



[Lex-Wiki.Org](http://Lex-Wiki.Org) is a local Wikipedia for Lexington, MA. [Lex-wiki.Org](http://Lex-wiki.Org) covers Arts and Entertainment, Local Flora and Fauna, Local History, City Life as well as Town Government and other issues of public interest in Lexington.

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## Biographical Question

1. *What can you tell us about yourself? Please include a brief outline of your relevant experience, whether from private or public life – including public offices held, and volunteer work.*

I grew up in Lexington graduating from Lexington High School in 1986. I served with the Lexington Police Department for over twenty-two years as a police officer, including 5 years as a School Resource Officer. I currently work as at Director at NuPath, Inc in Woburn providing support to people living with disabilities. Our company's mission is "To make life's journey happier, healthier and more fulfilling for people living with disabilities".

Over the course of my career with the Lexington Police Department, I served approximately 10 years as a local executive board member and an additional 4 years as a member of the National Executive Board of S.E.I.U Local 5000 (N.A.G.E./I.B.P.O). As part of my current role at NuPath I work with our executive team as a labor-management liaison. Over 300 NuPath employees are represented by S.E.I.U. Local 509. Our recent collective bargaining efforts resulted in three-year agreement with a substantial pay increase for all members of the local. Negotiations on this agreement took two days to accomplish.

I live in Lexington with my wife Kelly and my three children (Taylor, John and Joey). All three of my children attended Lexington School (K-12) and have moved on to college and beyond. My daughter recently graduated from Bridgewater State and is working on her Master's Degree while pursuing a career as a teacher. While raising our kids in Lexington, I was a volunteer coach for our youth soccer, little league and Pop Warner teams. I was a volunteer parent coach with the Lexington High School Football Program, am a former Town meeting Member and Former Chair of the School Council for the Minuteman Regional High School.

## Candidate Platform

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### *2. Why are you running for State House?*

As a young police officer, father and local union executive board member, I watched Jay Kaufman campaign for his first election as State Representative. I found the process fascinating. As a union representative and active community member, I spent many days on Beacon Hill and had numerous conversations with our elected representatives. I watched as legislation was drafted, debated and ultimately signed into law. Everything about the process was of interest to me. I found over my career that I had a passion for being involved in the legislative process and a desire to be more involved in it.

## Policy Questions

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### *3. What are the largest three challenges Woburn and Lexington face over the next few years, and what can you do in the State House to address them?*

First and foremost, we must secure our schools. Our legislative bodies, both state and federal, have focused primarily on stricter gun legislation. Massachusetts has among the strictest gun laws in the nation and my hope is that the rest of the nation will follow our lead. As a State Rep I would focus on measures to fund and implement stronger security measures at every school in the Commonwealth. Addressing issues such as bullying and student disenfranchisement are critical steps to reducing large scale incidents of school violence.

As a School Resource Officer, I worked as part of a team of teachers, guidance counselors, administrators and support staff to ensure that our children had access to the resources they needed to not only succeed as students, but to be ensured of a safe environment. This effort required listening on all levels. It included collaboration between parents, educators and public safety personnel. To face school violence and bring it to an end is not only a challenge; it is a mission we must all undertake.

We must address the opioid crisis, focusing on treatment and recovery, there are far too few facilities and waiting lists for treatment are often long and offer little help in the short term. I would introduce legislation that incentivizes treatment facilities to expand into Massachusetts, I would also introduce legislation that evaluates facilities processes and look to limit funding to those providing little to no measure of success. To many families, including my own, have suffered a loss at the hands of this epidemic.

I would also work to improve public transportation. There is currently limited MBTA bus service in Lexington and virtually none in Woburn. Our aging buses should be replaced with more energy efficient models as soon as possible. We need to improve access to Anderson Station in Woburn and reexamine the effectiveness of the support network in and around Alewife and the Winchester Commuter Rail Station.

