



2025 Boston City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Progressive Mass's Boston chapters collaborated on a joint questionnaire.

~ Jamaica Plain Progressives ~ Progressive West Roxbury/Roslindale ~
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The public part of the questionnaire contains a mix of yes/no and open-ended questions. Please keep all answers to open-ended questions to no more than 150 words. A non-response to a yes/no question will be treated as a no.

(A) Your Candidacy

1. What would be your top three priorities if elected to serve?

- a. Affordable and Equitable Housing
- b. Education Excellence for Every Boston Student
- c. Stronger Neighborhoods & Enhancement of Quality of Life Across Boston

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

As a proud daughter of Boston, a mother raising her family here, and a dedicated community advocate, I am deeply invested in the future of our city.

My commitment to running for City Council At-Large stems from lived experiences in Boston, with a proven track record of leadership and advocacy for our neighborhoods. I am running to ensure that the voices of everyday residents, particularly women, families, and underserved communities, are heard and reflected in city policy. My work across various sectors has equipped me with a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Boston. I have a demonstrated ability to collaborate with diverse stakeholders to advance equity and inclusion, skills that are essential for effective City Council work. My focus has always been on creating tangible improvements in our communities, and I am committed to bringing that same dedication and experience to the Boston City Council.

Transparency and integrity are important to me. My career has been centered on serving the community, and I will uphold the highest ethical standards as your next City Councilor. Having worked within city government under multiple mayoral administrations, I understand the critical importance of collaboration between the City Council and the Mayor's Office to effectively serve our residents. As an At-Large Councilor, I will prioritize building a strong, respectful, and productive working relationship with the city's mayoral administration to shape effective policies, allocate resources strategically, and ensure accountability. By establishing open communication and shared goals, we can deliver real and lasting positive change for all of Boston's neighborhoods, as outlined in my commitment to affordable housing, quality education, and stronger communities.

3. What do you see as the role of the City Council in our strong-mayor system?

In a strong-mayor system, the City Council serves as the legislative branch, balancing the mayor's executive power. Their core responsibilities include passing laws and ordinances, modifying and approving (or not) the city budget, and providing crucial oversight of the mayor and city departments. They also confirm key mayoral appointments and represent their constituents' interests, acting as a check on executive authority to ensure accountable and effective city governance. On the other hand, I do see the City Council as a municipal partner. Overall, each governmental body must work together to provide the best services and representation to their constituents and community.

4. What is the one policy you've seen pioneered in another city that you'd most like to see Boston adopt?

A couple of policies I'd love to see Boston fully adopt is a **universal basic income (UBI) program**, like those piloted in cities such as Chicago and Cambridge. These programs provide direct, no-strings-attached financial support to residents who need it most—families facing economic hardship, gig workers, and those left out of traditional safety nets. It's a dignified and effective way to promote economic stability and close equity gaps. I also strongly support **free public bus transportation**, as implemented in cities like Lawrence. Boston has made progress with free fares on select bus routes like the 28, but we must go further. Public transit should be accessible and free to all, especially in a city that prides itself on being a transit-first community. Expanding fare-free service would reduce financial strain, boost ridership, and help our environment. Lastly, as a mom of an amazing three-year-old, I know how critical **early education** is. Boston's universal pre-K program is a step in the right direction, but it currently covers just 6.5 hours, leaving working parents to shoulder the remaining cost. For families like mine, especially those with nontraditional work hours or kids in non-BPS settings due to limited seat availability, this gap is unaffordable. A truly universal, fully-funded pre-K program would ensure that every child, like my son Adonis, has the tools to succeed, regardless of income or ZIP code. We must be bold in bringing these proven ideas to Boston. Our families are worth it.

5. Which of the following groups have you chosen to reject / would reject campaign contributions from?

- a. For-profit developers
- b. Fossil fuel executives or lobbyists
- c. Charter school advocates and lobbyists
- d. Police unions

Transparency with all contributors is paramount. I make my positions on key issues affecting Boston residents clear to every supporter. This upfront communication ensures that contributions are made with a full understanding of my priorities and commitment to the community. My accountability will always lie with the residents of Boston, and their interests will guide my decisions, regardless of any campaign contributions received.

