



**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS RESTORING  
MUNICIPAL VOTING RIGHTS TO IMMIGRANTS  
WITH LEGAL STATUS**

**WHEREAS,** The term ‘*immigrants with legal status*’ refers to Lawful Permanent Residents, visa holders, Temporary Protected Status recipients, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients; *and*

**WHEREAS,** According to the 2018 ‘*Public Charge Test for Inadmissibility*’ report from the Boston Planning and Development Agency, there are approximately 40,000 immigrants with legal status in Boston; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Immigrants make significant contributions to Boston’s economy. According to the 2018 American Community Survey, immigrants in Suffolk County paid \$2.1B in taxes and have approximately \$5.4B in spending power; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Disenfranchising any tax-payer from the electoral process is inconsistent with the fundamental American principle of “*No taxation without representation*” and undermines our City’s ideological foundation; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Immigrants represent 29% of our City’s population and serve as an integral part of the social, political, economic, and cultural fabric of the City of Boston; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Excluding such a significant portion of our City’s population from full political participation threatens the health of our democracy and prevents us from building a government from the bottom, a government of the people, by the people, for the people; *and*

**WHEREAS,** As of January 2022, fifteen municipalities across the country have restored municipal voting rights to non-citizens, including eleven in Maryland, two in Vermont, San Francisco, California, and New York City; *and*

**WHEREAS,** All our residents, regardless of citizenship status, deserve to have control over issues that affect their lives by participating in the democratic process and electing their municipal leaders; *and*

***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:***

The appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss restoring municipal voting rights to immigrants with legal status. Representatives from the City of Boston, including the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement, the Election Department, in addition to community advocates and members of the public, are encouraged to testify.