



2025 Boston Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

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

~ Jamaica Plain Progressives ~ Progressive West Roxbury/Roslindale ~
~ Allston-Brighton Progressives ~

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

(A) Your Candidacy

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

My daily focus is on making Boston a home for everyone as the 1) safest, 2) greenest, and 3) most family-friendly city in the country.

1) Safest city: Under our administration, Boston has become the safest major city in the country, gun violence is at the lowest level on record, and we are focused on continuing the community policing approach grounded in trusted partnerships, accountability, and transparency to advance further progress. At the same time, our vision is clear that community safety is not just the absence

of violence or harm, but also ensuring every resident feels a sense of belonging and excitement to be part of our community. In that way, safety requires relentless, dedicated coordination of resources for youth development, mental health, housing stability, quality of life, and basic city services.

2) Greenest city: Boston is a national climate leader because we are fighting to protect against the destructive impacts of flooding and heat, while taking action for healthy communities and jobs in the green economy. We're focused on decarbonizing and weatherizing housing, including through the new Boston Energy Saver program. We've created the Office of Climate Resilience to scale up and coordinate investments in climate resilience through our built environment, overhauling our emergency preparedness to prepare our residents, homes, businesses and City assets for coastal flooding, extreme heat, and extreme rain storms. And we're building the green workforce that Boston will need to accomplish all of this work—from coastal resilience to green building management, solar technicians, and electricians—by developing training programs that allow Boston residents to build skills, offer wraparound services to ensure workers' success, and place workers in good jobs and career pathways.

3) Most family-friendly: Housing affordability is the foundation for families to thrive, and we need to use every tool available to make progress. I'll continue to focus on building and preserving affordable housing; creating new public housing units; investing in housing production at a time when the private market is not delivering the homes we need; fighting for rent stabilization and tenant protections; implementing City planning and zoning that prioritizes affordability, equity, and resiliency; and expanding opportunities for first-time home buyers. Supporting families also means investing in public education and programs and services for young people. In the city that invented public education, Boston Public Schools should set the standard nationally for others to meet. We'll continue expanding high-quality PreK options for our littlest learners; making arts, science, and sports more accessible; expanding options for early college and career pathways that match our students' aspirations; and investing in the recruitment and retention of our educators – the most diverse, dedicated, and talented workforce in the country.

Of course, looming over all our work at the city level and the well-being of all our residents are the ongoing targeting and attacks on Boston from the Trump administration. This federal administration is hostile toward all of the things that make Boston the best city in the world: diversity, welcoming communities,

education, research, and standing up for the public good. I will continue doing everything in my power to stand up for our families and our future, and to protect all our community members while moving our city forward.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

I'm a daughter of immigrants, mom of two current (and one future) Boston Public School students, MBTA commuter, and resident of Roslindale. I've served in city government for nearly fifteen years, first working in Mayor Menino's office, then serving for eight years on the City Council before having the opportunity to serve as mayor. We've built a team in City Hall and across our neighborhoods that has delivered unprecedented results. Over the last four years of our administration, together we drove down gun violence to the lowest levels on record in Boston; built more affordable housing than in a generation; expanded Universal Pre-K, early college, and paid summer jobs for BPS students more than ever before; secured Boston's triple-A bond rating amid the economic chaos of the Trump administration; delivered on green jobs and green infrastructure citywide; and opened up museums and cultural institutions for free for all Boston's young people. Most of all, I've spent time in every neighborhood and community of Boston—I know and love this city deeply, and I will always fight for our families and our future.

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

My eight years of service on the Boston City Council give me a deep respect for the work that Boston's district and at-large City Councilors do for our residents and communities. As Mayor, I have worked closely with Councilors to advance our shared priorities, and I'm grateful for their leadership. The Council is an important balance for the administration in the roles of budget stewards, platform and advocate for issues impacting residents, and daily service in our communities, bringing City Hall out into our neighborhoods.

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

When I visited Rome last year for the international climate summit convened by Pope Francis (where Boston was the only American city invited to participate), I was so impressed by their ubiquitous system of public drinking fountains, which gives everyone outdoor access to quality drinking water all over what can be a very hot city. As the climate crisis brings a more intense urban heat island effect to many of Boston's neighborhoods, we know we need to be more intentional about the public's access to water and cooling

shade – so I’m urging our team to map those resources holistically and be strategic about where we need to add a water play feature, or a drinking fountain, or a green roof, or a pocket park. I think it’s encouraging to remember that even one of the densest, most ancient cities in the world invests in this kind of basic human infrastructure – so Boston can too!

