



Printed from: *Boston Herald* (<http://bostonherald.com>)

Editorial endorsements: For Boston City Council

Tuesday, September 17, 2013 -- Anonymous (not verified)

Editorials

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

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A changing of the guard at City Hall has brought open seats and dozens of aspiring Boston City Council candidates out of the woodwork. That's terrific for Boston — new blood and, most of all, new ideas will serve this city well. Several preliminary races merit attention here.

Of the 19 at-large candidates, Boston voters get up to four picks. Two at-large councilors are running for re-election; two others are running for mayor, leaving their seats up for grabs.

Incumbent **Stephen Murphy** of Hyde Park deserves re-election. We've had our differences with the current council president, and we could do without some of his publicity plays (banning all minors from mixed martial art events?). But Murphy has a good fiscal head on his shoulders and lately earned points for protecting the Eastie-only vote for a proposed East Boston casino.

Incumbent **Ayanna Pressley** of Dorchester also deserves another term; she represents an important voice on the council. We especially appreciate her recent effort to eliminate the costly red tape that restaurateurs face when trying to secure a liquor license. That is the bread and butter work of a city councilor. Pressley, the only woman currently serving on the council, serves at-large but is a particularly strong advocate for minority neighborhoods that face more barriers to building and expansion.

Also running at large, **Philip A. Frattaroli**, a lawyer and small business owner from the North End, grew up in his father's restaurants and now runs his own. His business perspective would be unique on the council; his fiscally conservative views would be a rare breath of fresh air, too.

Harvard-educated **Michelle Wu**'s credentials certainly go beyond food trucks — but we do love that as a City Hall staffer she helped spearhead a concept that grew to be wildly successful. We expect to differ with Wu, a South End resident, on policy issues (she worked on U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren's campaign, after all) but the council needs fresh ideas and Wu has plenty of them.

Meanwhile there are two competitive district races worth comment at this preliminary stage. In District 4, incumbent Charles Yancey decided to run for mayor but hedge his

bets by staying in the race for the council. But the people of District 4 deserve better than a councilor who sees service to them as a fallback. The three candidates challenging Yancey — **Divo Rodrigues Monteiro, Steven Godfrey and Terrance J. Williams** — are clearly more committed to the seat than the incumbent.

And in District 8, the Back Bay's **Josh Zakim** has a name that Bostonians will recognize. But this lawyer and son of the late, legendary civil rights leader Leonard Zakim, has an impressive resume of his own and his commitment to service simply can not be questioned.

Bostonians are blessed with great choices in 2013 and on Sept. 24 they can make their first choices clear.

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