



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. Housing Affordability and Access
 - b. Immigrant Stability and Services
 - c. Youth Development, Empowerment and Education

2. **What qualifies you to hold this office?**

Having already served as City Councilor At-Large I have learned so much in my

time in this role. Being able to continue to serve, I'd be able to continue the work using the existing infrastructure of my team and relationships I've already formed throughout city hall. Furthermore, having grown up in Boston and used a multitude of public services throughout my time to elevate myself, I'm acutely aware of both the needs and struggles of Bostonians.

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

City Council serves as a check on the executive powers of the Mayor's Office, but also as a collaborative force that can uplift priorities for more attention and resources. The City Council represents the voice of the people; my job as a Councilor is to ensure that, every day, the people of Boston come into City Hall with me.

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

My mission to reduce rents and ensure everyone is able to find housing that is affordable in their own communities led me to research the impact of Austin's Strategic Housing Blueprint. Rents in Austin [have dropped 22%](#) since the increase of almost 25% during the pandemic. This has been done in large part due to sweeping reforms, all centered around increasing the housing supply. Boston would greatly benefit from shifting our priorities to building more housing, and I will be continuously vocal and active in making that a reality for Boston.

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

As a small grassroots campaign of just one campaign manager and a compliance contractor, we don't apply filters to campaign donations, but as someone who came up through public housing and local youth programming, I know that the people I talk to the most, who influence me the most, are people without significant means to contribute to campaigns.

(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?**

Building diverse coalitions is something that I've always strived to do. Throughout not only my term as councilor but my work prior to public service, engaging with people who live differently than I has made me a better and more thoughtful leader. From my work with VietAID to FUNDOARCU I'm proud to say I am an advocate for all immigrants in our community and recognize the importance of diversity across our city.

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.**

As the Chair of the education committee, I have centered much of my work in office on being the voice for our youth. As a featured speaker at the Mayor's youth summit and my work to ensure youth have continually been involved at all levels of the work I do in City Hall, I understand firsthand the power and importance of youth engagement. I've formed a unique citywide youth council in "Santana's Youth", who meet with me regularly and really focus on a wide array of city issues that matter to them as young people. When I was in 8th grade, I was inspired to run for City Council by a visit my BPS Tobin class made to Council President Mike Ross's office, so I'm trying to pay that tradition forward. I know that some of our "Santana's Youth" participants are going to run for office someday too!

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

I appreciate the additional staff capacity that has been given to participatory budgeting, but I still think that it will only reach its true transformative potential as a tool for a direct popular voice in our budget when the total amount allocated is larger and the process has a more robust community power-building dimension, including perhaps Citizen's Assemblies like those convened in other jurisdictions. I actively advocated for more funding for participatory budgeting in the budget amendment process this week.

(C) Budget & Revenue

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

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee I've seen firsthand the impact that lost federal funding may have on the city, from housing to programs for seniors to public safety to our public schools. These losses and potential losses make it all the more important that we re-affirm our values by where we are putting our money. As we've been putting together the FY2026 budget, prioritizing public safety, education, and infrastructure has been top of mind for me. I am also mindful of how as a City Councilor I can use my position to speak out against the dangerous ways that federal cuts are hurting our communities. That's why last month, I spotlighted my own mother's ongoing battle with cancer in the context of a resolution against the federal administration's deeply dangerous cuts to cancer research.

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.**

As mentioned above, I have fought for more funding for participatory budgeting, and will continue to do so. While we are unlikely to be able to raise it to \$40 million in a single budget cycle, because of how each City budget builds on the prior year's, I think we should absolutely be aiming to reach that scale of roughly 1% over time.

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?**

The PILOT program needs reform. Institutions throughout the city continue to extract value out of our communities, tax-free and too often without considering the well-being of local residents as another important measure of their missions. Further oversight and legislative changes need to occur in order to ensure our communities benefit as much from the institutions as the benefit from our communities. PILOT payments are about equity. As a member of the PILOT oversight committee on City Council, I have continually pushed for further accountability and enforcement. While I know that the federal environment is putting our universities and hospitals in an uncertain position, I still plan to continue fighting for a more just PILOT program.

