



Jamaica Plain Progressives

working together to promote progressive values

www.jpprogressives.com

JP Progressive Voter Guide for 2010 District 6 City Council Special Election

Preliminary Election — October 19

General Election — November 16

Chun-Fai Chan

Kosta Demos

James Hennigan

Matt O'Malley

Sean Ryan



About the JP Progressives

Chairs

Melissa Threadgill
Reuben Kantor

Who We Are

Jamaica Plain Progressives is a group of JP residents (and, occasionally, folks from neighboring communities) who are working together to organize our community around progressive values.

JP Progressives is an action-oriented group, and we strive to make meetings focused, efficient, interesting and even fun. (What? Fun at a meeting?!)

We meet every third Wednesday at 7pm at Doyle's in Jamaica Plain. Our meetings are open to the public, and new members interested in being more involved in progressive political organizing in our community are welcome.

Statement of Values

We know we're not all going to agree on every issue every time — and that's okay. But we do think there are a certain set of values we all share that bring us together, and that makes us progressives. These include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- A commitment to equality for all people, regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic class, religion, nationality, or physical ability.
- A belief that there are some things — including access to high quality, affordable health care, a safe and affordable place to live, a living wage and a good public education — that everyone is entitled to.
- A strong conviction that government has a positive role to play in our lives and communities.
- A commitment to ethical and accountable government, and a belief that inclusivity and widespread participation in elections and governance is an important part of our democratic government.

- A commitment to building a community that is environmentally and economically sustainable.
- A belief in the right to privacy, which means that there are some personal decisions the government should not interfere with.

What We Do

We're bringing progressives together to:

- **Build Progressive Electoral Power:**
This means recruiting, supporting, and helping elect progressive candidates for office. JPProgressives members are often interested in being actively involved in local campaigns as organizers, fundraisers, and foot soldiers — and in working together under the JPProgressives banner to demonstrate the strength of the progressive community to our elected officials.
- **Mobilize around Issues:**
We're organizing to raise awareness and affect change on issues of importance to the group. This process starts with helping members become more informed about issues of local importance, and we often organize educational sessions with local issue experts for part or all of a meeting. (Recent topics have included affordable housing, youth violence, and education.) We also help organize members to take action on important issues — call their legislators, attend community meetings, and talk to their friends and neighbors.
- **Progressive Community Building:**
We're working to build a lasting community of progressive activists, one that will outlast any one campaign cycle. This includes finding ways to keep people involved after a campaign is over, developing progressive leaders in our community, and building relationships among members, and between members and the community.
- **Jamaica Plain Community Engagement:**
We also know that the Jamaica Plain Community is larger than the members of the group. We want to continually be reaching out to members of the JP Community to encourage them to participate in the democratic process.

To Get Involved

If you share these progressive values and are interested in the sort of work we do, then we hope you'll join us. Please visit www.jpprogressives.com, sign up for our email list, or send an email to moreinfo@jpprogressives.com.

JP Progressive Candidate Questionnaire

150 word maximum, no minimum. We will publish your answers in their entirety in the web version of this Candidate Survey. In the printed version, we reserve the right to edit for length, but not for meaning or intent.

1. Why do you want to be a District City Councilor?

2. Affordable Housing

The community planning process for the Forest Hills Improvement Initiative set a goal of having 50% housing on publicly-owned land and 30% on privately-owned be affordable. Do you support these goals?

3. Development

What type of development should be prioritized in Jamaica Plain and Boston, and how will you use your office to help move these projects forward?

4. Environment and Energy

If you are elected, what are three specific actions you would propose for the City of Boston to promote energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and improve green space in Boston?

Youth Violence

5. Given the resurgence of youth violence in the city, what specific steps would you take to ensure the safety of youth in our city?

6. What is your vision for youth in the City of Boston, and what do we need to do to get there?

7. Accountability, Transparency

What are 2 proposals you would recommend to improve accountability and transparency in city government?

8. Charter Reform

Do you believe the City Charter should be reviewed and revised? If no, why? If yes, what would your priorities for review or change be?

Education

9. We know the FY12 City budget will include the closing of some public schools. What will your priorities be when approaching this decision?

10. The cost of the City's school transportation plan is of concern to many and proposals to revise it will be debated during the FY12 budget process. What is your proposal for revising the BPS transportation plan?

11. Boston is slated to receive about 25% of Race to the Top Funds. The state will issue guidelines about how districts should use the funds. If you had an opportunity to weigh in, how would you advocate BPS invests that money?

