

Vote November 5, 2019

Cambridge City Council

Cambridge School Committee



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL & SCHOOL COMMITTEE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Welcome! This information is intended as an addendum to *The Whistler*, newsletter of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council. Cambridge City Council and School Committee candidates were invited to submit statements and we published those we received. Statements do not represent the views of Agassiz Neighborhood Council or Agassiz Baldwin Community. ANC and ABC do not endorse any candidates.

Polls open at **7:00 AM** and close at **8:00 PM** on **Tuesday, November 5, 2019**. Find your polling location at: bit.ly/cambma_polling_locations

More information: Cambridge Civic Journal (website managed by Robert Winters) at www.rwinters.com; Cambridge Community Television at www.cctvcambridge.org.

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Sukia Akiba

My name is Sukia Akiba. I have a BA in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts Boston and a MS in Global Health Policy and Management from the Heller School of Brandeis University.



I'm running for city council because we can do better. The system seems to favor the rich over the rest of us. Many residents worry that they're

being priced by developers. There are some members of city council who accept money from developers - that's unacceptable! I do not and will not accept contributions from developers.

I would be proud and honored to serve the residents of Cambridge.

Burham Azeem

Growing up, I shared a three-bedroom house with eleven people. I understand housing instability. I've studied sustainability firsthand and seen the irreversible climate damage we'll cause.



I know the tough challenges we face, but we are Cambridge. We are the most progressive, prosperous, scientific, and resourceful community in the Commonwealth. We can tackle these issues. Progress can and should start with us. And if we are to succeed, we will need to be bold.

Dennis Carlone

A Councillor since 2013, Dennis Carlone has led the call for net-zero planning, improved and increased affordable housing, and the preservation and expansion of public open space. As an award-winning architect and urban planner, Dennis believes in human-scaled buildings that fit in with existing neighborhoods.



Dennis has focused on initiatives to mitigate traffic impacts and promote bicycle and pedestrian safety across the city. He stands up for the rights of immigrants, organized labor, and low-income residents, and the expansion of pre-kindergarten. Dennis has championed many bold sustainability measures, such as the Plastic Bag Ban and the Net Zero Action Plan.

Charles Franklin

I got into politics with the Obama and Clinton presidential campaigns. I co-founded Upgrade Cambridge to advocate for municipal broadband and am on the Inman Square Neighborhood Association and Green Cambridge boards. I live in Inman Square, am a software engineer at akamai and direct descendant of Thomas Jefferson.



Craig Kelley

Craig Kelley has been a City Councillor since 2006 and has lived in Cambridge for over 25 years with his wife, Hope, and two college-aged boys, Robbie and Cooper (who both attended the Baldwin school). During those years he's been an advocate for inclusive, transparent government, safe streets, equitable education, municipal sustainability, localized resiliency and improved tree canopy. He has championed zoning changes that both protect and expand our housing stock and is a leader in cyber governance and privacy protection. His numerous expansive and specific email lists help keep Cambridge's various communities informed and involved. www.CraigKelley.org



Derek Kopon

I am a professional astrophysicist and nine year resident of the North Commons neighborhood (close neighbors to the Agassiz neighborhood). Over the last year, I have become concerned about the proposed AHO up-zoning proposal, which I strongly oppose. I am also concerned



about the increasingly large amounts of corporate and developer money that have been flowing into city council campaign coffers, much of it from outside of Cambridge. I am a strong advocate for campaign finance reform, increased use of renewable energy, and sustainable development. I invite you to join me in creating representative government that values citizen participation.

Ilan Levy

Our Democracy is in crisis. We let corporations lead and direct the future of our City. We have big ambitions and talk a big game, but our actions are the opposite of our words. The root cause: Plan E, City Manager form of government accompanied by contract zoning. This deadly combination is not letting us address the ongoing climate crisis and turns a blind eye on accountability, the essential ingredient for equity and justice. I'm running for City Council so that together we can rebuild our local Democracy and bring the people back at the center of decision making.



