

2025 Cambridge Bike Safety School Committee Candidate Questionnaire

Cambridge's transportation choices shape public health, climate emissions, affordability, and mobility justice for students and guardians. Because road-space is finite, each mile of sidewalk, bike lane, or bus lane represents a deliberate policy trade-off, one that either widens or narrows opportunity for children and guardians walking and biking to school. This questionnaire, developed by Cambridge Bicycle Safety (CBS), lets voters see where you stand on those trade-offs. We appreciate you taking the time to share your views with potential voters.

- **Candidates must submit this form no later than Friday, August 22, 2025 (11:59 p.m. EDT).**
- Responses received by the deadline may be published and/or shared with our membership.
- Final endorsement decisions will be made shortly after the deadline based on questionnaire responses along with candidates' backgrounds, voting records (if applicable), advocacy work, platforms, and public statements.
- CBS will not coordinate election strategy or messaging with any School Committee candidate or committee, and endorsements will not be negotiated.
- For questions about this questionnaire or process, please contact us at info@cambridgebikesafety.org.

Section A – Candidate & Campaign Details

What is your full name as it appears on the ballot? *

Melanie Gause

What is the URL of your official campaign website? (If applicable)

Please provide the name of your primary point of contact. (This information will be kept confidential and not published.) *

[Redacted]

Please provide the email address of your primary point of contact. (This information will be kept confidential and not published.) *

[Redacted]

Please provide the phone number of your primary point of contact. (This information will be kept confidential and not published.) *

[Redacted]

If offered, would you accept an endorsement from our organization? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

Section B – Background Questions

Use this section to share your personal travel experiences to school and, if applicable, how your children travel(ed) to school. **Please keep each response under 1,500 characters.**

How did you travel to and from school when you were growing up, and how did that affect your independence and which activities you participated in? *

In my days, I utilized the bus, train and my huffy bike; which gave me the freedom of learning the city. There were times I would take nightly rides with my family and friends from my home to the Boston Commons for exercise and time together.

If you have kids, how do they travel to school and school activities (e.g. sports)? How has the city's street environment affected your choices for your kids? *

N/A

Section C – Questionnaire

For each question, select your position on a scale from **Yes, No, and Partial**.

You may also provide up to 700 characters to briefly explain your position or describe how you would implement or address each topic. **Explanations are optional, and you are welcome to share additional context or priorities that can help voters better understand your perspective.**

Do you support completing the [Cycling Safety Ordinance](#) projects scheduled for 2026? Among them, [Cambridge St.](#) and [Broadway](#) are major projects connecting directly to multiple schools (CRLS, Fletcher Maynard, King Open). *

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Partially

You may elaborate on your response (optional):

I believe having safe bike lanes are absolutely wonderful especially for OUR children to utilize is great. I love seeing children passing my home during the school season and watching the joy in their faces.

As of 2019, over 40% of K-8 students walk or bike to school (data from [2020 Bike Plan](#)), and the city only [provides bus service](#) to those students PreK-5 living more than a mile away from school and grades 6-8 more than 1.5 miles from school. **Do you support ensuring that every school has a safe biking connection installed by 2030?** *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially

You may elaborate on your response (optional):

Do you support piloting [School Streets](#) (which close a block adjacent to the school to car traffic during arrival and departure to [provide a safe space for students](#)) at all City schools? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially

You may elaborate on your response (optional):

The City has a few [parent-organized Bike Buses](#), where [volunteers lead a group bike ride of students](#) to school. **Do you favor the City formally supporting bike buses and expanding the practice to all elementary schools?** If you have ideas for what formal support could look like, please include them. *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially

You may elaborate on your response (optional):

Do you support ensuring that all students have bike safety training at all levels of education (at least three times)? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially

You may elaborate on your response (optional):

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Please elaborate on any other ways that you, as a School Committee member, plan to enhance safety of students traveling to and from school and related activities and encourage more students to bike to school. *

I would love for all OUR children to have helmets and gear with lights attached for their safety especially when they ride on the weekend with their family and friends.

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