



# 2023 LOCAL ELECTION VOTER GUIDE: HAVERHILL, MA

## Frequently Asked Questions

### When do I vote?

Election Day is November 7th

### Where do I vote?

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/WhereDoIVote/>  
Polling Locations are open 8am- 8pm

### What if I am not registered to vote?

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>

**Note:** *Deadline to register to vote for the elections is 10 days prior to the said election day.*



# **2023 LOCAL ELECTION VOTER GUIDE: HAVERHILL, MA**

## **A note from our organizing crew...**

For the 2023 local elections cycle the organizing crew at UTECH prioritized getting to know the candidates in the local municipal elections in the Merrimack Valley.

We first did research on all of the candidates running for Mayor, and City Council in Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill. We then drafted questions that we would like to ask the candidates and created the candidate questionnaire distributed them to all of the candidates in the race and asked them to return with their responses. The responses in this guide are from those who returned the questionnaire.

We also hosted candidate meet and greets for all of the candidates who were willing to participate. Please take a look at our voter guide and share widely.

Happy Voting,  
-UTECH's Organizing Crew



# 2023 Haverhill City Council Voter Guide

## Councilor at Large

Question	John Michitson	Thomas Sullivan	Colin LePage
<p><b>Are you going to address and help with the homelessness issue in the city?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Work with Emmaus, other relevant non-profits and Haverhill Police Dept. to find out where the gaps are in services for homeless and work to provide solutions. Research what other cities are doing.</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>Are you going to help combat gentrification?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- There must be adequate housing for all income levels in Haverhill. It is not one particular group versus another.</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have a plan to combat rising costs of housing?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- City must also provide opportunities for all to achieve upward mobility. Create more income for residents through training and attracting modern businesses to Haverhill. I'm leading an initiative to accomplish this over the long term.</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have plans to improve DPW and the trash issue in the city?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- The City needs a long term plan to fix, maintain and modernize our infrastructure. Trash issue requires community education and enforcement. I work with Team Haverhill on neighborhood cleanups.</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have plans to implement needle drop off boxes?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- The City has a needle drop box located in the lobby at the Citizen Center available Monday through Friday 8-4.</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have any solutions to address the addiction crisis in our community?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Have item on next City Council agenda for update on Eliot emergency mental health services for Haverhill, the hiring of the NFI Director and re-starting of the Opioid Task Force.</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>Will you prioritize the safety of our kids and families in public spaces such as parks?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes - I lobbied for additional community police officers over several years and support UTEC, Leaving the Streets Ministry and other non-profits making public places safer in Haverhill.</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>



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## Councilor at Large

Question	John Michitson	Thomas Sullivan	Colin LePage
<p><b>Do you have a plan to address food insecurity?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- I support food pantries and fully support Universal School Meals led by Rep. Vargas. City must also provide opportunities for all to achieve upward mobility.</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>Lawrence has a community fridge that can be used by the food insecure, will you implement anything similar or new to this in your community?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Thanks for bringing this to my attention. It looks like a successful program in Lawrence. I will research it to see if it is a good fit for Haverhill and how it may be implemented in Haverhill.</b></p>	<p><b>Unsure</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have any plans to combat the mental health crisis?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- I am one of the leaders on the City Council in addressing addiction and mental health crises in Haverhill.</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>-</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have plans to improve our school systems and make them more safe?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- I've been one of the leaders on City Council to lobby for additional academic programs and associated funding during budgeting. I push for technology infrastructure needed to keep schools safe as well as living wages for security guards needed to protect students.</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have a plan to address the violence in our community?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Creating opportunities for all to have upward mobility in Haverhill is very important to reduce violence.</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>Will you listen to youth voices in your position?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- It is important to understand their perspectives and problems, Started two youth mentoring and homework help programs to understand their challenges and to help them overcome barriers.</b></p>	<p><b>Always</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>Do you support youth programming for young people returning from incarceration?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Youth programming is very important to re integrate them back into the community.</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>



