



2023 Cambridge City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (CEOC) and YWCA Cambridge are jointly hosting a City Council Candidates Forum on Thursday, October 12th at 6pm at 7 Temple Street (YWCA Cambridge's building). Before you hear the candidates talk about their platforms live in person, read their responses to questions about the issues that most impact Cambridge's low-income populations.

Are you registered to vote? The deadline to register to vote is October 28th. Register in person at The Election Commission office (51 Inman Street), online at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>, or by mail. Not sure if you're registered to vote? Check your voter registration status here:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx>

Not sure where your polling place is? Visit this website to check:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/WhereDoIVote>

Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, November 7th! For more information about voting in person, early voting, and voting by mail, visit

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/electioncommission>

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List of Candidates

CANDIDATE	COMPLETED THE QUESITONNAIRE?
Adrienne Klein	Yes
Ayah Al-Zubi	Yes
Ayesha Wilson	Yes
Burhan Azeem	No
Carrie Pasquarello	No
Catherine Zusy	Yes
Dan Totten	Yes
Douglas Brown	No
E. Denise Simmons	Yes
Federico Muchnik	Yes
Frantz Pierre	Yes
Gregg Moree	No
Hao Wang	Yes
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler	Yes
Joan Pickett	No
Joe McGuirk	No
John Hanratty	Yes
Marc McGovern	Yes
Patricia Nolan	Yes
Paul Toner	Yes
Peter Hsu	No
Robert Winters	Yes
Sumbul Siddiqui	Yes
Vernon Walker	Yes

Please read this [brief blurb](#) about poverty in Cambridge. How will this information inform your policy making? What did you learn or take away from this data? Link to data about poverty in Cambridge:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BzarIVq3L3i4Gc6_S7KTyM1Oh1X8VT0-TCrClvu245s/edit?usp=sharing

<p>Adrienne Klein</p>	<p>It is helpful to have a concrete figure for how many families are making too much to qualify for public benefits but but not enough to be considered financially stable (i.e. are still below 250% of the FPL).</p>
<p>Ayah Al-Zubi</p>	<p>1) The income gap needs to be addressed through bridging our community to opportunities that can be stable, offer a living wage, and grow. Between the little money received in SNAP, increasing housing costs, a massive waitlist, this is a crisis.</p> <p>2) We “champion” supporting our low-income and people of color, folks in Cambridge, but programs with money are not enough. Single mothers NEED support, not investments in what's around them and excluding them. It means investing in wraparound services, childcare support, etc. Working class folks don't have access to the same level of political engagement because they're working nonstop. It's our policies and systems that hurt the people who can't get out of the cycle of worsening conditions.</p> <p>3) The way we care for our most vulnerable communities is OUTDATED i.e. using a 1960s formula by the government to create the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) that does not take into account housing, transportation, etc. Continuing these disparities by using this FPL as a measure to exclude many that are "above the FPL" but are struggling is the exclusionary intention of this formula and creates limits in funding. This is highlighted in Cambridge when we have one of the biggest disparities in the country. Even when adjusted to 250% FPL, it continues to make Cambridge not welcoming to those that have built its foundation.</p>
<p>Ayesha Wilson</p>	<p>Despite presenting as a well-educated and rich city, Cambridge has an absurdly high poverty rate. It is unrealistic for people to afford living in Cambridge whose cost of living</p>

continues to be inaccessible for most families. Poverty also disproportionately affects people of color in Cambridge with a larger percent of Black and Latinx Cantabrigians falling below the poverty line. Knowing this, I intend to have policy in Cambridge be equity-focused in order to close the exacerbant income gaps we see in our city. Growing up in public housing, I know the importance of the city being able to provide for families and residents who can't afford to live in Cambridge. As such, I am committed to ensuring that City Council will continue to provide and invest in programs that will provide support for low-income residents and expand them such that no one feels like they don't make enough to live in our city.

Catherine Zusy

The 12.7% is startling and although far better than other cities of our size, that doesn't mean that it's OK. It shows that locally and nationally this is a big problem. (And, yes, living in Cambridge is very expensive!)

This summary also suggests that there providing for the most vulnerable is expensive. Housing is only the first step. Other costs include: child care, food and medical expenses. In expanding affordable housing for the very poor, we must provide services that meet their other needs. This is a complex problem. And, yes, especially in resource-rich Cambridge, we should work to solve it.

The summary also shares that single mothers make less money—they are often caring for their children, and often, lack specialized skills—and so are more impoverished. We need to make sure to give young women opportunities to develop skills and shine in high school, encouraging them, for the sake of their own lives and that of their future children, to make different choices.

Dan Totten

This information is not new to me because it has been informing Councillor Zondervan's policy work and choice of resource allocation during the years that I served as his aide at city hall. On the constituent services side, he had me focus on helping people navigate homelessness and housing instability - I ended up helping hundreds over the years, often

working with CEOC and other community partners. On the policy side, I helped him develop key policies for advancing racial and economic justice including amendments to the Affordable Housing Overlay that are currently before the council, the elimination of towing during street cleaning, universal pre-school, and raising the linkage fees to generate more money for affordable housing. It was a privilege to have been a staffer to the Ordinance Committee during one of the most productive council terms in recent memory, and I am especially proud of our sharp focus on policies that would make a difference in the lives of Cambridge's most vulnerable people. The statistics you listed are indeed sobering, but we have a choice as a wealthy city to spend our riches for eradicating racial and economic injustice. This is a choice I am committed to, and a choice we must make.

E. Denise Simmons

As a longtime City Councilor (and lifelong resident), none of this information comes as a revelation to me. What it does do is reinforce my belief that the Council needs to acknowledge and understand that we live in a community that has great affluence, great opportunity, but also great need and many, many people that are struggling to fully participate in that affluence. My decision-making and policy making have always been guided by the desire to figure out how we can include more people, expand the amount of economic opportunity, and combat the intolerable levels of income inequality, housing insecurity, and food insecurity. I do not doubt that the City Council, as a body, has shared these goals, but we need to do a far better job of placing these goals front and center of our overall City policies. We need to ensure that, whatever other policies and discussions we are engaged in, we ALWAYS have an eye on "how will this impact the least affluent among us? How can we work to better share the wealth and opportunity that is present in our community?" These shall remain my North Star, and my hope is that if I'm returned to the City Council for another term, that I will have colleagues that share this commitment.

Federico Muchnik

I have been poor in Cambridge, raised by an <<immigrant>> single mom, Rita Arditti, from 1969 until the time I went off to college in 1978. We had been a two parent, two income household while step-father was with us, but after he left,

Rita and I were - effectively - on our own. She worked as a researcher for Harvard Medical School which provided the two of us with health insurance. She also founded New Words, A Women's Bookstore, which found its long term home Hampshire St. near Inman Sq. That success with a startup small business was key in adding some money to Rita's account. As a teenager, I was glad to be able to earn my own pocket money with a paper route, delivering the Globe and the Times (in a shopping cart, in the early morning hours), and also - briefly - bussing dishes at Bartley's Burger Cottage (I was known as Steady Freddy). At the time, our apartment in Cambridge (2BR's, falling apart) went for \$175/month, which was a lot of money for us. Thankfully school was free and just a block away along with the main branch of the public library, and lunch at school was a quarter. I spent a lot of time at home watching TV or working free of charge at the Orson Welles Cinema in exchange for the chance to watch movies. Cambridge has more resources than most municipalities in the state and the national to address poverty. Cambridge can afford to be bold and willing to risk more mistakes than cities less prepared to recover from missing a policy target.

Frantz Pierre

That Cambridge has a serious poverty issue.

Hao Wang

My priority is to raise up the income level for the 20% of Cambridge residents who do not earn enough to live and work in Cambridge. We can achieve this through more job-related training and education, conscious economic development in Cambridge that can provide more higher paying jobs in Cambridge for our single moms, black and brown populations, and other low income communities.

Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler

As someone raised in a single-parent household whose family grappled with the cost of housing, childcare, and other expenses, I care deeply about the challenges that people in poverty face in Cambridge. This information shows we as a City must do more to help our marginalized community members, which is why I am advocating for increased funding for after-school programs, additional public housing investments, and parks and playgrounds—and fair share

	<p>payments from corporations and universities to help fund them.</p>
John Hanratty	<p>It describes a deplorable situation that affects a large portion of our population. Although the problems described are not unique to Cambridge, our high cost of living multiplies the challenges. Many smart and dedicated minds in Cambridge and across the nation have not solved these complex problems so I need further study to take stand on specific programs.</p> <p>The poverty numbers presented are caused by a number of different problems so there is not one solution. The city currently offers programs to address many of these causes. When elected, I will support successful programs as reflected by data and work for improvements. As with any serious enterprise, we must set goals, measure results, make improvements, and invest in programs that work. The programs must address immediate misery but also longer term solutions.</p> <p>I believe the people of Cambridge fully support these efforts.</p>
Marc McGovern	<p>As a social worker for the past 29 years with some of the most vulnerable children and families in Cambridge and across the state, and the child of a single mother who had to depend on food stamps, this information is not new to me. In fact, I worked with CEOC and others, several years ago, on a report titled Income Insecurity in Cambridge, that captured much of this information and was a precursor to the report completed by the Cambridge Community Foundation.</p> <p>My work on the Council has always and will always, be focused on improving the lives of those in Cambridge who are struggling. Despite all the craziness in politics these days, I still believe that government can do good things. That we can make tangible differences in people's lives. If I didn't believe that, I would not have made it my life's work.</p>
Patricia Nolan	<p>The challenging element to addressing poverty is that it is a complex problem. At the heart of it, however, it is also simple. How to combat poverty? give money. Which is what</p>

the RISE program does - and kudos to the community and the Mayor for working hard to implement RISE and ensure programmatic learning from evaluation. The statistics on poverty are ones I have seen - and it always reminds me to work hard to address a fundamental problem in our whole country, exacerbated here in Cambridge: income inequality. What I take away from data on the level of poverty is that we/I must re-commit to changing our economic system - easy to say opportunity for all - yet for many it is not a reality. Especially when it comes to jobs - we devalue service jobs and thus pay them less and yet we rely on those workers. I believe we should be raising our city's living wage and we should be relentless in pushing for well paying job opportunities for residents. AND, many people are in poverty and unable to hold a job due to mental health or addictions - which are public health issues that deserve attention as such.

