



# 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?**

If elected, my top three priorities will be housing justice, economic equity, and community safety rooted in prevention.

First, I'll fight to expand deeply affordable housing, create real pathways to

homeownership, and pass rent stabilization to prevent displacement. Housing is a human right—and no one should be pushed out of the city they helped build.

Second, I'll work to close Boston's racial wealth gap by increasing access to city contracts for minority-owned businesses, investing in youth employment, and ensuring working families have real opportunities to build wealth and stability.

Third, I'll push for a public safety strategy that prioritizes violence prevention, mental health resources, and community-led solutions—not just policing. I've seen the power of mentorship and investment in our youth, and I know we can build safer neighborhoods by addressing root causes.

These priorities reflect my life's work—and I'm ready to bring that fight to City Hall.

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

I've spent my life fighting for justice, equity, and opportunity—on the streets, in the courtroom, and inside government. As Regional Counsel for HUD, I led major civil rights cases to protect Boston families from housing discrimination, secured \$25 million in redevelopment funds for public housing, and helped design one of the nation's first Civil Rights Protection Plans. As a lifelong pastor, I've worked directly with families in crisis, created mentorship and job programs for youth, and led grassroots efforts to feed and vaccinate our community during the pandemic. I grew up in Dorchester, raised my family here, and have never stopped fighting for our neighborhoods. I know how systems work—and how to change them. I'm running for City Council to bring deep experience, moral clarity, and the voice of the people into every decision made at City Hall.

## 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 plays a vital role as both a check on executive power and a voice for the people. The Council must hold the administration accountable, ensure transparency, and shape policy through legislation and budget oversight. But it's not just about balance—it's about advocacy. Councilors are closest to the community. We hear directly from residents about what's working and what's not, and it's our job to bring those voices into City Hall. Whether it's fighting for housing, schools, or public safety, the Council must lead with moral clarity and community-first values. I've spent my career navigating government systems to get results for families. As a

Councilor, I'll use that experience to push for equity, challenge injustice, and work with—but not for—the mayor to make sure Boston works for all of us.

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

One policy I'd like to see Boston adopt is a comprehensive Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA)—modeled after successful programs in cities like Washington, D.C. This policy gives tenants the first right to purchase their building if a landlord decides to sell, empowering residents to collectively buy and manage their homes, often with nonprofit or city support. It's a powerful tool to fight displacement, preserve affordability, and build community wealth—especially in neighborhoods like Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan that are being hit hardest by gentrification. As someone who spent over two decades at HUD and helped develop Boston's first tenant-to-owner programs, I've seen how transformative this model can be. Housing is not just a place to live—it's a foundation for stability and opportunity. A Boston version of TOPA would help ensure longtime residents aren't pushed out but have the chance to own a piece of the neighborhoods they've helped build.

**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 Boston's diverse communities means more than outreach—it means building real partnerships rooted in trust, respect, and accountability. If elected, I'll hold regular community forums across the district, not just in City Hall. I'll work with neighborhood leaders, faith institutions, youth groups, and civic organizations to make sure voices from every corner of our city shape policy from the ground up. I'll also push for expanding participatory budgeting, so residents have direct control over how public dollars are spent.

Voters can trust I'll follow through because I've done it before. As a pastor, I've worked shoulder-to-shoulder with families in crisis. At HUD, I fought to ensure public housing tenants had a seat at the table in shaping redevelopment plans. And during the pandemic, I organized food and vaccine drives to meet people where they were. My track record is clear: I don't just show up—I stand up, and I stay.

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.**

Young people are not just the future—they're the present, and their voices must be part of policymaking now. If elected, I'll establish a Youth Advisory Council made up of students and young leaders from across District 7 to ensure their perspectives directly inform City Council decisions. I'll also advocate for expanded civic education in schools and support paid internship and mentorship programs within city government, so youth can see themselves as leaders and changemakers.

This isn't a new idea for me—it's how I've always worked. I founded the Trotter Peace Program to connect young people of color with mentors and job opportunities. I've brought youth into community organizing, leadership development, and violence prevention efforts. I believe in creating space, handing over the mic, and investing in the next generation of advocates. Democracy only works if everyone has a voice—and I'm committed to making sure our young people are heard.

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

One aspect of Boston's community process that must be improved is how development decisions are made—particularly around zoning and planning. Too often, residents are brought in at the end of the process, after deals have been made and designs finalized. That's not true community engagement—it's performative. We need a system that puts community voices at the center from day one, especially in neighborhoods like Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan that have borne the brunt of disinvestment and now face aggressive gentrification.

