



2025 Boston City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Progressive Mass's Boston chapters collaborated on a joint questionnaire. Whether we have a chapter in a given district or not, we hope these questionnaires are informative for all voters. Remember: Once elected, all councilors, even district councilors, work on committees and policies that impact all of us city-wide.

~ Jamaica Plain Progressives ~ Progressive West Roxbury/Roslindale ~
~ Allston-Brighton Progressives ~

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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. Preventing Displacement and Expanding Affordable Housing: I'm committed to keeping families in their neighborhoods by fighting for rent stabilization, stopping forced paid broker fees, expanding tenant protections, and leveraging city land for deeply affordable housing.

b. Investing in Public Education: I will continue pushing for full and fair funding for BPS, modernizing school facilities, expanding mental health supports and resources for students, and fighting for a fully elected and accountable school committee.

c. Fixing Our Infrastructure Through an Equity Lens: From broken sidewalks to aging schools and stormwater systems, our infrastructure needs urgent investment. I'll advocate for a budget that centers equity—prioritizing long-neglected neighborhoods and ensuring that public dollars reflect community needs.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

I am deeply committed to public service and to the continued betterment of our city. I was raised by its very systems — public schools, public housing, and public transportation. As the son of Dominican immigrants and the former Director of the Office of Neighborhood Services, I've fought for renters' rights, stronger schools, and a safer city grounded in community trust. I've also held several roles focused on advancing transportation policy and improving mobility for all residents. At a time of national uncertainty, I'm driven by a desire to restore trust in government and ensure it works for the people it serves.

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

The City Council has a responsibility to legislate boldly, advocate for meaningful oversight, and elevate the voices of our communities. In a strong-mayor system, it must fully exercise its budgetary, investigative, and land-use authority to advance equity and accountability. That includes holding not only the Mayor but her entire administration accountable, while also working collaboratively to shape policies and make the budget investments needed to strengthen and enhance our city.

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

One policy I'd love to see Boston adopt—modeled after New York City—is the elimination of forced, upfront broker fees for renters. In a housing market as competitive and expensive as ours, these fees create unnecessary barriers, especially for working families and low-income residents. That's why I've teamed up with Councilor Willie Burnley Jr. of Somerville and Councilor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler of Cambridge to draft a home rule petition that would

allow municipalities across Massachusetts to ban this practice. I was proud to be the lead sponsor of that legislation here in Boston, and we've sent it to the State House with the hope of advancing a statewide solution. Housing should be accessible—not tied to arbitrary fees that put more strain on renters.

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

(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?**

My office is committed to proactive engagement with every part of our district. We launched Field Friday—a weekly effort to visit different neighborhoods, hear concerns, and connect with residents directly. We hold office hours inside public housing and recently sponsored an evening hearing in Hyde Park to make civic engagement more accessible. Our multilingual staff helps us connect with communities that often feel left out of government, ensuring everyone has a voice in policymaking.

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.**

Youth engagement is a core priority for my office. In our first year on the Council, we launched the District 5 Youth Council, bringing together young people from all three neighborhoods each month to discuss policy ideas and community needs. We've visited every school in the district and met with student council members—one of whom helped shape our hearing order on Safe School Zones. We also host at least four interns each year, including high school students from Boston, to give them firsthand experience in local government. Most recently, we gave a 10-year-old the chance to serve as 'City Councilor for the Day,' helping demystify civic leadership at an early age. We're committed to building a pipeline of youth who are informed, engaged, and empowered.

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

One aspect of Boston's community process that needs improvement is the ISD and licensing permitting process. It's often inaccessible, especially for residents who aren't familiar with city systems. We need multilingual, accessible notifications and earlier, mandatory community engagement in the development review process. I've seen firsthand how applicants—especially small business owners or first-time developers—struggle to navigate the system, losing valuable time, resources, and in some cases, the opportunity altogether. A more transparent and supportive process would lead to stronger, more equitable community outcomes.

(C) Budget & Revenue

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

As Vice Chair of Ways and Means, I have a front-row seat to how proposed federal budget cuts could seriously impact Boston's budget. That's why it's critical we approach our amendment process with strategic, equity-focused planning. For example, we've already seen a major reduction in the Boston Housing Voucher program. In response, my colleagues and I are pushing for increased city investment in that line item to ensure residents remain protected, even as federal funding becomes less reliable. Preparing for these shifts means strengthening our local safety net and being proactive with our budget choices.

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.**

\$20–40 million. Participatory budgeting empowers residents and builds trust—especially in historically excluded neighborhoods.

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?**

I support codifying a stronger PILOT system that includes community advisory boards, transparency in benefit reporting, and accountability for institutions

that don't meet their commitments. PILOT can be another source of revenue that the city can depend on as we experience proposed federal budget cuts.

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?**

Real estate transfer fees, digital advertising taxes, payment-in-lieu-of-taxes enforcement, and closing corporate tax loopholes are all viable strategies.

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?**

I support divesting from companies involved in fossil fuels, weapons manufacturing, and human rights violations, and creating a public-facing disclosure platform for city contracts.

(D) Education

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

Close the opportunity gap, increase school-based mental health staff, and accelerate facilities upgrades through equitable capital planning.

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

YES.

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.

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?**

YES.

I support a fully elected body with regional representation to ensure equity and accountability.

