



## Massachusetts Voter Table & We Decide Coalition 2017 Boston Candidate Questionnaire

September 28, 2017

Dear Candidate:

Below you will find the Massachusetts Voter Table & We Decide Coalition 2017 Boston Candidate Questionnaire.

The Massachusetts Voter Table is a statewide network of community-based groups representing low-income people and people of color -- the New American Majority (NAM). The Voter Table increases the NAM's share of the statewide vote through strategic, coordinated voter registration, education and mobilization campaigns that connect values to voting. Table partners integrate election organizing with issue advocacy, grounded in leadership development.

The We Decide Coalition is a nonpartisan effort comprised of several nonprofit community groups and organizations that are coordinating a series of community forums with the candidates for Mayor and City Council. Over the past several years, our members have come together to host civic engagement events for the surrounding communities

MA Voter Table and We Decide Coalition have come together to populate this questionnaire highlighting issues and campaigns that are important in our neighborhoods. We will post your responses online and the questionnaire will be turned into a voter guide, which will share with voters across Boston -- through door-to-door canvassing, at local meetings and community events, at service agency offices, by mail and by email.

**The deadline for responses is Sunday October 8, 2017 by 11:59pm.** Please include a photo ready headshot.

Please note that we have a strict 40-word limit for each question, so that we can put your complete answers on our guide, which we are required to do by law. We will be obligated to stop your responses at the 40<sup>th</sup> word.

We very much appreciate you taking the time to fill this out. If you need more information about a particular issue or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisette Le".

Lisette Le  
Director, Massachusetts Voter Table  
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Please answer each of the following questions in 40 words or fewer. Your answers will be put on a voter guide to be shared with voters, and we are required by the laws governing 501c3s to put your exact words on our guide, so in order to fit your answers we must ask that you stick strictly to this limit. (If answers go over 40 words, we'll be forced to end them at the 40th word.) Shorter answers are also appreciated.

**The deadline for responses is Sunday October 8, 2017 by 11:59pm**

We greatly appreciate you taking the time to answer these questions.

Candidate Name: Domingos DaRosa

Office seeking: Boston City Council At-Large

Contact Information (Name, Phone/Email): darosaatlarge@gmail.com

Filled out by: Domingos DaRosa

Current occupation: Small Business Owner

## **GENERAL.**

1. If elected, what will be your first three action steps?

Visit all the schools and assess them and provide them with needed programs, visit the homeless shelters across Boston and help find homes, visit South Bay house of correction to inspire inmates to find a better way of life.

## **DEMOCRACY, VOTING RIGHTS**

2. In light of the underfunding of the 2020 Census, what will you commit to do to ensure that everyone will be counted? (40 words or less)

I will encourage community's members to complete the census in order for the city receives the funding needed to provide quality human services.

Will you commit to working with the US Census Bureau on the official address update program (LUCA) to ensure all of your constituents have an opportunity to be counted in the 2020 Census?

Yes  \_\_\_\_\_

No  \_\_\_\_\_

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING, DEVELOPMENT**

3. Low and moderate income families are being priced out of many of Boston's neighborhoods. How will you ensure that residents of all incomes have housing options and are able to afford living in their community? (40 words or less)

I would increase tax benefit for owner occupied property who keep their rent at a low rate, increase the percentage for affordable housing from 13% to 26% on new constructions.

4. The median home price in Boston is now \$560,000. Low-and moderate-income first time buyers struggle to afford a home in this market. Cambridge offers first time homebuyers financial assistance up to 50% of the purchase price in exchange for an affordable housing deed restriction. Would you support establishment of a similar buy-down program housed at Department of Neighborhood's Home Center using funds form linkage, IDP and CPA? Why or why not? (40 words or less)

Yes  \_\_\_\_\_

No  \_\_\_\_\_

We need to prompt the home buying program across the city, families that need extra support should receive the support needed to purchase a home within the city.