Paul Toner

The information provided simply confirms what many longtime Cambridge residents have observed over the past several decades. Cambridge has seen the working poor and the middle class squeezed out of the city due to escalating housing prices and other costs of living in Cambridge. These numbers make it very clear that we live up to the description of a "tale of two cities".

As far as informing my policy making, we absolutely need to work with our state and federal elected leaders to advocated for increased funding and resources from national and state programs. At the local level, we need to continue to focus on creating more affordable housing opportunities and creating workforce development and educational programs to help our residents access job opportunities in our innovation economy.

Robert Winters

I will always use verifiable data to inform every decision. I am also cognizant of the fact that every subsidized housing unit comes with a significant built-in cost that must be covered by tax revenue, and that there must be a reasonable balance between the programs and subsidies we provide and the ability to fund all of these initiatives. Also, Cambridge cannot unilaterally address all of these needs.

Sumbul Siddiqui	<p>This information has informed my policy making in a number of ways specifically when it comes to me joining Mayors for a Guaranteed Income in 2020. This is why I led the initiative for Cambridge Rise and the recent expansion, RISE Up Cambridge. We went from helping 130 single caretakers to almost 2000 families with \$500 a month over 18 months. The reality is that there is so much more need and more opportunity to provide finance stability in Cambridge. We also have to think about affordable housing, and providing opportunities for residents to live here.</p>
Vernon Walker	<p>My policy making will be informed by centering equity and justice and uplifting the marginalized in our city. I will be an advocate of developers building more 100% affordable housing. I also would look to to push policies like the city piloting a municipal housing voucher that would subsidize market rate rent for low, moderate and middle class income earners.</p>
	<p>I support the city creating an outreach coordinator to help identify low-income residents that are interested in getting their first college degree that are over the age of 25 became aware of MassReconnect. MassReconnect is a state program will allow residents to get a free associate degree from a community college.</p>

We hear from our participants that their voices are not always heard in the City when it comes to issues that most impact them. Several years ago, one participant said "I love Cambridge, but I don't think Cambridge loves me." How would you ensure that the diversity of voices in Cambridge are heard? Be as specific as possible.

Adrienne Klein	<p>Coming from a role in Constituent Services, I have heard from thousands of Cambridge residents over the past few years. I will maintain my commitment to constituent services and focus on government transparency/access to city services as a councilwoman. One of the tools I have been able to utilize as a city employee is Cortico, which I utilized to facilitate 18 focus groups who contributed to the job description for the City Manager position. This is a really powerful platform for gathering and analyzing a diverse set of voices in Cambridge, and using that to</p>
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guide decision making and I hope that it is utilized more by the City. Plus it was able to be utilized via Zoom increase access. I also think hosting office hours and getting out into the community to tell residents about services and participate in community events is essential and intend to continue to do that as both a resident and councilwoman.

Ayah Al-Zubi

I HEAR YOU!

This participant's message deeply strikes a chord with me because I have been talking to many residents, especially in Central Square, The Port, and Cambridgeport, on their lack of access to resources and support, as well as barriers they experience. We have to actually engage with our community—create loving places where community can thrive. Bell Hooks talks about how love is the greatest form of resistance. Access to political engagement is the way—we must continue to not accept hate and radically love in Cambridge.

I want to hold consistent discussion hours where I am accessible and around the city. I want communities to know I am here to listen. There should be others in different languages- Haitian Creole, Spanish, Chinese, Amharic and Arabic.

I want to be accessible. I want people to BELIEVE in LOCAL politics—I want them to have access to my number and be able to call me.

Ayesha Wilson

Voices are an integral part of my campaign. During my term as a School Committee Member, I was focused on elevating voices that continue to be overlooked by the people in power. Through conducting listening sessions that specifically targeted youth, people of color and low-income, I ensured that my policies were targeted to serve the needs of historically ignored communities. We tend to hear the same voices over and over again in Cambridge, but I understand that we cannot adequately address the systemic issues in the city without hearing from every voice. I intend to continue these listening sessions and seek the opinions by going into communities that are not represented in the City Council and hearing out their needs. Furthermore, my connections with the Cambridge NAACP, the YWCA and the Cambridge Housing Authority, I interact personally with many residents who are

	<p>consistently excluded. For these reasons, I have no doubt that I will be able to prioritize and center Cambridge policies around the integral and diverse voices that Cambridge hasn't historically sought after.</p>
<p>Catherine Zusy</p>	<p>Encourage all neighborhoods to organize neighborhood associations to advocate for their concerns.</p> <p>Continue to engage outreach workers to engage citizens and solicit community feedback. (The City is really working on this!)</p> <p>As Councillor, I pledge to listen to all voters!</p>
<p>Dan Totten</p>	<p>It is easy to suggest that we need to be more intentional about where and when we create opportunities so that impacted people can participate more easily, but we also need to acknowledge that participation in public process is inherently burdensome! I think the best way to ensure a more diverse set of voices are heard is to compensate them fairly for their time. For example, I support the effort to add impacted people to the Affordable Housing Trust and compensate them with a stipend for their time. This important to help cover expenses such as child care that could come up for someone who is trying to participate. With all that said, I have seen over the course of six years how the councillors can make a choice to elevate the priorities and concerns of impacted people. Elevating these perspectives and priorities even when they are heard through informal channels is one of the most important things that a city councillor can do - it is what Quinton did for six years and it is what I will continue to do if elected.</p>
<p>E. Denise Simmons</p>	<p>I have worked hard throughout my time on the Council to speak directly to and for these folks, and to use my platform to state: "I'm speaking up for those that may not always feel like they've got a voice in this conversation." But that is not enough; I shall continue to push the City Council and the City Manager to make a much more sustained, concerted effort to be asking who is not in the room and at the table. The BEUDO discussions are one example of my approach: while some of my colleagues have suggested that these policy discussions should not be taking anyone by surprise, as they've been before the Council in some form for years, and as the City has sent out notices to the community about BEUDO, I have</p>

pushed back and said that if you're not out there knocking on peoples' doors, presenting them with this information where they live, in language they can understand - and repeatedly going back to keep them looped in - then you're not doing sufficient outreach and engagement. The City needs to do a better job of being mindful of the many different kinds of residents, the many different needs, and the many different ways of receiving information that exist among our community. I shall continue to forcefully urge my colleagues and the administration that we must continually reassess the job we are doing on this front.

Federico Muchnik

I am filming a documentary of life at the Walden Square housing complex as well as life at Danehy Park. I meet a lot of people from abroad. Many immigrants. Most of the adults don't speak English very well, if at all. Their children are more assimilated, and as you would expect, it's the kids that end up doing a lot of the interfacing with the city - for their parents. The situation for the folks at Walden Square and many other public housing complexes around Cambridge is especially vexing because so few of them have the right to. So, how can an immigrant feel loved if the city ignores them and restricts them from participating? Can Cambridge give folks with a green card the right to vote? My friends at Walden Square would feel more included if they had the vote - and I'm afraid that until they do, the city will treat them as second class citizens. One solution: a coalition of the "green cards". Provide a system for folks who DO have the vote to consult with immigrant neighbors. Cambridge can legislate a "vote in lieu of" law wherein a registered voter's vote might also SPEAK for the immigrants who are without it. Also: use media to go into the lives of the disenfranchised, film their stories, and present them to the city - notably the council - and the voters, with policy and initiatives attached. I would very much like the chance to do that - I have, in the past - as a documentary filmmaker and as a councilor I'd like to keep doing that.

Frantz Pierre

I feel the same way. That's one reason that driving me to run . I want to give the people in. The community a voice. I want to bring transparency and accountability to the council while educating and support the community with all its needs.

Hao Wang

I strive to become the most accessible city councilor with priorities set to meet more low income community leaders and

	<p>representatives. Moreover, I will advocate my fellow councilors and city leaders to set aside a block of time to address issues pertinent to low-income communities.</p>
<p>Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler</p>	<p>I want to see the City expand its outreach efforts and get creative on ways to reach residents where they are, including holding outreach sessions and official government meetings in public housing. I also have pushed for more childcare and translation to be offered at city meetings to allow more residents to participate. I've been knocking on thousands of doors in Cambridge over the past several months and contacting residents in other ways because I want to get input from the true diversity of our community and hear about all of the challenges that residents are facing and their ideas for the city—from the dire necessity for more affordable housing to the need for more water features in playgrounds on hot days.</p>
<p>John Hanratty</p>	<p>I hear the same issue across all Cambridge citizens. The city government is convoluted and complex. As I search through the city's web site, the programs that would benefit victims of poverty are scattered and hard to find. CEOC provides a more organized set of services but not complete. If the city has a department focused poverty programs, they need to provide a better single point for two way communication about programs throughout the city. If there isn't such a department, it should be created.</p>
<p>Marc McGovern</p>	<p>When I was Mayor, I created The Mayor's Outreach Team, where we sent staff into under represented neighborhoods to go door to door talking with people about their needs and concerns. I have also been a huge supporter of the Community Engagement Team, and fought to expand their funding. But that is not enough. I also spend much of my time visiting public and senior housing, and not just at election time. I have sponsored policy orders to get translation equipment for City meetings, and I am constantly pushing the City to do a better job of reaching out to those communities we don't regularly hear from.</p>
<p>Patricia Nolan</p>	<p>One way the city can and has started to be more inclusive is to ensure language equity - to invite residents who don't speak English to be able to participate. I led the way on identifying this issue as a problem when I was on School Committee and I am grateful that the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Youth Council and city staff have pushed for widespread inclusion on language. One reason I started with</p>

