



220 Central St.

Ed Kennedy

**TREMONTE PIZZERIA**  
RESTAURANT • BAR

Yelp Score



44 Palmer St.

## Register of Deeds

Karen Cassella

**ESPRESSO PIZZA**

Yelp Score



220 Central St.

Richard P. Howe

**ESPRESSO PIZZA**

Yelp Score



220 Central St.

## Governor's Council

Rich Baker

  
**Little Caesars**

Yelp Score



430 Bridge St.

Eileen Duff

**George's**  
At Lowell House of Pizza

Yelp Score



283 School St.

Marc Mercier

**BRANDO'S PIZZA**  
HOME OF THE SUPER SUB

Yelp Score



1274 Lawrence St.



# MA-3 District U.S. Congress: Web Bonus



**Rick Green**  
Pepperell, MA

REPUBLICAN



**Mike Mullen**  
Maynard, MA

INDEPENDENT



**Lori Trahan**  
Westford, MA

DEMOCRAT

**Can we find a solution to address wealth inequality in our own district?**

Yes, transform our economy as explained in the question "What's your plan for creating more jobs in our state? How will you ensure that these jobs pay a living wage?"

I think the recent "Grand Bargain" bill signed into law by Governor Baker this summer is a good start. I would also work to revise the federal tax reform bill to make it more equitable and support middle and lower income individuals.

The first steps toward closing the income inequality gap are:  
1. Ensure access to quality public education for all  
2. Eliminate the influence of corporate money in policy, so that we can pass a tax plan that works for working & middle class families  
3. Increase access to affordable healthcare

**Do you support Medicare for all? Why or why not?**

Adding 275 million new people to Medicare who haven't paid into the system will jeopardize care for the 44 million seniors currently enrolled who paid into the system their whole lives. "Single payer" means single decider. Patients need more choice, not less, in our healthcare system.

I support this because it makes sense economically and morally. Three of the largest cost drivers of the existing system are limited negotiating power with providers, lack of transparency on cost & complexity of payment system. Single payer helps address all of these.

Yes. Healthcare is a human right. I believe that we're on a path toward Medicare for all, but it will take time to build that consensus. There are things we can do now to make care more affordable - reduce the cost of prescription drugs, increase Medicaid coverage & protect women's health services.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Middlesex District State Senate: Web Bonus



**John MacDonald**  
Lowell, MA

REPUBLICAN



**Ed Kennedy**  
Lowell, MA

DEMOCRAT

**What's your vision to bring the state to a more sustainable energy plan?**

We need to continue working towards cleaner and more efficient energy. Massachusetts needs to continue to invest in clean energy and sustainable energy research. We need to apply commonsense in this area.

I support the Global Warming Solutions Act which requires that we reduce the 1990 level of greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent as of 2020 and by 80 percent as of 2050.

**Should Massachusetts build more housing that is affordable? Should our region?**

Yes.

Yes. I believe that everyone, at every economic level, should be able to live in a dwelling that is clean, safe and affordable. I will support legislation that is aimed at achieving that goal throughout the First Middlesex District and the Commonwealth.

**Want more candidate answers? Check out our web guide for the most up-to-date info!**  
[lowellvotes.org/2018ElectionGuide](http://lowellvotes.org/2018ElectionGuide)

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**Partner  
Organizations**



Email: [info@lowellvotes.org](mailto:info@lowellvotes.org)  
Phone: 978-452-7532 ext. 808  
Facebook: LowellVotes

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 mailing list and website.