

Dorchester Reporter

“The News and Values Around the Neighborhood”

2021 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Section 1: BACKGROUND

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

Evandro Carvalho, 39 years old, born in Praia, Cape Verde. I currently reside at 70 Fuller St, Boston, MA 02124.

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

I currently serve as the Director of the Human Rights Commission of Boston. I have served as an assistant district attorney in Roxbury and West Roxbury and in Gun Court downtown. I also served two terms as the 5th Suffolk District State Representative as a Democratic member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

3. Please detail your personal educational background and achievements.

After graduating from Madison Park High School, I went on to graduate from the University of Massachusetts, where I was the President of the Cape Verdean Student Alliance. I later graduated from Howard University School of Law.

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

I am a progressive Democrat. I was also on the board of Teen Empowerment in Dorchester and a volunteer for Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA). I currently serve as the executive director of the Boston Human Rights Commission.

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

I believe the past ten years I've spent serving the people of the city of Boston as ADA, State Rep, and the Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission have taught me that to be an effective leader I need to take care of those in my charge and in order to know the needs of the people, I need to listen and build a relationship with people in the community. That's exactly what I have done. I believe this will continue to make me an effective leader.

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

I am proud to have graduated from Madison Park near the top of my class. I struggled with behavior issues and was often suspended. And as a 17-year-old senior, I was arrested at Madison Park. Graduating was not something that I foresaw happening but I am proud of that accomplishment. I'm also proud to have gone to an HBCU - Howard Law - to obtain the best education possible and have since come back to Boston to serve my community because as Howard taught me, as a lawyer, I must use my legal education to benefit others. Finally, I am proud to be raising two beautiful daughters in District 4. I love being a father and I believe my girls are the most precious gifts (and accomplishments) I have. I am teaching them a legacy of service to others. My 6-year-old Eliana for instance I've joined me on several occasions in volunteering to pick up trash in our community.

7. Are you a member of a union?

I am not a member of a union, but I learned about their importance through my Mother. She was a long time member of the Local 615 and eventually became one of its organizers

8. Please list any endorsements to date.

Laborers 223
IBEW Local 103
United Auto Workers Region 9A
North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters
The Roofers and Waterproofers Local 33
The Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen Local 3
The Mass Retirees
5th District City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo
State Representative Liz Miranda
State Representative Chyna Tyler (delete this one for now - not official yet)

Section 2: POLITICS & ELECTIONS

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

I am a progressive Democrat and advocate for policies that improve the lives of others in our community.

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

One of my greatest inspirations is President Barack Obama. I became a citizen around the time of his first election, and he was the first person I ever voted for in America. After graduating from Howard University Law School, I was residing in Washington DC and thus was luckily able to attend his inauguration. While I don't always agree with his policies, I appreciate his ability to remain calm under pressure and take into account both sides of a particular argument, debate, or issue. In addition, I admire individuals who strive for the well-being of their people. I've idolized Malcom X, Martin Luther King Jr., and Amilcar Cabral, who have all lived and died for the improvement of their communities.

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

I believe we need to do everything we can to increase voter participation in our local elections. I support allowing 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote in municipal elections. Of course, I support mail-in voting. As a state representative, I sponsored legislation to allow people to do "same-day registration" as in to allow folks to show up to their polls, register, and vote at the same time.

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

Yes, I think ranked-choice voting provides a more level playing field for all candidates. It's essential that we ensure that anyone has the tools and resources at their disposal to run for office. It's imperative that we continue to elect a wide array of candidates who can advocate for the people they represent.

Section 3: ISSUES & PRIORITIES

1. **What is your top priority if elected?**

Some of the top issues that I'm concerned with is the need for police reform as well as criminal justice reform, economic social justice and economic empowerment. One of my top priorities for a long time has been the strive for economic social justice - we need to close the wealth gap that exists in the city of Boston through increasing homeownership and business opportunities for black and brown

people. Drawing inspiration from my political role models, I will constantly live and work for the benefit of the residents of District 4. My goal is to increase their access to quality education, valuable jobs, and suitable housing.

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

To reduce gun violence we need a comprehensive approach that involves empowering our youth, strengthening our civic engagement, and working with our local police to stop the violence.

As a state representative, during budget season, my number one priority was always funding for youth jobs and violence prevention. I ensured millions of dollars to line items such as Youth Works, Shannon Anti-Violence Grants, and the Safe & Successful Youth Initiatives (SSYI).

As City Councilor: I will review whether we are getting a fair share of this state funding in District 4. I will also continue to push for the City to Invest in its Youth Fund line item. I will continue to push for more youth employment. Currently, the city hires 10,000 young people every summer. We should aim to double that to 20,000.

