



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?

My top three priorities if elected would be to bring well paying jobs to the residents of district 7, creating a simple path to home ownership and ensuring each student has the resources they need to succeed.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

I have 20+ years in the private sector, specifically small business and small business lending. I also counseled low income families for many years at the resource center in Nubian Square where I taught budgeting and financial literacy.

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

The role of the city council is to ensure the voice of the district which they represent is being heard and represented by the policies which are implemented.

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

Community policing. Wherever I saw this policy being implemented it was very effective in both high and low crime areas. New York is a big advocate of this policy and while Boston police do create teams for this occasionally, I will expand and make it permanent.

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

- a. For-profit developers
- b. Fossil fuel executives or lobbyists
- c. Charter school advocates and lobbyists
- d. Police unions

(B) Community Engagement

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

I will continually engage with community organizations to ensure open communication is consistent at all times. Even more important, I will engage directly with the residents of district 7 as it's the only true way to continuously hear and address their concerns.

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.

I will initiate outreach programs at schools and youth sporting events. This will create open dialogue and engagements to build strong relationships between our youths and the city council. Educating and encouraging youths to serve their community in any way possible by youth advisory council, internships and funding youth led programs.

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

Accessibility and inclusion of residents to public engagements. While the city does have public hearings, meetings and forums, it is not well advertised or the timing and location is very difficult for residents to attend. As a result, we have low participation and residents continuously feel unheard. I will offer different ways of advertising events, several times and locations and also include babysitting as part of the event for working parents.

(C) Budget & Revenue

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

By revamping and evaluating essential programs which are critical to the city. Eliminating redundancies by efficient and cost saving measures and working with organizations and the residents to come up with different initiatives to generate revenue.

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.**

Finding a median will begin with evaluating different programs and their benefits. Evaluating the impact and effectiveness along with resident participation will determine a reasonable approach.

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?**

Providing detailed transparency to institutions on allocation of funds provided to the PILOT program is a step in the right direction. I believe this will increase

participation along with community involvement as to where the funds should be directed. This initiative will also build bridges and relationships with the contributing institutions and their surrounding communities.

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?**

Different initiatives could be paying for residential parking, extra trash pickup, bulk pick up and recycling trash bins.

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?**

Keeping the community involved with full transparency with public reporting on investments will ensure both the council and the city are upholding these policies. I will also create initiatives for the city to support ethical investment practices which would align with the given precedents.

(D) Education

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

Creating more initiatives to generate more revenue, include financial literacy in the school curriculum and generate more opportunities for vocational school.

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**

NO.

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.

No, but I will support a hybrid school committee. I believe this will bring in new ideas to our school and create new initiatives.

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

I would like financial literacy to be taught in all Boston Public Schools. This will allow all students to learn budgeting, health spending and saving for future investments.

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

While the idea of redeveloping the White Stadium sounds great, history has shown big developers always figure out a way to swindle their way to benefit the most. At this point, we all have to hold the current administration accountable and ensure the kids benefit the most.

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.

Yes, but I would like to create initiatives to build bridges with law enforcement and our students. Law enforcement is here to protect our students and having open conversations will build long lasting relationships.

(E) Public Safety

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

YES.

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

I will create a community outreach programme for our residents to assist our immigrant community. Create bridges with local law enforcement and also provide resources to assist in navigating the complicated immigration legal process. Institutions remain safe, welcoming spaces for everyone.

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.

100%

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?**

Provide ongoing training about anti-white supremacy, provide stronger laws to enforce a zero tolerance policy and a more rigorous screening for vetting new recruits.

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

NO.

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")?**

I think there is not a simple solution to address Mass and Cass but, to begin, we need to provide resources to address the drug addictions. This may include longer mandatory stays at recovery centers for individuals who are arrested numerous times for open drug use and violence.

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

Community Policing.

(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?**

Building more energy efficient houses in the city which include low income. Creating green spaces which include planting more trees and ensuring dangerous emissions in low income neighborhoods are monitored and limited.

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?**

Collaborate with the MBTA to improve on reliability with the services provided. Expanding the inventory on longer buses and also exploring congestion pricing.

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.

Yes, but low traffic areas can be revised.

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?**

Evaluate city owned land, find local contractors and create a fast track from building to move in date. Evaluate empty buildings like closed schools and convert them to affordable housing.

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

The city is constantly working on leveraging city owned land for affordable housing and I am a recipient of such initiatives. Other opportunities are exploring unoccupied buildings and converting underutilized city properties to affordable housing.

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

YES.

Yes, it will be used specific for Boston Public schools

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.

Yes, it goes far enough because it brings some residential tax relief to home owners.

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 will partner with housing organizations to educate renters of their rights. Also use social media, flyers and several outreach initiatives to inform tenants about the new law.

10. **What specific steps would you take to expand access to supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, and those with mental health needs in our community?**

I will provide resources to programs like Section 8 and the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program to individuals. I will also initiate outreach programmes to provide individuals with support for mental health.

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

YES.

I will create a simpler path to this initiative.

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?**

Communities should have input in what is happening in their neighborhoods and having open dialogue is essential to finding common ground. Having healthy conversations and always keeping the community as its priority will always result in success for all.

(H) Democracy

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

Creating different outreach programmes, internships and using social media as a resource for information.

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**

NO.

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 will create initiatives which support freedom of speech for all and partner with organizations which fight for equal rights. I will also use social media as a vessel to communicate to the community to ensure everyone is treated fairly and their rights are not being violated.

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

YES.

(I) Inclusive Boston

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

I taught budgeting to low income families for many years at the resource center in Nubian square. My hope was to assist families in their first step in home ownership.

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?**

Boston was declared a sanctuary city and these laws will be applied. Protecting critical services and funding for residents will be a challenge therefore different initiatives like eliminating waste, evaluation and consolidation of programs and leveraging institutions' contributions.

3. **Will you fight to ensure that shelters in Boston do not preemptively comply with any trans-exclusive federal directives? YES/ NO**

YES.

4. **What steps would you propose to reduce Boston's income and wealth inequality, especially the racial wealth gap?**

I will create an initiative to teach financial literacy in Boston Public school and resources centers across low income neighborhoods. This will teach individuals how to balance their money effectively which will lead to home ownership and home ownership leads to generational wealth.

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

Create initiatives to ensure that a specific percentage of contracts go to minorities in the city.

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.)