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.

I have voted repeatedly for this tax relief for our low-income homeowner seniors, and I was disappointed that the state legislature did not allow us to take this action last year.

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

The best way to empower the City of Boston on behalf of all our residents would be to change the home rule petition system so that we had more direct revenue-raising authority in our jurisdiction, rather than having to watch proposals like the real estate transfer fee die at the State House. That said, I still support the real estate transfer fee, and PILOT reform through state legislation. I also believe that we may want to look at taxes on the introduction of autonomous robotic technologies that replace workers, such as any introduction of autonomous vehicles, since the social costs of people losing the dignity of work will be felt by the City's social programs.

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?**

One way I have tried to make sure our values drive City investment is by successfully pushing for the funding of a \$110 million Housing Accelerator Fund, which will invest in mixed-income housing projects, rental and homeownership, that are inclusive and built to high standards. I think we should do more social investment in social housing and other social enterprises.

(D) Education

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

- Improving aging facilities, ensuring every student has a safe and healthy learning environment.

- Investing in strong bilingual education programs that give students an opportunity to learn greater fluency and literacy in their native language at the same time as they learn English.
- Increasing housing resources for our BPS students and families; BHA and BPS partnered to house 1500 BPS families using federal vouchers, but those vouchers are now under threat, which is one of the reasons I think we need to grow the city-funded voucher program.

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

YES.

I believe our resources should be directed toward building an excellent Boston Public Schools system that provides a high-quality, inclusive education for every child. While I recognize that charter schools were originally established to offer innovative models, I do not support further expansion. Instead, our focus must be on strengthening BPS, improving our facilities, supporting our educators, and expanding services for students with special needs and English language learners.

A strong, well-resourced BPS is the foundation of educational justice in Boston. Every student regardless of background, zip code, or learning needs deserves the opportunity to thrive in a public school system that reflects our city's values and commitment to equity. That's where our efforts and investments should be directed.

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 strongly support an elected school committee. Given the need to reach

agreement on any home rule petition, however, I am also open to a hybrid model with half elected, half appointed members. As Chair of the Boston City Council's Education Committee, I recognize that the Boston City Council also has an important role to play in oversight of BPS, and I think that is one key piece of democratic accountability for the school system under the current framework.

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

One policy I'd like to see implemented in Boston is modeled after the Dual Language and Biliteracy Pathways initiative in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). LAUSD has significantly expanded bilingual education through programs that support both English learners and native English speakers in becoming bilingual and biliterate.

Their policy includes strong support for dual-language immersion from early grades, culturally relevant curriculum, and clear pathways to a Seal of Biliteracy by high school graduation. I believe Boston should invest more deeply in bilingual education—not just as a support for immigrant and English learner students, but as a long-term academic and cultural asset for all students. As a former English learner myself, I know firsthand how important it is to be supported, not stigmatized, in your language development.

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

I'm a strong supporter of the White Stadium redevelopment project. As someone who lives nearby, I understand both the transformative potential of this investment and the importance of getting it right for the community. This project presents a major opportunity to revitalize youth sports in Boston—a priority I've consistently championed—and to provide our students with access to high-quality athletic facilities that reflect their talent and ambition.

At the same time, I recognize that some residents have concerns, particularly around traffic, accessibility, and the long-term impact on Franklin Park. These concerns are valid and must be addressed transparently. I believe we can move forward with a redevelopment plan that centers youth, improves the surrounding community experience, and builds in accountability to ensure local voices are heard throughout the process.

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?**

Community education is extremely important. I've led Know Your Rights training to ensure our most vulnerable community members are protected and armed with knowledge. Our students need to feel safe to attend school and learn without fear, which is very difficult at this moment for any immigrant in America.

