

2020 General Election Guide

Updated: 10/21/20



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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

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.

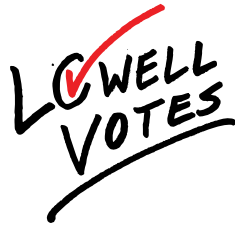
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lowellvotes.org/masks



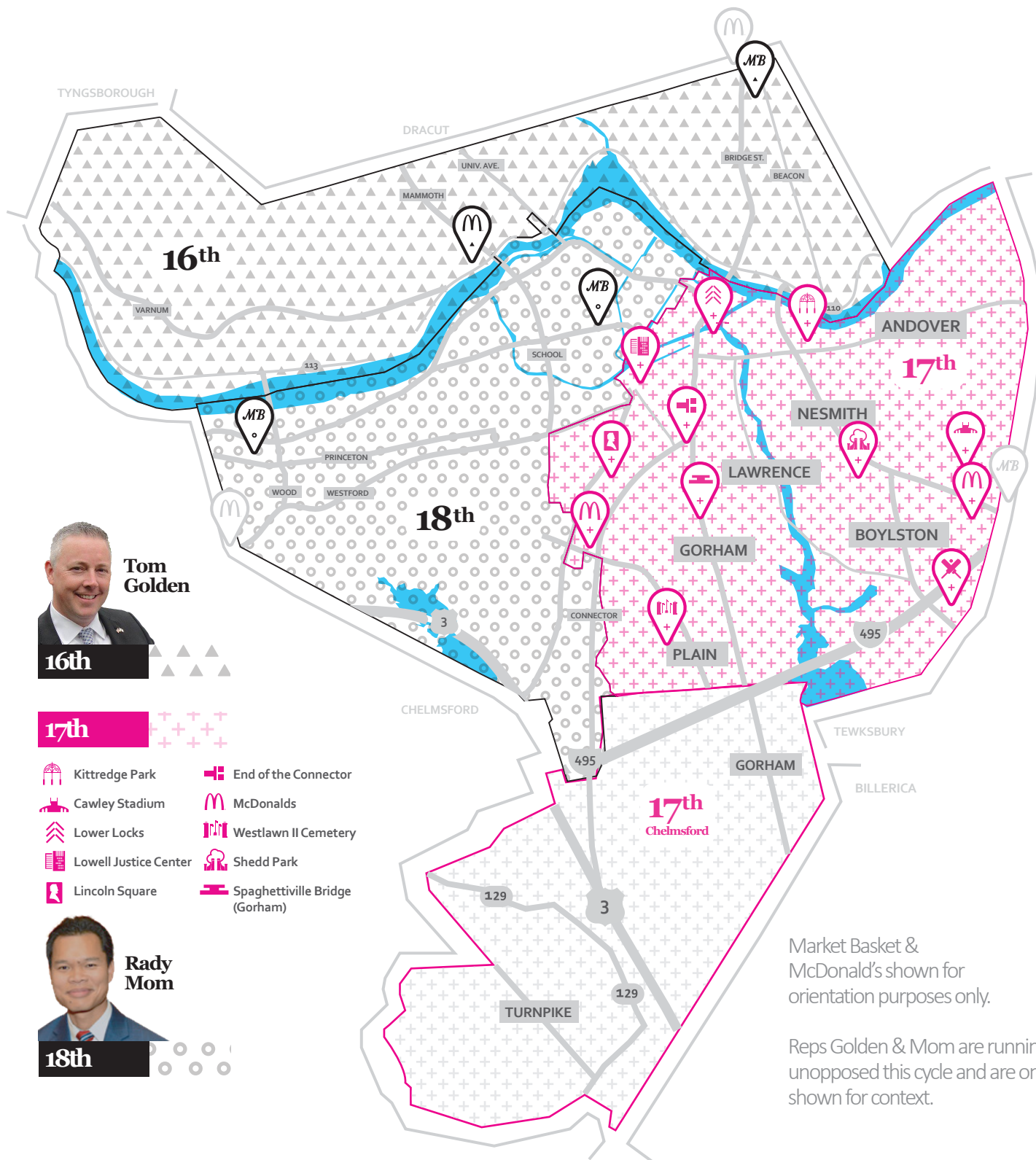
Election Nov 3rd | 7am-8pm

State Rep. Survey Answers & Ballot Question

All that's left
is the ballot
question.



