

Offered by Councilor Lydia Edwards



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE INCREASING VOTER PARTICIPATION THROUGH PREPAID RETURN ENVELOPES FOR MAIL IN VOTING

WHEREAS: The 2020 state and federal election was the first time Massachusetts voters were able to vote by mail; *and*

WHEREAS, The 2021 municipal election will be the first time Boston voters will be able to vote by mail in a municipal election; *and*

WHEREAS, Vote by mail has been shown to increase voter participation and makes the democratic process more accessible; *and*

WHEREAS, The return envelopes provided by the City of Boston's Election Department are not prepaid and require two first class stamps for mailing; *and*

WHEREAS, Prepaid return envelopes would further increase participation in elections and the democratic process; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED,***

SECTION 1.

The City of Boston Code, Ordinances, Chapter 2, Section 3, is hereby amended by adding the following:

2.3-4 Prepaid envelopes for mail-in voting

Whenever the Election Department sends mail-in ballots to voters, the return envelopes shall be prepaid by the City of Boston.

SECTION 2. Effective Date

This ordinance shall be effective upon passage.

Filed On: September 15, 2021