

2022 Primary Election Guide

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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, and length. 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 are listed alphabetically in their races unless otherwise specified.

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The candidate questions in this guide are generated through a community input survey to identify issues that residents care most about. Watch for the survey when it comes out each cycle on social media, through community organizations or in your neighborhood and submit your questions! You may also contact the candidates directly to ask where they stand on issues you care about!

Lowell Votes does not support or endorse any candidate for elected office. We make our educational materials available to the general public. If a candidate chooses to distribute our materials, that should not be taken as an indication that we support or endorse that candidate.

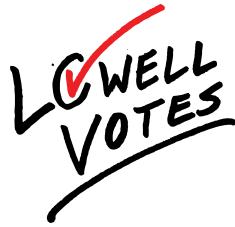
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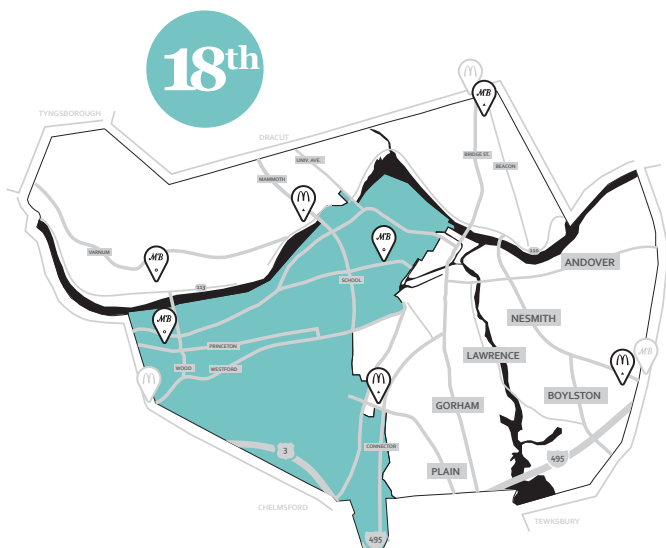
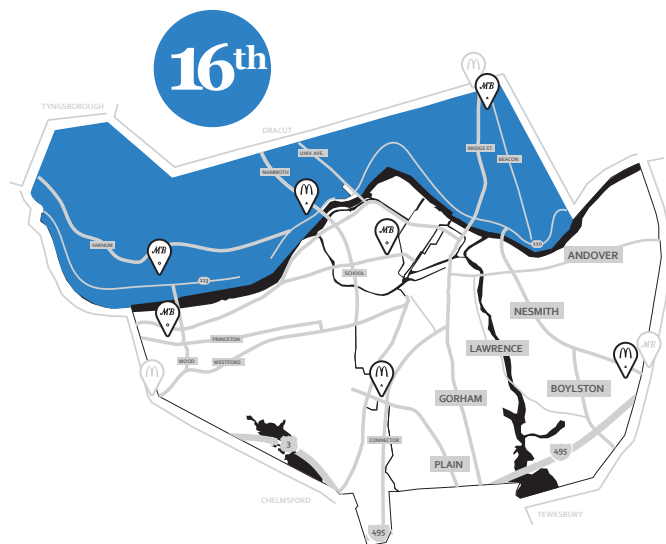
Primary Election Sept 6th | 7am-8pm

State Rep. Survey Answers

**6 candidates.
2 contested districts.**



What are Lowell's State Rep. Districts?



16th Middlesex State Representative Survey Answers



Zoe Dzinoku
DEMOCRAT



Rodney Elliott
DEMOCRAT



Karla Miller
REPUBLICAN

Where can voters find you on the web?

GoVoteZoe
 GoVoteZoe
 GoVoteZoe
GoVoteZoe.com

Rodney_Elliott1
 rodneylelliottforcitycouncil
 rodneye_1960
rodneylelliott.com

N/A
 KarlaMillerForStateRep
 karlamiller2022
karlamiller.org

What policies would you support to lower the cost of living for working families?

I raised two kids as a single mother and worked hard to make ends meet. Child care and housing are the most expensive line items for the average family's budget. I'll fight for universal child care. I'll also work to expand down payment assistance, low interest loans, and tools to fight displacement of renters.

Provide increase day care support, expand earned income credits, offer tax breaks for seniors, renters and people caring for children or other dependents.

Chose not to participate.

What are your plans to increase funding to our public schools? How would you use those funds?

I strongly support the Fair Share Amendment, which would massively increase education funding. Young people are suffering from the disruption of their education. I'll prioritize social-emotional health and vocational technical education. I'll fight for a curriculum that includes arts, civics, and financial literacy.

Implement recommendations of the Student Opportunity Act to adequately fund education across the State.

Chose not to participate.

What is the biggest housing issue in our region and what would you do to fix it?

We need stable rent and affordable homeownership, and to transition unhoused individuals to supportive housing. I'll secure funds to curb senior property tax increases and provide quality affordable long-term and in-home care.