	<p>language is that I am aware that many families are left out - when I was an Amigos parent that was clear. And overall the city's communication is often ineffective - whether it is programs or street work or building plans. A concrete idea I have asked the city to consider came from now Lt. Gov. Driscoll when she was mayor of Salem - have City Hall in the park, around the city. In essence bring city hall to the neighborhoods. I think that would help people feel welcome.</p>
Paul Toner	<p>I would work with City staff to make sure that all residents are engaged in conversations about decisions that are effecting our community. I would work especially hard to make sure we engage those residents who are most disenfranchised by seeking to reduce any barriers to participation in these conversations: daycare, translation services, bringing the meetings to locations convenient for those not impacted.</p>
Robert Winters	<p>I have a growing interest in the idea of resident assemblies as a possible addition to the City Charter - a mechanism via which broader representation can be achieved and with the power to compel the City Council and/or School Committee to vote on policies and recommendations from the assembly.</p>
Sumbul Siddiqui	<p>We need to expand our work around boards and commissions. I pushed for providing stipends but so far only a few have stipends, so we must expand our effort. Cambridge is unique in how involved and educated so many of our residents are when it comes to municipal politics. But that involvement is most achievable for our residents who have well-paying jobs with ample time off. Additionally, coming to city council meetings can be an intimidating experience. This is why I value being active in the community and constituent outreach. Every day my office is working with residents to help them find any and all resources that they need. I find my most insightful interactions with residents come in the many annual and recurring events my office has started such as the more than 20 coffee hours I've held this year to meet one on one with constituents at their apartment buildings to hear directly from them. I also have three working groups currently appointed to work on the Climate Crisis, Homelessness crisis and Fare-free initiative to hear directly from residents and involve them in decision-making.</p>
Vernon Walker	<p>I would hold neighborhood meetings in all the neighborhoods across the city for folks to meet and greet me. I would want to</p>

especially hold the meetings in some of the most diverse neighborhoods like the Port for an example. I want people to know that I am accessible and I will listen to their concerns and let that reflect in my policy advocacy work. I want to include marginalized voices in my decision making and ensure that marginalized people have a seat at the table.

What specific policies and initiatives do you propose to prevent displacement and improve the overall living conditions for the most vulnerable members of our community (i.e., those living in subsidized/public housing, seniors, immigrants, people with disabilities, etc.)?

Adrienne Klein

We need to increase housing opportunities and access to resources.

*I will revamp Cambridge's inclusionary housing programs and create dedicated support and staff for participants. I know about these programs because I've navigated them myself, for my family and for hundreds of Cambridge residents.

*I will continue to find ways to hold developers, property managers, and owners accountable and incentivize responsible management to keep residents housed and supported. I know how to do this, and I've done it successfully. I played a major role in holding Harvard and Winn Residential accountable to residents living in their buildings.

*I want the City to Provide additional technical support to diverse residents attempting to access services:

- Institute a municipal IT helpdesk so residents can access city services online.

- Initiate technical assistance programs that connect residents with vendors and information

- Create a dedicated housing search position at the Multi-Service Center to work with the homeless population.

- Translate City materials (forms, guides, applications) into multiple languages. The City currently has abundant resources, but they are rarely available in the diverse languages our residents speak.

Ayah Al-Zubi

We need to protect those most vulnerable in our community through multi-language services, access to home visits by those from the city, creating a tenant protection office to protect those that are in unsafe housing conditions.

The number of people that I have talked to that are dealing with rats, mice, falling infrastructure, and unsafe conditions are too many.

We also need to think about the access to parks, community centers, cooling off points, and pools next to our most vulnerable communities. This is for kids to play, for our community to have pets, to exercise, walk and enjoy our city. We need to think about access to bikes (and safety helmets, locks) and expanding it to improve and develop communities and create spaces where they can gather and play.

Ayesha Wilson

As someone who works with seniors and grew up in public housing, I understand the importance of supporting people in vulnerable conditions. Regarding specific policies, I intend to invest in public housing and ensure that the City continues to support initiatives that favor and increase public housing such as the Affordable Housing Overlay. I have an emphasis on the seniors in our community as they are continuously targeted, neglected, and abused. We must have a way of providing wellness checks and implement a safety crisis line for our seniors. Furthermore, vulnerable members of our community are consistently ignored when it comes to allocation of funding towards targeted wellness programs to which I intend to redirect those funds to specifically address the problems faced by these communities.

Catherine Zusy

Provide social services to our most vulnerable residents, provide job training programs, and encourage education—the ticket out of poverty. Encourage more affluent neighbors to connect with those in need by tutoring adults and children, hosting reading programs and helping them navigate services. 1:1 works.

Over the past decades, I've done this independently and found it very satisfying. Through friendships I have helped elders get necessary services, provided food, taken them shopping and to doctors and to the hospital, too. What I've observed: It is very difficult to navigate services. We must make this easier, especially, for those who aren't web savvy.

As City Councillor, I will work regionally to solve our housing crisis—this is a regional issue.

Dan Totten	<p>Most critically we need to bring back rent control in some form, and I am committed to working at the state level with Representative Connolly to move that conversation forward. Homelessness needs to be addressed through a local investment of tax dollars for the first time. We need to offer wraparound case management through the city and we need to build more permanent supportive housing. The City Manager has not taken action to implement the recommendations of the mayor’s expert working group on homelessness. We need to establish a municipal voucher program to expand on Section 8 and increase the number of low income people who can live in the city. Through local vouchers, we could prioritize undocumented immigrants who are ineligible for federal subsidy. We need to establish free legal counsel for any Cambridge resident facing eviction or foreclosure. Though it is not directly a housing policy, implementing universal afterschool care would have a profound impact on the cost of living, especially for low income families. Last year the city turned away 500 families who requested afterschool, including 100 low income families. Finally, I want to highlight the work we did to end towing as part of street cleaning. Towing is an incredibly burdensome ordeal involving hundreds of dollars in fees. The escalating penalty schedule means that if someone can’t come up with the money right away, they begin incurring debt on a daily basis until they do.</p>
E. Denise Simmons	<p>In recent years, I was one of the leaders on the Council pushing for the tripling of the Linkage fees, the doubling of the mandatory percent of Inclusionary units in residential buildings, and the passage of the Citywide Affordable Housing Overlay district - together, all of these tools are creating stronger conditions for the creation and preservation of more affordable units across the city, offering new hope and opportunities for our most vulnerable members. I have voted to allocate significantly higher funding to our partners at Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services to ensure that more residents facing evictions will have access to low-cost legal representation, and I also pushed for the creation of the Housing Liason to the City Manager position. I shall continue to work with the affordable housing activists in our community to see how these policies can be strengthened and augmented, and to learn what additional policies may be necessary.</p>
Federico Muchnik	<p>A friend of mine is a Black, blind 72-year-old diabetic. A renter at 21 Walden Square, he was annually visited by auditors representing</p>

	<p>the owners of his building - Winn Management - and possibly the city may also have been involved. The auditors would check his taxes and on several occasions told him he was misreporting - and that his future at 21 Walden was in question. The auditing, COMBINED with years of intimidation and neglect this man - and hundreds of other tenants have been subject to by the complex's owners (WinnManagement), left him him no choice: quit his lifelong neighborhood and move to Miller's River apartments. He would have stayed at 21 Walden if a) management had kept their end of the bargain and repaired/cleaned the buildings, b) he didn't feel like he might be asked to leave because an auditor determined as much, and c) if the rent wasn't being repeatedly raised by at least a hundred dollars per year. Now imagine a non-English speaking immigrant having to face a similar scenario year after year. We need to create more CERTAINTY in the lives of the disenfranchised that they will not be asked to leave on a technicality, that their homes will get the same TLC as landlords assign to their homes in the private sector, and that rents will stay stable.</p>
<p>Frantz Pierre</p>	<p>I would like to lower the subsidy percentage. I want to insure the people that work for the city can afford to live here by increasing job pays and coming up with program that will help family learn how to build generational wealth.</p>
<p>Hao Wang</p>	<p>As a life-long healthcare executive, I understood the effects of social determinants of health, such as food security, housing security, and transportation. I understand these factors also affect education and job opportunities. I would advocate learning and transportation policies that address the needs of our seniors, immigrants, and people with disabilities.</p>
<p>Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler</p>	<p>Passing policies such as increased funding for afterschool programs and childcare, increasing funding for affordable housing, changing zoning laws to allow for more affordable housing, and municipal broadband, will all help Cambridge be an affordable city for everyone while preventing displacement.</p>
<p>John Hanratty</p>	<p>Il believe this is an important issue and as a City Councillor I would support measures based on quantifiable data. I do not have specific policies to propose but would work to include measurable outcomes.</p>

Marc McGovern	As Mayor, I launched The Mayor’s Task Force on Tenant Protections. That report led to increased funding for legal services for those facing eviction, as well as a Tenant's Rights Handbook, to educate people on their legal rights. Moving forward we need to develop a Tenant's Bill of Rights, increase funding for legal aid by even more, pass rent stabilization, increase staffing for our Housing Liason Office, support our non-profits, like CEOC, and increase education services, so tenants know their rights.
Patricia Nolan	I respect the work done that resulted in the tenant displacement task force report - which was submitted in 2019 and all recommendations have yet to be implemented. the city too often does studies, gets input, and then slow walks implementation. One initiative I'd like to see is to address the fact that one reason for our affordable housing to need so much money is that repairs and maintenance have not been done - which ends up leading to wholesale rebuild, which is more expensive than maintaining. The more we save on these projects the more for other housing projects.
Paul Toner	In order to respond I need to know more about the challenges people are facing. With regard to displacement I would work with CEOC, our non profit and for profit affordable housing providers to develop more units of affordable housing. Seek more resources from the city to help stabilize residents' housing situations, I would work with CDD, Inspectional Services and our Human Services department to hold property managers accountable for providing clean, safe, and accessible units and overall grounds.
Robert Winters	One idea is to promote the development of more transitional housing with shared amenities, i.e. housing "just for now" while people can become better situated. I absolutely believe that priority should be given to seniors and those with disabilities who have few options to generate income to cover rental costs.
Sumbul Siddiqui	We need to continue supporting our nonprofits and Multi-Service center to help residents with housing stability and housing search services. Making sure tenants have access to information is also key, which is why we enacted the Tenants Rights and Resources Ordinance. One of the task force recommendations was to establish a more permanent, funded partnership with Alliance of Cambridge Tenants (ACT) to continue providing these services and building its organizing capacity in perpetuity. Last term, we were able to

provide funding to ACT, and the goal is to continue supporting them. We have to continue to work with our property owners to reduce the number of actions taken against tenants that result in eviction-related court filings. Any eviction-associated court filing, regardless of outcome, can be a long-term liability for a renter and may prevent a tenant from securing necessary housing in the future. Encouraging the City and its housing providers to reduce the number of actions is important. Other strategies include expanding homelessness prevention services, including emergency resources and support, legal and mediation services and foreclosure prevention counseling. I've advocated for residents with the Affordable Housing Trust to ensure better living conditions and fair management with WinnCompanies.