(B) Community Engagement

- 1. What steps would you take, if elected/re-elected, to engage all the diverse communities of Boston in policymaking, and what past actions of yours should give voters confidence that you will follow through?**

Throughout my time in Boston City Hall, I've led with the belief that policy must be built with the community, not just for it. In every role I've held, I've prioritized access, equity, and inclusion, ensuring that BIPOC communities, immigrants, people with disabilities, and working families are not only heard but centered in decision-making. I've led initiatives like Boston's first Childcare Survey and the Redefining Womanhood Survey, available in 11 languages, to uplift the real experiences of women, nonbinary residents, and caregivers across our city. These tools are being used to drive policy change and hold public hearings rooted in lived experience, not just data. I've organized community development meetings that hold developers accountable, pushed for language justice, and ensured marginalized voices shape how our neighborhoods grow. This isn't just about public input, it's about community power. If elected, I'll continue to fight for policies grounded in racial, economic, and gender justice. That means showing up in every neighborhood, creating spaces for grassroots voices to lead, and being transparent and accountable every step of the way. I know that a more just Boston is only possible when those most impacted are at the center of change, and that's the work I've always done, and will keep doing.

2. The future of democracy depends on robust youth engagement. Describe how you engage youth formally in your work as city councilor, or would plan to do so if elected.

The future of our democracy depends on young people, not just as future voters, but as present-day leaders. When I first immigrated to Boston from the Dominican Republic, I relied on community groups and youth spaces that gave me a voice and helped me find a sense of home. Those experiences shaped who I am today and showed me the power of youth engagement in building belonging, leadership, and purpose. As someone who served on my high school student council, hosted listening sessions with elected officials while in school, and founded the first-ever Political Science Club at Fitchburg State University, I know firsthand how critical it is to create platforms for youth to lead and be heard. If elected, I will establish a youth advisory council, partner with student organizations, and host school-based listening sessions to ensure youth voices are included in shaping policy. I'll also fight for paid internships, civic education, and youth-led initiatives. Our democracy is stronger when all of our residents, including our youth, are empowered, and I'll work every day to ensure this continues to be reflected in my leadership.

3. What is one aspect of community process in the City of Boston that should be improved, and why?

One major aspect of Boston's community process that must be improved is the need for **culturally competent, neighborhood-specific engagement**. As someone who leads community engagement efforts daily, I know firsthand that a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work. Every neighborhood in Boston is unique, demographically, culturally, and socially, and our engagement strategies must reflect that. Oftentimes, community meetings are not accessible or inclusive, particularly for working families, immigrants, and youth. If we want to see more civic participation, we need to meet people where they are, whether that means offering meetings in multiple languages, hosting events during nontraditional hours, or holding space in trusted, familiar settings like churches, community centers, or local schools. We must create **tailored engagement plans** rooted in cultural awareness and community trust. When we do that—when we center the lived experiences of residents—we build real relationships, increase participation, and make better policy decisions that reflect the true needs of our city.

(C) Budget & Revenue

1. Describe how you would prepare or are preparing the city for a significant reduction in federal funding.

Preparing Boston for significant federal funding cuts means building financial resilience and protecting vital services. This involves fiscal fortification: reducing our reliance on volatile federal grants by shifting programs to more stable local funding and strengthening city reserves. We should also diversify revenue through new local sources and smart public-private partnerships. Next, we should also focus on strategic service protection, prioritizing core services like public safety, public health, and education. This requires analyzing the impact of potential cuts to ensure efficiency and innovation in service delivery, always seeking ways to do more with less. Finally, advocacy and growth are key. I'd advocate with federal and state partners for Boston's needs and explore state-level mitigation. Concurrently, we'd invest in Boston's key economic sectors and workforce development to boost local tax revenue and ensure long-term prosperity, reducing our reliance on outside funding.

2. How much funding do you think the City should allocate to participatory budgeting? For context, \$2 million was appropriated for the current fiscal year. The Better Budget Alliance has advocated for \$40 million.

I will actively advocate for allocating 1% of the city's total budget towards participatory budgeting, aligning with the powerful advocacy of the Better Budget Alliance. Dedicating this significant portion of funds would

demonstrate a genuine commitment to community-led decision-making and provide the resources necessary for a truly impactful program. This level of investment would allow for meaningful projects to be realized in every neighborhood, fostering greater civic engagement, trust, and a stronger sense of ownership over our city's future. I believe this is a crucial step towards a more equitable and responsive Boston, where residents have real power in shaping the investments that directly affect their lives and communities.

3. How will you work to create a stronger PILOT system that expands community engagement, defines community benefits, and creates a fairer system to meet the needs of residents of the city of Boston?

