

Boston City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Please submit completed questionnaires by Saturday, May 4.

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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) Your Candidacy

1. What would be your top three priorities if elected to serve?
 - a. Education, Opioid Crisis, Affordable Housing

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?
 - a. As a lifelong Boston resident, I have experienced the best and the worst that the city has to offer. I was born and raised in Mattapan and Roxbury, I graduated from Boston Public Schools, I also worked for the city as a BPS employee and since I have made a profession in the nonprofit field. My life experiences, education, and professional development have all happened in the City of Boston.

3. What do you see as the role of the City Council in our strong-mayor system?
 - a. I reject the notion that Boston has a strong Mayor and weak council. I believe the Councilors have more power than they are recognized for. Ultimately the councillors advocate for the will of the people and engage in direct constituent services. This means that they have their ear to the ground on the needs of Boston residents, and should be able to use those direct connections to mobilize around key pieces of legislation

(B) The Budget

1. What programs would you focus your budget advocacy on?
 - a. One of the most important actions councillors take is voting on the city budget. My top priorities for spending would fall in line with advancing technical and

vocational skills for BPS students, addressing the affordable housing crisis, and ending the opioid crisis.

2. The City Council currently has very little ability to influence the budgeting process. Would you support legislation to enable line-item budgetary changes? Are there other measures you would propose to give the City Council more influence over the budget?
 - a. I would support line items because it would give councillors the ability to vote on funding for specific programs and makes the budget process more transparent so that residents can better understand where their money is going.
3. More than \$60 MILLION of the requested Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) contributions have been left unpaid. What would you do to improve Boston's tax base regarding PILOT fees?
 - a. We need to find a way to make these fees mandatory. Though colleges and universities are listed as a nonprofits they are definitely making a profit by charging exorbitant prices for tuition and housing. Ultimately, the city should enact a process for those schools similar to the Determination of Need/Community Health Initiative Commitment that is required for local hospitals looking to expand. This would require colleges and universities to partner with city agencies, participate in a thorough community engagement process, and ultimately fund different initiatives that would help Boston residents.

(C) Education

1. What would be your top three priorities for improving the equity and quality of education in the Boston Public Schools?
 - a. A full time school nurse in every school, a counselor in every school, and staff equipped with the resources to meet the needs of students with disabilities.
 - b. Increase the amount of funding for technical and vocational programs.
 - c. I would like to see smaller classroom sizes so that teachers can have more one on one time with students.
2. BuildBPS could significantly change the footprint and configuration of BPS, and possibly trigger the sale of BPS real estate assets. As a City Councilor, what will you do to make sure this process is transparent and driven by improving school quality and equity as the primary outcome?
 - a. I do not agree with the sale of Boston Public School property to private developers. If this must happen, then I would work to ensure the profits from those sales is returned to the city budget exclusively for BPS use. The additional capital would have to be used towards the improvements in equity and quality of education detailed above.
3. Do you support changes to the current structure of the school committee? If so, what would be your ideal structure? If not, why not?

- a. No, I do not support the current structure of the school committee. The school committee should be elected so parents have the power to determine the structure of the school system and vote on the things their children are learning in school.
4. What would your priorities be for youth development efforts outside of school time?
 - a. We need to take more advantage of non-profits that are offering their services to our students after school. As a former employee at the Clubhouse Network in Roxbury, I know the importance of having a program that cultivates critical, creative, and independent thinkers.

(D) Public Safety

1. Do you support requiring the police department and other city agencies to get City Council approval before acquiring new surveillance technologies? No, I would trust the police to make those decisions.
2. Do you support District Attorney Rachael Rollins's do-not-prosecute list and expanded approach to dealing with those low-level offenses?
 - a. For some offenses but not all.
3. Do you support ending information sharing between the Boston Police Department and ICE? What steps would you take to address the comingling of data?
 - a. No, given the current national oversight of ICE. Boston Police Department should take necessary precautions to prevent information from being accessed by federal agencies.
4. Do you support shuttering the Boston Police gang database, which tracks the associations and activities of thousands of Boston residents, 98 percent of them Black or Brown?
 - a. Yes, if there is a policy or procedure that disproportionately surveils people of color, it should be eliminated.
5. What are your ideas for addressing the opioid crisis, and what would you plan to do to build support for such ideas?
 - a. I support the Mayor's plan to rebuild the bridge to Long Island to open a new treatment campus. To build support for this the City of Boston should commit to not allowing private developers to develop on the island.
 - b. I also support safe injection sites.

(E) Transportation

1. What are your top priorities for advancing efficient, equitable, and environmentally sustainable transportation in the city?
 - a. As an electric vehicle owner, I would support more charging stations throughout the city. I would promote the access of more electric scooter sharing through programs like Lime, Bird, etc.
2. Do you support the goal of fare-free public transit?
 - a. No.
3. Do you support bringing back late-night T service?
 - a. Yes
4. Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. What steps would you advocate to help Boston to achieve this goal?
 - a. We should do analysis of streets that see the highest amount of fatalities, and perform a Slow Streets analysis to determine best methods of curbing speeding.

