

## DORCHESTER REPORTER 2021 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Section 1: BACKGROUND

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

**Name: Andrea Campbell**

**Age: 39**

**Place of birth: Boston**

**Address: 37 Groveland St, Mattapan**

2. What is your present occupation? Also, please note any past employment that may be relevant to your candidacy.

**Boston City Councilor, District 4.**

**I have worked as an attorney in the non-profit, private and public sectors, including as Deputy Legal Counsel to Governor Deval Patrick. I started my legal career at the Edlaw Project, a non-profit in Roxbury, representing students for free in education cases including special needs and school discipline cases.**

3. Please detail your personal educational background and achievements.

**I am a proud graduate of Boston Public Schools (I went to five - the Blackstone, the Bradley, the Harvard Kent, the Timilty, and Boston Latin School). Graduated Princeton University in 2004 and from UCLA Law School in 2009.**

4. Please list some of your affiliations with non-profits, civic associations and political groups.

**I am a member of the Ward 17 Democratic Committee and a member of LINKS. I am blessed to live in a neighborhood in the catchment area of many civic associations including River Street Civic, Lower Mills Civic, and Apple Grove, but as the District 4 Councilor consider myself a part of the over 40 civic groups in my district. I was proud to lead a Civic Empowerment Series to connect and train dozens of civic association leaders from Dorchester, Mattapan, Jamaica Plain and Roslindale on strategies to effectively engage residents in these organizations to have greater impact.**

5. What in your experience to date will most help you to be an effective leader?

**First, the work of being a public servant has always been purpose-driven by my own experience growing up in Boston and losing my twin brother Andre, who passed away in a state prison as a pre-trial detainee at the age of 29. I've experienced the possibilities in the City of Boston but also the pain of when our city doesn't work for everyone, which allows me to work for systemic change with a sense of purpose, urgency, and clarity that makes my leadership distinct from any candidate in this race.**

**I also have a proven track record of delivering results to create more affordable housing, to make our streets safer, to reform our police and criminal legal**

systems, and to increase access to quality public education and youth programs for every student.

Finally, I have the experience needed to lead a world class city. Whether as an attorney in Governor Patrick's administration or as Council President, I have managed employees and our budget. I have brought together colleagues to get things done effectively all while creating greater transparency and accountability in government.

6. What are the three accomplishments you're most proud of?

As a City Councilor, I led the passage of the Community Preservation Act on the Council which is now generating over \$20 million annually for affordable housing, parks, and historic preservation; I established the Youth Development Fund, the first dedicated line-item in the City budget for youth development programs; I spearheaded historic legislation to establish our city's first system of civilian oversight over the police department, the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency, and advocated successfully for full implementation of body-worn cameras for our police department.

7. Are you a member of a union?

**No.**

8. Please list any endorsements to date.

- **Massachusetts Chapter of the National Organization for Women PAC**
- **Former State Representative Marie St. Fleur**
- **Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui**
- **Our Black Party**
- **Former First Lady Diane Patrick**
- **Former Sheriff and Sec of Public Safety Andrea Cabral**
- **State Representative Liz Malia**
- **Governor's Councilor Eileen Duff**
- **Former State Representative Marty Walz**
- **Bill Walczak -- a leader in public health**
- **Dr. Atyia Martin -- a leader in racial equity and resilience**
- **Diana Hwang -- founder of the Asian American Women's Political Initiative and leader in East Boston**
- **Makeeba McCreary -- a leader in educational equity**
- **John Borders IV -- a Dorchester community and faith leader**

## **Section 2: POLITICS & ELECTIONS**

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

**Democrat**

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

**I've admired and been inspired by Kamala Harris since seeing her speak at my law school graduation (she was then DA in San Francisco). She has been naming and tackling inequities her entire career, using her unique lived experience and legal expertise to make our systems more equitable and just, always doing so as the first woman and often first person of color to serve in the role. Additionally, Stacey Abrams has modeled what it means to turn pain into purpose, as I do with my own story, and has continued to exercise bold, effective leadership to transform systems and eradicate generational inequities.**

3. Are you in favor of term limits for the seat you are seeking? If so, how many terms?

**No.**

4. What would you do to increase voter turnout in the city of Boston? Do you favor same-day voter registration or lowering the voting age to 16? Do you favor mail-in voting?

