

**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**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 ELECTION  
NOMINATION PETITIONS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

SECTION 1. The fourth paragraph of section 55A of chapter 452 of the acts of 1948, inserted by section 4 of chapter 342 of the acts of 1983, and as amended by section 6 of chapter 476 of the acts of 2004, is hereby amended by striking out those portions of the form containing the number "19" and inserting in place thereof the number "20."

SECTION 2. Section 55A of chapter 452 of the acts of 1948, inserted by section 4 of chapter 342 of the acts of 1983, and as amended by section 6 of chapter 476 of the acts of 2004, is hereby further amended by striking out the second paragraph of the form.

SECTION 3. Section 56 of chapter 452 of the acts of 1948, inserted by section 4 of chapter 342 of the acts of 1983, and further amended by section 7 of chapter 476 of the acts of 2004, is hereby amended by striking out the second paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

Every voter signing a nomination petition shall sign in person, with his name as registered, and shall state his residence on January first preceding, or his residence when registered if subsequent thereto, and the place where he is then living, with the street and number, if any; but any voter who is prevented by physical disability from writing may authorize some person to write his name and residence in his presence. There shall be no limit on the number of nomination petitions for any office that the voter may choose to sign as petitioner. If the name of any voter appears more than once as petitioner on the nomination petition for any single candidate, it shall be deemed to appear but once as a petitioner for that candidate.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect immediately upon 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  
CORPORATION COUNSEL



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
MARTIN J. WALSH

January 9, 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 Election Nomination Petitions in the City of Boston."

This Home Rule Petition will create a more equitable process for candidates. Current law limits voters' ability to sign multiple nomination papers for a given office. As it stands now, voters are only allowed to sign one nomination paper for candidates for mayor and district city councilor, and up to four nomination papers for city council-at-large candidates.

This Home Rule Petition will allow voters to sign nomination papers for as many candidates as they choose, providing the opportunity for more candidates to get on the ballot. This not only benefits those who seek elected office but also the voters who may now have more options when entering the voting booth. Participation in the electoral process needs to be more inclusive and this home rule petition helps to achieve that goal.

I urge your Honorable Body to join me in this effort to ensure greater equity in the City of Boston's election process.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh  
Mayor of Boston