

2021 ELECTION GUIDE



**Vote on Tuesday,
September 14, 2021**

**Polls are open
7:00am – 8:00pm**



ROSIE'S PLACE

This Election Guide was prepared by the Rosie's Place
Public Policy Program

For an online version, go to rosiesplace.org/how-we-help/ongoing-support/public-policy

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Mayoral candidates who did not respond

Kim Janey

Website: mayorjaney.com

VOTING LOCATIONS

If you are registered to vote at:

Rosie's Place (889 Harrison Avenue, 02118) vote at:

- **Orchard Gardens Community Center, 2 Dearborn St.**

Woods Mullen (794 Massachusetts Avenue, 02118),
Pine Street Women's Inn (363 Albany Street, 02118),
Pine Street Men's Inn (444 Harrison Avenue, 02118),
vote at:

- **Cathedral High School Gym, 1336 Washington St.**

Women's Lunch Place (67 Newbury St, 02116), vote at:

- **Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 15 Newbury St.**

St. Francis House (39 Boylston Street, 02116), vote at:

- **Metropolitan Community Room, 38 Oak St.**

If you are registered to vote at a different Boston address, please call the City of Boston elections department at **617.635.4635**, visit **wheredoivotema.com** to find your polling location or reach out to the Rosie's Place Public Policy program for assistance.

YOUR RIGHTS

Q: Do I have to register to vote every election?

A: No. You should register to vote if this is your first-time voting, after you move, or if you have not voted in a while. If you are not sure if you are registered, you can still register.

Q: Can I register to vote on election day?

A: No. If you need to register or want to update your voter registration, you must do so by Wednesday, August 25, 2021 by 8pm.

Q: Can I register to vote or update my registration online?

A: Yes. You can register to vote or update your registration online anytime if you have a Mass ID or Driver License by visiting registertovotema.com. You can also pick up a paper application at the front desk at Rosie's Place, or go to Boston City Hall and register to vote in-person.

Q: Can I vote by mail in this election?

A: Yes. If you have not received an application to vote by mail, go to boston.gov/departments/elections/how-vote-absentee-ballot or call Boston City Hall for assistance: 617.635.8683.

Q: Can I vote early in this election?

A: This is still being debated by the state legislature. For further information you can go to the Boston elections website: boston.gov/departments/election or call the Boston elections office: 617.635.8683.

YOUR RIGHTS

Q: I forgot where my polling is location, can I vote anywhere?

A: No. Unless you are voting early or by mail, you must vote at your polling location. You can find where you vote at wheredoivotema.com.

Q: Do I have to show a photo ID to vote?

A: No. You may be asked for identification if you are a first-time voter or have not voted in a long time. You may show a piece of mail with your name, voting address or a letter from a shelter where you are registered.

Q: Can I bring this guide into the polling booth?

A: Yes. You can bring this guide, your own notes, and any other helpful information you might need. You can even bring along a friend who can help you vote if you need assistance.

Q: I was once incarcerated, can I vote?

A: Yes. If you have a criminal record, are on parole or on probation, you can vote! Only people currently incarcerated for a felony cannot vote.

Q: What if they can't find my name at my poll?

A: You can still vote! Ask for a provisional ballot and your vote will be counted once your registration has been confirmed.

Have your rights been violated?

Contact the Election Protection Hotline (866.OUR.VOTE), the Dept. of Justice Voting Rights Hotline (800.253.3931), an attorney, or Rosie's Place Legal Program!

Q: How often do we elect a Boston Mayor?

A: Every 4 years, on odd years (2017-2021-2025), the role of Mayor of Boston is up for election. Preliminary races are held if there are more than two candidates for Mayor; then a Preliminary Election is held to narrow the field down to two candidates and the two top vote getters advance to the General Election.

Q: Is there a Preliminary Election in 2021?

A: Yes. Because there are 8 candidates who qualified to run for Mayor, the field needs to be narrowed down to just two so that voters can choose from them once again in the General Election, scheduled for Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

Q: How many candidates can I select for Mayor?

A: For the Mayoral Election, you can only choose one candidate, otherwise, your vote will be deemed invalid. The same applies for District Councilors, but you can pick up to four candidates for At-Large Council.

Q: What is the job of a Mayor?

A: The Boston Mayor is the chief executive for the City of Boston. The Mayor oversees every City Office and the implementation of city laws (ordinances). The mayor is also responsible for proposing an annual city budget; enacting or vetoing laws passed by Council; calls the City Council to meetings recommends ordinances and loans among many other duties. The Mayor also oversees the City's constituency services programs in addition to the work of Councilors.

CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

In addition to choosing one Mayoral candidate for the preliminary election, you will also get to choose up to four City Council At-Large candidates, and one District Council candidate if you live in a district with more than two candidates running.