Alanna Mallon

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your City Councillor. I have lived in Cambridge with my family for 15 years, and love calling this community home and working to make it better, especially for our most vulnerable residents. I have had an immediate and positive impact on our community, successfully implementing major initiatives such as: City-funded summer meals sites, domestic violence survivors' grants, investing an additional \$4 million in the arts, and establishing the Central Square BID. I have been an effective Councillor, and I hope I've earned your #1 vote on November 5th.



Marc McGovern

With our federal government failing us, our Governor not doing much better, it's important that we have bold, compassionate leaders on the local level. From bringing free breakfast to every CPS student, to starting the Immigrant Legal Defense Fund, to opening the city's first warming center for the homeless, I believe I have provided that leadership. I respectfully ask for your #1 vote so I can continue to take concrete action to make Cambridge the socially and economically just community we want it to be.



people need to live: freedom from violence and abuse, safe and affordable housing, access to health care, money and jobs. From 2008-2018 I led Transition House, a nonprofit organization for domestic violence prevention and intervention. I co-founded the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition and collaborated with community leaders to make our city safer, healthier, and more just. In City Council, I'd bring a deep knowledge of city government and decades of social change leadership experience.

Gregg Moree

My name is Gregg Moree. I grew up on Fairfield Street in North Cambridge, making this city my home for more than fifty years. From the perspective of a life-long resident, I've become concerned with our city government's priorities. In particular, the few options for young adults trying to live independently.



In November, I'll be standing for one of nine seats in City Council. When in office, I won't rest until we have solutions for a better Cambridge. It's possible; many pieces are already in place. We just need more great leadership, which I can provide and help build!

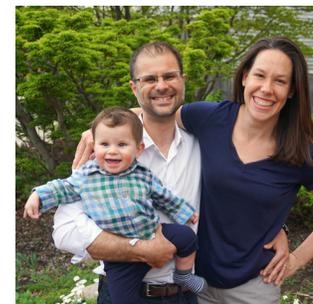
Jeffery McNary

I'm committed to a transformational role as a Councilor and want our campaign to go from door-to-door, mouth-to-mouth. As a senior citizen and descendant of African slaves, I bring that witness and passion to this race and will continue to do so in office. Familiar with the levers and responsibilities of the government, I'd love to contribute to the dynamic vision and passion required for our future. Let's modernize the Cambridge Housing Authority, establish oversight of homeless shelters with rehabilitation initiatives, and secure protections for seniors. Join me and contact me: jefferyforcambridge@gmail.com.



Adriane Musgrave

As a longtime Porter Square resident, I'm running for City Council to ensure all families can thrive in Cambridge. My experience spans the corporate, nonprofit, and public sectors, giving me the broadest perspective for how we can retain all that is special about Cambridge. That's why, on day one, I will:



Risa Mednick

I'm running because I believe government should ensure everyone has the fundamentals needed to thrive. I've spent my entire career in the nonprofit sector addressing the basics



- Advocate for affordable housing
- Champion universal daycare and kids programs
- Support safe streets for walking and biking
- Advance a green agenda for the climate

We are so lucky to live in Cambridge. I'd be honored to earn your #1 vote to make our city even better. www.VoteAdriane.com

Patty Nolan

After 14 years of collaborative, effective leadership on School Committee, I am running for City Council - aiming to use my skills, experience and enthusiasm to address a broader set of issues. Many residents across Cambridge are concerned about the future. The crisis in housing affordability has generated proposals, (welcome), and name-calling, (disheartening). Development keeps city coffers full, AND brings more traffic, buildings and need for infrastructure. We need leaders who will consistently push for greater transparency and accountability, amplify community voice, use research-based data for policy-making and promote unity, not divisiveness. I would make a positive difference. #1 Nolan!



John Pitkin

Retired, former demographer specializing in housing and immigration, active citizen since 1970. Organizer of 1975 parking survey by residents that led to resident parking program, Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association, successful proposal for new Broadway Market, 1997 citywide downzoning petition, 2009 declaration of climate emergency, 2009-10 and 2016 Cambridge Climate Congresses, Net Zero zoning



petition, and Friends of Inman Square. Advocates for effective citizen participation in City policies, neighborhood associations, and livability. Residence: 18 Fayette St. (02139). www.johnpitkin.org.

