





**BIPOC TO THE BALLOT BOX** is a non-partisan public education campaign launched by the ACLU of Massachusetts and partners to build voter awareness and engagement in municipalities with large or growing Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. Our goal is to provide Pittsfield voters access to the information they need to make an informed decision at the polls this November 7th.

All 2023 Mayoral candidates in Pittsfield were asked the same questions and given equal opportunity to respond. Those who did not respond are marked as “no response.” For candidates' full answers, visit [aclum.org/en/bipoc-ballot-box](https://aclum.org/en/bipoc-ballot-box)

If elected, would you support:	 <b>John Krol</b>	 <b>Pete Marchetti</b>
guaranteed hybrid access for members of the public to Pittsfield meetings that are subject to the state Open Meeting Law?	No response	Yes
community-based, non-armed alternatives to police responders for mental health and non-violent calls?	No response	Yes
increasing city funding to support substance use disorder treatment?	No response	Yes
passage of a statewide same-day voter registration law?	No response	Yes
strengthening the statewide Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) system to ensure more accurate and detailed reporting from the Pittsfield Police Department?	No response	Yes
increasing city funding for schools and educators?	No response	Yes



**John Krol**



**Pete Marchetti**

**What is your approach to improving public safety in Pittsfield?**

No response.

I would begin with creating a Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder taskforce. We need to team up policing with social services to ensure people are receiving the assistance that they need. Making this a focus will also help with our homeless population issue.

**What measures would you take to improve transparency in the school committee decision-making, meetings, and processes?**

No response.

As an active member of the school committee, I would first begin by making sure the teachers and paraprofessionals have a seat at the table and we are listening to their needs. Parents must also have a seat at the table. We must ensure that everyone can meet the requirements that are set and not create them in a vacuum.

**How would you support the unhoused population in Pittsfield?**

No response.

As I said earlier, I would create a Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Task Force which would work with all social service agencies to ensure we are providing all that we can. I will work with our state and federal delegations to provide additional funds for these services. This is a larger problem than one city and our state and federal governments need to provide more resources. I will also continue the work of establishing more housing.

**How would you seek to improve public transportation in Pittsfield?**

No response.

I would work with the regional transit authority to see what improvements could be made. Pittsfield and the Berkshires have many roads and transportation is an issue. I would also work to see if we could establish a more reliable UBER or LYFT presence.

**Voter turnout has been low in recent years and many Pittsfield residents feel disengaged from city government. How would you engage residents – both those who do and do not vote?**

No response.

I would reactivate the neighborhood initiatives and also begin to create an environment where all opinions are welcome and heard. We need to restore faith in our government at all levels. Government needs to meet the people where they are and not expect them to come to you. As Mayor I would continue to use techniques from my grass roots campaign to govern.

**How would you work with students, families, and educators to address safety in public schools?**

No response.

As I said earlier, we will focus on roundtables with teachers and paraprofessionals to ask them what they need or what is missing currently and also provide the same format for students and parents. We need to ensure solutions that make all students feel safe and the expense of others.

**How would you invest in programs for student mental health resources and counseling and ensure that they are transparent to the public?**

No response.

I would work with the newly created task force and social service agencies to determine what resources are needed. I would ensure that all stakeholders are informed of what resources would be available but ensure the privacy of any person needing services.