



How will you ensure that Cambridge remains a successful ecosystem for scientific research and discovery?

The responses below are from 16 Cambridge City Council candidates, to a questionnaire circulated by the KSA to all 19 candidates in the summer of 2021.

Burhan Azeem: Some candidates want to ban new lab space in Cambridge or in general are not a fan of our biotech sector. I am not one of those Candidates.

As an MIT Grad, I believe in Science and all the amazing work done in Kendall Square. I think we need fair development that allows more research to be done in Cambridge while also benefiting the nearby residents. I also think we need to focus in on the start-up community and figure out how we can provide space to them to get started and survive through the R&D - product/market fit stage.

Dana Bullister: Cambridge is a powerhouse of research, industry, and world-changing material innovation. As a birthplace of the early internet and developments ranging from residential solar power to the Moderna vaccine, Cambridge originates ideas that radiate around the globe. We are home to world-renowned institutions like MIT and Harvard, a nearby hotbed of small but visionary startups dubbed the “most innovative square mile on the planet,” a global biotech hub, and the innovation labs for virtually every tech giant in existence.

Our institutional resources guarantee a powerful foundation for a thriving innovation community. To realize our full potential, however, we must ensure robust physical and policy infrastructure to support and promote our human capital as well as an environment that is connected, livable, and welcoming.

Quality transportation infrastructure ensures that our various organizations are connected in a way that facilitates easy collaboration and communication. Sustainable development and adequate community resources like green space, social services, and more ensure a livable environment. And inclusive housing and development policy ensure we maintain the incredible diversity of residents who supply the richness of experience and perspective that ultimately fuel our creative powerhouse.

Our city should have a hand in all of these ways, providing a platform upon which our people, organizations, and institutions can connect and thrive.

Dennis Carlone, incumbent: Everyone should be very proud of Kendall Square's scientific research and discoveries. It is our growing future identity. The continued success also rests with Kendall Square research and discovery with how that success is shared with all city residents

(children and adults) and employees beyond just public pride and a stabilized tax base. The most successful and loved companies connect their success and work with their city, neighborhood, community, and their people. The story must be better told and the sharing can be expanded.

Robert Eckstut: This is not really up to me? I'm not running to be the chief scientist or head of Takeda, I'm running to serve the city of Cambridge.

Tonia Hicks: It is no secret that Cambridge is an expensive place to live and that rents and home prices are only expected to rise. Scientists and technology workers often come to Cambridge for a few years to gain experience but then leave for other cities that offer a more affordable lifestyle. Graduate students that staff the labs of our biotech companies and educational institutions are some of the lowest paid employees in our City and have a difficult time affording to live in Cambridge. One of my key campaign platforms is housing stability. If elected, I will work to reign in market forces driving increasing housing costs making Cambridge a more attractive place to live and work. More affordable housing costs will help to keep our best and brightest young scientific minds from migrating to STEM hubs in other states.

Alanna Mallon, incumbent (Vice-Mayor): Too often, conversations relating to development in Kendall Square are negative because they focus on putting a strain on city resources: housing, traffic, etc. But the innovation and development in Kendall Square is exactly what puts our City in a unique position to have the vast resources that we do. Cambridge's social and human services, municipal resources, and City budget are unprecedented in large part due to the success of Kendall Square. The opportunities in the Square are also complemented in part by the presence of the world-class institutions of Harvard and MIT; whereas many young people leave their college towns upon graduation, Cambridge and Kendall Square offer young people the opportunity to remain here as a part of the community and begin their lives. Not only do institutions in Kendall aid our City, but in the past 18 months, we've seen first-hand how they've aided the world in developing the vaccine for COVID-19 that has allowed us to return to a semi-"normal" way of life. Preserving this partnership between Kendall Square in the City is vital to the continued success of both. Institutions in Kendall Square need to work more intensely on making inroads into our Cambridge community to open up opportunities to young people in our community, and on the City-side, Cambridge can work to ensure that we remain an open, accessible, and attractive place for workers and their families to build lives.

Marc McGovern, incumbent: Many in Cambridge say negative things about Kendall Sq. They don't like the buildings. They don't like the companies. They don't like the high paying jobs that they see as bringing gentrification. I remember Kendall Square of the '70s and early '80s. I am glad Kendall has become what it has become. There are cities all across this country that were manufacturing powerhouses that lost their factories and never replaced them. I'm proud that we are the innovation and biotech capital of the world. But we have to be thoughtful about moving forward. We can't assume that companies are going to always want to be in Cambridge. We have to balance our need to hold companies to high standards without going so overboard that companies leave. Despite what people think, Cambridge actually demands much more of our

companies than other cities. We don't give tax breaks. We don't provide infrastructure. We place many demands on development that increase costs.

Kendall is also going through another transition. We are seeing more and more much needed housing being built in Kendall Square. That is a good thing. We need to provide the infrastructure to meet this change. More playgrounds and not just "front lawns" of buildings where workers can eat lunch, but places where families can bring their children and play. We need more amenities (grocery stores, pharmacies, dry cleaners, etc.) and not just expensive restaurants/bars or lunch places that close at 6:00 pm when workers go home.

