

# 2021 Boston City Council Candidate Questionnaire

## Mary Tamer

**Office Sought:** Boston City Council, District 6

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### **(A) Your Candidacy**

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

- Equitable COVID-19 response and recovery for residents, the small business community and our school communities.
- Ensuring that every child in Boston has access to a high quality education in the Boston Public Schools (with a special emphasis on addressing the mental health needs, resocialization, and academic support to help students and school communities recover from this past year).
- Making Boston the national leader in environmental sustainability, carbon and waste reduction, and green jobs.

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

I've spent my professional life advocating for families, children, and those whose voices are often not heard or elevated. My longtime involvement with BPS, combined with my work with the League of Women Voters, led to my appointment to the School Committee, as the only member with children in BPS. I was a staunch advocate for inclusion and equity, initiated policy changes for more inclusive classrooms and to lift an arbitrary cap at the city's early learning centers limiting students with disabilities from accessing high quality placements. I was a strong voice for the expansion of successful programs for English learners and the singular voice fighting for the right of the city's only school focused on immigrant newcomers to provide the same sports offerings for

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female students as it did for males. I have a track record of fighting for justice and equity, and creating policy that does just that.

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

There is an important ongoing study of three decades across several European cities led by the World Health Organization (WHO) that focuses on the health of cities in relation to the social determinants of health. Social determinants of health are the conditions under which we work, live, and play that impact our health and life outcomes -- and we can use the collection of this data as a guideline to address systemic inequities whether it is related to life expectancy, or access to food, housing, or health care. Per the WHO's guidelines, a "Healthy City aims: to create a health-supportive environment, to achieve a good quality of life, to provide basic sanitation & hygiene needs, and to supply access to health care." The differences we see in life expectancy across neighborhoods, or in maternal health outcomes by race, could be closely studied and addressed under a "Healthy Cities" policy initiative.

**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. My campaign will not be accepting donations from the fossil fuel industry, tobacco industry, corporate PACs, or from police unions.

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

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

1. I initiated and led the BPS policy change that lifted an arbitrary cap on seats available to students with disabilities in early learning centers so our students most in need of comprehensive, extended day early learning opportunities had greater access.
2. During my tenure on School Committee, I publicly and singularly lobbied for months so that the city's only school dedicated to new immigrants had the same sports teams for its female students (which it did not have due to funding) in keeping with federal Title IX protections. Relatedly, I successfully made similar efforts to secure funding for a teacher-led, citywide wrestling program open to all male and female students in BPS schools that did not have a wrestling team.
3. I led the effort to produce a first-time voter guide in several languages that was distributed citywide and received a statewide award from the League of Women Voters.

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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?**

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**(C) Charter Reform & Balance of Power**

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

As a city with one of the strongest mayoral-centric forms of government in the nation. I believe that the Council should have more power, especially in the city budget process and in direct oversight of the Administration. While I look forward to working collaboratively in partnership with our mayor to achieve our shared priorities, it is vitally important to have independent voices who will hold the Administration accountable. On the School Committee, I always put the needs of our children and families first. As City Councilor, I will always prioritize the needs of District 6 residents.

- 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**

Yes. I have seen the success of Ranked Choice Voting in other states/municipalities, and I was proud to support the Ranked Choice Voting ballot initiative last year. As City Councilor, I will continue to advocate for this important election reform measure.

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

Yes.

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

I would like to see the Council have greater power, especially in the budgeting and oversight process.

**(D) Revenue**

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

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Yes.

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

The Community Preservation Act is a great example of how the City can raise additional revenue to pay for our priorities and is already reaping significant benefits when it comes to affordable housing, historic preservation, open space and public recreation. I am a strong supporter of the CPA, and I will continue to look at other funding mechanisms to raise revenue for the City, including more aggressive enforcement of the P.I.L.O.T. program.

