



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Edwards, Bok, Flynn, Essaibi-George, Breadon, Arroyo, Mejia,  
O'Malley, Wu, Flaherty and Campbell

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty One**

**Order of Councilor Lydia Edwards: 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 Acts of 1909, c. 486, s. 3, amended by Acts of 1974, c. 276, s. 53, amended by Acts of 1982, c. 190, s. 15, and further amended by Acts of 1986, c. 701, s. 2 [Section 48] of the Boston City Charter, which would amend 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 budgetary powers together, with the power to modify in whole or in part an appropriation order or an item within an appropriation order, amend the budget for Boston Public Schools consistent with the Acts of 1936, c. 224, s.2, amended by Acts of 1986, c. 701, s. 5, and further amended by Acts of 1987, c. 613, s. 2 [section 75] of this charter, clarify budgetary procedures and take such other actions as are necessary to amend, approve or disapprove the annual budget for the City, excepting the powers to originate an appropriation order, which shall be reserved for the mayor. To further public engagement and democratic involvement in city spending, the City of Boston shall create by City ordinance an independent Office of Participatory Budgeting with an external oversight board, to create and oversee an equitable and binding decision-making process open to all Boston residents by Fiscal Year 2024, consistent with G.L. c. 44, § 53. 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 the mayor may submit thereafter such supplementary appropriation orders as they 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, provided that the amended version shall not be for a higher total budget than originally proposed. 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 to said council with amendments to any line item provided that a vote of two-thirds of the council shall be sufficient to override any budgetary amendments, in whole or in part, or an overall budgetary veto 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.

File on: 4/28/2021

Question #1 (Binding) Charter Amendment  
Boston Municipal Election – November 2, 2021

*Shall the City of Boston approve the charter amendment proposed by the City Council?*

YES 82,342

NO 39,835

Passed by the City Council on May 19, 2021

Approved by Acting Mayor Kim Janey on June 7, 2021