While this guide focuses on the Mayoral election, there are 17 candidates running At-Large:

Said Abdikarim	Website: sa-id.com
Kelly Bates	Website: batesforboston.com
James Reginald Colimon	Website: colimon2021.com
Domingos DaRosa	Website: darosaatlarge.org
Michael Flaherty	Website: michaelflaherty.com
Althea Garrison	Website: website.com
Alexander Gray	Website: votealexgray.com
David Halbert	Website: david4boston.com
Ruthzee Louijeune	Website: ruthzeeforboston.com
Julia Mejia	Website: juliaforboston.com
Carla Monteiro	Website: carlaforboston.com
Erin Murphy	Website: erinfoorboston.com
Bridget Nee-Walsh	Website: bridgetneewalsh.com
Roy Owens Sr.	Website: royowensboston.mysite.com
Donnie Palmer	Website: palmeratlarge.org
Jonathan Spillane	Website: jonforboston.com
Nick Vance	Website: nickvanceforboston.com

Q: How often do we elect City Councilors?

A: Every 2 years, on odd years (2017-2019-2021), all seats are up for election. Preliminary races are held if there are more than 2 district councilors and more than 8 at-large councilors.

Q: How many City Councilors are there?

A: Four at-large councilors represent the whole city. You can vote for up to four in the preliminary and general election. Nine district councilors represent one district each. You can vote for one in the preliminary and general election in your district.

Q: What is the job of a City Councilor?

A: The City Council is a legislative body and makes laws pertaining to the City of Boston. They connect city residents with their government; serve constituents by connecting them to resources and city services and departments; are advocates for Boston residents and their needs; and are responsible for listening and responding to your city-related needs and finding solutions to problems.

Q: What district do I live in?

A: To find your district, you can go to boston.gov/my-neighborhood and use the search tool or call the City Council directly at 617.635.3040.

FOUR QUESTIONS

We asked 4 questions that came directly from guests to all Mayoral candidates about issues impacting our community:

Housing:

For far too many people with extremely low income or no income it is nearly impossible to find an affordable rent in Boston, and even with a voucher there are stigmas and biases that make it challenging to find housing. What will you do to ensure we have housing that is affordable and accessible?

Homelessness:

We believe homelessness is not a human qualifier but a circumstance a person is experiencing. Yet, far too many women experiencing homelessness feel unseen and unheard. What will you do to ensure the voices and needs of those experiencing homelessness are listened to and met?

Supporting Low-Income People:

The City of Chelsea recently conducted in a pilot of Universal Basic Income called “Chelsea Eats.” The results showed that 73% of \$2 million spent was on food. Given the challenges people face to afford housing, utilities, transportation, food, and basic needs even while employed, what creative solutions would you implement to improve the financial well-being of low-income people in the City of Boston?

COVID-19 and Shelters:

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted faults we long knew existed in our shelter system. Yet, we found unique ways to protect people experiencing homelessness such as creating non-congregate recovery sites, utilizing non-congregate hotels, reducing congregate shelter density, and better coordinating among shelters and other local public health partners. What will you to retain, expand, or improve upon the positive solutions that were implemented to address shelter needs throughout the pandemic?

Candidate responses are unedited.



Housing

Stigma, bias, and discrimination have no place in Boston and should NEVER stand between a person and the housing they need to thrive. I will use the full power of the mayor's office to guarantee that the housing rights of residents are not violated, streamline the process of qualifying for and utilizing housing vouchers, and make investments that support rental voucher holders in building financial assets and accessing homeownership opportunities.

Homelessness

The lived experiences and perspectives of the people of Boston must inform how we create policy and how we deliver services. This includes people who are experiencing homelessness. As mayor I will ensure equity in all facets of government through a justice audit that identifies institutional harms and that allows us to work together to overhaul and shape decision-making going forward.

Supporting Low-Income People

As mayor I will advocate at the city, state, and federal level for the resources needed to make Boston a city where all families can thrive. My policy proposals include creating healthy and truly affordable housing for all, making the T free, guaranteeing worker protections, achieving food justice across neighborhoods, implementing a community vision for Boston Public Schools, and closing the child-care gap that is economically harmful to so many families.

COVID-19 and Shelters

Housing is a human right. As mayor I will ensure that people of all genders and family configurations have access to the housing they need, including in shelters. Progress made during the COVID-19 crisis must continue. I will develop supportive housing across Boston's neighborhoods, work with the MBTA to guarantee convenient and free transportation, address barriers to accessing City-run and private shelters, and work with BPS to meet the needs of families experiencing homelessness.



Housing

My housing plan is an equity-driven approach that will optimize the City's housing assistance to provide immediate relief, take a holistic approach to planning and zoning reform, tackle homelessness, and create more affordable and stable housing for all. As substantial new federal assistance is available to provide rental relief, we must seize this moment by increasing housing affordability, leveraging City assets that are sitting vacant, and supporting the work of community land trusts.

