



Lowell Votes
2021

City Council Questionnaire

Marty Hogan
for
Centralville – District 2 Councilor

Answers to Lowell Votes were limited to 300 characters to fit their candidate guide.

- ▶ For Transparency and expanded detail I have listed in this
 - ▶ the questions and answers that I provided to Lowell Votes, restricted by the character limit
 - ▶ The Unabridged answers that I would provide if there were no limits imposed

- ▶ Please reach out to me via:
 - ▶ Email: marty@hogan4centralville.com

If you would like to discuss and talk about one or all of these issues.

I welcome the opportunity to hear your thoughts and concerns.

Question 1:

Please enter your name:

▶ **Answer:**

Martin “Marty” Hogan

Question 2:

What should voters know about your story?

► **Answer:**

I am a Centralville neighbor who is committed to making our community better through open communication, transparency and a dedication to not just represent but to also roll up my sleeves and work hard and serve the people of District 2.

Question 3:

How can Lowell build more affordable housing for everyone, including people who are currently homeless?

► **Answer:**

Affordability is one of the most important issues at this time. We need to re-cycle our surplus abandoned City owned lands and buildings and avoid over building. We need to use these to establish affordable first-time home ownership and rental and even homelessness rehabilitation opportunities.

Question 4:

What disparities were more apparent to you during the pandemic and how do you plan to address them, especially using the federal Covid-19 relief American Rescue Plan Act funding?

► **Answer:**

The disparity that was most apparent during the pandemic was the increase of mental health issues. I will work to increase mental health, abuse, drug/alcohol counseling, and employment development access throughout our Centralville district and build a center funded by private-public funding.

Question 5:

How could we attract businesses to fill empty storefronts?

► **Answer:**

We need three things to make Centralville attractive and be able to fill the empty storefronts. You need Cleanliness, you need Safety, and you need to be Welcoming. In all, the city has not been able to keep up to this task. I will work to identify what we need and ensure we have them.

Question 6:

What would you do to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in Lowell?

► **Answer:**

I would work in city council to open the access of our public meetings and city council meetings to the people. I would use media, internet, and mail to expand the information flow to our residents and work to make sure that web audio/video conferencing continues. We need residents involved.

Question 7:

How can the City Council work to make sure Lowell's schools better support the success of our diverse population of students, including those with IEP and 504 plans?

► **Answer:**

Education is very important to me; my dad was a public special education teacher. I have spent much time talking to constituents about disabilities and special education. I feel that we do not do enough or dedicate enough funding/resources and I want to work with teachers to change this!

Question 8:

What would you do to make sure that parks/river walks/etc are taken care of so everyone can enjoy them? (Free of trash, needles, other pollution, etc)

► **Answer:**

First, all trashing and polluting is unacceptable and we should as a community condemn this harshly. Second, I will work to ensure the appropriate funding to clean/upkeep these special spaces. Third, I will hold accountable those that actively pollute. Lastly, I will work to increase patrols.

Question 9:

What's the biggest issue in your district and how will you resolve it? For those running at-large, what's the biggest issue facing the city?

► **Answer:**

The one issue I hear the most often is that the city is mismanaged, and that city services; trash, paving, communication, etc... are poor. The lack of staffing, resources/ability of the city to tackle routine tasks. As your Centralville Councilor I will work hard to appropriate & correct funding.

Question 10:

Fun question! - Favorite place in your district? For those running at large, favorite spot in the city?

► **Answer:**

There are so many. Whether it be Gage Park, McPherson Park, the Reservoir, Top Donut for coffee, Dom Polski for our CNAG meetings, Market Basket or even just my back yard. However, it's not really the place that makes it a favorite, it is the people that I share my time. Centralville, it's my home!