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

I would like to see Boston adopt the Oakland Unified School District's (OUSD) comprehensive restorative justice (RJ) program. OUSD's RJ initiative employs a three-tiered, whole-school approach: Tier 1 focuses on community building through classroom circles; Tier 2 addresses harm and conflict via restorative conversations and harm circles; and Tier 3 supports students re-entering school after suspensions or other absences through individualized support circles.

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

I support equitable public use of White Stadium, expanded investment in local athletics, and ensuring community control over redevelopment outcomes. Boston Public School student athletes deserve a state of the art facility where they can feel proud and have appreciation for, which is why I voted in support of this project.

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.

(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 support expanding the ordinance to limit ICE data sharing, prohibit police from asking immigration status, and fund immigrant legal defense.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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**

YES.

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?**

Enforce stronger background checks, require bias training, and establish independent civilian oversight of police affiliations. I also believe that we need to ensure that future police officers that are entering the Police Academy are officers that represent the values of the city and demographically represent our diverse community.

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

YES.

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 city’s response lacked coordination and compassion. We must prioritize housing-first approaches, wraparound services, and center harm reduction—not encampment sweeps.

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

Reducing gun violence in Boston requires more than policing—it demands a comprehensive investment in prevention, healing, and opportunity. My priorities include expanding street outreach and violence interruption programs, like those led by BPEACE and the Boston Public Health Commission, which have proven effective in de-escalating conflicts before they turn deadly. We must also strengthen data transparency and inter-agency coordination to track trends, respond swiftly to community needs, and hold systems accountable. Just as important, we need to take proactive steps by providing our youth with mentorship opportunities, clear pathways to employment, and robust afterschool programming. Preventing violence means investing in the futures of our young people.

(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?**

To build a climate-resilient Boston, equity must be at the core of every policy decision. My top three priorities are:

1. Green Infrastructure Investment: Expand tree canopy, green roofs, and flood mitigation in vulnerable neighborhoods like Mattapan, Hyde Park, and Roslindale.

2. Climate-Proof Affordable Housing: Retrofit public and affordable housing to withstand extreme weather, with a focus on preventing displacement.

3. Clean and Accessible Transit: Supporting any State Legislation that prioritizes electric buses and commuter rail (happening on the Fairmount Line), bus lanes, and better service in communities most dependent on public transportation.

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?**

I support dedicated bus lanes, fare-free transit, sidewalk repair funding, and protected bike lane networks—especially in underserved communities.

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**

YES.

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?**

I support rent stabilization, city-led development on public land, expanded IDP requirements, and eviction defense for tenants. I also supported the Boston Acquisition Fund, which is a city-backed revolving loan program that provides low-interest financing to mission-driven developers to acquire and preserve occupied multi-family housing as permanently affordable, helping prevent displacement in Boston's neighborhoods.

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

City-owned land is a powerful tool to expand deeply affordable housing by prioritizing it for nonprofit and community-led development. We can and

should use public land to create long-term, income-restricted housing—especially in neighborhoods facing displacement—while ensuring transparency and community input in the process.

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’ve testified in support and will continue lobbying Beacon Hill for passage.

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 current Home Rule Petition is a strong start, but I support even broader protections tied to inflation and building age.

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.

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?**

Fund multilingual outreach, coordinate with housing justice groups, and train housing court navigators.

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?**

Expand public-private partnerships, prioritize wraparound services, and establish a housing navigator program citywide.

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

YES.

But it must include affordability mandates and anti-displacement zoning overlays.

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?**

Community input must shape development. I support binding community benefit agreements and transparency in developer negotiations.

(H) Democracy**1. How can Boston increase youth/college turnout in municipal elections?**

Civic education in schools, partnerships with youth orgs, peer-led GOTV drives, and early voting sites at schools and colleges.

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

YES.

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?*

As a City Councilor, I believe defending civil liberties—especially freedom of speech, protest, and political expression—is essential to a functioning democracy. I would support legislation to prevent Boston city institutions, including universities, from cooperating with federal efforts that suppress protected speech. I will push for a Boston Students' Bill of Rights to guarantee that students, regardless of immigration status, can organize without fear of retaliation or surveillance. I also support local ordinances that prohibit city agencies from sharing data with federal immigration enforcement or retaliating against political expression, particularly regarding advocacy on U.S. foreign policy. Peaceful dissent must be protected, not punished.

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.**

Passed the Haitian Creole Language Access Resolution; secured funding for youth mental health; authored a resolution supporting permanent protections for DACA recipients.

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?**

I will push sanctuary protections into city code, coordinate with the Mass AG's office on legal resistance, and build public pressure through coalition organizing.

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?**

Support baby bonds, universal college savings accounts, homeownership programs for first-generation buyers, and wage transparency mandates.

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

Establish supplier diversity requirements, fund capacity-building for BIPOC-owned businesses, and enforce equity in procurement scoring.

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.)

I'm running for re-election because our neighborhoods deserve a leader who listens, shows up, and delivers. I was raised in Boston by immigrant parents who taught me the value of community, hard work, and speaking up for those who are too often ignored. That's the energy I bring to City Hall—and it's the foundation of everything we've accomplished together.

From fighting displacement and language injustice to standing up for youth, renters, and public school families, I've made it my mission to govern in partnership with the people. I've passed meaningful legislation, responded to thousands of constituent cases, and never stopped organizing—even while in office. But we have more to do. Together, we can build a Boston that is equitable, affordable, and unafraid to lead with bold, progressive values. I'm grateful for your consideration—and for your continued work to hold all of us accountable.