



Incumbents won back all their seats, including District 5 City Councilor Enrique Pepen.

COURTESY PHOTO

Incumbents sweep City election

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The unofficial results for the Boston 2025 Municipal Election are in, and things are essentially staying just as they were.

As of 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 95,690 ballots were cast out of a total of 421,932 registered voters in the city. That's a voter turnout rate of about 23 percent.

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu faced no competition in the general, as major competitor Josh Kraft dropped out after the primary. She garnered 78,384 votes against 5,696 write-ins.

The At-Large City Councilor race saw more competition, but ultimately all incumbents got to keep their seats. Current City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune topped the vote count with 54,503 votes, followed by Julia Mejia with 47,422 votes, then Erin Murphy with 46,360 votes, and then by Henry Santana with 43,904 votes.

Challenger and former District 4 City Councilor Frank Baker placed runner up with 28,346 votes, followed by Alexandra Valdez with 23,294, then Marvin Mathelier with 20,953 and Will Onuoha with 17,416 votes.

The most competitive race

in the districts was in District 7, which was vacated in the summer by Councilor Tania Fernandez-Anderson after she was convicted of corruption charges. Rev. Miniard Culpepper won by a little over 500 votes with 3,874 to Said Coach Ahmed's 3,275.

Culpepper announced after his win that he intends to petition the State Legislature to allow him to take office before the customary Jan. 1 of 2026, as the council seat has been vacant since the summer. He thanked his future constituents at an event on election night.

"I see right before me, written in the faces and the hearts of those who have carried me to this victory, all of you, and I look at the hard work you put into this campaign and the commitment — some of you gave your last dollars to make sure we had enough in this campaign to pay for all of our needs — I can only say I'm so proud of you and I am so proud to be your choice to be the next Boston City Councilor for District 7," he said. "Thank you."

Another somewhat competitive race was in District 9, where incumbent Liz Breadon's 5,461 votes topped challenger Pilar Ortiz's 2,472 votes, or 68.31 percent Breadon and 30.92 percent

Ortiz.

District 5 City Councilor Enrique Pepén beat out challenger Winston Pierre with 9,062 votes, or 69 percent, to 3,969 votes, or 30.22 percent.

"Let's keep pushing for bold policies that move our city forward. And let's make sure every voice in every neighborhood has a seat at the table," he wrote on social media. "Thank you, Boston, for your faith, your partnership, and your love. Here's to two more years, and to the work ahead."

District 6 City Councilor Ben Weber beat challenger Steven Ray Berry 12,935 votes to 1,871, District 4 City Councilor Brian Worrel beat challenger Helen Cameron 6,298 to 1,112, District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn beat challenger Charles Delaney 8,592 to 1,200, and District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata beat challenger Andretti McDuffie-Stanziani 7,604 to 1,506.

District 3 City Councilor John Fitzgerald and District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan each ran unopposed and garnered 7,850 and 4,848 votes respectively.

All results are, as of the date of publication, still technically unofficial. For a full list of results as they become official, go to <https://tinyurl.com/mwhnuc5a>



Food Pantries in Boston, like Rose's Bounty, shown above, are looking to step up during the shutdown.

COURTESY PHOTO

Food Resources — in Boston —

Ariane Komyati
Staff Reporter

While the federal administration announced on Monday it will partially fund food assistance, it is currently unclear when those benefits will come in, and so community members are still stepping up to help neighbors in need.

More than 140,000 Boston residents, (89,000 households) are affected by the uncertainty of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) freeze. Last week, Mayor Wu announced a partnership with The Boston Foundation and local nonprofits to support families in need of food support, which has raised over \$1 million. Wu also announced a citywide outreach campaign to help residents access food and necessities. Boston residents who need help or want to help can visit <https://tinyurl.com/4cer4axc> or call 311 for more information.

In Hyde Park, Community Growth Co. at 715 River St. has a free food distribution every Thursday at 11 a.m. No ID is re-

Food Availability
Continued on page 7

Legacy housing for 294 Hyde Park Ave

Little reaction at Planning meeting

Richard Heath
Staff Reporter

The largest housing development in Forest Hills since Woodbourne Apartments, a 67-unit elderly housing building built in 1978 by the Greater Boston CDC, is proposed for the ALCO Auto Parts site at 294 Hyde Park Ave.

A six-story, 48-unit, mixed-income, L-shaped building by ARX Urban development was reviewed in a 36-minute Boston Planning Department Article 80 meeting on Oct. 22.