We need to actively explore and expand opportunities for increased PILOT funding. The Child Care Entrepreneur Fund, which started as a pilot program, demonstrates the potential of such initiatives to address specific community needs. We should champion further pilot programs and explore how increased PILOT contributions from Boston's large non-profits can be strategically directed to support a wider range of community priorities, from affordable housing and education to infrastructure improvements and environmental sustainability. This dedicated funding stream can provide the necessary resources to test innovative solutions and scale successful programs that directly benefit our diverse neighborhoods.

4. Do you support the City of Boston's home rule petition to shift some of the tax burden away from residential owners to commercial owners in order to mitigate residential property tax spikes? YES/ NO

YES.

5. Given state law, Boston is limited in its taxing power. What opportunities do you see for the city to raise revenue?

Given state law limiting Boston's taxing power, opportunities to raise revenue primarily require state legislative approval. Key options include a local-option real estate transfer tax on high-value property sales and a commercial vacancy tax to incentivize occupancy and generate revenue from underutilized spaces. Additionally, strengthening PILOT agreements with large tax-exempt non-profits is crucial. Lastly, while politically challenging, pursuing voter-approved debt exclusions or overrides for critical projects, and persistently advocating for increased state aid, are vital strategies to diversify Boston's revenue base beyond its heavy reliance on commercial property taxes.

6. The City of Boston has a history of leveraging its financial power for social good, including its decision to divest from fossil fuels. Given this precedent, how would you make sure Boston's investments align with the city's values, such as, but not limited to, policies requiring transparency, disclosure, and divestment of public investments or procurement contracts with companies or countries that profit from war or are implicated in human rights violations?

Boston's history of leveraging its financial power for social good, like fossil fuel divestment, sets a strong precedent. To ensure the city's investments and procurement align with values such as human rights and peace, I would prioritize enhanced transparency and disclosure of all city investments and contracts, making information readily accessible to the public and independent oversight bodies. This includes detailed reporting on where public funds are invested and which companies hold city contracts. I would advocate for proactive due diligence to vet companies and stakeholders, leveraging third-party assessments and expert analysis. Furthermore, I would support developing clear, legally sound divestment criteria and procurement policies that explicitly prohibit doing business with entities implicated in such activities, building on the framework of the fossil fuel divestment, for example. Finally, fostering robust public and community engagement would be essential, allowing residents and advocacy groups to provide input and hold the city accountable to its stated values.

(D) Education

1. What are your top priorities for improving Boston Public Schools?

Boston Public Schools (BPS) have many strengths—but we must address key challenges to ensure every child has access to a high-quality, equitable education. As a product of BPS and other school systems, and as a bilingual learner, I deeply value the strengths of our diverse and culturally rich learning environments. Our language immersion and multilingual programs are vital assets, along with the dedication of our educators and the active involvement of families and community leaders. My top priorities include:

Post-COVID Academic and Social Support: We must invest in academic interventions, mental health resources, and social-emotional learning to support students still recovering from the impacts of the pandemic.

Teacher Retention and Administrative Training: We need to invest in better working conditions, competitive pay, and crucially, in training school administrators to foster supportive, collaborative environments that retain great teachers.

Equitable Resource Allocation: Every school must have access to the same high-quality facilities, funding, and academic opportunities, no matter the zip code.

Family Engagement: Parents and guardians must be partners in decision-making. We need culturally competent outreach and meaningful community engagement to ensure every family's voice is heard. Our students deserve nothing less than our full commitment.

2. Do you oppose the expansion of charter schools in Boston? YES/ NO

NO.

As someone who attended a charter school, I recognize the important role they play in providing families with educational choices that best meet their children's needs. I do not oppose the expansion of charter schools, as they can offer innovative approaches to education and additional opportunities for students. However, any expansion must come with strong protections for educators, including the right to collectively bargain for fair wages, benefits, and working conditions. Charter school educators should not have to choose between innovation and workplace rights. Three local charter schools are already represented by the BTU, which demonstrates how educators and charter schools can work together to ensure that both staff and students are supported. This collaboration shows that we can move forward in a way that benefits both families and educators. At the same time, we must continue to invest in and strengthen Boston Public Schools, ensuring that all families—whether they choose BPS or a charter school—have access to a well-funded, high-quality education system.

3. In 2022, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education actively considered a takeover of the Boston Public Schools. Do you oppose any such future efforts at state takeover of BPS? YES/ NO

YES.

I have been watching how state receivership has negatively affected other communities, like Lawrence for an example. Under state receivership,

communities lose local control that prevents decision-making tailored to the local needs of students and families. Also, reports have shown that teacher/staff turnover increases under state local, and overall work environment morale diminishes. Lastly, state receivership has a history of shifting educational priorities to standardized testing, neglecting other educational aspects crucial to student success.

