

Lynn Mayoral Forum Questions
August 7, 2013
7:00 p.m.

Lynn Community Association, Inc.

1. Currently, there are approximately 600 housing units for sale in the city. What would you do as Mayor in order to make Lynn more attractive to those looking to buy a home in this area?
2. In political races we often discuss the successes and never really discuss the failures and what could have been done better to improve the situation for the greater whole in the future. Looking back, what is one failure that you wish to have done differently and what will you plan to do next about it or a similar situation?
3. According to the 2005-2009 American Community Survey, Lynn has a median income significantly below the region and state. The median household income in Lynn is \$41,933 compared to \$64,280 for Essex County and \$64,496 for Massachusetts. As mayor, what is your strategy for raising Lynn's median income level in relation to the rest of Essex county and the state?
4. Our school district is a level 4 failing district where 50% of the schools are level 3 and two schools are level 4. Since 2010, five schools have dropped to level 3 status (four of them dropped from level 1 to level 3). This is in addition to the seven schools that have been and still are level 3. What changes do you plan on making to ensure that our schools and student performance do not continue to decline and that they finally begin to improve?
5. Please explain your position on the Lynn Homeowner's Bill of Rights. Why would it be good or bad for the City?
6. Referring to the regionalization of emergency dispatch call centers, Lynn Police Association President William Sharpe wrote, "the development of Lynn as a regional partner truly does call into question the efficacy of an anachronistic policy that restricts, rather than expands, the diversity of persons and skills that will be needed to meet the new demands placed on the City." How successful has the residency requirement been at doing what it was designed to do? How would you handle its enforcement or conversely, its dismantling?
7. A city attorney branded 99 Chatham St. "a death trap waiting to happen" after city inspectors said the building has been used as an illegal rooming house. According to the Lynn Item, 99 Chatham tops the city code violation fine list with \$15,000 in fines dating back six years. Why are so many properties like 99 Chatham allowed to fester for so long and what would you do to dramatically decrease the time it takes to address these blights on the neighborhood?
8. New Hampshire-based Sovereign Consulting Inc. has recommended that a new Marshall Middle school built on the Brookline street site will need a network of 110 foot steel piles to support it. The consultant also concluded that the degree of environmental contamination at the site is unknown. How will you convince a wary populace to approve the \$17 million bond to fund the construction?
9. Follow up: Assume the bond doesn't get approved. Given the average age of the city's other

school buildings and the need for more space to accommodate a growing student population, what would you do?

10. Some things never seem to change. We are disgusted by the amount of litter, the appalling condition some properties are allowed to deteriorate to, and a thriving rat population. Past winters have seen horrendous plowing jobs, where some streets are not even plowed by the city. What specific things would you do to improve the DPW and Inspectional Service's effectiveness in serving a community of the size and demographics of Lynn?
11. Currently Immigration Custom and Enforcement has co-opted Lynn police to do their work for them through their so called "Secure Communities" program. The result is that many immigrants in Lynn are afraid to call the police which hampers our local community policing efforts. Would you support a city ordinance, similar to the proposed Massachusetts Trust Act, that would make it clear that local police role is local law enforcement and not enforcing federal civil immigration policy?
12. In the context of municipal elections which often see certain areas of the city post much higher voter participation levels than others, what is your campaign strategy in terms of reaching out to voters? How will your campaign reach out to those who might not normally vote in a city and engage residents from all neighborhoods in Lynn in the political process?
13. I enjoy the Everett-Malden section of the Northern Strand Community Trail. I know Saugus and Revere are working on their parts. When will the Northern Strand Community Trail come through Lynn? When can we expect Lynn to get on board?
14. What is your vision for waterfront uses, and height limitations?
15. Often times we focus solely on the credentials of the Mayor Candidate. Could you explain the credentials of your staff, level of their education, experience and how you think your staff will help with your mission in helping the city?