

2019 ELECTION GUIDE



**Vote on Tuesday,
November 5, 2019**

**Polls are open
7:00am – 8:00pm**

Prepared by  **ROSIE'S PLACE**

Public Policy program

rosiesplace.org/publicpolicy

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Candidates who did not respond

Erin J. Murphy Website: Erinforboston.com

VOTING LOCATIONS

If you are registered to vote at:

Rosie's Place (889 Harrison Avenue, 02118) vote at:

- **Orchard Gardens Community Center, 2 Dearborn St**

Woods Mullen (794 Massachusetts Avenue, 02118),

Pine Street Women's Inn (363 Albany Street, 02118),

Pine Street Men's Inn (444 Harrison Avenue, 02118),

vote at:

- **Cathedral High School Gym, 1336 Washington Street**

Women's Lunch Place (67 Newbury St, 02116), vote at:

- **Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 15 Newbury St**

St. Francis House (39 Boylston Street, 02116), vote at:

- **Metropolitan Community Room, 38 Oak Street**

Franklin Field BHA, vote at:

- **Franklin Field Elderly, 100 Ames Street**

If you are registered to vote at a different Boston address, please call the City of Boston elections department at **617.635.4635** or visit **wheredoivotema.com** to find your polling location, or reach out to Rosie's Place Public Policy program.

YOUR RIGHTS

Q: Do I need to bring a photo ID?

A: No. You may show a piece of mail with your name, voting address or a letter from a shelter where you are registered.

Q: Can I bring this guide into the polling booth?

A: Yes. You can bring this guide, your own notes, and any other helpful information, even a friend who can help you vote if you need.

Q: I was once incarcerated, can I vote?

A: Yes. If you have a criminal record, are on parole or on probation, you can vote! Only people currently incarcerated for a felony cannot vote.

Q: I cannot go vote on Election Day. Can I still vote?

A: Yes. If you cannot get to the polls on Election Day, you can vote **absentee** by contacting City Hall: 617.635.8683.

Q: What if my name is not listed or I don't have any identification?

A: You can still vote! Ask for a provisional ballot and you will vote and place your ballot in a sealed envelope to be counted once your voter registration has been confirmed by election officials.

Have your rights been violated?

Contact the Election Protection Hotline (866.OUR.VOTE), the Dept. of Justice Voting Rights Hotline (800.253.3931), an attorney, or Rosie's Place Legal Program!

Q: How often do we elect City Councilors?

A: Every 2 years on odd years (2015-2017-2019) all seats are up for election. Preliminary races are held if there are more than 2 district councilors and more than 8 at-large councilors.

Q: How many City Councilors are there?

A: 4 at-large councilors represent the whole city. You can vote for up to 4 in the preliminary and general election. 9 district councilors represent 1 district each. You can vote for 1 in the preliminary and general election in your district.

Q: What is the job of a City Councilor?

A: The City Council is a legislative body and makes laws pertaining to the City of Boston. They connect city residents with their government; serve constituents by connecting them to resources and city services and departments; are advocates for Boston residents and their needs; and are responsible to listen and respond to your city-related needs and find solutions to problems.

Q: What district do I live in?

A: To find your district, you can go to www.boston.gov/departments/city-council and use their map tool, or call the City Council directly at 617.635.3040.

THREE QUESTIONS

This year, Rosie's Place asked 3 questions to all Boston City Council At-Large candidates about issues impacting Rosie's Place guests.

Housing and Homelessness

Boston faces a housing crisis that forces far too many people to experience housing insecurity and homelessness. What policies will you advocate for to ensure we have housing that is affordable and available?

Substance Use and Treatment

The opioid crisis continues to ravage communities, overdoses are still on the rise and poor and homeless people are struggling to find suitable and accessible treatment and care. What policies and services will you advocate for to stem the tide of the opioid epidemic and increase treatment access?

Violence Against Women

Greater Boston has 123 beds for women escaping domestic violence (DV) and sexual abuse (SA). Often, women are forced to leave their own communities and struggle to find beds even as far away as New Hampshire. What would you do to improve access to beds and services for women fleeing DV/SA in Boston?

Please note: Candidate responses are unedited.

