

New Bedford Ward 2 City Council Debate set for Sep. 26 at 8pm

New Bedford Guide will host a live debate on our Facebook page on Sep. 26 starting at 8pm between the New Bedford Ward 2 City Council candidates hoping to replace current City Councilor Steven Martins who is not seeking re-election.

Edwin Cartagena, Carlos Pimentel Felix and Maria Giesta have agreed to attend. There will be no audience as this will be aired live on Facebook. People can ask questions during the hour and the moderator will ask the candidates as many as possible.

The preliminary election will be held on October 3rd and the top two vote getters move on to the November 7th final election.

Ward 2 is an important race as it contains much of Acushnet Ave, North Front Street and Ashley BLVD – all considered high crime areas in New Bedford. Ward 2 is also where the Day of Portugal and New Bedford Feast of the Blessed Sacrament is held.

We created a Facebook event [here](#).

Want to discuss all things New Bedford politics? Join our Facebook [group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/newbedfordpolitics/):
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/newbedfordpolitics/>

Ward 2 map

Ward-2 New Bedford Map

New Bedford Mayor Mitchell discusses the impact of removing DACA

During our interview, I asked Mayor Mitchell about what President Trump's plan to cancel DACA meant for New Bedford.

Live with New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell

Live with New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell.

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell discusses the problem property ordinance

During our interview last week, I talked about the problem property ordinance with Mayor Mitchell. What improvements would you make to it?

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell discusses road repairs

One of the biggest complains we hear from New Bedford residents is the condition of the city's roads. Here's Mayor Mitchell addressing the concern during our interview last week.

Interview with New Bedford Mayoral candidate Charlie Perry

Live interview with New Bedford Mayoral candidate Charlie Perry

New Bedford Mayor Mitchell and Chief Cordeiro walk

County Street

Live with the New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell and Chief of Police Joseph Cordeiro walking to County Street and Rivet Street area.

Congressman Keating's statement on President Trump's decision to end DACA program

Below is a statement from Congressman Bill Keating, a senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee, on President Trump's decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

"Democracy, justice, and our shared values demand that Congress must take swift action and bring a vote to the floor to preserve DACA. The nearly 790,000 'Dreamers' came to this country as children by no choice of their own. They are our neighbors, our co-workers, our classmates, and members of our Armed Forces who have put their lives on the line to defend our nation. President Trump's shameful decision and Attorney General Sessions's statement fail to take into account that Dreamers are by definition taxpaying, law-abiding, contributing Americans, the majority of which know no other home. Democrats and Republicans alike have opposed this repeal. Congress can, and must, take action to make DACA law."

A preview of the 2017 New Bedford municipal elections

Thirty five New Bedford residents are running for elected officer in 2017, up from 30 candidates that ran in 2015. Three incumbents are running unopposed and only the mayoral race and Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 4 city council contents will see a primary election on October 3rd. The final election will be held on November 7th.

Mayor

Jon Mitchell (I)
Charlie Perry
Mitchell Garner

At-Large City Council

Brian K. Gomes (I)
Linda Morad (I)
Deborah Coelho (I)
Naomi R.A. Carney (I)
Ian Abreu (I)
Christopher Boerl
Michael Jansen

Ward 1 City Council

Christopher Amaral
Melissa Costa
William Markey
Randy Santos
Mark Ventura
Daniel Costa
Steven Caton

Ward 2 City Council

Carlos Pimentel Felix
Edwin Cartagena
Maria Giesta

Ward 3 City Council

Hugh Dunn (I)*

Ward 4 City Council

Dana Rebeiro (I)
Joseph Jo-Jo Fortes
Kenneth Gilbert

Ward 5 City Council

David Sullivan
Kate Towers
Nelson Macedo
Paul Chasse
Scott Lima.

Ward 6 City Council

Joe Lopes (I)*

New Bedford School Committee

Josh Amaral (I)
John Oliveira
Colleen Dawicki
Richard Porter III

Assessor

Martin "Marty" Treadup (I)*

* running unopposed
(I) = incumbent

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Massachusetts legislators consider legislation on gender neutral driver's licenses

Democrat Massachusetts Senator Karen Spilka is presenting legislation to allow Massachusetts residents to identify as "X" instead of male or female on their driver's licenses. Earlier this month, **Oregon became the first state to start issuing gender-neutral driver's licenses** and state ID cards.

Senator Karen Spilka's proposed legislation Massachusetts reads:

"Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, an applicant shall be permitted to designate "X" in lieu of "male" or "female" on a driver's license issued pursuant to section 8 of chapter 90, a learner's permit issued pursuant to section 8B of chapter 90, an identification card issued pursuant to section 8E of chapter 90 or a liquor purchase identification card issued pursuant to section 34B of chapter 138. No documentation shall be required for such designations. The registrar of motor vehicles may promulgate regulations to implement this act."

On August 24, 2017, the bill has been referred to the committee on **Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently**, which Senator Spilka is the Senate Vice Chair.

Senator Karen Spilka represents the 2nd Middlesex and Norfolk district that includes the towns of Ashland, Framingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopkinton, Medway and Natick.