12. Jobs

Most job growth in Metro Boston has occurred in Boston suburbs, while minority populations have been growing in the central city. Black and Latino residents have faced unemployment rates 3 times the rate of white residents and Asian residents twice that of whites. What single new or existing policy would you support that would have the greatest impact on unemployment and job disparities in Boston?

Labor

13. Earlier this year, an arbitrator awarded the firefighters a \$19M contract over 5 years; do you think City Councilors were obligated to support the decision?

14. As the City goes into negotiations with the other unions (e.g. teachers, police) in the City, what role do you think the City Council can play?

15. Race and Diversity

Affirmative action policies have recently been watered down by court decisions at the federal level. What are some creative policies other than affirmative action that the city could implement that would support and retain diversity within its workforce?

Budget Policy

16. What are 2 suggestions you have for making the City budget process more transparent?

17. Health care costs continue to rise and the City has limited power to address this. The State has the power to manage the benefit design of employees without Union negotiation but the City does not. City employee labor unions have opposed these changes, saying it undermines their collective bargaining power. Would you support the home rule petition (filed by the Mayor) granting the City this authority?

18. During the FY11 budget process, 4 libraries and 8 community centers were closed and many of our lowest paid city workers (librarians, custodians) were laid off. What city services or department budgets will you work to protect or eliminate in next year's budget?

Lightening Round (Yes or No)

19. Many workers in Boston are organizing to form unions, especially in the hospitals. Will you publicly support their efforts to organize?
20. Do you support the death penalty?
21. Do you support same sex marriage?
22. Do you support anti-discrimination laws that protect someone from being fired, or denied housing, education, or access to public facilities (including bathrooms) based on their gender identity?
23. Are you pro-choice?
24. Would you support a state constitutional amendment implementing a progressive income tax?

ChunFai Chan

1. Why do you want to be a District City Councilor?

We need to have a continued democratic participatory government where a diverse range of voices is heard to ensure that all Boston residents are fairly represented. This participation is necessary to ensure that our tax dollars are transparent and well spent because we have only a finite amount of resources and revenues to meet the needs of all Boston residents. This is why I am running for to be a District City Councilor.

2. Affordable Housing

I do support more opportunities for affordable housing initiatives throughout the city of Boston. The demand for affordable housing has consistently been higher than the supply. Any proposal to alleviate these demands is welcomed.

3. Development

We need a mixed use of housing and businesses/retail to promote a healthy economic environment in Boston. Small businesses are the engine of the economy and we need to be conscious of that as well as be conscious that there is a need for affordable housing in all of our neighborhoods.

4. Environment and Energy

First of all, when we do build affordable housing, we need to make sure that this housing is energy efficient and if possible environmentally friendly to leave a smaller carbon footprint. Second, we need to encourage more bike lanes in the city especially in high traffic areas like on Massachusetts Avenue. Third, we have to use incentives to further recycling efforts like using the funds from redeeming bottle, cans, and glass for school books to encourage children to read more.

Youth Violence

5. SPECIFIC STEPS

First of all, we need to keep the Street Workers program. They are first line of defense in terms of violence prevention in the city. Trust between the community and the police needs to be earned not given. In recent incidents, this trust has improved, but it does not mean that the work is done. We also need to have families and the community to get involved in a young person's life. That means being there for them not as their friend but as their care giver, provider, and guardian. The Parent U program was a good idea to get families involved in their child's life.

6. VISION

Young people are the future of our city. We have a generational responsibility to empower our young people to be our future leaders. This is done by having longer school days and by having learning activities year round especially during the summer months for them to empower their leadership and talents to fulfill their potential.

7. Accountability, Transparency

First, goes back to what I talked about regarding democratic participatory government. Residents need to take part and engage in order to hold city government accountable. Without this, city government gets stale. Second, by holding office hours within District 6 (and not just in one area within District 6) bring the role of government back to the greater community.

8. Charter Reform

The city charter should be revised and Councilor Tobin is leading the efforts to look into the issue. Having said that, there should a hybrid school committee where the mayor appoints a certain number of the seats and the community elects a certain number. Second, there should be a hard look at term limits for both the City Council and the Mayor. Third, we need to re-examine by just having the Office of Mayor disbursing money for all city operations except money for schools and for loans.

