

4 EMPOWER AND INVEST IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACROSS THE CITY

Our city is only as strong as our people, and our investments should reflect that.

Voting Reform – We need to expand and encourage voting in local elections by removing barriers to voter registration such as implementing same day and automatic registration. We should also explore making Election Day a holiday, granting non-citizens a vote, and implementing no-fault absentee voting.

Right of Free Petition – Residents should have a direct way to influence the Council agenda. We are fighting to enable Boston residents to secure a City Council hearing on any issue, by submitting a petition with signatures from at least 250 residents interested in the issue.

Tenant Empowerment – We should require landlords to distribute information about voter registration and landlord-tenant laws to ensure that everybody is eligible to participate in our democracy and aware of their rights.

Municipal ID – We can remove barriers to obtaining formal government-issued identification and spark civic and cultural engagement by continuing to plan for a municipal identification card. This card should be available to all, regardless of immigration status, homelessness status, or gender identity, while also balancing privacy protections.

Fostering Arts and Culture – The City should continue to increase funding and partnerships for arts and culture. We can expand the ParkARTS program, cultural district designations, and other initiatives so that Bostonians in every neighborhood have access to free, year-round opportunities to create, both indoors and outdoors.

Protecting Residents Experiencing Homelessness – To ensure that everyone is treated equally, no matter their background or identity, the City should amend our Human Rights Ordinance to prevent discrimination based on homeless status and place of residence or business.

Participatory Budgeting – The City should empower Bostonians to participate in allocating City funds by recommending and voting on City projects.

Standing Strong on Equality – Boston should continue to stand up in the face of federal policies that discriminate against LGBTQ+ residents and demonstrate that a more equal community makes for a stronger city.