

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL



In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty

Order of Councilor Lydia Edwards, Bok, Arroyo,

Campbell, Mejia, O'Malley, Flaherty, Flynn, Essaibi-George, and Janey

ORDERED: That under the provisions of Chapter 43B of the Massachusetts General Laws, including Sections 10 and 19 of said Chapter, Article 89 of the Massachusetts Constitution, and any other applicable provision of law, Councilor Lydia Edwards proposes, by written request to the Clerk of the City of Boston, the following amendment to the budgetary authorities outlined in Section 48 of the Boston City Charter, which would strike and replace the existing text of said section, and submits such amendment for approval by the voters of the City of Boston:

Creation and Approval of the Municipal Budget. The Mayor and City Council of the City of Boston shall hold equal budgetary authority, with the powers to originate an appropriation order for the capital and operating budgets, modify in whole or in part an appropriation order or an item within an appropriation order, designate a portion of the budget for a participatory budgeting process, amend the budget for Boston Public Schools, clarify budgetary procedures by municipal ordinance and take such other actions as are necessary to author, amend and approve the annual budget for the City. Notwithstanding the power of the council to originate a budget at a time of its choosing, the mayor, not later than the second Wednesday in April of each year, shall submit to the city council the annual budget of the current expenses of the city and county for the forthcoming fiscal year, and may submit thereafter such supplementary appropriation orders as he may deem necessary. Not later than the second Wednesday in June, the city council shall take definite action on the annual budget, by adopting, amending or rejecting it, and in the event of their failure to act on a budget submitted by the Mayor, the items and the appropriation orders in the budget as recommended by the mayor shall be in effect as if formally adopted by the city council and approved by the mayor. The Mayor shall have seven days from the time of a budgetary vote of the council to approve or return said budget to the council, and in the event of the failure of the Mayor to act on a budget approved by the Council, the budget shall be in effect as approved by the council. The mayor may modify a budget approved by the council by

returning it with amendment to said council, provided that a vote of two-thirds of the council shall be sufficient to override any budgetary amendment, in whole or in part, or veto action made by the mayor. It shall be the duty of the city and the county officials when requested by the mayor, to submit to the mayor forthwith in such detail as the mayor may require estimates for the next fiscal year of the expenditures of the department or office under their charge, which estimates shall be transmitted to the city council; provided, however, that the mayor shall neither submit, nor thereafter reduce, the appropriations for the city council at or to a level below that which existed for the previous fiscal year, nor shall the city council reduce the appropriations for the mayor's office below that which existed for the previous fiscal year.

Filed with the City Clerk of the City of Boston: July 6, 2020