



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 priorities for District 5 are affordable housing, safer neighborhoods through community-driven public safety, and economic development that creates good jobs and supports local businesses in Mattapan, Hyde Park, Readville, and Roslindale.

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

With over a decade in city and state governments advancing equity and opportunity, I know how to get things done. As a community organizer, I've led initiatives like the Community Preservation Act, helping first-time homebuyers and building wealth for low- to moderate-income families. As a city planner, I know real change starts by listening and taking action that reflects our community's values and everyday realities.

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

As a Boston City Councilor, my role will be to work with the mayor to prioritize our district's urgent needs—affordable housing, safer streets, and strong apprenticeships. Our community faces critical challenges, from high infant mortality to traffic violence, including the heartbreaking loss of two young children within a half-mile of my home.

As a father, I'm deeply concerned about the direction of this city. One life lost is one too many. I will hold accountable those responsible for real solutions—from street safety to trauma-informed care. Our community deserves to be heard, respected, and prioritized in every decision, from zoning to public space redesigns.

Our budget must reflect our true needs—support for seniors, opportunities for youth, local arts, and climate action. I'll fight for consistent and equitable city services across our neighborhoods, ensuring dignity and investment in every part of our city.

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

I would champion a localized version of Atlanta's Anti-Displacement Tax Relief Fund. As Boston grows, rising property taxes and housing costs are pushing out long-time residents, especially low-income seniors. Atlanta's program caps property tax increases for homeowners aged 60 and older, providing stability to help them age in place.

In Boston, with neighborhoods like Roxbury, Mattapan, and East Boston seeing 30%+ property assessments, we should extend protections to both senior homeowners and renters facing displacement. We can fund this through a mix of public and philanthropic sources, starting with a pilot in a

high-risk neighborhood. This is about honoring the people who built Boston and ensuring they aren't left behind as it thrives.

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?**

With over a decade of experience advancing equity and transparency in city and state governments, I know how to get things done. As a community organizer, I've led citywide initiatives like the Community Preservation Act, helping first-time homebuyers and building wealth for low- to moderate-income families.

My work has centered on equity, opportunity, and access—whether advocating for people with disabilities as an Engagement Specialist or ensuring our public institutions reflect the communities they serve as Director of Diversity Programs. I've led DEI initiatives that amplify underrepresented voices.

When elected, I will build on this foundation, ensuring every voice is not just heard but valued, and that our communities receive the support and opportunities they deserve.

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.**

Youth engagement is essential to the future of our democracy, especially in District 5, where young people are at the heart of our communities. As your City Councilor, I'll ensure youth aren't just at the table—they'll be leading it.

As José Mourinho famously said, 'The best investments are those made in youth.' Mayor Tom Menino, a proud son of District 5, understood this better

than anyone. His creation of the Mayor's Youth Council brought together the city's brightest young talents, many of whom are now major figures shaping our society. I will continue that legacy, ensuring the next generation has every opportunity to lead and succeed.

From my early work as an AmeriCorps member helping students develop literacy skills, to serving as a Democracy Coach teaching civic participation, I've seen how empowering young people can change the future. I've also volunteered with the Boston Debate League, where I saw firsthand how debate gives youth the confidence to lead.

Here's my plan for robust youth engagement:

- Create a District 5 Youth Advisory Council: A group of students, young professionals, and emerging leaders who will advise on issues like education, public safety, housing, and mental health, directly influencing city decisions.
- Forge Strategic Partnerships: Collaborate with organizations like Generation Citizen, the Boston Debate League, and Empowering Men for Young People with Disabilities to provide leadership development, mentorship, and civic education.
- Offer Civic Internships and Fellowships: Create paid internships and fellowships with local schools and youth-serving nonprofits to give young people hands-on experience in policymaking and organizing.
- Host Youth Town Halls and Leadership Workshops: Provide regular platforms for young residents to engage with city government, share ideas, and build leadership skills.

I've dedicated my career to working with youth, and as City Councilor, I'll make sure young people have the tools and opportunities to shape our future now.

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

One key area where Boston's community process can improve is in how development projects are reviewed and approved, particularly in ensuring genuine community input. Right now, many residents feel that meetings on development projects are more performative than participatory, with decisions often made before they have a real chance to weigh in.