5. **Which of the following groups have you chosen to reject / would reject campaign contributions from?**
- For-profit developers
 - Fossil fuel executives or lobbyists
 - Charter school advocates and lobbyists
 - Police unions

We do not accept corporate contributions. I make decisions based on what is in the best interest of the residents of Boston, always, and contributions have no influence on those decisions.

(B) Community Engagement

1. **What steps would you take, if elected/re-elected, to engage all the diverse communities of Boston in policymaking, and what past actions of yours should give voters confidence that you will follow through?**

My staff and I regularly meet with community stakeholders on issues facing residents in every neighborhood, and will continue to do so. In addition, the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services has a specific liaison that represents each neighborhood and serves as a conduit between residents, our local civic associations, and City Hall. Additionally, Senior Leadership in the Mayor’s office regularly meet with stakeholders representing the many constituencies who call Boston home to solicit input on topics ranging from quality of life issues to big policy decisions.

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

Our office of Youth Engagement and Advancement hosts the Youth Lead The Change program to engage Boston’s youth in the democratic process by giving them the power and resources to effect tangible change in their communities—participatory budgeting to empower residents ages 14 to 25 to directly determine the allocation of \$1 million in city funds. Through Youth Lead the Change, Boston is setting a new standard for youth engagement and

civic participation, ensuring that the voices of young people are heard and valued in shaping the future of the city. Our administration also hosted the first Mayor's Youth Summit in twenty years, bringing together young leaders to build community and connect to leadership development and policymaking. We also convene the Mayor's Youth Council and young professionals SPARK Council to advise on policies and programs. My administration has also overseen the largest expansion of the youth summer jobs program in Boston history, guaranteeing a summer job to every BPS student who wants one. Summer employment provides a huge opportunity for leadership development and a pathway to lifelong civic engagement. Under our administration, we also launched the first-ever Boston Housing Authority Youth Council, made up of youth leaders from BHA developments.

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

Throughout my life in Boston – as a resident, City Councilor, and now Mayor – I have learned that what makes our city special is the deep commitment people have to improving their neighborhoods. Prior to major and minor policy-making decisions, the City seeks resident and stakeholder input through public meetings, but we know from experience that attending these meetings can be a challenge for many residents. To ensure that we hear from as many people as possible, Senior Leadership in the Mayor's office started meeting frequently with constituency stakeholders and resident leaders to get input on issues ranging from quality of life improvements to speed hump installation and zoning reform. Our Community Engagement team seeks to broaden engagement and direct outreach across every neighborhood, from canvassing for feedback on street design, to hosting regular coffee hours.

(C) Budget & Revenue

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

As Mayor, I am committed to using every City resource to fight back against these authoritarian attacks on public education and on our community. My administration is tracking actions of the federal administration closely and working to mitigate the impact of any federal funding cuts. We are part of several litigation efforts in the last four months alone, challenging the Trump administration on their proposal to cut NIH funding and research, illegal revocation of grant funds including the Continuum of Care grants to address homelessness and housing stability, and proposed immigration policies. In our

city budget process, we are carefully monitoring the \$300 million of annual federal grants, and we have proposed a lean budget that reduces headcount by the equivalent of nearly 500 full-time roles through salary savings and eliminating vacant positions. This puts us at the right balance point of preparing for the worst case scenario while not jumping ahead to slash city services that are needed even more in this moment.

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.**

Our administration built out the Office of Participatory Budgeting so that earlier this year, for the first time, Boston residents could directly decide how \$2 million of the City budget could be invested in one-time and non-recurrent, community driven projects across the City. I'm grateful to the residents and advocates who, in Cycle One, funded everything from new benches at high ridership bus stops, to programs to support formerly incarcerated youth, rat prevention initiatives, rental assistance for youth, community gardens, access to fresh foods, and more. I'm committed to continuing to enable a wide-reaching and impactful participatory budgeting process each year while balancing budget stability in a fiscally unstable time.

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?**

The City's PILOT program with hospitals and universities is nation-leading and also needs to be updated. Amidst ongoing discussions with institutions and with advocates, including the PILOT Action Group, I am prioritizing increased cash payments over a longer term of years, and would hope to codify new commitments in actual agreements. I also believe in better alignment with Institutional Master Planning (IMP) to deliver real benefits to residents. The attacks on research institutions by the Trump Administration have complicated these conversations, but they are continuing.

