

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS KENDRA LARA, RICARDO ARROYO, JULIA MEJIA, BREADON, LOUIJEUNE AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF S.8/H.26, A PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION RELATIVE TO VOTING RIGHTS

- WHEREAS,** Massachusetts added a felony disenfranchisement constitutional amendment in 2000 when voters approved a statewide ballot question making it illegal to vote from prison while serving a felony sentence; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Approximately 8,000 residents of the Commonwealth are disenfranchised and have lost their right to vote due to a felony conviction; *and*
- WHEREAS,** More than half of disenfranchised voters due to federal convictions are black or Latinx; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 2022, the Massachusetts Legislature passed the VOTES Act by including language creating protections for jail-based voting for those who still maintain the right to vote; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Massachusetts became the third state to advance full rights restoration out of committee last week; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Lawmakers in California and New York have also filed bills and amendments to end felony disenfranchisement; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Senators Liz Miranda, Adam Gomez, and Lindsay N. Sabadosa have proposed a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to voting rights. Election Law; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Representative Erika Uytterhoeven and others have filed a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to the voting rights of certain persons incarcerated in correctional facilities due to felony convictions; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Restoring the right to vote would complete the work of criminal justice reform and voting right expansion bills that the state has passed over the last few years; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- RESOLVED:** The Boston City Council Supports S.8/H.26, Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to voting rights. The Boston City Council urges the Massachusetts State Legislature to allow a ballot initiative that would enable citizens around the state to vote in ending the disenfranchisement of incarcerated people.

Filed on: May 10, 2023