MICHAEL F. FLAHERTY



Housing and Homelessness

Boston continues to go through an era of rapid growth and development, and as a result, there are communities that are being left behind. I actively work to address Boston's housing crisis everyday. Not only do my office and I direct constituents to housing resources available through the City of Boston, I have been and will continue to be a determined and vocal advocate of accessible, affordable housing across Boston. Over the course of my time as a Boston City Councilor At-Large, I have led the call for the strengthening and expansion of access to resources for more affordable housing. These include: the Inclusionary Development Policy, the Linkage formula, and the Community Preservation Act. Further, I support feasible budgetary allocations and expansion to allow for more resources and programming so that residents who are homeless and/or insecure about their housing status can have a stable quality of life.

Substance Use and Treatment

I am a long-time advocate for better government-funded health services in Boston, particularly a more serious and dedicated approach to providing treatment-on-demand to those trapped in the cycle of substance abuse. The current opioid crisis not only impacts the affected individual, their friends, family and loved ones; but our entire community. We need to work collaboratively with our partners in government and in our surrounding communities to ensure that the Long Island Recovery Facility is built so that more people have an opportunity at recovery. This includes putting pressure on suburban communities and their elected officials to do their fair share when it comes to fighting addiction. Further, ensuring that the Boston Public Health Commission and partner agencies have the appropriate resources to adequately provide clean needle pick-up, along with sufficient staff to perform emergency interventions and provide services to those most in need, should be a top priority.

Violence Against Women

The opioid problem is well documented and receiving appropriate attention, but issues like DV and SA are at risk of falling by the wayside. I am fully committed to ensuring that DV and SA resources receive equal treatment during Council proceedings in the hope of leveling the playing field in terms of available beds, counsel, and other resources for these vulnerable populations. I continue to support budgetary allocations to help victims of DV and SA through programming, resources, and professional advocates. I also support working with the community to determine if it would be appropriate to put these resources on Long Island once the bridge is reconstructed in order to boost these numbers quickly and affordably.

ALTHEA GARRISON



Housing and Homelessness

First, I support rent control with just cause evictions requiring landlords to offer a reason for evicting tenants. I also support increasing vouchers for homeless tenants.

Substance Use and Treatment

I support the City of Boston rebuilding the Long Island Bridge as quickly as possible as a means to offer treatment for substance abuse.

Violence Against Women

The City of Boston could offer city owned buildings to organizations like Rosie's Place to offer support for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse and increase housing for these victims.



Housing and Homelessness

Homelessness is a very pressing issue in our city and it is why I helped form and Chair the City Council's Committee on Homelessness, Mental Health & Recovery. The decision to include the topics of homelessness, mental health, and recovery under one umbrella was strategic because many of the interconnected symptoms required a holistic approach. I strongly support the creation of more affordable and workforce housing for families, seniors, and those living in poverty. Right now, Boston's housing stock is lacking, and we need to be sure that we are building housing that will enable Bostonians to live in the city they have contributed so much to. More must be done to encourage the creation of senior-specific housing, so seniors can remain in their communities. Additionally, I support efforts that require developers to build more multi-bedroom affordable units that families can accommodate the growing size of families experiencing homelessness.

Substance Use and Treatment

I am committed to addressing the complex and often interconnectedness of mental health and addiction issues and I will continue to advocate for an increase in high-quality resources and treatment. During my fight to secure more resources to combat the symptoms of the opioid epidemic, I partnered with my colleague, Councilor Ayanna Pressley, to file proactive legislation to hold pharmaceutical companies accountable. The legislation forces the pharmaceutical industry to take responsibility and contribute to legitimate solutions by providing free sharps disposal at their stores, which would increase the number of safe disposal sites in the city from 9 to over 100. During the budget process, I was proud to secure funding to double the number mental health clinicians in the Boston Police Department. I have also held hearings to examine Boston's existing mental health resources, such as treatment services, suicide prevention strategies, and de-escalation methods.

