

## 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. Representing my constituents
  - b. Infrastructure
  - c. Public Safety
  
2. What qualifies you to hold this office?
  - a. I am capable of working well with others and therefore use that to work with the people of District 5
  
3. What do you see as the role of the City Council in our strong-mayor system?
  - a. Role of City Council is to be the voice of the people when it comes to issues and concerns in each district

#### (B) The Budget

1. What programs would you focus your budget advocacy on?
  - a. Safety
  - b. Education
  - c. Traffic
  - d. Housing

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 believe that City Council should have influence over the budget to make sure money is put back into the districts for issues that need to be resolved
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?

**(C) Education**

1. What would be your top three priorities for improving the equity and quality of education in the Boston Public Schools?
  - a. Neighborhood schools
  - b. All schools should have the same services available and curriculum.
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. Money for the sale of the BPS real estate should be used to build better and more updated schools that are up to today's ever growing standards.
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, the current school board and superintendent positions handle all BPS affairs
4. What would your priorities be for youth development efforts outside of school time?
  - a. Creating programs in areas such as sports, sciences, the arts and many more through the YMCA and BCYF to ensure the city's youth have options in areas of their interest. I would work with BPS and local museums/sporting venues to create low-cost memberships and extra-curricular activities for BPS students.

**(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?
  - a. Yes
2. Do you support District Attorney Rachael Rollins's do-not-prosecute list and expanded approach to dealing with those low-level offenses?
  - a. No

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. The steps I would take would be to explain the process and the reasons why it shares it data.
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. No
5. What are your ideas for addressing the opioid crisis, and what would you plan to do to build support for such ideas?
  - a. Bringing back D.A.R.E, Drug Abuse Resistance Education, to BPS schools to give information about the dangers of the opioid crisis.

**(E) Transportation**

1. What are your top priorities for advancing efficient, equitable, and environmentally sustainable transportation in the city?
  - a. Making sure the buses and trains are kept up to emissions codes and regulations. I would also phase in natural gas to lower the carbon footprint
2. Do you support the goal of fare-free public transit? No. I would support the goal of lowering the fare to a more affordable rates.
3. Do you support bringing back late-night T service? 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. I would have more police officers at intersections ensuring the laws of the road are being followed and more speed readers that alert drivers of how fast they are going. We would also need to look into the traffic patterns throughout the District and hire designers to redesign high risk areas.

**(F) Environment**

1. What are your top three priorities for making Boston a more environmentally sustainable city?
  - a. Planting more trees in the city and enhancing Boston's Greenthumb
  - b. Switching to natural gas in city vehicles
  - c. Possible usage of City rooftops to use the power of wind and solar 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. Climate change is an issue that needs to be addressed through lowering the City's carbon footprint by promoting electric vehicles and solar/wind power
3. Do you support a municipal commitment to power all publicly owned or operated facilities with 100% renewable energy by 2025? Yes
4. Do you oppose the creation of new fossil fuel infrastructure in Boston? No
5. Do you support the adoption of a curbside composting pickup program? 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. Income-based rent and purchasing programs to new renters and homeowners
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 with a limited amount of time
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, Increased to at least 25%
  - b. Yes
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. BPDA I believe is not community friendly nor does it have the communities best interest in mind.
  - b. Yes breaking up the BPDA into independent public offices of planning

**(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. Increase the minimum wage
  - b. Invest in education and lower tuition of private schools
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. No
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. I want to give licenses to companies and individuals who are qualified to operate cannabis shops.
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. I believe in the fact that which ever contractor that comes back with the best bid is the one to get the job done.
5. What steps would you take to support artists and the creative economy as a driver of culture and opportunity in Boston?
  - a. Arts fairs and incorporating their artwork throughout the city on buildings that allow these paintings.
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?

**(I) Democracy**

1. What steps would you take to increase participation in city government, particularly among voices not currently engaged?
  - a. Increase technology usage to widen public engagement

2. Do you support requiring landlords to provide voter registration forms in the packets provided to new tenants?
  - a. Yes
  
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. No
  
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. No
  
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. No

**(J) Additional Comments**

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