



Lowell City Council Candidate Forum 2017 VOTER GUIDE

	What role can the City Council play in preventing youth suicide?	What does the City Council need to do to continue reducing youth violence?	What ideas do you have to make it easier for young parents in Lowell to access affordable early-education and childcare?	What are ways that the City of Lowell could partner with UTEC and others to provide more jobs for young people?	Support a motion to fund a new Streetworker	Support funding for a youth homeless shelter	Come back to meet with UTEC
Joseph Boyle	I believe it's important to foster a sense of community among our young people, among our whole City, among everybody in this City towards our young people. People shouldn't feel isolated, people shouldn't feel alone, people shouldn't feel helpless.	We need to continue pursuing and advancing the City's community policing programs and community policing reforms to help build on the success we've already had and take it even further.	That would be a financial priority of mine, but in order to even have a hope of making that happen, we have to be sure that we are not imposing any new unsustainable, new financial obligations on our education system.	Grow the mattress recycling into a larger and larger operation. Continue the Café and do the project for the UTEC on the Green, so that the Café can be even larger.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sokhary Chau	The tragedy of teenage suicide and young adult suicide is becoming a very, very big problem. I want to make sure we have proper education and make sure that the community comes together to support the young adults and teenagers.	I applaud the police department with the community policing, the after-school programs, the many sports programs, that keep all of our youth busy, occupied after school.	There should be some funding for if you live with your parents, basically the grandparents would take care of the kids and get some money to support them. For early education, absolutely more resources for different types of schools and different programs.	Have some other non-profit organizations like the homeless shelter or different programs that can purchase at a discount with some funding from the City to buy those mattresses.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Karen Cirillo	I feel that everyone, every single person that belongs to this wonderful community of Lowell needs to feel loved, that they're important and that they're valued. I feel that we need to do a better job of letting everyone know that.	I think that the effort in continuing to have our police officers be in close contact with our communities is wonderful and let's continue that.	I would like to consider having a daycare in the high school. You have all your students there and the mothers can continue with their education. I feel that that's very important and it can be a community effort in that daycare.	What I would like to see for Lowell is more bike paths, and I think that would be a great social enterprise that would bring more businesses downtown, and I think that'd be a great partnership with the City.	Yes	Yes	Yes
David Conway	As an individual that has been in education for so many years, I think that's the area we need to concentrate on – the school that's where the thrust of getting the resources, and enhance the resources to let everyone know.	Our Safety Task Force used to meet on a regular basis, on a weekly basis, and we would have all the partners at the table. We'd have the police, people from the gang units, from the courts and so forth. What that actually did was an incredible exchange of ideas that in the end made not only the schools safer, but also the City.	Bringing in all our resources and partnerships in order to help these individuals because the bottom line here is they feel that they don't have anywhere to go, and I think again, it has to go back to education and the support in the schools.	We have other resources to partner with in the University and Middlesex Community College, and I think by these groups of people, the educational system and the business system coming together, I think we can certainly create more jobs.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rodney Elliott	Those students, those individuals that feel that there is no hope, it's important for us to ensure that funding is available. Whether it's in the schools, whether it's training through the teachers and staff, I think that it's important to identify the signs.	We have police in the neighborhoods, but I also think it's also the partnerships we have with the organizations in the City that keep kids on track, that keep them of trouble, that keep them out of gangs, that keep them away from drugs. Those methods, those preventative efforts, have an impact on where things are going in the City.	CTI provides childcare which allows the moms and the dads to get either training, to get a job, to get back on their feet, so I've seen it time and time again be successful. So a lot of the onus falls on our state legislators to increase that funding.	Hold a box lunch meeting with partners from every organization... sit down and brainstorm... listen to the kids, they're consumers, they're out there and they know where to develop jobs and where they want to go and I think that's somewhere we should look into.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Daniel Finn	I think education is a huge part of what it is we need to do to prevent suicide. I work at the Billerica House of Correction, and we have inmates there that are at their worst time. We have outreach programs such as UTEC that come in and help the inmates, get them back on track, give them the possibility of a job when they get out. I think we need to focus more on that.	I do think that we do have issues with youth violence within the City. What we do at the House of Correction is we put them into programs and we make it so that we teach them. Education is at the forefront of letting, not only the youth, but the people that are incarcerated know what it is that is going on, and what it is they need to change in their behavior.	Education, early education and childcare is huge. I do think we should supply that, but I also feel that we need to focus on identifying the people that may be getting themselves into this predicament and educating them on maybe not becoming parents so young.	Give the youth some other job responsibilities as far as cleaning the City and more things to do at the park, maybe landscaping things like that. I think the youth would appreciate it and it'd be a job opportunity in the summer.	Yes	Yes	Yes

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To learn more about UTEC, please visit www.utec-lowell.org



