



# 2025 Boston City Council 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?**

Priorities for my next term include:

1. Continuing to strengthen democracy, civic engagement, and accountability by creating meaningful models that center co-governance, participatory democracy, and representation. Our office recently passed Ranked Choice Voting in Boston and would work to implement it effectively if re-elected. We also aim to bring back the Elected School Committee and establish an Office of Inspector General.

2. Increasing protections and creating safety nets for targeted populations: I am currently leading the effort to make Boston a Trans and LGBTQIA2S+ Sanctuary City and strengthening the Boston Trust Act by closing data-sharing loopholes to ensure local institutions—schools, health centers, faith centers—are safe for all.
3. Ensuring dignified and affordable housing for all: from my “Dying to Live” Boston Housing Authority tour to advocating for community-centered approaches to development within the newly formed BPDA, I aim to use all powers I hold to lower housing costs, preserve public housing, and fight displacement.

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

For as long as I have been in this country, I have been a microphone for those who too often go unheard. From the age of 9, I acted as the unofficial translator for my mother, who only spoke Spanish. Later in life while working for MTV, I amplified the voice of people across the country who felt excluded from democratic processes as a national elections reporter. Then, I started a non-profit, CPLAN, to ensure that parents had a seat at the table where decisions were being made about their children, previously without them. Now, as a City Councilor in my third term, I continue to lead with community, and doing so has allowed me to successfully pass more than 17 pieces of legislation, establish dozens of new City departments/ roles, and secure millions of dollars to be invested in critical areas of community development.

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

I believe it is the role of the City Council to serve as a thought partner and the “checks and balances” to the administration. Councilors are elected by the people, and so we are primarily accountable to them. Thus, the votes we take must align with that truth, especially in the crafting of our annual budget where we are given equal powers under the 2021 Charter Amendment. That said, working collaboratively—both when we agree and when we do not—is central to moving the work forward.

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

The one policy objective we are pursuing here in Boston that exists in other cities is the establishment of an Office of Inspector General (OIG). While at the

state level we have an OIG, a lack of trust in our City's institutions points to the need for a greater level of accountability and transparency at the municipal level too. Cities such as Chicago and Philadelphia have successfully implemented an OIG and now have an office dedicated to auditing city ordinances to identify their relevancy over time. As it stands, and per the Boston Law Department's testimony, no such audit has ever been conducted. The other responsibility of the OIG would be to root out misconduct and financial waste where it exists.

In a time marked by looming financial instability, cities like Chicago and Philadelphia, which have saved millions of city dollars through these audits, are inspiring us to move this initiative further.

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?**

During my time in office, I have prioritized a strong co-governance model. Recent efforts include partnering with 40+ diverse LGBTQIA2S+ advocates to draft an ordinance to create an LGBTQIA2S+ Oversight Commission; organizing with Blue Hill Avenue small business owners for construction relief funding; and launching a citywide Quality-of-Life and Safety Task Force after a fatal homicide caused by a scooter driver. This task force is now working collectively on designing policies and procedures to strengthen community engagement and enforcement efforts.

My office has been building bridges between neighborhoods from Fort Hill to Beacon Hill and fostering relationships across our perceived and actual differences to identify shared challenges and developing infrastructure that helps us work across our differences to effectively drive meaningful and collective impact.

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 someone who began my career in youth development working with young people across the City, I recognize the power of youth voice and continue to actively engage them in all areas of policy and decision-making processes. I created career exploration opportunities for young people in my office and currently have three BPS fellows. I was also the first Councilor to offer my office as an internship site for Madison Park Development Corporation's Youth Workforce Program. I also fought to have youth representation in the Office Police Accountability and Transparency and led the legislation to lower the voting age for 16 and 17 year olds in Boston Municipal Elections.

When developing the LGBTQIA2S+ Commission, it was essential to include two youth seats, recognizing how adultism can silence a lone youth voice.

