

## Steve Tougas, Candidate for Quincy City Council At-Large, Plan for Quincy, 2017

**Platform:** I am for lower taxes and advocate a smaller government that gets out of the way of the people, while protecting their liberties and helping them prosper. I am for the high educational standards that made Quincy and Massachusetts number one. I also want Quincy to continue to be a place where people want to live, raise a family, work, play, and be a welcoming place for tourists to come, visit our history rich city, and learn about the freedom and liberty that made her "The City of Presidents".

**Lower Taxes:** How do you lower taxes? Simple! Act the same as when you save up for something you really want. Spend less by cutting out non-essential spending, be more efficient with what you do spend, and curb the desire to buy things you don't need; except in this case, the tax payers get the savings as lower taxes. That's all there is to it.

**Lowering Taxes:** How do you do that? Saving money requires discipline, in that you have to have the will to save, and to be smart about determining what to keep and what to cut, as well as knowing what to add when necessary. You can't make generous promises to give some people something that you can't deliver without raising the taxes of others to pay for it, nor can you be beholden to outside influences or your own personal whims to give the people what they don't want and cause them to have to pay for it. I have heard some who have said that the people deserve the government they voted for, and I must agree.

**Cutting Wasteful Spending:** Would you buy a new car because the ash tray's full? One of my opposing candidates has suggested replacing the traffic lights along Quincy Shore Drive with *smart* ones, just because they're not programmed correctly. Does Quincy really need to burden the tax payers with traffic lights capable of reading license plates? If elected, I would, for instance, economize by moving to reprogram our existing lights (with thirty years of software engineering experience, I think I can help manage a few traffic lights). And do we really need bike paths? I've ridden my bicycle on the streets of Quincy for years without a problem, but this is being done to be in conformance with global mandates, not necessarily for the good or our local citizens. Again, an unnecessary expenditure of tax payer's money; and, there's so much more....

**Maintaining Essential Spending:** In this category I would put Essential City Services and Education; however, here too there are opportunities economizing. City governments are notorious for budgeting more than needed, and when the end of the year comes, they rush to make sure they've spent that extra. I will work with the School Committee, City Hall, and Quincy Public Works to see if any extra moneys can be rolled into the next year's budget, and that departments aren't "making work". Infrastructure is also important, but there's always a difference between needs and wants. I will work for the tax payer to make sure their needs are met, and the wants will be held up to scrutiny, with tax payer input solicited, because the burdens will be on their shoulders, and that of their children.

**Encouraging Progress:** More laws equals less liberty, and the more regulation, the higher the cost of doing business that gets passed on to you. I pledge to help reduce needless regulation that's strangling progress. Government should be as small as possible to protect the Liberty of the people. This involves enforcing laws to protect the rights of the people while reducing needless regulation hindering progress.

**Encouraging Tourism:** I no longer go into Boston as much as I used to. Why? Because they've purposely reduced the parking and reduced the traffic flow by repurposing automotive traffic lanes that I used to drive in, which I believe has purposely resulted in a reduced speed limit. The recent changes to downtown Quincy have also reduced vehicular accessibility to Quincy at tax payer's expense, and as a result, have reduced tourist dollars flowing into Quincy. I will work to not have people say the same things about Quincy that I have just said about Boston.

**Taxation with Representation:** At a Quincy City Council meeting I attended, I saw that it was just a bunch of developers pitching ideas, followed by a discussion amongst the City Councilors, with usually a quick approval after just a few questions. What I saw was taxation without direct representation (i.e. "Sounds good to us. Tax payer funds for your project have been approved!"). Issues that are going to cost the tax payers should be given time for their input. I pledge to work to see that a web site is set up for tax payer representation of issues that would raise their taxes.

**Accountability:** I will personally work to make sure City Council votes are recorded, so that the voters know how their City Councilors voted, and so they can easily look up past votes. I pledge to work toward having this information available on-line and on the Quincy City government web site.

**Undesirable Projects:** I know the Compressor Station issue is largely a Weymouth issue. While compressor stations are needed, there is no reason to put them near population. As much as it is in the power of a Quincy City Councilor, I pledge to assist the residents in stopping the Compressor Station being built near population, and to encourage the gas companies to build it away from population, even if that means sponsoring incentives for the gas companies to do so.

**Single family homes:** At City Council meetings I've attended, I've only seen proposals for apartment complexes and "mixed-use" building projects, but not for any single family homes. Maybe a few of these apartment complex projects need to be voted against for developers to get the hint that people want a balance. I pledge to work for this.