



2025 Boston Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

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

~ 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?

My top three priorities would be creating more affordable housing, cultivating greater community engagement in city government, and stemming the crisis at Mass. and Cass. Creating more housing is the foundational element of my campaign. Everywhere I go across the city, folks have told me that their rent or mortgage burdens them. The current administration's animosity towards development has hindered the housing market so severely that we must take bold action to create more housing. In many of the same conversations with Bostonians, I have also heard that they feel overlooked by City Hall; the current

administration fails to engage with community concerns, ignoring those they disagree with and undermining those who oppose them. This is no way to run a city, and I aim to build bridges between all folks. Finally, it is time to find a sustainable solution to Mass. and Cass. Prior administrations used quick fixes to mitigate the issues there, but I would prioritize using our city's and region's resources to solve the underlying issues of addiction and mental health traumas.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

As the Chief Executive of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, I gained unique experience engaging daily with our city's youth, public schools, philanthropic organizations, high-profile executives, and public safety officials. In my capacity as leader, each day brought me closer with diverse communities that each required attention, resources, and, most importantly, an ally. I prided myself on building real, lasting relationships with everyone I encountered, and these relationships helped me understand the needs of Boston's neighborhoods. I understand the struggles that folks face on a daily basis, and I have worked with families, teachers, city officials, and regional leaders to better serve folks in need. While I have never held political office, I believe this grassroots work has provided me with the necessary experience to work with our communities to create a strong, resilient, safe city.

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

In Boston's strong-mayor system, I view the City Council as a key partner in guiding our city. I would listen to and heed the opinions of my peers on the City Council, using their insight and input as key to forming policy. As opposed to the current administration, adverse opinions would be welcomed in a Kraft administration.

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

As climate change intensifies, we must think deeply about the space around us, how we can use our environment to stave off the worst of the impending crisis, and the impact of the crisis on our most vulnerable communities. One city in particular, Chicago, has effectively mitigated the impact of flooding and major weather events in lower-income communities. Through their "Space to Grow" initiative, the city constructed stormwater resilient infrastructure in playgrounds and local gathering spaces. During major weather events, which have become much more common in recent years, this reduces the likelihood

of damage, and it also provides greater community engagement through remade playgrounds, gardens, and athletic fields.

In Boston, too many neighborhoods, such as Roxbury and Dorchester, have been neglected for too long. I would like to follow a similar pathway as Chicago, serving the needs of these communities while also preparing for the climate crisis.

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 life's work has been centered on bringing folks from different backgrounds together. When I worked at the Boys and Girls Club, I encountered kids, families, and workers from all walks of life. No matter their race, religion, or socioeconomic status, what I cared about was how they treated people in their community. As Mayor, I would take this same ethos and carry it over to City Hall. I would strive to be a leader that brings folks together to discuss our city's most pressing issues, and I would not shield myself from adversarial opinions. While leading a major city requires tough decisions, I am a firm believer that including a diverse array of voices will contribute to a sound decision making process.

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

As I mentioned above, I worked at the Boys and Girls Club for more than 30 years. This work included a variety of roles, but, at the foundation of this work, my professional mission focused on the youth. Every day, whether I was meeting with potential donors or creating new programming, I woke up with the sole purpose of improving the lives of the children that learned, played, and found refuge in the clubs. I learned so much over the years, but the most

crucial part of my professional journey has been the importance of meeting children where they are at. When it comes to engagement in the democratic process, I would work with our schools, allied organizations, and other elected officials to create programming, workshops, and opportunities for the younger generation to understand the importance of government and their role in the process.

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

As Mayor, I would make two specific changes to improve the community process. First, I would ensure that schools are not closed without adequate notice given to students, families, and staff. During the Wu Administration, the school district has shuttered schools, like the Dever Elementary, abruptly, and it has left whole communities feeling blindsided. While I understand that school closures can be key for the financial health of the district, a long-term facilities plan that clearly lays out which schools are slated to be closed at specific intervals is necessary. Second, as it pertains to the Article 80 process, I want to be sure that community voices are heard from the beginning of all projects. Too often, I have heard folks explain that they were only given a chance to opine once the scope of the project was placed before them. Instead of bringing community voices in late in the process, they should be at the table from day one.