Education

9. EDUCATION BUDGET

With an ever-increasing high school drop out rate and also with the closure of libraries, this is not the trend that we should continue. This will increase class sizes and place a larger burden on the other schools in the system. It also mean that we need to make hard choices to maybe increase or diversify our revenue streams as well as make sure that when we do increase revenues that it is transparent and accountable to the residents of the city of Boston. What residents cannot stand is to see that our tax dollars are perceived to be not well spent.

10. SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

The key to lowering our transportation costs is to start providing quality schools in all of our neighborhoods. The turnaround schools implemented this year across the city of Boston are a start. If these twelve turnaround schools become successful in improving the quality of the education, then we can gradually draw down our transportation costs because that can convince families that schools in their neighborhoods DO work. Having neighborhood schools then can have a positive effect on improving parental involvement in the schools. Now, how about the jobs of the bus drivers? There are many opportunities within the schools themselves that would need their assistance whether it is being school monitors, after school staff, support staff,

or even staffing in schools where they are integrating expanded day programs.

11. RACE TO THE TOP FUNDING

Two things that we can do to invest these funds. First thing, invest in trade schools and vocational schools. We have to realize that the builders of the future need to be trained and there is a greater need in terms of staying economically competitive. Second, invest in expanded school day and school year. We need to take a look at the brain drain that happens during the summer time whether it is providing summer jobs for youth or expanding the number of days to the school year. With this, there has to be more extracurriculars like music, computers, physical education, and dance programs for our young people.

12. Jobs

There needs to be a continued enforcement of the Boston Residents Job Policy. Second, a hybrid community college/job training program needs to be implemented because we are going to an ever-changing job market and that means that new skills need to be learned on the education front as well as in the training front. That means reaching out to our community colleges to collaborate with our job training programs. Third, in terms of our future, trade and vocational schools need to be expanded so that our young people do have the skills to compete for the jobs in our community.

Labor

13. FIREFIGHTER ARBITRATION DECISION

The City Councilors should never have been put into that position in the first place. However, we have to realize in the future that our collective interests outweigh the interests of just one entity. It is okay to collectively bargain for the hard work and services that are done by professionals in our neighborhoods. Watering it down to petty disagreements and bitter feelings are what residents are tired of and angry about. It should be all about YOU contributing to the community and we need to build a culture of being ALL ABOUT YOU in the city or we will continue to blame each other and point fingers that does nothing but to perpetuate decisions that are misinformed or are excessive.

14. CITY COUNCIL ROLE IN LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

The City Council can play a significant role by having the residents of Boston take part in the negotiations because they have a stake in either public safety or the quality of the schools that they send their children to. Councilor Connolly showed excellent leadership in this by inviting the residents

of Boston to take part in a hearing regarding the Boston Teachers' Union negotiations with the School Department. This is how the City Council should work for the people. It's not always about attending events, it about advocating for your constituents because you are representing their interests, their concerns, and their stake in the city.

15. Race and Diversity

We need to have a policy where promotions are based on one's qualifications, hard work, and talents. It should not be based on whom a person knows. That is how we would be able to support and retain diversity. Also we need to encourage leadership opportunities in the community so that there are diverse voices for our residents.

Budget Policy

16. BUDGET TRANSPARENCY

First, before putting it to a vote, take the city budget to the neighborhoods so that residents have a say in the process. Second, we need an independent voice in city government similar to the Congressional Budget Office who would look at the spending in a non-partial, nonpartisan way so that our tax dollars are not being used as a political tool.

17. MUNICIPAL CONTROL OVER HEALTH PLAN DESIGN

The unions must be part of the process and should be not shut out if there is going to be a decision one way or another. That is not how we should work together. Even if we agree or disagree on how to implement the benefit design everyone should be at the table because it is all about everyone and not just a few individuals.

18. BUDGET PRIORITIES

There are always going to be tough choices when it comes to the budget. That is the price we will pay for fiscal responsibility and financial well-being. However, one thing we need to look at is that there has to be less disparity between our highest paid and lowest paid city workers. We also need face reality that our resources are not a bottomless well and we need to be mindful of that in the next few years and in our long-term future.

Lightening Round (Yes or No)

- 19. Support union organizing. **Yes**
- 20. Support the death penalty? **No**
- 21. Support same sex marriage? **Yes**
- 22. Support anti-discrimination laws **Yes**
- 23. Pro-choice? **Yes**
- 24. Support progressive income tax? **Yes**

Kosta Demos

1. Why do you want to be a District City Councilor?

I believe this progressive and creative community deserves representation that mirrors those attributes. I also know that the next year is going to be a busy one for the Council. Redistricting, charter reform, and expanded home rule are all going to be on the table. I want to be a part of that process.

