

Craig Kelley 2019 Sunrise Questionnaire Responses

- Describe your vision for moving to renewable energy and transitioning away from fossil fuels.

Please include specifically what policies you would promote or have promoted to achieve this and why doing so is important to you.

Cambridge needs to move away from fossil fuels both to combat climate change and to build resilience to climate change. Whether its construction techniques that build in efficiencies like better insulation and air handling HVAC systems or requiring or incentivizing ceiling fans (known to decrease perceived room temperatures by up to 4 degrees, with cooling energy needs decreasing by up to 25%), we need to rethink how we consume energy at every possible step. Zoning and other ordinance changes requiring Net Zero ready buildings, protecting and expanding our tree canopy, improving insulation, better managing stormwater, promoting solar energy and enabling better battery energy storage are all issues I have either worked on in the past or am working on now.

Operationally, Cambridge needs to stop paying for airplane travel for City employees, to include Councilors. Air travel is a luxury we can no longer afford, and it has terrible environmental impacts. We need to remove parking for local elected officials as an example of many more of us can navigate the City without using our personal vehicles. Effective mass transit is a crucial part of making urban areas both equitable and sustainable and more of us need to leave our cars behind (or not have them at all) as we move through town. We also need to charge more for Uber and Lyft and other TNCs to make their costs commensurate with their environmental costs in terms of congestion and air pollution and I have been working to create a Home Rule petition that would give Cambridge the power (which now resides at the state level) to address some of these issues. We need to charge more for parking stickers and ban gas-powered leaf blowers (at the least), both of which were issues I championed this past term but which, essentially, were sent to committee to die.

From a planning perspective, we need to create density and value-creating zoning bonuses that incentivize carbon-light or carbon free structures, to include insisting on offsets where onsite energy production is not enough. We need to rethink our dependence on private vehicles, whether gas or electric powered, and reclaim our streets and sidewalks for pedestrians and, as appropriate, micromobility platforms like bikes and scooters. We need to reassess our curb access policy to prioritize electric delivery vehicles rather than the diesel delivery trucks and vans we now see all over town. Since Cambridge controls the curb and local zoning is powerful, these are tools we have at our disposal and issues I have been working on for years. While there are no simple solutions- requiring certain things in zoning or other ordinances can just push that use to an even worse, more climate impactful place like, say, Weston, doing nothing is not an option.

- Please describe what steps you will take or have taken to ensure our region is able to adapt to a changing climate. How will you or have you support people displaced by climate change, both from within the US and around the world?

I chaired the Mayor's Special Task Force on Neighborhood-Based Resiliency last term and have been working on a number of projects to address climate change such as changing our zoning to incentivize insulation and keep stormwater from going into the MWRA system and building a document storage program that would help people keep important things safe and accessible during times of crisis.

On a larger scale, I've proposed rethinking our municipal revenue streams to create access to funds for communities that will be receiving an influx of residents as housing options in other places are removed. Climate change is a regional threat and our solutions, including funding for those solutions, are going to have to be regional as well. I've attended many conferences, in Boston and also in places like NYC and Rochester, NY, where climate change and resulting migration, to include climate change gentrification, have been subjects and I've come to the realization that change is really, really hard. Most of us agree that climate change is real but, somehow, we allow ourselves to confuse the imprecise timing of future events with a question of their probability. There is no doubt that extreme heat, sea level rise, droughts and water shortages are going to become more and more impactful and we cannot pretend that our inability to attach exact dates to particular events means they're any less likely to happen. We need to plan for that certain future even though we can't say exactly when specific things will happen. Sadly, of course, every troubling project of the impacts of climate change turn out to have been optimistic as systems become challenged, and start to fail, on a global scale.

Nonetheless, people, young or not so young, find it really difficult to make the personal changes to mitigate and adapt to climate change and that difficulty is magnified on the municipal level. I've been in meetings where people who literally **saw** Hurricane Sandy wash through their neighborhood, who were without power for weeks after the storm, pushed back against every suggested method of protecting their neighborhood from the next storm. Which will come, sooner or later and most probably sooner. So one goal of governance needs to be thinking of how to have governance and municipal systems in place for quick implementation when, finally, we communally realize that we can't delay our response to climate change any longer. People are already moving and more will do so and walls to keep them out are not, cannot be, the answer. Systems will need to include on-site production of housing through things like 3D printing or upcycled concrete, on-site biological waste storage and waste-to-energy systems, zero waste programming for general consumption goods and a complete revamping of how we produce food on a local level. Obviously, it means moving away from our carbon-heavy meat based diets (I have been a vegetarian for 30 years) and learning to live without so much reliance on items that have to travel far distances to be enjoyed, whether it be French wine or fresh flowers. Without a governmental focus on how to build this new, climate-impacted world, we'll have much less chance of making it happen successfully.