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?

I believe there must be zero tolerance for white supremacist affiliations or sympathies within the Boston Police Department. These beliefs make all of Boston less safe—especially for communities already targeted by bias and over-policing. In light of the recent Civil Service Commission decision that limited the City's ability to discipline an officer involved in the January 6 insurrection, it's clear that we need to strengthen BPD's internal rules. Specifically, the department should explicitly state that even constitutionally protected speech—when it expresses bias against protected classes—can constitute conduct unbecoming of an officer, given the critical public interest in ensuring unbiased and equitable policing.

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 has taken important steps at Mass & Cass, but the situation continues to demand more immediate, comprehensive, and collaborative action. While efforts have been made to improve coordination and expand services, we must do more to ensure our response is humane, sustainable, and rooted in public health.

Through ongoing community meetings and collaboration with colleagues, service providers, and residents, I remain committed to re-evaluating strategies and pursuing innovative solutions. We need stronger coordination across city, state, and federal agencies, and we must center the dignity and humanity of people experiencing homelessness, addiction, and mental health challenges in every step we take. I am proud that the City has taken a housing-first approach to many of those in greatest need at Mass & Cass, and I believe surrounding communities like Quincy need to help us with this regional crisis, rather than blocking our efforts.

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

My top priority in reducing gun violence is investing in youth and community-based prevention. I believe the safest neighborhoods are the ones

with the most opportunity. That means fully funding youth jobs, mentorship programs, mental health services, and violence intervention initiatives that are led by trusted community organizations.

I also support stronger coordination between the City, schools, public health agencies, and grassroots leaders to interrupt cycles of violence before they escalate. Reducing gun violence isn't just about policing—it's about creating pathways to stability, healing, and hope, especially for 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?

The work I've done with community leaders and advocates—including groups like the Boston Climate Action Network—has continually strengthened my commitment to building a more equitable and climate-resilient Boston. Climate justice is community organizing that goes hand in hand with my pursuit of a better Boston.

In my second term, I plan on doubling down on my commitment to climate justice and climate resilience. My top three policy priorities are:

1. Expanding green infrastructure in frontline neighborhoods most vulnerable to flooding and heat, including tree canopy restoration, stormwater management, and cooling centers.
2. Investing in building decarbonization and energy efficiency, especially in public housing and affordable housing developments, to lower emissions and energy costs for low-income residents.
3. Supporting a just transition for workers and communities by expanding green jobs pipelines, training programs, and community-led climate planning.

Equity must be embedded in every climate solution—by funding frontline communities first, amplifying resident voices, and ensuring those most impacted by the climate crisis are at the center of leading change.

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?

Continually investing in public transportation is the number one way to reduce car dependence. I strongly support continuing to grow the voices of local Boston riders when it comes to investment in the MBTA, so that those who rely on trains and buses and the Ride have their needs met. I also believe that a city that is safer for our littlest and oldest pedestrians, our kids and our seniors, is safer for everyone. We have seen too many tragedies and I strongly support a Vision Zero approach to pedestrian safety, even when it means slowing our cars down on neighborhood streets.

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.

But I think we can increase community participation to make sure all stakeholders understand why lanes are going in specific places, and to ensure that all community uses of our streets are being recognized in the planning process.

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 view mixed income social housing as the best way to tackle the housing crisis. Safe, affordable housing is a right, not a privilege. I'm committed to relentlessly using every possible tool to ensure housing is accessible for every Boston resident. The \$110 million Housing Accelerator Fund, which I've

mentioned elsewhere in this questionnaire, is my biggest housing policy accomplishment from my first term. I'll also continue the pursuit of protecting housing voucher-holders. Too many landlords are still shamefully refusing to rent to individuals and families simply because they rely on this critical assistance. This is unacceptable, unjust, and it has to stop. That's why my first legislative filing was to investigate the full extent of this discrimination and to develop concrete strategies to eradicate it. We need to hold landlords accountable and ensure that everyone, regardless of how they pay, has an equal opportunity to find a safe and affordable home in the neighborhood of their choice.

