

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, LIZ BREADON,
COLETTA ZAPATA, CULPEPPER, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA,
MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF QUESTION 4 TO ESTABLISH ELECTION DAY VOTER REGISTRATION IN MASSACHUSETTS

- WHEREAS,** The right to vote is fundamental to representative government, and every eligible Massachusetts resident should have a meaningful opportunity to participate in our democracy; and
- WHEREAS,** Massachusetts currently requires residents to register or update their voter registration at least ten days before an election, meaning an otherwise eligible voter may be unable to cast a ballot because they missed the deadline, recently moved, or discovered an error in their registration too late to correct it; and
- WHEREAS,** Question 4, as it appears on the November 3, 2026, statewide ballot, would allow eligible residents to register or update their address at the polling place for the precinct in which they reside on Election Day by providing proof of residency and signing an oath affirming their citizenship, age, eligibility, and that they have not voted and will not vote elsewhere in the same election; and
- WHEREAS,** Election Day registration can significantly help otherwise eligible voters correct administrative errors or update their registration after moving, particularly benefiting renters, low-income residents, voters of color, and others who face barriers to registration;
- WHEREAS,** More than twenty states and the District of Columbia permit eligible residents to register and vote on Election Day, including Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Connecticut; and
- WHEREAS,** Question 4 preserves election safeguards, including proof-of-residency requirements, a sworn statement of eligibility, criminal penalties for false information, and provisional ballots when required documentation is unavailable; and
- WHEREAS,** If approved, Question 4 would take effect on January 1, 2028, providing the Commonwealth and its municipalities time to establish procedures, train poll workers, educate the public, and prepare for effective implementation; and
- WHEREAS,** Boston has long worked to expand access to the ballot and has a direct interest in ensuring that eligible residents are not prevented from voting because of an administrative error, a recent move, or a missed registration deadline; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council go on record in support of Question 4 and establish secure and accessible Election Day voter registration throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.