



PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS
2026 Governor's Council
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Ronald Primo Iacobucci

Office Sought: Governor's Council, District 4

Party: Democrat

Website: www.rpi.vote

Social Media Handles: Ron Iacobucci for Governors Council

A. Questions about Your Candidacy & Platform

1. Why are you running for Governor's Council? What has drawn you to this office in particular?

To give the voters a choice between an incumbent who is in his 40th year as a Councillor and a fresh start as a proactive Councillor that will drive change to make things better.

My public service in workforce development is what has drawn me to this office. The decisions made by the Governors Council affect the lives of the people that I serve. It is time for more accountability in spending and more transparency in evaluating judicial appointments.

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

A lifetime of experience in both the public and private sector. A record of accomplishments that demonstrate my ability to get things done.

3. What factors do/will you consider when determining whether an individual should be confirmed as a judge, a member of the Parole Board, or a member of any of the other boards and positions considered by the Council? How much weight/importance do you give to each of the factors you consider? Do you have any litmus tests?

Our Commonwealth needs judges who can hear the voices of the oppressed and understand the constitutional and legal arguments of their advocates. We do not need more judges who believe in the sanctity of corporate free speech, police violence without consequences and the freedom to hate in the name of religion.

I would seek nominees that have a passion for justice, equity and accountability as well as an ability to demonstrate specific examples of compassion and empathy.

I would give all of these factors equal weight.

4. What issues do you intend to prioritize during questioning in confirmation hearings?

I would begin by having more transparency in the manner in which we evaluate nominees. We need to stop the private interview sessions and create consistent criteria more closely aligned with progressive values. It only through this process can we establish our priorities relative to questioning.

5. What role can the Governor's Council play in helping to end mass incarceration in Massachusetts?

The Governors Council can be more proactive in addressing the issue of incarceration. We can start by having an audit of the effectiveness of our prison system in preventing recidivism.

6. As a (current or future) member of the Governor's Council, will you commit to ensuring that the judges you confirm will uphold free speech protections at both public and private universities? Explain how your understanding of freedom of speech informs your judicial nominations.

Yes, freedom of speech must be protected at all costs.

7. To what extent do you intend to participate in the *recruitment of demographically and professionally diverse candidates to apply for positions on the various boards under the Governor's Council's purview?*

Members of the Governors Council need to be more involved with the Governor at the front end of the process instead of reacting to what is before them for consideration. This involvement can be an effective way of participating.

8. Many people are unaware of the existence of the Governor's Council. How will you seek to increase transparency and civic engagement if elected?

- Hosting regular public forums across the 19 communities
- Publishing a summary of council activity – what was voted on and how I voted
- Working to reach the residents through the network of public officials in the district
- Maintaining an open door constituent services policy

9. (If a challenger or a candidate for an open seat) How would you describe yourself as similar to or different from the current officeholder?

There are three things that I have in common with the 40-year incumbent councillor. Both our last names begin with the letters IA, we are both graduates of Boston College and we are both Italian. After that, we are complete opposites in the way we would serve as a councillor. I would be more proactive on issues and not just a rubber stamp. To begin with, I would advocate for more accountability in spending and more transparency in the way we evaluate our judges. I would work to repeal the 2007 Act that

allows a councillor to practice law before a judge that they gave a life time job. It is a choice between public service or making money. So that conflict must end. I would abide by a successful 1994 ballot law question that unfortunately was struck down by the Supreme Judicial Court. It called for term limits for a Governor's Councillor. It was 4 two-year terms as opposed to the incumbents 40-year tenure.

B. Yes/No Questions

1. **Reproductive Justice - I.** Young people under sixteen seeking an abortion must obtain parental consent or judicial authorization. While most young people involve their parents, many cannot, causing delays to timely medical care and counseling. Scared teens may also turn to dangerous measures: going out of state or risking their lives and health with illegal or self-induced abortion. Would you support repealing this restriction on young people's access to abortion? (Y/N)
2. **Reproductive Justice -- II.** With the overturning of Roe v. Wade, states are more important than ever as bulwarks of reproductive rights. Would you commit to voting against any judicial nominees with anti-abortion records? **YES**
3. **Police Accountability.** The 2020 police accountability legislation passed by the Massachusetts Legislature contained a number of steps forward, but important measures were left out. Would you support legislation to do the following?
 - a. Eliminating qualified immunity for state and local police and correctional officers so that individuals whose constitutional rights are violated can have their fair day in court? (Y/N)
 - b. Enacting the recommendations from the special legislative commission on facial recognition, to implement privacy, civil rights, and due process protections to govern police use of the technology? **YES**
4. **Sentencing Reform.** The 2018 criminal justice reform bill was an important first step in reducing mass incarceration. However, in our "liberal" state, incarceration rates remain much higher than they are in other countries, and sentencing laws can be even more punitive than those in states viewed as conservative. Do you support the following reforms?
 - a. Eliminating mandatory minimums for all drug offenses? **YES**
 - b. Raising the age of criminal majority from 18 to 21, in line with research that shows that young offenders served by a juvenile system are much less likely to reoffend and more likely to successfully transition to adulthood? **YES**
 - c. Decriminalizing consensual sexual activity between adolescents, by creating an exception to the statutory rape law for youth [close in age](#)? (Y/N)
 - d. Eliminating the sentence of life without parole, which is costly and has been shown to be racist in its application? **YES**
5. **Clean Slate.** The Massachusetts court system maintains a database of name-based court arraignment records, referred to as Massachusetts Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI). Many people are trapped in poverty and shut out of jobs and

housing because of the difficult process to expunge their records, even for cases that did not end in a conviction or occurred when they were teenagers. Would you support...

- a. Requiring the Commissioner of Probation to automatically seal criminal and juvenile records after the applicable waiting periods without requiring individuals to file a petition to do so? **YES**
 - b. Requiring the immediate sealing of a criminal offense if the charge did not end in a conviction? **YES**
6. **Solitary Confinement.** Would you support legislation to create universal access to productive out of cell time with programming, education and vocational training for all incarcerated people? **YES**
7. **Prison Moratorium.** Would you support a moratorium on the construction of new prisons and jails in the Commonwealth? **YES**
8. **Prison Accountability.** Governor's Councilors have the statutory right to make unannounced visits to correctional facilities run by the state. Would you commit to exercising this right in order to improve accountability for the Department of Corrections? **YES** If an incumbent, are you already doing this?
9. **Labor.** Will you commit to consulting with labor unions before considering a nominee for the board of industrial accidents? **YES** If an incumbent, are you already doing this?

C. Voting Record

The Governor's Council is often unanimous in its votes, but there have been several split votes in recent terms. If an incumbent, why did you vote the way you did? If a challenger or not yet elected for the vote, how would you have voted?

- Vincent DeMore for Parole Board (2026) **NO**

Not familiar with these other nominees. I would need to do more research and consult with Stacey Borden.

- Mary M. Ferriter for Probate & Family Court judge (2026)
- Gabrielle Wolohojian for Supreme Judicial Court (2024)
- Gloriann Moroney for District Court (2022)
- Michael Callahan for District Court (2022)
- Claudine Coutier for Superior Court (2022)