

Fred Fontaine, Brockton

If elected, would you support guaranteed hybrid (in person and remote) access for members of the public to Brockton meetings that are subject to the state Open Meeting Law?

Yes

If elected, would you support community-based, non-armed alternatives to police responders for mental health and non-violent calls?

Yes

If elected, would you support increasing city funding to support substance use disorder treatment?

Yes

If elected, would you support passage of a statewide Same Day Voter registration law?

Yes

If elected, would you support strengthening the statewide Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) system to ensure more accurate and detailed reporting from your city's Police Department?

Yes

If elected, would you support an external audit of the school committee budget on an annual basis that is accessible to the public?

Yes

What is your approach to improving public safety in Brockton?

I think community policing along with increased crime suppression or reduction efforts is a helpful public safety strategy. Community policing is vital because when you get to know the community, residents trust you more and provide the information the police need to prevent

crime and keep our community safe. In addition, since most crime is caused by a small number, we must find a way to stop the revolving door of the same suspects causing problems for our city.

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

The opening meeting LAWS need to be adhered to and promoted to the community to attend. Under the current administration there are back door meetings then they come out and tell you what they think you should know. I would have a parent/community board that would be at all meetings and have a say so in the education of our children.

How would you support the unhoused population in Brockton?

Unoccupied and abandoned buildings can be retrofitted to be converted into affordable housing. But I want to go a step further and have the people in need of housing be provided with job training as well as mental health support. Some of the unhoused just need another chance.

How would you seek to improve public transportation in Brockton?

As a mechanical engineer, I support the idea of green technology. Utilizing electric buses for school and public transportation will be very cost effective (no gasoline, little maintenance) Over time, this would bear significant savings to the city while allowing us to do our part to help preserve the planet.

Voter turnout has been low in recent years and many Brockton residents feel disengaged from city government. How would you engage residents?

People do not vote because they have either lost hope or don't believe that their vote actually makes a difference. For some politicians, that's exactly what they want because they'll benefit from low voter turnout. We need to make it as easy as possible to vote, remind people why it is a right, a privilege, and a responsibility to do so. It is critically important to make their voices heard. All residents should vote, but they should also know who they are voting for and why. I am fully committed to the development of Brockton and the betterment of all of its residents, whether they voted for me or not. I'm fully invested in this city and not above pounding the pavement and knocking on doors to introduce my ideas to as many constituents as I can. As Mayor of Brockton, I'll prove why this city is a great investment for businesses and residents.

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

The current financial budget crisis has created an even greater challenge towards creating a safe school environment. The first step towards creating a safe environment for students is to maintain focus on providing a quality education for them. Not having enough teachers, the elimination of core courses, overcrowded classes, are factors that contribute to a lack of positive engagement among students and their parents. Our students deserve a quality education and taxpayers deserve to see their tax dollars supporting a school system that enhances their property value, rather than detracts from it. Parents should feel confident that sending their children to Brockton public schools is a benefit, not a risk to their safety and academic success. Students need to be fully supported by providing adequate, competent and committed staffing, safe and secure buildings and quality after school programs and activities that allow staff to focus on engagement rather than policing. Under my administration our students will be a priority. Brockton High used to be one of the top high schools in the state. I want to help provide the tools needed to make the Brockton School system the best in the state.

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

Mental health has been an increasingly more and more of a problem. With all the pressure young people are under we need to consider having mental health facilities in our schools. The knowledge of these facilities will be public. Conversation with students and their counselors will of course be private.