

Steve Murphy

Affordable Housing

I am in support of Transit-oriented development that encourages people to use public transportation to move about the city. And with new development I believe that thirty percent of the units should be dedicated to low income/affordable housing unit.

Development

One of the rich characteristics of Jamaica Plain is its open space, which must be preserved. I am committed to preserving open space first and foremost. Where development is possible height and density are two areas that are important to me. We have to make certain that we don't build to high or too much so that we exacerbate our already overwhelmed parking and traffic issues. We need to strive to maintain the quality of life residents enjoy.

Environment and Energy

I have been an advocate for several years now on the Computer Take Back issue and have, in fact, been the only councilor up at the State House to testify on this issue.

In terms of what we should do in the City of Boston, as Chair of Ways & Means (2008) and working with Councilor Connolly, I pressed for and tripled the number of hybrid vehicles the City purchased. I continue to push for more. I am an advocate of generating electricity through wind turbines and solar panels. I also would like to see the City use energy efficient light bulbs and continue to use motion sensor lights wherever possible. I also know we can reduce the lighting costs for the City by turning off the lights on city buildings at night and on the weekends.

Youth Violence

I encourage collaborative partnerships with the stakeholders, and we are all stakeholders. Not only would I like to see increased numbers of youth workers and after school programs, I would like to see an increase in the number of positive contact our youth has with the Boston Police Department through various events held across the city.

A society is judged by how we care for our youth and our seniors. That said, my vision is that we provide positive alternatives to our youth so that they aren't lured into a situation that could negatively impact them. This is an effort that we all must embrace and one that I believe can happen.

By matching our youth with positive role models in their community we will see a difference in what these young boys and girls will achieve.

Accountability, Transparency

1. I am proud to have authored an ordinance requiring city councilors to disclose their financial interests that passed in city council and was then signed by the mayor earlier this year.
2. I was also the main sponsor on reforms to the retirement board
3. Working with Council President Ross, the Council continues to use technology to open up even further the city councils policies and procedures.

Education

It goes without saying that we need a more efficient transportation plan for Boston, and I have been actively involved with this issue for years. We can't sustain forty-three passenger vehicles carrying only fifteen students across the city with the current zone plan. It makes no sense. The Council, under my leadership increased the load factor per bus. I believe if we decreased the buses from 700 to 500 or less we could see a cost savings of \$20-25 million. That money could be better spent on education needs.

I'm not an educator by vocation but my understanding is that some of it may be attributed to limited English language skills. To overcome this I believe we need more early learning centers as well as increased remedial and tutorial offerings at the earliest evidence that students need added services.

The Boston City Council doesn't have the authority to change the School Department. That's what the School Committee is charged with. That said, what I can do as a city councilor is work with Superintendent Johnson to bring added resources where available. I can also monitor the department and engage in dialogue to change personnel where needed. As you know, the City Council can oversee the budget and make cuts, though not line items. This is a better question for the Superintendent and/or School Committee members.

Human Services

Last years PHC budget was \$69 million and the FY10 budget is a little over \$70 million. The budget for the PHC has been consistent since I was first elected. Boston is the only city that hasn't walked away from public health. The City should be applauded for that. We've gone from receiving \$462 million to \$199 million in State aid. If I could invest \$10 million in those agencies I would rely on the public health officials to determine how the money would be best utilized.

Transportation

The Boston City Council has no role in the state's transportation issues other than that we have a bully pulpit to speak on it. That said I support the Governor's Transportation Reform Bill. I think there should be an increase in the gas tax. Again, the city council has no role in this issue but I support Governor Patrick in his efforts. It is fair to have the users paying for the service; it is not fair to have property owners overburdened with taxes.

Jobs and Labor

I am supportive of job training and mentoring opportunities that give individuals hands on experience in a chosen field. We need to do a better job insisting that on all development projects in our city that Boston jobs are filled by Boston residents.

Race and Diversity

I believe there are a plethora of opportunities within the City of Boston. In order to retain and add to our diversity is further job training. The majority of BPS students may be able to pass the MCAS but the students lack job skills. We need to implement a program that gives inner-city youth and opportunity to work (such as a co-op) with mentors in positions that they are interested in.

Budget Policy

I've been working on changing the way the Payment in Lieu of Taxes is calculated so that there is some tax fairness on the issue, as well as some added revenue generated for the City. In light of my work on this issue for the last several years the Mayor appointed me to the Task Force charged with making changes to the current PILOT pay-

ment program. We will see some change on this particular issue this year. That alone will generate much needed revenue for Boston.

I also support the meals and hotel tax, as well as a telecom tax. These important options will yield an additional \$30 to \$40 million per year in much needed revenue.

In the last three years I have worked with my colleagues to reduce the overtime budget of both the Fire Department and the Police Department. Neither department is being realistic in their current operating manner (in regards to overtime). We forced them to reduce their overtime budgets and I think that is a great step in saving the City money.

If I could increase the budgets of two city departments I would actually add to three (in no particular order):

1. Boston Centers for Youth and Families
2. Public Health Commission
3. The chronically underfunded Parks and Recreation department.

Lightning Round (Yes or No)

Many workers in Boston are organizing to form unions, especially in the hospitals. Will you publicly support their efforts to organize? **Yes**

Do you support the death penalty? **No**

Do you support same sex marriage? **Yes**

Do you support anti-discrimination laws that protect someone from being fired, or denied housing, education, or access to public facilities (including bathrooms) based on their gender identity? **Yes**

Are you pro-choice? **Yes**

Would you support a state constitutional amendment implementing a progressive income tax?

Inclined to support it but need more information.