I've spent nearly my entire life in the district. I have been politically active here for almost three decades. I believe I am in tune with the concerns of Jamaica Plain and West Roxbury. Charter reform. Electoral reform. School zones. I have the temperament and experience to build the coalitions necessary to achieve real results on these issues.

Also, I confess I just love the hurly-burly and over-caf-feinated sociability of local politics.

2. Affordable Housing

Yes, I do.

3. Development

Because of environmental pressures, the next decade is going to see a huge shift in urban planning priorities: greater vertical density, a tighter transit grid, more emphasis on foot versus automotive traffic, reconfiguration of horizontal planes to restore watershed efficacy... it's a long list. Realizing these priorities is going to be made difficult by hostility to central planning at the grass roots level. Having worked on these issues for years locally, I think I am well equipped to facilitate constructive dialogue between community organizations and planning authorities.

Personally, I think we should be working right now on a mid-rise, mixed use revamping of our existing commercial corridors and on concentrating new rental housing and small retail within the cachement radii of the Orange Line stations in J.P./Roxbury and the commuter rail in Roslindale and West Roxbury.

4. Environment and Energy

It's hard to pare down the many possibilities to three. But here a few that immediately spring to mind:

- The city's vehicle fleet should be local emissions free. Right now.
- Full green roof implementation for all city properties. Incentives or regulatory requirement applied to private property owners for same.

- The city needs to be more aggressive in its advocacy for expanded public transportation infrastructure. Implementation of the MAPC's "Urban Ring" plan is overdue largely due to lackluster support from city hall. Restoration of light rail service abandoned in the 70's and 80's would be a great step forward. We're lagging sadly behind the rest of the nation in that regard.

Youth Violence

5. SPECIFIC STEPS

The current economic downturn has brought on a predictable escalation of property crimes and "crimes of opportunity" to which I think the BPD has responded with appropriate vigilance. But organized criminal activity by adolescents is a separate phenomenon that can only be effectively addressed by direct, one-on-one intervention at the street level. It's costly and labor intensive, but it works.

If we want to do something about the guns, we'll have to take a deep breath and throw ourselves into a national debate about carry rights generally and gun sales specifically.

6. VISION

I want to see our youth fully engaged politically, intellectually and culturally. The Hyde Square Youth Task Force is a great example of what I'd like to see going on city-wide.

7. Accountability, Transparency

- The immediate electronic publication of all the city's administrative and legislative deliberations, in easily intelligible language and universally searchable format.
- Enforcement of existing law. Attorney General Coakley's refusal to prosecute Mike Kineavey for what appears to have been deliberate destruction of public records is a disgrace.

8. Charter Reform

Yes. There are many things I'd like to tweak. But my top priorities would be the establishment of parity between the mayor's office and the council, the realignment of council seats, and the adoption of instant run-off elections for all city offices.

Education

9. EDUCATION BUDGET

I cannot support the closure of any elementary schools. In fact, we need more of them.

10. SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

I think we should have a goal of walk-to schools for every child in the city. But we can only achieve this goal if there is a consensus among all communities concerned. Many in the city's predominantly black and Hispanic neighborhoods fear that we will return to a system of de facto segregation. I think that they're right to be wary. But we should keep in

mind that the city's demographic metrics have shifted dramatically since the 70's. With a planning process based on inclusiveness, creativity and mutual good will, we can solve this conundrum.

11. RACE TO THE TOP FUNDING

Race to the Top is a horribly put together program. Sweeping off funding for schools that demonstrably require greater assistance is just dumb. Jonathan Kozol is right: All we need to fix our schools is love and money. And anyone who says otherwise is either lying or deluded.

12. Jobs

We need a growth ring policy like that in Seattle, that more tightly constricts suburban sprawl, one that is comprehensive, addressing industry as well as housing. Aside from environmental impact, one of the great effects of such a policy is the attraction of commercial activity back into the urban core which, in turn, creates jobs.

Boston's regulatory environment is punitive and confusing. People shouldn't be walking away from the start-up process in bewilderment and anger.

Labor

13. FIREFIGHTER ARBITRATION DECISION

No.

14. CITY COUNCIL ROLE IN LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

The council should be tempering extremism on both sides, reminding all players that the immediate operational needs of the city trump the bragging rights of the negotiating parties. The city council should refuse to fund agreements that fail to meet this standard.

