

# 2023 Boston City Council Candidate Questionnaire

JP Progressives \* Progressive West Roxbury/Roslindale \* Allston/Brighton Progressives

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## PUBLIC SECTION

*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. Housing/Homeownership - to close the racial wealth gap and create wealth and community stability among working class families through (a) first-generation homeownership grant-based programs targeted to communities that historically experienced blockbusting and redlining; (b) increasing payments and advancing timing of payments made to city by commercial and residential developers to fund affordable housing and homeownership; and (c) using more public land for the development of affordable housing and homeownership.

b. City Contracts – Break down large contracts to make small, local, Black and Latinx businesses more competitive in the procurement process

c. Immigrants & Migrants - Continue to support the influx of new arrivals that we are welcoming in Boston and across the Commonwealth. This includes working with our state and federal partners to ensure that there is ample funding for housing and resources to help newly arrived individuals feel supported and welcomed.

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

I am qualified to hold office because of my commitment to Boston, the diverse and struggling communities I represent, and my commitment to hit the ground running on the issues that working class Bostonians are facing. I've always been about my community. I've represented tenants and homeowners facing displacement in Boston Housing Court, often Haitian residents facing language barriers. I ran a weekly eviction clinic to help tenants without legal representation complete paperwork to preserve their legal rights. I've worked on an education committee in City Hall to improve education outcomes for all our students. I worked as the Senior Counsel for Senator Warren's presidential and Senate campaigns advocating for progressive values, and I've been a member, activist, and attorney with community groups to solve the city's systemic issues of affordable housing, homeownership, and food insecurity.

In my first term I was able to accomplish many things, however I know there is much more work to be done. I am proud to be the first Haitian-American elected in Boston municipal government and plan to continue to support and uplift the needs of my community.

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

City Councilors legislate change by way of orders, ordinances, and resolutions, and amendments to the municipal code. City Council promotes reform and transparency, and act as liaisons between City Hall and constituents while responding to their questions and need for resources. Although Boston is a strong-mayor system, the power of the bully pulpit is real. City Councilors can and must critique the Mayor when executive policies and practices cause harm to residents. The City Council can – and should - also seek to amend the charter to allow for more power-sharing, which increases accountability and responsiveness to constituents. The budget amendment powers are one example of that. The City Council represents the city and should be reflective of its diversity, which drives a more inclusive and equitable city government.

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

a. I've been following Chelsea and Stockton's experiments with the provision of a basic guaranteed income - in partnership with philanthropic efforts - to

break cycles of poverty and reduce the stress levels for those most in need. So far, the research out of Stockton appears promising on the overall positive effects on recipients without dissuading participants from working.

b. A number of cities have refugee offices and there are examples of cities where their immigration office is empowered to engage in direct services. This would be a great model in light of the increasing number of new arrivals we are seeing in Boston.

**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

First, I reject the notion that contributions I receive will have any impact on who I give access to and whose voice I elevate. My campaign centers the needs of working class Bostonians, and I'll do that regardless of who contributes. My reality is that I exist in this city as a Black woman with a large number of working class family and family friends who, like me, were born and raised here, and are immigrants or from immigrant families trying their best to make it. They got jobs in spaces and industries that are rightfully under tremendous scrutiny amid calls for institutional change. They are also tremendously proud of my candidacy and I will listen to them even if I disagree with them.

**(B) Racial Equity & Community Engagement**

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

a. I held a hearing on Boston's Acquisition Opportunity Program. This program was designed to support the purchase of existing rental housing to prevent displacement and preserve affordability by supporting mission-driven housing developers, non-profits, and community land trusts to acquire properties. The councilor held the hearing to further investigate a lack of sufficient data tracking and explore the ways the City can leverage the program to protect housing affordability. I support non-profit organizations and community land trusts taking housing off of the speculative market to protect tenants from displacement by providing them with further funding to purchase these properties before a private developer can. There are ways to

strengthen the program, do more outreach, and work closely with aging residents seeking alternatives to selling their home to private interest