**(E) Education**

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

The provision of early education for all three- and four-year-olds in Boston is one substantial way we can begin to address these persistent gaps we continue to see, and it is essential to ensure that all students are getting whatever necessary support they may need to find success as a student. And we must change the dynamic that currently exists where families feel the need to “fight” for services their children require, whether these services are outlined in an Individualized Education Plan or not. Early intervention is critical, and as city councilor I’ll advocate for the adoption of the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) framework upon a child’s entry into the BPS, paving the way for immediate interventions to be put in place that can mitigate long-term consequences (risk of dropping out, chronic health conditions and reduced life expectancy) if these issues are not addressed.

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

. I respect the will of the voters as determined by Question 2 in 2016.

**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?**

. As the only candidate in the District 6 race who formerly served on the appointed School Committee -- and was the only member with children in the Boston Public Schools for my entire term -- I took this role quite seriously, visiting more than 85 schools (many of them several times) and doing extensive research on each and every issue. I would support a hybrid model with a combination of appointed members who have a background in education as well as elected members.

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

. If we truly support and honor the voices of families and school communities in decision-making processes, then we must allow those communities to lead on key matters of importance. Schools should be safe havens for all of our students, and it is vitally important to ensure that all of our schools have the right level of support – from full-time social workers to nurses to guidance counselors to adjustment and transition counselors. As for the role and presence of school safety officers, the time has come for our school communities to engage in a robust community process, with student, teacher and family voices included and heard, to determine what is best for that school community. Under state law, each school in the state has a governing School Site Council, and these community-based processes should be led by the recognized governing body of each school.

**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?**

. The quality and diversity of all Boston schools matter, including the three exam schools, and I was an early member of the Exam School Initiative at Boston Latin School because matters of diversity have always been of great importance to this school community. When selecting 800 students from thousands of applicants, a bias-tested objective measure is one tool to help do this difficult work, but that does not preclude other additional ideas that the Exam Schools Admissions Task Force may bring forth. With 1/3 of BPS schools operating in the bottom 10 percent of the state, educating more than 16,600 children, anyone with concerns around educational equity should place as much scrutiny on those 33 schools as they do on the three exam schools. Quality and diversity should be the objectives for all of our schools, not just three of them.

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

With historic levels of federal funding to help the city and school system recover from COVID-19, now is the time to live up to the promise of several years ago to provide K0 and K1 seats for all city children. Increasing the number of seats would help address the decrease in enrollment that BPS has realized, with a 5% drop just this year on top of a decade of decline. Additional seats would improve issues of access and equity; City Hall data shows that 66% of the city’s population ages 0-5 are children of color, and 3/4 of BPS students qualify for free or reduced lunch. The creation of these seats would ease significant childcare costs while, at the same time, starting children in school at an ideal age to identify issues that may necessitate interventions that can be out in place at the earliest possible time.

**(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. I believe that our first responders should have access to the best training and appropriate equipment to keep our community members and themselves safe. Outside of specialized tactical units, I do not support the national move toward militarization.

Additionally, with rapid advances in technology, we as elected officials must ensure that new surveillance technologies do not violate the civil liberties of citizens. The City Council has and can continue to play a key role in oversight.

**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**

Yes. I have been following District Attorney Rachael Rollins's approach to low-level offenses, and read findings from the recent independent report that show promise. As a city, state, and a society, we must work to end mass incarceration and address the root causes of crime, always with the goal of breaking cycles of incarceration and reducing recidivism.

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

Yes. The role of the Boston Police Department should be to keep Bostonians safe, not enforcing federal immigration policies.

**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. The role of the Boston Police Department should be to keep Bostonians safe, not enforcing federal immigration policies.

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

No. While I don't support shutting the database in its entirety, I do support significant reforms, including annual mandatory comprehensive data reviews to ensure that information is current and does not impact people who are either misreported or are not actively involved with gangs. Parents or guardians should also be notified if their child is listed so they may intervene accordingly depending on individual circumstances.

