



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?

The top three (3) priorities if elected to serve are:

- i. Improve the quality of education in District 5 by addressing the lack of revenue for public schools, reconsidering the closures and consolidations of middle schools, charter school impacts, and dwindling population of students,

learning loss and low achievement rates of BPS students, top heavy BPS administration, loss of BIPOC and experienced teachers due to many factors.

ii. Stabilize the District by strengthening the different communities and neighborhoods represented in Hyde Park, Mattapan, Readville, and Roslindale. Each neighborhood has its challenges, but there are similarities that have to be addressed to improve housing, basic income, business development and growth, community engagement, quality education for all, access to services and resources (transportation, good food, jobs and businesses within the communities, clean water, land, and air, public safety, access to healthcare equity within the district, etc.)

iii. City Infrastructure, Improvements, resolutions have to be addressed, developed and implemented with all the stakeholders in the District involved in every phase along with education and information about what the actual pros and cons would mean and look like, as well as, an additional reporting hotline to directly address, track and resolve District 5 needs augmenting City Hall's 311 that will more accurately hold myself and my staff transparently accountable to the communities in District 5.

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

I am highly qualified to hold this office due to my 40+ years of dedicated community service as an educator, mentor, social justice and equity advocate. I have a proven track record of empowering youth, promoting social justice, and fostering equity across District 5 neighborhoods. During the pandemic I founded Black Teachers Matter Inc. and led civic initiatives that bridged divides and created positive change. My deep roots in the community as a native Bostonian, combined with my experience working in public, private, charter and higher education and mentoring incarcerated men and women, demonstrate my commitment to addressing local challenges like affordable housing, quality education, and economic development. My deep roots in this country and city, family legacy in Civil Rights, Women's Rights, Education and community activism guided by my faith and values, have been led with integrity, compassion, and a focus on uniting residents for meaningful progress and social justice and change. My lifelong dedication to service in various communities for all people and proven and demonstrated organizational skills, grassroots organizing and leadership make me uniquely qualified to represent and uplift District 5.

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

The City Council Members (At-Large and District) serving as representatives for constituents, creating and amending local laws, approving the city budget, linking citizens to municipal government, city services and resources and advocating for the city's residents must maintain the checks and balances to power in favor of the residents especially when the interests of the Mayor, Mayoral appointees, mayoral puppets or minions threaten the operation of the democratic system or constitutional rights of any of the citizens of Boston.

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

There are two (2) policies I would like Boston to adopt (1) An elected school committee in Boston and (2) an elected planning Board. In Massachusetts approximately 70% of the 146 cities and towns with Town Planners have elected Planning Boards, while 30% have appointed boards. Belchertown's elected board has included lawyers, builders, engineers, and people with planning degrees.

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

I would reject For-Profit developers who did not build a certain percentage of affordable housing, abide LEED guidelines, promoted Gentrification in neighborhoods ruining the character of the neighborhood and who use predatory lending and redlining practices and policies.

I would reject Fossil fuel executives because even though a large portion of the building structures rely heavily on fossil fuels because of the age of construction and grandfathered building codes, the fossil fuel industry is responsible for the a considerable percentage of the global decline of the quality of air, water, land, climate change, global illnesses, diseases, pollution, etc. Despite lawsuits and federal and local brown field designations and statutes that required fossil fuel executives and lobbyists to repair the harm done by their industries. Those monetary penalties do not compensate for the environmental and generational destruction that has occurred.

I would reject funding from most if not all charter school lobbyists and advocates based on the history, development and implementation of charter

schools that has resegregated school systems specifically public schools since Brown vs, Board of Education and school desegregation, in addition to the non-transparent funding sources and boards of charter schools and inconsistent academic track records of academic success and competitive draining of resources from public school systems.

I would not accept funding from police unions due to the history of the first police force in the country (Boston specifically) as slave catchers until the current day as problematic law enforcers of property rights and not protectors of all American citizens especially Black and Brown peoples.

(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 would continue to have public hearings of the City Council but hold them at reasonable and accessible times, locations and dates designed to utilize all forms of communications in all languages, with regular and consistent sessions and intervals for all residents with a particular focus on historically marginalized and ignored populations. I would also promote, market, and publicize on more media and platforms than just the city of Boston website. My resume, track record and reputation in the community of advocacy and getting things done speaks to why my supporters have encouraged me to run for office.

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.**

The first thing I would do is reincorporate Civics, Democracy, into the BPS curriculum including workshops for the community in tandem so parents and families could have joint discussions. Currently our students are clueless about the three branches of government and why they are important to a Democracy. I would also support a representative from BSAC (Boston Student Advisory Committee) serving on the City Council as a non-voting representative and voting as a youth as a member of the Boston School Committee. I also have decades of empowering, teaching and engaging youth in the church, community, schools and on the streets in organizational work.

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

True Community engagement and involvement of Boston residents in every aspect of decision making.

(C) Budget & Revenue

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

Initially there needs to be an audit of the city budget juxtaposed with the federal budget over the last 3 mayoral administrations. There also needs to be a discussion and resolutions initiated regarding PILOT fees, ROI's for city investments, budget allocations, and budgetary decisions that depended on federal funding including where Boston's colleges, universities, research and medical interests were disproportionately affected. Boston has more colleges, universities, and hospitals per square mile than anywhere else in the world and education and medical research and industries are an integral part of a healthy Boston economy.