b. I advocated for the end of the use of Title 42 organizing across not only the Commonwealth, but across the United States. I was encouraged to see that the strength of collective organizing contributed to the ending of the racist, and inhumane policy in April 2022. Repeal was a very necessary first step, but we must continue to do better by our migrant and immigrant communities from all over the world. We have a responsibility to be intentional and deliberate in our support for asylum seekers

c. Uplifting and supporting our small businesses, especially our Black and brown owned small businesses is a top priority. The ability to sell liquor provides a boost in revenue, and a great disparity exists in which neighborhoods and communities have access to liquor licenses. To address this, I petitioned for four restricted liquor licenses for the Bolling Building and one for Strand Theatre, which passed the city council, and was signed into law. I am also actively working in partnership with Councilor Brian Worrell to add 200 additional liquor licenses to neighborhoods currently lacking.

**2. What steps would you take, if 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?**

a. As the daughter of immigrants, as a woman, and as a Black person, making sure that we are centering the voices of our diverse communities is at the heart of what I'm about. I've been a leader of interfaith events, ensured that Spanish- and Creole- speaking residents are able to access unemployment and food resources despite language barriers, and I've always tried to connect people with resources, even when I did not have an answer to their questions at my fingertips. I believe in inclusivity – both as a personal practice in my life and an important facet of any effective and responsive government. To do so, we can improve language access and create more citizens boards for city planning that draws from our diverse neighborhoods, and ensure feedback loops so that diverse community members can rest assured that their participation in the civic process is not merely performative but actually pushing needed change in City Hall.

b. In my first term, I have worked to break down barriers and make city hall more accessible to residents across the city. My office has held events to inform residents who do not speak English of city resources and presented them in their native language. We also hosted upwards of 20 cocoa hours

across the city in an effort to meet residents where they are. I always say that I don't have all of the answers. I seek opportunities to partner with community and help elevate their ideas to the problems that they face.

**3. 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.**

During my time on the council, I have been able to work with many different youth organizations including the Mattapan Teen Center, YouthBuild Boston, ACEDONE organizers, IFSI teens, and many different school organizations. My office hosted an event at Chez Vous roller rink during Black History Month to help engage young people in Mattapan and were overwhelmed by the event being attended by over 300 young people. Beyond that, we have hosted interns from across the city to give them an opportunity to learn more about local government and the work that goes on behind the scenes.

**(C) Budget & Revenue**

**1. Do you support dedicating at least 1% of the operating budget to participatory budgeting?**

YES. Scaling up to 1% over time.

**2. In 2022, almost 75% of Boston's revenue came from property taxes, but half Boston's land is tax exempt. To address this problem, then Mayor Menino created the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program, requesting large nonprofit hospitals, educational, and cultural institutions with over \$15 Million in property to pay 25% of their assessed potential property tax to reimburse the city for vital services, snow removal, fire and police protection, and sanitation. Half of that assessment can be fulfilled through provision of a community benefit. Each year fewer institutions pay their full PILOT request, and in the last 12 years, institutions have failed to pay the city over \$175 Million in PILOT requests. 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?**

I co-sponsored the PILOT hearing this year with Councilor Liz Breadon. Providing a more standardized approach for the PILOT program based on real property values while firming up the definition of community benefits is the way forward. We need to host more community meetings and working

sessions to work on definitions and to tighten what constitutes a community benefit. We should define specific buckets for Community Benefit investment in accordance with city priorities. And we need to ensure that community benefits benefit all city residents and geographic areas but be aware that institutional encroachment has adversely impacted specific communities.

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

- a. Increased fees on Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) such as Uber
- b. Revamping the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program - for example basing payment amounts off of 2021 tax assessment.
- c. Create public private partnerships to raise in-kind funding from these institutions, including summertime partnerships for BPS students or allowing BPS students to take college classes for free.
- d. Supporting a real estate transfer tax for properties worth more than \$2,000,000 Conduct a study, in partnership with outside institutions, to determine what other measures can be defined as fees that fall within the city' purview.