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

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. The ongoing issue of overtime in the BPD is multifaceted and requires an organizational audit to determine how to best meet staffing requirements to ensure public safety. At the same time, we need to benchmark how other municipalities address overtime issues, with a keen focus on existing scheduling protocols in Boston that lead to excessive overtime amounts.

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

I would advocate that any future contract will include universal implementation of body cameras. Similarly, I would hope that any future contract would ensure that all public safety professionals have access to the best training and equipment to do their jobs. In addition, I would advocate for all BPD to take part in annual anti-bias training and to have the highest level of accountability when it comes to interactions with the public. And while not explicitly in the contract, diversification of the BPD, and specifically its command structure, is of utmost importance to me. I will always support the rights of workers to collectively bargain and support what is negotiated at the bargaining table.

**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 support additional programming that would allow public health and mental health professionals to have a larger role in responding to certain crises. I support utilizing Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) programs to respond to certain situations.

**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 support the effort to reimagine the role police currently play when responding to situations that may be better served by those in social services, whether they are mental health counselors or addiction counselors. Whether we are talking about policing or teaching, we cannot expect police nor teachers to address all of society's challenges, and we need to explore a more comprehensive system of support where the right people are sent to address particular situations at hand.

**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)**

Rubber bullets, Attack dogs. For a question as complex and important as this, context matters. Is this a peaceful protest or the apprehension of an armed fugitive suspected of a violent crime? I do not support the use of rubber bullets, tear gas/other chemical weapons, or attack dogs on peaceful protesters.

This is not my professional area of expertise, so I would want to get a better understanding of the impacts of banning these items. With that being said, we should always be looking at best practices in policing methods and non-lethal equipment that maximizes the safety of both our residents and our officers.

**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?**

. I believe that there should be a zero-tolerance policy for any police officer or any other city employee with affiliation with or sympathies to white supremacist organizations. I support the immediate termination of any municipal employee to whom this applies. There is no place for hate in our city and residents must be able to trust their government. Additionally, I think that ongoing, mandatory anti-bias training should be required for every City employee, similar to how workers must complete mandatory state ethics trainings.

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

. The opioid epidemic has ravaged the lives of countless neighbors, family members, and friends. And the public health implications related to opioid addiction, including rising rates of HIV infection here and across the country, are of deep concern. Massachusetts, and Boston specifically, must be a national leader on tackling substance use disorders and promoting and expanding access to recovery programming. As City Councilor, I will work closely with the recovery community, Boston's robust health care infrastructure, mental health professionals, and social workers to break cycles of addiction.

**(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. Making our city and region more accessible is essential. Locally, we can make our neighborhoods more walkable and better connected to public transit. By utilizing bus rapid transit and better connecting cycling infrastructure, we can make intra-neighborhood transportation safer and easier. To truly reduce dependence on cars, we must give residents access to a clean, safe, and predictable public transit system, especially our MBTA trains, buses, and commuter rail. We must also acknowledge that in parts of Boston's outer neighborhoods (West Roxbury, Hyde Park, Mattapan, etc), transit deserts exist, making it increasingly difficult for seniors to access the supermarket, parents to get their kids to school activities and sports, and residents to get to work.

Any sort of public policy work we do must always acknowledge that every neighborhood is different in their transit needs and limitations.



**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?**

-Reducing the production of solid waste through expansion of residential, commercial, and City composting, recycling, and environmentally sustainable purchasing.

-Carbon emission reduction through the implementation of stricter energy efficiency standards for new and renovated construction and performing energy audits and retrofitting our public buildings (including BPS).

-Expanding access to quality and predictable public transit options, including fare-free buses, bus rapid transit, and safe and accessible pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

Accomplishing these goals will come from an unyielding approach to environmental sustainability. We've seen plans but we need decisive action -- something that can be achieved by organizing the large base of support in the sustainability community. The Council is losing many environmental champions, either not seeking re-election or running for mayor. Matt O'Malley has been a statewide leader on these issues, and I know it will be critical for the next District 6 Councilor to continue bold leadership.