Violence Against Women

Women living on the streets are at the highest risk for violence and additional victimization, especially those fleeing violent physical and sexual abuse. As a City Councilor, I believe connecting these women to treatment and care services must be our top priority. I will continue working to create a Emergency Response Team directed to assist these women, who often have children in need of services, in finding housing, health care and education. We need to make our services available, obvious and accessible. Given the stigma and culture of silence, I believe improving mental health service clinicians for situations involving law enforcement and training services in our police force is critical to identifying women in crisis situations. I will continue using my role as Chair of the Committee on Homelessness, Mental Health & Recovery to provide these critical resources for women escaping domestic violence and sexual abuse.



Housing and Homelessness

Raising Boston's Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) rate from 13% to 20%. Making changes to the zoning and variance process in order to make it more efficient to create housing that is denser and provides more options and vacancies. Working with counterparts at the State House to pass the Jim Brooks Stabilization Act around tenant information and just cause evictions. Seeking to redefine the current Area Median Income standards to better reflect the reality of the housing market in Boston. Raising the mandatory contributions developers must make to the IDP Fund. Revisiting bringing the option of rent control back into use.

Substance Use and Treatment

I believe that the opioid crisis demands even greater collaboration between multiple actors on a continuum of care, including the city, healthcare providers, public safety, and community groups. It is only by addressing the issue in a multi-disciplinary fashion, engaging with those battling addiction at the various points of their journey, that we will approach anything close to a solution. This means advocating for increased resources to provide treatment and services for those who are addicted. I support safe consumption sites as a component of addressing the issue, but only if they offer access to wraparound care services and educational information for people struggling with addiction. In addition, more support needs to be provided for programs and services – like the city's sharps recovery team – to increase their impact and efficacy in protecting communities from harm.

Violence Against Women

The destructive nature of domestic violence and sexual abuse is exacerbated when those seeking help and a way to escape are unable to find any. I would advocate for collaborative agreements with local colleges and universities to utilize dorm spaces during break periods as emergency shelter providers. This could provide a significant boost to the amount of available spaces, being in secure spaces with public safety personnel available. I would also seek to provide zoning relief and expedited approval to existing providers seeking to expand their capacity. I would work to connect those providers to alternative funding sources, including discussions around the possibility of utilizing a portion of the Inclusionary Development Policy Fund to support such projects.



Housing and Homelessness

I will fight to narrow the gap between tenant and landlord with rent-to-own programs and homeowner training classes. I support expanding a wide number of housing options including community land trusts, co-op residences, work/live storefronts, and artist housing. I support legislation to ban no-fault evictions and will defend the rights of all tenants. I will work to guarantee free representation to low-income families facing eviction hearings. I also support a cap on the yearly raise of rent for tenants to 5% and enforcing a minimum two-month notice on increases. I will re-introduce the protections covered under the Jim Brooks Stabilization Act. I will advocate that we increase the percentage of affordable units in new developments to 50% for the city's IDP. Also, developers should not have the ability to offset. Current offsets could be prioritized to be used in neighborhoods that currently have the least amount of low, and moderate-income units.

Substance Use and Treatment

Harm reduction is the important first step in the long process towards remission. Currently, there is only one needle exchange center operated by the city of Boston, monopolizing care and centralizing bad actors. Expanding the number of needle exchange locations, particularly in neighborhoods most affected by substance use disorder, would reduce harm and make services more equitable. In cities across the world, Safe Injection Centers have drastically reduced mortality rates, ambulance calls, and HIV infections. Boston should lead the way to be the first city in the U.S. to invest in Safe Injection Centers. While Bostonians are proud to host patients from across the world, we need to do more to provide local patients with substance use disorder treatment. This means expanding the number of beds in our treatment centers.

Violence Against Women

I will make it a priority to bring back Long Island as a place of refuge and recovery. This facility might not feel safe to some because of its isolated location, but bringing back beds there would free up more beds in Boston. Also, more beds need to be set aside for women and their children in the temporary housing that is currently available in Boston. New housing needs to be developed as well, specifically for this population. Privacy, including being able to lock doors would be ideal. Since trauma is very common, it would be appropriate if all housing was trauma informed. We need to expand mental health services, as well as offer job and housing pipelines, to survivors. I support Housing First policies. Everyone deserves a space to be safe and heal, and have autonomy in their lives.