(C) Budget & Revenue

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

The current administration has not adequately prepared Boston for this moment. Prior to the current presidential administration's inauguration, Mayor Wu tried to raise taxes on hard-working Bostonians, and she claimed she could not find a single dollar to cut from the current budget. While it is never easy to make these decisions, I will not shy away from hard choices. I will work closely with the Massachusetts Federal Delegation, to receive our legally appropriated funds, but I would never accept a scenario where there are strings attached to these resources that undermine the spirit of this city.

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.

Participatory Budgeting remains a relatively new program, and I believe it makes sense to assess and better understand the results of the system prior to dedicating significant sums of money to it. I do believe there are ways to ensure that Boston residents receive a say in how taxpayer funds are spent. However, prior to declaring how much our city should allocate to Participatory Budgeting, I would like to further review the implications of it.

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?

Due in large part to the numerous non-profit institutions spread throughout the city, Boston has become a cultural and educational hub. However, there is no doubt that these organizations do receive great financial benefits that could be adjusted to better serve the people of Boston. As Mayor, I would work closely with the leaders of the institutions and the community-at-large to review the current PILOT system and identify aspects of the plan that could be adjusted.

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

NO.

Shifting the burden to the commercial real estate sector when we're already facing a 1 billion dollar shortfall from vacant commercial space over the next number of years only serves to exacerbate the problem. The answer to our tax revenue issues is to expand our tax base by building additional housing, converting unused commercial space to residential units, and attracting new businesses and residents to our great city.

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

In a time of financial uncertainty, such as the current situation for Boston, it is necessary to look at more unconventional approaches to raise revenue. For example, creating a large-scale push to convert office high-rises to residential dwellings would create a new tax-base for our city. There are many vacant buildings throughout Boston, and I believe we need to think about an efficient and cost-effective mechanism to safely convert them into apartments, thus providing an expanded real-estate tax base for our city.

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?

As Mayor, I would make every best effort to ensure that Boston's financial resources are used to advance peace, prosperity, and health. Transparency, at all levels of government, represents a key aspect of my campaign, and I will ensure that we remain honest about the actions we are taking with our financial resources.

(D) Education

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

The current state of Boston Public Schools (BPS) represents a great failure. There are numerous issues that plague our district, but my top priorities are: raising literacy rates for our youngest students, increasing transparency and communication from the central office, developing a long-term and family oriented facilities plan, and investing in adequate mental health care for all students. I aim to bring a renewed measure of accountability and communication to our district, ensuring that no parent will be left wondering whether their child's school will close or whether their child will learn to read.

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

YES.

While I am not opposed to any sort of educational pathway for students, I believe that the best way to support our city's youth is through high-quality education at BPS. Our public schools are not adequately delivering the education our families deserve, and it is imperative that we make transformational changes across our district to improve all aspects of our public school system. Through my vision for a new BPS, I believe we will provide our students with exceptional educational opportunities and families will not be so inclined to attend charter, parochial, or private schools.

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 do oppose future efforts at a state takeover of BPS. Educating our children should fall under the purview of our city, as the folks in our city best understand how to effectively teach and guide our youngest residents. However, given the circumstances and state of our schools, the action taken in 2022 made sense. The Wu Administration's failure to address basic issues, such as the consistent late arrival of buses, as well as more intricate problems, like literacy rates, logically caused major alarm at the state level. While the district will move away from the Systemic Improvement Plan (SIP) this summer, numerous issues the state identified throughout BPS have not been addressed. I will work with district leadership as well as the state to address these issues on day one; we must provide better schools for our students and families, it is crucial for the future of our city.

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.

The current Mayor promised she would institute a hybrid-elected school committee. She did not follow through on this pledge, but I would. I believe that having voices elected from our community would infuse our school community with the necessary feedback, accountability, and honesty that it needs.

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

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, Washington D.C. implemented a strong push to revive reading rates for their students through High-Impact Tutoring (HIT). The program focused on students without access to external resources and alternative learning needs. In Boston, I believe we should invest in a similar program that effectively uses our resources to specifically target our youngest learners in need of the most help.