4. Boston voters overwhelmingly supported a 2021 ballot question to change BPS governance to allow Boston voters the right to elect school committee members. Do you support a fully elected school committee? YES/ NO If so, what would your ideal structure be? If not, why not?

NO.

I support a hybrid model for the school committee, believing that the most effective governance combines the direct accountability of elected representatives with the crucial insights of parents and educational experts. While elected members ensure democratic responsiveness to Boston families, actively integrating parents and professionals through advisory roles and direct input mechanisms is vital for informed decision-making and the highest quality of education for our students. This balanced approach leverages both community representation and specialized knowledge to shape the future of our public schools.

5. What is one policy from another school district that you would like to see implemented in Boston schools?

I believe Boston Public Schools should adopt a policy similar to New York City's Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) and its Student Bill of Rights. These frameworks create a safe, inclusive learning environment and explicitly protect students from discrimination and harassment based on race, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and other personal characteristics. In addition to strong policy language, community engagement must be a cornerstone of implementation. BPS should actively involve students, families, educators, and community organizations. This means holding public forums, forming student advisory councils, and providing regular training for staff and families on student rights and anti-discrimination practices. By combining clear protections with meaningful community involvement, we can foster a school culture where every student feels safe, respected, and heard.

6. What is your opinion of the proposed White Stadium redevelopment project? What is your preferred path forward for White Stadium?

I support the renovation of White Stadium because I believe every young person in Boston deserves access to high-quality athletic facilities and the same opportunities available to students in other major cities. This project is a chance to invest in our youth, promote public school athletics, and celebrate the cultural and historical significance of Franklin Park. While I understand and respect the concerns raised ranging from environmental impacts to equitable community access—I believe we can address these issues through inclusive planning. This project must be community-driven, with ongoing input from residents, educators, environmental advocates, and students. By ensuring all voices are heard and valued, we can create a space that reflects the needs and aspirations of the entire city.

7. Since the passage of "An Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement" in 2020, Boston police officers have not been stationed inside Boston Public Schools. Are you committed to maintaining police-free schools? YES/ NO

YES.

I am committed to maintaining police-free schools in Boston. As a Latina, a mother, and a product of our public school system, I deeply understand the importance of students feeling safe, supported, and free from fear in their learning environments. My approach to school safety focuses on reimagining security to prevent the criminalization of students, especially Black and Latino youth. This involves expanding the HUB School Model to provide comprehensive mental health, social, and community-building resources, ensuring basic needs are met and addressing root causes of disruptive behavior. We must prioritize mental health and counseling services alongside conflict resolution and restorative justice practices. While I advocate for police-free schools, if law enforcement is present, it must be through School Resource Officers (SROs) highly trained in de-escalation and culturally responsive approaches, acting as supportive team members, not enforcers. Ultimately, building strong school-community relationships is vital to foster trust and create environments where students are nurtured, not punished.

(E) Public Safety

1. Do you support Boston's Trust Act? YES/ NO

YES.

2. Given the Trust Act's limited scope, what additional steps will you take to prevent information sharing and collaboration with ICE and other federal agencies?

I would advocate for a stronger city ordinance to prohibit local law enforcement and city entities from sharing information with ICE.

Strengthening oversight and transparency around any interactions city agencies have with federal immigration authorities.

Investing in immigrant legal defense funds and community-based support services, expanding on grants and funding opportunities to continue these crucial services.

Training all city staff to ensure full compliance with non-cooperation policies.

3. Do you support shuttering the Boston Police gang database? YES/ NO

I believe it's essential to first thoroughly understand the perspectives and experiences of advocates and those unjustly targeted by the BPD gang database.

Their insights are invaluable in assessing the full impact and inherent flaws of this system. Following this careful listening and learning phase, I am committed to working collaboratively with advocates and the Boston regional intelligence center to identify and implement the most effective and equitable solutions that prioritizes community well-being and racial justice in Boston.

4. Do you support ending Boston's engagement in the BRIC? YES/ NO

NO.

I believe this issue requires careful review and community-centered oversight. Boston has been recognized as one of the safest major cities in the country, thanks in part to collaboration between law enforcement, community members, and city leaders. However, any program, especially those involved in surveillance and data sharing—must be held to high standards of transparency, accountability, and civil rights protections. I support a full public review of BRIC's operations to ensure it is not

infringing on residents' rights, particularly communities of color, and that public safety efforts are rooted in trust, not fear.

