

2021 Boston City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Michael F. Flaherty

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(A) Your Candidacy

1. What would be your top three priorities if elected to serve?

- 1) Ensure that our COVID-19 recovery benefits all neighborhoods in our city, particularly those that have been and continue to be disproportionately impacted.
- 2) Address the housing affordability crisis that exacerbates inequality in our city and forces too many Bostonians to move to another municipality.
- 3) Closing the opportunity and achievement gap in our Boston Public Schools.

2. What qualifies you to hold this office?

During my time as an elected official, I've gained an in-depth understanding of Boston's neighborhoods and its many diverse communities. My office emphasizes constituent services, and strongly believes addressing quality of life issues is one of the most important duties in a Councilor's office. I have been entrusted with various leadership roles during my time on the Council, in which I effectively bridged the interests of a variety of stakeholders to give voice to and pass legislation that moved our City forward. I continue to believe that Boston's greatest days are ahead of us, and that the City's current challenges, while urgent, are opportunities to go to new heights and make our City a more vibrant and equitable place for all. We are a City in transition and I believe I have the experience and institutional knowledge to help bring us through this transition and move our City forward.

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

I would like to see the City of Boston and Boston Public Schools expand Early College partnerships. Today less than 1% of BPS high school students have access to early college in Boston. Research shows that early college programs are successful in keeping students, particularly low income students and students of color, enrolled in college. Importantly, many early college programs have built pathways into advanced, high paying careers in STEM. As our City attracts more innovation and life science companies, we need to seize opportunities to train our residents to fill these jobs, especially those currently underrepresented in STEM and tech jobs. One model of a program adopted in another municipality is the MetroWest Scholars Program in Framingham, that begins preparing students for college in middle school. Another program we should continue to invest in is our own Dearborn STEM 6-12 Academy, a BPS partnership with Wentworth Institute of Technology.

4. Which of the following groups have you chosen to reject / would reject campaign contributions from? (For-profit developers, Fossil fuel executives or lobbyists, Charter school advocates and lobbyists, Police officers)

Fossil fuel executives or lobbyists.

(B) Racial Equity & Community Engagement

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

During my time as Boston City Council President I led the formation of a standalone committee to work on issues pertaining to CORI reform. Under my leadership, the City Council passed an ordinance that barred companies contracting with the City from using criminal records as a reason to not hire individuals unless the conviction posed a threat to the company or clients. I've called for the BPS to implement Boston Year 13 programming in our curriculum as a way to close the opportunity and achievement gap. This past year I supported the efforts of the pilot launch of Boston Year 13 with a higher education partner, Wentworth Institute of Technology; a non-profit partner, Digital Ready; and other nonprofit and industry partners. The first cohort of students intentionally prioritized underrepresented groups in STEM, including Black, Latinx and first-generation or low income students. Early results indicate high success rates. Lastly, I have a record of advocating for our City to be intentional in how we spend our City dollars to ensure all of our residents benefit through my work with the Boston Residents Job Policy and Promoting Equity in the City of Boston Contracts Ordinance.

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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?

City government works best when all the people who we work for are at the table and meaningfully contribute to the conversation. As former Chair on the Committee on Government Operations, I worked to pass legislation that expanded early voting, voter access to polls and registration, bilingual ballots, and the lobbyist registration and regulation ordinance to ensure transparency and good governance. Understanding that any legislation passed in our City will impact residents across our City, my staff and I have always welcomed a diverse range of voices on issues, whether as chair of a committee, or when reviewing hearing orders, legislation, or constituent service requests. Further, I have been and will continue to be supportive of traveling City Council hearings held in the neighborhoods most impacted by the issue we are discussing in order to make hearings more accessible.

(C) Charter Reform & Balance of Power

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

As the legislative branch of city government, the Boston City Council plays a crucial role proposing and reviewing legislation and our City's annual operating and capital budget. The Council, especially our at-large Councilors, allows for a strong check and balance on the Mayor's power. Of course, the Council does more than just legislate. We are responsible for delivering strong constituent services to residents, doing our part to ensure that our City departments are functioning effectively, making sure implemented policies are being enforced, and helping residents navigate City government and bureaucracy. We are also responsible for regularly engaging with our constituencies, well beyond the typical 9AM-5PM work hours, at community and civic association meetings, and in many other forums. My approach has always been to have my staff and I attend hearings and topic briefings, community and civic meetings, and abutters meetings. Overall, we strive to be accessible to Boston residents whenever and wherever possible.