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

I've co-sponsored a hearing that explored converting vacant schools and other city-owned buildings into affordable homes. With the shift in the rental market, specifically with the growing amount of vacant office space, these underutilized spaces also offer a powerful opportunity to create much-needed housing without starting from scratch, building stronger neighborhoods that can support vibrant mixed-use districts. I've been a strong supporter of the projects to add housing above several local branch libraries, and building housing on city-owned lots like the ones next to Boston Water & Sewer in Roxbury, at Austin St in Charlestown, and in Chinatown.

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.

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.

A stronger commitment needs to be made to renters across the city to protect them in our current punishing rental market. With vacancy rates so low, too often renters are strapped with expensive and often exploitative fees upfront, with no other way to rent. I'm fighting to eliminate these unnecessary fees and have co-sponsored legislation to make renting more

accessible and fair for everyone. I am proud to be a local elected official who rents myself, and so as a renter I experience firsthand how incredibly difficult it is to live stably in Boston right now if you don't already own a home.

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?**

Education campaigns are extremely important, and I will commit my office to spreading the word in a multilingual way to all renters. I am very grateful to State Senator Lydia Edwards for championing this change. I will also look into whether there is some way that the City could send letters to renters eligible for sealing – since those lists are public, we may be able to do very targeted outreach that will help specific families get the second chance they need.

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?**

Serving as a member of the Public Health, Homelessness, and Recovery committee has both given me the opportunity to both learn more about the struggles faced by the homeless people in our community and empowered me to address their needs head on. In particular, I've recognized that supportive housing often requires the steady financial support of project-based vouchers, which is why I have pushed to increase the supply of city vouchers in the budget this year, especially as federal vouchers are under attack. For vulnerable populations, our assistance can't stop at housing – it has to include ongoing funding for services as well. I am so grateful for the incredible partners like Pine Street Inn and St Francis House who lead this work.

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

YES.

As a citywide Councilor, I support the Squares + Streets process and believe in the importance of creating consistent citywide policies. However, this work must also be grounded in a neighborhood-by-neighborhood approach, which we're actively pursuing. One key improvement would be ensuring that small businesses are more intentionally included in the process. We need to be more proactive in how we engage them early and meaningfully, as they are essential to the success and character of our commercial corridors.

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?**

Given the housing supply crisis happening in Boston, increasing our housing stock has to be a priority when trying to lower the cost of housing, as it has been in Austin. So my focus for the reforms to the Article 80 process is in making sure that we can help speed up affordable and mixed-income residential projects, while still making appropriate space for community participation and input. This looks like fast-tracking projects that align with broader city goals, such as increased affordable housing, and instituting as-of-right zoning reforms when there is community consensus that a certain density makes sense. For instance, it shouldn't require a variance to build a three-decker in a neighborhood full of three-deckers. I'm also strongly supportive of the work to make it easier to build ADUs. When I think about the type of input that is essential to maintain in the Article 80 process, however, I'm particularly focused on threats of displacement, whether of local small businesses or residents. We need development without displacement, or else we are taking one step forward but two steps back.

(H) Democracy

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

Educating and engaging with any group of voters is the best way to increase turn out. Reach youth where they are, specifically through online initiatives such target ad campaigns and incentivized voter registration drives, along with on-campus initiatives that target the many students in Boston. This will all have the added effect of making young people know that they are part of the broader constituency and their opinions and vote matter to us as local elected officials. I have also found that my youth itself is inspiring to other young people, and helps get them engaged in politics.

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.

I voted for this in the city council.

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?***

When the student encampments first began in Boston, I put out a statement. Emerson students took a stand for what they believed to be right. I believe now, as I said then, the right to protest is sacred. Boston is a city born out of revolutionary ideas and bold progressive thoughts. So long as the Federal Administration makes free speech and the right to dissent an issue, I will continue to fight for it.