Last summer, our office hosted an Education Town Hall, engaging youth as panelists, workshop leaders, and participants in a resource fair for students, families, and educators. Prior, in our efforts to stop the relocation of the O'Bryant School to West Roxbury, OB students played a central role in our advocacy, demonstrating the power of youth leadership when their voices are not only heard, but centered.

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

An aspect of community engagement in the City of Boston I feel should be improved exists within planning and development processes. One example that my office pushed for more engagement was within the Squares + Streets process. According to the planning department's data, in Roslindale Square, 74% of those engaged were white, 5% were Latino, and 4% were Black. Moreover, over 80% of those engaged were homeowners. We acknowledge that community engagement is not easy, but the aforementioned data strongly suggests that there is much more work to be done. Development impacts everyone, and it is critical that every perspective is accounted for and heard before those decisions are made. Historically, development processes in Boston have excluded people of color and renters, so we have an opportunity and obligation to change that now in 2025.

## **(C) Budget & Revenue**

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

I feel that it is crucial to do our best within City government to make sure that every dollar we spend is delivering adequate returns for the people. This is why I have led on advocating for an Office of Inspector General that could identify where our city dollars are doing that, and where there may be an opportunity to save.

Moreover, I also believe that, just as during COVID, we cannot expect our government to fix everything. This is why these past few months I have been dedicated to building mutual-aid infrastructure that can stand in the gap left by cuts to funding. To kickstart this, back in March I convened over 70 community leaders for an Immigration Roundtable talk; we had legal experts, faith leaders, academics, elected officials, and organizers come together and discuss how we can asset map our resources and use them to support one another in these times of uncertainty.

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

I have been one of the [loudest voices](#) advocating for the full funding of participatory budgeting in the City of Boston. We first pushed for \$40 million and somehow landed at \$2 million; this is simply not enough.

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

I have been a leading voice on the Council for pushing the administration to create a commission or advisory board made up of community voices to hold us and the institutions that benefit from our PILOT program accountable. I support increasing oversight, transparency, and increased coordination of PILOT community benefit offsets. I want to strengthen the Pilot Advisory Board to ensure we create a PILOT program that represents our communities; while exploring community centered processes to reform our PILOT system.

We acknowledge that academic and cultural institutions are important to the well-being of our city, but we can no longer be displaced by them without real accountability measures and benefits that pour into our City's most vulnerable.

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. On large commercial owners, not small business owners with assets under \$50k

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

I have had a number of bold ideas that could 1) increase revenue for our city and 2) disincentivize LLC's from continuing to displace our people; I am exploring a "Displacement Tax" where for every development process that has a risk of displacing residents, a tax gets placed on the developer.

Moreover, I also have advocated for greater accountability in the PILOT program. As it stands, many institutions are not paying their fair share while benefiting off the displacement of our residents. I believe that working to promote greater contributions from these large institutions could prove to be a solid pathway to increased revenues.

Lastly, it is time to address the long-standing issue of the police overtime deficit. Year after year, the police department overspends on overtime by tens of millions of dollars. I am committed to exploring ways we can right-size the department by properly staffing them so we do not need to spend so much of our much needed funds on overtime.

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 Chair of the Committee on Post Audit: Government Accountability, Transparency, and Accessibility, I prioritize examining how our city dollars are spent. This includes holding hearings to investigate whether taxpayer funds contribute to wars abroad or human rights Violations.

A mentor of mine, former Councilor and Post Audit Chair Charles Yancey, led Boston's divestment from Apartheid South Africa. Inspired by his leadership, I've spoken with him about how we can build a similar movement today to ensure city funds aren't weaponized against human rights overseas. I'm also exploring ways to increase transparency and diversity in the city's procurement process to ensure more contracts go to small, local businesses owned by women and people of color in Boston. This shift not only supports equity but also reduces the risk of awarding contracts to multinational corporations that may profit from conflict. Localizing procurement is a meaningful way to align our city's spending with our values.

## **(D) Education**

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

My priority across all issues is to increase civic engagement and amplify the voices of those most impacted by structural injustices. One of my top priorities for improving BPS is reinstating an elected school committee to restore accountability to the people, not any one administration.

