



Keith Nyhan for Ward 7 City Council

My name is Keith Nyhan. It has been my privilege to represent the residents of Ward 7 for eighteen (18) years; I would consider it an honor to serve a 10th term.

Born at Concord Hospital in 1967, I am a fourth-generation resident of Concord's South End. I grew up on Cottage Court and Dartmouth Street and have called South Street home since 1995. I attended Conant (Abott-Downing), Rundlett and Concord High schools, as did my three children (my youngest is a sophomore at CHS this year). As a young child, I spent endless hours at the West Street Playground and, as an older child, swam and played football at Rollins Park. My father and younger brother still live in Ward 7, as do childhood friends and their parents. I am a U.S. Army veteran and a state employee. Like you, I work hard to provide for my family and understand the necessity of family budgets and the impact of municipal tax increases on those budgets.

During my eighteen years serving Concord, I have learned the most basic goal of municipal government is providing critical, core services (e.g., Fire and Police protection, delivery of clean water, trash collection, and road maintenance – including paving and snow removal) to its residents at an affordable cost. This, however, is not easy. Perennially, the Council must balance the financial needs required to sustain core operations and the desire to fund non-essential services (e.g., the library and recreational programs) against the rising costs of inflation which drive property tax increases.

Recognizing the negative impact Covid has had on the city's operations budget and recent inflationary pressures, the balancing act has been particularly challenging. Yet, despite the pressures to increase taxes, the Council has produced thoughtful, balanced budgets, while maintaining its commitment to public safety and improving municipal infrastructure. As a fiscal conservative and the Chair of the City's Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee for the last eight years, I am proud of this accomplishment.

But challenges remain. The inflationary pressures to increase spending in the next two years will be significant. Employee salaries will increase; utility costs are skyrocketing; and the expense of resource procurement will continue to escalate. In short, balancing the city's budget over the next biennium will require experienced, fiscally conservative leaders who are familiar with the nuances of the city's operations and capital spending programs. If re-elected, I will - as I have for the last eighteen years - fight unnecessary, operational spending and will scrutinize capital projects to ensure the city does not outspend its revenues and experiences positive returns on its investments.

As you contemplate your vote, deciding who is most qualified to represent your interests on the Council for the next two years, please consider this year's election cycle, like that of 2005, is marked by many contested races, which will bring no less than four new faces to the Council in 2024. While the influx of new representation and viewpoints on governance will certainly be exciting, it will also be accompanied by a period of unrest, during which all councilors - tenured and new - must figure out how to work together to navigate challenging policy decisions. Decisions which include expansion of Concord's economic base, retention and recruitment of law enforcement officers to bolster public safety and developing short and long-term strategies for addressing homelessness in the city. Adding to this period of unrest will be the absence of Concord's long-time mayor, Jim Bouley, and his stabilizing leadership.

To bring stability to the Council during this period of uncertainty and to ensure Concord's elected leadership makes well-informed, fiscally responsible decisions, it is imperative to re-elect established, trusted leaders who have proven histories of working collaboratively and successfully with city staff, other elected officials, advisory boards, and the public. In this regard, my experience on the Council and my commitments to conservative financial principles and the taxpayers make me the ideal choice to represent Ward 7 in the next biennium.

In closing, I would consider it an honor to be re-elected to a 10th term and humbly ask for your vote on November 7th. I encourage you to contact me with your questions, issues and concerns and look forward to seeing you at Abott-Downing School on Election Day.

Kindest Regards and Best Wishes,

Keith E. Nyhan
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