**To increase access to the ballot box and voter participation, I absolutely support making early voting and no-excuse vote by mail permanent and have consistently advocated for the State to make these changes especially amidst the pandemic. I support same-day voter registration, and support lowering the voting age to 16 for municipal elections.**

5. Do you think that Boston should adopt a rank-choice voting system in upcoming election cycles?

**Yes, and I was an enthusiastic supporter of the 2020 ballot question to adopt ranked-choice voting in Massachusetts.**

### **Section 3: ISSUES & PRIORITIES**

1. What is your top priority if elected?

**Boston is facing a critical moment: we have an opportunity to confront our own history of racism and eradicate the inequities that have existed for generations. We need a leader who not only understands these inequities, but one that has lived through them and knows first-hand the devastating impacts on our communities if we don't act now. If elected, I will lead through an equity lens and prioritize executing an equitable COVID-19 recovery to ensure that our public health and economic recovery reaches all our neighborhoods. I will also ensure every student has access to a quality, public education in the city of Boston. I will work to make our city government more transparent and accountable, especially by transforming our approach to public safety and implementing police reform, while reallocating resources to invest in strategies that address root causes of violence and crime.**

2. How will you approach the issue of gun violence in our communities?

**As someone who has grown up in and represents neighborhoods that see higher instances of shootings and violence in our city, I have for years led on strategies to reduce gun violence and address root causes of violence. The mayor not only has an incredible bully pulpit to call for local, state, and federal action to prevent gun violence, but also the power to make critical investments in strategies to address the root causes of violence. We need comprehensive gun safety legislation at the federal level including universal background checks, including on ammunition, and a ban on assault weapons. There are also key things we can do as a city from investing in buy back programs, investing in youth jobs and working with organizations that have trusted relationships in communities - especially communities of color - that have proven violence prevention models.**

3. Is there a specific city agency you see as in need of urgent reform? If so, please explain.

**For the last several years, I have put forward recommendations and introduced legislation to make the Boston Police Department more transparent, accountable, and diverse, and the *inaction* by the previous Administration on these plans is one of the major reasons I jumped into this race. I didn't need to see George Floyd's murder, or learn the horrific charges against Patrick Rose to know that we had tremendous work to do in our own department to eradicate racial disparities in policing and ensure transparency and accountability. I am proud to have co-authored -- along with the Mayor's Police Reform Task Force -- legislation to create the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency that -- once implemented properly -- will have an independent civilian review board to review and investigate complaints of police misconduct, a police data dashboard that proactively shares data on stop & frisk, arrests, the department budget, department demographics, and more. I led the fight for full implementation of police body cameras and as mayor will ensure every law enforcement agency operating in Boston has a consistent and enforceable body camera policy. I will take immediate action to diversify our public safety agencies at every level, including exploring changes to Civil Service.**

4. What is your position on residency, i.e. requiring people hired by the municipal government to live in the city of Boston?

**It's important that City employees live in the communities they serve, so I support our residency requirement and would explore extending the residency requirement beyond 10 years for certain positions that currently have residency exemptions.**

5. The city of Boston presently owns and manages the historic Strand Theater in Uphams Corner. How would you seek to program, market and utilize this asset?

**Our arts and cultural institutions are an indispensable piece of the City's lifeblood and have helped establish Boston as a regional and national hub of creative energy. The Strand Theater gives Boston greater opportunities to bring our rich arts and cultural resources to neighborhoods often overlooked, and make creative programming accessible to residents of all ages and demographics including by**

partnering with our Boston Public Schools. I support a community vision for the Strand and as Mayor, I will support dedicated arts and cultural sub-districts in target neighborhoods to preserve and enhance our cultural community. I will work in partnership with community organizations in Dorchester and Roxbury to plan meaningful programming for this community that will also make the Strand Theater and Uphams Corner neighborhood a destination for residents across our city. I will prioritize and protect artist and performance spaces being threatened by displacement, promote the expansion of public art, and connect our arts and cultural institutions to our public schools, seniors, and business community.

