

HOUSE No. 643

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marjorie C. Decker

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act authorizing the city of Cambridge to offer early voting in municipal elections.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Marjorie C. Decker

25th Middlesex

Joseph A. Boncore

First Suffolk and Middlesex

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By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 643) of Marjorie C. Decker and Joseph A. Boncore (with the approval of the city council) relative to authorizing the city of Cambridge to offer early voting in municipal elections. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act authorizing the city of Cambridge to offer early voting in municipal elections.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Beginning in the year 2019, notwithstanding any general or special law to
2 the contrary, the City of Cambridge may offer early voting for municipal elections. The City of
3 Cambridge may elect to allow any qualified voter, as defined in section 1 of chapter 51 of the
4 General Laws, to cast a ballot for any biennial municipal election during the early voting
5 period. The City of Cambridge’s Election Commission may promulgate regulations to implement
6 this act not inconsistent with section 25B of chapter 54 of the General Laws and with other
7 election laws applicable in the City of Cambridge, including those governing proportional
8 representation voting. Such regulations may include, but are not limited to, a process for
9 establishing early voting locations, dates, staffing, and a process for applying for, receiving,
10 separating, compiling, recording, and securing early voter ballots. Each early voting site shall be
11 accessible to persons with disabilities.

12 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take full effect upon its acceptance and appropriation by majority vote of
14 the City Council of said City, but not otherwise.