



2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

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(A) Your Candidacy

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

There are three areas of growth I would like to address if elected: awareness of constituent resources, a stronger understanding of budgetary measures, and increased face-to-face opportunities with elected officials.

A resident's first stop should be the city's website or City Hall to find out about what's happening in their neighborhood. That starts with local elected officials providing updated information about city and ward-specific civic groups, committees, and meetings. As Councillor at Large, I will advocate for residents by coordinating with other councillors and city offices to keep information updated and visible. Our city boasts a wealth of resources, and I want more residents to take advantage of them. When people seek information and are met with radio silence or additional barriers, it can be very discouraging to keep trying. I will collaborate with our Office of Constituent Services and our Community Liaison to optimize awareness of city resources.

I will employ a solution-focused approach to engaging in discourse with colleagues around legislation and expenditures. Residents must be presented with clear information around the budget to help them understand which line items are decided upon by the Council and which ones are solely under the Mayor's jurisdiction. Throughout this campaign, I have learned more about

how our city government works, and I want to pass this information along to residents so that they feel empowered, not disenfranchised.

I will host monthly coffee talks or office hours, rotating wards and meeting times to provide equitable access for residents to meet with me. I will offer alternate times to meet if a resident or group is unable to speak during a public hearing at a council meeting. I will make adjustments to the schedule as necessary to optimize participation. In addition to collaborating with our team of council colleagues, I will work to ensure your concerns are directed to the appropriate person or office if I cannot assist directly. Lastly, I will offer to co-host project-specific meetings to support Ward Councillors as they help residents access information related to pending zone and/or planning hearings.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

The addition of newer voices like mine will elevate the council. My lived experience as a transplant, former educator, renter, woman, and person of color provides a unique combination of fresh and relatable perspectives that will enhance the discourse within the council and will contribute to an increase in civic engagement. Throughout my teaching career, I belonged to my district-specific education associations, the Massachusetts Teachers Association, and served as a union representative. I currently belong to the Service Employees International Union. I am a skilled and detailed creative problem-solver thanks to my experience as a music educator. Through teaching, I saw firsthand the positive impact of appropriately allocated taxpayer funds. I will take the budgetary responsibilities of this role very seriously and will vote with constituent feedback and measured outcomes in mind. I value direct, clear communication, believe that our residents feel similarly, and will meet people where they are to ensure they feel heard.

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

New Britain, Connecticut, adopted a policy called "Every Day Matters", a multi-pronged, city-wide campaign to allay absenteeism in the local schools. Between approaches initiated by comms teams, incentives provided by local partners, a task force led by the Mayor, real-time absentee tracking using school-city dashboards, and home visits, the absentee rate decreased ten percent within three years. The initiative focused on community responsibility rather than blame, which reframed the narrative as a civic priority.

(B) Open-Ended Policy Questions

- 1. Given state law, municipalities in Massachusetts are limited in their taxing power. What opportunities do you see for the city to raise revenue to support essential city services?**

I think it is a challenge to think about increasing revenue without burdening the average taxpayer. We are in a uniquely challenging situation in FY26 with a city-wide deficit. Some measures that the council could explore might include a luxury vacancy tax on unused properties, a real estate transfer fee on properties valued over \$1 million, a revenue efficiency task force, and non-resident user fees.

- 2. What are your top priorities for ensuring that all students in your city can receive a high-quality public education?**

As a council member, I will support education-related legislation that reflects the needs of the student body and the community we currently serve. For example, I felt the ordinance passed by the City Council in early 2025 to make Lunar New Year a municipal holiday was appropriate, and I hope continued discourse this fall will help solidify support among both governing bodies.

Our English Language Learner community is a high priority. The federal administration has quietly shifted the language surrounding support for English Language Learners, which could have negative impacts on accessibility, attendance rates, and MCAS scores. As QPS struggles with absenteeism, this is a major concern. A 2015 Obama-era "Dear Colleague" letter, though not legally binding, provided detailed points for supporting this particular student population. Our current federal administration indicates this letter is misaligned with administrative priorities, which I read as the first steps toward dismantling equitable access. The students' rights have not been legally rescinded. However, eliminating universal guidance leaves student rights up to interpretation. The school district can ensure student success through implementing the WIDA standards in the curriculum. We can work with community organizations to connect families to city services. We are fortunate to have several QPS Family Liaisons to bridge the information gap, which is crucial to providing adequate family and student support. I'd like to learn more about the EL Parent Advisory Council and explore how this group can help our parents and families access these supports.

Lastly, addressing the chronic absenteeism in our school district is paramount to improving student success rates. Programs like the Celtics All-Star Program

offer great incentives for students to improve attendance rates. In addition to working with the School Committee, I would be interested in exploring avenues such as an attendance incentive grant ordinance or an early warning data sharing ordinance to create more mitigation opportunities. Starting pilot programs in a couple of schools and collecting data to measure the program's impact would be my preferred steps before implementing this initiative district-wide.