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.**

While I support the Better Budget Alliance (BBA) which gives an opportunity for everyday people to decide on how to spend part of Boston's budget and support the participatory budget process, I cannot specifically comment on \$2 million versus \$40 million without specific information.

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?**

As a City Councilor I would collaborate with my colleagues to review the recommendations made by the PILOT Task Force in 2011 versus the Fiscal Year results as of 2024 and compare the 2024 Community Benefits Summary and also revisit opportunities for applying political, economic, and public pressure to enforce collection and compliance to all institutions receiving PILOT considerations.

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?**

There should be a different tax structure for people who are tourists, visitors, non-residents in the city as a whole so that Boston like other major cities could receive additional income from residents who benefit from Boston and could spend more money in Boston.

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 investors would be required to disclose through the contracting and procurement process where their funding, board, and investments are involved. If their company profits from countries or sources that profit from war or human rights violations will not be contracted or hired until they divest or change their policies and practices.

(D) Education

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

My top priorities for improving Boston Public Schools are addressing the issue of establishing an elected school committee; reducing the achievement gap between Black and Brown and White and Asian students; hiring, retaining and developing more educators of color with multilingual, culturally competence, and special education skills and experience; retooling all public schools to the level of exam schools and eliminate the need to change the admission quotas to elite public schools. I would also try to change the funding formula for Boston Public schools.

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.

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

An elected school committee

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

I strongly disagree with the manner in which White Stadium was managed from beginning to end. I believe that it is a disservice to Boston Public School children, a slap in the face to the surrounding communities of Franklin Park, a misuse of taxpayer monies and not well thought out in terms of execution and business and community considering future implications.

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?**

Certain confidential information should be encoded and legal advice needs to be sought and incorporated along the lines of HIPAA regulations to keep certain information legally and physically secure and confidential.

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?**

The history and legacy of white supremacy in law enforcement and paramilitary organizations dates back for hundreds of years in this country, I would honestly have to think about this more deeply and longer before attempting to answer this question.

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")?**

The city's response was inhuman, lacked leadership, demonstrated poor management, and has created more harm than good for the city.

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

Education about their 2nd Amendment Constitutional Rights, adding more opportunities to engage youth and families that build community to value life.

(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?**

i. Lower CO2 emissions by addressing the 30% of homes using fossil fuel;

ii. Repair roads, storm drainage and city infrastructure;

iii. Promote Green spaces by having vertical gardens, preserving the green spaces we have, instituting more community gardens.

Equity would be ensured through the contracting, procurement, decision making and every aspect of production and implementation processes.

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?**

Repair damaged sidewalks, pave the roads, better traffic enforcement, make all buses free, reduce cost and commuter rail, build more walkways in every part of the city, add additional bus lines to better connect direct buses across communities, (i.e. Fields Corner to Jamaica Plain). I would also investigate credits on vehicle excise taxes for drivers who can demonstrate reducing their usage of their vehicle, using a hybrid or electric vehicle or some type of reward like reduction on gym membership, etc.

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, if done correctly.

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?**

Although not utilized in a while Boston has expanded land by expanding more land along the shoreline. If you look at old maps of Boston, much of the city was expanded through landfills and was originally underwater.

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

As a member of a CDC in a particular area in Boston I have some familiarity with this issue however I can honestly say I'm not sure of all the possibilities and would have to investigate further.

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

YES.

4. **Do you support rent stabilization, i.e., limiting the amount that landlords can increase rent for tenants year to year? YES/ NO Do you believe that the City of Boston's current Home Rule Petition goes far enough, doesn't go far enough, or goes too far—and why?**

YES.

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?**

While I agree renters' eviction records should be sealed after a certain period of time, public service announcements, housing court, advocacy groups and the news media can spread the word about renters knowing their rights.

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 would seek the support of the state, Governor, federal government to provide funding and identify locations statewide to address these issues in order to take the total burden off the city.

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

NO.

Slow down implementation in other neighborhoods and include more constituents from other demographics.

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

NO.

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

Community engagement is the essential component in weighing community when considering a development especially abutters to the property.

(H) Democracy

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

Civic education and engagement have to start at an early age the earlier the better (cartoon, "I'm just a bill up on Capitol Hill"), to school elections, opportunities to meet and collaborate with elected officials and participate at every level.

2. **Do you support allowing 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote in municipal elections? YES/ NO**

NO.

3. **Would you support Charter Change to allow for Ranked Choice Voting in Boston? YES/ NO**

YES.

It has already been voted in.

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?***

By any means necessary as is my constitutional right as an American citizen.

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.**
- i. Founded the 501C3 Black Teachers Matter, Inc.
 - ii. Founded and executed the "Commencement Caravan" in Boston June, 2020 celebrating all BPS graduates during the COVID 19 pandemic
 - iii. Confirmed on the ballot as a Candidate for District 5 City Councilor as a senior, female, Black American with a disability.
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?

I would work collaboratively with my elected, legislative, legal, and community members to protect critical services and funding for All residents.

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?**

Several cities around the country have had pilot programs that instituted Guaranteed Basic Income to certain demographics with positive outcomes. I would look into that for Boston.

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

The City contracts need to be broken up into smaller RFP's so that smaller and minority and women owned businesses can bid and gain experience and a positive track record to getting bigger and taking on larger contracts.

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.)