



# 2025 Boston City Council Candidate Questionnaire

*Progressive Mass's Boston chapters collaborated on a joint questionnaire. Whether we have a chapter in a given district or not, we hope these questionnaires are informative for all voters. Remember: Once elected, all councilors, even district councilors, work on committees and policies that impact all of us city-wide.*

~ 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?**

Stabilizing Boston's housing market, promoting economic development, and closing the wealth gap in District 7 communities, while creating clear pathways to higher education for Boston Public School students.

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

I have served in public office as an aide for the City of Boston and currently work in the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. Throughout my career, I have gained valuable experience and skills in both local and state government, making me well-qualified to represent and advance the interests of my constituency on the Boston City Council.

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

The Boston City Council plays a strong role in legislative authority: passing ordinances and resolutions related to city governance and approving zoning changes as well as proposing home rule petitions and ultimately having the ability to override a mayoral veto with a two-thirds majority. Also, the Council plays a significant role in the city of Boston's budget review process and has the ability to hold important budget hearings that serve as the platform of advocacy for the budget priorities of their constituents and the city writ large. Further, the Boston City Council holds public hearings and investigations to oversee the City Departments, but recognizes that the Mayor has ultimate authority of oversight of the departments. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the Boston City Council's premier function is to provide constituent services and I aspire to foster a Constituent Services model that District 7 deserves. My team and I will address daily constituent concerns, propose policies based on their interests and advocate for community needs and assist them with city services. Additionally, there are specific functions of the Boston City Council that deal with land use development, which I hope to utilize to develop affordable housing throughout District 7 and also work to build out a qualified and professional workforce through appointments and confirmations.

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

Policies addressing Area Median Income (AMI) for housing, as implemented in cities like Chicago, New York City, and Saint Paul, Minnesota, serve as examples of initiatives I would like to pursue for Boston.

5. **Which of the following groups have you chosen to reject / would reject campaign contributions from?**

- a. For-profit developers
- b. Fossil fuel executives or lobbyists

c. Charter school advocates and lobbyists

d. Police unions

## **(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?**

I will host quarterly town halls to engage the diverse communities within District 7, ensuring that their voices inform the policies I propose and implement. As the current Director of External Affairs for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, I serve as the primary liaison between the public and the Healey Administration, helping to shape and improve housing and community development policies across the Commonwealth.

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 a Boston Public School graduate who founded and developed a nonprofit focused on civic engagement during my time at Charlestown High School, I understand the importance of involving young people early in the policy and advocacy process. As a caring neighbor and elected official, I am committed to mentoring, educating, and supporting our children to help them thrive.

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

The city's zoning process needs improvement, as the current system poses barriers to the essential development of affordable housing. I will advocate for updating zoning policies by establishing a robust yet efficient stakeholder engagement process to ensure all voices are heard.

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

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

The first step is clearly communicating to constituents the financial challenges

we are facing—not just saying “budgets are tight,” but genuinely explaining what that means for everyday residents of Boston. I would then break down the budget by sector—education, transportation, public safety, and more—to help paint a clear picture of what lies ahead. Finally, I would work to empower communities to advocate alongside me for the continued funding of the city’s most vital services.

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.**

For context, \$2 million was appropriated for the current fiscal year, while the Better Budget Alliance has advocated for \$40 million. I would strongly support increasing the participatory budget allocation and aim to raise it as close to \$25 million as possible.

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?**

Universities and other large nonprofit institutions must be more transparent and fully engaged as partners in this work. I would increase the number of scheduled meetings and the frequency of communication among all stakeholders to foster greater collaboration.

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?**

We could generate additional revenue by increasing support for the PILOT program and shifting a greater share of the tax burden onto commercial entities.

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?**

With the support of my colleagues and partnering organizations and watchdog groups, I would be dedicated to scrutinizing municipal contracts to ensure we do not support entities that profit from war or are implicated in human rights violations. I would ask for your support in this effort.

