

Cambridge Citizens Coalition

2023 Questionnaire for City Council Candidates

Completed by Candidate Hao Wang
Campaign website: <https://www.haoforcambidge.com>

I How strongly do you support these issues before the city? #1 is high (for); #2 is moderate; #3 is low (against)

A. **More Accountable City Government:** Your support for greater transparency/accountability in the city.

a. 1. 2. 3 _Circle the number that most represents your views.

b. _____ How have you personally been involved in addressing this? Explain.

After observing how the city has operated in several areas in the past few years, I have quietly identified areas to improve. It is commendable that the city employees are doing what they can, given all circumstances. However, given the amount of funding, it is natural that we, the residents, are demanding more performance. If elected, I will devote my time to transparency, discipline, and competency of our city government.

B. **Housing:** Your support for new AH0 (Affordable Housing Overlay) up-zoning amendment

a. 1. 2. 3 _Circle the number that most represents your views.

b. How have you personally been involved to address this? Explain.

I am for a holistic approach to AH0. To make Cambridge a more livable city, singularly lifting the number of floors for new buildings should be accompanied by small businesses, parking spaces, and public transportation improvement. Committed to learning more, I will offer an unbiased engineering point of view on this issue.

C. **Transportation:** Your support for re-evaluating city's bike lane/traffic/parking infrastructure and plans.

a. 1. 2. 3 _Circle the number that most represents your views.

b. How have you personally been involved to address this? Explain.

Safety for bikers is a must for our residents. I pledge to continue supporting the city's bike lane/traffic/parking infrastructure and plans. Again, a systemic approach will be needed. We should take all accounts of the related issues into a well-balanced policy related to this. I will advocate the adequacies of all elements for a livable city, including building more level 3 electric car chargers in the city's open parking spaces and incentivizing more mom-and-pop shops to stay.

D. **Environment:** Your support for keeping our mature trees (in schools, housing, parks, & other contexts)?

a. 1. 2. 3 _Circle the number that most represents your views.

b. How have you personally been involved to address this? Explain.

Cambridge's good work around environmental sustainability should continue receiving accolades. I love the city's work for the Fresh Pond conservation, to name one. More work needs to be done, I will devote

my time as a city councilor to energy consumption in business buildings and large structures. I will help the building owners reign in the energy bills without disrupting their businesses. I will NOT force convert gas appliances to electricity. I will advocate incentives and assistance for such a conversion.

II. We are interested in how knowledgeable and active candidates are in city issues. (Short answer – 1-2 sentences)

A. What is the one key problem/issue you want to achieve in City Council next term?

Define the consensus-based vision of a livable city for Cambridge, which is the framework and foundation to prioritize many concurrent issues.

Explain any role you have had as Councillor or resident in related actions.

B. What City Council decision over the last term are you most supportive of?

Continued advancement of the Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO), which forms the scientific basis for many ESG issues.

Explain any role you have had as Councillor or resident in related actions.

C. What City Council decision were you most disappointed in the last Council term?

Elimination of the livable elements such as parking space requirements while rightfully introducing affordable housing initiatives.

Explain any role you have had as Councillor or resident in related actions.

D. What City Staff decision over the last Council term are you most supportive of?

Hiring a competent city manager in Mr. Yi-An Huang.

Explain any role you have had as Councillor or resident in related actions.

E. What City Staff decision were you most disappointed in the last Council term?

Rather than singling out one staff decision, there is a lack of consideration or reporting of inclusive measures for numerous city boards and commissions. We need a practice that is consistent with our Plan E.

Explain any role you have had as Councillor or resident in related actions.

III. What Issues Help Define You? Highlight those core interests/goals for the 2024-6 Council and explain why.

 X More balance in commercial and residential needs

We need to be business-friendly to local mom-and-pop shops. Several local businesses told me they were shunned away because they did not know how to deal with Cambridge. Many medical doctors who I know moved away from Cambridge or Boston, and we need to study why.

X More budget accountability

We need more transparency and performance measurement of city projects. Cambridge spent nearly a billion per year to service a small area and a population of 150k. Did we do a good job? Which project is the worst, do we know?

X More engagement by residents

We often feel that perceived activists dominate our policies, but I'd rather speak from the view of residents. Good policy should consider impact analysis on existing residents rather than solely based on singular issues and political goals.

More equity in healthcare, environment, schooling, housing, and related issues

More transparency in Council and City decision-making

More prioritization of historic building reuse

X More support for local businesses

Same as above.

X A more multi-dimensional and resident-engaged city planning

Same as above.

X A more inclusive environmental policy

Same as above.

X A more comprehensive transportation policy

Same as above.

X Other (explain in 1-2 sentences)

Support all of our foreign language schools.

Support the Arts and Celebration of Cambridge.

Build more level-3 fast chargers for EVs in the city.

Offer assistance to Cambridge families in need in the energy costs for the hottest and coldest months.

IV. What incident or set of concerns got you interested in running for City Council?

Having been educated by Cambridge (Harvard and MIT), I want to give back to the city I have been calling home for 30 years. As a board member of Riverside Community Healthcare, which operates in Cambridge/Somerville, I sensed many present challenges in our communities. Having helped governments,

not-for-profits, and private corporations worldwide, I can help my home city achieve its goals and objectives.