Housing and Homelessness

As someone who grew up in Mission Hill, I understand how much the city has become unaffordable for the average family. The area's median income calculation has gone unchanged, affecting how we even define affordability. If elected, I will advocate for more affordable housing options and support tax based revenue increases, such as higher taxes on luxury development and real estate transfers. I would advocate for the expansion of community land trusts, expand the Acquisition Opportunity Program (AOP), and Advocate on Beacon Hill for more local control (supporting House Bill 4196-Connolly). I would also advocate for land use changes like reducing parking ratios and right to height, to unlock the zoning and permitting challenges that increases density, walkability, and safety. We must also recognize that there is no “one size fits all” model for expanding affordable housing opportunities. For many people facing housing insecurity, support services must accompany their housing options.

Substance Use and Treatment

To address the opioid crisis, we must focus on treatment, as well as the harm reduction for those residents suffering from addiction. The goal is two-fold: dramatically boost addiction treatment and implement policies to reduce overdose deaths. In terms of treatment, we need to invest in both treatment and post-treatment programs so that people are able to stay clean which they are more likely to do with consistent mental and physical health care, family reunification services and access to affordable housing and jobs with a livable wage. In addition, to promote harm reduction, we should open safe-injection sites to make sure our residents suffering from addiction are in a safe and clean environment where they can have access to resources and care to help them on the road to recovery.

Violence Against Women

In order to increase the availability of beds and services in the city, we must look to expand revenue to do so. One key area of potential revenue could be generated by surcharges on vacation rentals in the City as well as utilizing dedicated funds from the luxury tax mentioned in question one. I would also advocate for the use of CPA funds to be committed to expanding beds and services for survivors. The City should bring together a task force of providers, survivors and city officials and set a goal to increase the number of beds available to survivors within a certain time frame. This could also help generate private funding to supplement City funding for this initiative.



Housing and Homelessness

Housing is a basic human right, but we are falling far short of ensuring affordable and available housing in Boston today. We need to create more affordable housing, preserve existing affordable units, and support stability in housing. I will continue to advocate for sellers of luxury housing units to pay a tax that would generate needed funding to create new affordable housing units, and to increase the requirements for developers to contribute to new affordable units. I also support protections for tenants and opportunities for long-time tenants to have the option to purchase their home if the landlord decides to sell the property. I believe we need a greater focus on truly affordable housing, with a focus on housing for residents experiencing homelessness and extremely low-income families and permanently affordable housing through expanding public housing and community land trusts.

Substance Use and Treatment

We are facing a growing opiate crisis in Massachusetts. The rate of opioid deaths across the state was twice the national average according to recent data, and the concentration of services near the area around Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard has led to a concentration of the impacts of the opiate crisis on neighborhoods and a challenging environment for recovery. I will continue to advocate for funding for treatment on demand and expansion of naloxone training to reverse overdoses and save lives. I support expanding medication-assisted treatment such as buprenorphine. I also believe the state should continue moving forward with life-saving harm reduction strategies such as exploring supervised consumption sites. Most of all, we must approach any policy or community discussions with a focus on destigmatizing the medical issue of substance use.

Violence Against Women

Survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse need supports and stability in the community where they can access resources. It is crucial that survivors are not displaced from the city to struggle with finding a way to connect with economic, social, and cultural resources. I will continue advocating for emergency shelter beds for women in a safe and supported environment. I will also continue to focus on culturally appropriate and linguistically accessible resources to serve survivors, many of whom face even greater barriers as women of color, immigrants, and low-income residents. We also need to increase funding and resources for access to childcare for women experiencing homelessness and overall, because the cost or availability of childcare is often a major barrier for women escaping these situations and looking for economic stability or permanent housing.



***“Community and democracy must work hand in hand,
otherwise we have neither.”
-Kip Tiernan***

Founded in 1974 by Kip Tiernan, Rosie’s Place was the first drop in and emergency shelter for women in the United States. **Rosie's Place is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment to help poor and homeless women maintain their dignity, seek opportunity and find security in their lives.**

The Public Policy department works to seek social justice on behalf of Rosie’s Place guests. We work to achieve this goal through direct lobbying, coalition building and by empowering guests to be actively involved in civic life.

889 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118
617.442.9322
rosiesplace.org

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MY POLLING LOCATION IS:

I WILL VOTE AT (time):