6. What do you believe the progressive position on the White Stadium project is, and why?

Mayor Wu's choice to forge ahead with the demolition of White Stadium is not a progressive decision. As opposed to focusing on Boston's students or varied community concerns, the Wu Administration forcibly thrust this project into a community of color at great expense to Boston taxpayers. Prioritizing a soccer stadium over school construction, especially during a time of financial uncertainty, is the opposite of a progress position. This lack of communication, fiscal mismanagement, and indifference to environmental concern, conveys a blatant disregard for many of the values the current mayor espouses.

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

Our schools must feel safe for students, teachers, and staff. I reject the premise that the presence of police officers across Boston Public Schools should be governed by a uniform, monolithic policy. We have a diverse city, with diverse needs, and the same rings true for our school district. I have heard from too many teachers and parents that they do not feel safe going to school. Consequently, I would explore all options to ensure the safety of our children and school communities. Whether that be an increase in social workers, school psychologists, or other personnel, the status quo is unacceptable, and I will work tirelessly to ensure that our schools are a safe environment for all.

(E) Public Safety

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

YES.

I believe the Trust Act is a necessary bulwark to protect innocent, hard-working immigrants from unlawful seizure by the federal government. The Trump Administration's flagrant disregard for the law has incited fear across the country, and I am proud to support the Trust Act's clear delineation between the role of BPD and the federal government. As Mayor, I will work to protect all residents of our city, including law-abiding immigrants.

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?

As Mayor, I will not cooperate with the Trump Administration's unjust, illegal actions that harm innocent people in our city. There are thousands of immigrants in Boston that contribute to our city's unique fabric, and they should be treated with the same rights as everyone else. That being said, if there are violent criminals that have broken our laws, I will work with law enforcement to remove them from our city.

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

NO.

I do not support shuttering the Boston Police gang database. However, there are opportunities to improve how the information within the database is used and examined. I will ensure that there is adequate training and substantial oversight as it pertains to this database, and I commit to ensuring that Bostonians will not be unjustifiably monitored without regard for their rights.

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

NO.

I do not support ending Boston's engagement with the BRIC. I will ensure that there are guardrails and guidelines in place to combat any misuse of the BRIC, yet I know that our police officers use the BRIC to effectively combat illegal activity in our city, and it represents a vital tool to make our city more safe. However, if the Trump Administration attaches requirements to comply with ICE in ways that violate the Trust Act I would decline to comply with any directive of this sort.

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.

I would be open to supporting the creation of a community-based emergency response team that works on certain cases relating to mental

and behavioral health. Throughout our city, there are a variety of different situations that arise, and, often, armed personnel are not the right option to adequately address these issues. Successful pilot programs, such as “COMPASS” in New Haven, have shown that units consisting of social workers and/or peer recovery specialists can successfully handle many issues without a police presence. I am excited about further exploring this type of program, and I would be thrilled to work with the BPD, community groups, faith organizations, and others to think more about the possibilities here.

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?

As Mayor, I will take all necessary steps to combat white supremacy in the BPD. White supremacy, and all related forms of discriminatory affiliation, have no place in our police force, and I will work with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the BPD remains a welcoming unit that serves our communities with honor and integrity.

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

NO.

However, I do support a comprehensive, fully-funded “Recover Boston” campus and a system of city support that offers folks on the street a real pathway to recovery. The men and women on the streets deserve access to the complete suite of recovery services, and I am a firm believer that with a coordinated approach, we can provide these individuals a pathway to recovery.

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”)?

Mass. and Cass has evolved into an urgent humanitarian crisis that requires the city’s full, undivided attention. While the issues surrounding this area have been percolating for many years, the recent administration’s failure to address the underlying causes of the situation has exacerbated the danger for folks

struggling with addiction and quality of life concerns for other residents. We must do better to provide folks on the street with mental health care, substance use disorder treatment, and a pathway safe housing.

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

Gun violence is a national epidemic that requires a multi-pronged approach to stop. Whether it be increased programming to engage Boston's youth in community events or targeted police operations to deter criminal activity, there are a wide range of options that I would employ as Mayor. While we are lucky to live in a state with strict gun laws, there is much more work to be done to stem the flow of drugs and simultaneous gang activity that spurs much of the violence in our city. I would engage with any willing partner to coordinate a city-wide, grassroots effort to get illegal firearms off of our streets.

(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?

There is no greater crisis facing our world than the impending climate catastrophe. As a world leader in education, research, and technology, I believe Boston should be a trailblazer in combatting the climate crisis. To be a leader in this arena, I will promote the use of groundbreaking climate tracking technologies, offer incentives to retrofit wasteful appliances, and create a climate justice task force to rectify environmental issues impacting our underserved communities.

