

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, COLETTA ZAPATA, SANTANA, WEBER,
AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING BOSTON'S RANKED CHOICE VOTING HOME RULE PETITION

WHEREAS, Following a full legislative process that included public hearings, committee review, and formal votes of the legislative body, the Boston City Council adopted a Home Rule Petition entitled *An Act to Implement Ranked Choice Voting in Boston*, which was thereafter signed into law by Mayor Michelle Wu on May 21, 2025, completing the required municipal approvals under the City's Home Rule authority; *and*

WHEREAS, The Massachusetts Joint Committee on Election Laws is scheduled to hold a public hearing on *H.4262* on February 10, 2026, providing an opportunity for legislators, municipal officials, advocates, and members of the public to further review Boston's proposal; *and*

WHEREAS, The Joint Committee on Election Laws recently reported out legislation establishing a local-option bill for municipalities seeking to adopt Ranked Choice Voting, reflecting growing interest among cities and towns in Massachusetts in expanding voter choice through local elections; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston's Home Rule Petition was developed through an extensive legislative process including the Council's Committee on Government Operations, which held a public hearing on October 10, 2024, followed by working sessions on February 25, 2025 and April 4, 2025, during which Councilors engaged in detailed review of ballot design, tabulation methods, voter intent, language access, disability access, election technology, result reporting, and voter education; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston's municipal election system has distinct considerations, including a long-standing preliminary election structure and a hybrid City Council composed of both district and at-large seats, which informed the City's decision to pursue a tailored Home Rule Petition; *and*

WHEREAS, The Home Rule Petition reflects deliberate policy choices intended to preserve election continuity where appropriate, minimize administrative disruption, and ensure that any potential implementation of Ranked Choice Voting is accompanied by clear rules, transparent reporting, and robust, multilingual voter education; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Boston City Council respectfully urges the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Election Laws to give Boston's Home Rule Petition thoughtful and timely consideration, and that the City Clerk is hereby requested to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Chairs and members of the Joint Committee on Election Laws, the members of the Boston legislative delegation, the Speaker of the House, the Senate President.