Sumbul Siddiqui

I'm currently serving my first term as your City Councillor. I grew up in Rindge and Roosevelt Towers. I graduated from Brown University and Northwestern Law. As a lifelong Cambridge resident and public interest attorney, I understand the challenges residents face as they rent or purchase homes, raise children, and run businesses. At City Hall, I'm fighting to strengthen tenant protections, connect residents to better employment opportunities, universalize access to high-quality education, and deepen our city's commitment to environmental sustainability. I'm proud of the progress we've made, and I would be honored to serve you for a second term.



E. Denise Simmons

E. Denise Simmons is a lifelong resident of Cambridge, currently serving her 9th term on the Cambridge City Council. Denise has spent the past three decades working to better her community – first as the Executive Director of the Cambridge Civic Unity Committee in the 1980s, then as a member of the Cambridge School Committee in the 1990s, and since 2002, as a member of the Cambridge City Council. Denise has twice served as Mayor of Cambridge, and she hopes to continue working to make City Hall more accessible and more accountable to a greater number and scope of people.



Ben Simon

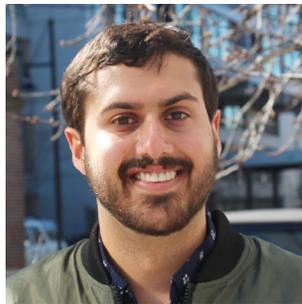
Last year as an organizer of the Save EMF campaign to keep my artist community from being displaced, I began to suspect that a majority of our city council is unwilling to stand up to the developers who are displacing our communities in their pursuit of profit. After sitting on the Mayor's Arts Task Force, I became convinced of it.



We need a city council that will fight for the policies like rent control that stop displacement, and when I am elected that's exactly what I plan to do.

Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler

I work with environmental programs at a land-policy think tank in Cambridge. I help land trusts, academic institutions, and community organizations find the tools to build sustainable communities. I also volunteer as an organizer with groups like the Sunrise Movement and DSA.



My campaign is built on the idea that Cambridge doesn't have to wait on the federal or state government to improve to start confronting the social and political crises of our time: housing justice, climate change, and racial, gender and economic equity. More info on what I'll push for if elected can be found at VoteJivan.com

Tim Toomey

I'm a lifelong resident of Cambridge and have a record of accomplishments on City Council fighting for an inclusive/welcoming community where people from all backgrounds can thrive and where affordable housing/educational/vocational opportunities and recreation spaces are open to all. In this coming term, we must continue to address the affordable housing crisis

and close the achievement gap in our schools. I thank the Agassiz community for their advocacy on Sacramento Field renovations. I have always prided myself on being an accessible public servant—please reach out any time! I hope to earn your #1 vote on November 5th.



Nicola Williams

Hello, my name is Nicola Williams and I'm running on a community-first platform to ensure that we put people before profits in City Hall. That's why I refuse to take money from developers or corporate PACs. As a long time Cambridge resident, business-owner, environmentalist, and the organizer of the Cambridge Carnival, I will bring over 30 years of leadership and job-creating experience to the City Council. I will fight for a environmentally-sustainable housing plan, tenant protections, as well as pedestrian and cyclist safety. I would love your #1 vote. Please read more about my accomplishment and platform at www.votenicola.com.



Quinton Zondervan

Councillor Quinton Zondervan immigrated as a teenager from Suriname, in South America, to escape dictatorship and oppression. He realized his dream of studying at MIT, bringing him to Cambridge in 1992. There he met his wife, and they settled to raise a family in Cambridge, where he became an outspoken climate activist and community leader. Quinton is seeking a second term to continue his work on



addressing the climate crisis, tenant protections, traffic safety, and social justice. The city’s business model needs to put people first, not development and profits first!

CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Manikka Bowman

I’m a second term School Committee Member seeking reelection. I pride myself on being a balanced voice that gets things done. In my tenure, I led the effort to expand sanitary hygiene products. I also ensured facility equity by providing all older buildings with AC units. My current project is working with the administration to make our budget more transparent for the public.