5. Do you support the creation of an unarmed, community-based emergency response program, separate from the Boston Police Department, to respond to mental and behavioral health crises? YES/ NO

NO.

But I do support a model where mental health professionals are responding with BPD and can advise on mental health calls on scene once BPD assures the situation is safe.

6. Current and former Boston police officers were found to be involved or actively supporting the January 6, 2021 insurrectionist attack on the federal government and attempt to overturn the 2020 election results, and white supremacist organizations have used police departments as recruiting grounds. What steps would you take to combat white supremacist affiliations or sympathies in BPD?

What happened on January 6th is unacceptable. If someone has committed a crime they should be held accountable under local, state, and federal laws. To combat white supremacist affiliations in BPD, I support the implementation of strengthened vetting for recruits to screen for extremist ties and conduct mandatory, ongoing anti-bias training for all officers. We need clear policies with strict enforcement prohibiting any affiliation with hate groups, fostering a culture where officers feel empowered to report extremism without fear of reprisal.

Finally, robust community oversight and strong, unequivocal leadership from the Police Commissioner are essential to maintain accountability and unequivocally reject such ideologies within the department.

7. Do you support the legalization of overdose prevention centers? YES / NO

YES.

I support the legalization of overdose prevention centers. While the Long Island project is underway, the city must implement immediate safety measures for those struggling with substance abuse. We need to invest in these safe sites as a critical component of a broader, regional approach to

combat this epidemic. Coming together across communities is essential to effectively address the complex issue of substance abuse and save lives.

8. How do you evaluate the City's response to the humanitarian situation at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard ("Mass & Cass")?

The humanitarian crisis at Mass & Cass is first and foremost a public health and mental health issue—not just a Boston issue, but a regional and national one. The City has taken important steps by working collaboratively with public health experts, the Boston Public Health Commission, service providers, and community members to address the complex needs at the intersection of addiction, homelessness, and mental illness. While progress has been made, more must be done to ensure long-term, compassionate, and trauma-informed solutions. I believe the focus should remain on expanding access to mental health care, substance use treatment, transitional housing, and wraparound services—while also coordinating with surrounding municipalities and the state to share responsibility and resources. This crisis demands ongoing leadership grounded in equity, public health, and human dignity.

9. What would be your priorities in reducing gun violence in the city?

I would continue to prioritize investing in the things we invest in now: jobs and programming for our young people, partnerships with our city partners and organizations in our communities, and the constant collaborations between them. Boston didn't become the safest city in the country overnight; it's been in the works for 40 years, and this is the formula that works.

(F) Environment & Transportation

1. What are your top three policy priorities for making Boston a climate-resilient city, and how would you ensure that equity is at the center of any such efforts?

My approach to building a greener, more sustainable Boston centers on three key areas. First, community education and engagement are paramount; we must educate residents on climate action through local campaigns and multilingual outreach, ensuring every neighborhood is empowered. Second, I'll prioritize equitable green infrastructure, focusing investments like tree planting and stormwater management in historically underserved communities most vulnerable to climate change. Finally, the transition to clean energy must also create good-paying jobs through expanded workforce

development programs in sectors like solar and energy efficiency, particularly for youth, immigrants, and communities of color, ensuring climate resilience builds economic opportunity for all.

2. What steps would you take to reduce dependence on cars and better facilitate the ability of Bostonians to *safely* get around by walking, biking, or public transit?

We need **neighborhood-based, people-centered transportation planning**. One-size-fits-all solutions don't work in a city as diverse as Boston. We must design for everyone—from drivers to cyclists, pedestrians, and parents with strollers, like myself. That means prioritizing (1) Safe, accessible sidewalks and bike lanes (2) Reliable, affordable, and expanded public transit inclusive planning that supports small businesses and local residents. **Equity must guide this work**. That includes ensuring **language access** at all public meetings and materials, and **holding meetings at nontraditional times** so working families, seniors, and others can participate. True transportation justice means listening to all voices and building a city that works for everyone, no matter where they live or how they get around.

3. Do you support the City of Boston's zoning code update requiring new buildings to achieve net zero carbon emissions standards upon opening? YES/ NO

YES.

4. Do you support expanding the fare-free bus pilots and making fare-free buses permanent in Boston? YES / NO

YES.