**2. The City Council currently has very little ability to influence the budgeting process. Would you support legislation to enable line-item budgetary changes?
YES/ NO**

Yes.

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

No.

4. Would you support changing the city charter to impose term limits for the office of Mayor in Boston? YES/ NO

Yes. I have been on record of supporting the term limits for the Office of Mayor to three terms.

5. What, if any, other changes to the City Charter would you like to see?

The City Charter is in need of updates and reforms and the City Council continues to engage in those discussions. While there are ongoing debates throughout Boston on the formation of the school committee, I continue to be a strong supporter of an elected school committee. This is the best way to provide true representation and accountability in the decision-making process that impacts our schools, communities, educators and administrators, parents/guardians and, most importantly, our students.

(D) Revenue

1. Do you support the PILOT Action Group's [recommendations](#) for a standing PILOT commission with community representation? YES/ NO

Yes.

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

Just this year I heard from residents across the City about outsized property tax increases threatening their ability to remain in the City. Before we look to increase our city's tax burden to generate additional revenue, we need to make a top-to-bottom audit of how we spend money and eliminate duplicative or ineffective services and outlays of taxpayer monies. On the Council, I worked to adopt local tax options for short term rentals and professional managed units to generate money for affordable housing. I remain committed to exploring other opportunities, such as the Fair Share Amendment— provided it does not raid residents' 401k retirement savings, adversely impact our small businesses, and unfairly harm seniors and others on fixed incomes who are often house rich but cash poor.

(E) Education

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

1) Ensuring each school has the appropriate foundational budget to meet the needs of their school community. Each school community has different budgetary needs and our district's funding should reflect that.

2) Strengthening Boston Public Schools' existing commitment to activate partnerships in our City. I feel that by establishing sustainable, transparent partnerships with higher education partners, life science and other industry leaders, we can enrich our students' learning experiences. Through these partnerships we can create accelerated pathways into industry jobs right here in Boston and expand opportunities for early college.

3) Better tailor our Boston Public School curriculum, especially at our Madison Park Vocational High School, to meet labor market needs in our City so that residents can graduate with a pathway to a job. This means expanding the curriculum to include green sector workforce training, STEM jobs, bioengineering jobs among other jobs.

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

Yes.

3. 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? YES/ NO If so, what would your ideal structure be? If not, why not?

Yes. I have long been on record supporting the return to an elected school committee. Our School committee members should be held accountable to our school system's end users: Boston's school children and their parents/guardians. While a hybrid committee may appeal to some as a compromise measure, I believe Boston voters can and should be trusted to exercise good judgement in the best interests of their children and grandchildren. Core to my belief in matters of improving Boston's public schools is greater autonomy and with it, greater accountability to parents and students.

4. Do you support removing police from Boston public schools? YES/ NO

No.

5. Do you support making a permanent change to the admissions process for Boston's exam schools? YES/ NO And if so, what would your proposed alternative system be?

No. I believe that the exam schools should remain a merit-based admissions system. That said, I firmly believe that one test is not indicative of a students' ability to perform academically nor does it tell the whole student's story. In addition to building on improvements to widely available, no cost test preparation and in-school examinations, we should use an exam that is bias-free, consider a student's grades over the course of more than one academic year and evaluate the strength of a student's curriculum.

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

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In order to make universal pre-K a reality in Boston, we need targeted investments in the expansion of the number of available seats and eligible providers in the City. This can be done with targeted investments in our existing early child care seats and our community based providers with coordination across our Boston Public Schools, the Childcare Entrepreneur Fund, facilitated by the Mayor's Office of Women Advancement and Economic Mobility Lab, and our private-sector partners. As our K-12 schools see declining enrollment, we should explore how we retrofit schools to place early childcare locations directly in those spaces.

(F) Public Safety

- 1. Do you support requiring the police department and other city agencies to get City Council approval before acquiring new surveillance technologies or military equipment? YES/ NO**

Yes.