- What will you do or have you done to protect communities (especially communities of color) from dangerous fossil fuel projects and other polluting and waste facilities?

I was one of the local leaders who got the "tent and vent" City asbestos protection ordinance passed, helping protect all of North Cambridge but especially the residents near W.R. Grace and Russell Field, including thousands of low-income residents, but dangerous asbestos exposure when the soil on these contaminated sites is disturbed. I led local efforts, including a specific email campaign, working against the ethanol train proposed to run through Porter Square, to include on tracks adjacent to even more thousands of low-income residents in addition to many more thousands of market rate units. I've been working with local groups to mitigate the noise impacts of Logan's intrusive overflight patterns,

noise that, like everything else in densely built Cambridge, impacts both low-income residents and their adjacent neighbors.

- What steps would you take or have you taken to ensure meaningful participation of groups disproportionately affected by climate change and other environmental policy impacts? In your community and/or across municipal borders?

I bike everywhere I go. That means I'm available on streets, in parks, at stop lights and beyond for anyone who wants to flag me down and talk with me about anything. But these interactions tend to be with people who I already know and who recognize either me or my bike, and most of those people are white and relatively affluent. Because climate change, as with other problematic issues, disproportionately impacts people who lack significant financial resources, I make extra efforts go out of my way to visit our low-income communities while moving around Cambridge to better understand issues that might arise there, things as simple as appropriate secure bike storage or poor maintenance of benches to more significant ones such as failed lighting systems or dying trees or trash storage and collection. These insights help me work with our local housing providers and other policy makers to ensure we're not overlooking these sorts of issues as we talk about housing and other policies. I've proposed a document-storage and retrieval program focused on low-income residents in multiple grant contests but unfortunately this proposal has not been granted funds yet. I view this program, involving tangible rewards for participants, as one way to improve participation and expand inclusion in these important discussions beyond our extensive, but ultimately ineffective, outreach attempts at festivals, via door knocking and so forth.

When my children were younger and in Cambridge Public Schools, there was greater opportunity for authentic, organic interaction across multiple ethnicities and income groups but as they got older, friend groups shifted, parental involvement morphed and these opportunities, whether inside or outside of school, decreased.

No one has solved this participation challenge yet. The people who have come the closest are the places, like Baltimore, who understand that for a lot of people, there is not a community norm of nor the incentives to participate in public forums on climate change or a variety of other issues. If we want to hear those voices, and we desperately need to hear them, we need to be willing to provide child care, food, different hours, accessible venues and more. These are all participation measures I absolutely support.

Running a Progressive Campaign in the Boston Area

- Have you taken the No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge? Signing this pledge is a requirement for a Sunrise

Boston endorsement: <https://nofossilfuelmoney.org/> Yes.

- What will you do or have you done about the influence of fossil fuel executives and industry front-groups on policy-making and elections? Honestly, I don't think that's something that occurs in Cambridge politics. As far as I know, I haven't taken money from these groups or promoted their interests in Cambridge. I just don't think those groups are operating in Cambridge.

- Sunrise is a movement of young people. How will you consider or how have you considered the voices and issues of young people in your role as an elected official?

My family is a family of young people, with two boys aged 19 and 22. They, their friends, their classmates, the children I teach at church school, the children I teach and more young people are voices that I hear from and listen to every single day, seven days a week on all subjects. I understand and share their concerns about changing weather, sea level rise, economic and climate change insecurity and more. I also understand the tensions they feel as they, like most of the rest of us, try to navigate a world that is starting to feel significant negative impacts from decisions made long ago and which is full of professional and personal constraints that make it difficult to mitigate one's own impact on the environment. The angst of knowing we face a crisis and being boxed in by life in how one can respond to it is real- there are no easy answers to either mitigating or responding to climate change. All will require immense personal changes and those can be virtually impossible to implement while still participating in the world around us. Smart Phones are a perfect example- as bad as both their use and creation are for the environment, the inability to participate in many aspects of modern life without them makes the choice to opt-out of this technology very difficult.