**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. While the Boston City Council doesn't have direct jurisdiction over this, Boston elected officials can use the bully pulpit and the organizing power of the office to advocate for changing the current transit system. I think that we should start by removing fares on MBTA buses as a pilot program and then explore further expansion. I would work closely with the Boston legislative delegation and transit advocacy organizations to push for state changes that will result in greater use of public transit.

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

Yes. Curbside composting is critical to efforts to reduce waste and carbon emissions. I currently compost through a private company, but the cost creates barriers to entry. Not only must Boston institute universal curbside composting, but we must also mandate composting at all City buildings, especially our Boston Public Schools, and in all medium to large scale public events in the city.

**(H) Housing**

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

There is a great deal of work to be done to create more affordable living spaces for residents of all ages and to expand the city's overall housing supply, I support several key efforts to ease our housing shortage and promote affordability: 1) Prioritize transit-

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oriented development so housing affordability can also provide a cleaner, more mobile, and less-congested Boston. 2) Improve annual accountability for the affordable housing projects funded through the Inclusionary Development Policy Fund and Community Preservation Act (CPA) grants. 3) End the buyout option in the city's Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP). 4) Expand city efforts to support those facing hardship in paying rent and mortgages, and provide tax relief to seniors so they may remain in their homes and neighborhoods. 5) Expand first-time home buyer programs and access to lending.

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

First, we need an inventory on the location and status of available lots and underutilized buildings in the city's roster. There is absolutely an opportunity to look at underutilized buildings (or lots) owned by the city that could be converted to affordable housing. We have seen so many of these projects successfully done over the years, from the former Longfellow School and former Roslindale High School (both affordable senior housing today) and the more recent project underway at the former Rogers School In Hyde Park, which will provide mixed-income elder housing, with the stated intentionality of including LGBTQ seniors. For any of these buildings or available lots, housing should be a top priority if the site is deemed appropriate.

**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. I support what was passed on the City Council last year for properties in excess of \$2 million.

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

No. In other cities, including New York, rent control has had unintended consequences that have failed to address the issue of affordability, and in many cases, created additional challenges for renters. Access to affordable housing – both for renters and in creating pathways to homeownership – is a top priority for me, but I don't believe that rent control is the way to achieve these goals.

**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. Increasing Boston's IDP is an important way to growing affordable housing stock in the city. I support increasing the IDP percentage and would look forward to working with stakeholders to ensuring that the increase is effective in increasing affordability. I took part in the recent City Council hearing on IDP and heard compelling testimony on both sides of this issue. Setting the right percentage must be part of a careful and deliberate process of research and community input that would not inhibit the development we need to continue to create more housing. In San Francisco, for example, a comparable high-priced housing market with equally high construction costs, a raise in their inclusionary development percentage hindered the rate of housing creation. Finding the balance is key to continue the creation of housing for low- to moderate-income earners.

- 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?**

. We need to re-imagine the way the BPDA works to make planning and development more predictable for all parties involved -- residents, neighborhood organizations, community stakeholders, and builders. The lack of comprehensive planning is one of the greatest frustrations I've heard in hundreds of conversations with residents. While I don't think that breaking up the BPDA is a feasible or effective approach, I do strongly support having independent planning in Boston.

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

Yes. Accessibility is an issue of critical importance to me and -- as an older city with a multitude of buildings created prior to the adoption of ADA standards -- we must ensure that all planning is done in conjunction with access to all in mind. The City of Boston must ensure that we are encouraging the creation of adequate units for our seniors and those with disabilities.

## **(I) Economic Opportunity**

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

I'd work to ensure that the city supports business owners of color so they have access to the capital they need to successfully launch, greater access to first-time home buying programs (a tremendous engine to build wealth), and third, I'd like to see a greater level of PILOT payments owed to the city put toward paying summer jobs for students as well as full, four-year scholarships for students graduating from BPS, which could dramatically reduce the number of students we know who leave college because of the financial burden incurred. We also need to ensure that Madison Park as well as all of our city's high schools that provide vocational and technical training opportunities have the resources they need to launch students into successful trades and careers -- with the much-needed addition of a green tech program so Boston students are prepared to engage in one of the country's burgeoning industries.

