

# October Newsletter

From City Councilor Marc Laredo



Dear Friends,

I hope that everyone is enjoying the fall weather and, for those of us in school or with school-age children, that the school year has gotten off to a good start! Here are two significant topics that are worth following as well as information about the November election:

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## Athletic fields, Athletic facilities, and Playgrounds

We need to do a better job maintaining and improving our athletic fields, athletic facilities, and playgrounds. Take a walk around our city and compare the state of our fields, facilities, and playgrounds to those in neighboring communities. While we have made some improvements in recent years, we can and must do more.

The starting point should be a complete master plan, followed by the commitment of the financial resources to implement it. That is why I (along with seven of my colleagues) docketed the following item:

Councilors Laredo, Oliver, Norton, Lucas, Wright, Malakie, Gentile, and Albright requesting a discussion with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department regarding the creation of a strategic and operational plan for capital improvements to our athletic fields, athletic facilities, and playgrounds. In order to

facilitate a productive discussion, we ask that we be provided with a single document that lists all of the currently planned capital work (both as set forth in the city's capital improvement plan (CIP) and in the department's annual budgets) prior to the item being discussed. The document should include the following categories: (a) project; (b) anticipated start date; (c) anticipated date of completion; (d) estimated cost; (e) funding source and the anticipated amount from each source; and (f) status of applying for funding.

I look forward to having a robust, detailed discussion with the Administration regarding the current condition of our athletic fields, athletic facilities, and playgrounds, our plans for improving them, and how we can ensure that we have sufficient funds to get this work done.

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## Affordable Housing in Newton

Newton is poised to meet a significant benchmark in the next few months – having more than 10% affordable housing as measured by a state law known as chapter 40B. Besides demonstrating a commitment to providing affordable housing in our city, there are at least two additional practical reasons why this is good news:

- ***It allows us to regulate 40B projects.*** Chapter 40B allows developers in communities under the 10% threshold to build residential housing with minimum restrictions so long as the project has a minimum of 25% affordable units. The city's control over these large projects is quite limited in this scenario. Moreover, developers can threaten to use chapter 40B as an alternative to seeking a special permit to extract concessions during the special permit process. Reaching the 10% threshold will be a welcome change in the development process and will allow the city to better manage development in the best interest of our residents.
- ***It enables us to participate in the state's pilot program on all-electric projects.*** The City Council has voted to require new construction and

substantial renovations to be “all electric.” The state has enacted a pilot program that permits ten communities to enact this requirement, but one condition of the program is that a community must have achieved this 10% threshold. I support the all-electric requirement and hope that we will now be able to participate in this program.

## Information About the 40B Calculations for Newton Can Be Found Here

A Memorandum Prepared by Our  
Law and Planning Departments

A Memorandum That I Authored  
Along With a Number of My  
Colleagues With a Series of  
Questions About the Calculations

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## Elections

On Tuesday, November 8, Massachusetts voters will select our next Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Treasurer, Auditor, and Secretary of State.

There are three ways to vote:

- ***By mail.*** Information on voting by mail can be found [HERE](#).
- ***In-person early at City Hall.*** In-person voting starts on October 22 and continues through November 4. Information on how to vote early in person can be found [HERE](#).
- ***On November 8 at your regular polling place.*** Information on polling locations can be found [HERE](#).

Regardless of how you vote, **PLEASE VOTE**. Here are the candidates I am supporting:

**Governor:** *Maura Healey*. Attorney General Healey will be an excellent Governor. She has been a strong Attorney General,

particularly in standing up for democratic values in Massachusetts and nationally. I look forward to her leadership in making Massachusetts an even better place to work and live. More information about Maura Healey can be found [HERE](#).

**Lieutenant Governor:** *Kim Driscoll*. Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll will be an excellent partner for Governor Healey. She has a successful track record as the Mayor of Salem and will bring a deep understanding of the needs of our cities and towns to her new position. More information about Kim Driscoll can be found [HERE](#).

**Attorney General:** *Andrea Campbell*. I first met Andrea Campbell when she was serving as the president of the Boston City Council. From the moment I met her, I was so impressed with her background, integrity, and steadfast leadership. I am confident that she is the best choice for this important post and will be an outstanding Attorney General. More information about Andrea Campbell can be found [HERE](#).

**Treasurer:** *Deb Goldberg*. Deb Goldberg is running for her third term as our state's Treasurer. During her tenure she has run the office professionally and responsibly. More information about Deb Goldberg can be found [HERE](#).

**Auditor:** *Diana DiZoglio*. State Senator Diana DiZoglio will bring an independent voice to the State Auditor's office. She will provide active oversight of our state agencies and ensure that our money is spent properly.

**Secretary of State:** *Bill Galvin*. The Secretary of State's primary job is to ensure that our election process is fair and impartial. As we have seen elsewhere in the country, this is a vital role in preserving our democracy. In his 28 years in office, Secretary Galvin has run our elections well, making us a model for the rest of the nation. Secretary Galvin deserves to be elected for another term. More information about Bill Galvin can be found [HERE](#).

- *Welcome Home*. In its new location at 1191 Washington Street in West Newton, Welcome Home assists “families experiencing hardship with basic household items they need to live with dignity.” Visit the website at [www.welcomehomemass.org](http://www.welcomehomemass.org) for more information about how to donate household items or become a volunteer.
- *Newton Food Pantry*. In existence for nearly 40 years and now based in Newton City Hall (1000 Commonwealth Avenue), the Newton Food Pantry’s mission is to “alleviate food insecurity in Newton by providing supplemental food and personal care products to community members in need...” Visit the website at [www.newtonfoodpantry.org](http://www.newtonfoodpantry.org) for more information about donations and how to become a volunteer.

As always, I welcome your thoughts, questions, comments, and criticisms!

Thanks,

Marc

**Committee to Elect Marc Laredo**

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