**(D) Education**

**1. What are your top priorities for reducing persistent racial and economic achievement gaps in the Boston Public Schools?**

- a. Ensure that all of our schools have access to guidance counselors. Many of our schools serving primarily Black and Brown students, don't have access to even one counselor. On the council, I filed a hearing order to explore the ways that we can meet the needs of our students by providing more social workers and counselors.
- b. Use an assets-based language to discuss schools that are struggling academically to avoid creating a culture and external perception of failure. It's important to find the success stories within each school and elevate those.
- c. Institute a fully-elected school committee
- d. Use and request more state funding to: Reduce class sizes; hire more guidance counselors to reduce student ratio; and invest in training programs to support school leadership in effort to reduce turnover
- e. Invest in universal Pre-K
- f. Work towards the goal of having a library in each school, especially each elementary school, and partner with local libraries to underscore the

adventures and possibilities of reading Provide more resources to students with disabilities, and de-concentrate their presence in a handful of schools g. Allow for more PILOT schools and programs to allow for creativity

**2. Do you oppose the expansion of charter schools in Boston?**

YES.

**3. Last year, 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.

**4. Do you support a change in BPS governance to allow Boston voters the right to elect school committee members, like every other city in Massachusetts? If so, what would your ideal structure be? If not, why not?**

YES. A hybrid structure allows for power-sharing and greater accountability, while accounting for the issue of low name-recognition in municipal elections and potential for capture by private interests. A hybrid model would have: 2 members appointed by the mayor, 2 members appointed by the City Council, and 3 elected members, together with 2 BPS students with voting power. That said, I am open to a fully elected school committee.

**5. The Boston Public Schools district is working on a memorandum of understanding with the Boston Police Department that avoids placing police back in schools but clarifies when educators should call police to respond to incidents. What are your thoughts about such a proposal? Moreover, what would be your priorities in ensuring that BPS is a safe environment for all students to learn?**

I think this is a decent proposal. Police should not be in our schools and our students should be able to enter our school buildings without a sense of fear or criminalization. There may be incidents when a school may need to have a police response. Ensuring that everyone in the school and BPD understands the circumstances when that is necessary is important.

A safe environment for our young people requires meaningful and culturally-appropriate engagement from students, parents, families, and communities especially as schools grapple with poor student mental health as a result of the pandemic. School safety is not about more police or more metal

detectors, but about more trusting adults for our kids, more psychologists, more guidance counselors, more social workers, To ensure both the physical and mental safety of our students and our families, we must focus on the hard work – long-term solutions that center healing, justice, and abundance instead of short-sighted answers that may provide a semblance of a solution but instead are half-step reactionary measures.

**6. What steps would you take to make universal pre-K a reality in Boston?**

I would use unrestricted grant money from the state to fund universal pre-K, together with partnerships with philanthropy. I would also expand partnerships with center-based programs and family-based centers to make universal pre-K a reality using a mix of state federal dollars. Of the \$400 million we received from the federal government, some of those funds should go to making universal Pre-K a reality.

**(E) Public Safety**

**1. Do you support closing the loopholes in Boston’s Trust Act which allow BPD to inquire about immigration status or pass information along to ICE?**

YES.

**2. Do you support shuttering the Boston Police gang database?**

YES.

**3. Although the Boston City Council is not directly involved in negotiations over the Boston Police Patrolman’s Association (BPPA) contract, the City Council does have influence by way of a final vote. What reforms, if any, would you like to see in a final contract? What, if anything, would make you vote against it?**

- a. Mandatory use of body-worn cameras during all shifts including overtime and mandatory identification as police officer (badge and ID number)
- b. Limit kinds of overtime (no overtime pay for functions including: transporting people in custody, delivering drugs/evidence)
- c. Reduce minimum staffing levels
- d. Participate in mandatory vicarious trauma training. Officers are human and get exposed to traumatic situations by nature of their work. That trauma likely impacts their everyday decision making.. Vicarious trauma training can improve thoughtful performance.