**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**

Yes.

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

. I have had numerous conversations with workers in the restaurant and hospitality industry who have expressed their opposition to alter the tipped work wage structure. I strongly believe that every resident should have access to a fair and living wage, but I think it is important to reach consensus with those directly affected.

**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)?**

The consistent falling short of the goals set forth in the Boston Jobs Residency Policy is completely unacceptable and a direct result of a lack of prioritization, enforcement, and accountability. Establishing that this policy is a priority for the city and its leadership is key to making the construction industry take this seriously. Furthermore, it highlights the necessity for creating more pathways into the building trades for people of color and women. When I drive past a job site and see license plates from New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and South Shore bumper stickers, it is extremely frustrating as we need to prioritize hiring Boston residents for Boston jobs first and foremost.

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**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?**

If we are serious about prioritizing diversity in Boston's booming development industry, we need to be aggressive with goals. I would advocate for reduction in the project size to trigger the BRJP down to 30,000 square-foot projects. Additionally, I would advocate for increasing to a minimum of 60% Boston residents, 50% people of color, and 17% women. I would work closely with organized labor, elected officials, construction industry leaders, and vocational schools to make these new targets both a priority and a reality.

**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.

**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?**

I fully support the ordinance passed by the City Council in 2019 that paved the way for equity to be on the forefront of the city's cannabis industry. Moving forward, and as the industry expands and changes, the City must continue to ensure that this policy is adhered to, and as smaller operations are courted by national conglomerates, we need to make sure that the focus of the ordinance to benefit those most impacted by the war on drugs is not lost and that the policy grows with this changing, emerging industry.

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

Yes. In 2020, we saw more than ever how important it is for every resident to have access to high-speed internet and this is still not the case across the city. The lack of free and accessible internet infrastructure created additional challenges for remote learning and exacerbated the opportunity gap for so many of Boston's low-income students and students of color. This must be a priority to fix this for our city.

**(J) Democracy**

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

No. As past President of the Boston League of Women Voters (LWV), I have done significant work around voter registration, education, and mobilization. I believe that one's right to vote is one of the most sacred things that we have as American citizens and the opportunity to take part in naturalization ceremonies at Faneuil Hall and to register new citizens to vote on behalf of the LWV was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. To date, there are only 10 municipalities in the U.S. that allow non-citizens to vote: 9 are in Maryland and the 10th is San Francisco.

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

No. As past President of the Boston League of Women Voters, I have done significant work around voter registration, education, and mobilization. I believe that one's right to vote is one of the most sacred things that we have as Americans, and while youth engagement in the political process is extremely important to me, I support the national voting age as being 18.

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

As past president of the League of Women Voters of Boston, I have been actively involved in efforts to increase representation and civic engagement for residents. Any sort of process must be based in transparency, community input, and equity to ensure that all Bostonians have the best possible representation in municipal government. I would request that the City Council President appoint me to the Committee on Census & Redistricting and to run a robust community process, seeking input from community stakeholders, voting rights organizations, and individual residents. This process must prioritize language access and must be proactive, not reactive.

**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 directions for filling out this questionnaire states that, "A non-response to a yes/no question will be treated as a no." I strongly support an in-depth discussion of the issues that will help inform voters of the various priorities and policy focus areas for each candidate. However, I reject the notion that some of the most complex issues facing our City can be reduced to a simple "yes" or "no" answer, especially when there are certain

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components of questions that candidates will support and other components that they do not. Therefore, I ask that all of my answers appear exactly as I have submitted them. Furthermore, I do not consent to the questions that are not answered as a Yes/No being automatically answered as a “No” on my questionnaire.

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