



# 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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**Name:** Said Abdikarim  
**Office Sought:** Boston District 7 Councilor  
**Website:** [www.voteabdikarim.com](http://www.voteabdikarim.com)  
**Facebook:** [@orangeshirtman](https://www.facebook.com/orangeshirtman)  
**Twitter:** [@orangeshirtman](https://twitter.com/orangeshirtman)  
**BlueSky:**  
**Instagram:** [@orangeshirtman](https://www.instagram.com/orangeshirtman)

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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?**
  - a. We need to build more housing, expand the affordable housing stock and finally get new housing starts off the ground.
  - b. We need more community spaces for D7 for the community to meet, make art, and come together.

c. We need more small business support for businesses in District 7.

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

I've lived in Boston for over 30 years. I had a successful career in tech and in the nonprofit world. At ACEDONE, I was able to work with City Hall on parcels available in building housing, an expansion of summer work programs, and get federal funding for our small businesses.

I am a father who has kids in BPS, who works with his community, and who wants to bring our collective voices to Boston City Hall.

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

Our job is to make the policy that the Mayor needs to enforce or act on. We have the power of regulating (or deregulating) and the power of the purse. Our job is to create policy and fund projects that make sense and help everyone.

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

Vancouver's vacancy tax could be a model for Boston. While we have a vacancy tax, we need a stronger one with more enforcement to free up housing for this city.

**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 invite Executive Directors of relevant non-profits to my office to discuss their issues. I am willing to speak to any group who wants to talk to me. I will

work on hiring multilingual speakers and print my materials in multiple languages to ensure people have a way to contact us.

I have worked with churches, mosques, and multiple different non-profits to achieve success in the past and will continue to do so.

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 would like to have a youth council who works with me to discuss youth issues in Boston. Sadly, children are often left out of policy conversations but can offer us valuable insight into what is going on and potential solutions.

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

We need more robust communication on important public hearings and find ways to reduce barriers to engagement.

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

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

First, I'd look to see if anyone's tax policy is only benefitting a small group of wealthy interests. In those cases, we need to close loopholes and see what revenue that would generate.

Second, we need to lobby the state to provide more state funding to help cover any budget holes. Though, they are going to have to probably deal with their own reduction of funding in this scenario.

Third, before we cut services or the school budget we must look at the budget and see what programs actually enhance our communities and what programs suppress our communities or programs that only serve a small set of well off people.

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.**

\$40 million is a great allocation as it represents money that could have a tremendous impact as decided on by the community. I would do this if we had a plan in place to make sure the distribution is done with an equity lens.

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?**

Instead of asking, Boston should just implement a flat fee given the land holdings of these non-profits. The fee can be based on endowments or holdings. Understanding the point of the PILOT program is not to bankrupt non-profits; the funding should be enough where our budget is covered but not oppressive to the organizations that have to pay.

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?**

More housing and development will allow us to create more revenue, especially dense housing as we get the improvements. This is a more long term solution however.

Boston can do more to promote its black and brown businesses nationally and that could bring in more revenue as well.

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?**

I am willing to sit down with any organization and bring their concerns to our financial staff and see what can be done to create more ethical investments.

## **(D) Education**

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

a. If we need to consolidate schools, we need to do it with an equity and community focus. How do we ensure that kids are going to good schools and make sure students are close to home?

b. Proper funding. We need more funding to attract top talent and pay our teachers to live in Boston.

c. More counselors and psychologists. We need more social workers to help kids get the mental health support they need to keep them off the school to prison pipeline.

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.

Ideally we have an equal split of appointees and electeds, to prevent the segregation policies of the past but allow people to have representation.

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

A summer based school program where we focus on skills learned in the previous year.

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

White Stadium needs community involvement, and if it is going to expand, it needs unrestricted use for the community. There is a world where this benefits everyone, but it has to be done with intention. Can we set up local, district 7 vendors? Can we ensure that locals are hired first? Can the residents of Roxbury, Dorchester, the South End, and Fenway have unrestricted use of the facilities?

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?**

As an immigrant myself, immigrant communities will have a harder time trusting law enforcement if they fear ICE is lurking in the background.

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**

NO.

I understand while people are skeptical, but organized crime is an issue that needs law enforcement sharing information on.

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?**

Public review of officer contact is crucial in this instance. I also want to work within our contract to allow BPD to terminate employment if anyone is found with white supremacist affiliations as the city cannot ensure their policies are being enacted fairly.

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

YES.

8. **How do you evaluate the City's response to the humanitarian situation at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard ("Mass & Cass")?**

More needs to be done and we need a regional response. We need more housing so we can do better wraparound services for people around Mass and Cass and give them a place to live while we sort their issues out. We need more mental health workers and addiction experts to work with the Mass and Cass population and figure out their needs.

