

5th Suffolk District Representative 2016 *Dorchester Reporter* Questionnaire: Rep. Evandro Carvalho

1. What is your name, age, place of birth, and present address?

Evandro C. Carvalho, 34. Born in Praia, Cape Verde, but have been in the U.S. since age of 15. I Currently live in Fields Corner with my wife and daughter. For more info visit evandrocarrvalho.com.

2. Please describe your professional background. Feel free to note any experience that may be relevant to your candidacy.

I'm an attorney and worked as an assistant district attorney in Roxbury and West Roxbury and in Gun Court downtown.

3. Please describe your community background. Feel free to note any local organizations with which you have been involved.

Before being elected, I was on the board of Teen Empowerment in Dorchester. I was also a volunteer for MAHA - Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance - in Dorchester, where I advocated for banks to give families affordable mortgages.

4. What is your party affiliation and how would you characterize your political ideology?

I'm a progressive Democrat. I advocate for policies that improve the lives of the poor.

5. Please name up to three (and at least one) of your political role models? Please feel free to explain your choices.

President Barack Obama has been my number one inspiration! He was the first person I voted for in America, as I just became a citizen around the time of his first election in 2008. I was living in Washington D.C. at that point (I'm Howard University School of Law graduate, class of 2008) and attended his inauguration. Since then I've watched him closely and, though I don't always agree with his policies, I admire his ability to stay cool no matter the pressure and listen to both sides of an issue.

Beyond Obama, I idolized Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr. and Amilcar Cabral - individuals who lived and died for the betterment of their people.

6. If this is your first run for office, what drew you to seek this post? If you are an incumbent, what would you like to build upon from your earlier terms?

I want to continue to push for economic social justice policies: 1) high quality early education so that our children can start on a path to success from birth; 2) workforce development and job training programs particularly for youth and young adults; 3) better opportunities for immigrant integration; and the 4) transportation inequities particularly as it relates to the MBTA.

I will also continue to push for sound criminal justice reforms - lengthy prison time, CORI, and drug and alcohol addiction continue to have devastating crippling consequences in our community.

7. What are some policy platforms you would like to highlight during the campaign?

See question 6.

8. Boston is in the midst of a development boom. How do you plan to advocate on behalf of the neighborhood in ensuring responsible development projects are considered and constructed?

Affordable housing has always been a big priority for me, ever since I was volunteering for MAHA. The city has a goal of over 50,000 housing units for the next decade and a half. We have to keep pushing for as many of those as possible to be affordable - especially in Dorchester.

My biggest concern however is that 72% of the district are renters. I will focus on helping to increase home ownership, which is why the work organizations like MAHA does is important. That's why I'm proud to endorse and campaign for the Community Preservation Act (CPA). It will generate revenue to help build affordable homes.

9. What would be your top priority if elected?

My top priority will be to focus on pushing for economic social justice. I will go to work everyday thinking about what I can do today to help the residents of the 5th Suffolk have access to better education, jobs, and housing.

10. What in your experience to date will most help you to be an effective State Representative?

I understand the needs of the district: I grew up in a single family household in Dorchester, in which my mom had to often work 2-3 jobs just to feed the family and pay the bills. I saw my friends going to prison, getting deported, and sometimes getting killed. But for a resilient mother, hard-work, and luck, I could've been like many of those friends. So it is a great privilege, honor, and responsibility to keep fighting for the people of the 5th Suffolk to have quality lives.