

CANDIDATES' VIEWS ON THE CITY MANAGER Thirty-year City Manager Robert W. Healy, long a topic of concern to voters, just settled three lawsuits against the city from employees or ex-employees saying they were discriminated and retaliated against. Although Healy was involved in the cases, he also decided the city's response, including two failed appeals for a case that raised its payout to \$8.3 million from \$4.5 million. (With its own legal fees, the city paid more than \$11 million just for one case.) There are 18 candidates for nine seats on the City Council for the 2012-13 term, and here's what they've said about Healy, the cases and his \$336,317-per-year contract, which is up for renewal Sept. 30. cambridgeday.com

ANTI-HEALY INCUMBENTS



Craig Kelley

ANTI-HEALY CHALLENGERS



Charles Marquardt



Gary Mello



Jamake Pascual



Tom Stohlman



James Williamson



PRO-HEALY INCUMBENTS



Henrietta Davis



David Maher



Ken Reeves



Sam Seidel



Tim Toomey

PRO-HEALY CHALLENGERS



Gregg Moree



Matt Nelson



Larry Ward

INCUMBENTS WITHOUT A CLEAR POSITION

Leland Cheung

Seems to lean against. Was not in office for most recent renewal; passed law to post contract before council vote. "We may be critical of his missteps [but] cannot deny his impressive record." Believes "time is coming for a fresh perspective."



Marjorie Decker

Says Healy "has a lot of strengths," but claims she opposed appealing lawsuit not just on financial grounds but because "morally, we were wrong." This is unconfirmed.



Denise Simmons

Lauds Healy but has to go "toe-to-toe" with him on issues such as education, race and class; civic engagement "not one of his strong suits ... at some point [he] is going to, of his own volition or through a vote of the City Council, move on."



CHALLENGER WITHOUT A CLEAR POSITION

Minka vanBeuzekom

Won't decide without more information. "We need a strong city manager ... that being said, when you entrust someone with that much power, you really have to trust them. There's been a violation of that public trust." Blames council for lack of oversight and plans to improve its method for evaluating the city manager.



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CHALLENGERS



Charles Marquardt
Wants a new manager in the next term, a smooth transfer and a shift of power back to the council. Healy's actions in lawsuits were "a conflict of interest of a relatively high order" and "a mistake."



Gary Mello
Opposes renewing Healy's contract; wants City Council to take more responsibility and next city manager to have less.



Gregg Moree
Thinks Healy has done a great job and would keep him as long as Healy wants to stay. "I love Bob Healy. He said to me he wants to die on the job."



Matt Nelson
"The City Council works pretty well with the city manager, and what they ask for they seem to get answers on, so I think the balance of power does work well."



Jamake Pascual
Opposes Healy returning as city manager. Says he has tried to get the attorney general to look into Healy's actions and blames council for lack of oversight.



Tom Stohlman
Will not support "automatic renewal" of contract and will vote to seek out alternatives. But "the City Council manages the manager ... if the city is unresponsive to its residents, it is the City Council who is responsible."



Minka vanBeuzekom
Wants more information. "We need a strong city manager ... that being said, when you entrust someone with that much power, you really have to trust them. There's been a violation of that public trust." Blames council for lack of oversight.



Larry Ward
Shifting positions. It's "time for a transition," but Healy should help find his own replacement, since "by all measures, Cambridge is doing well. [The lawsuits are] not an issue to dump the city manager." Ward has an "open mind."



James Williamson
Opposes Healy and his pay and blames council's "tacit acquiescence" to Healy for creating "a chokehold on the city ... The responsible thing to do is begin searching now" for a replacement.

INCUMBENTS



Leland Cheung
Seems to lean against. Was not in office for last renewal; passed law to post contract before vote. "We may be critical of his missteps [but] cannot deny his impressive record." Believes "time is coming for a fresh perspective."



Henrietta Davis
The city is "super-deluxe" under Healy, and she doesn't see "a reason for change," although she acknowledges there's "a good chance that there will be a new city manager within two years."



Marjorie Decker
Says Healy "has a lot of strengths," but claims she opposed appealing lawsuit not just on financial grounds but because "morally, we were wrong." This is unconfirmed.



Craig Kelley Is the only councilor not to vote in favor of Healy contracts and has been a longtime public opponent of the city's approach to the civil lawsuits.



David Maher
Negotiated most recent contract, which was kept secret. Won't answer directly if new manager is needed, but says "The administrative oversight of our city's finances and staff has been unparalleled."



Ken Reeves
"There's no indication [Healy is] leaving. As long as the city is as fiscally viable as it is, he will be there as long as he likes."



Sam Seidel
Says Healy has been effective and "I do not seek to replace him in the next two years."



Denise Simmons
Unclear. Lauds Healy but has to go "toe-to-toe" with him on issues such as education, race and class. "At some point [he] is going to, of his own volition or through a vote of the City Council, move on."



Tim Toomey
Says lawsuits are misunderstood and applauds Healy's fiscal skills. "If he does decide to retire, I hope we find someone local who already knows the city. These are very critical financial times."