

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, BREADON, COLETTA, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FOUR

HOME RULE PETITION TO ENSURE FUTURE INAUGURATION DATES DO NOT FALL ON A FEDERAL HOLIDAY

WHEREAS, Inauguration Day fell on Jan. 1, 2024 this year; *and*

WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress holds its Inauguration on Jan. 3 to avoid it falling on a federal holiday; *and*

WHEREAS, The inauguration would gain more civic engagement if it didn't fall on a federal holiday; *and*

WHEREAS, Public safety officers had just been deployed at First Night and other activities less than 12 hours before the inauguration; *and*

WHEREAS, The City Charter calls for City Council and Mayoral terms and the municipal year to end on the first Monday of January; *and*

WHEREAS, There is no material or technical need for the city's inauguration to ever be held on Jan. 1, or on Jan. 2 when that is the observed Monday holiday when Jan. 1 falls on a Sunday; *and*

WHEREAS, The inauguration date, municipal years, and elected terms currently can fall from Jan. 1-7 as "the first Monday in January" and the new inauguration dates, municipal years, and elected terms would fall between Jan. 3-5 as the "first weekday after the second day of January"; *and*

WHEREAS, The next Council term that starts on Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, is set to end on Monday, Jan. 3, 2028, and would not be affected by this change; *and*

WHEREAS, The next Mayoral term that starts on Jan. 5, 2026, is set to end on Monday, Jan. 7, 2030, and would now end on Thursday, Jan. 3, 2030; *and*

WHEREAS, The first affected Council term would start on Jan. 3, 2028, is set to end on Monday, Jan. 7, 2030, and would now end on Thursday, Jan. 3, 2030; **NOW,
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 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 ELECTED TERMS AND MUNICIPAL YEARS

SECTION 1. Section 8 of the General Provisions is hereby amended by striking “the first Monday of January” and replacing it with “the first weekday after the second day in January.”

SECTION 2. Section 9 of the General Provisions is hereby amended by striking “the first Monday of January” and replacing it with “the first weekday after the second day in January.”

SECTION 3.

The provisions of this act are severable and if any provision, or portion thereof, should be held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4.

This act shall take effect starting with the elected terms and the municipal year that begins on Jan. 5, 2026.

Filed on: January 24, 2024