

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 841**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Russell E. Holmes***

*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 granting the city of Boston the authority to endow legal voting rights in municipal elections for city of Boston residents aged 16 and 17 years old.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 841**

---

---

By Representative Holmes of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 841) of Russell E. Holmes (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to the eligible age for voting in the city of Boston. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

---

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 692 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act granting the city of Boston the authority to endow legal voting rights in municipal elections for city of Boston residents aged 16 and 17 years old.

*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.

2 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of chapter 51 of the General Laws or any  
3 other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, any individual aged 16 or 17 years  
4 old residing in the City of Boston, who is ineligible to vote due to age under state law, but who is  
5 otherwise eligible to vote under state law, may upon application have their names entered on a  
6 list of voters established by the board of election commissioners for the City of Boston. Such  
7 individuals on the list of voters may vote in any election for local offices and local ballot  
8 questions in accordance with this Act. For the purposes of this Act, "local voters" are anyone

9 who is eligible to vote pursuant to this Act in a local election or upon a local ballot question in  
10 the City of Boston.

11 SECTION 2.

12 Said board of election commissioners shall establish a separate registration list for local  
13 voters who shall fill out an alternative registration form. Upon turning eighteen, each local voter  
14 shall be taken off the separate list and notified that he or she must register as a regular voter in  
15 accordance with state law, regulations, and guidelines, in order to be eligible to vote. Said board  
16 shall create and print, at the city of Boston's expense, the special registration form needed for the  
17 purpose of registering local voters.

18 SECTION 3.

19 Said board is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations, guidelines and forms to  
20 implement the purpose of this act.

21 SECTION 4.

22 If a local ballot question appears on a state election ballot, the board shall print a separate  
23 ballot for the local ballot question at the expense of the City of Boston.

24 SECTION 5.

25 The City of Boston is hereby authorized to pass ordinances to implement the purpose of  
26 this act subject to all the provisions of the Boston city charter.

27 SECTION 6.

28            Nothing in this act shall be construed to confer upon local voters the right to vote for any  
29 state or federal office or any state or federal ballot questions.