15. Race and Diversity

Affirmative action is necessary and just. I see no need to come up with cutesy alternative names for it. Either we do the right thing or we don't. Just because someone else had a

clumsily drafted policy doesn't mean we shouldn't refine and redouble our own efforts.

Budget Policy

16. BUDGET TRANSPARENCY

One suggestion: just make it transparent! The entire process should be public. After all, there are no proprietary trade secrets involved — heck, either you pay for stuff or you don't.

See my remarks on charter reform above.

17. MUNICIPAL CONTROL OVER HEALTH PLAN DESIGN

I am in favor of anything that moves us closer to a universal, single payer healthcare system. If the petition seeks to fold municipal employees into the state plan, and requires the city to cover the differential cost of meeting negotiated benefits, I'm for it. But I don't think the city should be allowed to simply walk away from benefits negotiated in good faith.

18. BUDGET PRIORITIES

I think the mayor's cuts have been penny wise and pound foolish. It is easy to look brave and principled by making dramatic cuts to big ticket budget items. But I believe there are far greater gains to be made by examining operational and administrative excesses and redundancies — small lapses of oversight and practical management that cost little individually but cost vast sums collectively. A top to bottom, third party operational audit could work wonders for the city's bottom line.

Lightening Round (Yes or No)

- 19. Support union organizing. **Yes**
- 20. Support the death penalty? **No**
- 21. Support same sex marriage? **Yes**
- 22. Support anti-discrimination laws **Yes**
- 23. Pro-choice? **Yes**
- 24. Support progressive income tax? **Yes**

Jim Hennigan

1. Why do you want to be a District City Councilor?

A district City Councilor needs to be an advocate for his community, someone who puts active time into making our neighborhoods better and someone who will get things done. That is what I have been doing for my community for over twenty years. District 6 needs a councilor with a proven record.

2. Affordable Housing

I do support the goal of having affordable housing be a part of development projects. I feel that developers should be encouraged to include mixed income housing in their projects.

3. Development

We need to have a program to convert existing abandoned and foreclosed buildings into affordable housing. This will have two positive impacts on the neighborhoods. This would generate more housing for working families who want to stay in the city. It would also help eliminate the dangers associated with abandoned properties.

4. Environment and Energy

We need to make sure that city buildings, especially older buildings, are energy efficient. Very often older schools are a source of wasted energy.

There should be a goal to make sure that the fleet of city owned vehicles are predominately hybrids or electric vehicles.

The city needs a master plan to protect our open green space. We are very fortunate in Boston to have beautiful public areas. We need to protect these places which have been part of our neighborhoods for generations.

Youth Violence

5. SPECIFIC STEPS

I feel we need a collaboration effort from the schools, churches, police and community leaders to show our youth that there are positive options available to them. Giving opportunities of training for jobs and having more programs available to teenagers will help give them choices to take positive actions.

6. VISION

I believe in a city that offers its youth the best educational opportunities. We need to give them a path to attend college or train for a skilled profession.

We need community based programs to have a positive effect on our youth. This will be my priority as a District City Councilor.

7. Accountability, Transparency

City business including the budget process should be available through a user friendly web site. The public should have the ability to express their views on this site.

I believe there should be regularly scheduled Council meetings in the neighborhoods of the city.

8. Charter Reform

Government should reflect the needs of the people. The City Charter should be reviewed to ensure that as times change, city government can respond to those changes.

Education

9. EDUCATION BUDGET

My priority will be to keep all the schools within District 6 open.

10. SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

We cannot continue to pay for empty buses. Transportation for students who need it should be done in smaller vehicles. The money saved should be allocated directly to classroom services.

11. RACE TO THE TOP FUNDING

The money should go to education programs in the classroom.

12. Jobs

With large development projects in Boston, there should be a requirement hire local residents and contractors. They should also provide training opportunities for residents of the city.

Labor

13. FIREFIGHTER ARBITRATION DECISION

I would support binding arbitration, but would have recommended reducing the terms of the settlement.

The firefighters were correct in renegotiating the terms of the binding arbitration.

14. CITY COUNCIL ROLE IN LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

The city council should advocate that all collective bargaining be done in a timely fashion, to avoid having to go to arbitration.

15. Race and Diversity

Education has to be the first priority. Schools and community programs that offer training programs can help give young people the tools they need to compete in the workplace.

Budget Policy

16. BUDGET TRANSPARENCY

The budget process should be available on line. Some budget hearings should be held in the neighborhoods.