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?**

Like all municipalities across the Commonwealth, Boston's budget is constrained by Proposition 2 ½, enacted by voter initiative in 1980 to limit annual property tax levy. Over the last several years, the City saw notable construction projects in Boston enter the City property tax base, allowing property tax to grow beyond the allowable 2.5% increase in 14 of the last 20 years. Even with this new growth, Proposition 2 ½ has not kept up with inflation, requiring our administration to make difficult tradeoffs as we continue to prioritize our workforce and core City operations and public services. I believe in public services, and my annual budgets have reflected the importance of our public infrastructure.

Cities in Massachusetts do not have the authority to raise new revenue sources without approval from the state legislature, and previous attempts to diversify Boston's revenues beyond our reliance on property taxes have not been successful, including our most recent home-rule petition for a 2% real estate transfer fee on properties selling for over \$2 million that would have generated \$100 million per year for housing affordability from high end transfers. As Mayor, I'll continue to work with partners at the state and federal level, as well as partners in the private sector and our anchor institutions, to secure every possible resource for city services and public services.

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?**

One of my first acts as mayor was to sign the ordinance requiring the City of Boston to divest from fossil fuel, tobacco, and private prison industries. Divesting from harmful industries to invest in sustainable and healthy jobs is not only the pathway to a green and resilient future; it's also the most responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

(D) Education

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

My goal is to make Boston Public Schools the first choice for families and the best urban public school district in America. As Mayor and as a BPS mom, I am determined that every child and family in Boston should have access to the fullest of opportunities, in the classroom and across the city.

Like all BPS families, I get to see first-hand the magic that happens in our classrooms every day, thanks to the dedication of our educators. So my sources of information include the direct experiences of being a BPS mom, spending time in our classrooms as mayor, and seeking out opportunities to hear from educators, administrators, school leaders, students, and school communities—such as the BPS student town hall that Superintendent Skipper and I participated in, and other roundtables on issues.

I'm deeply grateful to our educators and City teams for substantive progress to deliver for BPS over the last three years. Under Superintendent Skipper's leadership, we have built a strong foundation and are accelerating our progress. Even before the pandemic, BPS was experiencing a period of deep instability, with turnover at the superintendent and senior leader level and sharply declining enrollment, leading to years of budget instability. I am proud that since the beginning of my administration, we came out of Covid-19 and navigated the end of ESSER funds with annual BPS budgets that are focused on sustaining the investments that we know should have always been the baseline for all of our teaching and learning environments: new resources for mental health clinicians and social workers, a focus on family engagement to drive down chronic absenteeism, and capital funds to build and renovate more school buildings than in the last 40 years combined. We've stabilized our core operations and reoriented Central Office to better serve our school communities. Our school bus on-time-performance rate continues to climb to historic highs, we serve thousands of healthy and fresh meals every day with local ingredients, we have filled vacancies with highly qualified and diverse educators, and we have rebuilt a regional structure to effectively get supports and resources out to our schools. Building on that stable foundation, we're investing in high-quality instructional materials, a consistent focus on literacy, universal high-quality PreK, expanded access to native language programming, and early college and career pathways to close decades-old opportunity and achievement gaps.

Our challenges mirror the challenges facing city governments and households in this moment: digging out of decades of disinvestment in facilities, growing need in our community not matched with resources from public budgets, rising housing costs that displace and uproot our students, and a hostile federal government. But I am grateful, determined, and excited for the

partnership with our educators and school communities to deliver urgently for our students across every school and neighborhood.

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?**

NO.

As Mayor and as a BPS mom, I want every Boston family to know that we are working every day to raise academic performance and better serve all our students. In this role, I have come to believe that BPS needs the strong leadership, stability, and accountability to make difficult choices that an appointed school committee provides. Anyone who attends Boston School Committee meetings knows that members ask tough questions and don't always agree. I have sought to appoint members who reflect the diversity of BPS communities, bring a strong perspective and expertise to the role, and care deeply about public education. From nation-leading early childhood education, to a focus on literacy, inclusive learning, and record expansion of early college, I am proud of our progress and our readiness to tackle the challenges ahead.

Together with Superintendent Skipper, we have also made significant efforts to make the Boston School Committee a more effective governance body, with new support structures in place to support School Committee members in getting timely information, direct access to school leaders and administrators, and the tools to engage with BPS policy and programs. For example, in response to calls from School Committee members and other stakeholders for greater transparency into the BPS budget process, BPS this year finalized a budget book with detailed information about every

school, Central Office department, and program to build greater understanding and transparency with the public.

