

Overview/Explanation of qualifying criteria

The JTA is dedicated to ensuring candidates have a forum to discuss their employment, training and economic policies with Massachusetts voters. However, practical and time limitations mean that the JTA cannot hold such an event for all candidates without sacrificing the nuance and in depth discussions that make such forums valuable. In light of this, the JTA has chosen to limit the number of candidates invited to participate in the JTA Mayoral Candidate Forum to the leading contenders for the office. We are committed to ensuring candidates are evaluated for participation in a nonpartisan manner, and therefore established criteria in line with federal and state best practices.

All candidates that are invited to participate must be i) eligible to serve as Mayor of Boston, ii) have formally announced their candidacy, and iii) must have raised a minimum of \$150,000 in the most recent fundraising month, which is currently the month of March. The JTA chose to use the most recent fundraising month, rather than overall fundraising, as this better captures a candidate's *current* popularity. Additionally, using this metric ensures that emerging or newly announced candidates are also eligible to participate, as these candidates may have fallen short of overall fundraising benchmarks. Finally, it is important to note that it is typical to use fundraising data in combination with polling data to determine candidate eligibility, however at this early juncture in the mayoral race there is no reliable public polling data. Thus, the JTA chose to solely rely on fundraising metrics to measure candidates' current support. These criteria have also been used to determine eligibility for the [New York Mayoral Debates](#). Additionally these criteria were drawn in part from the [Commission on Presidential Debates's](#) policy to determine eligibility for Presidential Debates, which is in line with Federal Election Commission guidelines.

Candidates

Six candidates in the mayoral race meet the necessary criteria to participate in the JTA Mayoral Candidate Forum; Interim Mayor Kim Janey raised \$187,327 in March, City Councilor Essaibi George raised \$187,000 last month, Councilor Andrea Campbell raised \$203,000, Councilor Michelle Wu raised \$175,000, State Representative Jon Santiago raised \$180,000 last month, and former chief of economic development for the City of Boston John Barros raised \$182,000. At this time, no other candidates meet these criteria.