



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

AN INITIATIVE PETITION

FOR A LAW

Under Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth

SUMMARY

This proposed law changes the process by which cities and towns may adopt or change zoning ordinances or by-laws. This proposed law would require that a planning board submit to the town meeting or city council a report with recommendations before any proposed ordinance or by-law (or amendment) is voted on. It would also require that no such vote be conducted within 21 days of the town meeting or city council's hearing on the proposed ordinance, by-law, or amendment. This proposed law would extend the period of time during which a town meeting may take action after a public hearing on a proposed ordinance or by-law (or amendment) from 90 days to six months, before the proposal requires a subsequent public hearing. This proposed law would require

a two-thirds vote of all members of a town council, city council, or town meeting to adopt or change all zoning ordinances or by-laws or amendments. This proposed law would permit a city council or town meeting to reconsider any proposed zoning ordinance or by-law, or any substantially similar ordinance or by-law that was not adopted within three years. The proposed law would permit reconsideration of substantially similar zoning ordinances or by-laws within that three-year period only if adoption of the proposed ordinance or by-law is approved by a plurality of voters in a municipal election and unanimously recommended by the planning board in its final report.

FILING DEADLINES. Initiative petitions must be submitted to local election officials for certification of signatures no later than **5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19, 2025**. Local election officials must complete their certification no later than December 1, 2025. Thereafter, initiative petitions containing certified signatures must be retrieved by petitioners from the local election officials and then filed with the Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, One Ashburton Place, Room 1705, Boston, MA, no later than **5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3, 2025**.

FIRST TEN SIGNERS	John T. Kolackovsky	5 Phillips Avenue	Rockport
	Christina Delisio	6 Lincoln Avenue	Manchester-By-The-Sea
	Karen Bennett	28 Lincoln Street	Manchester-By-The-Sea
	Morgan David Evans	20 Boardman Avenue	Manchester-By-The-Sea
	Clayton R. Sova	28 Fort Square, #3	Gloucester
	Kelly Leigh Secrest	9 White's Mountain Road	Gloucester
	Tracy J. O'Neil	12 Friend Street, #1	Gloucester
	Zenas B. Seppala	92 Granite Street	Rockport
	Diana C. Viens	61 Read Street	Winthrop
	Ellen Wright	4 Asbury Avenue	Hamilton

These names have been certified as names of registered voters in their places of residence. Original petition was filed on September 3, 2025.

William Francis Galvin

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

REGISTRAR USE ONLY:

ONLY REGISTRAR MAY WRITE IN THIS AREA

CIRCULATOR INFORMATION

SPONSORS OF THIS PETITION MAY BE CONTACTED AT:

Petition 5
5 Phillips Avenue
Rockport, MA 01966
(978) 546-7152

CIRCULATOR AND SIGNER INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONS TO CIRCULATORS AND SIGNERS

- DO NOT ALTER THIS INITIATIVE PETITION IN ANY WAY. ADDITIONAL MARKINGS ON THIS PETITION WILL DISQUALIFY ANY SIGNATURES ON THIS PETITION SHEET.**
- For your signature to be valid, you must be a registered voter in the city or town named below and your signature should be written substantially as registered. DO NOT sign the same petition more than once.
- If you are prevented by physical disability from writing, you may authorize some person to write your name and residence in your presence.

REGISTRAR USE ONLY	I. SIGNATURE to be made in person with name substantially as registered (except in case of physical disability as stated above)	II. NOW REGISTERED AT (street, number and apartment number, if any) (city or town will be the same as stated below)	WARD	PREC.
1				
2				
3				
4				

ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS OF City or Town MAY SIGN THIS SHEET. Circulator petition sheet number

(OVER)

5

ATTENTION VOTERS: Before signing, read signer information on other side. CITY OR TOWN:

REGISTRAR USE ONLY	I. SIGNATURE to be made in person with name substantially as registered (except in case of physical disability as stated on other side)		II. NOW REGISTERED AT (street, number and apartment number, if any) (city or town will be the same as stated above)		WARD	PREC.
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
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14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						

WARNING - criminal penalty for unlawfully signing, altering, defacing, mutilating, destroying, or suppressing this petition: fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to one year.

REGISTRAR
INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONS TO REGISTRARS

- You must time-stamp or write in date and time these papers are received.
- Check thus ✓ against the name of each qualified voter to be certified.
- For names not certified, use the code at the right. Draw a line through any blank spaces not containing signatures.
- Each sheet must be certified by at least three registrars. A facsimile stamp is acceptable.
- You must complete certification no later than December 1, 2025.

N - no such registered voter at that address, or address is illegible.

S - unable to identify signature as that of voter because of form of signature, or signature is illegible.

W - wrong community.

T - already signed papers for this question.

CERTIFICATION OF NAMES

We certify that _____
number of names (use numbers and words)

above signatures checked thus ✓ are the names of qualified voters from this city or town.

_____ date

At least three registrars' names must be signed or stamped below.

Registrars of Voters or Election Commissioners of

_____ city or town _____ county