



Somerville Dog Owners Group  
Questionnaire for Candidates  
2007 Municipal Elections

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Office for which you are seeking election: Alderman Ward 7

1. Tell us about your experiences as a Somerville resident at our municipal parks. What parks do you visit, how often, what do you do there when you visit?

As a Somerville resident who enjoys running and walking, I love our parks. I regularly jog through Dilboy Field, Seven Hills Park, Powder House Park, Nunziato Park, and the Community Path. I often run errands on foot and enjoy passing by and through Hodgkins Park, Seven Hills Park, and Powder House Park. I have also attended great events held in Foss Park, Seven Hills Park, and the Vinal Avenue Community Growing Center.

2. Somerville has just over two (2) acres of open space for every thousand residents. We are the most densely populated city in the Commonwealth. Compare that to Cambridge, the second most densely populated city in Massachusetts, where there are over eight (8) acres of open space for every thousand residents. What will you do in the upcoming term to increase the area of open space per capita in Somerville.

The lack of open space in Somerville is one of my key concerns. Somerville has properties throughout the city that are not being utilized. As Alderman, I will always work to ensure that these properties are used to benefit the public, such as through the creation of more parks and open space. I also will ensure residents will have the opportunity to offer input into the City's decision making process regarding these areas.

3. Despite recent improvements, nonetheless families with dogs remain underserved by Somerville's open spaces, particularly in East Somerville, in West Somerville and in the Davis Square, Magoun Square and Winter Hill neighborhoods. What opportunities will you create to improve access for families with dogs to open space?

Open spaces and parks are an important part of building a sense of community and parks should be accessible to all residents, including our canine friends. I will work to expand access to for families with dogs, including helping to create more off-leash recreation areas, such as the one at Nunziato Park.

**promoting responsible dog ownership, safe and legal options for off-leash recreation and the equitable distribution of open space in Somerville, MA.**

4. The Somerville Dog Owners Group has been delighted to see improvements in recent years in the City's Animal Control Department and in the enforcement of municipal ordinances pertaining to animals, including the leash law and the "pooper-scooper" law. What initiatives would you undertake to further improve Animal Control in Somerville?

More off-leash areas would give dogs the much needed room to play and owners a safe and legal place to let their dogs run free. The City should also encourage responsible dog ownership by placing bags and trash barrels for dog owners to dispose of dog waste. I will also listen to the community and Somerville Dog Owners Group to determine what else Somerville can do to promote responsible dog ownership.

5. Do you own a dog/dogs? Sadly, I do not own a dog. I grew up always having dogs as part of my family. We adopted Danny, Kelef, and KC from the pound. Having dogs as part of our family since I was born, I understand the responsibilities -- as well as the joy -- that come with owning a dog. Currently, I do not have the time in my schedule to give a dog the attention it deserves. I do hope in the near future that I will be able to provide a loving home to a dog.

6. If you are a dog owner please tell us about your dog(s); if not, please share some of your experiences with dogs in the community.

Even though I don't currently own a dog, I get to greet, pet, and play with dogs nearly every day. On many mornings when I go running, I enjoy racing dogs out on their walks with their owners. Nearly every night on my way home from work, I see dogs out on evening walks and find that stopping to pet the dogs and engage in conversation with their owners is a great way to meet my neighbors!

Return to:  
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