



**RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE
BOSTON CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 14, 2025

**BOSTON CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LOUIJEUNE AND COUNCILOR
BREADON TO FILE HOME RULE PETITION REGARDING DISTRICT 7
VACANCY**

BOSTON, MA—Today, Council President Louijeune and Councilor Breadon filed a Home Rule Petition that would 1) waive a special election in the event of a vacancy more than 180 days prior to the general election; and 2) seat the candidate who wins the November 5 general election for District 7 City Councilor as expeditiously as possible after election results have been certified.

“I have engaged with elected officials and community leaders in District 7 to listen closely and advocate for the concerns they’ve raised. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every voice in our community is acknowledged and represented. Given the accelerated timeline, the risk of excluding residents from the process is significant. With the general election approaching later this year, it would be inequitable to ask the public to participate in such a hastened process that will leave voices out” **said Council President Ruthzee Louijeune.**

Councilors Louijeune and Breadon believe this course of action would be in the best interest of all involved - residents, candidates, and the City’s Election Department. The Secretary of State, William F. Galvin has also declared his opposition to a special election on such a tight time frame.

“I’ve heard from residents of the district who are deeply concerned that holding a special election would not serve the best interests of public awareness, civic engagement, or the effective administration of our municipal elections,” **said District 9 City Councilor Liz Breadon.** “With preliminary and general elections already scheduled for September and November, and several candidates having declared their intention to run in District 7, seeking special legislation to bypass the city charter and forego a special election during a mayoral election year is the responsible course of action.”

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On April 8, 2025, Councilor Fernandes Anderson stated her intent to resign. Upon a vacancy of a District Council seat more than 180 days before an election, Boston’s Charter calls for a special election. As of today, it is 203 days before the November 4, 2025 general election. However, in order to trigger the special election requirement, the City Clerk must receive a notice of vacancy. He has not received any such notice to date from the District 7 Councilor. Additionally, the Supreme Judicial Court has made it clear that the Boston City Council does not have the authority to remove a councilor from office before the councilor is sentenced. Sentencing in this matter has not yet occurred.

This Home Rule Petition has the support of State Level officials who represent Roxbury.

State Senator Liz Miranda, State Representative Chynah Tyler, and State Representative John Moran all back the decision to forego a special election.

“To empower as many voters as possible to cast their ballot and choose their future representation in District 7, it’s important that we work towards full participation amongst all eligible voters within the general election on November 4th, 2025,” said Senator Liz Miranda (D-Roxbury). “Special elections are costly and have unintended consequences, low turnout, and confusion.”

Representative Chynah Tyler (D-Roxbury) said, “It is my duty as State Representative of the Roxbury neighborhood to help provide clarity to the uncertainty many neighbors are feeling during this time. Allowing adequate time to fully vet candidates for the District 7 seat is the right thing to do—they deserve it.”

“In this diverse City Council district, which includes parts of the South End and Lower Roxbury, it is important that voters be given adequate time to learn about the several candidates running for this office,” said John Moran, State Representative (D-South End).

“I support this Home Rule Petition—it’s the best thing for taxpayers and is based on recent precedent,” said Representative Christopher Worrell (D- Dorchester). “My office will be doubling our efforts to provide residents of Roxbury and Dorchester with effective and responsive constituent services—whether they are in my State Representative district or not.”

To navigate the uncertainty of any special election calendar and to minimize confusion of multiple elections in quick succession, Councilors Louijeune and Breadon believe one preliminary election and one general election to be the best route.

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Residents of District 7 and community advocates support the decision.

“Reclaim Roxbury believes every resident of District 7 deserves strong, accountable representation—but rushing to hold a special election in the middle of summer will only limit voter participation,” said Armani White, Executive Director of Reclaim Roxbury. “With a regularly scheduled election right around the corner, our energy should be focused on ensuring a transparent, accessible, and inclusive process this fall.”

White was joined in his sentiment by Cheryl Clyburn Crawford, the Executive Director of MassVOTE, who stated “Summer elections lead to low turnout, especially in working-class communities of color. MassVOTE opposes the D7 special election because it undermines fair access to the ballot and wastes resources. We need to strengthen voter confidence, not confuse or discourage our electorate.”

“I care deeply about who represents our community, but a special election in July or August just doesn’t make sense. People are traveling, working, and less engaged during the summer,” Jawayne Ceasar, Roxbury Resident. “Let’s focus on getting the highest turnout possible in September when more voters are prepared to make their voices heard.”

Mimi Ramos, Executive Director of New England Community Project added “Low-income families, essential workers, and those most impacted by injustice already face barriers to voting. Asking them to show up for three elections in just a few months is unrealistic and unfair. NECP believes in empowering our communities—not exhausting them with unnecessary, ill-timed elections.”

At-Large Councilors remain available to handle constituent matters, and there will also be staff on hand in the District 7 council office when the office becomes vacant.

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