Where are Lowell's State Rep. Districts?



Where do these lines come from?

<https://www.lowellma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/368/Representative-District-Map-PDF>

16th Middlesex Ballot Question

Question 3: Instructions to the Representative

Note that this question ONLY appears on the ballot if you vote in the 16th Middlesex District.

A “yes” vote...

instructs (but does not compel) the State Rep for the district to vote in favor of legislation that would require Massachusetts to achieve 100% renewable energy use within the next two decades, starting immediately and making significant progress within the first five years while protecting impacted workers and business.

“YES” SUPPORTERS SAY...

Climate science demands that we enact sweeping changes to our energy economy in the next 10 years to avert major climate catastrophe. A commitment to 100% renewable energy will put us on the right track.

A “no” vote...

does not approve the statement.

“NO” SUPPORTERS SAY...

Such measures are not necessary and may be disruptive.

17th Middlesex State Representative Survey Answers



VANNA HOWARD
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Vanna Howard

DEMOCRAT

Where can voters find you on the web?

N/A
 VoteForVanna
 VoteForVanna
vannahoward.com

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

How can the state legislature be more transparent to citizens?

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!

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

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.

What's your favorite Lowell pizza place?



, but I love pizza in Lowell.

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

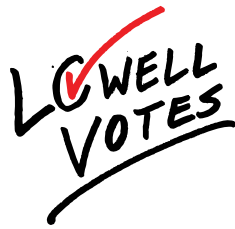


Vanna bested her primary challengers Lisa Arnold & incumbent Dave Nangle.

There is no Republican challenger, so she is running unopposed.

U.S. Senate Survey Answers

Ed vs. Kevin.



U.S. Senate Survey Answers



Ed Markey

DEMOCRAT

INCUMBENT



Kevin O'Connor

REPUBLICAN

Where can voters find you on the web?

EdMarkey
 EdMarkeyforMA
 edmarkey
 edmarkey.com

kocforsenate
 kocforsenate
 kocforsenate
 kocforsenate.com

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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?

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.

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?

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.

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 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.

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?

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.

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 Survey Answers Continued



Ed Markey

DEMOCRAT

INCUMBENT



Kevin O'Connor

REPUBLICAN

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



Old Vintage Celtics Games



What's your favorite movie?



An O'Connor family holiday tradition!

Don't forget the statewide ballot questions!
Next Page!

Statewide Ballot Questions

**Two questions.
Lots of answers.**



Statewide Ballot Questions

Question 1: Right to Repair Law

A “yes” vote...

allows car owners and independent car repair shops to access data to repair new cars.

“YES” SUPPORTERS SAY...

Expanding access to data for new cars would allow consumers to choose where to take their vehicles for repairs and keep smaller shops in business.

A “no” vote...

maintains the exclusive right of car manufacturers to data for repairing new cars.

“NO” SUPPORTERS SAY...

Expanding access to information beyond car manufacturers would risk security of personal driving data, including real-time location.

Question 2: Ranked-Choice Voting Initiative

A “yes” vote...

supports enacting ranked-choice voting (RCV) for primary and general elections for federal and state elections.

“YES” SUPPORTERS SAY...

On your ballot, you can vote for just one candidate like you always have, or you can rank your first, second and third choices. If your favorite candidate can't win, your vote is instantly counted for your second choice, so your vote matters more. This new system would ensure that the election goes to whoever has the majority of support.

A “no” vote...

keeps the current system of voting for one candidate only.

“NO” SUPPORTERS SAY...