- e. Shift work from police officers to a civilian team or City Hall office where possible, including, construction sites, police detail, and traffic infractions
- f. Create a zero-tolerance list for actions that will lead to immediate termination
- g. Increased data tracking on use of force incidents
- h. Maintain ban on use of biometrics and facial recognition technology which exorbitantly discriminates against BIPOC communities.

**4. Would you support allowing the use of civilians to direct traffic around construction projects and street work as opposed to limiting such work to the Boston Police Department?**

YES.

**5. Would you advocate for the reallocation of money from the Boston Police Department budget to reinvestment in communities?**

YES. I have a proven track record of doing this.

**6. Do you believe that affiliation or sympathies with white supremacist organizations among officers is a problem with BPD? If so, what measures would you take to combat that issue?**

YES.

- a. Swiftly remove anyone from the force who appears at a white supremacist event or is part of such an investigation by instituting a zero-tolerance policy
- b. Have officers sign a statement annually stating that they are not members of, nor are they sympathetic to, the efforts of white supremacist organizations  
Improve applicant and employee screening to screen out officers who are sympathetic to farright and supremacist groups and who are approaching policing from a supremacist lens
- c. Provide incentives to officers for reporting racist misconduct of other officers, and investigate these reports.

**7. Do you support the legalization of overdose prevention centers?**

YES.

**8. How would 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 imperfect, but that is largely because of the scale and cost of the problem. A housing first model is the way forward. It is difficult for individuals to think about healing, recovery, medical need, or detox if they don't have a place to call home. But the cost of housing is expensive. The city has seen success with its housing first approach at hotels where they've provided people with wraparound services. This intervention requires more funding from the state to solve what is a regional problem. Additionally, we need to re-open Long Island as a more permanent solution to responding to the humanitarian crisis at Mass & Cass, and I've written support letters for funding to make this happen to both federal and state agencies.

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

- a. More support for non-profit institutions in high-crime areas, particularly nonprofits run by Black & Brown residents and/or former justice-involved residents.
- b. Improving collection and analysis of gun violence data
- c. Closing existing loopholes and codifying federal rules change into MA law to prevent illegal guns from flowing into our communities
- d. More support for healing circles and mental health services to help address root causes of violence - trauma, poverty, and structural racism
- e. Continued investments in meeting the basic needs of residents - housing, jobs, food access, healthcare, and a quality education
- f. Expanding a judge's ability to divert a young person out of the criminal legal system and into another program, with more supportive services and without creating a juvenile record.
- g. More activities for young people
- h. Reducing interactions that residents have with the criminal legal system by continued use of diversion programs and non-prosecution list

**(F) Environment & Transportation**

**1. What steps would you take to reduce dependence on cars and better facilitate the ability of Bostonians to get around by walking, biking, or public transit?**

We need to make the T more accessible and make our roads safer for bikes. We need to invest in infrastructure in our roads to provide dedicated bus lanes and better public transportation infrastructure. We must redesign our streets to be more inclusive of different transportation modes, but we must do so equitably, especially in neighborhoods that do not currently have many

public transportation options. We can increase our bikeshares, continue to explore micro mobility options like use of scooters. Strengthening our transportation infrastructure so that residents in all neighborhoods have accessible or low-cost travel options is critical to building a city less dependent on car ownership.

**2. 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. A free MBTA would go a long way in changing behavior - reducing fossil-fuel pollution from cars and incentivizing the use of public transit.
- b. Given that Boston is a heat-trapped city, we need to protect our trees (like the mature trees along Melnea Cass that were in danger of being removed), especially when new development is happening. To reduce the urban heat island effect, we need to use more city land for community gardens and green spaces free of asphalt and cement, especially in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan.
- c. Continue to work on neighborhood-specific coastal flooding plans, and to support a local Green New Deal that sees climate justice as economic and racial justice, thereby focusing on new union jobs for the working class that pay a living wage.

**3. Do you oppose the creation of new fossil fuel infrastructure in Boston?**

YES.