(F) Environment

1. What are your top three priorities for making Boston a more environmentally sustainable city?
 - a. Late night T service
 - b. More electric vehicle charging locations
 - c. Move publicly owned or operated facilities to 100% renewable energy
2. Climate change will have a disproportionate impact on communities of color in Boston. What steps would you propose to make sure that equity is prioritized in Boston's climate mitigation and adaptation planning?
 - a. Increase the use of solar and renewable energy sources in "hot spots," like Dudley Square. We might also look at green energy to fuel our transportation into the city.
3. Do you support a municipal commitment to power all publicly owned or operated facilities with 100% renewable energy by 2025?
 - a. Yes
4. Do you oppose the creation of new fossil fuel infrastructure in Boston?
 - a. Yes
5. Do you support the adoption of a curbside composting pickup program?
 - a. Yes

(G) Housing

1. What are the most important changes you would support to make Boston a place where people can afford to live -- and thrive -- at any stage of their life?
 - a. Provide tenant protections to elderly and low-income renters
 - b. Develop more affordable housing that's based on localized area median income
 - c. Helping young people attain skills that would provide jobs that pay a living wage
2. Do you support the creation of a city-funded housing voucher program to provide rental assistance for homeless families and individuals in Boston in the face of continued funding cuts and long wait lists?
 - a. Yes
3. Boston's inclusionary development policy (IDP) requires that 13 percent of the units in a building need to be affordable. (a) Do you support increasing this number? If so, to what? (b) Do you support requiring that a majority of new affordable units be built on-site, in order to ensure communities are diverse and integrated?
 - a. Yes, to 25%
 - b. Yes
 - c. Yes, I also support Boston Residency Preference
4. Would you support the City of Boston building a database that tracks what is being built, where it is being built, and who can afford it in order to ensure that housing policies enacted yield their intended results, and that tracks demographic data on the beneficiaries of housing programs to ensure equity in program design?
 - a. Yes
5. By the 1970s, many cities separated the functions of development and planning/zoning into separate offices. Boston remains a notable exception. (a) What concerns do you have about the current operation of the Boston Planning and Development Agency? (b) Do you support breaking up the BPDA and creating an independent public office of planning?
 - a. My chief concern is that BPDA ensures that community engagement is occurring in all areas of the city prior to a development plan implementation.

(H) Economic Opportunity

1. Boston routinely ranks as one of the most unequal cities in the US. What steps would you propose to reduce our steep income and wealth inequality?
 - a. Boston needs to close the wage gap and provide better educational opportunities for BPS students. I would also support a living wage ordinance.
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?
 - a. Yes.

3. The cannabis industry is expected to be a major source of growth in Boston in the coming years. Do you support giving licensing preference to city residents and individuals from communities that have been most impacted by the war on drugs over large companies from outside the city?
 - a. Yes.
4. According to a November 2018 report, only 0.72% of over 14,000 city contracts were awarded to minority-owned business enterprises (MBEs) (approximately \$4.3 million of \$646 million spent). What strategies would you use to hold the city accountable and dramatically increase the city's investment in MBEs?
 - a. We want to ensure that the City's economic development policies are fair and equitable. The Office of Economic Development should provide more information to those target communities to ensure people are educated about the assets of the office and the process of applying for city contracts.
5. What steps would you take to support artists and the creative economy as a driver of culture and opportunity in Boston?
 - a. Additional resources should be brought into BPS to support arts education in K-12. Musical and artistic talents should also be brought into communities through art exhibitions and musical showcases in public locations.
6. Boston has 13 designated "opportunity zones," where investors can get significant tax breaks for developing property. What steps would you propose to ensure that such development yields shared prosperity, rather than displacement?
 - a. Development should not lead to displacement of residents who have lived in Boston all their lives. Developers should be required to uphold the Boston Residency Preference and engage in a community development process.

(I) Democracy

1. What steps would you take to increase participation in city government, particularly among voices not currently engaged?
 - a. As a councillor-at-large, I would continue to be an active member of the community. Local government classes should be taught in BPS, and access to city hall should be a required part of student education. The city council should also open hearings to the community at flexible times including evenings and weekends.
2. Do you support requiring landlords to provide voter registration forms in the packets provided to new tenants?
 - a. No.

3. Cities across Massachusetts and the US have taken steps to engage new constituencies in municipal elections. (a) Do you support allowing non-citizens with legal status the right to vote in municipal elections? (b) Do you support allowing 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote in municipal elections?
 - a. No.
 - b. Yes. Many political decisions made at the municipal level affect young people. They should have the right to voice their opinions.

4. Sixteen of the twenty-five largest cities in the United States have term limits for the office of the mayor. Term limits for executive office help deter the over-centralization of power. Would you support changing the city charter to impose term limits for the office in Boston?
 - a. Yes.

5. Elections are a central component of democratic accountability. Do you support keeping the City Council's current two-year terms instead of shifting to four-year terms?
 - a. Yes, this provides accountability to the residents of the City of Boston.

(J) Additional Comments

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