

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL
ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS
BOSTON'S ELECTORAL RECOUNT PROCESS**

WHEREAS: Voting is a fundamental aspect of democracy and every vote counts in our elections; *and*

WHEREAS: In hotly contested elections, the margins of victory can be extremely small - the most recent example being the race for our Boston City Councilor At-Large seats this year, with only 1 vote between the fourth and fifth place finish in the most recent count; *and*

WHEREAS: With small margins of victory, it is imperative that every vote is counted accurately and that there should be an automatic recount process in place that is fair to both the candidates and the municipalities; *and*

WHEREAS: The current recount process in Boston requires that candidates requesting a recount collect 50 signatures in each ward that they would like a recount on, and have the signatures certified and filed within 10 days of the petition; *and*

WHEREAS: The current recount process in Boston can be challenging to the candidates and does not align with state and district-wide recount practices. Moreover, most cities and towns in Massachusetts only require 10 signatures in each ward for a recount; *and*

WHEREAS: Every vote is important and municipalities have the responsibility to provide an accurate count, especially if the margin of victory is narrow. Having a challenging recount process can make it difficult to request an accurate count; *and*

WHEREAS: There should be a discussion on how we can improve our electoral recount process, including an automatic recount if the margin is below a certain threshold; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the current recount process for Boston elections and potential ways to improve the system . Representatives from the Election Department, and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to testify.

Filed on: February 12, 2020