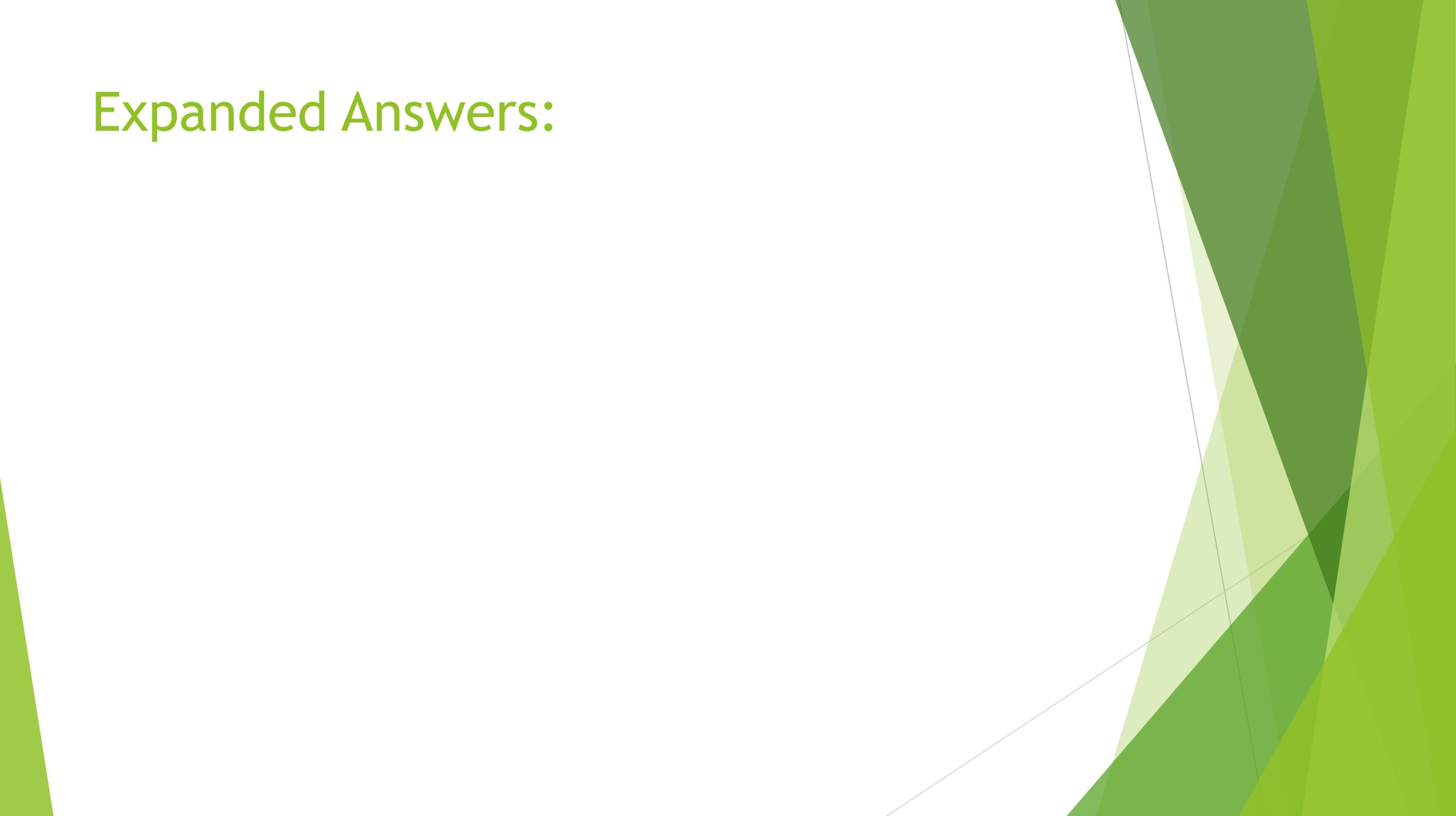
Question 11:

Fun question! - Who's your favorite band or musician?

► **Answer:**

My all-time favorite musician is Billy Joel.

Expanded Answers:



Question 3:

How can Lowell build more affordable housing for everyone, including people who are currently homeless?

► **Answer: (unabridged)**

Affordability and allowing existing and new residents to establish themselves and insure that they are able to continue to thrive in our community is one of the most important issues at this time. At the same time, I feel that any good community should afford its residents a respectable level of quality of living. We as a city need to avoid over building and saturation in small-unused parcels. There has to be an active balance maintained.

Lowell has a surplus of abandoned and State/City owned lands and buildings. We need to use that to establish affordable first-time home ownership and rental and even homelessness rehabilitation opportunities.

Question 4:

What disparities were more apparent to you during the pandemic and how do you plan to address them, especially using the federal Covid-19 relief American Rescue Plan Act funding?

► **Answer: (unabridged)**

The disparity that was most apparent during the pandemic was the increase of mental health issues. We have such great human/health service agencies in and around our community and I will work to bridge the gap(s) between and create a fully homeopathic and homogenous response that can help to reduce this plight on our city.

I will work to increase mental health, abuse, drug/alcohol counseling, and employment development access throughout our Centralville district and build a center funded by private-public funding.

Question 6:

What would you do to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in Lowell?

► **Answer: (unabridged)**

I would work in city council to increase the access of our public committee and city council meetings to the people. I would use media, internet, and the mail system to expand the information flow to all of our residents and work to make sure that web audio/video conferencing can continue.

Additionally, I would propose a new electronic signage system located on the main thoroughfares in each district of the city in order that all residents can be aware of important city information without the need for the internet or to go to city hall to see the posted public notices.

I would as the Centralville District Councilor, have regular district meetings open to all residents and held at several different locations throughout the district.

Question 7:

How can the City Council work to make sure Lowell's schools better support the success of our diverse population of students, including those with IEP and 504 plans?

► **Answer:**

Education is very important to me; my dad was a public special education teacher. I have spent much time talking to constituents about disabilities and special education. I feel that we do not dedicate enough funding/resources on this and we move many students out of the system. I would like to work with the teachers, school department, and school committee to increase our ability and capacity for these services to be accessible to our most vulnerable students.

Question 8:

What would you do to make sure that parks/river walks/etc are taken care of so everyone can enjoy them? (Free of trash, needles, other pollution, etc)

► **Answer: (unabridged)**

This is a bigger issue than can be explained in 300 characters, however, I believe we need to allocate more resources and work with the area neighborhood groups / businesses to tackle this.

First, all trashing and polluting is unacceptable and we should as a community condemn this harshly.

Second, I will work to ensure the appropriate funding to properly clean/upkeep these special spaces.

Third, I will work to hold accountable those that actively pollute, whether it be a single person or a company.

Lastly, I will work to increase police and environmental safety in our parks/river walks. The way to stop this pollution is to educate and hold people accountable.

Question 9:

What's the biggest issue in your district and how will you resolve it? For those running at-large, what's the biggest issue facing the city?

► **Answer: (unabridged)**

There are many issues that face our city. But the one I hear the most is from every resident is that the city is very mismanaged, and that city services, trash, street paving, communication, are poor.

I have over the last several years seen first hand the lack of proper staffing, resources and ability of the city to tackle regular and routine tasks for its citizens.

I am by no means laying the blame on the hardworking city employees. I am saying that years of administrations and the council groups have left our city without proper funding for a city of our size and issues.

As your Centralville Councilor I will work hard with my fellow councilors to identify our district needs and to appropriate the correct funding needs and improve our city services. We need to bring the city of Lowell into the 21st Century. help to update and improve our city services and