- 2. Do you support the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office's do-not-prosecute list and expanded approach to dealing with such low-level offenses? YES/ NO**

No. I support some but not all of them. Throughout my time in public office, both as an Assistant District Attorney and as Boston City Councilor At-Large, my vision for public safety has been driven by my belief that we cannot arrest or prosecute our way out of problems and that we need to adapt a holistic approach to better address some of the underlying causes of crime. I have advocated for the use of our speciality courts, such as mental health, drug courts and homeless courts combined with other intervention and diversion efforts related to low-level, misdemeanor crimes as well as CORI reform.

- 3. Do you support ending information sharing between the Boston Police Department and ICE? YES/ NO**

No. In 2014 as Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, I worked with a range of stakeholders - from advocacy to law enforcement - to help pass the Boston Trust Act. The Boston Trust Act prohibits the Boston Police Department from acting as federal im

- 4. 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/ NO**

Yes.

- 5. Do you support shuttering the Boston Police gang database? YES/ NO**

No. I vehemently opposed to any form of racial profiling. That said, I do not support ending the Boston Police Gang Database. The data contained in the database, through

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our Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC), allows us to take a data-driven approach to identifying the small number of individuals who disproportionately drive violence in our neighborhoods. This is not only important for law enforcement. It also helps us make proactive interventions with our community partners. Further, there is a process by which people can remove their name if it has been wrongly added. That said, the Department is undergoing rule changes to improve their database and I continue to be supportive of those changes so the database is used fairly.

6. Would you support a hard cap on overtime for individual officers? If so, what percentage of an officer's salary? YES/ NO

No. There is already an existing hourly cap on overtime hours for the Boston Police Department. Replacement and extended tours compromise roughly 67% of total overtime cost. An individual cap on overtime would be difficult to operationalize while meeting the current public safety and minimum staffing needs of the Department.

7. What changes to the 2017 Boston Police Patrolman's Association (BPPA) contract would you advocate for in the latest round of contract negotiations?

As a City Councilor, we cannot be at the bargaining table. I am on record supporting the Boston Police Department's decision to establish a thoughtful and effective pilot program to implement body and dash cameras in a way that makes sense for Boston. That said, I would like to see an expansion of a body worn camera program that requires officers wear body cams during all work hours, with limited exceptions for privacy. Further, as a fiscal steward of the City, I would like for there to be good-faith bargaining and solutions offered to issues around attrition, retirement and personnel on long term medical leave to reduce our overtime spending.

8. What current functions of the Boston Police Department should be transferred to agencies under civilian control, and what governance would you propose for them?

I have long been supportive of the expansion of our BEST Clinicians/co-responder program as a way to have trained professionals responding to mental health crises and other incidents that may not require a police intervention and will continue to support the expansion of this program.

9. Would you advocate for the reallocation of money from the Boston Police Department budget to reinvestment in communities? YES/ NO If so, how much?

No. I voted for last year's FY21 budget that re-allocated 20% of BPD's overtime budget to other services. As a fiscal steward of the City of Boston, I am still reviewing the FY22 budget. It is important to me that all of our public safety agencies are adequately funded to meet the needs of our communities. We need to consider if increased reallocation of funding will only drive up overtime costs in the long term. Last year alone, the BPD

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Operations Division received 623,510 total calls from members of the public requesting emergency assistance. Each of those calls represents a Boston resident who needs help. We have an obligation to respond to those calls.

10. Which of the following would you support banning the use of by the Boston Police Department? (Tear gas and other chemical weapons, Rubber bullets, Attack dogs)

. I do not support an outright ban of the above. I believe we can enhance our current use of force rules and policies within the Department and should continue to demand transparency and accountability about any and all use of force in our City.

11. Do you believe that affiliation or sympathies with white supremacist organizations among officers is a problem with BPD? YES/ NO If so, what measures would you take as mayor to combat that issue?

No. Let me be clear, there should be a zero tolerance policy towards any city employee who is a member of a white supremacist organization. That being said, I do not believe there is any evidence of Boston Police Department personnel being members of white supremacist organizations. All of our city employees are tasked with the great responsibility of serving each and every Boston resident equally and fairly.