We need to make the process more transparent, inclusive, and accountable. That means:

- Requiring early and continuous engagement with impacted residents, not just one meeting before final approval.
- Ensuring materials are available in multiple languages and scheduling meetings at times that work for working families.
- Giving neighborhood associations and resident-led advisory groups real influence, especially on issues like affordability, displacement, and climate resilience.
- When residents are truly involved from the start, we get better projects and stronger neighborhoods. A more democratic and equitable planning process ensures Boston grows in a way that reflects the needs of its people, not just developers.

(C) Budget & Revenue

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

To prepare Boston for potential reductions in federal funding, we need to build fiscal resilience that doesn't fall on the backs of working people. We will shift our focus to leveraging the bond market—using it as a tool to fund progressive programs like universal after-school care, publicly funded grocery stores, and new schools—instead of relying on the traditional tax base. We must engage with foreign sovereign wealth funds to bolster our bond market, securing capital to fight inflation while funding the essential programs that will improve the quality of life for all Boston residents. The goal is not just survival, but thriving without relying on Washington.

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 isn't just an exercise in democracy—it's an investment in the future of Boston. I support increasing this allocation to \$40 million, as the Better Budget Alliance advocates. This will allow us to empower communities to have a real say in how the city's resources are spent, especially in historically marginalized neighborhoods. By involving residents directly in

budget decisions, we ensure that the city's growth reflects its people's needs and not just the priorities of the powerful elite.

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?**

A stronger PILOT system starts with real accountability—not just symbolic contributions from nonprofits, but meaningful investments that directly address the needs of the most vulnerable communities. We will:

Ensure community-driven definitions of benefits—particularly in neighborhoods where development has displaced residents.

Expand community engagement by including neighborhood associations and resident-led advisory boards that have direct influence over decisions, especially around affordability and displacement.

Reinvest PILOT contributions back into community-centered programs like affordable housing and public services, using these funds to build stronger, more resilient communities without further burdening working-class residents.

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.

Shifting the tax burden from homeowners to commercial entities is not just a fairer way to approach taxation—it's a necessary step in combating the growing inequality in our city. Commercial properties, which benefit greatly from the city's rising property values, should contribute more to funding the public services that we all rely on, rather than putting more pressure on residents. We need to tax the elite, not the working class.

5. **Given state law, Boston is limited in its taxing power. What opportunities do you see for the city to raise revenue?**

While Boston is limited by state law, we have an opportunity to use the bond market as a key revenue driver. We can leverage foreign sovereign wealth funds to raise capital for progressive initiatives like universal after-school care,

publicly funded grocery stores, and new schools. This approach would allow us to fight inflation and reduce dependence on traditional taxes, while investing in the programs that will make our city thrive. Tax cuts for those who provide tangible improvements to quality of life, like local businesses and affordable housing developers, will also create an environment that fosters growth without further burdening the taxpayer.

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’s financial power should be a force for social good, and I will ensure that all investments align with our progressive values. This includes:

- Divesting from industries and companies that profit from war or human rights abuses—just as we did with fossil fuels.
- Full transparency and disclosure of all public investments, ensuring that our money isn’t funding harm but supporting positive change.
- Using the bond market to fund progressive projects, such as new schools and publicly funded grocery stores, which directly benefit the community, while aligning with Boston’s values of justice, equity, and sustainability. We’ll fight inflation and inequality not by raising taxes, but by using our financial power to invest in the future, ensuring that Boston’s growth benefits everyone—not just the rich and powerful.

(D) Education

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

My top priorities for Boston Public Schools are:

- Equitable access to quality education for every student, ensuring resources are distributed where they are most needed—especially in historically underserved neighborhoods.

- Investing in teacher development and support, empowering educators with the tools and resources they need to succeed in the classroom.
- Expanding mental health resources for students, addressing the growing need for emotional and psychological support in our schools.
- Modernizing school infrastructure, ensuring every school is safe, welcoming, and conducive to learning.

2. **Do you oppose the expansion of charter schools in Boston? YES/ NO**

YES.

I believe in strengthening and investing in our public schools, not diverting resources to charter schools. We need to focus on improving access, quality, and outcomes in Boston Public Schools for every student. Expanding charter schools undermines public education and exacerbates inequality.

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.

I strongly oppose any future state takeover of Boston Public Schools. Our schools should be governed by the community and educators who understand the unique needs of our students, not distant state officials. Local control is essential for ensuring that our schools are responsive to the needs of our students and families.

