

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?

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**