Affordable housing is the biggest issue. As a Commissioner at the Lowell Housing Authority, we are working on new projects to expand affordable housing like Phase 5 of Rivers Edge and others. Support state tax credits to expand affordable housing, and support multi family housing zones at MBTA communities.

Chose not to participate.

What is the biggest problem facing the MBTA, and the LRTA, and how would you fix each of these problems?

The state hasn't invested enough in public transit in our region. Residents can't rely upon public transit to be safe or to reach good-paying jobs. I'll work to make investments in the MBTA & LRTA bus service so it can be safe, fare-free, and expand hours and frequency to boost reliability, safety, and access to jobs.

Service delivery for both. MBTA should allow MA DOT to be responsible for infrastructure improvements. MBTA should focus on safety, management and cost containment so those costs are not passed onto ridership. I would like to see expansion of ridership on LRTA to expand services, especially the Road Runner Service.

Chose not to participate.

What should the state do to combat discrimination in government, education, and policing?

The best antidote is to diversify our government ranks and professionals who work in our schools. I will prioritize police-community relations and crime prevention to create a safe community for everyone. I'll advocate for dialogue and spaces where we can work together like youth sports and community activities.

Recruit and diversify workforce in all levels of government so workforce is reflective of population. Expand community policing to engage residents with police officers.

Chose not to participate.

16th Middlesex State Representative Survey Answer

Continued



Zoe Dzineku



Rodney Elliott



Karla Miller

What is your favorite coffee shop in Lowell?



N/A

Chose not to participate.

Who is your favorite musician?

Whitney Houston



N/A

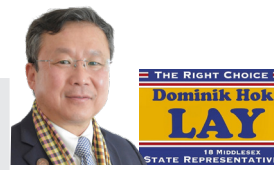
Chose not to participate.

**The winner of the Sept 6
Democratic Primary will go
on to face Karla Miller in the
general election!**

18th Middlesex State Representative Survey Answers



Tara Hong
DEMOCRAT



Dominik Lay
DEMOCRAT



Rady Mom
DEMOCRAT INCUMBENT

Where can voters find you on the web?

[votefortarahong](#)
[Tara-Hong-For-State-Representative](#)
[tarahongforstaterep](#)
[tarahong.com](#)

[N/A](#)
[Dominik-Lay-for-State-Representative](#)
[N/A](#)
[dominiklay.com](#)

[repradymom](#)
[Rady-Mom-State-Representative](#)
[radymom](#)
[radymom.com](#)

What policies would you support to lower the cost of living for working families?

I will support the Fair Share Amendment to help lower the cost for working families. We need to make the top one percent pay their fair share and ensure that if you are in a low-income family, our state government only requires that you pay what you can afford in taxes.

No increasing of taxes. Keep the cost of necessities low. Such as food, transportation and construction materials low. Keeping cost of goods low. Keep the cost of Energy low by introducing renewable energy. And policies that keep the supply high.

It is sad but true for working families who are living paycheck to paycheck and require a lot of support. This is why I am continuing to work with our City Counselors and our City Manager and all of the stakeholders.

What are your plans to increase funding to our public schools? How would you use those funds?

I will be a strong State Representative who is willing to stand up for our Students, Teachers, and Staff. I will support and push legislation like the Fair Share Amendment, which will require the rich to start paying their fair share in taxes, and I will push to get funding from the State government.

Student Opportunity Act has given Lowell Public Schools resources to operate the schools. This funding schedule lets Public Schools receive increasing funding from State (DESE) year after year. Contributions from both the State and the City ought to be clear. Funds should be used to fund programs for educational purpose.

Since I've been elected in 2015 I have fought to increase funding for all of our public schools. It is not just a funding issue, it requires both our teachers and parents to get involved in our children's educations.

What is the biggest housing issue in our region and what would you do to fix it?

There is a shortage of affordable housing, which is making it difficult for Massachusetts to retain families. Stricter requirements on the percentage of units that must be 'affordable' as part of approving new developments, subsidizing rent-to-own or cooperative mortgaging.

Like other cities in MA, housing in Lowell has become less available. I would propose that the abandoned buildings in The Acre and the Highlands should be fixed up for use.

I am a small business owner. We know that small business owners are the backbone of America and we need to support them especially during this time of hardship with COVID-19 which has destroyed many families and businesses.

What is the biggest problem facing the MBTA, and the LRTA, and how would you fix each of these problems?

Public transportation is vital to a modern society, and vital to Massachusetts' goal of reducing emissions from fossil fuels. Many places have safe, reliable and modern public transportation systems. We should study what has worked well in other public transportation systems and implement those processes locally.

For MBTA, the problems are with the personnel. It is not well managed. LRTA needs help with increasing riders.

I believe this is an ongoing scenario where we require both the participant, funding, and the infrastructure.

What should the state do to combat discrimination in government, education, and policing?

Allocate funds and staffing toward the study of DEI initiatives in government, education, and policing; update the education curriculum to include a more robust civics unit taught in school to create the next generation of educated, engaged and empowered voters.