If elected, I'll fight to make development more transparent, equitable, and community-led. That means strengthening neighborhood councils, requiring real community benefit agreements, and ensuring that housing,

infrastructure, and jobs reflect the needs of longtime residents. I've spent my career making government work for the people—and I know that lasting change only happens when the community leads. Let's stop talking at people and start building with them.

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

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

The significant reduction in federal funding we know is coming will require Boston to act quickly, strategically, and equitably. If elected, I'll push for a comprehensive audit of city spending to identify inefficiencies and prioritize investments that directly support residents—like housing, education, and public health. We need to safeguard core services, especially in historically underfunded communities, and avoid balancing the budget on the backs of those who already have the least.

I'll also work to diversify our revenue streams by advocating for progressive local revenue options, maximizing state partnerships, and ensuring large institutions and developers pay their fair share. My 20+ years at HUD taught me how to navigate federal systems, stretch limited dollars, and protect critical programs under pressure. I know how to fight for funding—and how to prepare when it's at risk. We must plan not just to survive cuts, but to come through them more fair, focused, and resilient.

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

Participatory budgeting is one of the most powerful tools we have to democratize decision-making and rebuild trust in local government. It gives residents—not just elected officials—the power to decide how public dollars are spent in their own communities. The current \$2 million allocation is a start, but it's not nearly enough. I support significantly increasing that amount, with a long-term goal of reaching the \$40 million advocated by the Better Budget Alliance.

This isn't just about money—it's about equity. Communities that have historically been left out of the process deserve a real say in shaping their neighborhoods. As someone who's spent decades organizing in and advocating for marginalized communities, I know how transformative it is

when people are given agency and respect. Participatory budgeting is an investment in our democracy—and in the wisdom of the people. If elected, I'll fight to grow it and make it truly accessible to all.

**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?**

Boston's PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) system needs a major overhaul to ensure that large tax-exempt institutions—especially hospitals and universities—contribute their fair share to the communities they impact. If elected, I'll push to make the PILOT program more transparent, enforceable, and community-driven.

That starts with expanding community engagement in defining what counts as a "community benefit." Right now, too many institutions self-report vague contributions without real accountability. We need a standardized, publicly accessible system that ties PILOT benefits directly to neighborhood needs—like affordable housing, job training, youth programs, and public infrastructure. I'll also advocate for stronger enforcement mechanisms to ensure institutions follow through.

For too long, Boston's working families have carried the burden while powerful institutions sit on prime real estate tax-free. I've spent my career fighting for equity—and I'll work to build

**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?**

Given the state's restrictions on Boston's taxing power, we need to get creative and bold about how we raise revenue while keeping equity at the center. First, I support pushing for home rule petitions that allow the city to explore new progressive revenue streams—such as real estate transfer fees on high-end property sales, vacancy taxes on luxury units, and congestion pricing for large commercial vehicles in high-traffic zones.

Second, we must modernize and enforce the PILOT program so tax-exempt institutions contribute meaningfully to city services. Third, we should leverage public-private partnerships to support affordable housing, job creation, and climate resilience—especially from developers and institutions that benefit from city infrastructure.

Having worked in federal government and navigated funding challenges before, I know how to align policy with purpose. Boston has wealth—we just need the political will to make sure it's working for the people, not just the powerful.

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?**

Boston has a responsibility to make sure every public dollar reflects our values—not just in what we fund, but in what we refuse to support. I fully support using the city's financial power to advance justice, equity, and peace. That means building on past victories like fossil fuel divestment by adopting clear, enforceable transparency and disclosure policies for all public investments and procurement contracts.

If elected, I will advocate for a values-based investment framework that screens out companies and entities profiting from war, environmental destruction, labor exploitation, or human rights abuses. I'll also push for public reporting requirements so residents can see where their money is going—and hold us accountable.

This isn't just fiscal policy—it's moral policy. As someone who has fought discrimination from inside federal agencies and on the ground in our communities, I believe our budget is a reflection of our conscience. Let's make sure it reflects justice.

## **(D) Education**

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

Every child in Boston deserves a safe, well-funded, high-quality public education—no matter their zip code. My top priorities for improving Boston Public Schools are modernizing school facilities, increasing community input, and addressing systemic inequities that have long disadvantaged students of color and low-income families.

