

**5<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District Representative 2016 *Dorchester Reporter* Questionnaire: Althea Garrison**

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

My name is Althea Garrison. I am a proud citizen of the Commonwealth with over 5 decades (more than 50 years) of residency in Dorchester's Uphams Corner area. Since I have lived in Dorchester Uphams Corner area, so long as I have adopted as my home state Massachusetts, not like the incumbent who is a carpetbagger that have not lived in Dorchester as long as I have. I currently live at 98 Howard Ave. in Dorchester which is in the Upham's Corner Area. All of my over five decades have been to work for the betterment of Dorchester's Uphams Corner and Fields Corner, which is why I fell in love with Dorchester and adopts it as my home state Massachusetts.

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

My professional background runs deep in the Dorchester Community. I have an Associate Degree from Newbury College in Applied Science; I have a B.S. degree from Suffolk University in Administration; I have an M.S. Degree from Lesley University in Management with a Specialization in Human Service; and I have a C.S.S. Degree from Harvard University in Administration and Management. I also have been a gainfully employed at the Office of the State Comptroller for over 37 years and a taxpayer, all which is relevant to my candidacy as State Representative in the 5th. Suffolk District.

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

My community background is also deep in my community. I have been a community Activist for at least 40 years. I am Vice-President of Uphams Corner Health Center for over 23 years and a Board of Directors member for at least 25 years. I served on Suffolk University Board of Directors of (G.A.A.) General Alumni Association for over two years.

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

My party affiliation is Republican. When I got elected in 1992 for State Representative in the 5th. Suffolk District I got elected as a Republican. My ideology is Moderate to Conservative.

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

My political role models are President Ronald Reagan and Congress-Woman Barbara Jordan of Texas. Both of my role models have deceased.

**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?**

This is not my first run. I have run many time for various elected positions and in 1992 I got elected as State Representative in the 5th. Suffolk District and served one term (1993-1994) and I could build upon my past experience and being a competent and effective State Representative.

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

Some of my policy platforms I would like to highlight during the campaign and address is the homelessness problem among families who can't afford the high rents (b) Fight to repeal the 9.3% increase in the M.B.T.A. fare increases because this outrageous fare increase affects urban commuters most C Fight for real affordable child care for working mothers. In addition I would like to fight for real affordable housing for poor and modest income families who needs more affordable housing.

**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?**

If I am elected State Representative in the 5th. Suffolk District I would work to be the voice of the 5th. Suffolk District by working to keep the residents informed when these developers are encroaching upon neighborhoods. Also I would work toward being the eyes and ears for the 5th. Suffolk and when there is large scales development I would rally the residents, so they would attend these crucial stages of meetings so their voices would be heard.

**9. What would be your top priority if elected?**

My top priority would be for me to file legislation to repeal the 9.3% increases in fare hike because this fare increase has affected mostly the inner city and they needs relief especially Districts that are not wealthy. Fight homelessness by by making a real effort to address homelessness among families who has been displaced and finally support strong job creation programs to help the unemployed.

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

My experience to date that will most help me to be a competent and effective State Representative is that I have a vast of experience in writing legislation because I was a State Representative before and I was competent and effective, which will help me to be successful.