**4. Do you support expanding the fare-free bus pilots and making fare-free buses permanent in Boston? What steps would you take to achieve this goal?**

YES. We need to start by making the buses free, and work towards making the trains free as well. MBTA fares are regressive and have a disproportionate impact on our essential, low-wage workers, who are often Black and LatinX. I support working alongside our federal Massachusetts lawmakers for the federal government to help fund free transit, which will also have a net benefit in tackling climate change. With a free T, we would save the close to \$1 billion it costs just to collect fares, and we can reinvest that money in our infrastructure. Boston should have a dedicated seat on the Fiscal and Management Control Board, the MBTA's oversight board, given that Boston is so important and impacted by the system. We should also explore increasing revenue received from Transportation Network Companies to help fund a free T.

**5. Do you support the expansion of the City's curbside composting pickup program?**

YES.

## **(G) Housing**

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

- a. Increase the Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) from 13% to at least 20% to match the rate of neighboring cities in the Greater Boston area to increase affordable rental units, and decrease the qualifying area median income (AMI), and conduct study and hold hearings to determine how much above 20% the market can tolerate.
- b. Increase exaction fees for Linkage (artificially stagnant for years due to the lack of city control) so the Neighborhood Housing Trust has more funds available for affordable housing (and so that the Neighborhoods Job Trust has more funds for job training programs)
- c. Expand the types of commercial properties required to make linkage fees
- d. Decrease or eliminate the 100,000 square foot exemption for exaction fees
- e. Change schedule for city's receipt of Linkage payments so money can enter city's coffers sooner for the development of affordable housing
- f. Increase partnerships with non-profit organizations to make homeownership more of a reality for working class first-generation homebuyers by increasing the amount of money the city budgets for down payment assistance and closing costs
- g. Expand Community Preservation Act funding for housing
- h. Commitment of more public land to the affordable construction of affordable rental and homeownership units sold at cost or with a cap on profit.
- i. Increase and better publicize property tax assistance and write-offs for seniors.
- j. Implement zoning relief and update an outdated zoning code while increasing public trust in the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- k. Listen to the needs and demands of tenant associations and tenant organizing groups.
- l. Expand foreclosure prevention programs in partnership with local nonprofits working with tenants and organizers.
- m. Conduct studies on how market and luxury developments affect displacement and increased rent in surrounding areas.
- n. Work with the state to increase and ensure access to counsel in eviction-related proceedings for non-owner-occupied buildings and for property owners with either 1) 3 or more properties OR 2) five or more rental units, regardless of the number of properties.
- o. Allocate funds from the federal government's American Recovery Act to fund homeownership opportunities

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

There are several opportunities to leverage city-owned land for public good by expanding affordable housing in a high-cost, high-growth city, such as:

- a. Partner with community land trusts (like the Boston Neighborhood Community Land Trust and the Chinatown Community Land Trust) and limited equity cooperatives to offer alternative and affordable cooperative models of renting and homeownership
- b. Transfer control of public land from BPDA back to fully being within the purview of City Hall through the Property Management Department and the Department of Neighborhood Development (DND)
- c. Make city land available to smaller builders at low or no cost on the condition that homes or units built are affordable, and in partnership with community development corporations (CDCs).
- d. Streamline permitting process for small- to medium-sized builders.
- e. Identify and have a singular database for all city-owned land parcels that is easily accessible online, together with any and all requests for development
- f. Ensure affordable rental construction in neighborhoods without many such rental opportunities, and increase affordable ownership opportunities in neighborhoods with high rental rates via the use of public land.

**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? If so, how do you plan to advocate for it at the State House?**

YES. I advocate for a transfer tax of 2%. I've offered written and in-person testimony at the State House in support of this HRP, and I tell groups that this is a cause very worthy of their advocacy if they want to move the needle on affordable housing.

**4. Do you support rent stabilization? 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. While the current HRP could have had a lower cap on rents to further prevent displacement, in a political environment where any talk about rent stabilization or rent control is difficult, it is understandable how we landed at the current proposed cap. We are advancing legislation that is right now what

we think can hopefully pass on Beacon Hill. This is going to help level the market and make it more predictable for tenants and landlords.

