

Joe Lopes running unopposed in New Bedford's Ward 6 for third straight term

Ward 6 City Councilor Joe Lopes will run unopposed for a third straight term. He was the only one to submit or even pull nomination papers. He ran unopposed in 2015 and 2017 as well.

The last time Lopes faced opposition was in 2013 when he defeated Ian Marcus Saunders 1,117 to 194.

Scott Lima running unopposed in New Bedford's Ward 5

Current Ward 5 City Councilor Scott Lima will run unopposed in his first run for re-election. He was the only one to submit nomination papers.

Lima defeated Paul Chasse in the 2015 Ward 5 municipal election 1,610 to 1,421. Paul Chasse is running for at-Large city council this year.

Ward-5 New Bedford Map

Six hope to replace Dana Rebeiro as New Bedford Ward 4 City Councilor

True to her word, Dana Rebeiro did not seek re-election in 2019 – putting a self-imposed, three-term term-limit on her New Bedford Ward 4 City Council seat. Six residents hope to fill the vacancy and turned in nomination papers by the 5 pm deadline on Thursday.

Sean Carney and Dennis Houtman turned in nomination papers and filed officially. Derek Baptiste, Nair (Naia) Barros, Joseph “Jo-Jo” Fortes, and Kenneth Gibert turned in nomination papers but have not filed officially – they have until August 30th to do so.

Residents Jonathan Correia and Bruno Friere pulled nomination papers but did not return them.

At least three candidates are needed for a preliminary election on October 1. Candidates still have until September 3rd to withdraw their nomination, so the preliminary election is likely, but not certain. The top two vote-getters in the preliminary election will move on to the November 5 municipal election.

Dunn, Larock to face off for New Bedford Ward 3 City

Council seat in November

Incumbent Hugh Dunn and Guy Larock are the only residents that turned in nomination papers for the Ward 3 City Council seat by the 5 pm deadline on Thursday. Both still need to file officially. Pete Wilde pulled nomination papers but didn't turn them in.

At least three candidates were needed for a preliminary election on October 1. Since only two candidates turned in papers, if they each file officially both will move on to the November 5th municipal election. Candidates still have until September 3rd to withdraw their nomination.

New Bedford City Council unanimously votes for free parking for veterans

In a 10-0 vote on Thursday, the New Bedford City Council passed a motion to establish a free parking program at all metered spaces across the City of New Bedford and at Fort Taber Park for individuals with Veteran license plates. Sponsored by Ward 6 councilor Joe Lopes, the written motion was quickly co-sponsored by all nine of the other city councilors in attendance. At-Large City Councilor Debora Coelho was not present to vote.

Here is the motion as written:

"Councillor Lopes, requesting that the Traffic Commission establish a free parking program at all metered spaces across

the City of New Bedford and at Fort Taber Park for individuals with Veteran license plates.”

The motion will now go to the Traffic Commission for action – they can decide to implement a change or ignore it.

Veteran can apply for a Veterans license plate here: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/veteran-and-military-license-plates> . Ironically, Veterans must pay \$40-\$100 RMV fee to get a plate.

Video interview with Jane Gonsalves

Paul sat down with former New Bedford City Councilor Jane Gonsalves to discuss the upcoming New Bedford elections.

Three running for New Bedford's Ward 1 City Council seat

Three familiar faces are running for the Ward 1 City Council seat in 2019; incumbent William “Brad” Markey, second-place finisher in 2017 Melissa Costa, and Dan Costa who ran in the preliminary election in 2017. Melissa Costa and Dan Costa still have to file officially by August 30th.

In 2017, Markey defeated Melissa Costa in the Municipal Election 1,645 to 1,333.

At least three candidates are needed for a preliminary election on October 1. Candidates still have until September 3rd to withdraw their nomination, so the preliminary election is likely, but not certain. The top two vote-getters in the preliminary election will move on to the November 5 municipal election.

Ward 1 is the north most ward in New Bedford.

Ward-1

Maria Giesta running unopposed in New Bedford's Ward 2

Former 2015 New Bedford mayoral candidate and current Ward 2 City Councilor Maria Giesta will run unopposed in her first run for re-election. She was the only one to submit or even pull nomination papers. She defeated Edwin Antonio Cartagena in the 2015 municipal election.

Ward-2 New Bedford Map

12 candidates submit nomination papers for at-large New Bedford City Councilor

Twelve candidates dropped off their nomination papers for at-Large City Council by today's 5 pm deadline forcing a preliminary election on October 1st.

Incumbents Ian Abreu and Naomi Carney, and non-incumbents Russell Dearing and Leo Choquette Jr. dropped off nomination papers with at least 50 signatures and filed officially for at-large City Council.

Incumbent Debora Coelho, City Council President Linda Morad, former Ward 2 councilor Steven Martins and non-incumbents Paul Chasse, Carlos Felix and Lisa White dropped off nomination papers, but have yet to file officially. Incumbent Brian Gomes and non-incumbent Michael Janson dropped off enough signatures for at-large City Council and Mayor. They have until August 30th to file officially.

The Preliminary Election is October 1st and at least 11 qualified candidates are needed by August 30th for that to occur. September 3rd is the last day to withdraw. The top 10 vote-getters move on to the Municipal Election on November 5th. The top 5 vote-getters become at-Large City Councilors.

Seven submit nomination papers for Mayor of New Bedford

Six residents submitted nomination papers to run for Mayor of New Bedford by today's 5 pm deadline. For the first time, the winner will serve four years instead of two.

Four-term incumbent Jon Mitchell, Michael Medeiros, Richard Tyson Moultrie, and Jose Perez turned in signatures and filed officially.

Current at-Large city councilor Brian Gomes and Michael Janson turned in signatures for at-Large city council and mayor. David Pimental submitted his nomination papers for mayor but has not officially filed. All three have until August 30th to file officially.

At least three candidates are needed for a preliminary election on October 1. Candidates still have until September 3rd to withdraw their nomination, so the preliminary election is likely, but not certain. The top two vote-getters in the preliminary election will move on to the November 5 municipal election.

Of note, current school committee member and vocal critic of Mayor Jon Mitchell pulled nomination papers but did not submit them to the election office by today's 5 pm deadline.