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

We've learned a lot from high-quality PreK models in other districts about how to sustainably integrate high-quality care for 3-year-olds into both schools and community-based settings. My administration has expanded seats in community based settings over the past four years and is now turning to expanding seats for 3 year olds in Boston Public Schools. This will provide families with a high quality experience while limiting the transitions that their littlest learners experience through elementary school.

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

Progress on White Stadium means delivering the greatest opportunity for our BPS students and larger community—leveraging resources for Boston to be home to the first professional sports team that will play out of a public school district-owned sports complex that will serve thousands of students, coaches, and park users, **15 hours per day, more than 345 days per year**, and be a new community resource for surrounding neighborhoods.

The City's lease agreement with Boston Unity Soccer Partners legally codifies the financial, community usage, and open space protections that were carefully negotiated and shaped by community feedback through more than 60 public meetings over nearly 18 months. BPS students and community members have waited too many decades for meaningful investments in White Stadium and Franklin Park. I am thrilled to be finally delivering a top tier facility that will be devoted to public use, owned as a public facility, built at less than half the cost to tax-payers, and maintained permanently by a private partner, all while generating more resources to fulfill the Franklin Park Action Plan each year. The renovation of White Stadium is also an exciting opportunity for local economic development in the community. Together with the Boston Unity Soccer Partners, we are working to ensure our local minority- and women-owned businesses are connected to this opportunity with equitable access during all stages of construction.

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.

Under Superintendent Skipper's leadership, we have invested in social workers, school psychologists, and restorative justice practices to address the whole child's needs and address behavioral challenges. The BPS Safety Services team works closely with school leaders, educators and families to prevent, disrupt, and respond to any incidents through a restorative lens, while the Boston Police Department continues to respond urgently to any school-based incidents that require a police response.

(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?

As Mayor of Boston, my job is to make our city a home for everyone—a goal that requires a foundation of safety and trust. Our approach focuses on building and deepening relationships in all of our neighborhoods, engaging community leaders, investing in public safety and public health, and collaborating with partners at every level of government. BPD is sworn to uphold state and city laws, including the Boston Trust Act that I voted to pass as a Councilor in 2014 and again in 2019. This authority, and its limitations, were reinforced by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts in *Lunn v. Commonwealth*: In Massachusetts, law enforcement agencies may not detain people solely for alleged civil immigration violations. I have been proud to stand up against repeated and targeted personal attacks on Boston and our leadership from this current federal administration, and to reiterate before Congress and any other interested party that our officers uphold the law, and we are the safest major city in the country because we are safe for everyone.

My administration has also implemented the Community Oversight Over Surveillance ordinance that I co-authored as a Councilor, ensuring protections for any surveillance technology used by the City and protections around information sharing at the Boston Public Schools. Our Office of Police

Accountability and Transparency has convened community organizations working with immigrant communities in the wake of seemingly unconstitutional actions by ICE and the federal administration so that OPAT can be a resource to document these actions where appropriate.

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

NO.

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

NO.

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?**

Our administration terminated one of the two officers involved in the January 6, 2021 insurrection, and we will fight any effort to reinstate this officer through labor arbitration or Civil Service.

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")?**

Over the last two years, Boston has built an infrastructure to address the overlapping crises of homelessness, substance use, and mental health that has supported hundreds of individuals in need and highlighted the effectiveness of a public health-led approach. Our teams work every day to

connect people with shelter, treatment, and services citywide to ensure the health and safety of all community members. On Mass & Cass, we are focused on ending congregate substance use and the criminal activity that supports it. We have successfully kept permanent encampments from forming because we've invested in housing and our shelter system. Now we are taking steps that wouldn't have been possible even a couple years ago to change culture. 311 calls for drug use, needles, and waste are down, crowd levels are down, and engagement and connection to recovery services are up in Downtown, Nubian Square, Newmarket, and the South End. We have a lot of work to do, but we are making progress.