**(D) Education**

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

Providing wraparound services for our students, rebuilding and modernizing school facilities, and improving educational outcomes, including matriculation and graduation rates, are top priorities. Additionally, with the removal of MCAS, I will collaborate with education stakeholders to establish clear standards and graduation requirements.

**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.

I believe in a fully elected school board because the community should have the power to choose its representatives.

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

In the Lawrence, MA school district, every student performing below grade level is provided with a tutor. I strongly support this policy and believe it has the potential to be truly transformative for our children and our entire school system.

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

I live near White Stadium and participated in programs there throughout my time as a Boston Public Schools student. While the stadium is currently being redeveloped, the priority should be ensuring that BPS students can use the space freely and without restrictions. Additionally, there should be meaningful stakeholder engagement with the surrounding community to address challenges such as traffic and parking concerns.

**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 proactively engage with federal authorities rather than reacting after actions have been taken to detain immigrants. Additionally, I am committed to protecting the private information of our immigrant families and neighbors.

**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?**

Hate in all its forms has no place in Boston. I would advocate for a fully transparent investigation into BPD officers involved in the January 6, 2021 events. Using the City of Boston's subpoena power, I would call BPD leadership before the City Council to hold them accountable for the actions of their officers. While they have the right to express their political beliefs and free speech, they must understand that they swore an oath to uphold the Constitution—and that there must be consequences for any violations.

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")?**

More must be done at the municipal, state, and federal levels to address these challenges. We need to create long-term solutions for individuals struggling with addiction and mental health issues. I am committed to working collaboratively with my colleagues to develop creative and effective approaches to this crisis.

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

It begins with ensuring our youth are safely off the streets and engaged in meaningful activities and sports. I am committed to supporting organizations and programs that uplift and protect our young people.

## (F) Environment & Transportation

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

I support investing in our green and open spaces, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, and upgrading infrastructure to include more electric vehicle charging stations.

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 would collaborate with stakeholders to design communities that are safe and less dependent on traditional forms 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**

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 would support codifying a minimum threshold of housing units that must be

designated as affordable for residents of the district. Additionally, I am committed to expanding homeownership opportunities throughout the district and across the city.

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

I would advocate for the release of city-owned land for the development of affordable homeownership opportunities and the creation of housing across all income levels—particularly for low-income, extremely low-income, and workforce households.

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 lobby my colleagues in the legislature.

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 would actively lobby my colleagues in the legislature to build support for policies that support rent stabilization.

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 would partner with local organizations to educate and support our neighbors in understanding and navigating this law.

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?**

I would work alongside and support the providers who care for and serve these vulnerable populations.

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

YES.

I would work to ensure the process is truly exhaustive from a stakeholder engagement perspective, making certain that we effectively engage the public where they are about the future of their community.

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

NO.

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?**

I believe community engagement is essential to the development process. I fully support and would work to ensure residents have a meaningful voice in shaping their neighborhoods.

#### **(H) Democracy**

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

We should strive to engage voters on college campuses, encouraging students to actively participate in local elections.

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 would champion and defend our Constitution and the principles of due process, while working to educate our community about their rights.

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.**

I am committed to advocating for underrepresented demographics in city contracts and actively support local organizations such as the NAACP and the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts. Additionally, I continue to engage with and contribute to my fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated—the first Black intercollegiate fraternity.

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 would stand in solidarity with my neighbors to protest and resist federal government actions that negatively impact our community.

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?**

Creating homeownership opportunities, fostering workforce development, and strengthening our public education system are key priorities.

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

I will continue to ensure the City educates and promotes its RFPs and RFQs to underrepresented minority, women-owned, veteran and disabled-owned contractors.

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.)*

I aim to inspire and cultivate an active and informed constituency, as this is key to addressing many of the challenges our community faces. I hope to be a transformative leader in this effort within District 7.