**Cambridge Citizens Coalition 2021 Cambridge City Council Questionnaire – August 9, 2021**

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1. Housing is an important issue for the City of Cambridge.
	1. How would you describe our housing challenges? **A: Poor. There is not enough housing for the people, and we have to do better.**
	2. What do you think are the major factors causing our housing challenges? A: **Population increases and lack of available space.**
	3. What do you think is stopping us from addressing those challenges? **A: Money, resources and politics.**
	4. Describe concerns you might have about existing and needed infrastructure to serve our present and future housing stock, for example: aging sewer lines, electrical grid and most importantly water. **A: The infrastructure and public utilities have to be updated at the same time as the housing.**
2. Climate Change is real. What changes would you like to see the city undertake to address these concerns locally? How do your views address environmental equity? How do you reconcile the issue of tree conservation and the environment when discussing development? **A: ALL the energy the city uses should be from renewable energy and all buildings should be net zero. Trees help reduce carbon and have to be included in building plans and infrastructure renewal projects.**
3. “Development” is a commonly used term of public policy. Notions of economic development evolve over time. In the current moment, ideas about development must address concerns about climate change, global capital flows and rapidly growing economic inequality.
	1. The City for decades developed commercial property to increase taxable income that allows residential tax rates to remain low compared to many other cities. Has that strategy reached its limit? If so, what should replace it**? A: Balance commercial development with housing development.**
	2. What is your view on economic development for the City of Cambridge in 2021? What kind of economic development do we need or not need? **A: I think that one of the solutions would be to mandate that universities and colleges in Cambridge pay more of a fair share.**
4. In recent months the Cambridge Historical Commission, Conservation Districts and Neighborhood Organizations have been criticized as obstacles to more affordable housing as well as to racial and economic diversity. Do you agree with this criticism? Please explain why. **A: I do not. I think that Historical and Conservation, particularly conservation, are equally as important as housing. What are we saving the world for, if not for conservation areas and our historical value.**
5. In recent months there has been an upsurge in citizen petitions (including the Donovan petition supported by the CCC and the Missing Middle Housing (MMH) petition supported by ABC) that attempt to formulate zoning, housing and related public policy. Developer upzoning - also known as contract zoning - has also been in regular use. Please describe your opinion about governing through the use of citizen petitions and contract zoning. Are there changes to the petition process that should be introduced?
**A: I support petition change. I believe that is the essence of democracy in action.**
6. Members of the Cambridge Planning Board have expressed frustration with existing constraints on their ability to plan. As volunteers meeting several times a month to process individual cases, members have little time and resources to engage in planning. The absence of planning guidance from this committee is likely related to the increased use of citizen petitions. How should this problem be addressed? **A: There should be a separate board to address the individual cases and, maybe, both boards should be compensated employment.**
7. Cambridge has long been celebrated as a city that promotes racial and economic diversity. Do you believe this reputation is currently well deserved? If not, what measures would you take to promote genuine racial and economic diversity? How would you address recent issues of youth gun violence? **A: I think that we do have a good reputation in that matter. Better education and opportunities would help with violence of any kind. I have long supported a Youth Apprenticeship Program that would educate Cambridge’s youth in the trades and business. Youth with a future and something to do aren’t prone to gun violence.**
8. How would you increase transparency both by the City Manager and departments that report to her/him? How would you increase transparency by City Councilors? **A: Put it online and hard copy what all city managers, departments and councilors are doing.**
9. Cambridge is about to hire a new City Manager. Describe your ideal City Manager for this time in Cambridge history. What qualities will you look for? **A: Being polite, kind and courteous. They should be very familiar with the city and its needs.**
10. Recent estimates declare that over 60% of Cambridge residents are renters. How should Cambridge government address the needs of renters? **A: Rent stabilization should be looked at. Rent to own, or easier home buying and lower interest should be looked at.**
11. There is always room for improvement however senior citizens in public housing receive reasonable public support. What is your plan to enable and support seniors living independent of public senior housing settings? **A: Quality social workers to visit them and VNA. Better transportation to Senior centers and shopping.**
12. What question do you wish we had asked you but did not? How would you answer it? **A: The question You didn’t ask would be job related, but also ties into education. I support Career Training, Internships and Programs in Cambridge. Since We have so much new constructions, there should be a stipulation that all new construction hire at least a percentage Cambridge residents in their work force and, also, have training and internship programs for Young Cantabrigians.**