

BIPOC ★★★ TO THE ★★★ BALLOT BOX

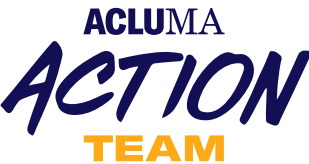
AT-LARGE CITY COUNCIL RACE VOTER GUIDE

VOTE NOV. 4 | 7AM-8PM

BIPOC to the Ballot Box is a non-partisan, non-endorsing public education campaign launched by the ACLU of Massachusetts and partners to build voter awareness and engagement in municipalities with large or growing Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. Our goal is to provide **Springfield** voters access to the information they need to make an informed decision at the polls this November 4th.

All candidates for the 2025 at-large city council races in **Springfield** were asked the same questions and given equal opportunity to respond. Those who did not respond are marked as “no response.”

For candidates’ full answers, visit aclum.org/en/bipoc-ballot-box



SPRINGFIELD

If elected, would you support:	       							
	Nicole Coakley	Sean Curran	Jose Delgado	Justin Hurst	Juan Latorre	Brian Santaniello	Kateri Walsh	Tracye Whitfield
Substance use harm reduction programing in the city, such as Narcan distribution and syringe exchange?	Yes	No response	No response	Yes	No response	No response	No response	Yes
Ensuring that the Springfield Police Department is not involved in immigration enforcement?	Yes	No response	Yes	Yes	No response	No response	No response	Yes
Increasing funding for vocational education in Springfield?	Yes	No response	Yes	Yes	Yes	No response	No response	Yes
Community-based, non-armed response teams for mental health and non-violent situations?	Yes	No response	Yes	Yes	Yes	No response	No response	Yes
Reforming state laws so voters are not moved to the “inactive” voter list if they don’t return the city census?	Yes	No response	Yes	Yes	No response	No response	No response	Yes
Efforts to stop laws that criminalize unhoused residents occupying public spaces?	Yes	No response	Yes	Yes	Yes	No response	No response	No response
Implementing rent stabilization if the statewide ban were lifted?	Yes	No response	Yes	Yes	No response	No response	No response	Yes



Nicole Coakley	Sean Curran	Jose Delgado	Justin Hurst	Juan Latorre	Brian Santaniello	Kateri Walsh	Tracye Whitfield
Voter turnout has been low lately. How would you engage residents who feel that local leaders do not listen to them?							
I will engage residents through consistent community forums, listening sessions, and door-to-door outreach. Building trust means meeting people where they are, ensuring transparency, and elevating community voices in decision-making.	No response	We need to ensure the city communications reflects the residents that live in the city. Support multi-lingual website and communication. Ensure we are our social media presence. Voter education drives.	I would engage residents and show them that I'm listening by advocating for the issues that matter most to them. We have to make sure that we are in the places and communities where voters often go unheard to be able to hear their concerns in the first place. Elected officials must be accessible.	I will host regular office hours in every neighborhood. My phone number is readily published, and I connect with residents every day using social media. I'll bring together individuals with diverse ideas to reach consensus on issues. I'll advocate for every resident, wherever they live.	No response	No response	As a lifelong Springfield resident & Councilor, I build trust through presence and follow-through. I meet people where they are, listen first, and bring City Hall to the community. Through my work as Co-Chair of Mason Square C3 - I walk the talk.
How would you address the issues facing the unhoused community in Springfield?							
I will push for expanded shelter space, supportive housing, and wraparound services. Partnering with nonprofits and healthcare providers, we can address root causes like mental health, addiction, and job access while treating every resident with dignity.	No response	We need to look into root causes, which can be different for every individual. I believe in ensuring we advocate for state and federal funding to improve resources to get people the help they need to get themselves back on their feet.	We must hold landlords accountable to get all vacant units back on the rolls to increase our housing stock. Make sure our municipal jobs are going to local residents so they can afford housing. Ensure those who need mental health and substance abuse treatment receive it.	We need to remove the stigma around being unhoused. Continued collaboration with Friends of the Homeless, the Springfield Rescue Mission, the Open Pantry, and our Department of Health & Human Services is needed to provide housing to those seeking shelter and to provide wrap around services.	No response	No response	I reactivated and serve on the Housing Trust Advisory Board to expand affordable housing and reduce homelessness. I'm also advancing a non-owner-occupied registry to ensure housing stock is used for families, not held for profit, so every resident has a place to call home.
How would you seek to improve public education in Springfield?							
I will advocate for equitable funding, stronger vocational training, and resources for teachers. Collaboration with families and community partners will ensure safe schools, high academic standards, and opportunities preparing students for college and careers.	No response	Ensure we improve opportunities for our students. We need to focus on improving options like trades for our students. I would like to see more workforce development opportunities to train our students to be hired by the city for internships and job opportunities.	We need to increase the number of schools that have vocational programs and make sure students receive certificates in their vocational fields that make them employable upon graduation. We also must maintain high standards in spite of not having to take the MCAS to graduate.	I'd propose regular meetings including both the City Council and School Committee to better collaborate. Raising salaries will improve employee retention. Additional vocational opportunities should be offered within our city. We must emphasize reading at grade level by third grade.	No response	No response	I'll push for equitable funding, smaller class sizes, and more resources for teachers. Partnering with families and community groups, we can ensure Springfield students have safe schools and the tools to succeed.