

Offered by Councilor Andrea J. Campbell

**CITY OF BOSTON**

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

**HOME RULE PETITION**



*WHEREAS,* Currently, councillors hold office for two municipal years while the mayor holds office for four municipal years; and,

*WHEREAS,* The City Council serves as the legislative body of the city; and, in that capacity originates ordinances, loan orders, and home rule petitions. The City Council also implements and establishes public policy. In addition to the authority previously referenced, the City Council also approves ordinances, orders, home rule petitions, and other matters sponsored by the Mayor; and,

*WHEREAS,* Having a municipal election every two years where oftentimes voter turnout is low is burdensome on city resources. Making the term of office for city councillors a four year term will reduce costs in having multiple elections and will allow the city to operate in a more effective and efficient manner.

*THEREFORE BE IT*

*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 1 of Section 8 of Article II, as amended, of the Articles of Amendment 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 REGARDING THE TERMS OF OFFICE FOR CITY COUNCILLORS**

*Section 1.* Chapter 376 of the Acts of 1951 shall be amended in Section 1.14 by striking the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:

Each councilor shall hold office for the four years following the municipal year in which he is elected.

*Section 2.* The provisions of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

*Section 3.* If any of the above sections are determined to not be constitutional under the law, the remainder of the provisions shall remain valid.

Filed in Council: February 6, 2019

