

First off, to the great people of Keene, I would like to say hello. My name is Ryan Clancy, and I am looking forward to representing all of you as Ward 2 City Councilor.

Keene has a lot of good going on, but it's time for a fresh perspective of someone living the issues to represent the residents of Ward 2 and all of the city. All candidates and current elected officials share a similar list of key issues facing Keene. What separates us is our priorities. I was a renter in Ward 2 for many years, and recently became fortunate enough to purchase a new home. I can tell you it wasn't easy, and it still isn't. Still living paycheck to paycheck, seeing rent prices climb, and hearing how people struggle to find affordable housing are my lived experiences. Keene's lack of affordable, accessible, and safe housing needs to be a top priority of the council. These barriers to have a roof over one's head creates an individual sense of insecurity and prevents opportunities to build a stronger community. Until our city is accessible and welcoming to everyone, it is hard to move forward on the other issues. This is why as councilor I will focus on improving the city's housing inventory.

Happily, every day is looking brighter as we get through the COVID-19 pandemic. Our business community along with private citizens, came together to support each other. But we are not out of the woods yet. It is great to look forward to the future and business as usual, but as we have found, putting the pandemic in the rearview only pushes the finish line further away. Our community is in a public health crisis. The current pandemic, the housing shortage, and substance abuse are challenges we must take action on and address head-on. We need leadership that deals with the current issues and sees them through to the end instead of just talking about them.

Keene should have elected officers dedicated to those they represent. I believe elected office is not reserved for those with power, tenure, or the potential for personal gain. As a member of City Council, I would be accessible to my constituents and act in the best interest of the community. At the end of the day, a councilor's job is to listen. To hear your issues and work to address them. A strong government fosters new generations of leaders, insists on transparency in all aspects, and brings justification to having the third-highest property taxes in New Hampshire. If the math doesn't add up--then we need to bring taxes down.

As the husband of a teacher in SAU 29, a resident looking to grow his family, an employee at a nonprofit in this community, a proud dog dad, and a homeowner in the heart of Ward 2, I am living and seeing the issues. My fight and my duty is to you, and together we will build a better Keene.

This community belongs to us and it is within our power to build upon its great foundation. To create a Keene that represents us for today and the future. I would be honored to serve you as your Ward 2 City Councilor.