5. Do you support the expansion of the network of permanent, protected bike lanes in the city? YES / NO

We need **neighborhood-based, people-centered transportation planning**. One-size-fits-all solutions don't work in a city as diverse as Boston. We must design for everyone—from drivers to cyclists, pedestrians, and parents with strollers, like myself.

6. Do you support expanding the renewable energy content in the Boston Community Choice Electricity (BCCE) program? YES / NO

YES.

(G) Housing

1. How would you expand affordable housing in Boston and ensure development without displacement?

My plan for addressing Boston's housing challenges centers on four key areas. I will focus on strengthening tenant protections and preventing displacement by expanding rental assistance and fighting for deeper, broader inclusionary zoning policies. Simultaneously, I'll work to support responsible landlords and community-based development through financial incentives for those maintaining affordable units, streamlining permitting for affordable housing projects, and establishing landlord-tenant mediation programs. A major priority is expanding pathways to homeownership by increasing city funding for first-time homebuyer programs, advocating for Community Land Trusts, and providing resources for long-term homeowners facing hardship. Finally, I'll ensure investments in family-friendly neighborhoods by aligning zoning with affordable housing near schools, transit, and jobs, while supporting energy-efficient housing. As a City Councilor, I'd leverage the Council's authority to propose policies, hold hearings for transparency, and collaborate with all stakeholders to create a Boston where every generation can afford to stay and succeed.

2. What opportunities do you see for leveraging city-owned land for expanding affordable housing?

Leveraging city-owned land is crucial for expanding Boston's affordable housing. I'd prioritize selling parcels for 100% income-restricted developments and conduct strategic audits of all city-owned properties to identify suitable sites, including repurposing vacant commercial spaces. Facilitating transfers to Community Land Trusts and non-profits at nominal costs would ensure long-term affordability. We should also expedite permitting for these projects, provide technical assistance, and undertake master planning for larger sites with community input. Finally, actively leveraging state and federal funds in conjunction with city land is key to making more deeply affordable housing a reality.

3. Do you support the City of Boston's Home Rule Petition to establish a small transfer fee on real estate transactions over \$2 million? YES / NO If so, how do you plan to advocate for it at the State House?

YES.

I support Boston's Home Rule Petition for a small transfer fee on real estate transactions over \$2 million, viewing it as a vital, progressive tool for

affordable housing revenue. To advocate at the State House, I would engage in direct lobbying with key legislative leaders, presenting data on Boston's housing crisis and the fee's potential. I would also actively partner with a coalition of housing advocates, labor, and other municipal leaders, and participate in public education campaigns to counter misinformation. If needed, I join stakeholders in testimonial efforts to inform state leaders on the regional benefits of addressing Boston's housing challenges.

4. **Do you support rent stabilization, i.e., limiting the amount that landlords can increase rent for tenants year to year? YES/ NO Do you believe that the City of Boston's current Home Rule Petition goes far enough, doesn't go far enough, or goes too far—and why?**

YES.

The City of Boston must remain affordable for everyone from small landlords like my parents to renters and homeowners like myself. The current Home Rule Petition is a meaningful step, but I believe we can go further by strengthening tenant protections, closing loopholes, and ensuring that rent stabilization policies are balanced, enforceable, and responsive to the needs of both tenants and responsible property owners. Housing is a human right, and we must continue to innovate and adapt policies that keep our communities stable, diverse, and livable.

5. **Would you support a Tenant Opportunity to Purchase ordinance, enabling tenants to purchase a building if the owner seeks to put it on the market? YES/ NO**

YES.

I support a Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (TOPA) ordinance for Boston. TOPA is a critical tool to preserve affordable housing and prevent displacement by giving tenants the first right to purchase their building when it goes on the market. This empowers residents, fosters homeownership, and stabilizes communities. To advocate, I would help draft a robust ordinance, build connections with housing advocates, community groups, and other community stakeholders, and launch public education campaigns to inform all stakeholders. I'd also work to secure City Council support and, if necessary, lobby at the State House for its passage. Crucially, I'd help identify funding and technical assistance to ensure tenants have the resources to successfully utilize TOPA.

6. **Boston recently updated its inclusionary development policy (IDP) to raise the required number of income-restricted units in new developments to 20%. Do you support this policy? YES/ NO**

YES.

7. **Do you support requiring that a majority of new affordable units be built on-site, in order to ensure communities are diverse and integrated? YES/ NO**

YES.

8. **Would you support expanding the City's Condo Conversion ordinance to cover buildings with 2 or 3 units, ensuring that more tenants can access protections against displacement? YES/ NO**

YES.

