



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
MICHELLE WU

May 12, 2023

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

On May 8, 2023, the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts issued an opinion enjoining the City from using the recently approved City Council district map. To help ensure a swift and smooth resolution to redistricting, I hereby transmit for your consideration a Boston City Council District map that enhances opportunities for voters and their preferences to be reflected and represented on the City Council and prioritizes placing whole neighborhoods within individual districts. In drawing this proposed map, we have carefully reviewed and considered the decision in *Case No. 1:22-cv-12048: Rasheed Walters, et al vs. Boston City Council, et al.* and our City's legal obligations under the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

As Mayor, I believe that putting whole neighborhoods in single council districts encourages neighborhood organizing and civic engagement. With that goal in mind, our proposed map unifies neighborhoods across the City. The result is a City Council district map that unifies communities of interest within districts and attempts, as best as possible, to reflect how residents experience the City in their daily lives. We believe that better aligning our neighborhoods within district maps will strengthen the Council and the City that we serve.

I want to acknowledge the hard work from so many community organizations, neighborhood leaders, voting activists and advocates, who have worked hard to set the best possible course for our City's future. Your shared wisdom is reflected in the proposed map and I hope that everyone who reviews it sees your own community and input reflected. I know my colleagues on the City Council and I will welcome further feedback at their sessions in the coming days.

As we wrote to this Honorable Body earlier in the week, time is of the essence. The timelines reflected in the Home Rule Petition proposed on Wednesday, May 10, assume that a new map will be passed by the City Council on or before May 30, 2023. This date would permit the Elections Department to conduct a signature petition process, certify signatures, and print and mail ballots in time to conduct the September 12th Preliminary Election in an orderly fashion

that provides our community with a meaningful opportunity to participate in this important election.

This proposed map unifies neighborhoods within council districts and is one that I am prepared to sign. Whether this map or another amended by the Council, I urge your Honorable Body to take action on a redistricting map at the next Council meeting on Wednesday, May 17, in order for sufficient review and potential rejection or amendments before the May 30 deadline. The City's Law Department and our outside redistricting counsel will be available for consultation as you continue your deliberation and prepare for passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Wu', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston

CITY OF BOSTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY COUNCIL ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston, as follows:

City of Boston Code, Ordinances, Chapter Two is hereby amended by striking Section 2-9.2, as amended by Chapter 9 of the Ordinances of 2022, and replacing it with the following new language:

The districts redrawn under the authority of Chapter 605 of the Acts of 1982 as amended by Chapter 343 of the Actions of 1986 are hereby redrawn, as follows:

District One. Consisting of precincts numbered one through fourteen of Ward One; precincts numbered one through eight of Ward Two; and precincts numbered one through four and eleven of Ward Three.

District Two. Consisting of precinct numbered fifteen in Ward One; precincts numbered six, eight, ten, and twelve through fifteen of Ward Three; precinct numbered one in Ward Five; precincts numbered one through twelve of Ward Six; precincts numbered one through nine of Ward Seven; and precinct numbered six in Ward Eight.

District Three. Consisting of precinct numbered ten in Ward Seven; precinct numbered five in Ward Eight; precincts numbered one through ten of Ward Thirteen; precincts numbered one through four and six through nine of Ward Fifteen; precincts numbered one through twelve of Ward Sixteen; and precinct numbered thirteen in Ward Seventeen.

District Four. Consisting of precincts numbered seven and eight of Ward Eleven; precincts numbered one through fourteen of Ward Fourteen; precinct numbered five in Ward Fifteen; precincts numbered one through twelve and fourteen of Ward Seventeen; precinct numbered one in Ward Eighteen; and precincts numbered seven and twelve of Ward Nineteen.

District Five. Consisting of precincts numbered two through twenty-three of Ward Eighteen; precincts numbered ten, eleven, and thirteen of Ward Nineteen; and precincts numbered one, two, four, eight, and nine of Ward Twenty.

District Six. Consisting of precinct numbered ten in Ward Four; precincts numbered one through nine of Ward Ten; precincts numbered six, nine, and ten of Ward Eleven;

precincts numbered one through six, eight, and nine of Ward Nineteen; and precincts numbered three, five through seven, and ten through twenty-one of Ward Twenty.

District Seven. Consisting of precincts numbered six through nine, eleven, and twelve of Ward Four; precincts numbered three and four of Ward Eight; precincts numbered three through seven of Ward Nine; precincts numbered one through five of Ward Eleven; and precincts numbered one through nine of Ward Twelve.

District Eight. Consisting of precincts numbered five, seven, nine, sixteen, and seventeen of Ward Three; precincts numbered one through five of Ward Four; precincts numbered two through fifteen of Ward Five; precincts numbered one and two of Ward Eight; precincts numbered one and two of Ward Nine; and precincts numbered one and two of Ward Twenty-One.

District Nine. Consisting of precincts numbered three through sixteen of Ward Twenty-One; and precincts numbered one through thirteen of Ward Twenty-Two.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY
THE FORGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**

BY



**ADAM CEDERBAUM
CORPORATION COUNSEL**