



**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**HOME RULE PETITION**

**ORDERED:** That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston to be filed with an attested copy of this Order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause One (1) of Section Eight (8) of Article Two (2), as amended, of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows, except for clerical or editorial changes of form only:

**PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE: AN ACT RELATIVE TO VOTING PRECINCTS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

**SECTION 1.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, precinct 6 of ward 3 of the city of Boston shall be 1 precinct for the purpose of forming congressional, representative, senatorial, councilor or city council districts but shall have 2 sub-precincts for the purpose of voting at any federal, state or municipal elections. The polling places for each sub-precinct shall be known as precincts 6 of ward 3 and 6A of ward 3, respectively, and shall be located in a public, orderly and convenient portion of the precinct as determined by the board of election commissioners of the city of Boston; provided, however, that if the board of election commissioners determines that public convenience would be better served, it may designate a polling place in an adjacent precinct of the city.

**SECTION 2.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, precinct 7 of ward 3 of the city of Boston shall be 1 precinct for the purpose of forming congressional, representative, senatorial, councilor or city council districts but shall have 2 sub-precincts for the purpose of voting at any federal, state or municipal elections. The polling places for each sub-precinct shall be known as precincts 7 of ward 3 and 7A of ward 3, respectively, and shall be located in a public, orderly and convenient portion of the precinct as determined by the board of election commissioners of the city of Boston; provided, however, that if the board of election

commissioners determines that public convenience would be better served, it may designate a polling place in an adjacent precinct of the city.

**SECTION 3.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, precinct 8 of ward 3 of the city of Boston shall be 1 precinct for the purpose of forming congressional, representative, senatorial, councilor or city council districts but shall have 3 sub-precincts for the purpose of voting at any federal, state or municipal elections. The polling places for each sub-precinct shall be known as precincts 8 of ward 3, 8A of ward 3 and 8B of ward 3, respectively, and shall be located in a public, orderly and convenient portion of the precinct as determined by the board of election commissioners of the city of Boston; provided, however, that if the board of election commissioners determines that public convenience would be better served, it may designate a polling place in an adjacent precinct of the city.

**SECTION 4.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, precinct 1 of ward 5 of the city of Boston shall be 1 precinct for the purpose of forming congressional, representative, senatorial, councilor or city council districts but shall have 2 sub-precincts for the purpose of voting at any federal, state or municipal elections. The polling places for each sub-precinct shall be known as precincts 1 of ward 5 and 1A of ward 5, respectively, and shall be located in a public, orderly and convenient portion of the precinct as determined by the board of election commissioners of the city of Boston; provided, however, that if the board of election commissioners determines that public convenience would be better served, it may designate a polling place in an adjacent precinct of the city.

**SECTION 5.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, precinct 1 of ward 6 of the city of Boston shall be 1 precinct for the purpose of forming congressional, representative, senatorial, councilor or city council districts but shall have 2 sub-precincts for the purpose of voting at any federal, state or municipal elections. The polling places for each sub-precinct shall be known as precincts 1 of ward 6 and 1A of ward 6, respectively, and shall be located in a public, orderly and convenient portion of the precinct as determined by the board of election commissioners of the city of Boston; provided, however, that if the board of election commissioners determines that public convenience would be better served, it may designate a polling place in an adjacent precinct of the city.

**SECTION 6.** Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, precinct 3 of ward 9 of the city of Boston shall be 1 precinct for the purpose of forming congressional, representative, senatorial, councilor or city council districts but shall have 2 sub-precincts for the purpose of voting at any federal, state or municipal elections. The polling places for each sub-precinct shall be known as precincts 3 of ward 9 and 3A of ward 9, respectively, and shall be located in a public, orderly and convenient portion of the precinct as determined by the board of election commissioners of the city of Boston; provided, however, that if the board of election

commissioners determines that public convenience would be better served, it may designate a polling place in an adjacent precinct of the city.

**SECTION 7.** The board of election commissioners of the city of Boston may take all necessary actions to ensure compliance with this act including, but not limited to, assuring the accuracy of the voting lists as located at each polling location determined pursuant to sections 1 through 6. The board of election commissioners of the city of Boston shall divide precincts 6, 7, and 8 of ward 3, precinct 1 of ward 5, precinct 1 of ward 6, and precinct 3 of ward 9 into sub-precincts as set forth in sections 1 through 6 and only the names of voters who reside in each sub-precinct shall appear on the voting list for that sub-precinct.

**SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect 90 days after its passage.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT  
THE FOREGOING, IF PASSED IN  
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.  
BY Eugene L. O'Flaherty  
EUGENE L. O'FLAHERTY *cal*  
CORPORATION COUNSEL



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
MARTIN J. WALSH

January 28, 2017

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith for your approval a home rule petition to the General Court entitled “Petition for a Special Law Re: An Act Relative to Voting Precincts in the City of Boston.”

This Home Rule Petition will allow the City to establish sub-precincts in order to alleviate crowds and lines in some parts of the city that have experienced significant growth. None of these adjustments will change any ward boundary lines, and will not change representation for purposes of congressional, representative, senatorial, or councilor districts.

Over the last ten years, certain parts of the City, including the downtown areas, the South End and in the Seaport district, have grown dramatically due to the construction of large, multi-unit residences and the expansion of college dormitories. This growth has occurred “up” as opposed to “out.” While the geographic footprint of the precincts has remained the same, there are thousands more people living in them. The creation of sub-precincts, and in some cases additional polling locations, would decrease voter wait times, alleviate over-crowding, increase the number voting machines that the City is allowed to utilize, and allow poll workers to do their jobs more efficiently. The Home Rule Petition would permit the City to establish sub-precincts, and in some cases additional polling locations, in the following precincts:

Ward 3, Precinct 6 (Downtown, Financial District & parts of Beacon Hill)

Ward 3, Precinct 7 (South End)

Ward 3, Precinct 8 (Chinatown & South End)

Ward 5, Precinct 1 (Bay Village)

Ward 6, Precinct 1 (South Boston to Broadway Station, Seaport)

Ward 9, Precinct 3 (South End)

This Home Rule Petition is necessary so that the new sub-precincts and polling locations may be included in the Commonwealth's state-wide Voter Registration Information System.

I urge your Honorable Body to join me in this effort to ensure greater efficiency in the voting process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin J. Walsh", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Martin J. Walsh  
Mayor of Boston