



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

RESOLUTION URGING SUPPORT FOR THE 2026 BALLOT QUESTION ON RENT STABILIZATION TO PROTECT TENANTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

WHEREAS, The rapidly escalating cost of housing in Boston has created profound instability for renters—placing many seniors, essential workers, and families at risk of displacement and housing insecurity; *and*

WHEREAS, Residents across Boston consistently cite housing affordability as a top concern, and over 50% of renters in the Boston area are considered “cost-burdened,” paying more than 30% of their income on rent and utilities—with more than 27% severely burdened, paying over 50%; *and*

WHEREAS, Rent control was eliminated through a 1994 statewide ballot question by the aggregate of Massachusetts voters, despite Boston voters supporting the continuation of rent control by a significant margin; *and*

WHEREAS, Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston City Council voted on a home rule petition in 2022 to stabilize rents in Boston that was filed with the Massachusetts legislature and then sent to committee to study; *and*

WHEREAS, A coalition led by Homes for All Massachusetts has filed initiative petition language with the Attorney General to place a rent stabilization measure on the November 2026 statewide ballot, proposing a cap on annual rent increases tied to the Consumer Price Index—or, in any case, not exceeding 5% per year—with exemptions for owner-occupied buildings of four or fewer units and for newly constructed buildings during their first ten years. ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council hereby declares its support for the rent stabilization measure proposed for the 2026 statewide ballot; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk is hereby requested to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Attorney General, the Boston delegation of the Massachusetts Legislature, the Mayor of Boston, and the Governor of the Commonwealth.