Student well-being directly affects classroom success. I'm appalled by the unsanitary conditions many students—mostly Black and Brown—are forced to learn in. I've fought hard, and will continue to, to ensure meaningful action is taken to improve school facilities, especially Madison Park, which has been waiting for decades for improvements.

As an immigrant, I understand the unique challenges faced by students arriving at BPS from overseas. I am committed to increasing resources for English Language Learners and closing the opportunity gap for them. Ensuring all students—regardless of background—have access to clean, safe schools and quality support systems is essential to their success and our city's future.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

Yes, I support an elected Boston School Committee. I am the lead sponsor on the Home Rule Petition in front of the Council. I want to work in partnership with community partners and the coalition to advocate for the structure that they want to see.

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

I believe that all the answers we need lie right in our communities, and that we do not need to look elsewhere. Therefore, our office has been working in close partnership with BPS advocates and schools such as the Holland (formerly known as Burke) to develop a pipeline for young people to explore careers in mental health.

This program is now in its 3rd year and the program has successfully expanded to Madison Park High School. In addition to learning about mental health, students produce a day of wellness summit. The idea is to take the solutions being implemented on a small scale in Boston and build them up to be City-wide to ensure all students in Boston have access to vital mental wellness prevention efforts and promising career pathways.

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

I want White Stadium to become a state-of-the-art facility for BPS students, who deserve nothing less. To achieve that, I would've preferred a more competitive RFP process that explored all possible pathways. I always move with community, and I have concerns about the current approach, especially since it was the only one seriously considered. Earlier this year, our office held a 9-hour hearing to uplift community voices. Concerns raised included the stadium's construction cost nearly doubling, the addition of features like a beer garden that don't benefit students, disparities in how public land is treated in Roxbury versus wealthier neighborhoods, and impacts on parking, transportation, and the environment.

As a result, I filed a resolution urging the City to release more data before moving forward. While it didn't pass, I'm proud to have energized the conversation and will remain involved to ensure the final outcome truly serves our students' best interests.

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

YES.

### **(E) Public Safety**

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

YES.

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

I filed a hearing order, and the Council held a hearing to audit the implementation and effectiveness of the Trust Act, ensuring it fully protects our immigrant communities—especially in today's political climate. We are in dialogue with civil rights lawyers, faith leaders, educators, and health-care providers to identify gaps that exist in the Trust Act and work collaboratively to close them.

It is crucial for Boston to remain steadfast in its commitment to being a home for all. I helped create a space for open dialogue, where all perspectives could be heard, while affirming my support for our current Sanctuary City policies. I also explored ways to strengthen those policies—ensuring civil liberties are upheld and our public institutions remain safe, welcoming spaces for everyone.

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?**

The rise of white supremacist ideology—and its ties to current and former BPD officers, including involvement in the January 6 insurrection—demands bold, proactive leadership. In my first term, I confronted white supremacists who targeted our community, advocated for police reform, and defended civil liberties, all of which prepared me to meet this moment.

In 2022, the Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC), despite ample funding, failed to detect an incoming white supremacist group. Meanwhile, in 2024, BPD detained hundreds of student protesters standing against U.S.-funded wars. This disparity is very troubling. Our office has pressed BPD leadership in recent budget hearings to explain ongoing surveillance practices that appear to disproportionately target communities of color and political dissent, but not white supremacist threats.

To uproot white supremacy in policing, we must name it, challenge it, and demand accountability from officers, systems, and technologies alike. I will continue pushing for transparency, oversight, and a justice-driven approach to public safety.

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")?**

Our response needs improvement. The situation at Mass and Cass is a very complex issue that requires deep investments in many areas, such as preventative treatment, housing, mental health services, and more. We need to move with urgency. One thing to note is we cannot legislate human behavior, and thus we need to get at the root causes of these issues. So, while we are investing in fixing the current situation, we also need heavy investments in methods, programs, and resources to ensure others are not faced with the same situation as those suffering at Mass and Cass.

