

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?

James Reginald “Reggie” Colimon, DOB - 6/14/1966.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

282 Roslindale Av

Roslindale, MA 02131

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

On Leave - Global Affairs -International Partnerships Manager for the City of Boston

3. Please detail your personal educational background and achievements.

BA Pol Science

MA International Pol Studies

MBA Intl Mgt

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

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

A staff member on several mayoral teams, Reggie served in Mayor Menino’s Office of New Bostonians. He served on Mayor Walsh’s Global Affairs team and as Mayor Walsh’s liaison to Boston City Council; most recently, he was a member of Mayor Janey’s Global Affairs team.

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

- Pioneered City of Boston’s Immigration Clinic in 2004, by recruiting volunteer immigration Attorneys (Still active today).
- Managed the “We Are Boston” event to raise funds for English for New Bostonians which funded approximately 26 programs.
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7. Are you a member of a union?

No.

8. Please list any endorsements to date.

Section 2: POLITICS & ELECTIONS

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

Democratic

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

1. Martin Luther King.
2. Marty Walsh
3. Toussaint Louverture

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

Yes. Up to 3 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 would favor the following:

1. Advocate for same day registration
2. Lowering the voting age to 16
3. Favor mail in voting
4. Make election day a municipal holiday

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

No

Section 3: ISSUES & PRIORITIES

1. What is your top priority if elected?

1. Re-energize Madison Park Vocational
2. Make critical technology accessible to all Boston residents, we must bridge the digital divide.
3. Start a program for minorities to go to law school by exposing them to high paid internships in the summer.

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

Advocate for a gun buyback program with multilingual ads (print/radio/tv/social media outlets)

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

no.

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

Yes; however, anyone working for the city for 10 years should have the option of moving if they so choose.

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 in desperate need of repairs. Once repaired, make it a staple of the community by having shows and programs that are the reflections of the neighborhoods of Boston.

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

Yes.

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

No. I favor a hybrid model (appointed and elected). The student on the committee should enjoy all the privileges the others have (e.g. receiving the stipend).

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?

No

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?

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

Yes.

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?

Climate change is here! Boston must be fully prepared for climate emergencies such as flooding and extreme heat. Boston's city government

has an operating and capital budget in the billions and, as overseer of parks, streets, and hundreds of city and school buildings, is well positioned to invest in energy efficiency, fossil fuel reduction, green new jobs, and green educational awareness. I will work to build a green, walkable, bikeable Boston. Our more vulnerable citizens need a climate-safe city, and our youngest citizens need to be able to look forward to a bright future!

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

I would have to wait until 2022 to make a decision.

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

Independent contractors

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?

1. Offer technical assistance to prepare minority companies to bid for City contracts.
2. Break up big contracts to be awarded to more than one company

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?

It's a great target that was increased from 53,000 to 69,000. In order to deal with displacement, we might want to think of Up Density in certain neighborhoods by hosting community meetings to hear from the community.

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.

A+

I was Mayor Walsh's Liaison to the City Council for 3 years. And he deputized me to help develop a Global Affairs Team in the Economic Development Cabinet.

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.

A-

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

Not at the current time.

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

By catching up with my parents and friends.

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

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.