First, I'll push for urgent investment in school infrastructure—many of our buildings are outdated, unsafe, and not conducive to learning. Second, I'll fight to ensure that teachers, parents, and students have a real seat at the table in shaping school policy and improvement plans—not just token participation. Third, I'll focus on closing opportunity gaps by expanding access to special education services, culturally relevant curriculum, mental health supports, and afterschool programs.

As someone raised in Boston Public Schools, I know the power of public education—and I also know its challenges. I'm committed to fighting for a school system that lifts every student up.

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 support returning democratic voice to BPS governance—and that means supporting an elected school committee. Boston voters made their priorities clear in 2021, and we must honor that mandate. That said, I believe the most effective mode is a hybrid school committee—one that combines the accountability of elected members with the strategic alignment of appointed ones.

A hybrid structure ensures community voices are heard at the decision-making table while still allowing the mayor to appoint members who bring specific expertise in education, finance, or governance. This model balances responsiveness with effectiveness—and helps avoid the political gridlock we’ve seen in other fully elected bodies.

As someone who grew up in Boston Public Schools and has spent a lifetime serving our communities, I know how important it is that families feel seen, heard, and represented. Our school committee should reflect the people it serves—diverse, accountable, and deeply connected to our neighborhoods.

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

One policy I’d like to see implemented in Boston is community schools, modeled after successful programs in cities like Cincinnati and Oakland. Community schools serve as neighborhood hubs that offer not just education, but wraparound services like mental health care, afterschool programs, job training, and family support—all under one roof.

This model recognizes that students don’t learn in isolation. When families are struggling with housing, food insecurity, or trauma, it shows up in the classroom. Community schools address those root challenges by bringing services directly into the school building and surrounding students with the support they need to succeed.

As someone who’s spent my career fighting for housing justice, youth opportunity, and public investment, I believe community schools reflect the kind of holistic, equity-focused approach Boston needs. If elected, I’ll work to expand this model—because strong schools are built by strong communities, and our kids deserve both.

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

I believe that with the right vision and leadership, a project like the redevelopment of White Stadium could be a positive for the community—especially if it results in upgraded facilities for Boston Public Schools and meaningful investment in Franklin Park. But so far, I’ve had significant concerns with the process.

Too many neighbors, educators, students, and community leaders have felt left out of the conversation. A project of this scale, in a public park and involving a public school facility, demands transparency, accountability, and real community-driven planning—not decisions made behind closed doors or rushed through without consensus.

While I appreciate the mayor's stated goals, I believe we need a different path forward—one that centers the voices of Roxbury, Grove Hall, and BPS families from the very beginning. If elected, I'll work to ensure this project, and any like it, reflects not just private ambition but public good.

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?**

Boston must be a city where all residents—regardless of immigration status—feel safe accessing public services, reporting crimes, and participating in civic life without fear of deportation. While the Trust Act was an important step, its scope is too limited. We need stronger, clearer policies that prohibit information sharing and collaboration with ICE across all city departments.

If elected, I'll support legislation that closes loopholes and ensures that no city resources—personnel, data, or facilities—are used to assist in federal immigration enforcement. I'll also push for mandatory training for city employees on immigrant rights, language access, and non-cooperation protocols, and demand transparency through regular reporting on interactions with federal agencies.

As a pastor and civil rights advocate, I know firsthand the fear and trauma that

immigrant communities face. Boston must be a sanctuary in action—not just in name—and I will fight to make that promise real.

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?**

There is absolutely no place for white supremacist ideology in law enforcement—period. The involvement of current or former Boston police officers in the January 6th insurrection, and the documented presence of extremist sympathies within police ranks nationwide, is a clear and present threat to public trust and safety. If elected, I’ll push for stronger background checks, ongoing social media monitoring, and mandatory anti-extremism training for all BPD personnel.

We must also implement a zero-tolerance policy for affiliation with hate groups, alongside an independent oversight body with real investigative power to hold officers accountable. Whistleblower protections should be expanded so that officers who speak out against racism or extremism within the department are protected and heard.

As someone who has fought for civil rights my entire life—from the courtroom to the pulpit—I will not allow white supremacy to fester behind a badge. Boston deserves a police force that protects all of us.

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”)?**

We’ve seen some important progress over the past year in the City’s response to the humanitarian crisis at Mass & Cass—particularly efforts to coordinate services, increase shelter capacity, and take a more public health-centered approach. But let’s be clear: there is still much work to be done.