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?

As our city continues to transform, our dependence on cars must transform as well, necessitating an evolution into a multi-modal city. As opposed to the current administration, I would engage the community at a grassroots level to better understand how this shift will impact commute times, small businesses, differently-abled folks, and overall traffic flow. I support transit solutions that move away solely from automobiles, but I want to ensure that this process is not a top down approach. Instead, I would aim to bring various stakeholders together, to bridge disagreements and forge alliances as we enter a new age of transportation.

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**

We need to use every lever at our disposal to combat the climate crisis. I believe that net zero carbon emission standards are crucial to reduce our carbon footprint. If we are to truly mitigate climate change's worst effects, we must begin altering how we build and use our natural resources, and this is a step in the right direction. At the same time, we also need to focus on increasing housing in our city. We must work to reduce regulations and institutional barriers to building. Too many folks cannot afford housing, and it is necessary to do everything possible for us to improve this. I am in favor of any policy that mitigates the impact of climate change while also creating new housing stock all across our city.

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

NO.

This sort of program, intended to help lower income folks, may have the right intentions, but it does not succeed in creating lasting progress. I would like to direct the resources from this program to greater investments in our schools, job training programs, and community partnerships, so that there can be real, tangible support for folks that will serve them their whole lives.

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

YES. I support the expansion of permanent, protected bike lanes, once there has been significant community review and data-driven traffic studies for impacted areas. The current administration's decision to brazenly insert bike lanes has created chaos on our streets, challenges for physically disabled folks, and financial harm for small businesses. As Mayor, I would mandate that any new bike lane, no matter how big or small, has been effectively studied to understand the underlying effects of its emergence. We need to be a multi-modal city that caters to pedestrians, bikers, and cars, and the safety of all citizens will be my paramount concern.

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

YES.

As we combat the climate crisis, ensuring that residents have access to renewable energy at reasonable prices is paramount. I am encouraged by the progress the BCCE program has shown, and I would be open to reviewing opportunities to expand and increase it.

(G) Housing

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

I do not believe that development automatically creates displacement. The current administration has harmed housing development throughout Boston, and I believe it is necessary to shift the tide and create an environment that will promote the construction of all housing. It is not hyperbolic to state that we are currently in a housing crisis, and I am a believer that further development of all sorts of housing will decrease the overall cost of housing and enable more people to remain in the neighborhoods that they feel a strong connection with.

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

Throughout our city, there are numerous parcels of land that are prime real-estate for development. Whether it be indifference from City Hall or a lack of political will, many of these vacant lots sit idly by, with no prospect of development in the near future. As Mayor, I will use the full weight of my administration to capitalize upon Boston's real estate resources to begin building affordable housing, workforce housing, and other types of mixed developments. We need more housing in our city, and I believe that using all of the resources at our disposal, even parcels that may seem too small or oddly shaped, is necessary to combat the housing emergency we currently face.

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?

For the looming financial crisis, everything is on the table. Due to the current mayoral administration's financial mismanagement as well as looming federal funding cuts, we are looking at a potentially dire situation.

As Mayor, I will review all options to ensure we have a balanced budget that serves our residents.

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. I do support rent stabilization, ensuring that our city’s renters can afford to live in Boston. However, I do not support the current Home Rule Petition. I am a believer in real, practical solutions, and I do not believe a Home Rule Petition regarding rent stabilization will ever pass the state legislature. Instead, my program, an “Opt-In” form of rent control, does not need state approval and will cap rent increases at 5% per year.

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**

NO.

Owning a home is a crucial step to building wealth and reducing the income inequality gap. However, I believe the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Ordinance is not the correct answer to helping folks create a pathway to home ownership. I would strive to work with landlords, renters, and other stakeholders to ensure that folks can stay in their communities for a reasonable price, but through alternative mechanisms than this ordinance.

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**

NO.

I do not support this policy. I believe that raising the IDP to 20% significantly harms the development of new housing in our city and has contributed to a loss of potential housing supply throughout Boston. During the Walsh administration, the IDP of 13% made sense, and I think we should return to that level.

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.

