

## **2025 BMRB/Dorchester Reporter CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

### **Section 1: BACKGROUND/PERSONAL**

1. What is your name, age, and neighborhood where you live?  
Frank Baker, 57, Dorchester
2. What is your present occupation? Also, please note any past employment that may be relevant to your candidacy.  
I was a city councilor for 12 years and worked in the city for the previous 25 years
3. Please detail your educational background and achievements.  
Don Bosco Technical High School in 1986 where I studied the printing trade and immediately jumped into the workforce. It was not until I was a City Councilor that I was back in the classroom. I am also a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School Senior Executive Fellows program for State and Local Government.
4. Please list some of your affiliations with non-profits, civic associations, and political groups.  
Founder of Bioversity, Peoples Academy, and New Market Bid Board member  
Former Vice President of Columbia/Savin Hill  
25+ year Ward 13 member and former co-chair and convention delegate.
5. What in your experience to date will most help you to be an effective leader?  
12 years on the city council under four different mayoral administrations. And 25 years of experience in various city departments.
6. What are the three accomplishments you're most proud of?  
Aside from my marriage and children, keeping neighborhoods together in the redistricting process, advocating on liquor legislation to create opportunities in Dorchester business district, expanding job training, and working on a solution for the human trafficking problem in district 3.
7. When not on the campaign trail, how do you relax?  
I like to take a good walk with music and/or podcast playing. Or enjoying a good meal with my family.

### **Section 2: POLITICS & ELECTIONS**

1. What is your party affiliation and how would you characterize your political ideology?  
Common sense Democrat
2. Please name up to three (and at least one) of your political role models? Please feel free to explain your choices.  
Two of my political role models are Teddy Roosevelt and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Teddy Roosevelt is one of my political role models, particularly for his stance on the national parks and knowing that there is a need for resources to be shared. He had the foresight to bring the national park system to our country

which in turn allowed everyday people access to national treasures. FDR is another one of my role models because of his stewardship with leading the country through two of the worst crises - World War II and the Great Depression. FDR had the ability to put the country back to work with programs like the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The WPA employed unemployed people, using federal funds, in public works jobs to help lift the country out of the Great Depression. On a local level, I would look to Kevin White for his vision for the future of Boston. And Tom Finneran for his leadership in the Neponset Trail and Pope John Paul Park.

3. What would you do to increase voter turnout in the city of Boston, especially for local races?

We did multiple things to increase voter turnout but most importantly we should impress upon the importance in municipal elections and increase the interest in civic engagements.

### **Section 3: ISSUES & PRIORITIES**

1. What is your top priority if elected? How would you use your role as a city councillor to help address or accomplish it?  
Build more job training program
2. Is there a specific city agency you see as in need of urgent reform? If so, please explain.
3. What is your position on residency requirements, i.e. requiring people hired by the municipal government to live in the city of Boston?  
I believe in residency
4. Do you favor a return to an elected School Committee? Please explain.  
No, I would favor a hybrid model. And when I was on the city council, I filed legislation for a hybrid school committee.
5. Boston is facing a housing shortage that is impacting the affordability of living in the city. Separately, the Wu administration is pursuing zoning reform to spur development in certain areas and wants to see a return of the city's population to 800,000. What is your assessment of this target — and what would your office do to balance growth with the concerns that many have about displacement in neighborhoods?  
I would not focus on a population number. And would pay attention to the quality of life of the people in the city of Boston. I would ensure that the neighborhoods' voices would remain centered in the development process.
6. Do you support the City's current Inclusionary Zoning policy, which was revised in 2023? If not, what changes would you make?  
I would have the Inclusionary Zoning policy be more reflective on what is

happening in the economy.

7. What is your position on rent control?

No

8. What is your assessment of the Wu administration's overall performance?

Please offer a letter grade or pass/fail as part of your answer.

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9. The August 2024 closure of Carney Hospital left a huge hole in the city's public health sector. What would you do as a city councillor to address this problem and what is your position on how the Dorchester campus of Carney Hospital should be re-purposed or re-developed?

I have many ideas and would be actively involved in the discussion.

10. What are your plans to address traffic congestion, commuter safety and transportation needs? Please discuss bike lanes as part of your answer.

We need to look at transportation in a holistic manner, meaning everything from the T to watershuttle/taxis and come up with a well thought out plan for bicycle infrastructure that integrates with our current roads.

11. How will you approach the issue of gun violence in our communities?

Programs like Bioversity and the Peoples Academy (job training program to give hope to young people)

12. How would you confront the drug epidemic, safety, and sanitation issues affecting residents near Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard?

I have many ideas. I would support Senator Nick Collins's Bill S.1042, which requires that patients admitted to a medical facility for suffering an overdose receive an evaluation by a licensed social worker before discharge. I would like to build more Section 35 programming and beds with a followup support and wrap-around services that would provide long term recovery options. We need a system in place that will allow people longer term care than what we currently offer.

13. According to DESE's most recent data, 40.4% of Boston's public schools were classified as 'requiring assistance or intervention. In June 2022, Boston Public Schools entered into an agreement with the state to make improvements to the state of the Boston Public Schools. As the agreement expired in June, how would you work to ensure continued accountability for the City's schools, close achievement gaps and ensure that all BPS students receive a quality education?

14. 81.6% of BPS students are classified as high needs, compared to 55.8% at the state level. Do you believe that BPS is adequately serving high needs students, including English language learners and special education students, and if not,

what can be done to improve their approach?

15. Most of Boston's revenues come from property taxes, and robust new growth in recent years has enabled substantial budgetary increases, an average of 5.4% over the last decade. However, new growth in FY25 was \$90.5M, 25.7% less than FY24, and a slowdown in new construction in the city may impact future proceeds from the new growth that drives the City's budget. How will you approach these budget challenges and balance the needs of residents and commercial property owners?

We have more of a spending problem than a revenue problem.

Thank you for participating in the Boston Municipal Research Bureau/Dorchester Reporter questionnaire. Please send the completed document as a PDF or WordDoc to [dhalky@bmr.org](mailto:dhalky@bmr.org) by Friday, Aug. 15, 2025.