5. One of the resources available to build affordable housing in Boston is the Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP). If elected, what measures will you take to increase both the number of units built and the dollar amount paid into the IDP funds? (40 words or less)

I would vote to increase affordable unit from 13% to 26% on all new construction, increase rent to own units, make the community aware of their rights and vote against any project that doesn't benefit the community.

Would you support legislation to raise the percent of on-site affordable housing units required through IDP to 25%, why or why not?

Yes  \_\_\_\_\_

No  \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, we need more low income housing! Any new construction with 10 or more units need to be increase or the permit will not be issued.

6. Should City subsidies be given only to development projects with majority resident support, enforceable community benefit agreements and living wage jobs (both construction and/or permanent)? Why or why not? (40 words or less)

No, residents are not allowed to build on their properties so why should we only allow developers.

7. According to Census data, Boston has the fourth highest per capita rate of homelessness in the Country. What are your plans to reduce homelessness? (40 words or less)

The city needs to build city owned property to house the homeless and provide them with employment. We can help them get back on track in life. The city hasn't built public housing in decades it's time we do, instead of selling of the land to private developers.

8. Will you support the pilot program proposed by nine City Councilors, to spend at least \$5 million annually from the City budget and/or Community Preservation Act, to provide for a net increase in new rental housing for low income families, including but not limited to Housing First for the homeless? Why or why not? (40 words or less)

Yes  \_\_\_\_\_

No  \_\_\_\_\_

The city spent big money on GE to come to Boston, why not use that money to help the people of the city purchase a home so they can stay in their communities they lived in for generations.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JOBS**

9. Current, there is an effort to increase the state's minimum wage to \$15/hour. Do you support such an effort? If so, how will you ensure that funding for youth jobs increases to reflect the raised wage? (40 words or less)

Yes  \_\_\_\_\_

No  \_\_\_\_\_

By working with local businesses, private companies, colleges and universities, hospitals and the trades. I would bring back the Red Shirt program from the 90s.

10. If elected, how will you address the disparate unemployment rates and the barriers to employment causes by CORI and discrimination? (40 words or less)

I would provide more trade and job trading out of Madison Park High School in the evening after school hours. I will ensure all union project have the 20% minority required, and hire local employee, support any and all core reform legislations.

11. If elected, what steps will you take to further economic development in Boston's neighborhoods? (40 words or less)

By support local small businesses! Increase the amount of funding to support minority owned small businesses, provide workshops on starting a business, increase the numbers of city's projects given to small businesses, increase the numbers of small construction companies on new construction.

## **IMMIGRATION**

12. Would you support using City funds to provide attorneys for residents in immigration court? Why or why not? (40 words or less)

Yes  \_\_\_\_\_

No  \_\_\_\_\_

The percentage is higher when a lawyer is involved, detainees have a great chance of remaining in the states.

13. Do you favor maintaining the City's policies regarding protecting its residents through immigration enforcement? Would you favor enhancing those policies? If so, how? (40 words or less)

Yes \_\_Y\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, any information Boston Police receives of a non violent resident will not be shared with the Federal government.

## **EDUCATION**

14. What are your top 3 priorities your office will take in order to ensure quality education for all Boston's students? (40 words or less)

Student per teacher ratio, before and after school programs, bring back the arts and sports to school.

## **PUBLIC SAFTEY**

15. What factors do you believe contribute to violence in Boston? Should what role does city government play in addressing this issue? If so, what role? (40 words or less)

Education, the lack of city ran youth after school programs. The council vote the budget! The current council voted to cut the school budget decreasing funds needed to provide our youth with a safe environment, sports and other needed services.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

16. What do you intend to do to address health disparities Boston such high rates of asthma among communities of color and food insecurity? If elected, how do you intend to increase social and family support systems to address mental and public health issues? (40 words or less)

Every school should have these services for all families, promote programs already in existence, work with local health centers, community workshops, support local community groups.