ARX with JGE architects filed its Article 80 Small Project Review (SPR) application on Sept. 16. As first reported by The Bulletin on Sept. 18, nothing seems to have changed; the surprise was the lack of community participation in the virtual Article 80 public meeting at which only about eight or nine

294 Hyde Park Ave
Continued on page 6

Food Availability *continued from page 1*

quired and it is first-come first-serve. Helping Plates, located at 1283 Hyde Park Ave., distributes free bags of food every Sunday at 1 p.m. No ID is required, email helpingplates@gmail.com to learn more. You must be a resident of HP to shop at the Hyde Park Food Pantry. Email rfpmanager.rcc@gmail.com for more information.

In Roslindale, the Roslindale Congregational Church Food Pantry distributes pre-packed boxes of food to people who reside in Roslindale or Hyde Park. Proof of registration or residence is required, and residents can pick up food once per month. The food distribution takes place on the second and fourth Saturday of each month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Visit roscon.org/food-pantry/ to learn more. The Roslindale Food Collective is a mutual aid system that distributes boxes of excess food from supermarkets. The food distribution takes place at the Trinity Church, 1195 Centre St., West Roxbury, every Sunday from 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. No ID is required, everyone is welcome. Email rosifoodcollective@gmail.com for further details.

Rose's Bounty, located at 77 Stratford St. in West Roxbury, is currently not taking any new clients except WR residents. Volunteers distribute food from the curbside. Free food distributions take place on the second Saturday of the month (2-4 p.m.) and the third Friday of the month (11 a.m.-1 p.m.). Veterans only food distribution takes place on Fridays 9-10 a.m. Rose's Bounty provides free packaged food, produce, eggs, and meat. For additional information, call 857-203-0404 or visit <https://tinyurl.com/n7abkm4d>

The Allston Brighton Food Pantry is located at the BA Congregational Church on 404 Washington St., Brighton. For further information, call 617-254-4046 or visit abfoodpantry.com.

The YMCA of Greater Boston has a mobile food market that provides free produce and shelf stable items. It is open to the public and all are welcome to fill a grocery bag completely free of cost, no ID or registration required. The location changes weekly — view the schedule at ymcaboston.org/

mobilemarket.

A complete guide of food resources across the city of Boston, compiled by the Neighborhood Food Action Collaborative, can be accessed at vitalcxns.org/food.

District 6 Councilor Ben Weber put together a guide of food/support resources in and around D6. "Roughly one in five Boston residents receive SNAP benefits that are predominantly used to feed children, seniors, and people with disabilities," Weber stated. "If you need help please reach out to the following organizations or to my office. If you have the resources to donate your time or money, please do what you can to help people who are about to be abandoned by the Trump administration." The guide can be accessed here: bit.ly/4nz0XNq

Community members and local businesses are also coming together to offer support during the government shutdown. One WR resident on Stratford Street turned the Little Free Library in front of her house into a community food resource. A sign on it reads "For the month of November or when the federal government shutdown ends and SNAP benefits are restored, this Little Free Library will be full of shelf-stable food. Please take what you need and leave what you don't need." It is stocked with shelf-stable milk, canned chicken, pasta, ramen, lentils, and more.

Rozzie Bound Co-op, an indie bookstore located in Roslindale Square, is hosting a book drive for the Roslindale Food Pantry. While food is RFP's priority, they also distribute free books as well. The pantry is seeking children's books in Spanish and Haitian Creole for its clients. All donations purchased at Rozzie Bound will be given to the Roslindale Food Pantry (RFP). "The Roslindale Food Pantry is a significant resource in the community, and they informed us that they need children's bilingual books in Spanish and Haitian Creole due to the high number of clients for whom English is not their native language," explained Rozzie Bound owner Talia Whyte. "Bilingual children's books can be challenging to access at times, especially in Haitian

Creole. We were happy to help fill a void for the pantry by leveraging our access to all the major book publishers and distributors to find the right books. As a community-owned bookstore, we are committed to ensuring that everyone has access to books regardless of their income level." Whyte researched the books they requested and showed the final wish list to the pantry before it was published on Rozzie Bound's website. Community members can purchase books for the drive at bit.ly/4hLKdl6

Allandale Farm has partnered with the Loring Greenough House in JP (located on 12 South St.) to create a Free Farmers Market. The market takes place on the first three Thursdays in November from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will provide free fresh produce, as well as bread donated by Iggy's Bread. "We are alarmed that the government shutdown has continued and families are about to lose their SNAP benefits," Allandale stated on social media. "We know that many eligible folks are not receiving SNAP due to the administrative burden, so we will be providing food to any who show up, no questions asked." To learn more, visit facebook.com/allandalefarm.

