

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

---

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Sonia Chang-Díaz**

*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 Relative to the Preparation of Certain Ballots in the City of Boston.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Sonia Chang-Díaz

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Suffolk

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT RELATIVE TO 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 *BE IT ORDERED*, voted, to petition the General Court to enact legislation that provides that in  
2 all federal, state and City of Boston preliminary or final elections the state secretary and City of  
3 Boston Election Commissioner shall prepare bilingual ballots in English and Chinese, and  
4 English and Vietnamese, and provide for the transliteration of all candidates' names for English-  
5 Chinese bilingual ballots; provided, that the General Court may reasonably vary the form and  
6 substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of this  
7 petition.

### 8 *SECTION 1. Definitions*

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

11

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

14

15 *City* means the City of Boston.

16

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

18

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

22

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

26

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