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|  **Safe Medford Candidate Questionnaire** |

*Responses to this questionnaire will be shared with Medford voters prior to the 2019 election.*

1. Medford's **Unity Resolution** ([www.medfordma.org/unity-resolution/](http://www.medfordma.org/unity-resolution/)) states that we are an inclusive community, in support of all of our diverse population groups, including immigrants and newcomers.
* What can Medford do to help immigrants living in Medford to feel safe?

As a City the best way Medford can help immigrants feel safe is by investing in our public schools. My career in the schools has shown me how children of families new to our country need increased support. Current staff do a wonderful job but the resources are spread thin. The more immigrant parents feel safe about sending their children to school, the more their quality of life improves. From there, additional systemic changes/improvements can help both immigrant and non-immigrant residents life safely in a shared community.

* What will you personally do in your elected role to make Medford and its government more responsive to the needs of all residents, regardless of immigration status?

The most important way to serve members of the community, immigrant or not, is by involving them in decision making processes. I promise to meet in person with immigrant members of the community to make sure their voices are heard and represented in local government. This has been a feature of my campaign that will continue if elected.

1. Due to changes in federal policy, ICE has detained and deported people from our neighborhoods, breaking up families in the process, even though those being removed pose no threat. The **Safe Communities Act** is a proposed Massachusetts law that will help protect immigrant communities by prohibiting ICE from deputizing local police officers to enforce civil immigration violations. This act would ensure that police resources are used to fight crime and ensure public safety rather than to assist ICE. Would you support a City Council resolution in favor of this bill? Yes - I support this and would introduce such a resolution myself.
2. Medford has an identity as a white, Catholic, blue-collar city. Yet 27% of the population, and 40% of the students in Medford’s schools, are not white, and 29% of the City's residents speak a language other than English as their first language. The racial and religious makeup of the City are similarly diverse, but this **diversity** is not reflected in the City's leadership or workforce, including the public schools and police.
* Do you agree that the city’s leadership and employees should reflect the City's diversity? Yes - As a Councilor I will be committed to breaking down the systemic barriers that have created our unfortunate situation.
* If (re)elected, what would you do to help accomplish this?

To address the lack of political representation we need democratic reforms. These include but are not limited to automatic voter registration, publicly funded elections, and ward-based voting. All this would be possible with a Charter Review, which is part of my campaign platform. As for the workforce disparity, my impression as a 10 year City employee is that overall Medford doesn’t offer salaries that are competitive with other municipalities. It is not easy to live in Medford on a public salary unless there are additional funding sources, and the levels of inequity across demographics means local jobs are not appealing. As a candidate, I would help change this.

* What can Medford do to change the misconceptions about the demographics of our City so that we all understand who actually lives and works here in 2019?

Education is the key. Medford tries to celebrate its diversity, and does an admirable job, but more can be done. Whether it’s in our public schools or at community events, emphasizing the benefits of diversity should be the highest priority when it comes to building a safer community.

* How could Medford's public spaces, including City Hall, be made to feel more welcoming and inclusive to the entire community?

 As a white, non-immigrant member of the community I know the importance of involving under represented residents in the decision making process. This is an individual commitment of mine, so if elected, marginalised groups within Medford will know they have a Councilor who is there to listen and advocate. From there we will continue to grow as a City that wants to be welcoming and inclusive to all who call Medford home; past, present, or future.

**SafeMedford**

*Advocating for the safety and dignity of all community members
regardless of immigration status.*