



2021 Lawrence Mayoral Candidate **VOTER GUIDE**

	Would you support rehabilitating, expanding, and better utilizing our existing homes and storefronts?	Is our “Main Street” Downtown healthy and successful? If not, what would you do to change that?	Would you vote in support of a motion to allocate funding from the city budget for reentry programming for incarcerated people who are being released into society?	How would you vote on a motion that says, “racism is a public health issue?”	Do you support having our own version of the Cariol’s Law (make it a crime for a law enforcement officer to fail to intervene when another officer is using excessive force)?
Kendrys Vasquez	<p>Definitely. I think that it's very important for us to utilize the vacant storefronts in Lawrence. One thing I am pushing for is an incoming recovery plan for the city to ensure that we can maximize opportunities for young entrepreneurs and folks who are looking to open businesses in our community. For that reason, I will be ensuring that we streamline the process to obtain permits and licenses to use vacant storefronts that exist today.</p>	<p>I currently think there has been some good development that has happened in the downtown, but we need to continue to revitalize. It's important that we start to expand from what the main downtown for what we call Essex St. to other areas like Union St., Merrimack St., and more because there are many businesses there and we need to incentivize opportunities for development there. I think we've been heading in a positive direction, but we need to do much more.</p>	<p>As the Mayor, I don't get to vote on any items. Ideally, I would be the one proposing votes for the City Council. What I am very passionate about is that we need to start decriminalizing our students and our youth in the city of Lawrence. My cousin has a passion for music, and he was eventually arrested and deported back to the Dominican Republic. We do need to decriminalize the system for our students. We have a beautiful Lawrence Public Library, and we have folks who are passionate for technology and video games, so why not start implementing an opportunity for youth to come and use that space.</p>	<p>In my administration as Mayor, there's no space for any type of racism or discrimination. One of the first things I did as Mayor was reestablish the Human Rights Commission. This is a commission that hadn't been functional for many years. It became one of my top priorities. I needed 9 individuals to serve on the commission including youth and others. The idea behind this is for the residents of the city to have a clear path to show that if anything happens to them, there's a commission to fight for their civil rights. We will continue to empower that commission so they can do their work.</p>	<p>Definitely. I think that people should have protections and their civil rights should never be violated, especially by the police force, so that's something I would be very supportive of.</p>

Regrettably, Brian DePeña was not able to participate.

Learn more about Brian DePeña at <https://www.brianforlawrence.com/>

Learn more about Kendrys Vasquez at <http://vasquezformayor.com/>

This voter guide was created using the answers from the candidates asked by UTEC's Organizing Crew

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