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**

I strongly support students' right to protest peacefully and protect themselves from doxxing, harassment, or retaliation. That said, I have concerns about how federal ICE agents and other law enforcement entities have recently used face coverings to conceal their identities while engaging in surveillance and enforcement. I'd need more conversation and clarity on how a Right to Mask ordinance could be structured to protect civil liberties without enabling harmful actors.

(I) Inclusive Boston

1. **Name three accomplishments you've been able to achieve to advance racial justice or equity.**

I was proud to lead the resolution to recognize June as Immigrant Heritage month. This wasn't just symbolic but a loud and public affirmation that Boston is shaped by immigrants. I also co-sponsored the resolution to fund the Boston Public Schools Parent Mentor Program. The intent of the program is to build trust between schools and families, ensuring families feel involved with their students as they progress through BPS. Specifically, we need to proactively connect parents of color to our schools, in pursuit of addressing longstanding disparities we see in educational access and outcomes for many students of color. I also had the privilege to co-sponsor a resolution to recognize Pride Month, and to oppose the federal threats and actions to defund cancer research, both critical to equity. Given our stark disparities in health outcomes, specifically for black women and queer youth alike, it is more important than ever to continue fighting for these groups to have equal access to what they deserve.

- 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?**

My commitment to protecting federal funding runs deep. Earlier this spring I presented in front of the City Council, in collaboration with a great group of local advocates, on the previously-mentioned resolution that I filed to urge the reversal of any federal funding cuts to life-saving research. The council later voted in favor and that resolution is being sent to our congressional delegation. I plan to continue fighting for this cause; it gives my own family, and so many other Boston families, hope in our fight against cancer. Boston is home to the best schools, colleges, universities and hospitals in the world, producing research that saves lives around the world, and it's important we fight to keep it that way. But we cannot protect those funds or any of the other federal funds coming directly to the City by giving in to the demands of this Administration to treat some of our residents as less than others, or to make our immigrant residents live in fear. I think that when we stand together, we are strong, and we can win important battles in court, as the City already has. As we've seen, institutions that give in to the Trump Administration just get asked to give in more. I am proud to stand up for Boston's values every day, and I know that Bostonians from all walks of life also share that fierce pride in how we live our values together.

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?**

Throughout my time on city council I have continually been a housing advocate. Housing – whether through homeownership or affordable rent that enables other savings to build up – is the number one way to build wealth in the United States. That being said, many people of color are not given the same access or opportunities to purchase housing here in Boston, due to structural impediments that have built up over generations. This is why I've been especially supportive of sending ARPA dollars to the BHA's First Home initiative, so that public housing and voucher holder families can have that transformative chance to buy. I supported a budget package with additional Council amendments to help first-time homebuyers, and I think we have to find ways to continue the enormous amount of work the City has been doing in the last few years to make homeownership more accessible – including building new starter homes on city-owned scattered lots – even as the ARPA resources dry up. This will require the partnership of philanthropic partners as well, something we've already seen be successful in the Acquisition Opportunity Program.

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

I'm proud that, since the disparity study and sheltered market programs were implemented, the City has made significant strides on diversity in discretionary contracting, more than doubling the amount for MBEs just while I've been in office, for example, from \$46m in FY23 to \$103m in FY24. But there is still more work to do, and that is why I think it's very important for the Council to stay attuned to the results shown by the Equity in City Contracting [data dashboard](#), and to drill down into questions about which specific sectors of spending are still lagging behind the disparity study. We also need to continue to streamline the contracting process overall, a process which has improved with OEI's [supplier portal](#). Outreach is also essential; I will continue to work with immigrant small businesses, in particular, to make sure they know about every opportunity available. I am very aware that this is an area

where we can expect the federal government to take us backwards in the coming years, so the City needs to keep pushing forwards.

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.)