

Offered by Councilor Garrison



**City of Boston
In City Council**

Order for a hearing to discuss a proposal for more American civics to be taught in our Boston Public High Schools

WHEREAS, According to the *Center of American Progress*, only nine states and the District of Columbia require one year of U.S. government or civics, with Massachusetts not being one of them; and

WHEREAS, An examination of standards for civics and U.S. government courses found that 32 states and the District of Columbia provide the most basic instruction on American democracy in comparison to other systems of government with no states offering experiential learning or local problem-solving components expounded upon in their civics requirements; and

WHEREAS, *The Annenburg Public Policy Center* of the University of Pennsylvania cites these staggering statistics: 1) More than half of Americans (53 percent) incorrectly think it is accurate to say that immigrants who are here illegally do not have any rights under the U.S. Constitution. 2) More than a third of those surveyed (37 percent) can't name any of the rights guaranteed under the First Amendment. 3) Only a quarter of Americans (26 percent) can name all three branches of government; and *NOW*

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss collaborating with our City Hall Education Cabinet, the Boston Public School Superintendent and the Boston School Committee to consider changing our half-year mandatory civics class requirement to at least a year and that representatives from the relevant BPS departments and members of public be invited to attend and testify.

Date filed: January 28, 2019