
Editorial endorsements: For Boston City Council

Monday, October 28, 2013

By: Herald Staff

Amid the din of the mayoral contest, candidates for Boston City Council — in district and at-large contests — have had to work hard to make their voices heard.

In the race for the four at-large seats, several of our endorsed candidates survived the preliminary election. We're pleased to repeat our support of incumbent **Ayanna Pressley**, the only woman currently serving on the Council, for re-election to one of the four at-large seats. **Michelle Wu** has also won our support in the final; the South End resident is brimming with fresh ideas and is on the right side of the pending police arbitration deal, which she has criticized.

We're returning to a familiar face for another at-large endorsement, in former Council President **Michael Flaherty**. We've criticized Flaherty's seemingly unbreakable alliance with the city's firefighters' union and its past contract demands. But Flaherty has earned another look thanks to his experience and his insistence on fairness; if the firefighters had to concede to random drug and alcohol testing, for example, Flaherty argues the police patrolmen's union should, too.

We endorsed City Council President Stephen Murphy in the preliminary election and have long admired the council veteran's practical stand on issues. But Murphy appears to be doing everything in his power to lose support from those who want their leaders to, well, *lead*. Murphy had an opportunity to show leadership on the police arbitration deal, which is more than the city can afford and will start a race among other city unions for comparable raises. Attacking the mayor's office and complaining that the council will actually have to take a tough vote on the contract is no one's idea of a profile in courage .

In **District 2**, challenger **Suzanne Lee** has earned our support over

incumbent Bill Linehan. This district, which includes South Boston, Chinatown and the South End and has long been a lock for Southie pols, is growing and changing and crying out for new leadership. Lee, a former school principal who lives in Chinatown, is more than capable of providing it. And here too her opposition to that police arbitration award is key.

In **District 4**, incumbent Charles Yancey made it clear to his constituents just how committed he is to the district by running a simultaneous (losing) campaign for mayor. His opponent, **Terrance Williams**, a civic-minded employee of the Boston Water & Sewer Commission, deserves a shot.

There are two open district seats — **District 5** would enjoy a rather seamless transition with the election of **Timothy P. McCarthy**, a longtime city employee with strong ties to the Menino administration, to replace Rob Consalvo. In **District 8**, currently held by Michael Ross, lawyer **Josh Zakim**, deserves a chance to bring his commitment to service to the council.

Incumbent **Matt O'Malley** in **District 6** is a smart and energetic public servant with a strong record of constituent service. The same can be said of **Tito Jackson** in **District 7** and **Sal LaMattina** in **District 1**. But their political futures should be tied to their commitment to fiscal responsibility, if that arbitration award comes to a vote this week.

This is a time to elect people with the courage to stand up to special interests and say, "Enough!"