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

Boston is the safest major city in the country because BPD is working in partnership every day with the community and other City Departments on violence prevention, intervention, and healing. Our teams focus on violence reduction efforts in opportunity zones that have historically experienced a higher rate of violence, engaging with the individuals at the highest risk for violence. As summer approaches, working closely with Commissioner Cox and all departments, we're investing in the strategies that we know work, especially with summer-specific challenges. This past summer from June through August, OYEA launched the Boston After Dark initiative, which provided events and activities to teens and young adults every Friday from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. & we scaled up our Adopt a Block initiative. We'll continue scaling up work with the Violence Reduction Team, YouthConnect, and BEST clinicians, and connecting young people to opportunity at historic levels. After launching the Mayor's Youth Job Guarantee (MYJG), a pledge that any eligible BPS student who wants a summer job can get one, 10,427 youth were hired last summer—the highest in the program's history. We're also bringing youth services back to our BHA sites that they haven't had since federal cuts in the 1990s; we've used city funds to directly support the creation of a new afterschool youth program at Franklin Field, and we're working with institutional partners through PILOT to fund new youth programming at Mildred Hailey in Jamaica Plain and Commonwealth in Brighton as well.

(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?

First, I am focused on decarbonizing and weatherizing housing so that all residents have access to housing that is safe, healthy, and resilient. I launched

the Boston Energy Saver program, a partnership with Eversource, National Grid, and non-profit partners, to help Boston residents and small businesses access Mass Save financial incentives and credits to upgrade their homes and energy systems and lower energy costs– with a goal of installing at least 5,000 heat pumps and weatherizing 10,000 buildings from 2025-2027. Through the program, the City will help renters, homeowners, and business owners decide on the best investments to make in their homes and access the financial supports available to pay for them, reducing their energy bills and improving building performance.

Second, we're working to enhance Boston's climate resilience through our built environment. Through the new Office of Climate Resilience, we're accelerating planning and taking action on our big 3 climate risks: coastal flooding; extreme heat; and extreme rain storms. And we're embedding climate-related shocks in the City's emergency preparedness. At the same time, award-winning climate-resilient parks like Langone Park and Martin's Park are transforming public spaces into models of green infrastructure and coastal protection, making neighborhoods more vibrant, accessible, and prepared for a changing climate. We also hosted the nation's first flood deployables day this past September, a practice and demonstration day for temporary flood walls in use by the public and private sector to protect against today's most severe storms (will be happening again this September). In an environment where the current administration in DC is choosing to ignore the science and the reality on the ground around the country and here in Boston, we will continue to seek out all available public funding resources and private sector partnership to deliver a more resilient Boston for everyone.

Third, we'll continue our work to expand opportunity for workers to access good, stable jobs in climate resilience, clean energy, and sustainability. We have expanded our PowerCorps program to build the City's green workforce, providing crucial pathways through skills and job training to our young people - ensuring that our green workforce is accessible to all. And we were proud to secure a \$9.8 million NOAA grant through the Inflation Reduction Act to develop the workforce needed to enhance climate and coastal resilience across Boston neighborhoods. The grant will assist City departments in developing training programs that build in-demand and emerging climate resilience skills, offer wraparound services to ensure workers' success, and place workers in good jobs and career pathways.

Boston is the economic engine of New England. We are the national leader in education, healthcare and biotechnology. If we want to continue being the best home for innovators, entrepreneurs and working families, we need to not

only invest in creating more jobs but protecting our coast and our residents from the effects of climate change. We'll continue our work to create a pipeline of highly skilled workers ready to fill the good paying jobs it'll take to protect our communities from higher tides and stronger storms.

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

As Mayor, we have worked to make it easier for residents to move around the city. For cyclists, we have added e-bikes and one hundred new stations to the nation-leading bikeshare program, Blue Bikes, offered \$5 a year subsidized Blue Bikes passes to low-income residents, and strengthened the city's bike network. For pedestrians, we have redone miles of sidewalks across all of our neighborhoods, and we launched Squares and Streets to improve walkability and vibrancy in our major neighborhood corridors. For drivers, we have pioneered the use of artificial intelligence to optimize our traffic signals and reduce congestion – leading to a 50% reduction in traffic in some of our initial intersections.

One of the first steps our Administration took was to institute a two-year pilot program to make the MBTA bus routes 23, 28, and 29 free for passengers. We subsequently extended that two-year pilot program through March 2026 through negotiations with the MBTA. This program resulted in 12 million fare-free trips that saved riders approximately \$6 million or \$35 a month. I have joined partners across the Commonwealth to advocate for a low-income MBTA fare, now in effect thanks to Governor Healey's leadership.

I successfully advocated for a Boston seat on the MBTA board, and appointed Jamaica Plain resident and 39 bus rider Mary Skelton Roberts to advocate for Boston's interests – from careful mitigation and multilingual communication during temporary shutdowns, to expanded and electrified commuter rail service. I look forward to exploring ways to continue and expand this work. Under our administration, Boston's Transportation Department has also added staff focused on coordinating with the MBTA on public transportation, such as managing shuttle transportation on Boston roads so that the subways could be shut down for faster track fixes and designing dedicated bus lanes.