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 fully support a fully elected school committee. Boston voters deserve the power to choose their school leaders. The ideal structure would involve directly elected members from each district, ensuring that all communities are represented and that decisions are made with the input of those who

are most impacted. This approach will strengthen accountability and ensure that every neighborhood has a voice in shaping the future of our schools.

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

I'd like to see the implementation of universal after-school programs for every student in Boston, inspired by successful models in cities like Chicago and New York. These programs help close the achievement gap by providing students with academic support, enrichment activities, and a safe space after school. This would give every child the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their family's resources.

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

The current approach to White Stadium is a misallocation of resources. At nearly \$200 million, this renovation is being pitched as a municipal asset, but its financial structure and projected returns are not aligned with Boston's needs. This is not a revenue-generating project—it's a public infrastructure project, meant to serve the community.

Investing this amount into a facility with limited financial upside diverts crucial resources from initiatives that could make a real impact, such as affordable housing, education, and healthcare. We need to ensure our public funds are directed toward projects that address the everyday needs of our residents, not projects that fail to deliver tangible benefits.

The progressive stance is clear: we must reassess the scope and funding of this project. White Stadium should be a world-class facility for the people, a place for tomorrow's talent to shine today—but not at the expense of the resources that could be better used to lift up our communities.

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.

I am committed to maintaining police-free schools. Our focus should be on mental health professionals, counselors, and community-based solutions to ensure students feel safe and supported. Police presence in schools can lead to criminalization of youth, especially youth of color. Instead, we should invest in restorative justice practices and programs that build trust and keep our schools nurturing environments for all students.

(E) Public Safety

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

NO.

Immigrant communities are under attack, and Boston needs to stand up for them. We can't just give lip service to sanctuary—we must shut the door on ICE and any other federal agency that targets people of color. This isn't just about avoiding deportation; it's about fighting back against a system that criminalizes our neighbors for simply existing. We need bold action to protect our people, and the Trust Act falls short of that.

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 take the fight to the next level:

Creating a sanctuary city that does not cooperate with ICE, means that - period. This means banning the sharing of any information with federal authorities that could be used to deport our neighbors.

Introduce a local immigrant defense fund, so that any person facing deportation has access to legal resources—no matter their ability to pay.

End the criminalization of immigrants, which includes dismantling partnerships with federal agencies that target them, like the 287(g) agreements with ICE.

3. Do you support shuttering the Boston Police gang database? YES/ NO

YES.

The gang database is a tool of racial profiling, and it is used to disproportionately target Black and Brown youth. We need to end this system of surveillance, which criminalizes young people before they even have a chance to grow. The real solution is not more surveillance; it's investing in community programs that give young people the resources they need to succeed—education, jobs, and mentorship.

4. **Do you support ending Boston's engagement in the BRIC? YES/ NO**

YES.

The BRIC is a tool of surveillance that disproportionately targets marginalized communities. It's not about public safety—it's about control. I support ending Boston's participation in the BRIC, and redirecting those resources to community-led public safety programs that work to reduce violence without surveillance, policing, or criminalization.

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.

Absolutely. Mental health crises are not criminal issues, and sending armed police officers only escalates situations. We need trained, unarmed mental health professionals to respond to these emergencies. Let's create a community-led, trauma-informed response that focuses on care, not criminalization. This is about safety, but safety for the people—not the system.

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?**

We must take immediate and decisive action to address any affiliations between Boston police officers and extremist groups.

Independent Audit: Engage external experts to conduct a comprehensive audit of BPD's equipment, including stingrays and other surveillance tools, to ensure they are not being misused or transferred to paramilitary groups.

Investigate Financial Ties: Examine any financial connections between BPD members and the events of January 6, 2021, to uncover potential support for insurrectionist activities.

Full Accountability: Collaborate with the Civilian Review Board and the Internal Affairs Oversight Panel to identify and hold accountable any officers involved in extremist activities

This is about ensuring that our police force serves the community, not undermines it.

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

YES.

Overdose prevention centers save lives. It's simple. People struggling with addiction should not be treated as criminals—they should be treated with dignity and respect. We need safe spaces where individuals can use substances without fear of death or criminal charges. These centers work, and they are a necessary part of any effective harm reduction strategy.

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 has been a disaster. Sweeping people off the streets and criminalizing homelessness is not the solution—it's a failure of leadership. We need to take a housing-first approach, where we provide stable housing and access to resources, rather than criminalizing people for being homeless or struggling with addiction. This is a humanitarian crisis, not a policing issue.

