



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

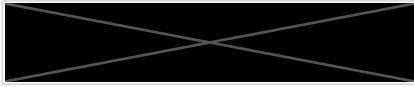
What is your full name as it appears on the ballot? *

Jane Hirschi

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

janehirschi.com

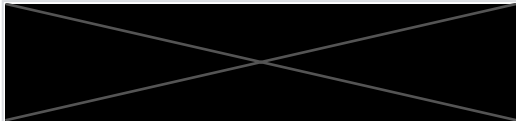
Please provide the name of your primary point of contact. (This information will be kept confidential and not published.) *



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? *

I grew up in a suburban town in Florida. It had meager bus service and no bike lanes. I got my drivers license as soon after my 16th birthday as possible.

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 children's experience was very different from my own. They grew up in Cambridge and attended Cambridge Public Schools from preschool through high school. As a family, we owned a car but also relied on walking and buses/subway and bicycling to get around. Both my daughters rode bikes on Cambridge streets and my younger daughter chose to travel to CRLS from Rindge Ave by bike.

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):

Safe routes to schools, bicycle training for students, and Bike Buses are all school-related questions and I am eager to answer them- my "no" means I choose not to answer a question that requires SC candidates to take sides on an issue we have no authority to affect. As I go door-to-door, I speak with people who wonder if the school committee can make changes to zoning policy, to bike lanes, and who ask where I stand on Gaza. I explain what the school committee makes decisions about. I respect their questions and so far the people I've met have respected my answer. I stand by my decision to keep the school committee responsibilities clear and distinct from city councillor responsibilities.

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):

I support ensuring that every school has a safe biking route mapped as soon as possible, and I hope way sooner than 2030. I don't know what installing biking connections to all of our schools means and what it would entail. I would need to know that before I supported it.

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):

I support exploring a pilot of Safe Streets in Cambridge. Cambridge has a precedent for robust community input around street design, a process upon which the Cycling Safety Ordinance is founded. School Streets sounds like a good candidate for that process. I live close to the Peabody School on Rindge Ave and am well aware of the safety issues to children and other pedestrians at arrival and departure times.

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 am excited to explore what school and city support could mean for schools' Bike Buses.

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):

Yes, I do!

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. *

As a school committee member, I would be an advocate for students biking and walking to school. I am concerned about pedestrian and biking safety at intersections with heavy traffic. In addition to the ideas put forth by Cambridge Bicycle Safety, I would like to see more traffic control of these intersections, especially during student-use times. I would like the school committee to make students' transportation to school, including biking, a regular part of our agenda.

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