

BIPOC TO THE BALLOT BOX

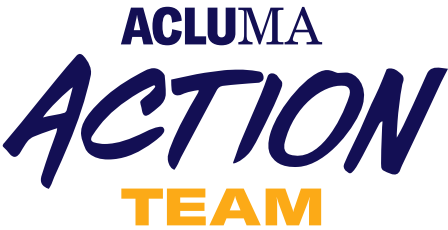
AT-LARGE CITY COUNCIL RACE VOTER GUIDE

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 **Worcester** 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 **Worcester** 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



WORCESTER



If elected, would you support:	Morris Bergman	Donna Colorio	Cayden Davis	Jermoh Kamara	Khrystian King*	Satya Mitra	Edson Montero*	Jessica Pepple	Joe Petty*	Gary Rosen	Owura-Kwaku Sarkodieh*	Kate Toomey
Substance use harm reduction programing in the city, such as Narcan distribution and syringe exchange?	No response	No response	Yes	Yes	Did not respond in time	No response	Yes	Yes	No response	No response	Yes	No response
Ensuring that the Worcester Police Department is not involved in immigration enforcement?	No response	No response	Yes	Yes	Did not respond in time	No response	Yes	Yes	No response	Yes	Yes	No response
Increasing the budget for the Worcester Public Schools?	No response	No response	Yes	Yes	Did not respond in time	No response	Yes	Yes	No response	Yes	Yes	No response
Community-based, non-armed response teams for mental health and non-violent situations?	No response	No response	Yes	Yes	Did not respond in time	No response	Yes	Yes	No response	Yes	Yes	No response
Reforming state laws so voters are not moved to the “inactive” voter list if they don’t return the city census?	No response	No response	Yes	Yes	Did not respond in time	No response	Yes	Yes	No response	No response	Yes	No response
Efforts to stop laws that criminalize unhoused residents occupying public spaces?	No response	No response	Yes	Yes	Did not respond in time	No response	Yes	Yes	No response	No response	Yes	No response
Implementing rent stabilization if the statewide ban were lifted?	No response	No response	Yes	Yes	Did not respond in time	No response	Yes	Yes	No response	No response	Yes	No response

											
Morris Bergman	Donna Colorio	Cayden Davis	Jermoh Kamara	Khrystian King*	Satya Mitra	Edson Montero*	Jessica Pepple	Joe Petty*	Gary Rosen	Owura-Kwaku Sarkodieh*	Kate Toomey
Voter turnout has been low lately. How would you engage residents who feel that local leaders do not listen to them?											
No response	No response	When people can't easily access information—like council voting records—it erodes trust. I'll make government more transparent, show up authentically, and remove barriers so residents feel heard and empowered to participate.	Low turnout signals a trust gap. I'll close it by meeting people where they are — at community centers, schools, and neighborhoods. Through open forums and office hours, I'll ensure voices are heard, and by acting on concerns, residents will see their role in shaping Worcester's future	Did not respond in time	No response	Voter turnout is low because many feel unheard. To fix this, I'll listen in neighborhoods, expand outreach, and ensure input shapes action. From participatory budgeting to youth engagement and multilingual access, Worcester can rebuild trust and make government truly inclusive.	I'll bring meetings into neighborhoods, provide childcare so parents can attend, and use multiple communication modes. By building resident councils, engaging in multilingual outreach, and showing results, I'll ensure residents feel heard and empowered.	No response	I do listen and engage the youth, adults and seniors of our city. I always make myself available by phone, email and in-person to anyone who wants to discuss issues with me. I'll surely be "Everybody's City Councillor"!	I'll make sure every resident feels heard by meeting people where they are - through neighborhood meetings, listening sessions, and maintaining an open door approach. Real leadership means listening, acting on concerns, and showing that community voices shape decisions.	No response
How would you address the issues facing the unhoused community in Worcester?											
No response	No response	Worcester must address homelessness with care, not criminalization. I support harm reduction and investing resources in housing, health, and social services—meeting people's needs directly instead of punishing them for being unhoused.	I'll work to expand affordable housing, improve access to social and health services, and partner with nonprofits already serving this community. Tackling homelessness requires compassion, collaboration, and policies that create long-term stability	Did not respond in time	No response	Some of my solutions include expand affordable/supportive housing, improve outreach, prevent evictions, ease zoning, boost services, and expand mental health access with housing options for long-term stability.	I'll expand affordable and supportive housing, strengthen shelters, and fund wraparound services—mental health, addiction recovery, healthcare, and jobs. Partnering with nonprofits, faith groups, and those with lived experience ensures humane, effective solutions rooted in dignity.	No response	Since everyone deserves a safe and healthy place to live, Worcester needs to become "The City that Builds". We lack enough housing to provide for the needs of all of our residents. The city needs to turn older and underutilized buildings into truly affordable residential units.	I'll address homelessness by expanding affordable housing, strengthening mental health and addiction services, and partnering with nonprofits for outreach. Worcester must treat the unhoused with dignity while creating pathways for stability and opportunity for home ownership.	No response
How would you seek to improve public education in Worcester?											
No response	No response	I'll work to ensure equity across Worcester schools so every student has access to the same opportunities. I believe that strengthening wraparound services—like counseling, food access, and family support—will help students thrive inside and outside the classroom.	Improving Worcester schools means prioritizing equity. I'll advocate for fair funding, modern facilities, and stronger support for teachers. Investing in after-school learning, mental health services, and family engagement will help every child reach their potential.	Did not respond in time	No response	I'd strengthen Worcester's public education by expanding after-school programs, ensuring equitable resources across schools. Reviewing curriculum to add required life skills and financial literacy classes, while partnering with families, can close gaps and boost student success.	I'll work closely with School Committee members, educators, families, and students to hear all voices. By supporting teachers, equitable funding, and expanding after-school and vocational programs, every child can thrive.	No response	I'd start by encouraging the City Manager to include in his 2026 budget adequate funding to provide the best education possible to our public school students. The Worcester School Committee is capable of putting that money to good use. They just need such a commitment from the Manager and Council.	I'll improve public education by investing in classrooms, supporting teachers, expanding after-school programs, and ensuring every student regardless of neighborhood has access to high-quality learning and the tools/environment to succeed.	No response

All candidates were given 300 characters to respond to the following questions.
For candidates' full answers, visit aclum.org/en/bipoc-ballot-box

*Candidate is also running for mayor.

Paid for by the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts. The ACLU of MA does not endorse or oppose candidates. We have done our best to represent each candidate in a fair and reasonable way based on candidates' responses to our questionnaire. These materials are not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.