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

We need to look at the great work many of our nonprofit and community leaders have done in this space. Too often we push off the work of government to these leaders, and it is time for the government to do its job in collaboration with non-governmental actors. In particular, I would look for investment in proven anti-violence measures that are already being used in community.

I also have fought hard for more funding for youth jobs and programming to help alleviate the gun violence we see in our streets and engage our youth in meaningful ways that contribute to their personal and professional development. Finally, we need to advocate for real gun reform with our colleagues on the state and federal level so we can get guns off the street.

**(F) Environment & Transportation**

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

My top three priorities for building a climate-resilient city are:

1. First, educating communities of color in culturally competent ways that make clear climate justice is racial, economic, and social justice. Our communities often bear the brunt of the crisis but are too often excluded from crafting solutions.

2. Second, learning from Indigenous communities. I sent my policy team to a UN conference for Mother Earth Day to explore Indigenous approaches to recognizing Nature as a legal entity. We plan to integrate these principles into policymaking, shifting how we protect and respect the environment.

3. Third, auditing development projects to prevent “**greenwashing**.” Many projects marketed as sustainable lack transparency and can have hidden environmental costs. I believe in slowing down the process to ensure all impacts—positive and negative—are thoroughly examined before approval.

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

I believe we have to continue to explore where, when, and how public transit is provided across the city. In my first term, we held a hearing on bringing back the late-night T service, which would greatly eliminate a lot of the third shift working class’s reliance on cars. I will continue this work to fight to have expanded service at night.

I also support the pilot programs the city started to allow for free bus fares to help incentive bus use. However, we cannot ignore the fact that the T is not accessible for many people in certain communities due to lack of service or just the transportation time residents face. I will continue to advocate for expanding service to neighborhoods such as Mattapan, whose residents are forced to rely on less frequent service.

Last summer, in response to a violent homicide caused by a scooter driver, our office has also established a citywide Quality of Life and Safety Task Force to bring together residents from various walks of life, beliefs and experiences to discuss city-wide and neighborhood-specific solutions to address street and community safety.

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 we need to implement a planning and decision-making process in partnership with community; centered on the community needs. There

must be a neighborhood-by-neighborhood (or even more localized) approach. We must also consider the impact of the loss of parking on our small businesses and the disabled community, especially with concerns some disabled residents have expressed about getting to the curb from the car safely.

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 aim to expand affordable housing in the City of Boston by supporting bold initiatives that hold large corporations—many of which are not even based in the City of Boston—accountable. One idea includes a “displacement tax” in which a tax would be placed on a developer based on the risk of displacement their project poses. This tax would be redirected towards more affordable housing developments.

Furthermore, I look closely at any and all city-led development projects to ensure that we are slowing down to catch and block any unintended consequences. One example includes the ongoing Squares + Streets process. While we appreciate the intent behind the initiative, many have pointed out that it could lead to displacement and higher housing costs. Thus, I think it is critical to understand all the impacts before it is too late.

Finally, we need to increase the IDP percentage. I turned some heads when I called for 50% IDP in my first campaign, but I stick to that number. We are light years away from what the recommended amount (33%) should be so we need to be bold in our work.

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

There are vacant, city-owned lots across the city, and are specifically concentrated in Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury. These open lots are the results of redlining and arson during the 70’s that many blocks have struggled to recover from to this day. I want to make intentional policy decisions that will

help slow gentrification and expand access to housing for people currently at risk of displacement.

There is an opportunity to engage residents in these communities to explore alternatives such as land trusts, and create infrastructure to educate the people on alternative models that center solidarity models such as co-op housing, rent stabilization and others that can co-learn to create a diverse pool of alternative policies to expand affordable housing.

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

YES.

I supported then-Councilor Edwards’s proposal for this transfer fee. I will use my public position and directly advocate to allies in the State House to keep pressuring them to vote for the petition.