If reelected, I will continue to tackle short and long term challenges. I’ll celebrate our success and point out when we have fallen short. I ask that you allow me to continue the work I’ve started.

Bernette Dawson

Bernette Dawson is a mother of two boys of color, special education advocate for one of her sons, school volunteer, licensed nurse, a small business owner, METCO alumna and longtime Cambridge resident. She is running to represent the Cambridge community on the Cambridge School Committee and be a voice for the most vulnerable students and families. Her vision for the School Committee includes excellence for all CPS students, supports for teachers and administrators, universal JK, advocacy for families and students, and strong communication between



families and the district. You can learn more about Bernette’s campaign at www.bernettedawson.com.

Emily Dexter

Currently a 2nd-term School Committee member, I ask for your #1 vote. I’ve pushed successfully for: more adults in schools (smaller class sizes, more paraprofessionals, more guidance counselors); an examination of special education referral practices to ensure against biases; more supports for families to reduce absences; and the reform of the punitive CRLS attendance violation policy. If re-elected, my priorities will be: 1) a “Marshall Plan” to increase math achievement; 2) adequate staffing, preK-12; 3) making preschool, after-school, and summer programs affordable for all; and 4) creating a comprehensive 21st century internship program for all CRLS students. www.emilydexterforcambridge.com



Fred Fantini

I feel as an experienced manager and leader who is an advocate for children that I can still make a difference in moving our school system forward. Given that three incumbents are not seeking reelection this will be the largest number of newly elected school committee members in my 36 years on the committee and could result in a majority of newly elected members. I would hope, if reelected, that citizens would consider my experience and institutional knowledge as an asset.



Elechi Kadete

My name is Elechi Kadete. I need your Number #1 vote for School Committee so that I can use my skills as a financial analyst to make a difference in the lives of our children. Cambridge currently spends over 25K per pupil. The

School Committee needs someone with the educational background and experience to responsibly manage these funds. I need your Number #1 vote so that I can take a closer look at the budget, and ensure that we are using our resources, and your tax dollars, in a way that maximizes the potential and educational outcome for each student.



José Luis Rojas Villarreal

My name is José Luis Rojas Villarreal. If elected, I will bring the perspective of an immigrant and English Language Learner to School Committee.



The school district has a large number of families whose first language is not English and who are immigrants, and there is no one on School Committee with that background. AND I have the professional background to be a valuable addition to the Committee, and a record of community involvement and dedication.

Please visit my website votejoseluis.org for more information. Hope that I will earn your #1 vote! Passion – Community – Leadership.

David J. Weinstein

We need a teacher, parent and collaborative organizational leader on the School Committee to develop and implement policy that works on the ground. Many goals are shared by the candidates. I can connect ideals with classroom realities. My education career began with five years as a full-time classroom teacher. I've lived in Cambridge



nearly two decades, and I'm an advocate for public education with two children in our elementary and upper schools. I researched policy at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and I have guided and grown a national civic education program based at Brandeis University. votedavidweinstein.com

Rachel Weinstein

I am a proud K-to-12 product of the Cambridge Public Schools — including the Baldwin School (which was called Agassiz in my day). At the same time, my experience as a parent advocate for my child, who is a person of color, in our schools has given me new insight into why achievement gaps persist in our city. For information on initiatives that I propose to address problems — as well as details of my 25 years in education and collaborative politics — please go to www.rachelforcambidge.com. Many thanks!



Ayesha Wilson

Being the oldest of three girls, in a single parent household in Cambridge Public Housing, I have witnessed first hand the socioeconomic barriers that families face. I am a product of the Cambridge Public Schools system, graduating from Cambridge Rindge and Latin in 2000 and later attending Wheelock College attaining a Bachelor and a Masters degree in Social Work. With 18 years of public service, I am committed to make an impact through the combined efforts of students, parents, educators, and the community at large. I would appreciate your #1 vote on November 5th. Together We Are Better!

