

**CITY OF HOLYOKE
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-ON
HOME RULE PETITION**

WHEREAS, On February 25, 2021, Mayor Alex B. Morse was appointed and subsequently approved by the Selectboard of the Town of Provincetown to serve as Town Manager, thereby having an anticipated resignation date from position as Mayor of the City of Holyoke before the end of his term; and

WHEREAS, The City of Holyoke Charter states that in the event there is a vacancy in the office of mayor more than six months previous to the expiration of the municipal year, the city council shall forthwith call meetings for a new election; and

WHEREAS, As currently written, if the Mayor resigns on or before June 30, 2021, the City of Holyoke Charter would require a special election process to be held in addition to the already regularly scheduled municipal elections in September and November; and

WHEREAS, Organizing and executing multiple municipal elections in a single year would place a large financial burden on the City of Holyoke, on top of the financial constraints of the ongoing public health emergency of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Requiring the City of Holyoke residents to repeatedly leave their homes in order to vote in multiple elections in the same year during the pandemic puts their lives, as well as the lives of City staff, at risk; and

WHEREAS, Holding multiple elections within the short time period of one year will create barriers to accessibility, lower voter turnout, potential voter confusion, and place disproportionate burdens on traditionally disenfranchised communities, such as immigrant, low-income, disabled, Black and Latinx communities such as ours; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

ORDERED, That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Holyoke, be filed with an attested copy of this order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article II, as amended, of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows, except for clerical or editorial changes of form only:

**PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE:
AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE OFFICE OF MAYOR IN THE CITY OF HOLYOKE**

And that said act read as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, if a vacancy in the office of mayor of Holyoke occurs at any time in the year two thousand and twenty-one, the vacancy shall not be filled by a special municipal election and shall instead be filled according to the provision of Section 28 of Chapter 189 of the Acts of 1992, which states that “Whenever

there shall be a vacancy in the office of mayor the president of the city council shall act as mayor, and possess all the rights and powers of mayor during such vacancy, except that when so acting as mayor he shall not have the power of appointment or removal unless thereto in any instance authorized by vote of the city council.”

SECTION 2: This act shall take effect upon its passage.