# 2023 Haverhill City Council Voter Guide

## City Council District Race

Question	Ralph Basiliere- Ward 1	Katrina Hobbs Everett- Ward 2	Toni Sapienza-Donais- Ward 2
Are you going to address and help with the homelessness issue in the city?	Yes	Yes- I would advocate for support and funding for housing and services for people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.	Yes- There are a number of ways individuals, organizations and government can help address this complex problem through community engagement, resources, and awareness.
Are you going to help combat gentrification?	-	Yes- I believe we need to focus on infrastructure upkeep and balanced development. Also making sure that any new development makes sense for our city's growth...	Yes- This is a complex and challenging issue...starts with affordable housing initiatives.
Do you have a plan to combat rising costs of housing?	No	No- As a new council member, this is an area I look forward to researching.	Yes- Comprehensive plan that involves both supply and demand.
Do you have plans to improve DPW and the trash issue in the city?	Yes	No- However, I have ideas like making a second toter more affordable that might help with the capacity issue.	Yes- Starts with adequate funding and budget allocation as well as strategic planning.
Do you have plans to implement needle drop off boxes?	No	Yes- This already exists. Needles can be dropped off at several locations.	Yes- This is a valuable community initiative. Starts with securing the funding and obtaining the necessary approvals.
Do you have any solutions to address the addiction crisis in our community?	Yes	Yes- I would like to see increaded education and collaberation across human serving agencies to mazimized services for folks needing them.	Yes- This requires a multifaceted and compassionate approach that involves prevention, treatment, reduction and support services.
Will you prioritize the safety of our kids and families in public spaces such as parks?	Yes	Yes- I'd love to become more aware of the park clean up schedules and routines. Keeping up with trash overflow and making sure needles are not left in parks is another important factor.	Yes- This can be achieved with the use of adequate lighting, regular maintenance, visible security, emergency call boxes and security cameras.



# 2023 Haverhill City Council Voter Guide

## City Council District Race

Question	Ralph Basiliere- Ward 1	Katrina Hobbs Everett- Ward 2	Toni Sapienza-Donais- Ward 2
Do you have a plan to address food insecurity?	Yes	This is more the role of the human serving agencies and nonprofits. As a council I can advocate for these agencies. I would also love to see more coordinated efforts with agencies locally addressing food insecurity.	Yes- This requires a coordinated effort involving government agencies, nonprofits, businesses and the community.
Lawrence has a community fridge that can be used by the food insecure, will you implement anything similar or new to this in your community?	No	Yes- I would be supportive of this. I know several pantries locally do the best they can and are always struggling to stay stocked. Maybe a community fridge could provide support in a way that reduces food waste...	Yes- This is a wonderful way to provide access to food for the food insecure population. Starts with identifying a suitable, secure location, getting permits, and gathering supplies.
Do you have any plans to combat the mental health crisis?	Yes	Yes- As a council I can advocate for human service agencies. I would love to see more coordinated efforts with agencies locally providing mental health services.	Yes- Starts with raising awareness, identifying key issues, strengthening access, crisis hotlines and school-based programs.
Do you have plans to improve our school systems and make them more safe?	No	Yes- I am all about coalition making and collaboration. I would love to see more community based approaches introduced in the schools- especially multi-ethnic and inter-generational approaches.	Yes- These are critical goals. We need security personnel, security support, emergency drills, anti-bullying programs and student support services.
Do you have a plan to address the violence in our community?	Yes	Yes- To me public safety is the tangible sense of safety that exists in a community. I categorize it in two main ways. 1) Perceive safety and 2) Actual safety.	Yes- This is a complex issue that involves government agencies, law enforcement, community organizations and the community.
Will you listen to youth voices in your position?	Yes	Yes absolutely- Haverhill has a council on youth needs that I would love to see become a robust entity that is really youth led.	Yes! Everyone's voice is valued and important.
Do you support youth programming for young people returning from incarceration?	Yes	Yes- As a wife of a returning citizen I know first hand how important this type of programming is and how impactful it can be.	Yes! Programs need to be set up to help our young people be successful after returning for incarceration.