Boston's diversity, in terms of race, socioeconomic background, age, religion, represents the very best of our city. I believe we should absolutely build affordable units on-site, so that our great city can retain its diverse, vibrant communities in all of its forms.

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.

All tenants, no matter the number of units in a building, deserve protection against displacement. As Mayor, I will strive to increase coordination, cooperation, and communication with all stakeholders to ensure that safe, affordable housing is not a privilege, but a right.

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?**

As Mayor, I would make a concerted effort to inform residents of this right through a multi-step process. First, I would work with community organizations to ensure that adequate information and literature is available at certain locations for folks to understand this new right. Additionally, I would also instruct various offices in City Hall, even those not directly involved, to communicate this new information to residents, even during unrelated meetings.

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?**

We are lucky to have access to some of the best medical care in the world in Boston. However, how we use and access these resources matters. Mobile outreach teams have been extremely successful in offering medical care to folks on the street and those suffering from mental health crises. As Mayor, I

would build out these mobile outreach teams to begin creating lasting relationships with folks. Secondly, after identifying a location for Recover Boston, I would instruct our team members to use these relationships to show how this new campus filled with supportive doctors, social workers, and clinical therapists can help get these folks back on their feet.

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

YES.

I believe the “Squares + Streets” initiative prioritizes the diverse needs of our city’s neighborhoods into an effective process for enhancing our communities. However, I would take a more aggressive approach to this initiative and embrace the unique communities and resources across our neighborhoods. The current initiative fails to capitalize upon opportunities to attract outside investment, and I would look to merge the unique cultures of neighborhoods with outside capital to spur economic development in a fashion tailored to each “Main St.”

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

YES.

I believe it is vital to promote housing growth in our city. While parking minimums can provide certain benefits, I believe that any cumbersome regulation, such as parking minimums, must be eliminated in order to make the process of development easier for folks. Additionally, I would strive to work with business owners and other neighborhood associations to work out agreements for using lots and other vacant spaces, in order to provide adequate parking in our city.

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?

The role of community engagement in the development process is not just important, it is vital. Whether it is a new residential building, a skyscraper, or any other sort of major development, understanding the opinions, concerns,

and wishes of the community must be paramount for the city, the developers, and the financiers. Over the course of the Wu Administration, I have heard that many folks feel shut out and ignored by the Mayor and her team. If I were to be elected, I would work with my staff and outside contractors to ensure that community meetings are not just a box we need to check. Instead, they would be real conversations, in which differences are settled, compromises are met, and results are delivered.

(H) Democracy

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

Municipal elections matter. While federal elections garner the headlines, many people do not even know when their city councilor or mayor appears on the ballot. If I were to be elected, I would work closely with our local educational institutions, including high schools and colleges, to create engaging programming that highlights the importance of municipal elections. I would also look to more unconventional areas, such as Fenway Park, Faneuil Hall, and local gyms, to set-up informational sessions where younger folks can gather to inform them of their right to vote, what's at stake, and the process for voting. I believe our youth are key to unlocking the potential of Boston, and it is imperative that we fold them into our civic and democratic processes.

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

NO.

While I am supportive of engaging our youngest residents in the political process, I do not believe 16- and 17-year-olds should have the right to vote in municipal elections. As a father of two adults and as someone who has worked with children my whole life, I understand what matters to you in your teenage years. It is not a municipal election, and I believe we should maintain the status quo here.

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

NO.

I do not believe that Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is necessary in Boston. Frankly speaking, it is a solution in search of a problem, as we currently have non-partisan primaries for municipal elections. I believe the current system adequately allows folks to have their voices heard and opinions expressed at the ballot box. Moreover, the current mayoral administration failed to effectively administer the 2024 presidential election, so adding a new dynamic to the election process would be a big ask.

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

YES.

Public meetings are crucial, key components of a healthy democracy. They are conduits for civil discourse, community engagement, and useful information. Not all folks, however, can access these meetings on a regular basis. Whether it is due to a physical disability, workplace responsibilities, or other aspects of life, it is not always easy to make it to City Hall or other meeting points. As a result, I am fully in favor of making all public meetings accessible on an in-person and virtual basis. Democracy is for everyone, and I am a firm believer that as leaders, we should be doing everything we can to bolster all aspects of civic participation, whether that is “live” or online.

