

Offered by Councilors Bill Linehan and Michelle Wu



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN

HOME RULE PETITION

WHEREAS: this Home Rule Petition will allow the City to establish one or more additional polling locations in certain precincts in order to alleviate crowds and lines in those precincts that have experienced recent growth. None of these adjustments will change any ward boundary lines, and will not change representation for purposes of congressional, representative, senatorial, councilor, or city council districts; and

WHEREAS: over the last ten years, certain precincts in the City, including those located in the downtown areas and in the Seaport district, have grown dramatically due to the construction of large, multi-unit residences and the expansion of college dormitories. This growth has occurred “up” as opposed to “out.” While the geographic footprint of the precincts has remained the same, there are thousands more people living in them; and

WHEREAS: this petition is necessary so that the new polling locations in certain precincts may be included in the Commonwealth’s state-wide Voter Registration Information System. The creation of additional polling locations would decrease voter wait times, alleviate over-crowding, and allow poll workers to do their jobs more efficiently; *NOW*,

THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston to be filed with an attested copy of this Order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause One (1) of Section Eight (8) of Article Two (2), as amended, of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows, except for clerical or editorial changes of form only:

**PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE:
AN ACT RELATIVE TO VOTING PRECINCTS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.**

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, precinct 6 of ward 3 of the city of Boston shall be 1 precinct for the purpose of forming congressional, representative, senatorial, councilor or city council districts but shall have 2 polling places for the purpose of voting at any federal, state or municipal elections. Each such polling location shall be located in a public, orderly and convenient portion of the precinct as determined by the board of election commissioners of the city of Boston and shall be known as precincts 6 of ward 3 and 6A of ward 3, respectively.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, precinct 7 of ward 3 of the city of Boston shall be 1 precinct for the purpose of forming congressional, representative, senatorial, councilor or city council districts but shall have 2 polling places for the purpose of voting at any federal, state or municipal elections. Each such polling location shall be located in a public, orderly and convenient portion of the precinct as determined by the board of election commissioners of the city of Boston and shall be known as precincts 7 of ward 3 and 7A of ward 3, respectively.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, precinct 8 of ward 3 of the city of Boston shall be 1 precinct for the purpose of forming congressional, representative, senatorial, councilor or city council districts but shall have 3 polling places for the purpose of voting at any federal, state or municipal elections. Each such polling location shall be located in a public, orderly and convenient portion of the precinct as determined by the board of election commissioners of the city of Boston and shall be known as precincts 8 of ward 3, 8A of ward 3 and 8B of ward 3, respectively.

SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, precinct 1 of ward 5 of the city of Boston shall be 1 precinct for the purpose of forming congressional, representative, senatorial, councilor or city council districts but shall have 2 polling places for the purpose of voting at any federal, state or municipal elections. Each such polling location shall be located in a public, orderly and convenient portion of the precinct as determined by the board of election commissioners of the city of Boston and shall be known as precincts 1 of ward 5 and 1A of ward 5, respectively.

SECTION 5. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, precinct 1 of ward 6 of the city of Boston shall be 1 precinct for the purpose of forming congressional, representative, senatorial, councilor or city council districts but shall have 2 polling places for the purpose of voting at any federal, state or municipal elections. Each such polling location shall be located in a public, orderly and convenient portion of the

precinct as determined by the board of election commissioners of the city of Boston and shall be known as precincts 1 of ward 6 and 1A of ward 6, respectively.

SECTION 6. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, precinct 3 of ward 9 of the city of Boston shall be 1 precinct for the purpose of forming congressional, representative, senatorial, councilor or city council districts but shall have 2 polling places for the purpose of voting at any federal, state or municipal elections. Each such polling location shall be located in a public, orderly and convenient portion of the precinct as determined by the board of election commissioners of the city of Boston and shall be known as precincts 3 of ward 9 and 3A of ward 9, respectively.

SECTION 7. The board of election commissioners of the city of Boston may take all necessary actions to ensure compliance with this act including, but not limited to, assuring the accuracy of the voting lists as located at each polling location determined pursuant to sections 1 through 6. The board of election commissioners of the city of Boston shall divide precincts 6, 7, and 8 of ward 3, precinct 1 of ward 5, precinct 1 of ward 6, and precinct 3 of ward 9 into sub-precincts as set forth in sections 1 through 6 and only the names of voters who reside in each sub-precinct shall appear on the voting list for that sub-precinct.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon passage if such passage occurs at least 90 days prior to the next preliminary municipal election; otherwise it shall take effect January 1, 2018.

Filed on: February 6, 2017