

***Activating Community Power: A Conversation with
Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia***

**March 14, 2024
10-11am Pacific / 1-2pm Eastern**

Featured Speaker Biography

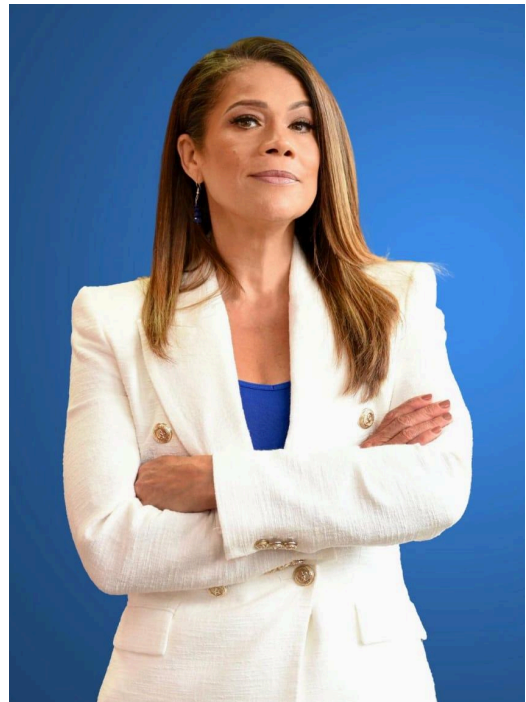
Councilor Julia Mejia

*Boston City Council
Chair of the Committee on Government
Accountability, Transparency, and
Accessibility*

Boston City Councilor, At-Large, Councilor Julia Mejia is a trailblazer and a dedicated community advocate serving as the Chair of the Committee on Government Accountability, Transparency, and Accessibility in the Boston City Council. She also serves as the vice chair on the committees for Education, Housing & Development, and Labor, Workforce, & Economic Development.

Born in the Dominican Republic, City Councilor Mejia's journey to Dorchester at the age of 5 shaped her dedication to advocacy from an early age. Raised by a single, undocumented mother, she learned to navigate through the many social service systems and institutions and to advocate on behalf of her needs and those of her family's and community.

As the 1st person to graduate from Boston Public Schools and college, Mejia's dedication to justice and equity led her into the role of a community organizer. Her focus was on empowering and investing in the capabilities of individuals across diverse socioeconomic, age, and gender spectrums, enabling them to participate in the political processes that shape their neighborhoods. Making history by winning her first term with a single vote, she became the first Afro-Latina to hold a seat on the Boston City Council.



Over two terms, Councilor Mejia has successfully led the passage of 15 pieces of legislation, highlighting her dedication to advancing policies that invest in Boston's diverse communities. With a belief in addressing the holistic needs of all individuals and a commitment that extends beyond legislative accomplishments, Mejia has secured millions of dollars to address the social, emotional, and financial needs of Boston's constituents.

One of her lasting contributions is the establishment of the Government Accountability, Transparency, and Accessibility Committee within the City Council. Recognizing the significance of government oversight and compliance, Mejia actively works towards measuring the success of protocols, policies, and procedures to tackle persistent issues in education, housing, and transportation.

Now as she enters her third term, City Councilor Julia Mejia remains focused on unifying Boston residents across their differences to bring about meaningful change. Her leadership exemplifies a commitment to inform, influence and inspire to ensure that the Boston City Council and Departments serve the diverse needs of all Bostonians. She actively works towards dismantling barriers and encourages increased participation in the political process because we know that nothing about us, without us, is for us.

To stay connected with Team Mejia and their ongoing efforts, connect through social media at @Juliaforboston on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Ronda Alexander (Moderator)
Director of National Partnerships
Vital Village Networks at Boston Medical
Center

Ronda Alexander is a native Detroiter dedicated to working with communities to reach their desired goals by aligning and leveraging their resources. Ronda joins us from the United Way for Southeastern Michigan where she served as the Director of Corporate and Community Alignment on the organization's College and Career Pathways team. In her role at United Way Ronda worked to help external corporate partners find meaningful ways to engage with both students and educators; as well as worked across teams within the organization to align and leverage resources. Prior to joining United Way Ronda worked on the premier education initiative of Ford Motor Company Fund – Ford Next Generation (Ford NGL) for nine years. While at Ford Fund Ronda served a variety of roles including Professional Development/Technical Assistance Specialist and Program Manager for STEM initiatives. In all of her roles with Ford Fund Ronda



worked with and supported multiple communities across the country as they worked to transform their communities through education.