



BIPOC *** TO THE *** BALLOT BOX

BROCKTON MAYORAL RACE VOTER GUIDE





BIPOC TO THE BALLOT BOX is a non-partisan 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 Brockton voters access to the information they need to make an informed decision at the polls this November 7th.

All 2023 Mayoral candidates in Brockton 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

If elected, would you support:	 Fred Fontaine	 Robert Sullivan
guaranteed hybrid access for members of the public to Brockton meetings that are subject to the state Open Meeting Law?	Yes	No response
community-based, non-armed alternatives to police responders for mental health and non-violent calls?	Yes	No response
increasing city funding to support substance use disorder treatment?	Yes	No response
passage of a statewide same-day voter registration law?	Yes	No response
strengthening the statewide Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) system to ensure more accurate and detailed reporting from the Brockton Police Department?	Yes	No response
an external audit of the school committee budget on an annual basis that is accessible to the public?	Yes	No response

All candidates were given 500 characters to respond to the following questions. Responses beyond 500 characters were cut off in the print version. For candidates' full answers, visit aclum.org/en/bipoc-ballot-box

 Fred Fontaine	 Robert Sullivan
What is your approach to improving public safety in Brockton?	
<p>I think community policing along with increased crime suppression or reduction efforts is a helpful public safety strategy. Community policing is vital because when you get to know the community, residents trust you more and provide the information the police need to prevent crime and keep our community safe. In addition, since most crime is caused by a small number, we must find a way to stop the revolving door of the same suspects causing problems for our city.</p>	<p>No response.</p>
What measures would you take to improve transparency in the school committee decision-making, meetings and processes?	
<p>The opening meeting LAWS need to be adhered to and promoted to the community to attend. Under the current administration there are back door meetings then they come out and tell you what they think you should know. I would have a parent/community board that would be at all meetings and have a say so in the education of our children.</p>	<p>No response.</p>
How would you support the unhoused population in Brockton?	
<p>Unoccupied and abandoned buildings can be retrofitted to be converted into affordable housing. But I want to go a step further and have the people in need of housing be provided with job training as well as mental health support. Some of the unhoused just need another chance.</p>	<p>No response.</p>
How would you seek to improve public transportation in Brockton?	
<p>As a mechanical engineer, I support the idea of green technology. Utilizing electric buses for school and public transportation will be very cost effective (no gasoline, little maintenance) Over time, this would bear significant savings to the city while allowing us to do our part to help preserve the planet.</p>	<p>No response.</p>
Voter turnout has been low in recent years and many Brockton residents feel disengaged from city government. How would you engage residents – both those who do and do not vote?	
<p>People do not vote because they have either lost hope or don't believe that their vote actually makes a difference. For some politicians, that's exactly what they want because they'll benefit from low voter turnout. We need to make it as easy as possible to vote, remind people why it is a right, a privilege, and a responsibility to do so. It is critically important to make their voices heard. All residents should vote, but they should also know who they are voting for and why.</p>	<p>No response.</p>
How would you work with students, families and educators to address safety in public schools?	
<p>The current financial budget crisis has created an even greater challenge towards creating a safe school environment. The first step towards creating a safe environment for students is to maintain focus on providing a quality education for them. Not having enough teachers, the elimination of core courses, overcrowded classes, are factors that contribute to a lack of positive engagement among students and their parents.</p>	<p>No response.</p>
How would you invest in programs for student mental health resources and counseling and ensure that they are transparent to the public?	
<p>Mental health has been an increasingly more and more of a problem. With all the pressure young people are under we need to consider having mental health facilities in our schools. The knowledge of these facilities will be public. Conversation with students and their counselors will of course be private.</p>	<p>No response.</p>