17. MUNICIPAL CONTROL OVER HEALTH PLAN DESIGN

No, I do not support the home rule petition.

18. BUDGET PRIORITIES

I will work to make sure that there are no further cuts any libraries or community centers.

Lightening Round (Yes or No)

- 19. Support union organizing. **Yes**
- 20. Support the death penalty? **No**
- 21. Support same sex marriage? **Yes**
- 22. Support anti-discrimination laws. **Yes**
- 23. Pro-choice? **Yes**
- 24. Support progressive income tax? **No**

Matt O'Malley

1. Why do you want to be a District City Councilor?

Simply put, I want to serve my community. This city has given me some incredible opportunities, and I want to make sure that every person — in every neighborhood — is able to have the same access and equity of opportunity that I received. As a lifelong resident of Boston, I have lived, worked, or volunteered in every corner of the 6th Council District. I have worked in both the public and private sector, and have volunteered countless hours in varying organizations in building stronger neighborhoods. I have the unique blend of energy and experience to build a better Boston for all.

2. Affordable Housing

Yes. These ambitious goals will help facilitate more affordable housing and allow for more opportunities for homeownership in Jamaica Plain.

3. Development

I support more mixed-use housing and development, stronger environmental protection and preservation, and better support and cultivation for our local business districts. If elected, I will work to ensure that the community voice is heard in development, open spaces are protected, and Main Streets business districts continue to thrive.

4. Environment and Energy

I support increasing the number of hybrid vehicles in the City's fleet, funding weatherization and solar expansion for the city buildings, expansion of renewable projects, and placing and exploring the idea of developing wind turbines in and around some of the harbor islands. Additionally, I would support the efforts led by Councilor John Connolly in creating an Environmental Science Academy within the BPS, and adding a district-wide green curriculum to our schools. Finally, I would support the expansion of local agricultural efforts and commerce, fostering and encouraging more locally owned food sources and markets.

Youth Violence

5. SPECIFIC STEPS

I support increasing and implementing proved success that helped foster the so-called Boston Miracle of the mid/late 1990's: more community police officers, more youth outreach workers, better communication among public safety

stakeholders. Community Policing works, we need to have more cops walking and biking the streets. We need to foster stronger relationships between public safety officials and community groups, crime watches, and civic associations. Moreover, we need to look at working with the Sheriff's Department and Parole Board in developing stronger reentry and reintegration policies. Finally, we need to look at ways of treating drug addiction with recovery and educational programs. The council can and should play a role in directing funding for these crime prevention measures.

6. VISION

I want every kid to realize his/her worth and give them the hope and tools to achieve their dreams. If we are able to strengthen the school system, we'll be making significant progress in providing opportunity for our youth. We also need to be developing worthwhile after-school and weekend programs for high-school kids, including job and internship opportunities. We need to emulate the Saturday Success School — a weekend tutoring/mentoring program at Boston Latin School — at every high school in the city. We need to close the digital divide by allowing web-based classes, instruction, and development, in every neighborhood and community center. We need to give the youth of Boston a little spark that will allow them to soar.

7. Accountability, Transparency

I support easier accessibility and understanding of all financial transactions involved in the city's budget (having the city's entire budget available for viewing on the web). I support televising all City Council hearings and School Committee meetings on public access channels. I would favor continuing Council President Ross's roving council meetings that could take place in the evening at rotating neighborhoods.

8. Charter Reform

Yes. I hope to serve on the Council's Charter Reform Ad-Hoc Committee and would welcome an open process with the public in determining what changes could be made. One idea I would like to explore would allow for a hybrid school committee made up of a membership that is half elected/half appointed. This model has been used to great success in the District of Columbia.

Education

9. EDUCATION BUDGET

Under most circumstances, I oppose closing schools. However, times, student population, and the state of the physical plant might warrant it. Before we closed any school, I would make sure that we had the resources and space to provide alternate opportunities for the current student body.

10. SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

I support an increase in the number of seats for neighborhood schools and would use the revenue gained in a reform of the transportation to build and better fund underperforming schools. We can and ought to use the funding saved in building thriving schools in every neighborhood.

11. RACE TO THE TOP FUNDING

I would use the potential tens of millions of dollars to be gained in RTF in hiring more teachers and lengthening the school day by one hour.

12. Jobs

I would emulate the model used in the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department of an aggressive recruitment process in ensuring a work force that looks like the city. We can do this by holding job fairs and forums in every neighborhood and look at our high schools and colleges reaching out and engaging potential workers.