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

Gun violence is a symptom of a broken system. We need:

- Community-led violence prevention programs like violence interrupters, who have proven successful in reducing shootings.

- Ending the militarization of police, and instead investing in community policing models that prioritize building trust over escalation.
- Addressing the root causes of violence: poverty, lack of opportunity, and systemic inequality. We need to invest in schools, jobs, and mental health resources, not more police and guns.

(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?

We need to reimagine Boston's relationship with the environment, putting climate justice at the center of our policies. My top priorities are:

- **Climate-Resilient Infrastructure:** Invest in green infrastructure—public parks, urban trees, and flood barriers—in the neighborhoods that are most vulnerable to climate change, especially low-income communities of color.
- **Renewable Energy for All:** Ensure universal access to affordable renewable energy for every resident, particularly those who have been historically marginalized by energy systems. We'll bring the fight against climate change to the communities that need it the most.
- **Decolonizing Urban Planning:** Build community-led climate solutions that empower residents in every neighborhood to drive the changes needed for their own survival, rather than top-down policies imposed by corporations or distant officials.

Equity isn't an afterthought—it's built into the foundation of every policy decision, ensuring the most vulnerable are protected and heard.

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?

We need to make public transit a right, not a privilege, and stop catering to car culture. Here's how:

- Expand and fund public transit, making it frequent, reliable, and accessible in every neighborhood, especially in those where residents rely on it most.

- Prioritize walking and biking by creating safe, accessible streets with protected bike lanes and wider sidewalks in every district, not just downtown.
- End the dominance of cars by charging commercial vehicles for using city streets and reinvesting those funds into transportation infrastructure that serves the people.
- Bostonians should be able to get around easily, safely, and without having to own a car. It's about mobility justice—making sure everyone can move freely in their city.

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.

I fully support the zoning code update. Achieving net zero carbon emissions in new buildings is essential for Boston's climate future. We must set bold standards that push us toward a sustainable and resilient future while creating green jobs and reducing energy consumption.

4. **Do you support expanding the fare-free bus pilots and making fare-free buses permanent in Boston? YES / NO**

YES.

Absolutely. Public transit is a right, not a privilege, and the current system of charging fares just perpetuates inequality. Fare-free buses are a step toward true accessibility. But we can't just make this a token gesture—we need to fund it properly. I support paying for this with a modest meals tax increase and using bonds to stabilize the expenditure long-term. We can't let the excuse of funding stand in the way of a public transit system that works for everyone. It's time to invest in mobility justice for all Bostonians.

5. **Do you support the expansion of the network of permanent, protected bike lanes in the city? YES / NO**

YES, but with real changes!

The current bike lanes in Boston have been ineffective and cause more headaches than they solve. Voters are frustrated, and I get it. We need to go back to the drawing board and implement real, European-style bike lanes—protected lanes on the sidewalk, like on Commonwealth Avenue by

Boston University. These are safe, accessible, and effective, unlike the half-hearted, performative gestures we've seen so far. We're not just adding lines on the street; we're creating infrastructure that works for all Bostonians, not just a few.

6. **Do you support expanding the renewable energy content in the Boston Community Choice Electricity (BCCE) program? YES / NO**

YES.

Boston needs to lead the charge in the transition to 100% renewable energy. We need to expand the renewable energy content in the BCCE program and make it accessible to every resident, especially low-income households. If we're going to fight climate change, we need to ensure it doesn't just benefit the elite—it must benefit everyone.

(G) Housing

1. **How would you expand affordable housing in Boston and ensure development without displacement?**

To expand affordable housing, we need to rethink our approach to development entirely. We must:

- Prioritize community land trusts to put control of development in the hands of residents, ensuring that new developments serve the community, not just developers.
- Protect tenants through stronger rent stabilization measures, and push for inclusionary zoning that forces developers to build a substantial portion of affordable units on-site.
- Prevent displacement by ensuring that new developments include strong anti-gentrification measures—including legal protections, support for relocation assistance, and building affordable housing in existing communities, not on the outskirts.

Affordable housing must be community-driven, not profit-driven.