Joe McGuirk: Cambridge should be proud and thankful for how our scientific community has had massive impacts on our city and the rest of the world, and we should continue to support this important aspect of our city. Beyond the direct impacts we gain as a society from the discovery and research, Cambridge also benefits from the economic impact of having this dynamic community in town, which in turn helps pay for the services all our residents enjoy. I would seek a balance between ensuring their continued success along with the success of all our residents. I would help communicate the ways we can all be good neighbors to each other.

Patricia Nolan, incumbent: The city, state, and country are the better for the range of products and ideas and programs emanating from KS. Vaccines are foremost in our minds now—but the history of innovation is far wider, as noted. Our issues—health, climate, planning, etc.—that we face cannot be solved by the city alone—we say that, but too often don't find a way to tap into the energy of the KS community. We need your talents, not only your funds! The City of Cambridge must ensure that the Kendall scientific hub does not become a bubble separated and isolated from the rest of the community. Robust job training opportunities, housing solutions, transportation and other services all must be integrated to meet the needs of everyone who shares our neighborhoods.

As a community organizer, a convener, an advocate of science with many close family members and friends in the scientific community, I am committed to ensuring the conversations and solutions between Kendall and Cambridge stakeholders happen.

Sumbul Siddiqui, incumbent (Mayor): The best thing we can do to keep Cambridge at the top of the list for innovative cities across the globe is to make it desirable to live and work here. The innovation that comes out of Kendall Square and reverberates across the world is not from the Square itself, but rather the PEOPLE who work here. We want the most innovative minds to want to live and work in Cambridge and be pulled to our city by its livability. By continuing to make Cambridge a greener city with exceptional local businesses and entertainment, we will keep attracting the best minds in the world to locate here.

E. Denise Simmons, incumbent: Partially, I would turn this question back on the KSA and urge that you tell the City Council what *you* think is required for this to happen. I have been privileged to work alongside the KSA and get to know many of the companies and the leadership in these companies over the years, and I rely upon these connections and relationships to tell me what you need from the City in order to be successful. In terms of actions

that I can take, though, I will continue working to foster an atmosphere of open communication and access between the Council, the City Manager's Office, and organizations like the KSA. As Chair of the Government Operations Committee, I am currently working to establish the framework for how we will choose our next City Manager, and I recognize that it's critical, in these early stages, to ensure that the KSA is fully engaged with the process and is helping to inform the Council - and whatever outside consultant we end up using to guide this process—to ensure that as Cambridge moves deeper in this decade, we are maintaining the kind of atmosphere that allows us to remain a successful ecosystem for scientific research and discovery.

[Theodora Skeadas](#): For Cambridge to remain an ecosystem of scientific research and discovery, we must ensure that the workers in these fields are supported inside and outside the workplace. This means ensuring people's needs around housing, childcare and transportation are met.

Critical to the strength of this ecosystem is ensuring Cambridge centers the needs of workers in our economic policy and strengthens worker protections. As a Councillor, you can count on me to fight for worker dignity, address the root causes of wealth inequality and support the right to collectively bargain. Some actions include: developing support systems for creating new cooperatives and employee-owned companies, expanding enforcement of workplace standards, including anonymous feedback from workers to mitigate the fear of retaliation, securing hazard pay for essential and frontline workers in both the public and private sectors, growing and diversifying our transportation infrastructure to accommodate the needs of essential workers, prohibiting the City from contracting with companies with a history of worker safety violations and/or wage theft, opposing any contracts that would replace union jobs with private contractors, pushing back against right to work laws that disempower workers and jeopardize labor unions, and identifying avenues for affordable parking for workers who drive into Cambridge, at least for workers employed at businesses with 10 or fewer employees.

[Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler](#), [incumbent](#): Cambridge and its residents and workers have played a huge role in breakthroughs that will benefit so many people—from COVID vaccines, to transportation innovations, to sustainable energy. To ensure that Cambridge remains a place where this is possible, we have to make sure that Cambridge retains its affordability, racial and economic diversity, and safe and viable transportation system. In parts of the country like the Bay Area, companies have struggled to find service workers because they cannot afford to live anywhere near the companies where they would work as custodians or food service employees and the commutes from anywhere affordable can stretch to two hours each way. All our residents and workers play a role in making Cambridge and its economy a vibrant, welcoming place to live. If it's going to continue to be one, we need to bring urgency to affordable housing, transportation, and the climate crises.

[Paul Toner](#): I think it's important for councillors and city staff to engage with these firms to discuss various issues, including labor needs, R&D opportunities, lab creation and expansion proposals, environmental sustainability, and more. We need to represent and protect the

interests of our residents but also avoid creating unnecessary roadblocks to innovation moving forward.

[Nicola Williams](#): I will support a vibrant scientific community for Cambridge. It is an asset we need to continue to cultivate and public recognize and support. Cambridge was fortunate to benefit from the local expertise which we tapped for our public health advisory committee and I would continue to engage the scientific community as partners in our local government.

[Quinton Zondervan](#), incumbent: Cambridge's innovation economy does not work for everyone, and would be even more successful if more people were able to participate, especially Black and low-income people growing up in Cambridge. The innovation economy is also very energy intensive and this drives up our climate destroying emissions. I've proposed the Green New Deal zoning petition to address both of these issues at once. I hope the KSA will support this approach.