12. Do you support safe consumption sites? YES/ NO

No. I have long advocated for more and better government-funded health services in Boston. In particular, a more holistic approach to providing treatment-on demand to those trapped in the cycle of substance abuse. I understand the value harm-reduction strategies play in our approach to overcoming the opioid crisis. It is not a secret that our neighborhoods, particularly in the areas of Mass Ave, are forced to deal with a regional problem without regional support. I would like to see suburban communities throughout the Commonwealth recognize that this is not just a Boston problem and make investments to expand the regional capacity of recovery facilities. I'd also like to see a decentralization of services from the South End, along with the City's long term goal of creating the Long Island Recovery Facility.

(G) Environment & Transportation

1. Do you believe Boston needs to reduce its dependence on cars, and if so, how would you propose to do so?

Yes, Boston needs to reduce its dependence on cars, particularly single occupancy vehicles. This will only happen when every neighborhood has access to reliable, equitable public transit. One of the biggest barriers to improving the MBTA is that the city does not have a seat on the Fiscal Management and Control Board (FMCB). I have long advocated for this to be remedied. Most recently, I supported a City Council resolution that supported S.2279 "An Act Relative to the Structure of the Fiscal Management and Control Board" resolution to that effect. I support city level improvements to our transit

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network, such as the expansion of dedicated bus rapid transit lanes on key travel arteries where appropriate and budget investments in other forms of multimodal transportation, such as building “complete streets” to accommodate the expansion of our bike lane infrastructure and shared mobility devices.

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?

The disproportionate impacts of climate change on communities of color, coupled with public health disparities, are already taking place and need to be addressed before they get even worse. My top three priorities are:

1) Green development: Making sure that our planning and development efforts are environmentally conscious. This means meeting or exceeding our climate resiliency guidelines, net zero carbon emission standards, energy efficiency standards and requiring the creation of open space, parks and tree canopy in new developments.

2) Green Sector Workforce Training: Creating workforce development and pathways for green-sector jobs through our BPS curriculum. We should invest in programs at our vocational high school, Madison Park High School, as well as hands-on workforce training opportunities with our city funded job training programs.

3) Implementing a curbside composting program: Curbside composting should be made accessible in all of our neighborhoods and, more immediately, the Project Oscar pilot program should be expanded to include all neighborhoods.

3. Do you oppose the creation of new fossil fuel infrastructure in Boston? YES/ NO

Yes.

4. Do you support fare-free public transit? What steps would you take to achieve this goal? YES/ NO

Yes. Unfortunately, as I mentioned above, one of the biggest barriers to improving the MBTA for Bostonians is that, despite having a roughly \$85 million local assessment, the city does not have a seat on the Fiscal Management and Control Board (FMCB). I will continue to advocate for this seat. I will also leverage my relationships with Boston’s delegation at the State House to increase the collaboration between the City and State around this initiative and many other critically improvements to service, such as the full implementation of the “Indigo Line” plan to electrify the Fairmount Line Commuter Rail service and to oppose any and all elimination and service reductions on key bus lines.

5. Do you support the adoption of a curbside composting pickup program? YES/ NO

Yes.

(H) Housing

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

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One of the biggest factors driving our affordability crisis is that we are land-poor and have a housing stock shortage. For that reason we need to leverage a variety of strategies. We need to extract more funding for affordable housing from new developments through increased linkage and IDP contributions, create incentives for people to build affordable housing on site versus making a contribution to the fund and build a greater variety of appropriately sized units for individuals and families at a range of incomes. To compliment new development, we need to preserve affordability in our existing housing stock. This means expanding our Acquisition Opportunity Program (AOP), city funded voucher programs, homeowner programs, BPDA's Pilot Diversity preference, and lastly, putting programs in place to preserve affordable rents at 'expiring use' buildings created through the State's 13A mortgage programs through collaborations with our local Community Development Corporations (CDC) and the Department of Neighborhood Development (DND).

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

One way to leverage city-owned land is by increasing efforts by the Department of Neighborhood Development to work with responsible affordable housing developers to enable city land to be developed and designated as affordable housing sites with deed restrictions. The Acquisition Opportunity Program is an anti-displacement program that provides funding to responsible developers to acquire occupied market-rate rental units and convert them to deed-restricted housing can help amplify these efforts. Funding efforts from the IDP, linkage and the CPA can contribute to this fund. I was one of the earliest advocates for a Boston CPA and, as Chair of the CPA committee, I recently recommended \$5 million for to be used for the Acquisition Opportunity Program alongside deeper investments in affordable housing. Another tool we have to expand community control and ownership of land is the effort by the DND to purchase foreclosed or distressed properties and designate them as affordable housing sites.

