

By Mr. Businger of Brookline, petition of Polly Jane Halfkenny relative to making certain changes in the election laws pertaining to nomination papers. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three.

AN ACT TO MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE ELECTION LAWS PERTAINING TO NOMINATION PAPERS.

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 1. Section 6 of chapter 53 of the General Laws, as
2 most recently amended by chapter 745 of the acts of 1979, is hereby
3 amended by striking out the entire section and substituting in its
4 place the following: —

5 Nominations of candidates for any statewide offices to be filled
6 at a state election may be made by nomination papers, stating the
7 facts required by section eight and signed in the aggregate by not
8 less than five thousand voters. Nominations of candidates for any
9 offices to be filled in an electoral district or division of the
10 commonwealth may be made by nomination papers, stating the
11 facts required by section eight and signed in the aggregate by not
12 less than such numbers of voters as will equal one half of one
13 percent of the vote cast for governor at the preceding biennial state
14 election in the electoral district or division for which the officers are
15 to be elected. If in any electoral district or division the aggregate
16 number of signatures required cannot be calculated due to changes
17 in districts or precinct or ward lines used in the first election, the
18 aggregate number shall be the number required under section
19 forty-four. In the case of the offices of governor and lieutenant
20 governor, only nomination papers containing the names and
21 addresses of candidates, for both offices shall be valid. Nomina-
22 tions of candidates for offices to be filled at a city or town election,

23 except where city charters or general or special laws provide
24 otherwise, may be made by like nomination papers, signed in the
25 aggregate by not less than such number of voters as will equal one
26 half of one percent of the vote cast for governor at the preceding
27 biennial state election in the electoral district or division for which
28 the officers are to be elected; provided, however, that no more than
29 fifty signatures of voters shall be required on nomination papers
30 for such town office. At a first election to be held in a newly
31 established ward, the number of signatures of voters upon a
32 nomination paper of a candidate who is to be voted for only in such
33 ward shall be fifty.

1 SECTION 2. Section 8 of chapter 53 of the General Laws, as
2 most recently amended by striking out the first sentence of the
3 second paragraph and substituting in its place the following: —

4 All certificates of nomination and nomination papers of candi-
5 dates for the office of state representative, state senator, executive
6 council or county office shall be filed with the state secretary on or
7 before the last Tuesday in August of the year in which a state
8 election is to be held. Certificates of nomination and nomination
9 papers for the office of senator in congress, representative in
10 congress, governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, treasur-
11 er and receiver general, state auditor and state secretary, shall be
12 filed on or before the first Tuesday in September of the year in
13 which a state election is to be held. Nomination papers for
14 presidential elector shall be filed on or before the first Tuesday in
15 September of the year in which a presidential election is to be held.
16 If there is a special election to fill the office of representative in
17 Congress, all certificates of nomination and nomination papers
18 shall be filed on or before the tenth Tuesday preceding the day of
19 such election. If there is a special election to fill any other state
20 office, all certificates of nomination and nomination papers shall
21 be filed on or before the ninth Tuesday preceding the day of such
22 election.