4. *Lexington is in process of renovating two middle schools, building a new Hastings school, a new preschool facility, and a new fire station. The town is planning to renovate and expand the police station and will soon need either a renovated or a new high school. These projects are necessary to replace old infrastructure. At the same time, the projects result in significantly higher local taxes, approved by voters through several debt exclusion referenda.*

*What do you propose to do, in the State Legislature, to reduce municipal construction costs – as well as to relieve some of the tax pressure on those least able to pay, for example people living on fixed income such as retirees living on Social Security?*

I believe that all of these projects are much needed and will benefit of the community immensely. I also believe that we are far too quick to raise taxes on people. Every dollar collected by the Commonwealth needs to be spent efficiently and I am not certain that our current system of expense review is working. Prior to supporting an increase in taxes, I would support a close review of our current state budget needs and the efficiency with which these needs are being met. I am in support of:

- Reinvigorating our commercial tax revenue.
- Closely examining and if appropriate, increasing State tax revenue from legal gaming sources
- Designating increase revenue from the legalized sale of marijuana to school safety and opiate addiction programs.

5. *Zoning that facilitates more balanced housing and more affordable housing has the benefit of reducing the high cost of housing and improving the socio-economic diversity of our community. At the same time, more housing means more traffic and an increase in school population that translates into additional pressure on local budgets.*

*What are your principles in regards to zoning – and what do you plan to do to advance your principles?*

I believe that Lexington is at a point where we can no longer expand without significant expenditures for infrastructure. Our roadways are overburdened, our water and sewage are stretched to capacity. There are several large community developments underway, one on Woburn Street, that will undoubtedly slow traffic on Lowell Street. Harrington school and Clark will see additional children as a result as well. At this time, I’m in favor of a development freeze until we can assess the impact of these new communities.

I would work with the Selectmen, the Planning Board and Town Meeting members to better understand the low income needs of the town and work to negotiate fewer developments in the future with a higher percentage of low income housing.

6. *Transgender rights: A November 2018 ballot question seeks to repeal the protection of transgender people in public places – including medical facilities, restaurants, retail shops, and bathrooms. What have you done, and will do to advance transgender non-discrimination?*

As a school resource officer I supported what was then called the “Gay-Straight Alliance” (GSA). At that time, the first program of this kind available at Minuteman Regional High School offered to help create a safe and open environment. The first meetings of this fantastic group of people took place in my office at the school. I believe that everyone should be treated fairly and with kindness. I have spent my entire adult life in support of others and dedicated to protecting people. As a police officer and now as a director in the human services field I have committed myself to making our community a safe and welcoming one. I am opposed to any ballot question that would repeal these protections or would seek to limit people’s protections in this way.

7. *Job growth and economic development: What will you do to advance the state’s economic interests, while addressing wealth and income inequality, given that Massachusetts has the 6<sup>th</sup> worst income inequality in the union?*

We must ensure that everyone receives high quality education (K-12). I believe that a good education leads to a good job. We must improve the financial accessibility to the incredible wealth of colleges and universities located here in the Bay State. The availability and proximity to literally hundreds of colleges is something people living in other states envy. The problem, they’re simply not affordable to many. We must make college more affordable.

In addition, education needs to be a lifelong experience and should not stop when one graduates from high school or college. Providing re-training opportunities to people working in industries that are on the decline as a result of modern technology is mandatory for any civilization to thrive. As our society moved from the horse and buggy in our earliest days to motorized forms of transportation, our citizens needed to be educated in the new technology. The same principle applies today. With each passing day, new technology changes our lives and the need to continue educating oneself continues to be a necessity and thereby open career opportunities to those that currently cannot compete for jobs.

8. *Renewable energy production is essential to meeting Massachusetts’ commitments to GHG reduction, yet recent rate structure proposed by investor owned utilities threatened to make municipal and residential installations financially impractical. What is your approach to creating incentives for renewable energy production that are not rendered moot by actions of the DPU?*

This is not an area of expertise of mine. I am a longtime supporter of renewable energy technology and had solar panels on the first home I ever owned. Supporting companies utilizing innovative means to create renewable forms of energy seems very reasonable to me. Recognizing that we must develop long-term means of supporting our energy needs is not an option, it is a reality. I am looking forward to learning more about this subject and to working with people who do specialize in this field.

