



2025 Boston City Council Candidate Questionnaire

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

~ Jamaica Plain Progressives ~ Progressive West Roxbury/Roslindale ~
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The public part of the questionnaire contains a mix of yes/no and open-ended questions. Please keep all answers to open-ended questions to no more than 150 words. A non-response to a yes/no question will be treated as a no.

(A) Your Candidacy

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

Families can't find affordable homes, our schools are crumbling, and our streets aren't safe. I'm running for city council because we need bold, long-term solutions, not quick fixes. City Hall needs to work for the people, not special interests. Together, we can build a Boston that is affordable to everyone, fix our schools, and make our streets safe.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

I'm not a politician. I'm a Marine, small business owner, son of immigrants, and dad. I've spent my life in service: from the frontlines of Afghanistan, to growing Ula Cafe in J.P., to serving our veterans at the Executive Office of Veterans Services. I've built my career on integrity, hard work, and getting things done—without engaging in backroom deals or insider politics. I know how to bring people together around a common goal, and how to get real results.

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

In a strong-mayor system, the City Council's role is to represent the needs of the people and hold the mayor accountable by pushing for policies and budget decisions that reflect the priorities of Boston's neighborhoods. Critically, the council is the only real check on the mayor, and it is important that councilors are independent of the mayor. A key role that Councilors can play is filing 17F orders to compel the administration to answer questions or provide certain data, and I would not hesitate to use this authority.

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

A municipal ownership stake in affordable and mixed-income housing.

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?

Engaging all residents, not just the well-connected, is a must, and ensuring their voices are taken seriously is essential to building trust and accountability. At a fundamental level, I strongly support making hybrid access to public meetings permanent to increase accessibility and participation. For example, I support reforms to Article 80 related to land development, which aim to

increase community engagement through greater transparency and involvement.

I also support expanding participatory budgeting, which currently has \$2 million allocated to allow residents to collectively vote on budget priorities. This model of engagement can help rebuild trust between the City and its communities, but it needs more funding to support a broader range of impactful, implementable projects.

My record is strong: I helped generate \$400,000 worth of funding for the culture center. When it came to signatures, not only did I meet the target, but I got my first 1,000 in just four days. Both are due to my leadership, my ability to bridge groups together to rally support and is what I'm bringing to the city.

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

At the city level, youth are predominantly engaged through the participatory budgeting process and summer youth employment programs. To take this engagement to the next level, we should increase the capital budget allocation for youth participatory budgeting, extend youth jobs to be year-round to provide ongoing development opportunities for our future leaders, and collaborate with local youth organizations to actively listen to and address the needs of young people throughout my tenure.

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

Research has shown that only the well-connected, wealthier, and whiter residents are being engaged in neighborhood meetings, and that shouldn't be allowed to continue. Community processes need greater transparency, through clearly defined protocols for community engagement and input. Beyond that, accessibility must be significantly improved to ensure all residents can actively participate. This includes scheduling meetings at times that are reasonable for working-class individuals to attend and providing translation and interpretation services in multiple languages. These steps are essential to fully include and empower Boston's diverse, multilingual communities.

The Article 80 process is desperately in need of reform. It's imperative to ensure that people beyond just the "usual suspects" involved in neighborhood

groups are engaged. We need to actively work to solicit input from community members.

(C) Budget & Revenue

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

We know that this impact is coming, and we need to be honest that there will be painful cuts. Longer term, we need to find replacement revenue sources where possible, including increasing pressure on institutional nonprofits to give PILOT contributions, and finding savings where possible, like eliminating tax giveaways to big corporations and developers.

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.**

Given that it would make up less than 1% of the total budget, incentivizes resident engagement, and whose results in funding goes to already existing departments or is overseen by the OPM all while empowering the people I'm for an increase in allocation.

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?**

We must hold institutions accountable to the commitments and use them to leverage the approval of IMPs to ensure the surrounding communities adequately benefit from the institution's presence. The voices of community members and activists are incredibly powerful in making institutions do the right thing. We also need to put pressure on them to increase the cash percentage of the contributions.

4. **Do you support the City of Boston's home rule petition to shift some of the tax burden away from residential owners to commercial owners in order to mitigate residential property tax spikes? YES/ NO**

YES.

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

Investing in real economic development, not just random tax giveaways, is important. We need to use these dollars to build small businesses and fill vacant storefronts.

Boston needs to vigorously enforce code violations, particularly on vacant lots and storefronts. Not only would this reduce blight and decrease vacancy, but it will drive investment in our neighborhoods and increase property values. Finally, I would like to see the city explore charging a nominal fee for residential parking stickers. Parking space is a valuable commodity in a city, and charging a nominal fee would recoup the costs of the program, and make the number of participants be a little bit closer to the actual number of spaces in the neighborhood. Neighboring cities like Cambridge charge \$25, and Somerville charges \$40. This revenue would be crucial in offsetting declining commercial property values.