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?**

Our administration has been taking an all-of-the-above approach to housing affordability, which is the greatest challenge facing families across Boston. We put the most ARPA funding into affordable housing of any city in the country, including huge investments in the Acquisition Opportunity Program, expanding affordable homeownership, new affordable housing development on public land, expanded rental relief, and a once in a generation investment into renovating Boston public housing, and more.

Our Administration has produced more units of affordable housing than Boston has seen in a generation, and we have an enormous pipeline of approved affordable housing projects that are ready to go if only we can get more resources. That is why I'm pushing for an expansion of Low Income Housing Tax Credits and housing vouchers at the federal level, and for a transfer fee at the state level that would help us fund this pipeline of projects. In January 2024, I announced the BHA's plan to build the 3000 net new public housing units for which it is eligible under the Faircloth Amendment over the next decade. I have also established an innovative \$110 million Housing Accelerator Fund to revolve low-cost capital into mixed-income housing development in Boston, at a time when interest rates and tariffs are making it almost impossible for the private market to deliver the homes our residents need. To prevent displacement, I updated our Inclusionary Development Policy, codified it for the first time into zoning, and signed an Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Executive Order, which is all the more necessary now

that the Trump Administration is abandoning the cause of fair housing and settled civil rights law. This spring, we also published our Anti-Displacement Action Plan to highlight strategies that we are using to help protect residents from displacement amid rising costs.

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

This has been a major initiative of our administration. We conducted a major land audit of all City land to identify opportunities for expanded affordable housing, and then put a number of significant parcels out by RFP for affordable housing development, including parking lots in Charlestown, Downtown and by the Boston Water & Sewer headquarters in Lower Roxbury . We have begun projects to add affordable housing atop the West End and Upham's Corner libraries, and to build both a long-awaited library and new affordable housing at the R1 parcel in Chinatown. We also won transfer of a site in Brighton in order to replace affordable music practice studio space, and we intend to add affordable housing there as well. I believe in using public land for public good, and there is no greater need for the residents of Boston today than housing that families and seniors can afford.

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.

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.

In partnership with the Rent Stabilization Advisory Committee, I developed a rent stabilization home rule petition that passed the Boston City Council with a veto-proof majority, including with the support of every single progressive member of the Council. Before this, no rent stabilization or rent control proposal had ever been able to pass the City Council since the 1994 Ballot Initiative before the Mayor.

Our rent stabilization proposal follows through on exactly the type of policy that I repeatedly pointed to as a mayoral candidate – a cap on increases in rents rather than a cap on rents themselves, and measures to ensure that housing production could happen at the same time – similar to policies in CA and OR. The proposal was designed to strike a balance limiting annual rent hikes while continuing to promote housing production as part of a broader strategy for confronting the housing crisis.

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?**

The Office of Housing Stability will continue to build on their work ensuring Boston residents are stably housed, and in response to this new legislation will be launching targeted outreach to support residents who may be eligible. This builds on our previous work to help more than 5,800 families avoid eviction, and our recently launched Access to Counsel pilot to provide free legal representation to families with school aged children who are facing eviction.

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?

My administration is focused on ensuring that individuals experiencing homelessness, residents with disabilities, and other populations facing hurdles to secure housing. I am committed to ending homelessness through investments in supportive housing. Over the last three years, 664 permanent supportive housing units have either been finished, going into construction, or in the construction pipeline. We are focused not just on affordable shelter, but on the key wraparound services that help individuals and families achieve stability and thrive in their communities.

I recently cut the ribbon at 3368 Washington Street, which includes 140 units of permanent supportive housing development in Jamaica Plain serving formerly homeless individuals. This is the largest development of its kind in New England, with 21 units for mobility-impaired individuals and 18 sensory-impaired units, bolstering accessibility for residents. It is emblematic of my administration's approach to building housing that meets the needs of all our residents.

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

YES.

I have instructed the Planning Department to align the Squares + Streets process with the strategies identified in the City's anti-displacement plan to ensure that we are appropriately mitigating against residential, commercial and cultural displacement. Additionally, the Planning team with guidance from Mayor's office leadership and the Community Engagement team has been and will continue to hold focus groups in neighborhoods to ensure input from all our residents.