We cannot arrest our way out of this crisis, and we cannot rely on short-term solutions for a long-term, deeply rooted set of challenges. Substance use, mental health, and housing instability are all connected—and our response must be comprehensive, compassionate, and sustained. That means expanding low-threshold housing, scaling up harm reduction services, investing in mental health care, and working closely with community organizations who know this work best.

Most importantly, we must center the dignity of those living at Mass & Cass. If elected, I’ll push for a strategy that addresses both immediate needs and the systemic issues that got us here.

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

Reducing gun violence in Boston requires a holistic, community-first strategy that addresses both immediate safety and long-term prevention. My top priorities include investing in proven violence intervention programs, expanding mental health and trauma support, and creating real economic and educational opportunities for youth and families in the neighborhoods most impacted.

We must fund and expand community-based organizations doing the hard work on the ground—programs that mediate conflict, offer mentorship, and provide alternatives to violence. I’ll also push for increased funding for job training, summer jobs, and youth programming to disrupt the cycle of poverty and violence at its root.

As a pastor, I’ve comforted grieving families and buried too many young people. As a public servant, I’ve worked to change the conditions that breed

violence. If elected, I'll continue that fight—because every neighborhood in Boston deserves to be safe, and every life lost to gun violence is one too many.

## **(F) Environment & Transportation**

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

My top three policy priorities for making Boston a climate-resilient city are: investing in green infrastructure, protecting vulnerable coastal and low-lying neighborhoods, and ensuring a just transition to clean energy that includes frontline communities every step of the way.

We must upgrade stormwater systems, expand urban tree cover, and redesign public spaces to absorb heat and flooding. I'll advocate for major investments in neighborhoods like East Boston, Dorchester, and Roxbury, where the risks of climate change—flooding, heat islands, and poor air quality—are greatest. I'll also push for green job training programs that prioritize residents from historically excluded communities, so climate action becomes a tool for equity, not displacement.

Equity has to be baked into climate policy—not treated as an afterthought. As someone who has long fought environmental racism and housing injustice, I'll make sure those most affected by the climate crisis are leading the conversation and shaping the solutions.

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?**

Reducing our dependence on cars requires bold investments in safe, accessible, and affordable alternatives—especially in neighborhoods that have historically been left behind. If elected, I'll fight to expand bus rapid transit and improve service reliability, particularly in transit-dependent communities like Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan. I'll also push for dedicated bus lanes, fare-free routes, and real-time tracking to make public transit faster and more rider-friendly.

When it comes to walking and biking, safety is key. I'll advocate for more protected bike lanes, improved lighting, and traffic calming infrastructure to ensure every street works for pedestrians, cyclists, and people with

disabilities—not just cars. That includes making sidewalks more accessible and investing in safer street crossings near schools and senior housing.

Transportation justice is climate justice, racial justice, and economic justice all in one. We can't build a greener, fairer Boston without giving people real options to move safely and sustainably.

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?**

Expanding affordable housing while preventing displacement is one of the most urgent challenges facing Boston—and it's personal to me. I've spent decades fighting for housing justice, from suing the Boston Housing Authority for discrimination to helping design HUD programs that turned tenants into homeowners. If elected, I'll push for real rent stabilization, stronger tenant protections, and deep investment in income-restricted housing—especially for families earning below 30% of the area median income.

I'll also advocate for policies like the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA), giving renters the first right to buy their homes if they go up for sale, and support community land trusts that keep housing permanently

affordable. Development should reflect the needs of the people who live here—not push them out. That means centering community voices in planning, holding developers accountable for affordability, and using public land for public good.

We can build without displacement—if we lead with equity.

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

City-owned land is one of Boston's greatest untapped resources for addressing our housing crisis—and we need to treat it like the public asset it is. If elected, I'll push for a comprehensive audit of all city-owned parcels to identify sites suitable for affordable housing development. But more importantly, I'll fight to ensure that any housing built on public land is truly affordable, community-driven, and protected from speculation.

That means prioritizing nonprofit developers, community land trusts, and housing co-ops over luxury or market-rate projects. It also means tying public land use to public benefit—deep affordability, homeownership opportunities, and long-term protections against displacement.

As someone who helped develop federal programs to convert public housing into community-owned assets, I've seen how transformative this kind of approach can be. Boston should lead by example: using city land not just to build housing, but to build stability, equity, and opportunity for the people who need it most.

