

At-Large Candidates Competing in September 9th Preliminary Election Partnership Between Boston Municipal Research Bureau and Dorchester Reporter

It may still be summer but fall election season starts shortly in Boston. Early voting begins Saturday, August 30th for the September 9th preliminary election and mail-in ballots will be distributed earlier than that. While the Mayor's race has attracted most of the attention, there is also a competitive at-large City Council race with important distinctions between the candidates. The at-large race has 10 candidates vying for 8 general election slots with 4 at-large City Council seats at stake.

With a desire to know more about the candidates in this lightly covered race, the Boston Municipal Research Bureau partnered with the Dorchester Reporter to distribute and collect questionnaires to each qualified candidate. We heard back from 8 of them (listed in the order they appear on the official ballot):

- **Frank Baker** ([Questionnaire / Campaign Website](#))
- **Rachel Miselman** ([Questionnaire / Campaign Website](#))
- **Alexandra Valdez** ([Questionnaire / Campaign Website](#))
- **Will Onuoha** ([Questionnaire / Campaign Website](#))
- **Erin Murphy** ([Questionnaire / Campaign Website](#))
- **Ruthzee Louijeune** ([Questionnaire / Campaign Website](#))
- **Marvin Mathelier** ([Questionnaire / Campaign Website](#))
- **Julia Mejia** ([Questionnaire / Campaign Website](#))

Important Dates and Deadlines

- **August 30** - Voter registration deadline for Preliminary Municipal Election
- **September 9** – Preliminary Municipal Election
- **October 25** - Voter registration deadline for Municipal Election
- **November 4** – Municipal Election

Important Links

- Verify your [polling location](#)
- Check your [voter registration status](#)
- [Register to vote](#)

Two candidates did not respond to multiple inquiries: [Henry Santana](#) and [Yves Mary Jean](#).

All 8 respondents provided thoughtful, informed answers about the challenges facing the city. When asked about their priorities, three cited housing affordability while others noted education, public safety, democratic values, job training, and access to opportunity. Five supported the current rent control/stabilization proposal, while 3 opposed it. Similarly, four supported an elected school committee while four supported a hybrid committee. There was a range of opinions on critical city issues like inclusionary zoning, public safety, and education reform.

The Research Bureau encourages you to review each candidates' [responses](#) to get a better sense of their positions, experience and thinking on each of these issues, as well as several others.

We also encourage you to [read the article](#) from our partners at the Dorchester Reporter assessing their responses.

With voting beginning shortly and little information available about this critical race, the Research Bureau is pleased to provide information on each candidate's positions to educate voters. We look forward to providing more information on the remaining candidates as the general election approaches.