# 2023 Haverhill City Council Voter Guide

## City Council District Race

Question	Devan Ferreira- Ward 3	Michael Morales- Ward 5
<p><b>Are you going to address and help with the homelessness issue in the city?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- We need to connect unhoused people with services and support to hopefully connect them with stable housing</b></p>	<p><b>As city counselor, I will continue to advocate for better and more affordable housing options for all residents. I will continue to work with outreach groups, such as with Emmaus house, to ensure that they are provided with the tools and resources they need to help.</b></p>
<p><b>Are you going to help combat gentrification?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Haverhill's diversity is one of the reasons we love living here. We need to have systems and support in place to keep people in their homes, and to maintain a meaningful balance of housing for all income levels.</b></p>	<p><b>As we see today, rising rents, interest rates, and lower inventory, is affecting wider ranges of classes. We must recognize that in order to help improve our housing crisis, we must be sure to take into account the future workforce and needs of our growing city, and to create a community around those enrichment opportunities.</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have a plan to combat rising costs of housing?</b></p>	<p><b>Maybe- I would like to see the City implement some of the methods being used in Boston and other cities to slow the rising costs of housing, specifically, limiting the percent rents can increase from year to year.</b></p>	<p><b>We must advocate for better and more affordable housing options for all residents and ensure that tax burdens on property owners are not subjugated to households of certain socioeconomic class.</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have plans to improve DPW and the trash issue in the city?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- DPW is understaffed and under- resourced. The city's future budgets should reflect increased staffing costs.</b></p>	<p><b>While I'm uncertain about specific issues concerning the DPW and trash, I will say that the DPW provides an essential service to our city. It's important that we ensure it is operating at its best ability and capacity and ready to meet any future challenges.</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have plans to implement needle drop off boxes?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- I volunteered with the RI Needle Exchange Program while I was in college-needle drop boxes are necessary.</b></p>	<p><b>I do not have specific plans for this, but I love the idea! We must ensure those struggling with addiction are provided with safe measures to prevent illness and overdose.</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have any solutions to address the addiction crisis in our community?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- I want to help end the stigma around the use of Narcan to assist those overdosing, and make sure that more members of our community are trained in administering it.</b></p>	<p><b>Haverhill is home to a couple detox and addiction services, but not all accept MassHealth. We must help attract more healthcare options for all those struggling with addiction, particularly those with MassHealth.</b></p>
<p><b>Will you prioritize the safety of our kids and families in public spaces such as parks?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Our parks are available to all of our citizens for the recreation and enjoyment of community and nature. We MUST ensure that our residents feel safe and comfortable to enjoy the many outdoor activities our city has to offer.</b></p>