Vernon Walker

I am a support of the Affordable Housing Overlay 2.0 and I think this is a way to create more affordable housing in the city.

I am a supporter of having a 24 hour renters hotline that renters can call that are in a dispute with their landlord, esp. if their landlord has locked them out of their apartment or house. The 24 hour hotline will be able to convey the tenants rights to the tenant in distress.

I also support a on demand transit that would allow seniors, low-income folks, etc. to get around the city. It would be similar to Lyft and Uber but it would be subsidized by the city and take people to medical appointments, grouchy stories, etc.

What specific policies and initiatives do you propose to create affordable housing opportunities? How much influence should neighborhood abutters have in making decisions about what is built in the City?

Adrienne Klein

*I will work to increase housing via the Affordable Housing Overlay and by simplifying the zoning ordinance to end exclusionary zoning and allow multi-unit housing. This would include the subdivision of larger homes and the creation of triple-deckers, duplexes, and other apartments in all parts of Cambridge, as well as exploring social housing options.

* I want to revamp Cambridge's inclusionary housing programs by expanding middle income homeownership, and explore additional equity building opportunities.

* I want to end tenant broker fees to rent an apartment that can add thousands of dollars to the cost of finding a place to live in Cambridge.

*I think neighborhood acceptance and integration is important to creating thriving communities. There should be opportunities for neighbors to participate in the conversation and give feedback on projects, suggest alternative ideas, and also to be educated about the housing crisis and engaged in opportunities to meet neighbors after they move in. Decisions shouldn't be made solely by developers nor should a small group of loud voices be able to stop the building of affordable housing.

Ayah Al-Zubi

We need more subsidized housing, we need a social housing program, we need increased vouchers, we need more support for shelters and resources for the homeless community, and strengthen our pathway to homeownership. I believe all residents should have a say in the decisions being made, but especially those voices we don't hear enough and those that don't have the time to go out and speak their opinion. I support the Affordable Housing Overlay and want to continue expanding on this.

It is a privilege to have time and access when it is so expensive to live in Cambridge.

There should be city hall meetings that are welcoming to family, kids, single parents, seniors, etc. at different hours of the day! They should be done with different folks in the community and different areas.

There is also a need for more innovation when it comes to affordable housing—we need to think about the many senior citizens in Cambridge that are unable to keep up with their properties and daily chores and could possibly lease some rooms in exchange for some help around the house. Other cities around the world have done this and this can increase our capacity. We need to keep the conversation open and ensure there is also a pathway to generational wealth in Cambridge.

Ayesha Wilson

As lifelong Cambridge resident, who grew up in the Jefferson Park housing development, was a Section 8 voucher holder, and work with youth and families of Cambridge Housing Authority, I know firsthand the various challenges facing housing amongst my peers and many more who live in either low income housing or those

living in a middle to moderate income housing or those like myself single-parent, middle income, who cannot afford childcare and housing in Cambridge. I look forward to centering the voices of those who are faced to make the decision to leave Cambridge because they can no longer afford to live here. Neighborhood abutters are the ones who feel the every day impacts of the policies made and thus should be fundamental in making decisions. The City is made to serve Cambridge residents so it's only logical that said Cambridge residents are the involved in making the decisions that affect them.

Catherine Zusy

Inventory City lots and solicit feedback from neighborhoods re good locations for AH in their communities. Engage neighborhoods in the conversation! I think that most Cantabrigians understand the need and are eager to do the right thing. Create opportunities for more affluent residents to donate \$ and their properties for AH. Just a Start has started a program like this. I think that if people thought that philanthropic donations would be well spent, they would donate.

Dan Totten

On neighborhood abutter influence, I support the AHO's advisory process for new affordable housing. I have seen this process work effectively in my neighborhood at 116 Norfolk, where feedback from neighbors resulted in a design that contained additional open space for neighbors without losing a single unit of housing. Anything other than advisory review for affordable housing means that neighbors can block projects by filing a lawsuit. As Councillor Zondervan's aide I actually helped draft the amendments to the Affordable Housing Overlay that are currently before the council. This important work makes it easier to build affordable housing in every neighborhood of the city. There are many opponents of this work who have selfish concerns about hosting more low income housing in their neighborhood - but this is one place where a solid majority of the council has held firm on a key economic and racial justice priority. My main two initiatives have already been outlined above - we need to implement the municipal voucher program and we need the city manager's office to commit to funding the priorities of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Homelessness, through using local tax dollars if necessary. Let's push MIT to renovate 240 Albany Street with permanent supportive housing on top under the new Affordable Housing Overlay, which legalizes 12 stories on Albany Street. Let's push

	<p>Caritas Communities to renovate the YMCA Central House so that it has much needed resident amenities like a community kitchen.</p>
<p>E. Denise Simmons</p>	<p>At the moment, the Council is on the cusp of hopefully passing amendments to the Affordable Housing Overlay ordinance, and I am pushing for this passage. I would refer back to the Comprehensive Housing Plan that I worked on with a number of housing activists (notably Cheryl-Ann Pizza-Zeoli) and introduced to the City Council in Sept. 2017 for a list of additional initiatives I would like to explore and pursue. I do not think that abutters should have the ability to stall or kill proposed developments, beyond participating in Public Comment or reaching out to the members of the Council, and that is one of the reasons I pushed for the AHO to become law. Far too many affordable housing projects would be killed at the outset if most abutters were to hold the ultimate sway.</p>
<p>Federico Muchnik</p>	<p>A 15 or 12 story building feels suspicious and deserves the question: who benefits? Certainly the developers. Also the politicians who champion the overlay and who can say that during their term they added X# of units. Yes, it's true, tenants benefit - but only up to a point. An alternate proposal: Affordable housing built in harmony with the surrounding area. Five and six story buildings along Mass Avenue that decrease in height as they work their way back into the side streets can yield extraordinary results. Residents of new affordable housing will not feel like newcomers who live in "those" high rise buildings. Developers will make less money, but that's OK, we want them to serve the public. Politicians will be popular not only for building X# of units but for championing the neighbors' voices. We also need more review and input, especially from the public, and AFTER the planning board and the AHT have looked at a plan. Let's look at high rises from an environmental perspective. Doesn't matter how net zero a building is - the bigger the building the more energy it takes to heat and cool it - central air, central heating are simply not going to save as much energy as low or mid rise buildings with a tree canopy nearby that keeps things cool in the summer and protected in the winter. Ask anyone if they'd rather live on a third floor with ceiling fans and open windows or on a tenth floor with central air and windows that don't open all the way.</p>

Frantz Pierre	I believe the community should have all the day and they should also receive some of the benefits such as jobs housing and free education for residents.
Hao Wang	We need to fulfill our promise to build sufficient number of affordable housing in Cambridge. This is a stated goal in Envision Cambridge. We should work collaboratively to create this inventory of affordable housing and create it fast. We do so with respects to our neighborhood abutters and our promise to preserve our neighborhoods and the City's characters. As a city councilor, and as an engineer, I will look into solutions that can holistically address the affordable housing needs with a minimal disturbance to our neighborhood. A livable Cambridge will also NOT displace our long term residents such as our seniors, scholars, and essential workers. We should not blindly build to ignore our neighbor's livelihood and perspectives.
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler	We need to increase funding and change the zoning laws to re-allow more affordable types of housing. Currently, in many parts of the city, it is illegal to build forms of low and moderate-income housing due to lot size and setback requirements under the redlining-era exclusionary zoning laws. The Affordable Housing Overlay, legislation I worked on in my first term, and its amendments, is a great next step in developing more affordable housing units. While there are requirements under state law for feedback from abutters and other residents, we do not have to allow abutters to have an effective veto when it comes to creating more affordable types of housing in Cambridge.
John Hanratty	<p>I believe that affordable house should be an integral part of neighborhoods. Isolation of low income people inhibits their ability to access opportunity and join with the community. I believe that involving the neighborhoods in decisions is critical. In my experience, residents support the need for affordable housing. Their concerns usually regard quality of life and livability, which would also affect the new residents of the affordable housing.</p> <p>For this reason, I oppose tall buildings encouraged by the new Affordable Housing Overlay zoning.</p>
Marc McGovern	I am proud to have been the lead sponsor on the Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO) and a co-sponsor on the amendments filed this term. In just 3 short years, the AHO has led to over 600 units of

100% affordable housing currently in the developmental pipeline. Those units will change people's lives for decades to come.

