

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

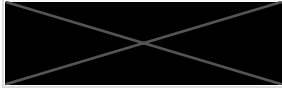
What is your full name as it appears on the ballot? *

Lilly Havstad

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

under construction: <https://www.havstadforcambridgesc.com>

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



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



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



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? *

By car and bus -- I grew up in rural northern CA and while my elementary and middle schools were geographically close, the bus rides were LONG. My high school was much further, I had to be on the bus by 6:10am. I hated it. I didn't have independence until I got my driver's license at 16. I started biking to get around town when I went to college at UC Davis, the greatest biking city! The new independence I had being able to get around cheaply and on my own schedule by bike was a breakthrough. When I moved to Boston for graduate school in 2010 after getting tired of waiting outside in the cold for the T, I bought my trusty Falcon on Craigslist for \$175 and began my journey into dense urban biking.

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? *

My oldest is a rising third grader at Graham & Parks and because we are just under 1 mile walking distance from the school, we are not eligible for school bus service. So we primarily bike, walk, and occasionally drive him to school since he's not yet old enough to walk or bike to school alone. We look forward to him getting to that age (as does he!) but without safer walking and biking routes to/from school, I don't know when we'll feel comfortable letting him bike/walk without an adult.

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):

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):

As I answer these questions and read through the materials provided (thank you!) I'm struck by how common sense these solutions like school streets are-- and what a boon such approaches would be to the equity efforts of the city and district to better support working families who don't have reliable means to get their kids to school safely and on time! I believe there is research showing that creating safer pathways to urban schools can help reduce absenteeism, a problem CPSD is trying to address, but with some outdated approaches in my view (like increasingly punitive attendance policies).

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):

I love our bike bus, just need to get my kid more excited about it (hoping he'll be more interested in it this year). I would imagine expanding the practice so he sees more bike busses would help him get more excited about this way of getting to school!

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):

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 plan to vote for and elevate the work of city councillors who are committed to preserving and expanding on the progress we've made towards greater bike and pedestrian safety. There's a lot more work left to do, including more outreach, education, and other forms of community engagement to help us overcome the nasty bike wars that, in my view, are wasting precious energy and resources. Frankly, as a cyclist, pedestrian, and motorist, I do not understand why the bike lanes are so controversial for some because as a Cambridge resident I NEVER have issues finding parking. The folks standing in the way of better bike (and pedestrian!) infrastructure seem unwilling to do much other than block current and future projects. So, we need fresh commitments to evidence-based solutions for safer streets for all. Finally I think by connecting the transportation freedom issues that CBS is tackling to the ongoing transportation inequities and challenges in getting our kids to school safely and on time, we can build some new coalitions to safeguard the bike infrastructure you've all made possible, and to push current and future projects forward.

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