

HOUSE No.

[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

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
9 of 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

18 ballots in English and Chinese, and English and Vietnamese in addition to any other bilingual ballots
19 required by law, in the designated polling places within the city of Boston as defined by Section 4 of this
20 act.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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