6. What is your position on vaccinations? Should students be required to be vaccinated for Covid-19 to attend school in Boston?

**As COVID-19 continues to spread with a deadlier variant, the City must be taking every necessary step to get residents vaccinated. I support and have been actively pushing the Acting Mayor to implement a policy requiring all City employees to either get vaccinated or undergo weekly COVID testing, and support implementing a citywide policy requiring proof of vaccination for entry into certain indoor spaces where COVID is more likely to spread, including indoor dining at restaurants and bars, gyms, and indoor concert venues. I do think students of eligible age, like those attending Boston's colleges and universities, should be required to be vaccinated to attend school. Widespread adoption of any vaccination program will depend on successful communication about the vaccine, which means investing in community-based, trusted organizations to do this work particularly in our immigrant communities and communities of color. As Mayor, I will ensure we have a culturally competent, multilingual communications program to achieve near universal vaccine uptake.**

7. Do you favor a return to an elected School Committee? Please explain.

**The current all-appointed structure is not working. I recognize and share the frustrations of families and educators in our community who don't feel that the school committee is accountable to them. We need an empowered school committee so that we can make bold moves rather than baby steps towards a more equitable BPS system. I believe a hybrid system is the way to get there, with some elected and some appointed members. We should also empower our student representative(s) with voting power on the committee and the same stipend the adult members receive. Our student representative works hard as a member of this body and their voice should be equally valued.**

8. Do you support the recent decision of the BPS and School Committee to alter the admission plan for the city's three exam schools?

**Yes.**

9. Do you support the citywide ballot question that would hand new budgetary powers to the City Council?

**Yes.**

10. The city of Boston is presently without a permanent police commissioner. What should the next mayor do to fill the position and what type of person should be selected to lead the BPD?

**At a moment when trust in our police department has been eroded and Bostonians are demanding accountability, transparency, and diversity in policing, our department must be led by someone who will lead with integrity, courage to challenge the status quo, and a commitment to the necessary reforms that will rebuild trust and ensure all our communities are kept safe. As mayor, I will conduct a rigorous and transparent public search for a permanent police commissioner. I will ensure all candidates for appointments are thoroughly vetted and that all my department leaders demonstrate a commitment to transparency, accountability, and equity.**

11. Do you support the redevelopment of City Hall and City Hall Plaza?

**Yes, City Hall and the plaza have been in need of changes to make the building and space more accessible and inviting to Bostonians and visitors alike. The current renovations are a step in the right direction and as mayor, I would continue to ensure the plaza is utilized for placemaking events that all residents and visitors in our city can enjoy and that boost our local economy.**

12. What is your assessment of the Climate Ready Boston initiative conceived and executed to date by the Walsh administration? Is this initiative a sufficient response to prepare for the anticipated climate change in coming years and decades? What else might you do to build climate resiliency in the city of Boston?

**Over the past several years, the City has commissioned nearly 40 different plans on the environment, yet less than 10% have been completed, and nearly half haven't even begun implementation. We need to accelerate the implementation of these plans as the impacts of the climate crisis are more visible and dangerous to our neighborhoods every day. As mayor, I will center environmental justice and communities of color in our City's climate resiliency plans in order to reverse generations-long health disparities. We can make Boston a leader in sustainability and emissions reductions starting with our own City budget, buildings, and assets, including electrifying the City vehicle fleet, and upgrading and retrofitting City buildings including our BPS schools. I will take advantage of opportunities to build a strong, equitable green economy by investing intentionally in proactive resilient infrastructure like tree planting, stormwater management, traffic mitigation, home energy efficiency, and access to renewable energy in neighborhoods most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. I will also ensure there's an equitable pipeline for residents of color to be trained and hired in green jobs, while also ensuring small businesses, including residents from every neighborhood, have access to construction contracts in our budding green economy. Lastly, we need to move towards a broader and more robust public transportation system and citywide bike network to reduce traffic, congestion and**

**pollution by investing in electric and battery-powered buses, especially along routes in communities of color where pollution is heaviest.**

13. A millionaires tax is expected to be on the statewide ballot in 2022. How do you plan to vote?

**I support a millionaires tax.**

14. Should gig workers be considered company employees, rather than independent contractors?

**Yes, because in today's economy, gig workers deserve the same access to benefits as other workers in our economy.**

15. A report commissioned by the Walsh administration found that just 1.2 percent of city contracts awarded between 2014-2018 were awarded to Black or Latino-owned businesses. What would you do to change that?

