

# 2022 General Election Guide

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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.

**i**

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!

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**Election Day is November 8<sup>th</sup> | 7am-8pm**

# What Questions are on the ballot this fall?



**LOWELL VOTES COALITION ENDORSED**

## **BALLOT QUESTION 1**

### **Additional Tax on Income Over One Million Dollars**

#### **A YES VOTE...**



...creates a modest additional tax of 4 percent on the portion of a person's annual income above \$1 million. This would generate an estimated 2 billion dollars to be spent on quality public education and affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation, as set into the MA Constitution. Residents not making over \$1 million dollars annually would not be affected.

#### **A NO VOTE...**

...would keep our existing tax laws, where millionaires pay a smaller share of their income in state and local taxes than any other income group.

## **BALLOT QUESTION 2**

### **Regulation of Dental Insurance**

#### **A YES VOTE...**

...would require dental insurers to spend at least 83% of their dollars on "dental expenses and quality improvements," instead of administrative expenses. Dental insurance company's posting medical loss ratios less than 83% would have to refund excess premiums.

#### **A NO VOTE...**

...would not establish a medical loss ratio for dental insurance plans. Currently, Massachusetts has established an 88% medical loss ratio for medical insurance plans, but there is no medical loss ratio for dental insurance plans.

# What Questions are on the ballot this fall?

Continued

## BALLOT QUESTION 3

### Expanded Availability of Licenses for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages

#### A YES VOTE...

...would incrementally increase the combined number of retail beer and wine licenses and all alcoholic beverage licenses an establishment could own from no more than 12 in 2023 to no more than 18 by 2031. It would also prohibit in-store automated and self-checkout sales of alcohol, and adds out-of-state driver's licenses to the list of approved identification under the State Liquor Control Act.

#### A NO VOTE...

...would keep existing laws regarding alcohol retail licensing, fining, and operations.

## BALLOT QUESTION 4

### Eligibility for Driver's Licenses

#### A YES VOTE...

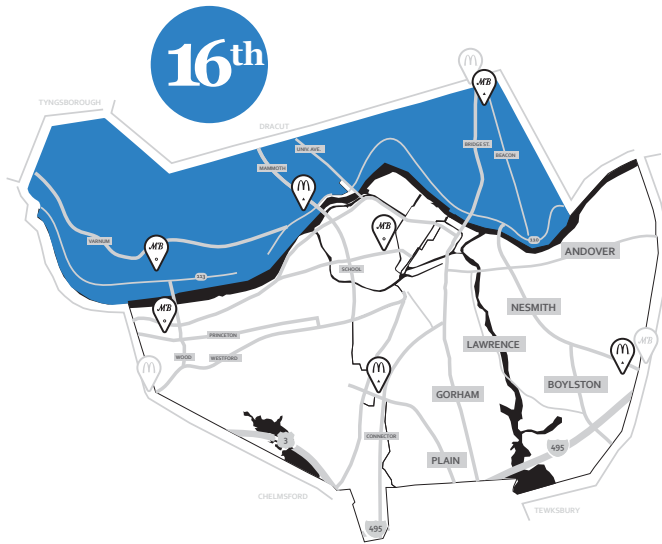


...would uphold the recently passed law which allows immigrants without legal status to apply for a drivers license. This law increases public safety by ensuring more Massachusetts drivers are properly tested and insured, and increases mobility for immigrant families, regardless of status. Currently 16 States have passed similar laws granting immigrants without legal status the right to earn a license.

#### A NO VOTE...

...would repeal House Bill 4805, and would therefore prohibit applicants who cannot verify citizenship or immigration status from obtaining a driver's license and motor vehicle registration.

# What are Lowell's State Rep. Districts?



# 16<sup>th</sup> Middlesex State Representative Survey Answers



**Rodney Elliott**  
DEMOCRAT



**Karla Miller**  
REPUBLICAN

**Where can voters find you on the web?**

Rodney\_Elliott1  
 rodneyelliottforcitycouncil  
 rodneye\_1960  
 rodneyelliott.com

N/A  
 KarlaMillerForStateRep  
 karlamiller2022  
 karlamiller.org

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

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?**

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?**

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?**

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?**

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.

# 16<sup>th</sup> Middlesex State Representative Survey Answers

Continued



Rodney Elliott



Karla Miller

What is your favorite coffee shop in Lowell?



N/A

Chose not to participate.

Who is your favorite musician?



N/A

Chose not to participate.

Keep reading for U.S.  
Congress survey answers!

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Middlesex District U.S. Congress Survey Answers



**Where can voters find you on the web?**

loritranhama  
 LoriTrahanMA  
 loriforuscongress  
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.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Middlesex District U.S. Congress Survey Answers

Continued



Lori Trahan



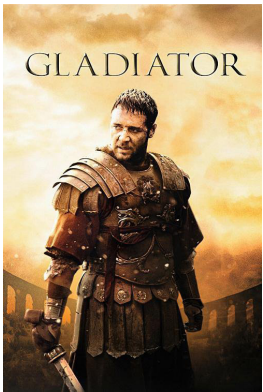
Dean Tran

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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