Tony's Market in Roslindale is "adopting" families for ongoing food support, giving special priority to those affected by the government shutdown. "It's not a lot, but we want to do our part," the specialty market stated. Call 617-323-7313 for more information or visit tonysmarketroslindale.com.

German Centre

continued from page 2

working with several schools as volunteers; we're a close-knit group here in West Roxbury and so this has been going on for years," he said. "This is an inter-generational event where we have the children showing off their costumes and walking around the facility, meeting with residents and it brightens up everyone's day."

O'Grady said the German Centre is currently gearing up for its Veterans Day celebration on Nov. 11 at 9:30 a.m., but will also be opening up to the community other celebrations throughout the year.

"We will have a Christmas Tree Lighting where families and children from the community will be able to come in here and see us light up the tree, as well as Christmas festivities," he said. "We also have volunteers come in from local schools like Catholic Memorial and we have an affiliation with Roxbury Latin where they come in and visit our residents so it's a great time."

Activities Director Daffney Guey said they've been doing the parade for years now, and said it's not just the kids who get in on the holiday fun.

"The students are always excited and we're happy to see everybody dressed in costumes, whether it's staff or residents," she said. "We do have residents who get really involved and get dressed up with hats, necklaces and other things."

Guay said the staff also gets really involved with the spirit of the season and dressing up, herself dressed in a bright pink outfit with face paint, glitter and a poodle embroidered on her dress.

St. Teresa Principal Mary Kate Stephatos said the tradition has become more and more anticipated by students as the years go on.

"It's the biggest event of the school year, I would say," she said with a laugh. "Coming out here and doing this for our community, it's absolutely the highlight of the events we do for our school."

Stephatos said the program has been going strong for about six years now.

"We've been doing this since before COVID-19, I'd say five or six years now," she said. "We've been trying to connect with the community through outreach and our main goal was to connect the German Centre with St. Teresa's. We're a family at St. Teresa's and we want to share our family with the German Centre."

And Stephatos added the kids do not even have the traditional incentive of candy, so the day is all about costumes and connections.


"It's school policy for no candy, but they'll go tonight to trick-or-treat," she said with a laugh.

Resident George Boulger said as an Irish immigrant, he's used to two such trick-or-treating holidays, as the island celebrates St. Stephen's Day, the day after Christmas, in a similar manner. The tradition is to go house-to-house singing carols about the Wren in the Furze and picking up treats as you go. He said it's always a joy to see this Halloween tradition as well.

"I've been here 10 years and I've seen them several times, it's really good," he said. "I grew up trick-or-treating yeah. And I love seeing the young kids here too."

Resident Ted Callahan said it's just great to see something everybody can agree on.

"The biggest thing here is they're all having a good time, and we could all use a bit more of that these days you know?" he said.




City of Boston
Planning
Department

Virtual Public Meeting

**NOV
18**
6:00 PM
-
8:00 PM

697 CAMBRIDGE STREET

Register:
bosplans.org/697CambridgeSt11-18
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 680 9992




Project Proponent: 697 Cambridge St, LLC

The proposed development at 697 Cambridge Street has been designed to transform an existing two-story commercial structure into a five-story multifamily residential building while maintaining compatibility with its urban context. The program organizes residential, parking, and support spaces to create a functional and efficient structure that responds to the character of the section of Cambridge Street on which the site sits. The building will contain 42 residential units organized across the lower level through the fifth floor.

Mail to: **Daniel Polanco**
Planning Department
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
Phone: 617.918.4460
Email: dan.polanco@boston.gov

Website: bosplans.org/697cambridge-st
Close of Public Comment Period: **11/28/2025**

BostonPlans.org |  @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

HANDY HANDS

MAINTENANCE & GENERAL SERVICES

- House Furniture Rearrangement Assistance
- Door lock & Door Handle Replacement
- Minor Tree Limb & Branch Cutting
- Gutter & Downspout Cleaning
- Minor Painting
- Minor Plumbing
- Minor Assembly Work
- Light Bulb Replacement
- Electrical Work by Referral
- TV Wall Mounting by Referral
- Odd Jobs



857-800-2333

24 HOUR VOICEMAIL

Free Estimates • Friendly Service
We aim to work within your budget
No job too small!