I also frequently attend protests at the State House alongside community advocacy groups to 1) learn from them and 2) uplift their work on social media. It is critical for elected officials to work in lock-step with community, as together, the pressure we can assert on state and federal legislators is powerful.

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 believe that the Home Rule Petition didn’t go far enough. We are not meeting the moment with the housing crisis. I also want to be super cognizant of middle-low-income homeowners that need support as we talk about rent stabilization. We need a deeper dive to create a home rule petition to address the instability and uncertainties of our time.

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?**

I believe in meeting people where they are and bringing the information to the people in culturally competent ways. Our office is very successful in educational communications rollouts, so I would take steps to inform renters about their rights through communications via social media as well as while out in community at events.

We also use our platform at City Hall to hold hearings on major shifts such as this. We aim to garner wide community participation through our panel presentations and public testimony. These hearings serve as a powerful tool to amplify the voice of the people as well as the work of the City which will impact them. We will explore filing a hearing order to audit this legislation and its impacts on our City.

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?**

In my efforts to always work inwards from the furthest margins, a key priority that has emerged through collaboration with transgender community leaders is increasing funding for shelters. This budget season, I'm advocating for additional resources to support our city's most vulnerable residents facing intersecting systemic oppression.

In April, I filed an ordinance to create a municipal ID system in Boston that would expand access to housing, healthcare, and financial inclusion for marginalized communities. I've also begun working with the RMV to ensure this ID can serve as proof of residency, making it easier for low-income residents to access Section 8 housing.

Finally, I will continue pushing for greater accountability from LLCs that build large-scale housing developments. These projects must serve those struggling to stay in Boston. I view the Pryde in Hyde Park as a model and will advocate to expand this approach to include people with disabilities and mental health needs.

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

NO.

We support the idea and intentions behind Squares + Streets, but have serious concerns about the community engagement process as well as the potential for it to have implications on the cost of living and cultural dynamics that exist within the diverse neighborhoods of Roslindale Square and Cleary Square. There are tenets of the process we support, but there need to be stronger guardrails in place to prevent unintended consequences such as displacement.

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

YES.

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

Community engagement must be a much higher priority in Boston's planning and development processes. Recent changes to Article 80 by the BPDA have raised concerns about reduced public participation, lack of transparency, and the weakening of protections against displacement and inequity.

Communities must be meaningfully engaged from the very beginning, not presented with prepackaged plans they have no hand in meaningfully shaping. Too often, residents report feeling silenced or ignored in public meetings, unable to voice real feedback. This is unacceptable. We must meet people where they are, ensure accessible participation, and provide platforms for them to shape the future of their neighborhoods.

To advance this, we launched a Latino Leadership Development initiative to empower residents to engage in civic associations and advocate effectively, especially on development and housing.

## **(H) Democracy**

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

I am deeply committed to increasing youth engagement in Boston's political process. I sponsored an ordinance to lower the voting age to 16 for municipal elections because if young people are old enough to work and pay taxes, they deserve a voice in decisions that impact them.

I've also advocated for full funding of the City's participatory budgeting process, which gives young people direct power over public resources. I bring voter registration to community events, use my media platforms to speak in ways that resonate with youth, and host events like "School Vibes," offering free supplies, resources, and civic education to make participation inviting.

I also launched a youth fellowship program through my campaign, giving high school and college students hands-on experience in electoral politics. In turn, they mobilize their peers across the city. We must meet youth where they are and create pathways that make them feel seen, heard, and empowered to lead.

### **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.

Our office recently passed this at the 5/14/2025 City Council Meeting alongside Council President Louijuene, Councilor Santana, and a broad coalition of community advocates.

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?***

One proactive approach to push back against these civil liberties violations includes being loud and clear about our opposition to any and all BRIC funding grants. We know that time and time again, funding from the federal level that promotes cooperation among law-enforcement (despite how it may be framed) causes harm to immigrant, black & brown, LGBTQIA2S+, Muslim communities. The first time this came up for a vote in January 2024, I fought as hard as I possibly could to stop the vote. In instances where it has emerged after that, I have always proudly voted no to the grants.