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

City-owned land represents a goldmine for community wealth-building. We should:

- Use public land for affordable housing—not for luxury condos or commercial development that only benefit the wealthy.
- Partner with nonprofits to develop mixed-income housing that prioritizes affordability and community investment.
- Expand land use for community-controlled housing through programs like community land trusts, where residents have a say in what's built and who benefits.

We can leverage public assets for the public good—let's do it.

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.

This is a smart, progressive way to fund affordable housing without burdening working-class residents. By taxing high-end real estate transactions, we can redirect that wealth into the communities that need it most. To push this through at the State House, I'll organize a coalition of grassroots organizations, housing advocates, and working-class residents to demand that the State House hear our voices. It's time to tax the rich, not the people trying to survive.

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.

Rent stabilization is non-negotiable. People are being pushed out of their homes because of uncontrolled rent hikes, and we need to act. The current Home Rule Petition doesn't go far enough. We need aggressive rent controls and a strong enforcement system to ensure that no tenant faces eviction because their landlord decided to jack up the rent. Housing is a right, not a profit-making venture.

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.

This is one of the best ways to keep properties in the hands of the community and prevent displacement. I fully support a Tenant Opportunity to Purchase ordinance that gives tenants the power to buy their building and keep it affordable. This ensures that working-class residents aren't priced out by outside investors who only care about making a profit.

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.

We need to raise the bar on inclusionary development. While the update is a step in the right direction, we need to make sure that the 20% of income-restricted units are genuinely affordable and not just another token gesture to appease developers. Let's push for higher percentages and ensure that low-income families are prioritized in new developments.

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.

On-site affordable housing is critical for community integration. When developers are allowed to build affordable units off-site, it often leads to segregation and displacement. We need to require that a majority of affordable units be built on-site to ensure that every community remains diverse and integrated, and that people aren't pushed to the margins.

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.

We need to expand protections for tenants in smaller buildings that are often left vulnerable to condo conversions. By including buildings with 2 or 3 units in the ordinance, we can protect more residents from the rampant displacement happening across Boston.

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?**

We need to launch an education campaign through:

- Community partnerships with housing advocacy organizations, tenant unions, and local grassroots groups to inform renters about their new rights.
- Public outreach through social media, community centers, and local events to make sure every renter knows they can seal eviction records and protect their future housing prospects.
- People deserve to live without the fear of eviction records haunting them.

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?**

The housing-first approach is key. We need to:

- Invest in supportive housing that integrates mental health services, addiction recovery programs, and job training.
- Expand funding for emergency shelters, with wraparound services to support people transitioning into stable housing.
- Work with local organizations to ensure that people with disabilities have access to affordable, accessible housing that meets their needs, not just the bare minimum.

We have the resources—let's use them to end homelessness.

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

NO.

The Squares + Streets process needs to be more inclusive. Community members should not be asked for input only after decisions have already been made. We need early and continuous engagement, with real influence over the development of public spaces, particularly in neighborhoods that have been historically ignored.

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

YES.

Eliminating parking minimums is a step toward building more affordable housing. Parking is an unnecessary cost that drives up housing prices. We need to stop prioritizing cars over people and focus on creating affordable, sustainable housing that doesn't contribute to traffic congestion or environmental degradation.

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 should be the backbone of every development decision.

- Before any proposal moves forward, it must be discussed, debated, and shaped by the community.
- Community input should have real influence, not just token acknowledgment. When communities speak, we listen—particularly on issues like affordability, displacement, and local job creation.
- Developers can bring valuable resources, but community needs must always come first. No development should proceed without community consent.

(H) Democracy

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

Gen Z is all about instant gratification and action, but they've also shown they'll sit out when elections feel performative or irrelevant. To engage them, we need to underpromise and overdeliver. Here's how:

- Make voting simple and accessible with voting locations on every campus and in neighborhoods where youth live. This includes evening and weekend hours to meet their schedules.
- Cut through the noise with real, direct outreach that shows how elections impact their lives—from rent to climate change. No more empty promises—just results.
- Digital tools and social media are a must to make registration easy and encourage turnout, but we can't rely solely on platforms. We need boots on the ground, including peer-to-peer outreach to make sure young voters feel heard and seen.

Let's stop asking young people to show up for the same broken system. We need to make sure they actually see a reason to vote—and ensure they're not just heard, but part of the change.

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

NO.