I also co-sponsored a policy order to increase funding to the Affordable Housing Trust by \$20 million, which narrowly passed on a 5-4 vote.

I support ending exclusionary zoning, so that affordable housing can exist in every neighborhood.

We need to create a city funded voucher program to expand housing vouchers for low and moderate income people.

We need to expand our housing support services.

Virtually every candidate will say that they support affordable housing. The question is, are they willing to vote for it? Are they willing to risk re-election for it? That is where you will see the difference between those of us who truly support affordable housing.

Of course abutters to housing development need to be part of the conversation, but they should not have the final say on the decision, especially when it comes to affordable housing. Affordable housing is the number one goal of residents, city administration and the City Council, so every neighborhood needs be part of the solution.

Zoning is about the future and we have a housing crisis that won't be solved by maintaining the status quo. We need to be bold, and dare I say, radical.

Patricia Nolan

We need to incentivize more mixed income housing - the inclusionary program is a good start with the 20% affordable. I support a transfer fee which would provide millions more dollars to the Affordable Housing Trust. I supported increases in the linkage fee. We also need to work with owners of parcels like large parking lots - there are three large ones - Porter Square and two in Fresh Pond and a half of one at Twin City - all of the should be large scale affordable or mixed income housing with a large percent of affordable. The abutters influence should be included and

	<p>considered, and not be determinative. The example of FRost Terrace shows that when abutters are involved a good 100% affordable housing project can result.</p>
Paul Toner	<p>I am supportive of increasing opportunities for developers to build more affordable housing units. I generally support the original AHO and part of AHO.2, however I think there should be some nuance regarding building heights on our corridors. I also support the city purchasing additional properties and reviewing current holdings for possible development as affordable housing. I support using our city resources in the most effective manner to provide more opportunities for affordable housing development projects and think we should work more closely on developing public-private partnerships to produce more mixed use/mixed income properties.</p> <p>As for abutters, under the current AHO and the proposed AHO.2 proposal abutters do not have much leverage in influencing an AHO project. I do believe that the developers should work closely with abutters to seek to address their concerns but ultimately they should not be able to prevent a project from moving forward.</p>
Robert Winters	<p>I do not agree with any of the versions of the Affordable Housing Overlay. I believe that a better alternative would have been a Special Permit process under which housing developers meeting specific criteria for affordability would be able to build somewhat taller and denser with approval from the Planning Board assured if the specified criteria are met. I do not agree with the notion that the unelected Affordable Housing Trust should have absolute authority to do whatever they wish without any binding review.</p>
Sumbul Siddiqui	<p>I would prioritize City and other public property that is available for disposition to develop housing, and acquire any property (e.g like we have from Lesley University) to help more affordable housing. Another priority would be to increase existing City funds and explore options for new revenue sources and support for dedicated affordable housing. I am also very much interested in supporting legislative and other efforts to improve protections for tenants at risk of displacement. I am in favor of changing zoning to enable more housing, especially more affordable housing, to be built along major corridors, squares, and in other areas that have the capacity to accommodate growth and are well served by transit. Other ideas that have emerged are municipal vouchers and having an</p>

affordable housing bond to build more affordable housing. I have worked to expand eligibility to the Homebridge program to 120% of the area median income, ensuring that home ownership is a reality for people across the income spectrum. I support the Affordable Housing Overlay in order to increase housing stock even further. I always consider the perspectives of all residents in decision making, but the housing crisis is too urgent to ignore any paths to increase affordable housing opportunities.

Vernon Walker

I think the city should pilot a municipal housing voucher that would subsidize market rate rent for low, moderate and middle class income earners. I don't think neighborhood abutters should have much influence in making decision where the City builds.

If neighborhood abutters had their way, Frost Terrace which is a beautiful 100% affordable housing building that has over 20 apartments in them would not have been built.

Do you envision expanding upon or continuing the City's guaranteed income program Cambridge RISE/Rise Up Cambridge once the program ends in 2025? If so, how? What populations will it support?

Adrienne Klein

Yes, I think we need to look into a way to support our seniors, continue to support families and look for long term funding opportunities to provide additional income to residents who make at or below 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

Ayah Al-Zubi

Yes, I do believe we need to continue the Rise Up Cambridge program. Universal basic income (UBI) is a big question and I support it—and we have to think of innovative ways to continue supporting those that do get jobs but those not well paying, which is a common reality in Cambridge. We can consider a negative income tax after setting a UBI to ensure that we are supporting people as they grow. We need to find a solution to protect Cambridge's citizens. We need to acknowledge that this progress was made because of ARPA. Our city does a good job of using the funds we get on a federal and state level. But, we can spend more of our OWN dollars on our communities members. We need to make it more accessible for those experiencing homelessness in our community.

Ayesha Wilson

Cambridge RISE has been fundamental in ensuring financial support for low income families which I absolutely intend to support. I

	<p>intend to renew and continue the program past 2025, as well as expand it through increasing the threshold to qualify for Rise Up Cambridge as I know first hand how difficult it is to afford to live in Cambridge that even a seemingly decent income can't be comfortable in. Further, only half of the eligible population applied for Rise Up, so I hope to increase its outreach to make sure that anyone in Cambridge who qualifies is able to receive the support that they need. The populations supported are those who are not only impacted by the pandemic, but even before that, the low-income families and residents our city has continued to overlook. Living in Cambridge is no easy feat, but should never be an impossible option for anyone, and through expanding Rise Up, I hope to make that option available to anyone who wants it to be.</p>
Catherine Zusy	<p>We need to evaluate Rise Up Cambridge and see what impacts it has on bettering the lives of the young mothers and their children. It's exciting that this program has been replicated broadly.</p>
Dan Totten	<p>Yes, I support extending and expanding the Cambridge RISE program after the initial pilot ends in 2025. The program has been an incredible resource for low-income families in our city, and we are tremendously lucky that the administration was willing to make this investment as part of our ARPA funding. We need to continue this program through any means possible, we can't let it end in 2025. I understand that the Anti-Aid Amendment in the state constitution could present challenges to doing so, but we need to think creatively and figure out how to get it done. I am committed to working with Mayor Siddiqui and community partners like CEOC to accomplish that. In addition to continuing what we started, it needs to expand to include unhoused residents of the city. I do wish that at least some of the money allocated during the pilot could have gone to this population. But we have a chance to make it right going forward. Recently published research has shown that direct cash transfers reduce homelessness.</p>
E. Denise Simmons	<p>"If there is a path to doing so, yes I would like to continue this program beyond 2025, and expand it if possible. I do not know what the precise funding mechanism would be, or which populations it would support -- but I know the need among our most vulnerable members is great and some sort of "no strings attached" universal basic income could ease some significant</p>

	<p>burdens to so many among us. I am all in favor of exploring this issue further and looking to see how we can grow it.</p>
Federico Muchnik	<p>Yes, I of course support and expanding Cambridge Rise and the first change I would want us to look at is eliminating application windows and installing a year round application process. With enough resources and good management, as with many cities around the world, RISE can be "open" year round. It's just a matter of will and the right resources applied in the right way. Right now, RISE supports pretty much anyone that is in economic straights. So, good, so far.</p>
Frantz Pierre	<p>Yes, I do I think it's a great program.</p>
Hao Wang	<p>We should expand on Cambridge RISE/Rise Up Cambridge to beyond 2025. We should also create innovative sister programs such as supporting financially our resident to transition from fossil fuel to electricity, and supporting our resident in terms of rising energy cost during the hottest and coldest months.</p>
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler	<p>Yes, Cambridge's RISE program has been transformative for so many residents in Cambridge. We need to try to find a way to continue it beyond 2025 when ARPA funding runs out. We must look hard at whether there is a way we continue to support with city funding that does not violate the state anti-aid amendment, and we should look at other creative ways to keep the program going as well.</p>
John Hanratty	<p>I applaud the Rise Up Cambridge program. We should monitor the results carefully to figure out how best to improve and expand the program.</p>
Marc McGovern	<p>I was proud to have worked with Mayor Siddiqui and Vice-Mayor Mallon, along with CEOC, CCF, CHA and so many more, to launch this program. Again, this is about making tangible differences in people's lives. And I would vote to continue this program.</p> <p>With that said, we must acknowledge that this program is expensive, so we need to plan ahead. We won't have ARPA money in 2025, so we need to explore future funding opportunities.</p> <p>In terms of expansion, we should look at how income guidelines have changed by 2025 and adjust accordingly.</p>
Patricia Nolan	<p>I can't wait to read the evaluation - the evidence so far is that it is doing exactly what it should. And then we should continue it - making any adjustments that the evaluation shows could be</p>

	helpful. The populations supported should continue with the ones identified in the pilot and then expanded to individuals without children.
Paul Toner	I think this is going to require a lot of discussion as a council and community. This is a wonderful program but it was financed first by Shah Family foundation grants and then by AARPA funding. There was no public discussion or even a vote of the City Council. A decision was made to fund the program with no real discussion by the council. If we are going to discuss continuing this program this needs a full community discussion about future financing of the program and who should be eligible.
Robert Winters	This would be a violation of the Anti-Aid Amendment. Property tax revenue cannot legally be used for this purpose, and the right way to support these and similar programs is via state and federal funding with additional foundation support.
Sumbul Siddiqui	Yes, absolutely. I think we should consider households who earn too much to qualify for public benefits but not enough to be considered financially stable. I also think there are many low income seniors in our community who need support. The City will be supporting the BAY-CASH model via ARPA money, which is a pilot program giving unhoused youth a cash transfer and services each month to help find and stay in housing.
Vernon Walker	I think the city should do it. I think it is a question of can the city use money from the city budget to fund this program beyond 2025. I would be interested in looking at that further to determine what the city can do. I would also urge the city to look at grants and private donors that might want to fund Rise Up so it can continue beyond 2025. Rise Up is currently funded by the American Rescue Plan funding.

In what ways could a revision of the City Charter make our voting system more equitable?