3. Do you support a real estate transfer tax for commercial and residential sales, with the revenue going to an affordable housing trust? YES/ NO What exemption threshold, if any, would you advocate for?

Yes. The City Council passed legislation in 2019 that established a fee of up to two percent of the purchase price that will be implemented on the transfer of property that is valued over \$2 million in Boston. The seller and purchaser would each pay up to one percent of this fee and funding generated from the fee would be dedicated to supporting affordable housing in the city.

4. Do you support rent control? YES/ NO If so, how would you structure such a policy? If not, why not?

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No. I fully recognize we are facing a housing affordability crisis. This is why I am concerned about the adverse impact rent control would have on the much needed production of housing in our City. Any viable solution will likely be multi-faceted and needs to balance the development of both new market rate and affordable housing, at a wider variety of income levels that better serves the AMI of Boston residents, alongside our efforts to preserve our affordable housing stock and stop displacements.

- 5. Do you support the renewal of Boston's condo conversion law, which affords residents of covered properties a notice period, right of first refusal to purchase their unit, relocation assistance, just cause eviction, and relocation benefits if their unit is converted to a condominium? YES/ NO**

Yes.

- 6. 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.

- 7. Boston's inclusionary development policy (IDP) requires that 13 percent of the units in a building need to be affordable. Do you support increasing this number? YES/ NO If so, to what? Please List %**

Yes. I have long been on record of increasing the percentage above 13%. The BPDA is currently undergoing a financial feasibility study to determine what percentage will not adversely impact development and thus our ability to extract affordable units or fundin.

- 8. 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.

- 9. Do you support breaking up the BPDA and creating an independent public office of planning? YES/ NO If so, how will you make it happen?**

Yes. I would like to acknowledge that in recent years, the BPDA has made reforms on how they go about the development process. Historically, rather than allowing for macro-planning principles to guide the city's development process, planning was usually done on a project-specific basis, with changing and hard-to-comprehend rules. Private development goals and public planning considerations often worked at cross purposes, breeding suspicion and anxiety at the community level. It has been my position, for years, that we should separate the planning and economic development functions of the agency and have a standalone planning department in the City of Boston. Boston can do better in making urban planning and economic growth mutually complementary,

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completely transparent, and more sensitive to community concerns. The BPDA's statutory authority is granted through Chapter 121A.

10. Do you support increasing the number of units that are ADA compliant in projects that receive City funds? YES/ NO

Yes.

(I) Economic Opportunity

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

There are many approaches to reduce Boston's income and wealth inequities. Homeownership is one of the ways individuals and families create generational wealth and we know the statistics on racial and income-level disparities are unacceptable. One way to do this is to expand our commitment to the Boston ONE+ Mortgage Program. Another way the City can reduce the income and wealth inequality gap is by ensuring we are supporting our locally owned minority business enterprises (MBE) and woman-owned business enterprises (WBE) businesses and ensuring that our City dollars, through our contracts and procurement, are going towards these businesses.

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/ NO

No. I fully acknowledge that unpredictable scheduling has negative impacts on individuals and families health, finances and quality of life. While well intentioned, this ordinance may have unintended consequences as we are trying to help small businesses reco

3. Do you support ending subminimum wages for tipped workers in Boston? YES/ NO

Yes.

4. How would you enforce the hiring goals set forth in the Boston Jobs Residency Policy (which requires that least 50 percent of the total work hours in each trade must go to *Boston* residents, at least 25 percent of the total employee work hours in each trade must go to people of color, and at least 10 percent of the total employee work hours in each trade must go to women)?

I have a record of working with stakeholders to strengthen the compliance standards for the Boston Residents Jobs Policy (BRJP). Recent investments in BRJP monitoring team

staffing levels and technology will allow us to use data to rethink how we structure penalties and sanctions for employers who are out of compliance. With all the development happening in the City, we also need to ensure linkage fees are given to the Neighborhood Jobs Trust to assist with workforce development/job training programs to help build a strong, diverse workforce. Through public hearings and community meetings, I will work with stakeholders to make sure that developers are being held accountable on public projects, and that the Boston Employment Commission is efficiently reviewing projects monitored by the Boston Planning & Development Agency.