Labor

13. FIREFIGHTER ARBITRATION DECISION

I was pleased that the council was able to facilitate concessions between the city and Local 718. While I support collective bargaining and arbitration, I do not believe that any public employee should be rewarded with financial incentives for passing a drug test.

14. CITY COUNCIL ROLE IN LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

I would like to see the council play a stronger role in negotiating and finding common ground on contract disputes. I believe that the council should have a seat at the table during table negotiations rather than simply having to ratify or deny a contractual agreement.

15. Race and Diversity

As mentioned in the jobs question, I believe that there are other ways in which the city can do diversify its workforce.

By stronger and aggressive outreach to all neighborhoods, and by meeting metrics that would enable a better citywide distribution within the workforce, we can make sure that city workers better reflect the city's diversity. If I were lucky enough to win, I would start by hiring a council staff that reflected the diversity of the district.

Budget Policy

16. BUDGET TRANSPARENCY

As mentioned in the transparency question, I would put the entire city budget on-line, as well as all bid proposals.

17. MUNICIPAL CONTROL OVER HEALTH PLAN DESIGN

No. Changes to health insurance benefits should continue to be negotiated through collective bargaining.

18. BUDGET PRIORITIES

I would fight for funding to protect libraries and community centers and would place more funding into the Boston Public Schools, crime prevention initiatives, economic development, and green projects. I believe that we need to aggressively collect Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) fees from certain colleges and universities as a means of closing the budget shortfall. Additionally, we need to close corporate tax loopholes as a means of creating other revenue streams.

Lightening Round (Yes or No)

- 19. Support union organizing. **Yes**
- 20. Support the death penalty? **No**
- 21. Support same sex marriage? **Yes**
- 22. Support anti-discrimination laws. **Yes**
- 23. Pro-choice? **Yes**
- 24. Support progressive income tax? **Yes**

Sean Ryan

1. Why do you want to be a District City Councilor?

I am running for office because government is enacting flawed economic and social policies. I will work to undo these policies and help the people of Boston raise their standards of living. I have an acute focus on the three most important issues facing the people of District 6 today: schools, services and safety. I offer common sense solutions that reflect the needs and sensibilities of my JP and West Roxbury neighbors, and that will not require higher taxes or new fees in order to implement.

2. Affordable Housing

The solution to a lack of affordable housing is to revise outdated zoning codes, lower taxes on residential property owners, and let the market respond to consumer demand. There is going to be additional demand for rental units as the turmoil in the mortgage market continues. We should let developers respond to demand for housing by allowing dense developments in several key locations: 1) along commercial main streets (a la Brookline); 2) around MBTA stations (transit-oriented development); and 3) on unused or vacant properties. High prices are an incentive for people to build new housing. Government intervention into the market for housing, however well-intentioned, fails to accomplish its stated goals and ends up politicizing the development process. We must be wary of creating a situation in which only the poor (via subsidized rents or government-owned projects) and the wealthy can afford to live in the city.

3. Development

Government should not prioritize certain kinds of development — in a free society, it is the people's priorities that matter. Jackson Square could be a vibrant mixed-use hub of activity, accessible by T and at the crossroads of two neighborhoods. The best way to see development happen quickly and cost-effectively is to sell off government-owned or controlled land in the area, and let the market discover uses catering to the needs of consumers. If a developer determined that demand in that particular location made profitable a slim, 30-story rental apartment tower, where many younger folks could live — freeing up our triple-decker stock for young families — I would not be inclined to oppose it. Cities are supposed to grow — and the market is a better “planner” than any politician. We need new, clearly-worded zoning regulations that

reflect the concerns of residents but also allow the housing market to expand.

4. Environment and Energy

Over the coming years, as fuel prices rise, we will see many more urban dwellers getting out of their cars and onto bicycles and/or mass transit. Since government agencies control our roads, parks, paths and subways, we should focus on making these transportation options safer, more reliable and more cost effective. Along these lines, I will work to ensure that covered, secure bike-storage facilities exist at all MBTA subway and commuter rail stations. I will support ride-sharing networks and businesses, so that neighbors can minimize their transportation costs. I will also work to make sure that all public park land is being fully used, in ways that local residents prefer. One example would be converting under-used sections of the Southwest Corridor into dog parks, creating a less attractive environment for those involved in illicit activities, and allowing responsible pet owners to get the most out of their urban experience.

