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

Visit LowellVotes.org for more information on local elections
The Federal Level

U.S. 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.

U.S. 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.

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.

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.

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
The 16th Middlesex district covers Pawtucketville and Centerville neighborhoods in Lowell. With Tom Golden out, this seat is open.

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.

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.

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)

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

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

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 (standing):
Dominik Lay, Connie Martin, Stacey Thompson, Eileen DelRossi

Left to right (sitting):
Jackie Doherty, Mayor Sokhary Chau, Susie In-Chhoun

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
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 Thomas Golden
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISSUES BY TELEPHONE #</th>
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<td>Abandoned Cars 978-674-4144</td>
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<td>Animal Control 978-674-4277</td>
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<td>Water Emergency (24/7) 978-970-4242</td>
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<td>Water Billing 978-970-4242</td>
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<td>Voter Registration 978-674-4046</td>
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<td>Syringe Collection Program 978-674-1049</td>
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<td>Veoride Bike Share Reporting 855-836-2256</td>
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The City of Lowell put in place a new election system that took 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
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!
“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
- 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 the QR Code on the front page.
CONNECT WITH LOWELL VOTES

@LOWELLVOTES

Website: lowellvotes.org

Mailing list: https://tinyurl.com/LV-mail

Scan below to visit our Linktree