A way to combat discrimination is to have the person who believes in combating discrimination lead the organization. A State Rep, should continue to make policies and pass laws that address this problem. Let's have events to educate the public, in a non confrontation way & understand consequences of discrimination.

I think Lowell is a great example of that by having the diversification of elected official in every level. We are the melting pot of America.

18th Middlesex State Representative Survey Answer Continued



Tara Hong



Dominik Lay



Rady Mom

What is your favorite coffee shop in Lowell?



Who is your favorite musician?



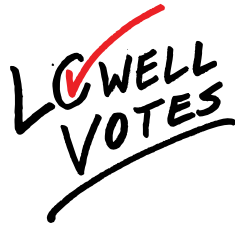
N/A

I do not have a favorite. I love all music!

There is no Republican challenger, so the winner of the primary wins the seat!

U.S. Congress Survey Answers

**No primaries.
2 candidates.**

LCWELL
VOTES

3rd Middlesex District U.S. Congress Survey Answers



Where can voters find you on the web?

loritranhama
 LoriTrahanMA
 loriforusccongress
loritranhan.com

DeanTranMA3
 TranforCongress
 N/A
deantran.com

What policy solutions do you support to address the rising costs of healthcare?

I supported the Inflation Reduction Act, which will lower prescription prices, cap premiums, and close the “family glitch.” We should also be taking more steps to expand access to accessible care options. I’m a huge proponent of health centers like Lowell Community Health Center and permanent telehealth.

Ensure a thriving economy that offers people opportunity, making health care available. Support preventive care practices to catch chronic disease early for treatment and manage more effectively. Close monitoring of health care costs of drug prices. Rigorous oversight to prevent monopoly and/or price gouging.

How can we improve on our efforts to address climate change?

We have to treat climate change like the global crisis that it is. I advocated for passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, which contains the largest investment in world history in tackling the climate crisis. I believe that’s just a down payment on what we need to do to preserve our planet for generations to come.

This is global issue. Only the US committed to reducing fossil fuel emission, while China and India, the leading world polluters made no effort to alter their current consumption of oil and gas. Our effort must include a global involvement and not just a unilateral energy policy that is destroying our economy.

Do you support abortion rights, and what steps would you take to expand or restrict abortion access?

I am fully committed to protecting abortion rights for Americans and I’m proud to be endorsed by Planned Parenthood and NARAL. I’ve voted multiple times to codify abortion rights federally and override Republican bans in many states. When the legislature considered the Roe Act, I testified in support of the legislation.

Abortion is a medical procedure, and the decision to pursue such procedure should be left to the patient and the doctor. Like other medical procedures, regulations should be decided by the states not the Federal government.

How will you address the issue of homelessness, both immediately and in the long term?

My parents are first-gen Americans. Growing up, we lived paycheck to paycheck fearing a health disaster that’d jeopardize affording our home. Many MA families live with that fear. During the pandemic, I secured the financial help necessary to keep a roof over their heads and the protections needed to keep them housed.

Society has a responsibility to our homeless population. Skills and employment programs should be available. Assisted and affordable housing should be available to provide shelter while we help those who are homeless reacclimate back in the community through job training.

How do you plan to address the student debt crisis and what solutions would you propose to remove financial barriers to higher education?

I am a supporter of President Biden’s pledge to forgive up to \$50,000 in student debt, particularly for those who need it most, including public servants and health care workers who got us through the last two years. But that only helps with part of the problem. We must address the sky-high cost of attending college.

Colleges and universities created the problem, and they should be held liable to solve it. The taxpayers should not be responsible for a problem they did not create. Allow Chapter 7 bankruptcy if they are insolvent and allow debt restructuring along with loan forgiveness if they join the military or similar.

What do you feel is the gun control measure that will have the greatest impact on public safety and how would you propose to get this enacted?

Requiring universal background checks on every gun purchase is the best thing we can do to keep guns out of the hands of people who shouldn’t have them. That can’t be the end of what we do. I proudly supported the first substantive gun violence legislation signed into law in over 20 years, but we must go further.

Every person has the right to own a firearm for personal protection. People found guilty of serious-violent crimes or suffer from serious mental health issues should be restricted in their right to own and possess weapons, given due process and just cause are exercised in proceedings to restrict the right to bear arms.

3rd Middlesex District U.S. Congress Survey Answers

Continued



Lori Trahan



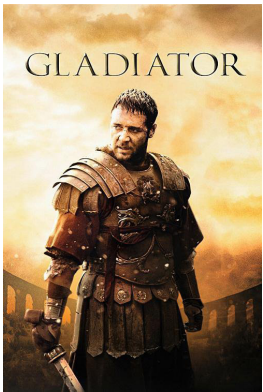
Dean Tran

What is your favorite place
in Lowell?

Lowell Riverwalk near
Boardinghouse Park

Any Southeast Asian
authentic restaurant.

What is your favorite movie?



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