**As Mayor, I'm committed to meet contract goals for minority-owned businesses of 7%, 14%, 20% over the next three years. I will ensure equity in City contracts by intentionally investing in businesses owned by people of color and women, unbundling large contracts so smaller businesses can apply, streamlining the procurement process to make it easier for WMBEs to submit bids, and increasing the capacity of City personnel to help small businesses navigate the process. I will push for greater transparency in our data, hold agencies and officials accountable to hit these targets, and ensure businesses owned by people of color and women have access to the resources and opportunities they need to grow across the city.**

16. In 2018, the Walsh administration set a goal of creating 69,000 new units of housing in Boston by 2030. What is your assessment of this target — and what would your office do to balance growth with the concerns that many have about displacement in neighborhoods like Dorchester?

**The Walsh Administration's approach to addressing the housing crisis with large unit goals - without planning and building with a true equity lens and accountability for developers to build affordable housing - has not brought us out of this crisis. It's getting harder and harder for working and low-income families to stay here. I believe we need a comprehensive, collaborative planning process to inform how and where we develop, to develop equitably and more creatively to meet the needs of residents, address the affordability crisis, and build resilient communities. As mayor, I will reimagine the BPDA and overhaul zoning to make development process outcomes more equitable and predictable, and streamline development review & permitting. This includes removing affordable housing from the article 80 review process to accelerate development and cut down on costs, increasing housing affordability by leveraging City assets that are sitting vacant and supporting the work of community land trusts, enabling more transit-oriented development, and ensuring that the jobs on these sites provide prevailing wages.**

17. What is your assessment of the Walsh administration's overall performance? Please offer a letter grade or pass/fail as part of your answer.

**It's no secret that I felt Mayor Walsh should have done more to tackle systemic inequity in Boston, particularly in our Boston Public Schools, and more to address the public health crisis at Mass and Cass. However, the Mayor led the city steadily through the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, for which he deserves enormous credit. Grade: C.**

18. What is your assessment of the acting Mayor Kim Janey's performance since taking office in March 2021? Please offer a letter grade or pass/fail as part of your answer.

**Like so many other Bostonians, I celebrated the historic transition of power to Acting Mayor Kim Janey. However, since that moment, we have not seen concrete action from Acting Mayor Janey on our most pressing issues, and her recent comments comparing requiring proof of vaccination to slavery and birtherism and her reluctance to implement these measures even for City employees as COVID infection rates increase in Boston is troubling and a failure of leadership. During this administration, the opioid and homelessness crisis at Mass and Cass has gotten worse, the police department is in disarray after repeated scandals with a ballooning \$70 million overtime budget, after a year away from the classroom hundreds of students were on waitlists for summer learning programs even after being promised a seat, and housing costs continue to spiral out of control. Bostonians need immediate action, concrete timelines and accountability from the Mayor's office. Grade: C.**

19. Will you seek to expand or change the composition of the Zoning Board of Appeals? If so, how?

**As mayor, I would ensure our Zoning Board is comprised of members with diverse expertise including proven community leadership, experience in affordable development, community development, non-profit housing, structuring public-private partnerships, capital structure and finance, and construction.**

20. When not on the campaign trail, how do you unwind?

**My faith and my family are my foundation, so it is spending time with them and always starting the day with prayer.**

21. If you were not a candidate, who would you support in this election for either Mayor or City Council?

**I'm proud to be a part of such a diverse and talented field for Mayor, and at the City Council level, we have so many exciting candidates running, for both At-Large and District Council seats. This election is going to usher in a new generation of leadership for Boston, and that's a great thing for the City.**

Thank you for participating in the Dorchester Reporter questionnaire. Please send the completed document as a PDF or WordDoc to [newseditor@dotnews.com](mailto:newseditor@dotnews.com) by Sun. Aug. 8, 2021.