

HOUSE . . . . . No. 3665

[LOCAL APPROVAL RECEIVED.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

**Jeffrey Sánchez**

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act regarding the preparation of certain ballots in the City of Boston.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Jeffrey Sánchez	15th Suffolk
William Lantigua	16th Essex
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk
Gloria L. Fox	7th Suffolk
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester
Willie Mae Allen	6th Suffolk
Martin J. Walsh	13th Suffolk
Carlo P. Basile	1st Suffolk
Brian P. Wallace	4th Suffolk
Byron Rushing	9th Suffolk
Anthony D. Galluccio	Middlesex, Suffolk and Essex
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex
Kevin G. Honan	17th Suffolk
Pam Richardson	6th Middlesex
Aaron Michlewitz	3rd Suffolk

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT REGARDING THE PREPARATION OF CERTAIN BALLOTS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

*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. Definitions*

2 As used in this act, the following words shall, unless the context requires otherwise, have the following  
3 meanings:

4 *Chinese surname* means any surname which appears on the Lauderdale and Kestenbaum list of Chinese  
5 surnames.

6 *City* means the City of Boston.

7 *Election* shall mean any election, as defined by section 1 of chapter 50 of the General Laws.

8 *Transliteration* means the printing of relevant Chinese characters to represent the phonetic equivalent of  
9 the syllables of an English name or a name in any other language that is not traditionally written using  
10 Chinese characters.

11 *State election* shall mean any election at which a national, state, or county officer or a regional district  
12 school committee member elected district-wide is to be chosen by the voters, whether for a full term or  
13 for the filling of a vacancy.

14 *Vietnamese surname* means any surname which appears on the Lauderdale and Kestenbaum list of  
15 Vietnamese surnames.

16 *SECTION 2.* Notwithstanding section 40 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, or any other general or  
17 special law to the contrary, in federal and state elections the state secretary shall prepare bilingual ballots  
18 in English and Chinese, and English and Vietnamese in addition to any other bilingual ballots required by  
19 law, in the designated polling places within the city of Boston as defined by Section 4 of this act.

20 *SECTION 3.* Notwithstanding section 58 of the charter of the City of Boston, or any other general or  
21 special law to the contrary, in all City of Boston preliminary or final elections the election commission  
22 shall cause bilingual ballots in English and Chinese, and English and Vietnamese in addition to any other  
23 bilingual ballots required by law, in the designated polling places within the city of Boston as defined by  
24 Section 4 of this act.

25 *SECTION 4.* English-Chinese bilingual ballots shall be provided in every polling place in the City where  
26 there are at least 35 registered voters with Chinese surnames. English-Vietnamese bilingual ballots shall  
27 be provided in every polling place in the City where there are at least 30 registered voters with  
28 Vietnamese surnames.

29 At least one English-Chinese bilingual ballot per registered voter with a Chinese surname shall be  
30 provided in each designated polling place. At least one English-Vietnamese bilingual ballot per  
31 registered voter with a Vietnamese surname shall be provided in each designated polling place. In any  
32 district, county, state, or federal primary or election the State Secretary may provide additional sets of  
33 bilingual ballots for any polling place in the City when he deems it necessary. In any preliminary or final  
34 election the City's Election Department may provide additional sets of bilingual ballots for any polling  
35 place in the City when it deems necessary.

36 *SECTION 5.* The Election Commission in all City of Boston preliminary or final elections and the State  
37 Secretary in all federal and state elections shall provide for the transliteration of all candidates' names for  
38 English-Chinese bilingual ballots. All candidates shall be provided with a written copy of the proposed  
39 transliteration of candidate's name. Within seven days of receiving the proposed transliterations of  
40 candidate's name, any candidate may provide written notice to the City Election Commission or State  
41 Secretary of a modification of the proposed transliteration of candidate's own name or decline to have  
42 candidate's own name transliterated on the ballot. The transliteration shall be subject to final approval by  
43 the City Election Commission in all City of Boston preliminary or final elections or the State Secretary in  
44 all federal and state elections. The City Election Commission or State Secretary shall provide public  
45 notice of transliterated names as soon as practicable.

46 *SECTION 6.* The City of Boston shall record the number of English-Chinese and English-Vietnamese  
47 bilingual ballots that are printed, requested, or used in all elections held in the City of Boston.

48 *SECTION 7.* The provisions of this act shall take effect on its passage.

49 *SECTION 8.* All provisions of this law shall cease to have further effect after December 31, 2013, the  
50 sunset date.

51 *SECTION 9.* If any provision of these sections or the application of such provision to any person or  
52 circumstance shall be held invalid, the validity of the remainder of these sections and the applicability of  
53 any such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.