



**GBLC Boston Mayor Candidate Questionnaire**

**Candidate Name:** Daniel F. Conley

**Campaign Address:** 14 Hyde Park Avenue, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

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**Campaign Manager:** Samantha Shusterman

**Office Sought:** Mayor of Boston

**Previous Elected/Appointed Office Held (if any):**

Suffolk County District Attorney 2002 - Present  
District 5 City Councilor 1994-2002

Please return this questionnaire to:  
By Mail: Greater Boston Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
6 Beacon Street, Suite 910 Boston, MA 02108  
Or By Fax: 617-732-2480.  
Or By Email: [rrogers@gbgc.us](mailto:rrogers@gbgc.us)

If you have questions please contact Rich Rogers at (617) 723-2370.

**Collective Bargaining**

State and federal law requires all employers to bargain in good faith with labor union bargaining units. If employers fail to bargain in good faith charges can be filed. However, charges often take years to litigate and reach a settlement. Labor unions and employers have come to rely on community activity to help move the bargaining process along.

Would you work to settle collective bargaining agreements in Boston in a timely fashion?

YES

NO

Will your administration adhere to arbitration awards rendered by the Commonwealth's Joint Labor Management Committee?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you use the moral authority of your office to assist private sector unions in your community settle collective bargaining disputes?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In 2011 Mayor Menino entered a landmark Agreement with all of the city unions to bargain health insurance issues in a collaborative and cooperative manner through coalition bargaining as authorized by MGLc. 32B, section 19. The city and the unions entered a four year agreement governing health insurance and created a Public Employee Committee (PEC) through which decisions around health benefits are now made. The City estimates that these efforts will save or slow cost growth by \$70 million over the life of the agreement. Moreover, the PEC and the City have forged an ongoing working relationship that has resulted in additional changes, improvements, and cost savings since the initial Agreement. The parties have spent the past year studying potential innovations and cost saving measures that could be implemented as part of the next phase of extending or renewing this Agreement.

Will you commit to continuing this joint labor-management process as the means of making health insurance benefit decisions when you become Mayor?

YES

NO

Specifically, will you renew the current Section 19 Agreement with the PEC prior to its expiration in 2015?

YES

NO

As part of the process of renewing the Section 19 Agreement, will you continue the current emphasis on seeking overall cost savings measures through approaches such as managing chronic disease, enhancing employee & retiree wellness, and seeking lower cost yet high quality providers, rather than focusing primarily on shifting costs onto employees and retirees?

YES

NO

Will you maintain Retiree premium contributions during your term(s) as mayor?

YES

NO

The current administration is supporting legislation on Beacon Hill that would move as many as 40 Boston Public schools from level 3 status into level 4 or 'Turnaround' status. Teachers in schools designated 'Turnaround' status are stripped of many of their collective bargaining rights and have little or no say in the length of the school day and year, assignment rights and added compensation.

What is your position on this proposed legislation which is pending on Beacon Hill?

Support

Oppose

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Responsible Employer Language***

As you are aware, the City of Boston has adopted a "Responsible Employer Ordinance" that requires contractors who wish to bid on public projects to provide health insurance for all employees (including part time workers); be affiliated with a state or federal certified apprenticeship training program; maintain workers' compensation insurance for all employees;

classify workers as employees rather than as independent contractors; and comply with local residency and/or affirmative action requirements.

Are you committed to implementing and enforcing Boston's "Responsible Employer Ordinance"?

YES

NO

Will you ensure that unions affiliated with the Greater Boston Labor Council and/or the Boston Building Trades Council are represented on the enforcement committee that the "Responsible Employer Ordinance" creates?

YES

NO

Under the current administration, the Building Trades have been represented on the Boston Redevelopment Authority, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Planning Board and the Boston Employment Commission. Will you continue to ensure that the building trades will continue to have representation on these boards and commissions?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Economic Development***

Rather than traditional economic development strategies that emphasize tax cuts, tax incentives, business relocation expenses and other subsidies, the labor movement is attempting to attach standards and a system of public accountability to the dissemination of any public funds, public subsidies or tax breaks. Such a system would reward 'good' employers who have high wage jobs with career ladder and benefits

Would you support progressive, pro-worker economic development strategies in the City of Boston that encourages good jobs and wages both during construction of a project and for the permanent jobs? Would you seek to ensure that contractors abide by the City's Responsible Employer Ordinance?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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In November of 2011, Governor Deval Patrick signed into law gaming legislation that will allow up to three casinos to be licensed in the Commonwealth. The Greater Boston Labor Council voted unanimously to support Suffolk Downs' efforts to receive a gaming license at its January 3rd 2012 meeting.

Do you support Suffolk Downs' proposal to be granted a license to build a resort gaming facility on its property located in East Boston and Revere?

