

*Offered by Councilor Andrea J. Campbell*



**City Of Boston  
CITY COUNCIL**

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE VOTING RIGHTS FOR IMMIGRANTS WITH  
LEGAL STATUS AND OTHER INCLUSIVE PRACTICES**

- WHEREAS According to the 2016 Population Estimates of the U.S. Census Bureau, Massachusetts has one of the largest immigrant populations with a total of 1,123,882 representing 16.5% of the total population; and
- WHEREAS According to a 2015 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau, Boston has 190,123 foreign born residents, 28.4% of the city population; and
- WHEREAS Immigrants with legal status refers to a number of populations including Legal Permanent Residents, visa holders, Temporary Protected Status recipients, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients; and
- WHEREAS According to the Boston Planning and Development Agency's "Boston by the Numbers" 2015 report, non-U.S. Citizens make significant contributions to Boston's economy, generate over \$3.4 billion in expenditures, \$2.3 billion to the region's gross product and paid \$116 million in state and local taxes; and
- WHEREAS All members of a community should have the right to participate and be included in the governance of that community; and
- WHEREAS Immigrants with legal status who are seeking a pathway to Citizenship, are prohibited from voting by state law and thus limited in playing an active role in the civic life of the City of Boston; and
- WHEREAS The purpose of our local government, including the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement, is to "strengthen the ability of diverse, cultural and linguistic communities to play an active role in the economic, civic, social and cultural life of the city of Boston," and to provide equitable access and opportunity for all residents; and
- WHEREAS Local government also has the responsibility to explore inclusive practices including providing documents in multiple languages and interpretation services at meetings and events sponsored by the City; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT
- ORDERED That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council convene one or more public hearings to explore the possibility of allowing immigrants with legal status to vote in municipal elections and to examine other inclusive practices. Those invited to