While I believe in empowering young people, the brain is still developing during these years. With the rise of disinformation campaigns targeting Gen Z, we should allow them the time to mature before they cast their ballots. However, civic education and engagement should be mandatory at all Boston public schools, ensuring that when they do reach voting age, they are informed, critical thinkers, ready to engage in the democratic process responsibly.

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

YES, WITH LOTS OF VOTER EDUCATION!!!

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is a game-changer for Boston. It eliminates the spoiler effect, encourages more diverse candidates, and ensures that

every vote counts. This is about strengthening democracy, giving voters a clearer, fairer choice, and promoting a government that better reflects the people.

4. **Do you support making hybrid access to public meetings permanent? YES/NO**

YES.

Hybrid access should be permanent—it's about creating an inclusive, accessible government that serves all Bostonians. Making public meetings accessible virtually ensures that anyone, regardless of work schedule or mobility, can participate in their local democracy. This is equity in action.

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 fight back against any attempt to criminalize dissent. No one should face persecution or deportation for exercising their right to protest or speak out against injustice. I will:

Push for stronger local protections for students and residents against federal overreach—sanctuary for free speech.

Collaborate with legal organizations like the ACLU and CAIR to ensure that civil liberties are protected, especially for those involved in protests.

Speak out against federal policies that aim to silence criticism, and support students with legal defense funds when they face retaliation for their activism.

We cannot allow free speech to be criminalized, and dissent should always be protected in our communities.

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.

We need to ensure that students are protected from harassment, doxing, and retaliation for peacefully protesting. A Right to Mask ordinance would give students the freedom to protest without fear of being targeted, tracked, or silenced. I will support this legislation as a step toward defending their rights and autonomy, ensuring that they can stand up for justice without fear of retribution.

(I) Inclusive Boston

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

Conducted research on best practices to expand supplier diversity, contributing to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts becoming the first state to issue an executive order recognizing Certified LGBT Business Enterprises® (Certified LGBTBEs®) in public contracting and procurement.

- Developed blueprints regarding a set of actions the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development could take to advance policies pertaining to integration of health care professionals who have been trained in foreign countries.
- Developed and implemented strategic plans to strengthen and expand resident awareness of and access to the Commission's services, analyzing opportunities and community needs.

- 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 will resist federal overreach by:

Defunding compliance with harmful federal policies and redirecting funds to community-based organizations that align with our values.

Fighting back in court with legal experts who understand how to defend sanctuary policies, LGBTQ+ rights, and environmental protections against federal attacks.

Building coalitions with other progressive cities to create a unified resistance against federal policies that harm our communities, ensuring that our residents aren't left vulnerable.

Boston will not compromise on its progressive values.

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

YES.

Transgender rights are human rights, and I will fight to ensure that Boston's shelters remain inclusive and welcoming to all residents, no matter their gender identity. If federal mandates attempt to discriminate against trans people, I will resist them with everything we've got, ensuring our city's policies align with our values of inclusivity and equity.

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

To address Boston's racial wealth gap, we need to:

Implement a progressive tax system, focusing on taxing the rich and corporations that benefit from the city's growth, while investing in affordable housing, education, and job training programs for low-income communities of color.

Support small businesses owned by people of color through capital access programs and technical support to ensure they can thrive in the economy. Push for universal basic income (UBI) pilots to provide direct financial support to low-income and marginalized communities, lifting them out of poverty and narrowing the wealth gap.

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

The Council can:

Create a mentorship program that connects businesses owned by people of color with resources and opportunities to successfully compete for contracts. Monitor and report on diversity in contracting regularly to ensure accountability and transparency in the process.

6. **Will you support legislation to protect residents from the discriminatory use of algorithms and AI? YES/ NO**

YES.

Algorithms and AI are only as good as the people who program them, and if left unchecked, they can perpetuate discrimination. I will support legislation to ensure that AI is used ethically and transparently, with strong oversight to protect residents from discriminatory practices in housing, policing, and hiring.

(J) Additional Comments

(Use this space to make any final comments you deem important for progressive voters assessing your candidacy.)

As a candidate for District 5, I am committed to fighting for the residents of Hyde Park, Mattapan, Readville, and Roslindale—communities that have been historically overlooked and underfunded. I will not settle for performative politics or empty promises. From housing justice to climate action and racial equity, I will work tirelessly to ensure that every resident of District 5 has the opportunity to thrive. This is about real solutions for the people who have been left behind for too long. We need bold, community-driven change, not just more of the same. If you believe in real progress, let's build it together.