9. *Buildings are another major component of energy consumption. What approach would you take to incentivize building practices that approach net-zero emissions and net-zero energy consumption?*

Same answer as question 8.

10. *All the Democrat candidates for Governor for Nov 2018 support single payer healthcare in Massachusetts. The state legislature, however, for many years, has instead passed measures intending to keep health care costs inflation in check using a market mechanism for private medical insurers, rather than switching to a single payer system. Many past state house candidates had single payer in their campaign platform, but the state house has not supported the measure.*

*Why do you think we have this disconnect between candidates and elected officials? Do you support Single Payer – and is Single Payer feasible in Massachusetts? If not, what are the alternatives?*

(DISCLAIMER: I am a retiree of the Town of Lexington and as such, I am a member of the GIC) As with most people, I have seen elected officials turn away from promises made during a campaign. It is up to us as engaged citizens to recognize when this is happening and to support new candidates to replace those unwilling to live up to what they promised. Thus far, I have not been impressed by Massachusetts efforts to reduce health care costs and have I have been negatively impacted by the rash changes made when the GIC was created. I am skeptical of the ability of our federal and our state government’s ability to reduce the costs and to improve our health care system on its own. The Commonwealth must provide certain “single payer” like systems. This does not ensure adequate service (ref: the MBTA and the RMV). Although we can, and do, survive long lines and delayed service at both the MBTA and the RMV, I do not believe we should be risking the same service for visits to our Primary Care Physician or for critical forms of surgery.

11. *The cost of higher education, whether public or private, has continued to significantly go up in the past 20 years. What do you see as the cause of that? What will you do, as legislator, to address it?*

The dream of college has put the majority of our young people in a lifetime of debt. Young people for the most part can only dream about saving for retirement or for a home because they’re forced to pay off huge college loans before anything else would be considered a realistic goal. The cost of college, (tuition, board, and housing) has steadily risen over the past 20 years or more. State colleges have remained slightly more affordable while private colleges and universities have risen along with their endowments. I’m in favor of a 5% tax on endowments over 1 billion to help defray the costs of State Universities.

12. Do you support charter schools? If no, why not? What changes, if any, do you advocate for –or have you personally advocated for in the past?

I do not support charter schools. I believe they take critical resources from public schools.

13. Gun crime continues to be a significant issue in some inner city and gateway communities around Massachusetts - sometimes, drug or gang related. Throughout the state, we live with the risk of random mass shootings in schools, at work, or in places of worship.

*What new gun control measures, if any, do you support at the state level?*

Massachusetts has some of the strictest gun laws in the country and we recently adopted ERPO (Extreme Risk) law, which I support, whereby unstable and dangerous individuals can have their guns taken away from them. Refer back to my answers in question 3 for more detail on this topic.

14. Will you take on any paid work in addition to State Representative? If you will continue to have other work, how will you deal with potential conflicts of interest?

No, I will be a full time State Representative.

15. If elected, how will you continuously report back and seek feedback from voters?

I think it's the most important part of the job, listening to the constituents of Lexington and Woburn. I plan on expanding Jay Kaufman's office hours to include time in Woburn as well. I also believe open forums and listening sessions are critical to providing status reports but also would enable me to bring your voice back to the State House.

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*All candidates are asked to limit the response to each question to at most two or three paragraphs, and to provide the questionnaire responses by end of day Sunday, July 1st, 2017. Responses will not be edited, and will run as submitted. They will be posted on [lex-wiki.org](http://lex-wiki.org) in PDF format and announced through other community media. Questionnaire coordinator Andrei Radulescu-Banu ([bitdribble@gmail.com](mailto:bitdribble@gmail.com), 617-216-8509). Questionnaire reviewer: Joe Pato.*

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