

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, ENRIQUE PEPÉN, BREADON, CULPEPPER, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING VOTER ACCESSIBILITY AND ELECTION PREPAREDNESS

- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston is committed to ensuring elections are accessible, reliable, secure, and administered in a manner that protects the fundamental right to vote for all residents; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In recent election cycles, voters in Boston have experienced a range of administrative and logistical challenges at polling locations, including issues related to ballot availability, staffing, voter check-in, communication, and site preparedness, which have contributed to delays, confusion, and barriers to participation; *and*
- WHEREAS,** These challenges have disproportionately affected voters with disabilities, seniors, and voters with limited English proficiency, underscoring the need for continued attention to accessibility in election administration; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In response to prior election challenges, the City of Boston and the Commonwealth have undertaken changes to election operations, staffing, training, and oversight, including procedural reforms intended to improve Election Day readiness and voter experience ; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Ongoing review and public accountability are essential to ensuring that election reforms are effective, sustainable, and responsive to evolving voter needs and turnout patterns; *and*
- WHEREAS,** A comprehensive review of election preparedness, including ballot planning, poll worker recruitment and training, communications protocols, accessibility accommodations, and coordination among municipal and state agencies will strengthen public confidence in Boston’s electoral system; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine voter accessibility and election preparedness in the City of Boston, and to assess both ongoing challenges and recent reforms, at which the Boston Election Commission, the Massachusetts Secretary of State’s Office, advocacy organizations, election workers, and members of the public shall be invited to testify.