

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ERIN MURPHY, ED FLYNN, BRIAN WORRELL,
FERNANDES ANDERSON AND MEJIA



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FOUR

**HOME RULE PETITION
Residential Exemption**

WHEREAS: The residents of the City of Boston are facing increasing financial pressures due to rising housing costs, property taxes, and other economic challenges; **and**

WHEREAS: The current residential exemption, capped at thirty-five percent (35%) of the average assessed value of Class One-Residential parcels, provides critical relief to owner-occupied homeowners, particularly seniors, families on fixed incomes, and others struggling to afford to remain in their homes; **and**

WHEREAS: The residential exemption has proven to be an effective tool in mitigating the tax burden on owner-occupied residential properties and preserving housing affordability for Boston residents; **and**

WHEREAS: The City Council of Boston recognizes the need to expand property tax relief to further support homeowners and prevent displacement in the face of market pressures; **and**

WHEREAS: Increasing the residential exemption beyond the current cap requires an amendment to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5C, to authorize the City of Boston to adopt a higher residential exemption; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:**

The City of Boston hereby petitions the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact the following legislation:

PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE:

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO INCREASE ITS RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION

SECTION 1:

Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 59, Section 5C, of the General Laws, or any other general or special law to the contrary, the City of Boston is hereby authorized to adopt a residential exemption of up to forty percent (40%) of the average assessed value of all Class One-Residential parcels within the City of Boston.

SECTION 2:

The City of Boston may determine annually the percentage of the residential exemption, provided that it does not exceed forty percent (40%) of the average assessed value of Class One-Residential parcels.

SECTION 3:

This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Filed in the City Council on: January 8, 2025