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?**

The Planning Department has been leading efforts to reform Article 80 to ensure that community engagement opportunities are more frequent, happen in different formats, and are aligned with the different stages of development review. Community feedback is critical to ensuring that planning led development delivers a green, affordable, equitable, and prosperous Boston we all believe in. Our development process can be both efficient and deeply rooted in the community's vision for the future of our City. These reforms will deliver more effective engagement which allow for greater transparency, broaden the voices we hear from, and strengthen trust with community members.

(H) Democracy

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

Because our state's primary dates fall so close to September 1st when many Boston apartment leases turnout over, many young people and college students can be left confused about their registration status for those elections. More targeted campaigns about registration deadlines and vote by mail options for voters caught in this cycle annually would help young people access the ballot. We can partner with community organizations to make an effort to reach out to young people who can take advantage of the opportunity to go to their closest early voting site, register to vote at their current address, and cast their ballot.

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?***

The Trump administration's revocation of student visas for exercising is illegal and unconstitutional. The federal government is not above the law, and due process is the law of the land. Boston will always stand for our residents' constitutional rights under the First Amendment.

6. **The Trump Administration has used the threat of withholding funding to universities to demand, among other policies, a ban on masking which has been used by students to obscure their identities during protests against the genocide in Gaza in response to doxxing, harrassment, and now, the threat of deportation. A municipal "Right to Mask" ordinance would remove this decision from universities. Will you support a Right to Mask ordinance to protect students from doxing for participating in peaceful protests? YES/ NO**

NO.

(I) Inclusive Boston

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

My administration has made closing the racial wealth gap a top priority, starting with investing in our youth by guaranteeing paid summer jobs to every BPS student who wants one, and forming new partnerships with our major institutions and increasing high-quality career pathways for students across our high schools to gain real-world work experience and graduate ready to earn a stable, well-paid job. This includes a new partnership with MGB

and Bloomberg Philanthropies to expand the EMK Academy, our flagship health careers high school, and a historic agreement with the building trades to guarantee apprenticeships for Madison Park students every year.

We've worked to ensure that the City is spending a greater share of our budget with local diverse firms. In FY2024, the City awarded \$224.7 million to certified minority and women owned businesses, a 40% increase from the previous year. We passed a home rule at the State House, to create a new procurement tool to help the city purchase goods and services from certified disadvantaged businesses – and we awarded more than 19 in FY 2024. Our SPACE grant program empowered 90 small businesses, the vast majority of which are women- or minority-owned business enterprises, to open up in formerly vacant storefronts. And our Welcome Home, Boston program to create affordable housing on City-owned neighborhood lots, every developer selected to build was an MWBE firm, also receiving support from the City to create jobs in the process of creating affordable housing.

We've prioritized creating more affordable homeownership opportunities for first-generation homebuyers—one of the most effective tools to close the racial wealth gap and advance racial equity. Since the start of my administration, the City has helped more than 800 households buy homes, including through downpayment and closing cost assistance and mortgage interest rate writedowns, 61% of whom are BIPOC households, and funded the building of 811 new affordable homes for sale. In fact, 2022-24 saw the highest three-year total of income-restricted homeownership units built and in construction in the last 25 years. Going forward, Boston has 1,050 additional income-restricted homeownership units in the pipeline. We expanded the One Plus Boston mortgage program and increased down payment assistance to first-time, first-generation, and BHA homebuyers, and we launched the BHA First Home Program to support public housing and Section 8 residents in supporting homes, which has already supported 54 residents purchase their first home, more than 95% of whom are BIPOC.

Across every cabinet, my administration is committed to addressing the social and systemic drivers of health and we aim to close the life expectancy gap entirely by 2035. We launched Boston's first ever Public Health Equity Agenda to address the root causes of health disparities and premature mortality through focused, community-driven strategies. We have expanded treatment, housing support, and youth prevention outreach to combat the opioid crisis. To reduce cancer mortality, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) promotes early detection, reduces environmental and tobacco exposure, and

has increased access to screening. BPHC has also increased the City's efforts to tackle cardiometabolic diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity, by improving access to healthy food, safe spaces for physical activity, early screening, and economic opportunity, particularly in communities of color. For maternal and infant health, our administration addresses racial disparities through doula programs, home visits, and caregiver support. To address mental and behavioral health disparities, we are expanding the number of culturally competent, trauma-informed mental health workforce; increasing programming that promotes youth mental health; strengthening the capacity and resources of local community-based organizations; and engaging in evidence-based communication strategies to reduce the stigma of mental health in all communities. Finally, to ensure healthy aging for all residents, we have increased dementia prevention and support services for older adults.