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?*

Civil liberties, including a right to express dissent and oppose government actions, are a core tenet of U.S. citizenship; it is what makes our country so special. In our backyard, the Boston Tea Party took place and became a rallying point for disaffected folks in what was then a colony. As Mayor, I would ensure that all Boston residents are allowed to peacefully protest any cause they deem worthy. I would coordinate with local officials, including police, to maintain a safe environment for protestors as well as anyone in the proximity of these events.

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**

NO.

While I strongly support individuals' constitutional right to protest, I believe that a "Right to Mask" ordinance would not be in the best interest of our city. If individuals want to protest, they may do so, but codifying their "Right to Mask" would undermine public safety in our universities and in our communities. However, I do not agree with any form of harassment, and I firmly stand against the Trump Administration's use of deportation as a tool to undermine our civil liberties. The right to protest has brought about so much positive change in our society, and the federal government should not be trying to weaken or subvert individuals' choice to stand up to the government.

(I) Inclusive Boston

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

Throughout my career, advancing racial justice and equity has been at the forefront of my work. One of the flagship accomplishments of my career was founding and creating the "Boys and Girls Club Mattapan Teen Center." This club serves as a safe space for a predominantly minority community to learn, play, and grow, and I was proud to coordinate the building of this Center with 70% labor from the local community. Additionally, while I was CEO of the Boys and Girl Club, I changed the language we used in formal communications to move away from dated, discriminatory terms. More specifically, board members were still called "overseers." I believe language matters, and I made it my priority to change this term through a community oriented dialogue. Through this process, we agreed to change the name to "trustees," and it was a great change that mattered to a lot of folks throughout the organization. Finally, while heading up the Patriots Foundation, I led a number of initiatives partnering with foundations to promote greater diversity and inclusion in job

training, hiring, and education. Whether it was our work with the Kaiser Family Foundation or GLAAD, I worked closely with leaders to infuse all of our programming with subject matter relevant to increasing racial justice.

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?

The Trump Administration has taken an aggressive stance towards liberal cities across the country. The rhetoric flowing from the White House stands in direct contrast to my values, and the ethos I would bring to City Hall. While I will always strive to work with those across the aisle, if President Trump and his allies continue to threaten our city budget and the vital programs offered around our city, I will defend Boston with all of the levers at my disposal. Whether it is our LGBTQ+ residents or environmental policy, I will work with state and regional partners, coordinating an allied response that leverages our unique resources and resists federal overreach.

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

YES.

I will ensure that Boston shelters do not preemptively comply with trans-exclusive federal directives. The orders coming from the Trump administration are cruel, and they have no place in Boston. As Mayor, I will stand up for the rights of all our citizens, no matter their gender-orientation. Shelters should be safe, welcoming locations for all folks, and I will partner with the great organizations that run these shelters to ensure they are open to all.

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

It is no secret that our City faces a large racial wealth gap. While the statistics may just point to one's individual wealth, issues such as access to education and high-quality medical care also factor into this equation as well. If I were to be elected Mayor, I would strive to create a City that works not just for certain

residents, but for all residents. In my mind, this starts with high-quality education. Offering communities, no matter their zip code, top-notch schools with high-level educational material will create new pathways and opportunities for a new generation of Bostonians. Secondly, I would ensure that barriers to entry, such as onerous inspections and regulations, do not prevent lower-income folks from accessing capital or starting a business. Far too many folks have told me about the current administration's indifference to these challenges that prevents them from creating wealth and starting new professional journeys. As Mayor, I will ensure that it is an equal playing field for all folks, thus beginning a new era of prosperity.

5. What steps would you take to achieve greater diversity in City contracting?

In my discussions with folks across the city, this issue has come up numerous times. Clearly, there needs to be a more transparent, equitable process that promotes further diversity in every area of City contracting. As Mayor, my job is to deliver high-quality results to my constituents; consequently, when working with private businesses to take on a project, I would instruct my administration to holistically evaluate each proposal with an eye towards what would serve our communities in the best manner possible.

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

YES.

I would support legislation that protects residents from the discriminatory use of algorithms and AI. While these tools can be useful, organizations and companies should not use them to engage in any sort of prejudicial capacity. As Mayor, I would defend my constituents' right to privacy, and I would work closely with my partners at the state level to ensure that is codified into law.

(J) Additional Comments

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