Homelessness

In addition to the necessary work of implementing a housing-first approach with supportive programming, our city must ensure that the perspectives of all people experiencing homelessness and the direct providers servicing them have a seat at the table. We know that to truly tackle the issue of homelessness, we need voices in the room that have the lived experiences to inform our approach. I'm proud my housing plan included these perspectives in the development phases.

Supporting Low-Income People

I am committed to piloting Guaranteed Income in some form in the City of Boston as one way to ensure we give residents the supports they need to meet basic needs. We also need to tackle the affordability crisis in housing, create more pathways to economic opportunity, security, and wealth building, improve our food system to ensure no community is food insecure, and invest in transportation to make it accessible and affordable for all.

COVID-19 and Shelters

Our COVID-19 response showed us that there are ways to rapidly expand shelter access and can provide a roadmap of how we can cut red tape to increase transitional and permanent supportive housing in our city. We also need to ensure that our city government is working in partnership with shelters and providers to prepare for future public health crises by ensuring protocols and resources are in place to keep residents safe and healthy.

ANNISSA ESSAIBI-GEORGE



Housing

In addition to building more affordable housing, I'll invest significant resources to bridge the gap for those who are ineligible for rental vouchers while ensuring those who have received vouchers can use them. As Mayor, I will utilize density and zoning bonuses to incentivize the construction of deeply affordable multi-bedroom units and dedicate additional resources to the Fair Housing Commission to ensure that the body has the ability to enforce fair housing laws.

Homelessness

I've spent a great deal of time on the Council focused on homelessness and working with shelter providers, advocacy organizations, community groups and people experiencing homelessness through roundtable meetings. This will continue to be a top priority for me as Mayor, particularly for the issues homeless women face. As Mayor, I will continue to ensure that women with lived experience have a seat at the decision making table to inform the response to these issues.

Supporting Low-Income People

As Mayor, I'll bridge the gap between economic job centers and neighborhoods by encouraging equitable growth across the city, investing in reliable public transportation, and increasing affordable housing near employment hubs. My administration will work alongside community centers to conduct outreach in low-income areas to ensure that all Boston residents understand and are able to access the resources that are available to them. I would support a pilot similar to Chelsea's here in Boston.

COVID-19 and Shelters

I am committed to preserving the 500 additional shelter beds created during the pandemic. However, shelters are a short-term solution and we must provide residents with the help they need to find stable housing. As Mayor, I will invest in services located at shelters to provide resources and support. This includes placing at least one mental health clinician in each shelter to ensure that we are addressing the root causes of homelessness and facilitate engagement.



Housing

There is a housing crisis in Boston. There are several barriers to affordable, stable, and healthy housing. Because of the pandemic's economic ramifications, many Bostonians are at risk of eviction. As mayor, I would provide relief by providing direct rent assistance and interventions in evictions. I will increase affordable housing production in Boston to keep up with demand and stabilize rents and housing costs while dedicating more City resources for homeownership and public housing options.

Homelessness

As mayor, I will intentionally create a culture of equity in every aspect of our government. This culture will be inclusive of voices from a range of experiences, including residents currently experiencing homelessness. Growing up in Boston, there weren't many city leaders who looked like me. Although that has changed, we must strive to give more diverse voices a seat at the table. Our residents will see themselves represented in the Barros Administration.

Supporting Low-Income People

As the Chief of Economic Development, I oversaw the Office of Financial Empowerment, which supports residents in tax help to get their full EITC, credit building, and savings initiatives. These tools empower residents to take control. As mayor, I will support a guaranteed income initiative in Boston. We know that when people are empowered they make the best decisions for themselves and as mayor, I will support initiatives to provide direct assistance to families.

COVID-19 and Shelters

I believe that housing is healthcare and housing is a right. As Mayor, I will seek to continue innovative solutions to many of our city's challenges that were implemented to resolve complicated challenges from COVID-19. I will not resume the old ways of doing things simply because the pandemic is over. As we further the efforts of Boston's Way Home Fund, I will seek to listen and learn from leaders and people with lived experience to make all homelessness in Boston rare, brief, and non-repeating.



***“Community and democracy must work hand in hand,
otherwise we have neither.”***
-Kip Tiernan

Founded in 1974 by Kip Tiernan, Rosie's Place was the first drop in and emergency shelter for women in the United States. Rosie's Place is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment to help poor and homeless women maintain their dignity, seek opportunity, and find security in their lives.

The Public Policy department works to seek social justice on behalf of Rosie's Place guests. We work to achieve this goal through direct lobbying, coalition building and by empowering guests to be actively involved in civic life.

889 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118
617.442.9322
rosiesplace.org

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MY POLLING LOCATION IS:

I WILL VOTE AT (time):