Adrienne Klein	The Charter doesn't currently mention campaign finance. To make our voting system more equitable, I advocate public financing for municipal elections to encourage participation, and to limit money from developers and special interest groups. I also believe that the proposed resident assembly may create more equity in our voting system. Creating a resident assembly would first and foremost increase the number of people involved in the issues and decisions
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	of our town. Second, the resident assembly would provide residents with another way to communicate with the city to help inform what the most pressing issues are from their perspective.
Ayah Al-Zubi	I support Rank Choice Voting and believe we need to do more outreach to engage with community members that are often neglected in political spaces. The system is built to keep them from engaging. We should continue to support and increase awareness about Automatic Voter Registration. We also need to think of ways to get the 67% renters in Cambridge a way to register that is seamless and doable online (for those without Mass IDs). We need this to not be a hurdle and should try to remove barriers to make sure we have an equitable democracy.
Ayesha Wilson	We need to make sure that the City Charter is reviewed more frequently. Things like voting for our Mayor, term limits, length of terms, and community engagement are a few of the things listed in the charter. When going door to door in 2021, when the ballot also included the question regarding the charter. Residents were uncertain about this, and I quickly realized that many of our neighbors are not informed about the Cambridge government. We must make it more equitable and work towards the engagement of all residents to be included.
Catherine Zusy	I wonder whether ranked choice voting serves us. It seems to advance single-issue voters and candidates. To serve effectively, City Councillors must have both a broad interest and knowledge of the City.
Dan Totten	First and foremost, we need a directly elected executive branch - either a mayor or a bicameral system with multiple elected representatives as the executive branch. Currently, we have an unelected city manager with a disproportionate amount of power and this leaves behind the voice and needs of the people, especially as it pertains to funding priorities of the city.
E. Denise Simmons	I actually believe that our City Charter provides for a fair voting system, and I believe ranked choice voting has generally served our community well. What I would like to see are more than three early voting locations, spread out a bit more equitably across the city. But generally, this is an area in which I believe the City has done an adequate job.
Federico Muchnik	I'm sorry, but I don't know the details on the charter, but I believe someone should run for mayor, not be named by a council. That

	might also be true for city manager. Not sure a council-appointed mayor is the best idea. Ranked choice voting has a downside, though I cannot articulate it well enough yet. Hope that helps.
Frantz Pierre	I believe it could bring the community closer together so they build trust in city hall.
Hao Wang	Taking the money out of politics and allocate equal funding to all qualified candidates, to eliminate funding from real estate developers, special industry groups, and significant interest group outside of Cambridge. We should diversify our important boards and committees to include equal representations from our low-income communities.
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler	One of the most straight-forward ways that a revision of the City's charter could make our voting system more equitable is by moving our municipal elections to even-numbered years. Turnout in our local elections is less than half of what it is during Presidential years and that turnout especially decreases in marginalized communities.
John Hanratty	The City Charter Review Committee has conducted a thorough and thoughtful process to date. They have considered the issue of equitable input and voting. I look forward to there proposal as a good step forward.
Marc McGovern	<p>Overall, I support having a City Manager who is outside of political swings. Although I haven't always agreed with our current or past City Manager's, the system generally works.</p> <p>Changes I would like to see included longer terms. It is very difficult to get things done with 2 year terms. I would also like to see the Council have more say over the City budget. As it stands, by the time the Council gets the budget it is 99% done. We can advocate for things around the edges, but we don't have the authority to make significant changes. If we had that authority, as elected representatives, that would give more input to the people of Cambridge.</p> <p>As to the voting system specifically, I think it works pretty well. I think we need to do a better job educating people about how it works, and how important voting in local elections are, but the system itself is pretty good.</p>
Patricia Nolan	I believe having what Boston, Somerville, Newton and many other places have : some at large and some neighborhood based

	councilors would be more democratic. And having a directly elected mayor would be more democratic. If we continue with a strong City Manager, then the Council should have more budget authority since the council is the elected representative body.
Paul Toner	I actually do not support any significant revisions to the City Charter. I believe the current voting system is equitable in how it is structured.
Robert Winters	Our voting system is already one of the most equitable systems in existence. The City Charter with its proportional representation voting system is not the issue and never has been the issue. Ballot access is also not the issue since the only requirement to be on the ballot is 50 certified signatures from registered voters. What is needed is a more level playing field so that voters can learn about all of the candidates regardless how well their campaigns are funded, and I have been addressing that with the Cambridge Candidate pages for two decades.
Sumbul Siddiqui	As it currently stands, the most powerful figure in our municipal government is the City Manager, who is appointed by the city council. Neither the mayor or city manager are voted in directly by our residents, essentially disenfranchising them. In the case of city manager, there is little recourse for voters to hold the city manager accountable, and I believe there needs to be more regular review of appointed positions.
Vernon Walker	I think we should have an elected mayor by the public. I think the mayor role should have more executive power. I think we should have a earlier timeframe for early voting. We should also advocate that the state of MA make the final day to vote a holiday so that everyone can have the time to vote.

Given the rising concerns about mental health and substance use in our community, how do you plan to collaborate with local healthcare providers, community organizations, City agencies, and residents to implement effective strategies that address the mental health and substance use crisis and ensure the well-being of Cambridge residents?

Adrienne Klein	I was a member of the City’s Homelessness Working Group and want the recommendations to be implemented completely. I also had the opportunity to take a Trauma Informed De-Escalation training that I’d recommend for all councillors. I am supportive of the recent policy order asking the City Manager to work with city
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departments on the issues in Central Square, rather than creating a new task force. I regularly direct people to the CHA walk-in Behavioral Health Access/Urgent Care Service at Cambridge Hospital, and will look for any opportunity to increase the reach of this and other services like First-Step for our community members. I support alternative response mechanisms including HEART which will ensure that mental health and substance use situations aren't escalated by police officer involvement. I value efforts that have increased the number of social workers in our schools, at our libraries, and in the Family and Social Justice Section of the police department. I want to create a dedicated housing search position at the Multi-Service Center to work with the homeless population and expand the wrap around services and supportive housing options in the City. I specifically want to look into changing the contract the City has with Heading Home as my interactions with their team have been unsettling. I will continue to meet with folks supporting those with substance abuse and mental health issues to ensure they have the resources they need to continue to meet these needs.

Ayah Al-Zubi

We need to participate in mental health services. We should work with Cambridge Health Department to think of innovative ways to increase access to therapy and financially support programs that are virtual. For substance use disorders, Somerville has done great work in increasing awareness with various campaigns and educational institutions. We should follow suit and partner with them! We have to make sure there is more access to needle drop offs in Cambridge, as well as ensure there is a strong relationship between our shelters and government from a resources perspective. There needs to be a supporting body for caring for our community that is experiencing homelessness that offers holistic services and creates safe spaces for safe use because we must understand and respect that substance use disorder is a journey and requires support throughout without exceptions. This is a vulnerable population, not a guilty one. We need to invest in HEART - Holistic Emergency Alternative Response Team. We have to build community programs centered around healing which we could do through HEART. INVEST IN PEOPLE!

Ayesha Wilson

Even before the pandemic we were seeing an uptick of mental health services across the lifespan of our neighbors. And sadly since Covid-19, the need for mental health services are so great, that

	<p>service providing agencies have waitlists several months long. We need to invest in increasing our services to ensure all who need have access. Regarding substance use, we need to make sure that those who are currently using substances are able to find the services they need. Similarly, to mental health, it's critical that these services are expanded upon, publicized and easily accessible to the public such that anyone and everyone can obtain the help that they need and deserve.</p>
Catherine Zusy	<p>I'd want to make sure that all of these service providers are working in collaboration, not duplicating services, and evaluate the longterm success of their programs. After this assessment, we'd reconfigure things as needed. This last step—implementation—is the one we often don't do.</p>
Dan Totten	<p>Implementing Cambridge HEART as an alternative response for non-emergency 911 calls. We need trained professionals who come from the community to provide care and support to those who need help, instead of the police offering incarceration. We need to improve our practice of harm reduction in Cambridge - this includes safe consumption sites, easy and free access to Naxolone (Narcan), fentanyl test strips, and Naxolone use training. Hiring wraparound case managers, establishing permanent supportive housing, and implementing the other recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Homelessness is so important to addressing these concerns. When people are struggling, we need to give them help. We also need to discuss mental health in schools - statistics show us that >20% of high school students in Cambridge have considered attempting suicide in the past year, and that number increases to 43% for gender non-conforming students. We need to bring back paraprofessionals who were cut from school in the last year and add a dedicated mental health professional at every school in the district.</p>
E. Denise Simmons	<p>This is a complex issue that is difficult to distill to under 2000 characters. But the framing of the question is correct: it will take a collaborative approach among us all to assess the situation and identify possible solutions, and we must all be willing to make some tough decisions. For example, the easiest answer for many seems to be "place all new social services in Central Square," which I think is actually concentrating these issues in one location and possibly worsening them. It will truly take a community approach to develop</p>

viable responses - responses based on empathy and understanding that we are dealing with people who are struggling. We mustn't criminalize their behavior, but we also mustn't stick our heads in the sand and say there is nothing that can be done and this is just the price of living in the city. I recently introduced a policy order focusing on the quality of life issues in Central Square, and noting that there have been numerous studies, commissions, task forces, and reports on dealing with these very issues dating back 40 years. It's not the lack of ideas that has stymied us, it is the lack of follow-through on the many recommendations that have been issued. It is past time for us to review all the recommendations issued over the years and begin to implement them.