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?**

This is a precarious time because this federal administration is hostile toward all of the things that make Boston the best city in the world: diversity, welcoming communities, education, research, and acceptance of anyone who works to make a home here. Like so many Bostonians across the city, I've had to be a fighter my whole life, and I will do everything in my power to stand up for our families and our future.

Recently, I directed our legal team to lead a lawsuit with cities and counties from across the United States to challenge the Trump Administration's unlawful move to cancel \$3.6 billion in grants for housing and homelessness prevention unless Boston and other communities agree to the President's unconstitutional Executive Orders. The suit challenges the move by the Trump Administration to withhold nearly \$48 million in previously-awarded funding for Boston to fight homelessness unless the City agrees to comply with a raft of new Executive Orders and grant conditions, which are unrelated to housing and likely unconstitutional. The Administration's actions threaten billions in funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care (CoC) program, the single largest source of federal funding Boston and other cities use to address homelessness. This lawsuit seeks to

defend the City from executive overreach and many unlawful and arbitrary conditions being added to the CoC program.

We'll continue to work with our partners in cities and counties across the U.S. to protect critical funding and resources for our residents. Boston will not back down on making our city a home for everyone.

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?**

Home ownership and business ownership are the keys to closing the racial wealth gap. I have been proud that Boston spent more of its federal ARPA dollars on affordable housing than any other city in the country, and that we've specifically focused a large portion of that spending on affordable homeownership. We have improved the One Plus Boston mortgage product, increased down payment assistance to first-time, first-generation, and BHA homebuyers, and invested many millions of dollars in producing new affordable homes. The majority of the families who have used these programs are families of color, and we see this as one of the most direct ways that the City can help to close the racial wealth gap.

Another key set of steps is to improve equitable access to high-paying careers. Early in my Administration, we created a new Cabinet for Worker Empowerment. That Cabinet, which functions like a municipal Department of Labor, has a single focus: using all of the levers of power in city government to lift up workers. Boston continues to have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, and we have brought in millions in federal grants to support new career opportunities for BIPOC and women workers in emerging industries. We'll continue that work to ensure Boston's economic growth benefits all our workers.

The Cabinet has spearheaded a number of initiatives designed to lift up struggling workers. In particular, the Cabinet has led a number of "Know Your Rights" trainings throughout various neighborhoods in multiple languages. These trainings cover a wide-range of topics so that workers who attend can understand their fundamental rights, including wage-and-hour law, overtime,

the right to join a union, workers' compensation, and unemployment insurance.

Our PowerCorps workforce development program provides an amazing opportunity to train this next generation to be leaders in green jobs. We've expanded the program to build the City's green workforce, providing crucial pathways through skills and job training to our young people - ensuring that our green workforce is accessible to all. We secured a \$9.8 million NOAA grant to develop the workforce needed to enhance coastal resilience across Boston neighborhoods. The grant will assist City departments in developing training programs that build in-demand climate resilience skills, offer wraparound services, and place workers in good jobs and career pathways.

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

My administration's supplier diversity team works to ensure that minority-owned, women-owned, small and small local businesses can thrive and grow in Boston through access to City contracts. We host Opportunity Fairs that connect businesses to city department contracts as well as business resources tables. We also run programs that support minority, women, and small businesses in growing their capacity to bid for City and other government contracts.

We launched the SCALE program to build businesses' capacity to more effectively pursue government contracts, focusing on industry categories that represent a large share of the City of Boston's purchases through competitive procurement. This grant program is a collaboration with the BDC Community Capital Corporation, which manages and oversees its administration in partnership with technical assistance providers, who provide over 3-6 months of technical assistance to operationalize grantees' business plans. The goal is to address key challenges that hinder their ability to secure larger institutional contracts or to identify investments that can help their businesses scale.

We also recently launched the White Stadium Advisory Group to boost contracting with local businesses. The City of Boston and BUSP will aim to award 50% of all total contracting dollars, for the design, construction, and ongoing operations of the White Stadium renovation project, to minority- and women-owned business enterprises. This is about more than setting goals- it's about building real pathways for local minority- and women-owned businesses to thrive at every stage of the project.

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

YES.

We know that data sets with built-in biases will replicate those biases in their applications. This is a core issue for ensuring civil rights and combatting discrimination in housing, employment, public benefits, and all areas of civil society. The City is committed to leadership in this area.

(J) Additional Comments

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