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 fully support the City of Boston's Home Rule Petition to establish a small transfer fee on real estate transactions over \$2 million. It's a smart, targeted way to generate much-needed revenue for affordable housing—without burdening everyday residents. With housing costs skyrocketing and longtime families being priced out of their neighborhoods, we need every tool available to keep Boston livable and equitable.

If elected, I'll be a strong advocate at the State House for passing this measure. That means working closely with our legislative delegation, organizing testimony from impacted communities, and building a coalition of cities and towns across Massachusetts that are also fighting displacement. I've spent years working in federal housing policy—I know how to navigate government and bring people to the table.

This isn't just a revenue issue—it's a justice issue. The people who built Boston deserve to stay in Boston, and I'll fight to make that happen.

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 strongly support rent stabilization as a necessary tool to protect tenants from displacement and give families the stability they need to stay in their communities. I've seen firsthand how unchecked rent hikes have pushed lifelong residents out of neighborhoods they helped build. We need policies that balance tenant protections with fair treatment for responsible landlords—and rent stabilization does just that.

I support the City of Boston's Home Rule Petition as a good and necessary first step, but I believe we can—and must—go further. The current proposal provides important flexibility and exemptions, but we need stronger protections for lower-income tenants, more robust enforcement mechanisms, and limits on loopholes that could be exploited.

Housing is a human right, not a luxury. Rent stabilization won't solve the crisis on its own, but without it, we're leaving thousands of families vulnerable. I'll fight to strengthen and pass this policy at the State House.

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 fully support the new legislation that allows renters to seal eviction records, and I applaud State Senator Lydia Edwards for her leadership in making it a reality. This is a critical step toward housing justice—because no one should be denied a home due to a past eviction, especially when it was caused by circumstances beyond their control.

If elected, I'll work to ensure that **every renter in Boston knows their rights** under this new law. That means partnering with community organizations, legal aid groups, housing advocates, and tenant associations to launch a public awareness campaign—using multilingual outreach, informational workshops, and materials distributed through neighborhood centers, libraries, and schools. I'll also advocate for dedicated city resources to assist tenants with the sealing process.

Eviction should not be a life sentence. This law can change lives—but only if people know about it and can access it. I'll make sure they do.

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?**

Expanding access to supportive housing is critical to addressing homelessness, disability justice, and mental health needs in our community. If elected, I'll advocate for a significant increase in city funding for permanent supportive housing—pairing affordable units with on-site services like case management, mental health care, and addiction recovery.

I'll work to streamline the development process for supportive housing, reduce zoning barriers, and prioritize city-owned land for these projects—especially in neighborhoods that have been historically underserved. I'll also push for stronger collaboration between city departments, nonprofits, and healthcare providers to create a coordinated continuum of care, ensuring that people don't just get housed but stay housed.

As someone who has spent decades addressing housing injustice and supporting vulnerable communities, I know this work requires urgency and compassion. We must treat housing as a human right—and ensure our most at-risk neighbors have the stability and support they need to thrive.

**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 Squares + Streets process as an important opportunity to reimagine how we plan for vibrant, inclusive, and walkable neighborhoods across Boston. The focus on revitalizing commercial corridors and building more housing near transit is smart policy—but only if it's done with the community, not to the community.

The one change I would make is to strengthen and formalize community engagement throughout the process. Too often, residents feel that decisions are made before their voices are heard. I would push for clear requirements around public input—especially from renters, small business owners, and communities of color who are often left out of planning conversations.

We need more affordable housing and thriving main streets, but we also need trust. That means ensuring the process is transparent, accessible, and truly participatory. I'll work to make sure the people most affected by change are leading the conversation—not chasing it.

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

YES.

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

Community engagement must be at the heart of the development process—not an afterthought or a box to check. Reforming Article 80 is a critical opportunity to ensure that residents have a real seat at the table, particularly in neighborhoods that have long borne the brunt of displacement, disinvestment, and environmental harm.

When considering a development, community input should carry meaningful weight. That means developers must **listen early, often, and transparently**, and projects should reflect what residents actually need—affordable housing, green space, good jobs, and local economic opportunity. While we must also consider citywide housing goals and climate resilience, community voices should not be sacrificed for profit or expedience.