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Robert Gignac	In Lowell we have great resources, and great partnerships. I think something we need to do a better job at, is just letting know that there are resources here, that there are people to talk to, and that you're not in this alone.	The City Council has done a great job over the past few years in increasing summer jobs for our City youth and keeping them busy. But also increasing efforts to apply for grants to provide additional summer jobs. I know the City often goes for the SSYI grant which partners with UTEC, the Shannon Grant which battles gangs in the City, as well as Youth Works which provides opportunities.	We're presently looking for opportunities to open an early childhood center to serve the entire City and that does cost quite a bit of money. So serving on the City Council, I would be an advocate to do just that and ensure that we have as many opportunities as possible to serve our young people.	Lowell has a great resource with the Career Center of Lowell and the Greater Lowell Workforce Development Board and partnering with them to provide part-time jobs for young people in social enterprises such as UTEC would give those social enterprises some relief in paying those wages and making sure that those young people have the proper training and are workforce ready.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Martin Hogan	What we can do here with the City Council's help is, add some suicide prevention call-centers and I think we need to do that. We need to make sure the people are educated and they realize they have a place to turn to and I would do that as your City Councilor.	I believe that having a job and keeping your hands busy really keeps you out of trouble, so that's really where I would work on is getting the opportunities.	We have to look at the budget to make sure that we're taking care of the bottom line and to make sure that we're spending where we need. Education and childcare is where we need it.	Partner with all of the small and medium and large-sized businesses to do the work that needs to be done and have people be trained in those areas, such as anything from janitorial and maintenance all the way up to technological.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Edward Kennedy	It would be important to educate teachers, and parents, and also students as to what some of the signs are to look for potential suicides. I would be in favor of supporting programs that would do that.	I think that programs like UTEC and the Boys and Girls Clubs offer are very important. So what the City Council needs to do is make sure that all of those programs are going to be maintained, as well as that the police department keeps up the work they're doing.	I think that it would be just great to come up with a plan that would provide cheap or free childcare across the City for young families. I think that this would be good for young families living in Lowell but would also be a tremendous attraction for young families that don't live in Lowell now that are deciding where they want to live and bring up their families.	The idea of the bikes might be a great possibility because I think there are a lot of communities that have bike stations where people could use bikes and that might be a business for UTEC to get into.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jim Leary	Everything about education is important to get out there, there are resources there, and every life really matters. It's imperative that we get people the knowledge that they need to reach these folks. When you're in this position, you think there's no hope, and there's a lot of hope.	Education but also the opportunities. Getting a summer job keeps you out of harm's way. Also Lowell Police Department is developing relationships with local youth in programs.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Jim Milinazzo	We need to make sure the resources are there working with the school department and working with the hospitals. A big issue is the bullying that's going on in our schools, housing developments, and neighborhoods.	We have such a wonderful park system where kids can play and get our police officers to outside neighborhood meetings to actually take on working and playing basketball with the kids and just having a good working relationship.	It comes down to education and making sure that we have, as a City council in our budget, to have the early education and childhood funds available to make sure that these young parents do have access to services.	UTEC could come up with energy conservation programs to really train young people on what it is to be socially responsible. I think that would go a long way to creating jobs. Just dealing with recycling and working with our department on recycling issues	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vesna Nuon	More important than just education, we have to have resources to help them get through it. Programs like UTEC and other youth programs are critical in helping the young people have a sense of responsibility and hope.	I think to also enhance the community policing with community outreach, neighborhood outreach with a pipeline to join the police academy. Who better to have the trust of a community than those officers who live in that community?	To young parents who want to continue their education and need someone to help with their childcare, we need to help them. We need to partner with CTI and other programs that support them.	We can help programs like UTEC expand on the mattress recycling program and on the catering. I would propose Lowell first – that we buy and hire locally.	Yes	Yes	Yes
William Samaras	I dealt with a number of families that faced that problem – either their children attempted suicide, or talked about committing suicide. We have to ensure there is enough money around to ensure that we can train our personnel to recognize when a child feels disconnected from any type of life situation.	We met with gang leaders and we offered them a way out. That's what we had to do, we offered them services and support, and we took a lot of people off the street and got them out of gangs. But we learned from that how to work with each other and that's when community policing really stepped up.	When you talk about early childhood education and pre-school education, it's really important, and it's all about the money. We have to find the funds to support early childhood education.	I think UTEC and the City have to work even closer together and find out from UTEC what kinds of internships UTEC's youth would like to see. By combining our efforts, we could create even more job opportunities for our students.	Yes	Yes	Yes

Candidates Corey Belanger, John Leahy, Matthew LeLacheur, Rita Mercier and Daniel Rourke could not attend.

To learn more about these candidates, please visit www.lowellsun.com/election and www.lowellvotes.org

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