9. **Massachusetts recently passed legislation to enable renters to get eviction records sealed. What steps would you take to ensure that renters know of this new right?**

To ensure Boston renters know about the new Massachusetts law enabling eviction record sealing, I would launch a massive, multi-lingual public awareness campaign using flyers, PSAs, and digital outreach through diverse community networks. I would organize direct outreach via housing clinics and workshops in neighborhoods, providing guidance and assistance. Additionally, I'd foster strong collaboration with legal aid groups, housing advocates, and court officials to ensure accurate information and support. Finally, educating property managers and, if legally permissible, conducting proactive outreach to potentially eligible renters would maximize the reach of this vital new right, helping more Bostonians secure stable housing.

10. **What specific steps would you take to expand access to supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, and those with mental health needs in our community?**

Expanding supportive housing in Boston for individuals experiencing homelessness, disabilities, and mental health needs requires a focused approach. I'd maximize funding by working with the Mayor's Office and other local elected colleagues to pursue all available state and federal grants, while also leveraging city funds and prioritizing city-owned land for these

developments, fostering public-private partnerships. To increase units, we must fast-track permitting, actively pursue adaptive reuse of vacant buildings, and explore master leasing existing properties. We need to enhance service provision by ensuring robust, integrated wraparound services are readily available, strengthening coordination among city departments and healthcare providers. Finally, targeted outreach and data-driven allocation through optimized coordinated entry systems would ensure that the most vulnerable residents are connected to the housing and support they desperately need.

11. Do you support the current Squares + Streets process? YES/ NO What is one change you would make to the current process?

YES.

I will work closely with stakeholders, community groups, and city administration to continue moving this process in the right direction. Civic engagement is what drives our city, and ensuring meaningful collaboration is key to successful, equitable outcomes. I would also support expanding culturally driven engagement efforts to ensure that everyone—regardless of language, background, or experience—has a meaningful seat at the table throughout the process.

12. Boston recently eliminated parking minimums for affordable housing developments. Would you support eliminating parking minimums for all residential developments? YES/ NO

YES.

13. The City of Boston is currently assessing possible reforms to the Article 80 process. What do you view as the appropriate role of community engagement in the development process, and how do you weigh community input against other factors when considering a development?

In Boston's Article 80 process, community engagement must be an integral, early, and ongoing component that genuinely shapes development, ensuring diverse voices are heard from the conceptual stage. When weighing community input against factors like economic development or housing needs, I consider it a fundamental pillar, not secondary. This input offers invaluable local context and identifies potential negative impacts. My goal is to achieve equitable solutions where development respects and enhances

existing neighborhoods, directly informing design modifications and mitigation strategies to ensure projects truly benefit the community.

(H) Democracy

1. How can Boston increase youth/college turnout in municipal elections?

Increasing youth and college turnout in Boston municipal elections requires a multi-faceted approach. We must lower barriers to voting by establishing on-campus polling locations, running robust year-round voter registration drives, and ensuring ample early voting and drop box access. It's crucial to make elections relevant by clearly demonstrating the direct impact of local decisions on issues young people care about, expanding programs, and facilitating direct engagement between candidates and youth. Finally, strategic communication and outreach are key, utilizing social media, partnering with campus and community organizations, and providing consistent reminders about deadlines and polling information to meet young voters where they are.

2. Do you support allowing 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote in municipal elections? YES/ NO

YES.

The same way we engage our youth in other city decision-making processes like the Mayor's Youth Council and youth budget initiatives we must also allow them to have a say in electing who represents them and shapes policies affecting their lives. I will also push for comprehensive civic education in all schools to ensure every young person is equipped with the knowledge and skills to participate fully in our democracy.

3. Would you support Charter Change to allow for Ranked Choice Voting in Boston? YES/ NO

YES.

4. Do you support making hybrid access to public meetings permanent? YES/ NO

YES.

5. **The current administration has been revoking student visas of international students for exercising rights protected under the First Amendment to criticize US foreign policy and specifically Israel's war on Gaza. But this attack is less a radical break from than an escalation of past tactics from politics of both parties and university administrations to criminalize dissent, especially around US policy on Israel. How will you *proactively oppose efforts to criminalize dissent and protect the civil liberties of all residents?***

The criminalization of dissent is unacceptable. As a City Councilor, I would proactively defend civil liberties by championing First Amendment rights for all residents, condemning any suppression of peaceful protest. I'd work to strengthen Boston's local policies on protest management and surveillance, ensuring police prioritize de-escalation and protect constitutional rights. Additionally, I would connect impacted communities with legal aid and support services, helping those facing visa revocations or other penalties due to their activism. I'd also educate residents on their rights, and leverage my platform to advocate at state and federal levels against overreach, building strong coalitions to protect civil liberties in Boston and beyond.

