

Candidate Questionnaire - Sustainable Streets Norwalk

We at **Sustainable Streets Norwalk** thank you for your time and for your service to our shared community!



We envision a Norwalk that is environmentally and fiscally sustainable, and an affordable and healthy place for everyone to live. We do this by advocating for walkability, bicycle transportation, public transit, housing abundance, and urban greenery.

SSN members have identified **12 policy priorities** we would like to see our elected officials support. We invite you to complete the form below to share your stance on these priorities. It should take between 20-30 minutes.

Your responses to this form will be recorded and published in full on our website. Additionally, our leadership team will assess each response and assign you a grade based on the degree to which your civic priorities align with ours. These grades will be organized into a **Candidate Report Card**, which will be posted on our website and in an op-ed in **NancyOnNorwalk**. For this reason, we humbly request that this form be completed by **Friday, October 17th**, to ensure time for distribution before early-voting begins.

[Sustainable Streets Norwalk](#) remains a non-partisan organization, dedicated to solutions-oriented policy. This is not a "gotcha," but a chance for voters to get to know you better before they vote.

Thank you for your participation!

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

2. 1. What is your name? *

3. 2. For what office are you running? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Mayor
- ☐ Common Council, At-Large
- ☐ Common Council, District A
- ☐ Common Council, District B
- ☐ Common Council, District C
- ☐ Common Council, District D
- ☐ Common Council, District E
- ☐ Other: _____

4. 3. What party (or parties) are you endorsed by? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Democratic
- ☐ Republican
- ☐ Independent
- ☐ Other: _____

5. 4a. Will you support and prioritize the creation of new Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plans for Norwalk? *

Our current Bike/Ped Master Plan was created in [2012](#). Since then, Norwalk has changed a lot and so have nationwide best practices.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, this is a high priority
- ☐ Yes, this is a moderate priority
- ☐ I am neutral on this issue and consider it low priority
- ☐ No, I oppose this

6. 4b. Please provide any additional context (e.g. Why did you answer that way? What steps will you take?)

7. 5a. Will you support and prioritize setting citywide mode-share goals for Norwalk for 2030? *

In order to grow sustainably and keep traffic from getting worse, we need to move toward being a more multi-modal city, and setting measurable goals is critical to getting there.

In 2023, 86% of trips within Norwalk were taken in a car, 12% were on foot, 1% were on a bike, and 1% were on the bus*. We see the following as visionary yet realistic goals for 2030: 80% car, 15% walking, 3% bike, 2% transit.

**figures from Google's [Environmental Insights Explorer](#)*

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, this is a high priority
- ☐ Yes, this is a moderate priority
- ☐ I am neutral on this issue and consider it low priority
- ☐ No, I oppose this

8. 5b. Please provide any additional context (e.g. Why did you answer that way? What steps will you take?)

9. 6a. Will you support and prioritize the construction of a [shared-use path](#) along the entirety of Connecticut Avenue? *

For the last 18 months, WestCOG has been conducting a [study](#) of the Connecticut Ave corridor. The study's [concept plan](#) recommends a shared-use path on CT Ave between Belden Ave and W Cedar St. This is a good start, but does not serve most major destinations on CT Ave.

We call upon elected leaders to support extending this path all the way to Richards Ave.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, this is a high priority
- ☐ Yes, this is a moderate priority
- ☐ I am neutral on this issue and consider it low priority
- ☐ No, I oppose this

10. 6b. Please provide any additional context (e.g. Why did you answer that way? What steps will you take?)

11. 7a. Will you support and prioritize eliminating parking mandates for new construction in the downtown zone (CD-4)? *

Mandatory parking requirements drive up housing costs, deter new construction, erode walkability, and undermine transit-oriented development.

In 2023, our group successfully [advocated for](#) eliminating parking mandates in CD-4. Unfortunately, earlier this year, under pressure from Mayor Rilling, the Planning & Zoning Commission [voted 5-4](#) to restore parking mandates in this zone.

We call on elected leaders to support P&Z in rolling back these mandates.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, this is a high priority
- ☐ Yes, this is a moderate priority
- ☐ I am neutral on this issue and consider it low priority
- ☐ No, I oppose this

12. 7b. Please provide any additional context (e.g. Why did you answer that way? What steps will you take?)

13. 8a. Will you support and prioritize increasing the number of bus stops with shelters from 17% to 30% (25 shelters) by 2030? *

In 2022, we did a [full audit](#) of all bus stops in Norwalk and found that only 17% have a shelter. We call upon the City to work with the Norwalk Transit District to install 25 new shelters by 2030, bringing the total to 30%.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, this is a high priority
- ☐ Yes, this is a moderate priority
- ☐ I am neutral on this issue and consider it low priority
- ☐ No, I oppose this

14. 8b. Please provide any additional context (e.g. Why did you answer that way? What steps will you take?)