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

Gun buyback programs can be effective in reducing gun violence. We also need to hold accountable gun companies who are skirting regulations and finding their weapons on the streets.

## **(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?**

a. Electrification is the city's #1 priority to reduce pollutants from buses and trains.

b. Reintroducing natural vegetation and tree cover into our low-income neighborhoods will act as a carbon absorption work and reduce the temperature of these neighborhoods, putting less pressure on our electric system.

c. Any new technologies in the green energy space should be put in locations that benefit the most people, not the wealthiest, while technology adoption is often.

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?**

The new building should minimize parking spots and underground parking. That development should also be designed with bikes and mass transit in mind. Also, our bus and T services must be more robust regarding times and routes. If mass transit is used more, then fewer cars are on the road.

Safer pedestrian and bike safety is a matter of creating better definitions of pedestrian and biking lanes from car lanes. As for mass transit safety, well-lit bus stops and emergency call buttons will help ensure safety. Also, bus stops should remind people that the safety of all others is paramount.

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?**

New density development should expand affordable housing stock, not maintain what we have. Development should also be mixed as much as possible to make development affordable while adding new housing stock. We need to restrict as much as possible underground garages and parking to keep development costs low. Finally, we need to find ways for the city to buy zombie or abandoned properties and dedicate them to building housing.

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

If the property is going unused or underutilized, I could see a world where we can create more housing units.

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 will work with our delegation to advocate for this.

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 think it goes far enough, as in we need to see what the effects before we can see how effective it is.

5. **Would you support a Tenant Opportunity to Purchase ordinance, enabling tenants to purchase a building if the owner seeks to put it on the market? YES/ NO**

YES.

6. **Boston recently updated its inclusionary development policy (IDP) to raise the required number of income-restricted units in new developments to 20%. Do you support this policy? YES/ NO**

YES.

7. **Do you support requiring that a majority of new affordable units be built on-site, in order to ensure communities are diverse and integrated? YES/ NO**

YES.

8. **Would you support expanding the City's Condo Conversion ordinance to cover buildings with 2 or 3 units, ensuring that more tenants can access protections against displacement? YES/ NO**

YES.

9. **Massachusetts recently passed legislation to enable renters to get eviction records sealed. What steps would you take to ensure that renters know of this new right?**

I would ensure that renters are given this information in multiple languages when they rent an apartment. I would also make sure that the City of Boston puts advertisements digitally and in newspapers to ensure people are reminded of this right. I would also work with local nonprofits to make sure they informed their constituencies of this right.

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?**

We need a database of vacant housing and hotels. If someone is willing, we need to put people in these places to get the wrap around services they need.

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

YES.

The program is one that is trying to reduce pathways to building new housing in a creative way. I do think we should include a renewable energy

component as well, to expand access to solar or electrification efforts. Especially if it could be used in a way that the community reaps the benefits first.

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?**

We need a way to differentiate between commentary to make a better neighborhood versus commentary to prevent development from happening. The truth is we need more housing, any way we can get it. However, we need to take serious comments that cast doubt on new developments that will not be in the price range of most Boston neighborhoods.

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

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

We need to engage young people more and do the necessary outreach. We need to give them some sort of voice and power within the government so they know they are being heard.

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 will make sure I have a network of attorneys ready to help residents when we hear of federal activity in Boston. I also want to work with the City of Boston to monitor activity of federal agencies so we can give warnings to residents about what actions might be occurring.

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.**

My dedication extends to protesting with public servants, including the Mayor, AG, and Congresswoman Pressley, against injustices faced by immigrant communities and advocating for LGBTQ rights—demonstrating my commitment to serve all residents in District 7.

As a nonprofit leader, I initiated impactful equity projects:

- Secured \$643,000 in federal funding to support Black and Brown-owned small businesses in District 7.

- Advocated for 150 parcels of land for affordable housing through the Welcome Home, Boston initiative.
- Fought for summer programs that now provide over 18,000 students with valuable educational resources.

I am deeply committed to fighting for racial justice and equity, ensuring a brighter future for our underserved and marginalized communities.

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?**

We need to separate city funds and federal funds in such a way that should the federal government threaten to withhold federal dollars for supporting our residents, their impact is lessened or the federal government can't come after our most vulnerable populations.

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?**

We need more resources to go to black and brown communities, not only in small businesses but in mental health resources. Addressing mental health needs early and comprehensively means less people in the prison-industrial complex and means more money back to black and brown families.

Additionally, we need to address fair pay in Boston. It is expensive to live here yet our low end wage workers are stagnating. Boston must do more to get businesses to pay prevailing wages.

Finally, I am for baby bonds and a UBI program that will help families build wealth and worry less about paying for groceries and electric bills.

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

We need to work with affinity organizations to do training on what it takes to contract with the City of Boston. We also need to be more public about our contracting opportunities and post them not only publicly but on social media and digital platforms, especially in other languages.

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.)*