

Fair Housing questions for candidates, 2023

1. Have you ever seen or personally experienced discrimination in housing (either in renting, buying, or getting a mortgage)? What did you observe, how did you handle it, and how did you feel about it?
2. What do you think are common reasons why someone was denied housing in Somerville?
3. What is the most important thing that Somerville landlords, property managers, real estate agents, or owners selling their homes need to know to further Fair Housing in Somerville? What would you do to increase compliance with Fair Housing law?
4. What do you see as the link between affordability and Fair Housing in Somerville?
5. If you are elected, what will you do on the following issues to address systemic housing discrimination against protected classes and to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing in Somerville?
 - a. Policies and programs Somerville can use to diversify neighborhoods
 - b. Continuing to protect and enforce condominium conversion restrictions and other measures to ensure housing for families with children
 - c. Preventing discrimination against disabled individuals in need of housing that have emotional support animals
 - d. Preventing discrimination against households with Section 8 Vouchers or other rental subsidies
6. What reforms do you see as feasible to ensure that older housing stock is maintained in a manner that supports the health and safety of all residents, including low-income residents?

Fair Housing questions for incumbent candidates, 2023

1. (As a follow-up to question #1) Now that you have served in your current position, would you have handled the housing discrimination that you experienced in a different way? What advice would you now give to Somerville residents who may be facing housing discrimination?
2. (As a follow-up to question #5) Since being elected to your current position, how do you feel that you have addressed systemic housing discrimination against protected classes in Somerville and affirmatively furthered fair housing in Somerville?