15. 9a. Will you support and prioritize expanding the [two-family zone](#) (CD-2) to more neighborhoods? *

Housing affordability is the primary issue facing Norwalk today. Duplexes, aka two-family homes, are a small-scale solution. They are the most naturally affordable type of housing, and lend themselves well to first-time ownership. Currently, however, duplexes are illegal to build in the CD-1 zones, which cover [most of Norwalk](#).

We call on elected leaders to support the Planning & Zoning Commission in allowing duplexes in more neighborhoods.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, this is a high priority
- ☐ Yes, this is a moderate priority
- ☐ I am neutral on this issue and consider it low priority
- ☐ No, I oppose this

16. 9b. Please provide any additional context (e.g. Why did you answer that way? What steps will you take?)

17. 10a. Will you support and prioritize the creation of the [SoNo Rail Trail](#)? *

The SoNo Rail Trail is a trail concept for a 1-mile-long disused railroad corridor stretching from the South Norwalk train station to the new South Norwalk School. Building a trail along this corridor would allow children to safely walk and bike to school and provide connectivity and greenspace to underserved populations in South Norwalk.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, this is a high priority
- ☐ Yes, this is a moderate priority
- ☐ I am neutral on this issue and consider it low priority
- ☐ No, I oppose this

18. 10b. Please provide any additional context (e.g. Why did you answer that way? What steps will you take?)

19. 11a. Will you support and prioritize the creation of a Rail Quiet Zone in Norwalk? *

To eliminate the need for trains to blow their horns at all hours, we should invest in simple upgrades to our railroad crossings and qualify for a Rail Quiet Zone designation from the FRA.

For more details, read our [op-ed in Nancy on Norwalk](#).

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, this is a high priority
- ☐ Yes, this is a moderate priority
- ☐ I am neutral on this issue and consider it low priority
- ☐ No, I oppose this

20. 11b. Please provide any additional context (e.g. Why did you answer that way? What steps will you take?)

21. 12a. Will you support and prioritize the study and redesign of East Avenue? *

For drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists alike, East Avenue is one of the most dangerous and unpleasant roads in all of Norwalk.

This year, after three years of grassroots advocacy, the City funded a budget request from TMP to study and redesign East Avenue between I-95 and Route 1.

We call on elected officials to keep pressure on TMP to complete this study and design a new East Avenue that serves all users.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, this is a high priority
- ☐ Yes, this is a moderate priority
- ☐ I am neutral on this issue and consider it low priority
- ☐ No, I oppose this

22. 12b. Please provide any additional context (e.g. Why did you answer that way? What steps will you take?)

23. 13a. Will you support and prioritize the completion of the NRVT connecting Norwalk and Wilton? *

The Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT) is a walking and bicycling trail that currently exists in sections, including one in Norwalk between the Aquarium and Broad Street, and another in Wilton. Many Norwalk residents work in Wilton and would gladly commute on foot or bike if the two sections were connected.

We have [advocated](#) for CT DOT to include the trail in their rebuild of the 7-15 interchange, and they have [started](#) to incorporate it into their plans.

We call on elected officials to keep pressure on CT DOT to include the trail in the 7-15 project and prioritize construction of the remainder of the Norwalk section of the trail.

For more details, please read our op-ed in [Nancy on Norwalk](#).

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, this is a high priority
- ☐ Yes, this is a moderate priority
- ☐ I am neutral on this issue and consider it low priority
- ☐ No, I oppose this

24. 13b. Please provide any additional context (e.g. Why did you answer that way? What steps will you take?)

25. 14a. Will you support and prioritize the installation of roundabouts in locations where there is sufficient room to install them without compromising pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure? *

For example, we support roundabouts at the following locations:

-[West Cedar Street and Richards Avenue](#)

-[Gregory Boulevard, Marvin Street, Fifth Street, and Calf Pasture Beach Road](#)

-[Exit 16 between I-95 and East Ave](#)

We oppose the [proposed roundabout](#) at [Burnell & Main](#) because there is insufficient space for a roundabout without sacrificing sidewalk width and bicycle lanes.

For more details, read our [op-ed in Nancy on Norwalk](#).

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, this is a high priority
- ☐ Yes, this is a moderate priority
- ☐ I am neutral on this issue and consider it low priority
- ☐ No, I oppose this

26. 14b. Please provide any additional context (e.g. Why did you answer that way? What steps will you take?)

27. 15a. Will you support and prioritize municipal support for more street activation events? *

Events like the SoNo Saturday Market and the Calf Pasture Beach Open Street bring the community together and allow us to get more value out of our public space.

For more details, please read our [op-ed in Nancy on Norwalk](#).

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, this is a high priority
- ☐ Yes, this is a moderate priority
- ☐ I am neutral on this issue and consider it low priority
- ☐ No, I oppose this

28. 15b. Please provide any additional context (e.g. Why did you answer that way? What steps will you take?)

29. 16. If you win office in the coming election, in what other ways will you use your position to expand walkability, bicycle transportation, public transit, housing abundance, and urban greenery in our city?

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