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?**

To the point of transparency, this is a key element I'd like to see with regards to our investments. We deserve to know where public funds are going. This is key to establishing trust in government.

(D) Education

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

One of the greatest strengths of Boston Public Schools (BPS) is its diversity. Our students come from all over the world, speak different languages, and bring a richness of culture and lived experience into the classroom. That's something to be proud of. We also have a lot of committed educators, staff, and community members who show up every day—many of them doing the work with limited resources and little recognition.

I'm a parent of three, with one child in BPS and another in Universal Pre-K, and I see firsthand what our schools are going through. In just four years, my daughter has had three different principals. That kind of leadership turnover is

disruptive—it impacts school culture, the trust families build, and ultimately the quality of education our students receive. And when those principals leave, it’s often because they’ve found “better opportunities” or places where they feel more supported. *That says something about the system they’re leaving behind and the need for significantly more investment in our schools. We’re seeing gaps in resources, outdated facilities, and continued disparities based on income and access.* Too many families—especially in low-income neighborhoods or those navigating the system in another language—feel left out of key decisions.

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.

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

I’m interested in revamping VTE programs that will prepare our youth for green jobs of the future. Educating on new infrastructure such as geothermal heat pumps, the current experimental use of increasing efficiency in computing decentralizing them and excess heat for consumer use.

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

Regardless of whether you supported or opposed this project (I have publicly supported it), it is happening. What I’m focused on is ensuring that this project serves its host communities of Roxbury, Dorchester, and JP. That means ensuring that local workers and businesses are engaged. We are for the White

Stadium and acknowledge that the root issue amongst the people isn't with a new stadium for their kids, a place for entertainers, and the women's soccer team but with the very real fear of gentrification. Having the existing community not be able to afford living there.

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 would work to educate the public and business owners on their rights when confronted by ICE, and provide resources to mitigate disruptions to the city.

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 City of Boston needs to commit to anti-racism and have a zero tolerance for when it arises. In the hiring process there must be additional screening to ensure this through social media checks, deeper character references and involvement in white terrorist activities to reduce threats to our communities.

In addition, I would push to ensure that more BPD members are recruited from Boston, particularly from communities of color within the city. Diversifying our police force is essential to building trust. I would also advocate for strengthening residency requirements for BPD officers.

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

YES.

8. How do you evaluate the City's response to the humanitarian situation at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard ("Mass & Cass")?

The crisis at Mass and Cass has been a true policy failure. The lack of mental health resources, housing supports, and addiction treatment services has led to a crisis. The approach of "clearing" the area only pushes the problem to other communities within the city, it does nothing to solve the problem. I believe that we can end homelessness in the city of Boston, just as the state is doing with veteran homelessness statewide. All that is required is the willingness to invest in it and prioritize it.

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

Addressing the root issues that cause gun violence, such as providing much more widespread youth mental health services, access to jobs and opportunities, and strengthening our gun laws. I'd work to ensure that there are enough mentors and engaged community members surrounding young people to help them avoid the path that leads to violence. I look to the model of the "Boston Miracle" and recent efforts that have led to success.

(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?**

I'll support city initiatives that are already in place and expand others. This includes boosting the construction of carbon neutral buildings, investing in infrastructure planning to protect coastal areas. I'll advocate to make the T free, while looking to increase its development and extending hours.

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?**

Continuing the development of our bike lanes by exploring effective ways to utilize the data provided by the February 3 ordinance related to delivery apps. While this data largely reflects activity in higher-income areas, it's important to recognize its limitations and ensure that underrepresented neighborhoods are not overlooked. We will prioritize incorporating resident input to guide where bike lanes are needed most. Securing community support and buy-in for this initiative is essential to its success.

3. **Do you support the City of Boston's zoning code update requiring new buildings to achieve net zero carbon emissions standards upon opening? YES/ NO**

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

(G) Housing

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

I'll fight for more affordable rental units and expanded first-time homebuyer programs by taxing greedy out-of-town developers profiting from displacing hard-working Bostonians. We need to pass rent stabilization at the state house, and do more to subsidize deeply affordable units. We also need to tackle real zoning reform to improve predictability of the building approval process. Finally, we need greater transparency into the process through which projects are approved.

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

Ensuring that city-owned land is used to create the deepest affordability possible is essential. Where land costs for developers are basically free, they should be obligated to return the favor for the public good. We should critically review the citywide land audit and identify future opportunities to use for this purpose.

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 would advocate by connecting with representatives in the legislature who are also supportive, and working with advocates to organize inside and outside of government.

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 support whatever the strongest legislation we can get passed, given the political realities of the City Council and the State Legislature.