Federico Muchnik

A confluence of factors created a perfect storm. What to do in the face of so much misery? At the street level, there needs to be as much free Narcan as possible. Shelters need to stock it, schools need to have it, it should appear in all first aid kits, and so on. Mental illness is the most difficult of all conditions to cure. Solve that problem and other solutions follow. My own story: I've struggled with depression on and off for most of my life and come to learn that a) eventually it subsides b) but not without help and c) notably therapy and in many cases, medication. Yet therapy and medicine are almost impossible to administer to folks who resist it, live on the street, and have no stability in their lives. The well being of Cambridge residents depends in large part on their desire to be well. Create the desire to change and change will happen. The healthcare industry, community organizations, and city agencies are understaffed. How about making alternative therapies available through programs? We've seen how guided therapeutic sessions with psychedelics have helped returning veterans with PTSD. We know how ketamine can help cure mental illness and depression. We've already got CBD's and medical marijuana going. What people under great duress need, however, is something none of those things can provide: community, connection, a neighborhood, and the feeling of being wanted, yes - even loved – and if not loved then being useful to someone through a job or volunteering.

Frantz Pierre

During my last position at Boston Medical Center. I was part of the Elders living at home program that organized and started the housing program at Cambridge Housing and the YWCA and the Manning apartment.

Hao Wang	<p>I was the deputy commissioner of New York State Office of Mental Health, the country's largest mental health system, for four years. At the top leadership level and the local implementation level, I gained experience to address mental health and substance use crises. In the past three plus years, I worked as a senior executive to a leading not-for-profit health and human service agency, providing safety net health and human services to people with severe mental illness, substance use, opioid abuse, and homelessness. At any given time in the past three years, more than 3,000 New Yorkers across all five boroughs have called my organization their home. We ran the only veteran shelter in NYC, and we operate facilities such as congregate housing and single-resident occupancy housing for the unhoused. I have the experience in working with our not-for-profits to tackle the emerging crisis in mental health, substance use, suicide prevention, and homelessness.</p>
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler	<p>Cambridge needs to fund additional mental health resources. Currently, many resources are unaffordable for many low- and middle-income residents. Providing more mental health and recovery resources will help improve the lives of residents and the well-being of our communities.</p>
John Hanratty	<p>As I talk with residents, I hear a large concern about the effect on the community caused by addiction. This problem is rampant nationwide and not easily solvable locally. Addicts will not use shelter because drug are prohibited. I would like to study the safe injection sites implemented in other cities to see if this might get people off the streets and into facilities that might help them recover. This is a drastic move but the situation is dire.</p>
Marc McGovern	<p>This has been a significant part of my work. I led a regional conversation with Boston, Somerville, Medford and Malden on how we can work together to support our unhoused residents. I have successfully advocated for funding increases to support our unhoused population and those struggling with mental illness. I chaired the Mayor's Task Force on Addressing Homelessness that included working with national experts, local advocates, unhoused residents, and city officials that resulted in over a dozen recommendations.</p> <p>I support Overdose Prevention Centers.</p>

I support opening a number of day Centers across the city.

I support expanding mental health services at the Health Alliance, including treatment beds for those struggling with substance use.

We must remember that those struggling with homelessness, substance use disorder, and/or mental illness didn't ask to be in that situation. This could happen to anyone and we must address these issues boldly and with compassion.

Patricia Nolan

I support a wholistic approach to this challenging issue - the range of needs in the population of residents with mental health and substance use struggles includes service, and often housing, and health care. All of which are needed. The Department of Community Safety which I fully support is a promising initiative - as is the community led group HEART.

I want to include more people in the community in the conversations about these issues, so we can understand the need and hear from residents about concerns. And that includes those who are unhoused and in crisis as well as those who feel their own safety is compromised when in certain places of the city.

Paul Toner

As a Councillor, I certainly collaborate with our healthcare providers and community organizers in addressing the needs of our community and I will play a supportive role in providing resources for our residents. However, I will follow the lead of our City Staff and resident health experts on how best to support our community. I personally do not have the professional experience or background to offer any significant program suggestions.

Robert Winters

It is not the role of city councillors to be meddling directly in these matters. The City Council simply needs to make their priorities clear to the City Administration and to approve any necessary funding to address these priorities. I am not an expert in the provision of these services, and I would prefer to leave most of the intervention to those qualified to do so. I do have some concerns about the near-universal use of the Central Square area as the place where all such services should be provided.

Sumbul Siddiqui

The more our residents and community leaders are educated about mental health and substance abuse, the more effectively we can fight for our well-being. I've encouraged city and school employees

to become trained in mental health first aid, and I have helped promote the Community Behavioral Health Center at Cambridge Hospital to increase access to treatment.

Vernon Walker

I intend to meet regularly with leaders from community organizations, city agencies, residents, and local healthcare providers to learn about how they are coming up with solutions on tackling mental health and substance issues in the community. I will use my position to support strategies that they come up with to address mental health and substance use concerns in Cambridge. I would also advocate that faith communities be part of the conversation as well.

What is your disability platform?

Adrienne Klein

I want Cambridge to be an accessible and inclusive city where people with disabilities can thrive. I am thrilled that the City has a Commission for Persons with Disabilities and a Language Access Manager. The City can incorporate these voices into more conversations around implementation to ensure our materials, policies, processes and programs are as accessible as possible. For example when we talk about affordable housing, are we making as many units as possible ADA accessible? Are there additional ways we can make the accessible units functional for the folks they are meant to support by for example consulting with the established experts from Centers for Independent Living or EasterSeals? When we talk about bike lanes, we need to ensure that the sidewalks continue to be accessible public spaces in Cambridge. If a handicap parking spot doesn't touch a sidewalk then how are the vehicles with lifts or ramps able to unload/load folks? Another area to explore is the fact that much of the accessible housing is intended for both folks with disabilities but also seniors; which while well-intentioned may not provide people with disabilities with the most relevant resources for them. Finally, to truly create a Cambridge that works for all of us, we should focus on ensuring pre-existing buildings are fully ADA compliant, including our universities.

Ayah Al-Zubi

It's important to recognize that having a disability is not a monolith. I cannot address all forms of disabilities in this form, but am cognizant that we need to be engaging with our community members with disabilities to understand their needs. To share on some forms, for people with mobility-related disabilities, we need

to work on a plan for making our buildings, especially new ones accessible. Cambridge is marked by historically alienating people with mobility-related disabilities. Another example is road safety. We have to make sure we create safe cross walks/signs/etc. so that people navigating the road recognize that there are pedestrians. For autistic people, we need to work with our school system by diving deeper into how our youth are treated in schools and what access to resources they have. We currently have one model for students in our schools (Applied Behavior Analysis). We need to assess if this is the best for our youth especially when it's the only option available. We can be doing more to engage with how to support our community members, as well as making sure we uphold access to job opportunities. This also includes people with cognitive-disabilities. There are also other forms of disabilities like people who are hard of hearing and may not be able to access civic engagement for those reasons. We need to streamline how we allow the community to understand what's going on in the government. This is a benefit for civic engagement and elderly folks as well.

Ayesha Wilson

As a live-in support staff for adults with learning differences, I see their needs and interests around simply being included in activities that helps them to be more successful and independent. These needs aren't always put at the forefront, despite being incredibly important. Cambridge needs to provide support for the specific needs of these individuals, as disability is not a monolithic experience. We need to continue and increase funding for programs like Cambridge Programs and the CRLS Transition program to ensure that Cambridge effectively cares for their disabled residents.

Catherine Zusy

We need to honor everyone and provide supports, as required, to those in need, and to their families, too.

Dan Totten

We need the city to finally agree to invest in accessible entrances (electronic doors) at the library branches and other buildings throughout the city where they do not exist. The administration declined to fund this and it was punted to participatory budgeting, where it was not selected. We can't be putting new infrastructure for people with disabilities as a "nice to have" on the participatory budgeting list. We need to think more deeply about how to solve accessibility challenges with respect to navigating the city's

sidewalks. I am proposing piloting a local, fare-free, on-demand transit option to get around our city - one potential circuit would be between Kendall, Lechmere, and Inman Square. While this does benefit everyone in our city who would take advantage of the shuttle, it will provide particular utility to people with disabilities, and by creating a universal program that will have a broad base of support, will be less likely to be attacked and cut in the future. We need to continue to invest in providing, safe, affordable, accessible, and dignified housing for people with disabilities. In part this means repairing and maintaining our current CHA disabled/senior buildings, and it means as we continue to develop more housing, ensuring that it is affordable, accessible, and that there are designated spaces to meet the needs of disabled residents.

E. Denise Simmons

My stance is that the City must take pains, when holding public discussions or engaging in public planning, to remember that not everyone is young and able bodied, nor can everyone . hear or view our meetings with ease, or walk or bicycle around town. Looking at our public policies through that lens leads to a more inclusive, more empathetic approach to practically all city decisions.