**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.

**6. Boston's inclusionary development policy (IDP) requires that 13 percent of the units in a building need to be affordable, and the City is currently considering increasing it to 20%. Do you support such an increase?**

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.

**8. Across the city, there are projects for large-scale supportive housing that are being fought by local communities, such as the Shattuck project in Jamaica Plain, the Comfort Inn development project in Dorchester, Charlestown's Constitution Inn project, and more. Do you support pushing forward with these specific projects and others like them?**

YES. Yes broadly speaking, while ensuring we listen to community voices and concerns and integrate them into planning for these projects to expand housing for all and to ensure a fair distribution throughout all neighborhoods in our city.

## **(H) Economic Opportunity**

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

- a. Support first-generation and first-time homebuyers programs to build wealth, and continue to support these homeowners if they become at-risk.
- b. Lease public land at little to no cost to new non-profits (started within the last 10 years or new non-profits) working in low-income census tracts to provide empowering opportunities for youth employment and/or community gathering areas.

- c. Create welcoming and inclusive spaces for young BIPOC residents to prevent Boston's brain drain of young professional talent and foster an environment for networking and culturally-relevant city programming.
- d. Run an experiment with guaranteed income like the City of Chelsea
- e. Fix procurement process to make it more accessible and attainable for Black and LatinX businesses, currently shut out of contracting process
- f. Center the work and recommendations of the newly-formed Equity Cabinet
- g. Support current efforts for a participatory budget process
- h. Ensure job training programs are matching the jobs that currently exist on the market.
- i. Match students in vocational schools with promising internship opportunities for future employment
- j. Increase grants and support for small and locally-owned businesses opening in low-income census tracts
- k. Embed a climate and racial justice framework to all the work of City Hall

**2. Do you support requiring city contractors to give their employees at least two weeks' notice before changing their schedules and to compensate workers for late schedule changes?**

YES.

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

Much of the work of the OEOI is already addressing this question with its sheltered market program. In addition, I would:

- i. Conduct additional disparity studies to lay the legal groundwork for using racial classifications in contracting and city business.
- ii. Reduce barriers to entry by simplifying RFP process Have more diverse staff deciding on city contracts
- iii. Reduce favoritism towards long-established companies
- iv. Working with the Equity Cabinet; require each city department to conduct assessment of future needs for goods and services, and partnering with and communicating city procurement opportunities in outreach efforts to small businesses.
- v. Create a supplier diversity program
- vi. Learn lessons from the Omni Hotel Project, where MassPort succeeded in contracting with BIPOC-owned business Require Regular public reporting and assessment of whether targets are being met
- vii. Streamline certification process for business to reduce barriers to entry.

**4. The cannabis industry is expected to grow in Boston in the coming years. What steps should the City take to make sure that it grows in an equitable way, in which the communities most impacted by the drug war are able to benefit?**

First, people with low-level marijuana offenses as a matter of law should have their past convictions cleaned from their record. The City should create an incubator for “equity applicants” where they not only get priority in applying for licenses but are offered business classes and interest-free loans from revenue generated by dispensaries. Currently the expungement process is long and complex. Since courthouses are partially closed due to COVID 19, another layer of complexity has been added. We need to amend the legislation to allow past low-level marijuana convictions to be expunged. The City needs to give equity applicants help beyond the licensing process. While licensing is an important part of the process, applicants face many barriers before getting to that phase including access to funding and learning about the business process. With an incubator, the city can give potential applicants access to the funding and training to get them started.

**(I) Democracy**

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

- a. More money and resources behind public awareness and public engagement during campaign season
- b. Same day voter registration (state control)
- c. Expanding the franchise (state control)

**2. Do you support allowing non-citizens with legal status the right to vote in municipal elections?**

YES.

**3. Do you support allowing 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote in municipal elections?**

YES.

**4. Would you support Charter Change to allow for Ranked Choice Voting in Boston?**

YES.



5. **Do you support making hybrid access to public meetings permanent?**

YES.

**(J) Additional Comments**

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