Youth Violence

5. SPECIFIC STEPS

6. VISION

Urban violence can often be linked to drug activity. I oppose the “war on drugs,” support the legalization and regulation of recreational drugs like marijuana, and believe that a focus on addiction treatment, rather than the incarceration of non-violent offenders, will save us money and help to unclog our already strained criminal justice system. Just as alcohol prohibition in the 1920's led to a pronounced rise in organized crime and violence, drug prohibition today creates urban black market activity between actors who sometimes resort to force to settle disputes over property, because they cannot ask the government to arbitrate. Ceasing to enforce laws against private, non-violent activities will free the police to focus on tried-and-true preventative measures like beat-walking and community policing. As city councilor, I will hold hearings in all 11 police districts to bring together community leaders and police, so they can educate each other on actions that need to be taken to tamp down on violence. Sensible solutions will make our streets safer, and will save us money.

7. Accountability, Transparency

I am an advocate of total transparency in government. Technology allows the online publication of municipal expenses and salaries, in an easily searchable format. Service-related requests can be tracked, and records of these requests can be made available to the public. City workers can be locatable through GPS technology, and the public can see, via the city website, the location of public servants, as well as their task assignment. We deserve to know how our dollars are being spent.

8. Charter Reform

I believe that the City of Boston needs to be more independent from the government of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and that — in order best to serve Bostonians — our local officials should be able to make certain policy changes without the need to ask permission from the state legislature (via the home rule petition process). I also believe that certain agencies — like the BRA — need to be reformed or closed.

Education

9. EDUCATION BUDGET

10. SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

11. RACE TO THE TOP FUNDING

As a former student and volunteer and current BPS teacher and Teachers Union member — I understand the challenges facing educators in the BPS and the concerns of District 6 parents. The closing of schools is nothing new. Working and middle class families have been alienated from the BPS for decades. Band-aid measures will not fix the system. We need to focus our attention on three of the most important issues, reach a consensus, and begin implementing permanent reforms. We should reform the assignment process (the “lottery”) and provide neighborhood schools for parents who want them, with other options for parents with other preferences or special needs. We must phase out busing, which serves no educational purpose and accounts for 10% of the BPS budget, using the cost savings to provide arts, music, sports, and after-school programs. We must decide once and for all whether charter schools — which are taxpayer-funded — are part of a fair and legitimate model for urban education. If so, we should provide this public service for all who desire it, instead of arbitrarily relegating 8000 students to a waiting list.

12. Jobs

Government cannot “save or create” jobs. Jobs are created by investors, entrepreneurs and businessmen. Minimum wage laws create unemployment among less-skilled workers, and drive jobs overseas. If we want more jobs for the unemployed, we need to lower taxes, stop enacting new regulations and other new costs to business owners, and let people keep more of their money.

Labor

13. FIREFIGHTER ARBITRATION DECISION

14. CITY COUNCIL ROLE IN LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

No member of the City Council was obligated to support

the arbitrators’ settlement of the contract dispute between the City and Local 718. As a City Councilor and a member of two unions, I will strive to be a fair and unbiased mediator between the City and its employees.

15. Race and Diversity

I do not believe in any form of collectivism, a philosophy in which a person’s identity is derived more from her membership in a group, rather than her own unique and personal characteristics. I strive to treat all individuals with respect, and not to make distinctions based upon skin color. I would hope that all public employees would be hired (or fired) based upon an objective measurement of their job performance, and not based upon racial characteristics. I would point out, however, that local governments — broken up into smaller jurisdictions — are more likely to reflect the makeup and sensibilities of their people than centralized governments.

Budget Policy

16. BUDGET TRANSPARENCY

17. MUNICIPAL CONTROL OVER HEALTH PLAN DESIGN

18. BUDGET PRIORITIES

All city expenses, down to the transaction, all RFPs and contract bids, and all invoices for services received should be posted online in an easily searchable, free database. I do not support the unilateral imposition of contract alterations — if the City would like to renegotiate with its employees in light of the deteriorating economic situation, I would support and assist in those negotiations. I will work to ensure that the most vulnerable members of society — children and the elderly — are protected during a time when public expenditures must be curtailed.

Lightening Round (Yes or No)

19. Support union organizing. **I support all voluntary associations**
20. Support the death penalty? **No**
21. Support same sex marriage? **Government should enforce contracts between consenting adults**
22. Support anti-discrimination laws. **Public services should be provided without discrimination**
23. Pro-choice? **Family planning is a personal issue to be handled by families, not the Federal government**
24. Support progressive income tax? **No**