



## City Councilor Survey Responses - Andreae Downs

1. Do you support the Mayor's "Booster Stabilization Fund"? What are its strengths and what should change?

*Anything that will give the schools more operating cash (vs. a one-time, non-recurring infusion) deserves our careful attention. **I support finding funding for schools and teachers!***

2. What do you view as the relationship between new development (housing, commercial) and the schools?

*There are two ways to fund the schools at more than the statutory 2.5% Newton can raise under state law: overrides and "new growth". New homes, substantial renovations/additions and new commercial development make up our "new growth." Unfortunately, new growth is very modest this year, and we lag other communities in the county.*

3. Please share your thoughts on the national teacher shortage, and how it impacts Newton's ability to attract and retain strong educators. Does a city councilor have a role? What is it?

*As a city councilor, I know our schools are the heart of our community, and say so regularly. I support more funding for schools and support the school budget.*

4. Operating overrides help ensure the health of our schools. What is your plan for and role in ensuring successful overrides?

*I have voted for and worked hard for overrides for schools and school buildings. I will continue to advocate for them, vote to put them on the ballot, and encourage this and future mayors to plan for and place overrides—smaller and more frequent or larger, whatever works—before Council.*

5. The current contract offers teachers a COLA of 2% or less. NPS Unit C employees report a non-living wage. Do you believe it is reasonable to expect the NTA to accept the current terms? How can you, as a city councilor, advocate for a fair contract?

***Our teachers deserve raises that keep pace with inflation. Our support staff also deserve a living wage.***