

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE AND LIZ BREADON



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

HOME RULE PETITION

WHEREAS, When a vacancy arises in the office of district city councilor, ensuring representation for the residents of Boston is of the utmost importance, particularly in moments of transition, when timely access to constituent services and representative advocacy is most important; and

WHEREAS, When there is a vacancy and an upcoming election, residents deserve to have an elected representative seated as soon as election results are certified, so that they may receive immediate support and guidance without unnecessary delay; and

WHEREAS, The person duly elected by the voters of a district should be able to take and subscribe the oaths of office as soon as practical after certification to shorten an existing vacancy; and

WHEREAS, Swearing in a newly elected official at the earliest practicable opportunity is consistent with democratic principles and the will of the voters, and avoids bureaucratic or ceremonial delays that serve no material purpose; ***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 THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT COUNCILOR IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

SECTION 1.

A regular municipal election is to be held on November 4, 2025. In the event of a vacancy in a district council office at the time of the regular municipal election, the candidate who wins the election for the district council seat shall take and subscribe the oaths required by Acts of 1951, c. 376, s. 1.11A, as amended, as soon as conveniently may be after the issuance of the certificate of election and shall hold office from the time of taking and subscribing such oaths until the expiration of their elected term.

SECTION 2.

The provisions of this act are severable and if any provision, or portion thereof, should be held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3.

This act shall take effect upon its passage.