

Somerville Ward City Council Candidate Forum

August 11, 2021 from 7:00-9:00 pm on Zoom

The candidate, Maria Koutsoubaris, was unable to participate in the forum live due to a power outage. Her responses to the lightning round questions were submitted to CAAS on Friday, August 13.

Lighting Round questions (20 seconds each with YES or NO answers):

1. The Massachusetts state of emergency ended on June 15th, and the Somerville Board of Health decided to extend our local eviction moratorium for 90 days, so until September 15. Do you support a 12 month extension of the moratorium from the end of the state of emergency, which would be until June 2022? **No**
2. Do you support making Somerville fair housing law stronger by removing barriers to housing, specifically both CORIs (criminal records) and bad credit? **No**
3. Do you support eviction record sealing protections for tenants, so that evictions from the past do not become a barrier to housing in the present? **Yes**
4. Do you support stronger oversight of the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) to improve the enforcement of the housing health and safety code? **Yes**
5. Do you support municipal tools for rent control? **No**
6. Do you support stronger oversight of the Inclusionary Housing Program to make the application process and communication for residents in these units more accessible? **Yes**
7. Do you support requiring all developers to enter into Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) so that the community's needs are central to the development process? **Yes**
8. Do you support municipal ownership of affordable housing, not necessarily all such housing, but some portion of the city's housing stock? **Yes**
9. Do you support guaranteeing the right to counsel so that all tenants have legal representation in court eviction proceedings? **Yes**
10. Do you support allocation of federal COVID relief funds to cancel all the following types of debt in Somerville: rent, mortgage, and utility? **No**