Federico Muchnik

Let's go back to my friend, the 72 year-old Black blind man. Here's my friend's take on being disabled in Cambridge: it's not easy. His particular disability - blindness - has him wanting more "audibles" at traffic stops. He's also worried about electric cars being too quiet to hear. He's learned where the broken parts of sidewalk are - but sometimes he forgets - and trips.. And my friend is high rise buildings and excessive density. In fact, one reason he moved was because he knew WinnDevelopment wants to add 100 units at Walden Square - and that's something that he can't be around. My platform would start with looking at the research that's been done from interviewing disabled folks and hearing what their needs are, then writing policy for that. Finally, there's one thing my friend wants non- disabled people to know about disabled people: disabled folks are not helpless, they don't need to be coddled, manhandled, forced, coerced or guided through anything. The #1 question my friend hopes a person asks him on the street is: can I do anything for you. So: to me it starts with educating the public and demonstrating to them that disabled people are not to be pitied. They are - except for their condition - exactly like people without disabilities. A public that is aware of this and is not

	frightened by a person in a wheelchair that's the public I want to see.
Frantz Pierre	I believe every citizen deserves the best from its city. So since I been a mental health specialist. I have new innovative program that would help everybody be heard.
Hao Wang	We should support our disabled population in Cambridge. In the past decade, I worked in and with many health and human service organizations providing services related to developmental disabilities. As a city councilor, I will address the specific needs of our disabled population in our city.
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler	If Cambridge wants to live up to its values of inclusivity, we have to ensure that residents of all abilities are able to participate in the city's community, education system, economy, and local government. I've met residents who have difficulty getting around on uneven sidewalks or snow covered streets or who depend on the bus system with all its delays because they can't drive. And I have talked to people whose children with disabilities struggle to find an after-school spot or feel welcome on playgrounds in the city. We can do more in Cambridge to make sure that residents with disabilities of all ages can fully participate in our community, including by improving community engagement, enhancing our public transportation system and sidewalks, and doing a comprehensive examination of how we can improve our after-school system for children with disabilities.
John Hanratty	Cambridge should strive to achieve ADA compliance.
Marc McGovern	<p>There are a number of bills at the State House that I support. One is, H1168/S726: An Act protecting the homes of seniors and disabled people on MassHealth. Currently, Massachusetts law allows MassHealth much greater authority to seize people's assets, including forcing people to sell their homes, often forcing family members into homelessness and perpetuating poverty. This bill would only allow MassHealth to access assets that are mandated by the federal law.</p> <p>Another bill at the State House is H.1601/S.1037 that increases protections for those with disabilities, including mental health, in Family and Juvenile Court proceedings.</p>

	<p>Locally, I have worked closely with the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) on ensuring that all children, regardless of their circumstances can attend any city run after school program.</p> <p>We must also ensure that our infrastructure, like sidewalks, are more accessible and maintained.</p>
Patricia Nolan	<p>I believe we need to include the perspective of people with disabilities in every decision. The first call I made when I started to pursue the idea of allowing residents to charge their EVs across sidewalks was to the Commission for Persons with Disabilities. I wanted to understand what I should know and include in my initiative to ensure access.</p>
Paul Toner	<p>Beyond meeting all federal and state requirements to assure full accessibility for our disabled residents I must admit I do not have a specific disability platform. Again, I would delay on our city staff and advisory committees to provide me with the best strategies to meet the needs of our disabled residents.</p>
Robert Winters	<p>Besides meeting the necessary requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), I do not have a separate "platform" on this issue.</p>
Sumbul Siddiqui	<p>As we expand affordable housing, we must also increase the ADA accessible units. Additionally, disability benefits do not do enough to cover the cost of living for an individual, let alone any dependents. We need to continue to work with the Commission for Persons with Disabilities, and support their work around the City's temporary disability parking permit program, the Cambridge taxi discount program, and disability awareness training to City departments and private entities. I also pushed for close captioning for our City Council and Committee meetings.</p>
Vernon Walker	<p>As climate change brings more heat waves and flooding to the city of Cambridge, it is important that the city has a contact at various different neighborhood associations and community organizations for them to share where community members live that have mental and physical disabilities that could put them at risk during a heat wave or flood.</p> <p>It is important for the city to know where they folks are located so the city can work to provide them resources to help them stay safe during extreme weather events.</p>

How can the City of Cambridge best respond to the influx of migrants coming into the Commonwealth, Cambridge, and neighboring cities?

Adrienne Klein	<p>The City is actively engaging with the Municipal Immigrant Response Network to learn from and share information with neighboring cities. Cambridge also formed an internal planning group, which I had the honor of participating in, and has put together an action plan. The working group included members of the housing liaison staff, Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship, emergency services, and the Multiservice Center. The City should continue to work with the state and municipal partners to assess what services from our city can be shared, including staff, transportation, legal services, health expertise and shelter capacity. Because our community is already diverse ethnically and has ample services available in multiple languages it will continue to be a desirable location for people to settle or resettle, and we should continue to facilitate the integration of those who end up in our district. We also know that limited and expensive housing is an ongoing barrier. As we increase affordable housing opportunities, it is my hope that emergency shelter capacity will be freed up that can then be offered to migrants. We are a sanctuary city and have played an important role in supporting previous waves of migrants so we should aim to continue to do so moving forward.</p>
Ayah Al-Zubi	<p>We have to welcome and urge those in our community to come, volunteer, donate to local organizations and as City Council, be ready from 1. Housing access and public safety perspective 2. Public school capacity 3. Access to Language services (partnering with our community and hiring folks from our community to address this). We say we support diverse communities, but this is the time to show up for people that deserve basic human rights. I will show up, help cook meals, support with clothing drives, and make sure that people understand my commitment to every immigrant feeling welcome here as they are. This is very important to work on investing in our shelter resources and capacity. We have to prepare and be ready to welcome our new community members. In a way this question opens a larger conversation on American foreign policy.</p>
Ayesha Wilson	<p>Being that Cambridge is a Sanctuary city, we welcome migrants. We also understand that we cannot manage the influx of migrants</p>

	<p>alone. We must work in partnership with our neighboring cities to have a plan of action based on availability across each city or town. Further, we must ensure that migrants are given the support they need to facilitate their transition into Cambridge. These include, but aren't limited to, help with finding jobs, English lessons, language translation services, and educational pathways should they wish to pursue them.</p>
Catherine Zusy	<p>Provide the new immigrants with housing and services as we can. I realize that with climate change—severe weather, flooding and temperatures increasing—only more people will be displaced. As City Councillor, I will commit my research and organizational skills, look at other models and confer with experts, to develop solutions that work.</p>
Dan Totten	<p>Quinton and I worked with Solutions at Work to establish the new shelter for family refugees at 2222 Mass Ave. We need to create more opportunities like this! Once we house the families we need to support them further through universal afterschool. Cambridge has seen an influx of Haitian immigrants in the past couple of years, especially as federal immigration policy has changed with respect to Haiti in particular. Often these folks are doubling up in Cambridge apartments that their family lives in, but that puts everyone in dangerous violation of the lease. The creation of a municipal housing voucher program is key in addressing housing new migrants. The Section 8 housing program has restrictions that would exclude a number of new migrants from accessing affordable/subsidized housing, and my proposal would ensure that we can house and support the new individuals and families coming to our city to seek a better life. We can and should welcome migrants to our city - diversity makes us stronger and more resilient as a city. Morally, it is the right thing to do. To be welcoming, we must ensure Cambridge has safe, affordable housing, good schools, and well-paying jobs.</p>
E. Denise Simmons	<p>This is another issue that requires a collaborative approach with our neighboring cities and with the Commonwealth. We are an open, inclusive, and welcoming city and we must continue to find reasonable ways to open our community to those fleeing oppressive homelands.</p>
Federico Muchnik	<p>Thank you for asking the question (and thank you for asking the others, too. I agree with your agenda). Cambridge is - I believe - a</p>

	<p>sanctuary city, but aside from the title I'm not sure what that translates into for migrants. I won't spend time describing the problem, we all know we are living in an era that's seeing the largest number of population movement since the end of WW2. Cambridge can be creative here. What if our current Latino population were somehow involved - physically or financially (incentivized by the city) to help newcomers adjust to life here? What if our Somali families could be "hired" to matriculate our newly arrived refugees and then help them find work and shelter? What if Cambridge were - after a certain quota was met - a way station for migrants en route to mid-burb or suburban cities that had welcoming policies. We could have an ambassador-style program with migrants being assigned to families in other sanctuary cities that were less dense and had more work options. The point is: Cambridge cannot do it all - but working with other cities and the state - it can do more than it currently does.</p>
<p>Frantz Pierre</p>	<p>I believe we need to assist them with housing due to the lack of resources but also build program to help the population excel by learning trades.</p>
<p>Hao Wang</p>	<p>We should work with our partners and sister cities across the metro-boston region to provide better shelter, education, and job training services to migrants while minimizing the impact from the influx to our neighborhoods.</p>
<p>Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler</p>	<p>Unlike people in some communities around the country, the vast majority of Cambridge residents are personally welcoming to immigrants. However, our city has structural challenges to truly welcoming migrants—including affordable housing and economic inclusion. If we want to be a welcoming community, we need to make sure that our housing is affordable for recent immigrants, along with the many other folks who need it. We need to increase our funding for affordable housing and improve our zoning and planning processes to allow for more housing. We also need to ensure that we're helping migrants to succeed in our economy, including to get training that allows them to participate in the tech and healthcare focused jobs of the city. Economic inclusion is also why continuing Cambridge's RISE program past 2025 is so important.</p>
<p>John Hanratty</p>	<p>Other areas of the country have had to address this issue. We should learn from their successes and failures.</p>

Marc McGovern	I am proud that we are a Sanctuary City, and that means that we have a responsibility to welcome and support migrants coming to our city. We must provide housing, we must provide financial assistance, we must ensure that migrant children are getting placed in our schools and that we are helping parents find jobs. We must be compassionate and lead from the heart.
Patricia Nolan	We need the state and federal government to be providing more support. And as Gov. Healey pleaded, we especially need for migrants who can work to be allowed to work.
Paul Toner	This is a national and regional problem and is going to require a national and regional strategy in response. Cambridge can and should do all it can to meet the needs of those migrants who arrive in our sanctuary city but we need a regional approach so that all cities and towns are involved in supporting the increasing migrant population.
Robert Winters	We should do our share, but this is not something that Cambridge can reasonable address either unilaterally nor disproportionately.
Sumbul Siddiqui	The city can best respond to an influx of migrants by giving them a warm welcome and connecting them to the legal, health, educational, and job resources they are in critical want of. Cambridge must be willing to share its resources with those who are newly residents of our city. I am pleased that we have a family shelter in North Cambridge,.
Vernon Walker	<p>Cambridge should find ways to help support the influx of migrants arriving to the city by offering language interpretation to them for them to be able to take advantage of the city services that are designed to help them get adjusted to living in the area.</p> <p>I think Cambridge could also coordinate with neighboring cities to ensure that if there is a resource that Boston has that Cambridge does not, Cambridge can direct folks to use the services in Boston and vice versa.</p>