I've spent my career advocating for equitable development and fighting for those most often left out of the process. If elected, I'll fight for an Article 80 process that puts people first—because lasting progress only happens when communities lead.

## **(H) Democracy**

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

We need to meet young voters where they are—on campuses, online, and in their communities. That means integrating voter education into student life, making registration simple, and showing how local issues—like housing, transit, and jobs—directly impact them. I'll advocate for campus forums, youth-led outreach, and a permanent youth advisory council to keep young voices at the table. When young people see their power, they show up.

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 believe deeply in the **First Amendment** and the right of all people—regardless of immigration status—to speak out, protest, and engage in political discourse without fear of retaliation. The recent revocation of student visas for international students exercising their right to criticize U.S. foreign policy is deeply troubling and reflects a dangerous pattern of criminalizing dissent, particularly around issues related to Israel and Palestine.

If elected, I will speak out forcefully against any local, state, or federal efforts to suppress protected speech or punish individuals for political expression. I will work to ensure city institutions—especially universities and law enforcement—uphold civil liberties, not erode them. That includes demanding transparency around any coordination with federal agencies targeting activists, and supporting policies that protect immigrant communities and student voices.

In a democracy, dissent is not a threat—it's a responsibility. I will always defend the right to protest, organize, and speak truth to power.

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.**

Racial justice has been at the heart of my life's work—from the courtroom to the pulpit to the streets. Three accomplishments I'm especially proud of:

1. **Civil Rights Protection Plan at HUD:** As Regional Counsel, I led the fight against racial discrimination in Boston's public housing, suing the City and Boston Housing Authority and helping craft one of the first Civil Rights Protection Plans in the country—now a model adopted nationwide.
2. **Tenant-to-Owner Housing Programs:** I helped develop and protect federal programs that allowed low-income families—many Black and Brown—to buy and own the homes they had once rented, creating pathways to generational wealth and stability.
3. **Community-Based Youth Initiatives:** Through my work as a pastor, I launched the Trotter Peace Program and the Six Point Peace Plan to provide mentorship, employment opportunities, and violence prevention programs for young people of color in Boston's hardest-hit neighborhoods.

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?**

If the federal government threatens to withhold funding to force Boston to abandon its values—whether around immigrant protections, LGBTQ+ rights, racial equity, or climate action—I will stand firm in defense of our community. I've faced this kind of pressure before: during my time at HUD, I pushed back against political interference and stood up for civil rights, even when it came at a cost.

If elected, I'll work with the Mayor, City Council, legal advocates, and other cities to challenge unconstitutional overreach, pursue alternative funding streams, and build public support for resisting harmful mandates. I'll advocate for state-level backstops to protect core services and push for regional coalitions to present a united front.

We don't bend our values for funding—we fight to preserve both. Boston must remain a sanctuary for justice, equity, and inclusion, and I'll use every tool at my disposal to defend that vision.

**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?**

Closing Boston's racial wealth gap requires bold, intentional policies that go beyond surface-level fixes. If elected, I'll prioritize expanding pathways to homeownership, especially for Black and Brown families who've been systematically excluded through redlining and discriminatory lending. I've helped build programs that turned tenants into owners—and I'll fight to scale that work across Boston.

Second, I'll push for equitable public contracting, ensuring that minority- and women-owned businesses have fair access to city contracts, and advocate for a local hiring requirement for publicly funded projects.

Third, I'll support investments in financial literacy, workforce development, and youth entrepreneurship, especially in historically disinvested neighborhoods. And I'll work to expand access to free legal and technical support for first-time homebuyers and small business owners.

I've spent my career confronting injustice in housing and economic policy. With the right leadership and political will, we can build a city where prosperity is shared—not hoarded.

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

The City Council has a vital role to play in ensuring Boston's contracting system reflects the full diversity of our city. If elected, I'll push for stronger enforcement of the city's equity goals, starting with updated procurement policies that require clear benchmarks, transparency, and accountability for participation by minority- and women-owned businesses (MWBES).

We must streamline the certification process, expand outreach and technical assistance, and break up large contracts to make them more accessible to smaller, local firms. I'll also fight to create a **centralized equity dashboard** so the public can track who's getting city contracts—and who's being left out.

Equity in contracting isn't just about fairness—it's about building community wealth. I've seen firsthand how public contracts can uplift families and neighborhoods when they're awarded with intention. The Council must ensure public dollars serve public good—and that means everyone must have a real chance to compete.

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.)*