YES

NO

**Answer: I have taken the position that any support for a casino in East Boston should be contingent upon a citywide referendum that wins the support of a majority of the residents of the city and of East Boston.**

It takes a good job to support a family and it will take many good jobs to strengthen our communities. It has been estimated that in Massachusetts one third of the jobs are not good jobs, below \$17 an hour, with no benefits, and many part time. The same is generally true for Boston. As mayor, what strategies and what governmental tools would you use to address the challenge of making these bad jobs into good jobs?

Comments: My ~~approach will range from efforts to create the best school system in America to strategy as mayor will run the gamut, from short to long term strategies to reverse trends that show more part-time, low-paying, and low- to-no benefit jobs fueling "jobs growth."~~ Long term strategies begin with improved schools and building an education pipeline that runs from age 0-3 through to a focus on STEM to college preparedness so that children growing up in Boston are prepared to compete in the Boston economy. As mayor, I will also work with organized labor, non-profits and the business community for expanded training opportunities for workers so they can continue to climb the economic ladder. I will use my office's bully pulpit to advocate for all workers to be paid fairly and protected from abuse. Finally, I will work with organized labor and the entire Boston community on everything from Boston's living wage ordinance to creating a unified economic strategy to generate more jobs that pay decent wages and benefits.

### **Privatization**

When services currently performed by public employees are privatized vendors and contractors routinely submit bids that cut costs by reducing benefits and wages for workers. Will your administration refrain from privatizing public services unless assurances are given that wages and benefits will be maintained and that further assurances will require that taxpayers will actually save as a result of privatizing public services?

YES

NO

Comments: I would not countenance privatizing public service unless taxpayers would realize savings and those providing the services are paid a fair wage and receive appropriate benefits.

***Wal-Mart***

Labor and community groups have long had concerns about Wal-Mart because of its long history of paying substandard wages and benefits and distributing misinformation and anti-union propaganda to Associates. Recently Wal-Mart has begun to aggressively seek store locations in Eastern Massachusetts, including the City of Boston.

Would you contact the Greater Boston Labor Council prior to Wal-Mart seeking formal approval to locate in Boston?

YES

NO

Would you make it a precondition that Wal-Mart use union labor on the building of stores in your community?

YES

NO

Wal-Mart has said it has turned a corner in support of its workers. Elected officials and community leaders should ask Wal-Mart, as a show of good faith, to sign a pledge that Associates will be allowed to choose freely whether they would like to form a union without intimidation or interference from the company. Wal-Mart management should remain neutral in the process.

Would you make it a precondition that Wal-Mart sign such a pledge?

YES

NO

Comments: I do not support Wal-Mart locating in the city of Boston and as mayor will oppose such a move.

***Revenue***

Municipalities, including Boston, are still recovering from the worst fiscal crisis since the Greater Depression. Cut backs in local aide by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, home foreclosures, and other negative consequences of the fiscal crisis have created revenue shortfalls.

What, if any, proposals do you have to increase revenue so that Boston maintains its local services?

Answer: Boston already raises its property taxes to the fullest extent allowable under the law, and while the meals, hotel/motel and jet fuel taxes have helped to diversify Boston's revenue streams, there is an ever-present risk of overreliance on property tax revenue. Where Boston is in fact the economic engine that drives the state and regional economy, I will advocate forcefully for Boston being given greater discretion and control over its fiscal future.

***Boston Living Wage Ordinance***

The Boston Living Wage Ordinance was enacted in 1998 and established a "living wage" of \$8.71 an hour, applied to contracts with a dollar value of \$100,000 and non-profit organizations with 100 employees or more. In October, 2001, the Mayor signed an amended Living Wage Ordinance which triggered coverage of contracts of \$25,000, non-profit service contractors with 25 or more employees, increased the living wage from \$9.11 an hour in July 2002 to \$10.25 and added a change to the indexing mechanism to provide a higher floor of 116% (rather than 110%) of the federal poverty guidelines. The current living wage is \$13.49 an hour.

Since 2001, however, the City has not issued new regulations reflecting the changes and provided a hardship waiver to Casella Waste Management with the result that recycling workers continue to earn wages below the living wage. The Living Wage Advisory Council, established to promote access to Living Wage jobs for low and moderate income Bostonians and to review and make recommendations about the implementation and enforcement of the Ordinance, has been moribund for years.

If elected, would you SUPPORT new regulations that reflect the 2001 amendments and also tighten up the hardship waiver provisions:

YES

NO

If elected, would you SUPPORT the denial of hardship waivers where a company fails to prove the inability to pay the living wage:

YES

NO

If elected, would you SUPPORT reconstituting the Living Wage Advisory Council with representation by the Greater Boston Labor Council and affected community-based organizations:

YES

NO

If elected, would you SUPPORT otherwise ensuring the effective enforcement of the Living Wage Ordinance for the benefit of low and moderate income Bostonians?

YES

NO

Answer: I fully support the concept of the living wage and as mayor will do all that I can to ensure that workers earn wages sufficient to support a family. I am committed to working closely with organized labor, ~~the business community,~~ and the entire Boston community to develop a sustainable game plan to keep Boston moving in the right direction on this issue.

