

Offered by Councilor Kenzie Bok, Arroyo, Breadon, Coletta, Fernandes Anderson, Flaherty, Lara, Louijeune, Mejia, Murphy, Worrell and Flynn



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF BOSTON CODE, ORDINANCES, SECTION 2-9.2 IN REGARD TO COUNCIL DISTRICT EIGHT

- WHEREAS:* The Charter of the City of Boston calls for a vacancy in the Office of District City Councilor to be filled by special election if it occurs more than 180 days prior to a municipal election; *and*
- WHEREAS:* Such a vacancy has been declared in District Eight, whose residents deserve to be newly represented within three months as enabled by the City Charter, *and*
- WHEREAS:* Since the redrawing of District Eight in 2012 as defined by then-current precinct lines, Boston's Board of Election Commissioners has drawn meaningfully new precinct lines within several of the wards included in District Eight; *and*
- WHEREAS:* These new precinct lines have already been input into the Voter Registration Information System (VRIS), publicized to voters, and used for the 2022 state elections; *and*
- WHEREAS:* Ease and consistency of election administration, along with clarity for voters, will benefit from using the same new precinct lines for any 2023 special municipal election as shall be used in the 2023 regular municipal elections; *and*
- WHEREAS:* It is not fair to ask voters, for administrative reasons, to wait seven months rather than three for the Council representation to which they are entitled by law, if administrative solutions can be found to the administrative hurdles; *and*
- WHEREAS:* Boston's Board of Election Commissioners possesses authority to create the seven sub-precincts needed to align new precinct lines with the geographic boundaries of District Eight as established by Chapter 6 of the Ordinances of 2012; *and*
- WHEREAS:* The City Council can and should by ordinance clearly establish the authority of the Board of Election Commissioners to conduct any 2023 special municipal election for District Eight within the territory defined for said District in 2012 but according to the new precinct lines; **NOW**

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BOSTON, AS FOLLOWS:

City of Boston Code, Ordinances, Chapter Two is hereby amended by adding to the end of Section 2-9.2 the following:

“For the purposes of any special preliminary election or special municipal election to be held in 2023 to fill a vacancy in Boston City Council District Eight as drawn by Chapter 6 of the Ordinances of 2012, said special elections shall be administered according to new precincts ratified by the Board of Election Commissioners since 2021, and so said District shall be redefined, for any such 2023 special elections only, as follows:

District Eight: Consisting of precincts numbered five and nine of Ward Three; precincts numbered two through twelve and fifteen of Ward Five; precincts numbered one through five of Ward Ten; precincts numbered one and two of Ward Twenty-One; and sub-precincts numbered ten ‘A’ of Ward Three and six ‘A’, seven ‘A’, eight ‘A’, nine ‘A’, ten ‘A’, and twelve ‘A’ of Ward Four.”

Filed on: April 12, 2023