

Doug Craig 2014 Mayoral Campaign
Overnight and Downtown Core Parking Platform

During this campaign I've been to thousands of doors and spoken with thousands of local citizens and business owners about what matters to them, and resoundingly you have spoken in support of overnight parking and retaining free parking in our downtown cores, and I am completely in support of these proposals.

Our community relies heavily on automobile and truck transportation, and people have organized and arranged their lives with their transportation needs in mind. Parking is a big part of making transportation in our community possible and easy, and the citizens of Cambridge understand this - nobody likes driving around looking for a parking spot, particularly near their homes and businesses. As municipal government we need to make it easier and faster for everyone to get to work and home or school and home each day.

Parking in our cores ensures there is a constant supply of customers to our downtown stores, restaurants and social agencies. Stores located there because they saw the customers walking on the street and driving down the road nearby, and we need to make it easy for them to reach those people, and make it easy for people to shop in our community, instead of going elsewhere. It's an economic and social priority to keep our downtowns vibrant.

Parking on residential streets is a must. People purchased homes and vehicles with those parking spots in mind, and the City cannot simply remove those options without providing alternatives (and there are no easy alternatives when it comes to reducing overnight parking). The City must keep overnight parking except where there is a significant and overriding safety concern, and those should be very limited. Many of our streets were built with parking in mind, and people have counted on overnight parking for decades. There's no reason to change that policy now.

Free parking and overnight parking benefit our community in many ways. They encourage friends visiting by making it easy to park on the street, making Cambridge a more social city, a more welcoming city. A city where people want to live without everyday stresses.

Paid parking doesn't make sense in our cores from an economic standpoint, a practical one, or a social one. I've studied the issue and listened to citizens. That's why I'm strongly against it, and will be speaking and voting that way whenever this issue comes before council.

Thank you,

Doug Craig, Mayor