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

The Boston Police Department must be held more accountable and should become more transparent with the public. To ensure this, changes need to be made to the BPPA Contracts that allow the City to enforce critical recommendations that the Police Reform Task of 2020 has made. This will in turn allow the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency and the Civilian Review Board to have more authority when holding the Department accountable.

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

I strongly support this requirement. One of the basic functions of any government, especially municipal government, is to provide and create jobs for its people. It's the best way we have to invest in the people and their families. Over the past 2 years, I have been working in City Hall as the Executive Director of the Boston Human Rights Commission. I love that all my colleagues there are neighbors who live in the City of Boston.

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?

The Strand is such a gem in our community. I have seen many great programs including plays, concerts, and other events there. The best way we can use the Strand is to give it to the community. We should turn it over to a non-profit or community organization with the mission of making it a cultural center. We should make it free or make it as affordable as possible to have events there. We should have more talent shows for our youths, movie nights, and other family gatherings there.

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

I believe that it's vital to get vaccinated against Covid-19 for anyone who is able to. I want to encourage everyone to get vaccinated against the virus.

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

Yes. I believe having an elected school committee is a way for us to have members who are directly accountable to the people of the city of Boston.

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?

I support the strive to make the city's three exams should more equitable and accessible, therefore I support the recent decision. Often, some geographical areas are underrepresented in these schools; consequently, areas with impoverished residents are important factors to include.

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

Yes. As a state representative, one of the best tools I had was to allocate resources to specific organizations in the community. The so-called power to "earmark" funds was a vital tool to help district city councilors focus resources in their districts.

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?

I believe the next Commissioner should be someone who will work every day to make BPD a more transparent and accountable department. Someone who is committed to diversity and racial bias training to assure that we have police officers that reflect the values of the people of the City of Boston. I believe the next Commissioner should be a visionary who will help lead a conversation about the role of policing in our community.

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

Yes. Our City Hall Plaza is currently going through some great renovations. We need to continue to re-think and reimagine how to best maximize the use of the spaces, save energy, and make it more open. We need to make the Hall a place that all Bostononians can be proud of.

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 the coming years and decades? What else might you do to build climate resiliency in the city of Boston?

Building climate resiliency is essential in the city of Boston. There are many lots that can be used for development in the future, but there must be a push for "green spaces". Homeowners in District 4, and Boston as a whole, will benefit from incentives to make their homes more environmentally and climate-friendly, essentially eliminating their carbon footprint and installing new and efficient technology. Lastly, a cleaner Boston can be achieved by promoting urban and community farming which, in turn, solves the prevalent food insecurities throughout Boston.

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

As a state representative, I was one of the early sponsors of this measure. The passage of the Fair Share Amendment/Millionaire's Tax on the 2022 ballot would increase state revenues by \$2 Billion and it is dedicated to education and transportation and I would support that ballot measure and do voter education in my district.

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

Yes.

- 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?**

Closing the wealth gap to be me is priority number 1. I believe economic empowerment is the civil rights issue of our time. First, the targets should be higher than those proposed by Mayor Walsh. The target should be at least 30-40% of the contracts to go to MBEs and WBEs, with at least 20% for MBEs. To do so, "race consciousness" must be a prevalent factor in decisions made, thus encouraging white-owned businesses to develop partnerships with these enterprises. I will closely monitor our progress annually to make sure the City does its fair share of business with black and brown businesses.

- 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?**

Making sure that at least 20-30% of those units are affordable housing will be critical. As such, we need to increase the Inclusionary Development program to 20% or 30% to make sure developers are building affordable housing. Also, with the close to 600 Million dollars that will be coming to the City of Boston through the American Rescue Plan, we need to 1) fund rental assistance to help people pay their rents, 2) increase subsidies to incentivize developers to build affordable housing, 3) we should consider rent control.

- 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. I think Mayor Walsh did a good job for our city. I'd give him a**

B.

- 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.**

I think Mayor Janey has done a good job so far and would also give her a B.

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

I haven't given much thought to the composition of the Zoning Board of Appeals but it certainly needs to be more transparent and accountable. What I hear from residents, in particular, is that notices are not getting adequate notices.

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

I enjoy spending time with my best friend and wife Ashely and our beautiful daughters Eliana and Anaya. I also enjoy working out, going for runs, and driving my 6-speed manual car.

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

I think we have great candidates for Mayor and, to be honest, I think any of them would do a good job for our city. Same for the City Councilor candidates. I give thumbs up for anyone who runs for public office and work hard to show the people why they deserve their votes.

Thank you for participating in the Dorchester Reporter questionnaire. Please send the completed document as a PDF or WordDoc to newseditor@dotnews.com by Fri. Aug. 8, 2021.