***Boston Taxi Drivers***

Recently the Boston Globe published a three part investigative report on the Boston Taxi Industry, focusing in large part on the predatory practices in the industry notably the exploitation of the drivers. The United Steel Workers/Boston Taxi Drivers Association, an affiliate of the Greater Boston Labor Council, has called for a civilian commission to oversee Boston's Taxi Industry.

Do you support or oppose the creation of such an independent commission?

Support

Oppose

The Mayor of Boston has the authority to change the employee classification of Boston's cab drivers. If elected Mayor would you change the employee classification from independent contractor to employee and recognize the United Steelworkers/Boston Taxi Drivers as the authorized representative for the purposes of collective bargaining rights?

YES

NO

Answer: The Boston Globe series raised a host of issues related to the taxicab industry and treatment of workers that need to be addressed. The abuses suffered by many of the drivers are inexcusable and as mayor I will work support Police Commissioner Davis' current efforts to crackdown on abuse and ensure that ~~these~~ workers who may have been mistreated or denied wages due to them are compensated. I also support Mayor Menino's order of an independent review of the taxi industry and await its findings. As mayor, I will do everything in my power to ensure that Boston's taxi drivers, like all workers, are treated ~~with respect~~ and compensated fairly.

***General Questions***

Many Boards and Commissions appointed by elected officials directly and indirectly impact the lives of working men and women. Where you have the authority to make appointments will you consult with the Greater Boston Labor Council when making appointments to these Boards and Commissions?

YES

NO

As an elected official will you continue to meet regularly with labor representatives to ensure that working men and women's issues are being addressed adequately?

**YES**

NO

Have you ever assisted a labor organization to achieve any of its goals?

As a member of the Boston City Council I was a strong and consistent voice for working families. I have always considered labor a partner in our efforts to move Boston forward. I voted on numerous ordinances and budgets that improved compensation for public employees, enhanced or protected important benefits that working men and women rely on, and have stood with the building trades and other unions in advocating that workers be treated fairly and protected from exploitation or abuse. My support for the living wage ordinance in 1998 and its amendment in 2001 are just two small examples of this. As District Attorney I do not have the same opportunities to cast votes in favor of working families or in opposition to matters harmful to them, but have been vigilant in my duties to serve working families in other ways. This would include my general efforts to keep Boston a safe and stable place for people to live, work and do business, and specific cases my office has prosecuted, including those who have embezzled funds from union workers.

Does your campaign accept PAC contributions?

**YES**

NO

Please list any labor endorsements you have received to date:

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the following Right to Organize pledge in addition to the GBLC questionnaire:

## ***Right to Organize Pledge***

I \_\_\_\_\_ pledge to support workers' rights to have a Voice @ Work, therefore, I pledge to take a public position to fully support the principle, guaranteed under state and federal law, that employees are entitled to a free choice to form a union without interference, intimidation or fear of reprisals. I further pledge to use my moral and legal position/authority to help in local legislation and administrative actions to limit employer opposition to workers who are organizing a union and to use my authority to speak publicly about the positive role unions play in creating good middle class jobs and strong communities.

I am willing to do the following things to support workers' right to organize:

- When workers are trying to form a union, I will actively urge employers to remain neutral, respect the choices of their employees and voluntarily recognize a union when a majority has indicated the desire to join a union and negotiate in good faith for a first contract.
- I will support efforts to put clear standards into law so that public funds for economic development and public contracts are directed to responsible companies that are held accountable for job creation – companies that pay at least a living wage, provide good benefits to workers, obey all laws and agree to card-check neutrality.
- I will support Project Labor Agreements on all public works projects in my city, town, or village.
- I will walk on picket lines and speak at rallies in support of workers who are trying to form a union and/or win a fair and equitable contract.
- I will write letters to workers considering joining a union explaining why unions are good for the community.
- I will offer to serve as an intermediary when requested and to actively promote alternatives to the delays and legal maneuvers that accompany union elections including neutrality and card-check voluntary recognition agreements.
- I will speak out publicly, write letters to employers and allow my name, picture, press statement, etc. to be used in support of workers' rights to organize.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

June 19, 2013

Great Boston Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
6 Beacon Street, Suite 910  
Boston, MA 02108  
Attn: Rich Rogers

Dear Friend:

As the son of a proud union member, I believe in and support the rights of workers to organize, advocate and collectively bargain for wages, work protections and other benefits. As a matter of principle, however, I am opposed to any pledge that would bind the hands of elected officials who are sworn to execute the responsibilities of their office. Beginning with “no new taxes” such pledges might reflect a mood, a priority or a public passion at a given point in time, but do not afford elected leaders the flexibility they need to govern effectively and responsibly as circumstances change. For this reason, I did not sign the pledge attached to the end of this questionnaire.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Conley