Ranked choice voting is a complicated change to our existing way of voting that will increase opportunities for corruption decreased voter participation, and distort election outcomes.

FAVQs.

Frequently Asked Voting Questions.

Can I vote in person?

Yes! You can vote in person on Election Day on November 3, or early from October 17-30.

Can I vote by mail?

Yes! If you haven't received a ballot application in the mail in the week of **September 15**, call your local election office or download an application at MailMyBallotMA.com

Sign and date your application. If your application is not signed, you won't receive a ballot!

Deliver your application to your local elections department by **October 20**.

Return your ballot as soon as possible by mail or dropbox at City Hall. All ballots must be returned or postmarked by **November 3**.

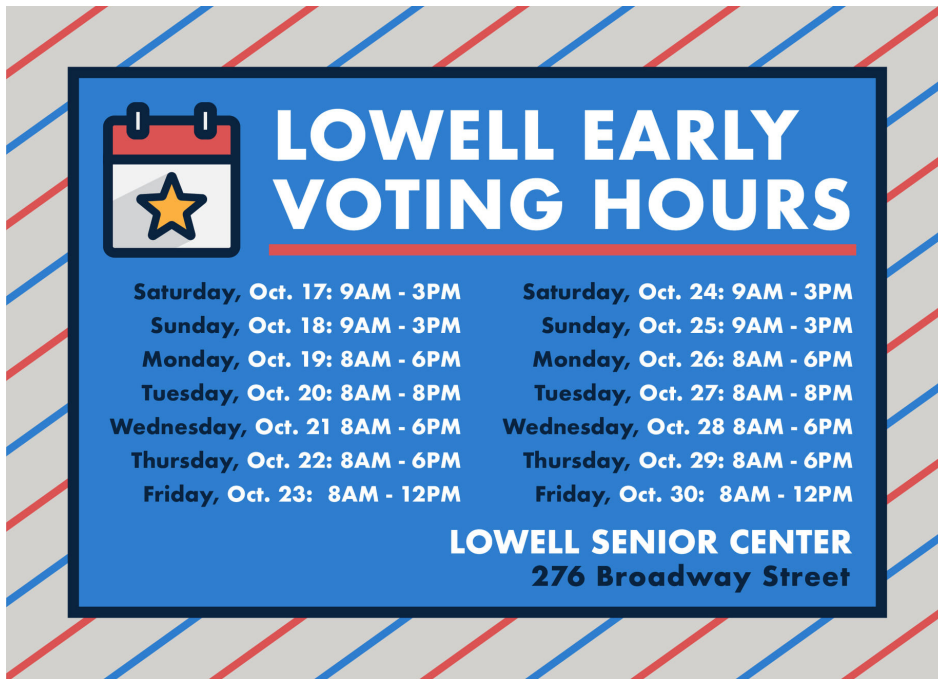
What's the status of my ballot application and/or ballot?

Track your ballot application and your ballot at TrackMyBallotMA.com

What if I didn't receive a mail-in ballot application?

D'oh! You may be registered to vote at a former address.

Check your voter registration status and update your voter registration at: safeelectionsma.org/voter-registration



LOWELL EARLY VOTING HOURS

Saturday, Oct. 17: 9AM - 3PM	Saturday, Oct. 24: 9AM - 3PM
Sunday, Oct. 18: 9AM - 3PM	Sunday, Oct. 25: 9AM - 3PM
Monday, Oct. 19: 8AM - 6PM	Monday, Oct. 26: 8AM - 6PM
Tuesday, Oct. 20: 8AM - 8PM	Tuesday, Oct. 27: 8AM - 8PM
Wednesday, Oct. 21: 8AM - 6PM	Wednesday, Oct. 28: 8AM - 6PM
Thursday, Oct. 22: 8AM - 6PM	Thursday, Oct. 29: 8AM - 6PM
Friday, Oct. 23: 8AM - 12PM	Friday, Oct. 30: 8AM - 12PM

LOWELL SENIOR CENTER
276 Broadway Street

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