3. What can your city do to help protect immigrant communities under attack from ICE and ensure genuine community safety?

Being vocal about supporting our immigrant communities would have a positive impact. If the Quincy Police Department already limits cooperation, we could make it official and transparent through codifying and publicizing a non-cooperation policy with ICE through a City Council resolution and a mayoral executive order. Brookline's police department has a public-facing policy like this one.

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

1. Protect Flood-Prone Areas

This can be accomplished through the expansion of flood infrastructure in areas like Wollaston Beach, Houghs Neck, and Quincy Point. Updating zoning and building codes to restrict development in high-risk flood zones is also important to consider.

2. Build a Local Clean Energy Grid

This can be accomplished by partnering with utility companies and state organizations to create microgrids and solar backup systems at public housing, schools, and senior centers. We can incentivize rooftop solar and heat pumps in residential areas through rebates.

3. Address Temperature Increases

This can be accomplished by launching a "Green Quincy" program where we plant trees, green up schoolyards, and expand shade in heat islands like North Quincy and Germantown. We can pair with local gardening clubs, school service learning organizations, and ward-specific civic associations to assist with volunteer efforts. We can also do outreach to seniors, low-income residents, and outdoor workers to help them prepare for heat emergencies. Quincy already experiences rising summer temperatures and urban heat disparities, and this could mitigate the negative impact.

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

To reduce car dependence in Quincy, I would invest in bike lanes, focusing on school routes, MBTA stations, and high commerce areas. I would collaborate with the MBTA to increase bus frequency and reliability—especially on key routes, while improving access and safety at our MBTA Red Line stations. I would love to see Hancock Street try closing down similarly to the way Newbury Street in Boston closes in the summers to increase foot traffic. Having local groups like Quincycles or our Quincy Women's Walking group serve as community leaders would help with increasing public buy-in and interest.

6. What policies will you advocate for to ensure that your city can be a place that is affordable for residents to live at any stage of life?

I would expand zoning and support diverse housing types such as senior-friendly units. I'd also advocate for stronger renter protections including limiting rent increases and expanding assistance for first-time homebuyers by increasing income requirements and savings eligibility. These policies would be molded by community input and focus groups. I would also be interested in creating incentives for residents investing in local childcare.

7. [If relevant] How would you assess your city's MBTA Communities Act rezoning efforts so far?

I think we have to be really specific when we talk about what "affordable housing" means in tandem with the MBTA Communities Act. There are plans in place to build more units, but if the rental rates aren't tenable for the average person, the systems put in place aren't working for residents. Who owns the buildings, and how are the developers serving the community? How do the management teams support residents experiencing financial instability? How aware are residents of emergency rental assistance distribution resources, and how are these resources being utilized? How are these complexes affecting the historical aesthetic of our community? I have more questions than answers around the efforts and impact of the city's response to the MBTA Communities Act.

8. What strategies would you employ to resist federal overreach from the Trump Administration while protecting critical services and funding for residents?

I would hold community forums, listening sessions, and "Know Your Rights" training to educate our residents. I would work with other councillors to use resolutions or public statements to assert values and mobilize public support. I would align city plans and state priorities to secure state grant funding,

reducing reliance on federal funding that could be weaponized. Examining non-essential capital projects to establish a local resilience fund could create some financial independence.

9. How would you model transparency and accountability if elected?

Through office hours, public hearings, and meetings, I can best model transparency and accountability as an elected official. Making concerted, regular efforts to keep students informed is an important component of being a transparent leader. Accountability is demonstrated by follow-through, developing measurable goals, sharing data (especially when the outcome is not positive), and frequent reflection geared toward changing and improving outcomes.

(C) Yes/No Policy Questions

1. Do you oppose the expansion of charter schools? **YES**
2. Do you support the creation of an unarmed, community-based emergency response program, separate from the Police Department, to respond to mental and behavioral health crises? **YES**
3. If your community has not already, do you support adopting the new specialized stretch code, which would require new construction and major renovations to be built to a very high-efficiency standard with all-electric (as opposed to fossil fuel) heating and cooling systems? **YES**
4. Do you support fare-free public transit? **YES**
5. Do you support the expansion of the network of permanent, protected bike lanes in your city? **YES**
6. Would you support a home rule petition to establish a small transfer fee on high-end real estate transactions to create dedicated funding for affordable housing production and preservation? **YES**
7. Would you support a home rule petition to enable the city to stabilize rents? **YES**
8. According to the American Library Association, in 2022 there were at least 45 attempts to restrict access to books in MA schools, disproportionately books

that speak to the experiences of LGBTQ students and students of color. Would you oppose such book-banning efforts if they occurred in your city? **YES**

(D) Additional Comments

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