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?**

Ensure that not only the Office of Housing Stability, but also ONS and other city agencies, proactively share this information.

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?**

Permanent supportive housing is THE proven method to break the cycle of homelessness. We need to ensure that we are leveraging state and federal resources, and adding local investment in providers where possible. These projects should be prioritized for receiving city affordable housing funding.

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

YES.

I support the current Squares + Streets process because it fosters community input and improves public spaces in ways that reflect neighborhood needs, and helps create added density where it can be best accommodated. One change that I would make is to increase outreach and engagement efforts specifically targeting youth and underrepresented groups. This would ensure that the process captures a wider diversity of voices and ideas, making the resulting public spaces more inclusive and better suited to serve all residents.

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

YES.

If developers are noticing a lack of demand for parking amenities, they shouldn't be required to include it. I would support restricting the ability of residents in large developments over a certain size to participate in the residential parking program, that do not build parking and are within close proximity to transit.

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 is important, but it's one part of the puzzle. Because we know from research that the whitest and wealthiest residents tend to be the ones to participate in this process, we have to assess projects on their merits as well.

(H) Democracy

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

The city should focus on civic education and voter pre-registration in schools and colleges. Peer-led campus groups and social media campaigns can engage young voters effectively. Participatory budgeting programs empower

youth by involving them in city decisions. Lowering the voting age to 16 or 17 for local elections could also increase turnout. Creating a strong culture of civic participation through families, schools, and community groups helps young people feel their vote matters. Together, these strategies can significantly raise youth engagement and turnout.

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

YES.

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

YES.

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

YES.

5. **The current administration has been revoking student visas of international students for exercising rights protected under the First Amendment to criticize US foreign policy and specifically Israel's war on Gaza. But this attack is less a radical break from than an escalation of past tactics from politics of both parties and university administrations to criminalize dissent, especially around US policy on Israel. How will you *proactively oppose efforts to criminalize dissent and protect the civil liberties of all residents?***

I strongly oppose efforts to criminalize dissent. As a City Councilor, I'll defend First Amendment rights by supporting protest protections, opposing political retaliation, and ending local-federal collaboration that targets activists. We have already had to sue the Trump administration and I won't be afraid to do so in the future. I'll ensure Boston remains a sanctuary for free speech for all.

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. Toussaint Louverture Cultural Center: As Chair, I led efforts to secure a 25-year rent-free lease and over \$288,000 in funding to create Boston's first Haitian cultural center—a space to celebrate culture, foster dialogue, and empower Black immigrant communities.
2. Veteran Unity Initiative: At the Executive Office of Veterans Services, I co-led statewide outreach to support BIPOC and LGBTQ+ veterans, launching heritage events and creating resources to ensure all veterans feel seen, supported, and valued.
3. Call It Out: With a colleague and friend, I founded this local nonprofit to address systemic racism through arts, dialogue, and community action—creating spaces where residents discuss racial inequity and develop grassroots solutions.

2. The Trump administration has previously used the threat of withholding federal funding to pressure cities into complying with federal policies that may be contrary to the values of progressive governance—such as sanctuary city policies, protections for LGBTQ+ residents, DEI policies, or environmental regulations. If faced with such a scenario, how would you respond? Specifically, what strategies would you employ to resist federal overreach while protecting critical services and funding for residents?

I'm glad that the city has already joined other communities in filing lawsuits to challenge these policies. I strongly support continuing to use the court system to address these invasions on state and local autonomy.

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?**

Boston’s racial wealth gap is one of the deepest in the country. As a Marine, small business owner, and son of Haitian immigrants, I’m committed to closing it. On the City Council, I’ll expand affordable homeownership, support BIPOC-owned small businesses, and increase access to capital. I’ll create pathways to good union jobs through job training, especially in green energy and public service, and ensure our youth and returning citizens are included. I’ll also invest in universal pre-K, quality public schools, and affordable childcare—because real economic justice starts with opportunity. Every Bostonian deserves the chance to build generational wealth.

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

To achieve greater diversity in City contracting, Boston must enforce and expand MWBE goals with real accountability. We need to simplify the bidding process, break large contracts into smaller ones, and invest in technical assistance for BIPOC- and immigrant-owned businesses. As a small business owner, I know firsthand the barriers many entrepreneurs face. On the Council, I’ll champion an equity-driven procurement strategy, push departments to publicly report outcomes, and ensure city contracts are tools for closing the racial wealth gap.

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.)

Progressive Mass has been one of the leading advocates for transparency and accountability on Beacon Hill, and I believe that we need the same kind of transparency and accountability from City Hall. Too many backroom deals are brokered, and lobbying is barely regulated on a city level. And often, the city council will hold numerous hearings on an issue, only to take no vote or action.