Moreover, I have been working to close loopholes in data sharing with external entities across many pieces of legislation; from the municipal ID ordinance we filed, to the LGBTQIA2S+ oversight commission ordinance, to strengthening the Trust Act. I condemn the ongoing attacks on political expression and will continue working to exercise their first amendment rights without being targeted.

6. **The Trump Administration has used the threat of withholding funding to universities to demand, among other policies, a ban on masking which has been used by students to obscure their identities during protests against**

**the genocide in Gaza in response to doxxing, harrassment, and now, the threat of deportation. A municipal "Right to Mask" ordinance would remove this decision from universities. Will you support a Right to Mask ordinance to protect students from doxing for participating in peaceful protests? YES/ NO**

YES.

### **(I) Inclusive Boston**

1. **Name three accomplishments you've been able to achieve to advance racial justice or equity.**
  1. Established Office of Cultural Affairs to ensure that Boston's diverse cultural communities are not only acknowledged but actively included in the City's policies, programs, and resource allocation. This office was established to address the unique needs of Boston's communities of color and to institutionalize cultural equity across departments.
  2. Authored and passed the Boston Fair Chance Act, an ordinance that addresses racial disparities in municipal hiring and promotions. It created enforceable anti-nepotism provisions, established a Chief Diversity Officer, required each department to submit an Affirmative Action Plan, and introduced an anonymous application process to reduce implicit bias in hiring. The Act also mandates public reporting and regular audits to ensure transparency and accountability.
  3. Established the Commission on Black Men and Boys, which evolved into the fully funded Office of Black Male Advancement—a \$1.8 million department committed to improving outcomes and expanding opportunities for Black men and boys in Boston through workforce, education, and health-focused investments.
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?**

Our office is committed to ensuring the safety and continued access to healthcare and essential services for LGBTQIA2S+ communities during these unstable times. We proudly filed a resolution declaring Boston a Sanctuary City for Transgender people and all members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community. From that strong starting point, and in collaboration with over 40 advocates, led by nationally respected Transgender activist Chasity Bowick, we filed two key ordinances: one to create a municipal ID for those facing layered barriers to services, and another to establish an LGBTQIA2S+ oversight commission. Most recently, we co-sponsored an ordinance to codify the Office of LGBTQIA2S+ Advancement, securing its existence regardless of whoever becomes Mayor in the future.

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?**

I am proud of the work that our office has done to advance the important work of closing the racial wealth gap, and look forward to continuing this work. We passed our Retail Residential Kitchen ordinance, which helps individuals generate income and eliminate the massive barrier of access to capital to open commercial kitchens. We worked with Madison Park High School to develop a career exploration pipeline for students to secure paid internships throughout the city in their area of interest.

We have launched a literacy task force to explore ways to expand literacy in adults and students to ensure that those struggling with literacy are still about to achieve economic prosperity. Our work passing both the Black Men and Boys Commission and the Taskforce on Reparations are also aimed at closing the economic gaps that communities of color face.

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

To achieve greater diversity in City contracting, the Council must lead with equity and accountability. That means pushing for full implementation of the City's disparity study recommendations and strengthening the Supplier Diversity Program with enforceable targets, transparent tracking, and public reporting of contract awards.

We can also pass legislation requiring large contractors to partner with certified minority- and women-owned businesses (MWBs), and prioritize culturally competent technical assistance so smaller vendors can successfully navigate procurement. There must be real consequences for failure to meet equity benchmarks, and that includes financial penalties or limits on future eligibility for non-compliant vendors.

As Chair of the Government Accountability, Transparency, and Accessibility Committee, I've filed hearings to audit procurement processes and track spending across departments. I'm committed to making sure the City's dollars reflect the diversity of our residents. We need to break down language barriers, streamline vendor certification, and create more pathways for local, BIPOC-owned businesses to access capital and city opportunities.

**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.)*