# 2023 Haverhill City Council Voter Guide

## City Council District Race

Question	Devan Ferreira- Ward 3	Michael Morales- Ward 5
<p><b>Do you have a plan to address food insecurity?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- I help organize and prepare meals as part of the UU Church’s community meals team. I’m a farmer, and work regularly with food pantries and other farms to get fresh, nutritious food to our communities.</b></p>	<p><b>Our city council can ensure that our food pantries and charitable organizations have all the tools and resources they need. Although everyone’s situation is different, the council must also consider the patterns that lead to food insecurity and how it can help alleviate those challenges.</b></p>
<p><b>Lawrence has a community fridge that can be used by the food insecure, will you implement anything similar or new to this in your community?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- We actually thought about hosting a fridge outside of the UU Church on Ashland St. I’d love to see a community fridge or more little free food pantries in Haverhill.</b></p>	<p><b>I am unfamiliar with Lawrence’s community fridge, but I love the idea! I would certainly enjoy learning more about this and how we may be able to implement this in Haverhill.</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have any plans to combat the mental health crisis?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Connecting agencies with each other to provide more immediate help. More social workers/mental health specialists involved with police calls; increased spending to address mental health needs of our school aged students.</b></p>	<p><b>Unfortunately, the mental health crisis is a far bigger issue that goes beyond the abilities of the Haverhill City Council. This is an issue that must be addressed at the state and/or federal level.</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have plans to improve our school systems and make them more safe?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- The city needs to commit to regularly increasing its share of funding for our schools, instead of relying on one time infusions of money.</b></p>	<p><b>It is imperative that all of our schools have well established security measures and technology. As councilor, I hope to develop a strong and positive relationship with the newly elected school committee, school administrators, and parents to explore ways to address the issues and concerns of our education system.</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have a plan to address the violence in our community?</b></p>	<p><b>Maybe- Build trust and partnerships with respected community members. Listen to our neighbors and peers, learn how we can change violent behaviors.</b></p>	<p><b>It’s important that the city council have a strong and positive relationship with the school committee, police department, and community organizations, to tackle the issues of violence. We need a multifaceted approach and develop strong relationships within the community.</b></p>
<p><b>Will you listen to youth voices in your position?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Youth voices are missing from the decision making processes here! We need more for teens/older kids to do in Haverhill.</b></p>	<p><b>It’s important that I do. I have to listen to our future generations and what their challenges are. We must ensure that we provide our youth the tools necessary to enter the workforce.</b></p>
<p><b>Do you support youth programming for young people returning from incarceration?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>I can definitely say that we must ensure that those who have paid their debt to society are provided with the tools and resources they need to start over.</b></p>





# 2023 Haverhill City Council Voter Guide

## City Council District Race

Question	Michael McGonagle- Ward 6	Catherine Rogers- Ward 7
<p><b>Are you going to address and help with the homelessness issue in the city?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Continue to work hand and hand with Community Development</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>Are you going to help combat gentrification?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Work with developers to maintain and inventory of affordable residences</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have a plan to combat rising costs of housing?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Work with developers to maintain and inventory of affordable residences</b></p>	<p><b>The key to controlling the cost of housing is making buying a home more accessible.</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have plans to improve DPW and the trash issue in the city?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Support holding companies accountable throughout the city</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Hiring more help is developing more systems to follow</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have plans to implement needle drop off boxes?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Educate residents to the available existing location for drop-off of needle and syringes</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Haverhill Citizen Center and Haverhill Recycling</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have any solutions to address the addiction crisis in our community?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Strengthen our borders, stop the flow of illegal drugs into our country</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Getting more churches involved, supporting nonprofits</b></p>
<p><b>Will you prioritize the safety of our kids and families in public spaces such as parks?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Work with Public Safety departments to minimize and eliminate dangerous conditions in public spaces</b></p>	<p><b>Yes- Parks being clean and accessible are so important</b></p>



# 2023 Haverhill City Council Voter Guide

## City Council District Race

Question	Michael McGonagle- Ward 6	Catherine Rogers- Ward 7
Do you have a plan to address food insecurity?	Yes- I founded and run a non-profit for Veterans that helps address some of their food insecurity	Yes- Haverhill churches, food banks, Common Grounds, Veterans outreach
Lawrence has a community fridge that can be used by the food insecure, will you implement anything similar or new to this in your community?	Yes- Haverhill has multiple food pantries that do a tremendous service in our community, also there are locations almost every day to support the food insecure	Yes, Salvation Army, Lazarus House, Somebody Cares New England
Do you have any plans to combat the mental health crisis?	Yes- Continue working with the police and social workers to do more outreach and mental	Sit Down with the kids and teachers to come with ways to limit cell phones
Do you have plans to improve our school systems and make them more safe?	Yes- Working with the superintendent and the school committee to ensure that they have the funds to implement any practice which will support safer schools	We need to come up with rules that all are willing to follow. Having the police department more included, Getting parents involved.
Do you have a plan to address the violence in our community?	Yes- Work with and support the police department through the public safety committee which I chair	-
Will you listen to youth voices in your position?	Yes- Listening to the opinions of young people help us determine what they are most concerned about	Yes
Do you support youth programming for young people returning from incarceration?	Yes	Yes