- Many issues that intertwine with climate change greatly affect the Boston area, including but not limited to transportation, housing, economic justice, and food access. Describe the issues that are important to you as a candidate. How does your concern about these issues relate to your concern about climate change and support for the Green New Deal?

Transportation equity, educational equity, housing equity and their associated impacts on gentrification are all important issues that require a re-evaluating of how governments should serve people, how we collect and distribute revenue and, perhaps most importantly, how we create, or create access to, financial instruments that allow people to avoid displacement as areas gentrify. The crush of people into areas like Somerville's Union Square or South Boston have, absent programs to allow lower income residents to compete in the marketplace, resulted in widespread gentrification and housing instability in the region. I've proposed and had implemented a number of zoning changes to help mitigate this challenge and maintain and expand a base of affordable housing stock by regulating Short Term Rentals and expanding opportunities for people to construct accessory dwelling units on their properties, both measures which increase residential density with minimal impact on the embedded carbon already existing in our housing stock. I have led the discussion at City Council about our City's budget, to include the school department budget, has, for generations, provided students of colors with a less rigorous education and I have made many proposals, some of which have been successful and some of which have not, to address these inequities from increased efforts on school climate to new models of implementing innovative proposals to more effective use of technology to help students who need targeted support interventions.

About you

- Describe your record (legislative, public service, community advocacy, campaign work, volunteering, etc) on environmental issues and social justice.

On the City Council, I have focused on resiliency planning, surveillance issues, police oversight and new ways of creating residential housing such as legalizing and regulating short-term rentals like AirBnB and expanding opportunities for accessory dwelling units. I am currently working to redefine the definition of “Family” in our zoning code to allow denser levels of habitation, something that is important in building sustainable, equitable cities.

I view one of my major roles as a Councilor as being a listener and a communicator and I manage dozens of email lists on various Council subjects, attend meetings all over town and am a regular attendee at events at our public schools, where arguably Cambridge faces the most daunting equity and inclusion challenges. And as the leading voice for cyclists on the City Council (I have been without a car for the past 12 years) I work locally and regionally to promote safe biking and alternative mobility in all its forms, to allow Cambridge to prosper without creating street chaos caused by the expanding Delivery Economy and to protect and promote the rights and concerns of our less physically abled neighbors. I am a life member of the Sierra Club and was a founding volunteer for the Club’s Boston Inner City Outings program. I tutored for years at CRLS, have knocked on hundreds of doors for progressive candidates in past elections and have also helped in their fund-raising efforts.

- List any other endorsements you have secured.
- If you’d like, tell us more about your identity, background or experience in your own words.

I am 56 years young and live in North Cambridge with my wife and our two sons, Robbie (22) and Cooper (19). After ten years of advocacy in my local neighborhood group, I was elected to Cambridge City Council in 2005 and have been helping Cambridge meet the 21st Century’s environmental, economic, housing, transportation and educational challenges ever since.

I attended the University of Rochester on an NROTC scholarship, served in the Marine Corps for four and a half years where I first understood the importance of reducing abject poverty and addressing environmental degradation. Less than four weeks after resigning my Marine Corps commission, I was knocking on doors for Greenpeace. From Greenpeace, I moved on to Boston College Law School, where I was Chair of the Environmental Law Society and earned the Susan B Desmaris award for Public Service Achievement and Leadership for my work on environmental issues. I earned a Masters in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School in 2015 where I later spent a year as a Research Fellow in Metropolitan Resiliency and Democratic Institutions.

Based on my environmental concerns, I became a vegetarian when I left the Marines in 1987 and my wife and I have been car-free for over a decade. I am an active member of Team Rubicon, a veterans-oriented disaster relief and response group and have assisted in operations ranging from tornado recovery efforts to helping build facilities to support our area’s immigrants.

- Any other relevant information not covered by the above questions that you’d like to share.

I have two indoor cats, Gustave and Cossette. I enjoy reading books of all types and I love bicycling. In fact, I recently completed the third leg of a four-stage trip from Houlton, ME to Miami, FL as I parallel route 95 in an effort to discover what I consider to be the backbone of America, visiting places where time seems to have stopped and other places where the future is happening now. Along the way, I have asked hundreds of people of all sorts what makes them feel safe and what makes them feel safe. The

answers I get, ranging from Trump to God to Family to Guns to Local Emergency Services making people feel safe and from Government to Social Unrest to the Future of Their Grandchildren in what makes people feel nervous, help me better understand the Country I live in and Cambridge's role in making the Country, and the world, a stronger, more sustainable and more equitable place.