

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council May 5, 2003

MD Amend Home Rule Petition in Order #8 to
also allow resident immigrants to vote in City Council Elections

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Vice Mayor Henrietta Davis	✓			
Ms. Marjorie Decker	✓			
Mr. Anthony D. Galluccio		✓		
Mr. David P. Maher		✓		
Mr. Brian Murphy	✓			
Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves	✓			
Ms. Denise Simmons	✓			
Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.			✓	
Mayor Michael A. Sullivan		✓		

5 3 1

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council May 8, 2003

#8 Order as amended to include

City Council

YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT	
✓				Vice Mayor Henrietta Davis
✓				Ms. Marjorie C. Decker
	✓			Mr. Anthony D. Galluccio
	✓			Mr. David P. Maher
✓				Mr. Brian Murphy
✓				Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves
✓				Ms. Denise Simmons
		✓		Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
46	✓			Mayor Michael A. Sullivan

5 3 1

WHEREAS: The cities of Chelsea, Somerville and Amherst are also pursuing home-rule petitions granting resident non-citizens the right to vote; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City of Council go on record petitioning the Commonwealth of Massachusetts General Court to enact the following home rule petition entitled



City of Cambridge

O-8
ORIGINAL ORDER
IN CITY COUNCIL
May 5, 2003

COUNCILLOR DECKER

- WHEREAS: Parents' involvement in their children's education is critical to student academic achievement and
- WHEREAS: Immigrant families have educational concerns regarding language and culture; and
- WHEREAS: Policies related to diversity and English language learning programs, among other educational policies, are the purview of the Cambridge School Committee and
- WHEREAS: Immigrant families constitute a sizable percentage of working families in the City of Cambridge and
- WHEREAS: Residents of the City of Cambridge, regardless of their citizenship status, complete an annual City Census which is the basis for determining the local voting rolls, and
- WHEREAS: The Campaign for Immigrant Voting Rights garnered majority support from the Cambridge School Committee and the Cambridge City Council in the year 2000 and additional support for school principals and parents' councils and
- WHEREAS: The Campaign for Immigrant Voting Rights filed a home-rule petition two years ago that will allow non-citizens in the city of Cambridge to vote in School Committee elections; and
- WHEREAS: Five municipalities in the state of Maryland have extended the rights to vote for local offices to non-citizens; the cities of Chicago and New York to non-citizen voting in school board elections, and various European cities, such as Dublin, also permit non-citizen voting and

AN ACT TO ENABLE CERTAIN NON-CITIZEN RESIDENTS OF
CAMBRIDGE TO VOTE IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS.

Section 1.

Notwithstanding the provisions of section one of chapter fifty-one of the general laws, or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, non-citizens eighteen years or older who reside in the city of Cambridge may, upon application, have their names entered on a list of voters, established by the Elections Commission, for the city of Cambridge and may thereafter vote in any election for school committee members and school committee questions. Such non-citizen members shall remain eligible to vote in school committee elections for so long as they remain domiciled in Cambridge.

Section 2.

The Election Commission of Cambridge is authorized to formulate regulations, guidelines and registration form to implement the purpose of this act. The voter registration forms shall include a declaration to be signed under pains and penalties of perjury by the non-citizen voter that: 1) s/he is residing in Cambridge; 2) s/he intends in good faith to become a U.S. citizen and intends to begin that process, if eligible.

Section 3.

Nothing in this act shall be construed to confer upon non-citizens the right to vote for any city council, state or federal office or any state or federal ballot questions.

AN ACT TO ENABLE CERTAIN NON-CITIZEN RESIDENTS OF
CAMBRIDGE TO VOTE IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND CITY COUNCIL
ELECTIONS.

Section 1.

Notwithstanding the provisions of section one of chapter fifty-one of the general laws, or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, non-citizens eighteen years or older who reside in the city of Cambridge may, upon application, have their names entered on a list of voters, established by the Elections Commission, for the city of Cambridge and may thereafter vote in any election for school committee members, school committee questions and City Council. Such non-citizen members shall remain eligible to vote in school committee and City Council elections for so long as they remain domiciled in Cambridge.

Section 2.

The Election Commission of Cambridge is authorized to formulate regulations, guidelines and registration form to implement the purpose of this act. The voter registration forms shall include a declaration to be signed under pains and penalties of perjury by the non-citizen voter that: 1) s/he is residing in Cambridge; 2) s/he intends in good faith to become a U.S. citizen and intends to begin that process, if eligible.

Section 3.

Nothing in this act shall be construed to confer upon non-citizens the right to vote for any, state or federal office or any state or federal ballot questions.

In City Council May 5, 2003

Adopted as amended by a yea and nay vote:-

Yeas 5; Nays 3; Absent 1.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk

A true copy;

D. Margaret Drury

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk

WHEREAS: The cities of Chelsea, Somerville and Amherst are also pursuing home-rule petitions granting resident non-citizens the right to vote; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City of Council go on record petitioning the Commonwealth of Massachusetts General Court to enact the following home rule petition entitled An Act Enabling Certain Non-Citizen Residents Of Cambridge To Vote In School Committee And City Council Elections.



City of Cambridge

O-8
AMENDED ORDER
IN CITY COUNCIL
May 5, 2003

COUNCILLOR DECKER
VICE MAYOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

- WHEREAS: Parents' involvement in their children's education is critical to student academic achievement and
- WHEREAS: Immigrant families have educational concerns regarding language and culture; and
- WHEREAS: Policies related to diversity and English language learning programs, among other educational policies, are the purview of the Cambridge School Committee and
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- WHEREAS: Residents of the City of Cambridge, regardless of their citizenship status, complete an annual City Census which is the basis for determining the local voting rolls, and
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TC-671

ORDER #8

Go on record petitioning the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
General Court to enact the
following home rule petition
entitled An Act to Enable Certain
Non-Citizen Residents To Vote
In Cambridge School Committee
Elections and City Council
Elections.

Councillor Decker

ORDER ADOPTED.

In City Council May 5, 2003