5. What targets in city contracting would you commit to for minority-owned businesses as well as Black-owned businesses in particular, and what steps would you take to realize such targets?

A recent executive order committed the city to the goal of utilizing at least 25% minority- and woman-owned businesses across all contracts awarded in any fiscal year. It set a goal of 15% utilization for women-owned businesses and a goal of 10% utilization for minority-owned businesses. This represents an 8% increase over what the contract disparity study recommended, so I believe it is a good starting point. We should work with our state legislature to reform Chapter 30B to allow for more detailed procurement policies, provide more capacity-building support to ensure that W/MBE's are properly equipped to bid and compete for these city contracts, make additional investments in efforts to certify and market opportunities to M/WBE, and enforce regular reporting requirements on these efforts so we can see where investments are needed to accelerate our efforts.

a. Will you commit to immediately directing all City departments and quasi-city agencies to unbundle large contracts that are set to become available in 2021 and beyond in order to facilitate this? YES/ NO

Yes. Yes, where fiscally appropriate. I acknowledge that this may allow for increased contracting efforts for small business, including M/WBE.

b. Will you commit to regular reporting to track progress toward and beyond this goal? YES/ NO

Yes.

6. The cannabis industry is expected to be a major source of growth 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?

As former Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, I played a critical role in passage of legislation guiding equitable regulations for the cannabis industry. In

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recognition of the disproportionate harm caused by the War on Drugs on different communities, this ordinance created the Boston Equity Program, a criteria for licenses and application requirements, and the Boston Equity Fund. This fund supports equity applicants by providing technical assistance to equity applicants and licensees to establish and operate a cannabis business in the City. It's critical that this resource is accessible to applicants and licensees. Additionally, I have hosted a hearing on and refilled a hearing order to discuss CORI reform. I will advocate for the expansion of our City's pilot Project Opportunity initiative, which connects Boston residents with CORIs with free legal consultation for sealing or expunging records and also connects residents with job training and housing opportunities.

7. Would you support the creation of a municipal broadband network? YES/ NO

Yes.

(J) Democracy

1. Do you support allowing non-citizens with legal status the right to vote in municipal elections? YES/ NO

No. As former Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, I held a hearing to discuss allowing immigrants with legal status to vote in municipal elections and to examine other inclusive practices. The Committee heard valuable testimony from a variety of stakeholders, including Veronica Serrato, Executive Director of Project Citizenship. Director Serrato testified that allowing immigrants to vote in municipal elections may have unintended consequences, explaining that any non-citizen who mistakenly registers to vote or votes in a federal or state election seriously jeopardizes their opportunity to become a legal citizen.

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

Yes.

3. In 2022, Boston will engage in redistricting on the municipal level. What would an equitable redistricting process look like to you?

To start off the 2022 redistricting process on the right note, the City Council should first do a review of what took place in the last redistricting process so that this legislative body is moving forward from a place of learning. I would not only invite the previous community stakeholders to the table, I would expand who is at the table to reflect the city's growing population and demographics. Over the course of the redistricting process, there should be public hearings throughout the City so that residents are able to weigh in with testimony and be part of the conversation. Lastly, for now, any proposed

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maps that are placed on the table should provide explanations of what is being presented so that the City Council can obtain feedback prior to any vote taking place.

4. Would you support the redrawing of Boston’s wards and precincts (“reprecincting”), which has not happened in more than 100 years -- and which happens decennially in other MA cities and towns? YES/ NO

Yes.

(K) Additional Comments

The Council is accountable to diverse constituencies across Boston — different communities that prioritize different issues. As a citywide elected official who continues to work for every constituency, I make sure that there are seats at the table for all voices. When I was first elected to the Boston City Council, I ushered in an era of progressive leadership to the Council to what was then an aging body and am now joined by many progressive voices on the Council. My approach has always been inclusive and forward thinking. This includes being the first citywide elected official to champion the Community Preservation Act and its implementation since then and the first to support marriage equality, long before the Goodridge decision. My record on issues and legislation demonstrates how effective I am in bringing different coalitions, stakeholders and individuals together and my commitment to advancing an equitable and forward looking Boston city government.