

By Mr. Flynn of Malden, petition of Maurice R. Flynn, Jr., relative to the arrangement and form of ballots at city and town primaries. Election Laws.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-One.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ARRANGEMENT AND FORM OF BALLOTS AT  
CITY AND TOWN PRIMARIES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Section 34 of chapter 53 of the General Laws, as most recently  
2 amended by chapter 216 of the acts of 1960, is hereby further  
3 amended by striking out the seventh paragraph and inserting  
4 in place thereof the following paragraph: —

5 Except where vacancies caused by death, withdrawal or  
6 physical disability are filled, no names shall be printed on a  
7 ballot other than those endorsed for nomination by state con-  
8 ventions and those presented on nomination papers. Names  
9 of candidates on ballots at city and town primaries for offices  
10 of which they are the elected incumbents shall be placed first  
11 in alphabetical order according to their surnames to be followed  
12 by the names of all other candidates for such offices in alpha-  
13 betical order. Against the name of each such candidate there  
14 shall be printed, if the candidate requests, a statement in not  
15 more than eight words setting forth the public offices which he  
16 holds or has held, showing clearly that he is a former incumbent  
17 thereof if such is the case and, if he is an elected incumbent of  
18 an office for which he seeks renomination, that he is a candidate  
19 for such renomination; and if he is a veteran, as defined in  
20 section twenty-one of chapter thirty-one of the General Laws,  
21 the word "veteran" may be used. Immediately following the  
22 names of candidates on ballots at city and town primaries,  
23 blank spaces equal to the number of persons to be chosen shall

24 be provided for the insertion of other names. Immediately  
25 following the names of candidates on ballots at state and presi-  
26 dential primaries, where there are fewer names than there are  
27 persons to be chosen, blank spaces shall be provided, equal in  
28 number to the deficiency, for the insertion of other names.