6. **The Trump Administration has used the threat of withholding funding to universities to demand, among other policies, a ban on masking which has been used by students to obscure their identities during protests against the genocide in Gaza in response to doxxing, harrassment, and now, the threat of deportation. A municipal "Right to Mask" ordinance would remove this decision from universities. Will you support a Right to Mask ordinance to protect students from doxing for participating in peaceful protests? YES/ NO**

YES.

(I) Inclusive Boston

1. **Name three accomplishments you've been able to achieve to advance racial justice or equity.**
- a. **Establishing the City's First Cultural Affairs Office** - I supported the creation of Boston's first-ever Cultural Affairs Office, which has appointed cultural advisors representing over five distinct cultural communities. This initiative ensures that city policies and programs are informed by the lived experiences and voices of Boston's diverse

populations, helping to embed cultural equity into municipal decision-making.

- b. **Launching Free Menstrual Product Access and Education** - As a leader in the Office of Women's Advancement, I spearheaded the launch of a program to provide free menstrual products in all Boston Public Libraries and select city public buildings. What began as a pilot in 2023 is now a citywide reality. Alongside product access, we introduced educational workshops to ensure all who menstruate—regardless of background—have the resources and information they need, helping to address health equity and dignity for all.
- c. **Expanding the Childcare Entrepreneur Fund** - During the pandemic, under my leadership, the Office of Women's Advancement provided funding to every licensed childcare provider in the City of Boston. We also expanded the Childcare Entrepreneur Fund to support women—particularly women of color—who are at the forefront of care work. This investment not only stabilized a critical sector during a crisis but also promoted economic equity for women and communities of color.

2. The Trump administration has previously used the threat of withholding federal funding to pressure cities into complying with federal policies that may be contrary to the values of progressive governance—such as sanctuary city policies, protections for LGBTQ+ residents, DEI policies, or environmental regulations. If faced with such a scenario, how would you respond? Specifically, what strategies would you employ to resist federal overreach while protecting critical services and funding for residents?

As an immigrant who came to this country at age 10, this issue is deeply personal. I will always stand firm in defending our city's values protecting immigrants, LGBTQ+ residents, and our DEI and environmental commitments. If faced with threats to federal funding, I would pursue legal action, build coalitions with other cities, and work to reduce reliance on vulnerable federal dollars. I believe in leading with courage and ensuring Boston remains a safe, inclusive, and resilient city for all.

3. Will you fight to ensure that shelters in Boston do not preemptively comply with any trans-exclusive federal directives? YES/ NO

YES.

4. What steps would you propose to reduce Boston's income and wealth inequality, especially the racial wealth gap?

Reducing Boston's income and racial wealth gap requires a systemic approach. I'd significantly advocate to expand access to homeownership through TOPA, Community Land Trusts, and enhanced down payment assistance, while combating discriminatory practices. I believe we must support and grow Black and Brown-owned businesses by improving access to capital, streamlining permitting, and aggressively increasing city procurement contracts. I'd also advocate for investments in education and workforce development, creating direct pathways into high-growth, high-wage sectors for all residents. Also, pursuing progressive revenue generation like the real estate transfer fee and strengthening PILOTs, alongside expanding financial inclusion and literacy programs, would contribute to building more equitable wealth in our city. As the former Executive Director of the city's Women's Advancement Office, I'm proud that under my leadership, we hosted numerous wage negotiation workshops across Boston. These workshops directly equipped women in our community with crucial skills to help reduce wealth inequalities.

5. What steps can the Council take to achieve greater diversity in City contracting?

To achieve greater diversity in Boston's city contracting, the Council must strengthen and enforce M/WBE participation goals with real accountability for non-compliant prime contractors. We need to break down large contracts into smaller, more accessible bids and expand sheltered market programs. It's crucial to enhance capacity building and technical assistance for M/WBEs and streamline the certification and procurement processes. Finally, the Council must mandate increased transparency and data reporting on contract awards, actively engaging with and conducting outreach to diverse businesses to truly close economic equity gaps in city contracting.

6. Will you support legislation to protect residents from the discriminatory use of algorithms and AI? YES/ NO

YES.

(J) Additional Comments

(Use this space to make any final comments you deem important for progressive voters assessing your candidacy.)